

Semantic peculiarities of two and three-word structures in Mongolian geographical names

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(On the example of the geographical names which include the names of internal organs)

Abstract: Поскольку собственное имя - это создание конкретных людей в обществе, оно отражает традиции нации, доминирующую социально-экономическую типологию, идеологию, эстетику, мировоззрение, своеобразную природу языковой системы и так далее. Топонимика или географическое название, безусловно, является типом собственных имен нации, и, изучая его, мы можем увидеть прошлую историю людей и увидеть, как у них были отношения с другими этническими группами, и понять познание тех, кто живет в этом районе.

В статье мы определили структуры из 2 и 3 слов монгольских географических названий, наиболее распространенных типов, используя географические названия, которые включают или названы в честь названий органов тела человека и животного, и суммировали особенности 2-3 структура монгольских географических названий. В случае структур из 4 или более слов количество имен этих типов относительно невелико, и, как мы считаем, структурная ценность не может быть определена достаточно полно.

Key words: BN - a proper name with the roles of base name, N - a proper name, LBN – a basic base name and Af - an affix.

As the proper name is the creation of specific people in the society, it reflects on the nation's traditions of giving proper names, dominant socio-economic typology, ideology, aesthetics, the worldview, the peculiar nature of the language system, and so on. Toponymy or geographical name is certainly a type of proper names of a nation and by studying it, we can see the people's past history and see how they have had relationships with other ethnics, and can understand cognition of those living in the area.

For instance, because the naming of the surrounding areas by people is a conscious or non-casual action with specific goals and ideas, these names reflect some characteristics of a nation's culture, cognition, mentality and worldview to a certain amount. Any nation is known to be characterized by a specific meaning within the boundaries of a particular structural form, and thus reflect the character of the mind.

In the paper, we identified the 2 and 3-word structures of Mongolian geographical names, the most common types, by using geographical names which include or named after the names of the organs of human and animal body and summarized the peculiarities of 2-3-word structure of Mongolian geographical names. In the case of 4 or more-word structures, the number of these types of names is relatively few, and so the structural value can not be determined fully enough, as we consider.

In the third chapter of the “Монгол газар нутгийн нэрийн хэлбэр-утгазүйн судалгаа”¹ or “The research on the Forms and semantics of Mongolian geographical names” by

¹ Равдан Э. Монгол газар нутгийн нэрийн хэлбэр-утгазүйн судалгаа. УБ., 2004

Ravdan E., all names, which are written in “Монголын газар нутгийн нэрийн зүйлчилсэн толь”² or “The thematic Dictionary of Mongolian geographical names”, are classified by the number of words in a structure. In this respect, 2-4 word structures of Mongolian geographical names take 99.8 % (including 2-word-structure 56.2%, 3-word-structure 40.1%, 4-word-structure 3.3%) so they are called active whereas 1,5,7,8-word-structures are determined as passive. In the monograph, 91 base names, which are written in the thematic dictionary, were analyzed by using 50 names to define the locations of 2-5-word structures and the results are shown by statistical data.

More than 1500 2-word-structure names covered in our study are expressed by a total of 21 structural types creating 8 patterns of semantics.

Here, BN represents a proper name with the role of base name, N represents a proper name, LBN represents a basic base name and Af represents an affix.

In addition, over 1500 examples of 3-word structures of Mongolian geographical names have over 85 structural types, but there are 38 patterns of semantic values.

If these 46 semantic patterns (8 patterns of 2-word-structure and 38 patterns of 3-word-structure) expressed by 106 structural types are generalized, the following characteristics can be determined according to our study. These include:

- When the first proper name (the first word in geographical names) has a zero affix, the meaning of BN and N is the same.
- When the second proper name (the second word in geographical names) is a proper name with the role of base name (BN), the first and second names create a separate meaningful unit or a component geographical name (PN¹) by forming a combination.
- But if the second proper name does not play a role of a base name, the component geographical name which is expressed openly is not created. For example: BN/N₀+(N/BN₀+LBN) - Бөөр (Булаг ам), Уушиг (Хад уул), Рашаан (Бөөр ам), Бага (Уушиг уул); (BN/N₀+BN₀)+LBN - (Бөөр Булаг) ам, (Уушиг Хад) уул.
- If the first and second proper names are the words which are inflected with the affixes (or suffixes) of possessive case as -ын/-ийн, -ны/-ний, -ы/ий, -гийн, -н мөн -т, -тай, -нт and which don't play a role of a base name, there may be a hidden base name (LBN) behind it. For example: (N+(BN))_{-Af}+(BN₀+LBN) (1st member is formulated) – (Уушиг (Уул))-ийн (Хад толгой), (Уушиг (Уул))-ийн (Хар толгой); (N+(BN))_{-Af}+BN₀+LBN – (Уушиг (Уул)-ийн Хад) толгой; BN₀/N₀+(N+(BN))_{-Af}+LBN (2nd member is formulated) - Хар (Элэг (Уул)-ийн гол), Зүрх (Тарвага (Ам)-т толгой), Элэг (Холбоо (Нуур)-гийн хотгор), Ар (Элэг (Уул)-ийн гол); (BN₀/N₀+N+(BN))_{-Af}+LBN – (Хар Элэг (Уул))-ийн гол, (Зүрх Тарвага (Ам))-т толгой, (Элэг Холбоо (Нуур))-гийн хотгор, (Ар Элэг (Уул))-ийн гол.
- But the names, which play the role of a base name (BN), are inflected with the above affixes and the affix –гүй, and in this case the hidden structure may not be present. For example: BN_{-Af}+(BN₀+LBN) (1st member is formulated) - Хөдөө-гийн (Уушиг толгой);

² Монгол газар нутгийн нэрийн зүйлчилсэн толь, (Манж, Богд хаант Монгол улсын үе, эрхлэн эмхтгэсэн Э.Равдан) УБ., 2004

Монгол газар нутгийн нэрийн зүйлчилсэн толь, (5 боть, 8 дэвтэр CD-н хамт, эрхлэн эмхтгэсэн Э.Равдан) УБ., 2004

Монгол газар нутгийн нэрийн зүйлчилсэн толь, (2 боть, 1939-1945 оны үе, эрхлэн эмхтгэсэн Э.Равдан) УБ., 2006

$(BN_{-Af} + BN)_0 + LBN$ – (Хөдөө-гийн Уушиг) толгой; $(BN_0/N_0 + BN)_{-Af} + LBN$ (2nd member is formulated) – (Уушиг Нуур)-ын хоолой; $BN_0/N_0 + (BN_{-Af} + LBN)$ – Уушиг (Нуур-ын хоолой).

- If the first and second proper names are the words which don't play a role of a base name and which inflected with the affixes *-тын, -тайн, -нтын*, there may be two hidden base names (BN). For example: $(N+(BN)_{-Af}+(BN))_{-Af} + (BN_0+LBN)$ (1st member is formulated) – (Өлөн (Өвс)-т (Тал))-ийн (Гозгор уул); $(N+(BN)_{-Af}+(BN)_{-Af}+BN)_0+LBN$ – (Өлөн (Өвс)-т (Тал))-ийн Гозгор уул; $(N_0+N+(BN)_{-Af}+(BN))_{-Af}+LBN$ (2nd member is formulated) – (Хар Зүрх (Хад)-т (Уул))-ийн хяр; $N_0+(N+(BN)_{-Af}+(BN)_{-Af}+LBN)$ – Хар (Зүрх (Хад)-т (Уул))-ийн хяр).
- But, if the words inflected with the affixes as *-т + -ын, -т + -айн, -н + -тын, -н + -ий* are the names with the role of base name (BN), there may be one hidden base name expressed before the affixes *-ын, -айн* or second affixes. For example: $(BN_{-Af}+(BN))_{-Af} + (N_0+LBN)$ (1st member is formulated) – (Бургас-т (Хөндий))-ын (Зүрх уул); $(N+(BN))_{-Af}+(BN_{-Af}+(BN)_{-Af}+LBN)$ (2nd member is formulated) – (Зүрх(Уул))-ын (Хашаа-т (Хөндий))-ын худаг; $(N+(BN)_{-Af}+BN_{-Af}+(BN))_{-Af} + LBN$ – (Зүрх(Уул))-ын Хашаа-т (Хөндий))-ын худаг.
- In the name *Элэг-н-ий* (meaning liver), there may be a hidden base name expressed after the word *Элгэн*. For example: $(N_{-Af}+(BN))_{-Af}+(BN_0+LBN)$ – (Элгэ-н (Толгой))-ий (Худаг ус); $(N_{-Af}+(BN)_{-Af}+BN)_0+LBN$ – (Элгэ-н (Толгой))-ий Худаг ус.
- An affix *-н* expresses two distinct meanings as matching or expressing forms and possessive, and for some of the names both meanings may be possible. For example: as for the names *Могойн* where it is in the role of the first proper name and *Толгойн* which is the first proper name, the both meanings are possible. It is possible to have hidden base name (BN) behind the name *Могой*, because it is not a base name, if the name is inflected with possessive meaning affix. But the name *Толгой* may not have a hidden form. However, the names as *Зүрхэн, Элгэн, Бөөрөн* have clearly shown the meaning of matching.

Finally, it is clearly seen that it is more efficient and economical to express by patterns, an approach of contemporary linguistics rather than explaining the possible meaning variations of the structural meaning and typology of Mongolian geographical names, whose each meaning expresses the worldview, cognition and perception of the people who created or named them, by each word or one by one.

Our study is useful and innovative for the research of semantic and form study of Mongolian geographical names that we attempted to express the meaning of the structural types of Mongolian geographical names by using patterns for the first time and determined the general or common peculiarities expressed in them.

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