

TOPONYMS OF THE HARRY POTTER SERIES OF NOVELS AND THE BASIS OF THEIR ORIGIN

Zayniddinova M. F.

3rd year student of the Faculty of Foreign Philology
National University of Uzbekistan

Research Advisor: Fayziyeva M. S.

Senior lecturer of the National University of Uzbekistan

Abstract:

A toponym is the name of a natural or antropological territory on Earth, and in fiction toponyms are used not only to name the place being described, but also to give the place its first assessment, convey information about the landscape, hero or author, or to give the reader aesthetic pleasure. The place names used in the "Harry Potter" series have also been selected for their various purposes by conducting a genetical-gnoseological analysis on 4 of them.

Keywords: toponym, fantasy, place, name, Harry Potter, genetic analysis.

Toponym (Ancient Greek: τόπος / *tópos*, 'place', and ὄνομα / *onoma*, 'name') is the general term for a proper name of any geographical feature¹, and full scope of the term also includes proper names of all cosmographical features². It is practically impossible not to use them in everyday life. In fiction, however, toponyms not only indicate a certain territory, but also achieve several more aesthetic, axiological and gnoseological tasks. For example, even if the events of the work take place in a simple garden, through the name of that garden, the author tries to convey a certain idea to his readers. In the following article, a genetic-gnoseological analysis is carried out over the toponyms of the *Harry Potter* series of novels - best-selling collection of Joan Rowling, whose imagination built not a small garden, but a whole new parallel world and named countless places of it.

1. Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry - in the wise words of Rubeus Hagrid, this establishment is considered to be "the best school on planet Earth". The school consists of a huge castle by the shores of an unnamed lake in the territory of Scotland. Relying on the information contained in the work, the



castle was built about 10 centuries ago, the name of which is revealed in the dream of Rovenia Ravenclaw, one of the founders of the school: in the dream of an enchantress looking for a place to build her own school, she was walking after a warty hog (hence the Hog+warts) and found the territory of present Hogwarts, where she builds a school along with her fellow wizards G.Gryffindor, H.Hufflepuff and S.Slytherin. However, even this myth is not the main reason for choosing such a disturbing word. Joan Rowling has said that she took the name of the school from *Croton Capitatus* or *Hogwort* – exotic plant which she saw in the "Kew Garden"³. The writer said that she liked the word very much, and although she did not remember the flower itself, she could not forget its name for a long time and subconsciously named the school after a type of toxic spuries⁴.

2. Prison of Azkaban was first mentioned in the work “Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban” (Book 3), this spooky place is considered to be the most terrible part of Potterland. It is a huge stone castle located on a steep cliff in the middle of the North Sea, surrounded by the waves and guarded by the most disgusting creatures in the world of witchcraft - the Dementors. The establishment, as well as location, was inspired by Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary, which is located on a sole island in San Francisco Bay⁵. This prison once housed federal prisoners of USA and was known to be escape-proof. The prison closed in 1963 and now the castle of Alcatraz is a museum.⁶

3. Durmstrang Institute is a school of witchcraft in the mountainous regions of Scandinavia. The institute differs from other schools of witchcraft by its relatively conservative views and traditions. It was first mentioned in the novel “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire” (book 4). The word “Durmstrang” was formed by replacing the initials of the German words “Sturm und Drang”. Sturm und Drang is a German phrase that translates as "Storm and stress", respectively. Literal translation is "storm and impulse". "Sturm und Drang" was a literary movement that emerged in German literature during the Enlightenment Period, and the authors of this movement were known for their agonizing sense of literature and their depictions of bitter fate⁷. It also adds special layer of depths to the toponym, after all, this school, as its students admit, is cold, much smaller and does not try to create facilities or abilities for its students, leaving them in “storm and stress”.



4. Little Whinging, Privet Drive 4. The novel starts with these words, as it is the address of the house where Harry spends entirety of his childhood⁸. This house is located in the county of Surrey, England. The names of the street and the alley have a special role in describing the nature of the Dursleys, the homeowners. For example, the name of the alley - Privet Drive - is actually derived from the name of a bush which is used as "eco-wall" in landscape design⁹: its branches are grown thickly, like a real wall, and planted with the aim of bordering between gardens. The street name can be acknowledged as the first sign that describes the characteristic of the Dursleys. The title of the subject also represents one of the main aspects of the nature of the Dursleys, especially their son Dudley: the name "Little Whinging" can be interpreted as "a little whim" or "little objection". Both variations can be called a downplayed description of the psychological dynamics among family members. For example, the tantrums Dudley kept throwing (which lasted 3 books), supports the option of "a little whim", Petunia and Vernon Dursleys' persistent complaints about Harry make it fit the other description - "little objection". This witty wordplay also testifies to the author's skill in choosing words.

Such masterfully selected names can actually be found in each book of the series, and each of them is selected to serve a particular purpose. Finding their purposes of selection requires a diligent and long-term research from the master of artistic analysis, but it is very joyful process, because each one of them give the feeling of exploring an unknown land. This little joy is one of the factors that make readers come back to the books again and again.

Bibliography:

1. Alcatraz. Chronicle Books. 2012. ISBN 978-1-4521-1310-4
2. "Alcatraz Island". Encyclopædia Britannica Online. Encyclopædia Britannica. 2009. Retrieved August 20, 2009.
3. Foster, Steven; Rebecca Johnson (2008). National Geographic Desk Reference to Nature's Medicine. National Geographic Books. p. 116. ISBN 978-1-4262-0293-3.
4. Heckscher, William S. (1966–1967) Simiolus: Netherlands Quarterly for the History of Art, Vol. 1, No. 2. pp. 94–105.
5. "Hogwort (Woolly Croton)". Missouri Department of Conservation.
6. J.K. Rowling. "Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone". Bloomsberg, London-. P.3.



7. Room, Adrian (1996). An Alphabetical Guide to the Language of Name Studies. Lanham and London: The Scarecrow Press. ISBN 9780810831698.
8. United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, London, 10–31 May 1972. New York: United Nations Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs. 1974. p. 68.
9. "Visitor's Guide to Hogwarts". The Harry Potter Lexicon. Retrieved 20 October 2007. P.8.

