

Structural and Semantic Models of Phrases in the Function of the German Place Names in a Diachronic Aspect

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Abstract: In the present investigation in the diachronic-dynamic aspect that is in the process of reconstruction of the “original forms” and “original meanings” of the place names in the German language such structural and semantic models as: phrases with an study as a compulsory component of the place names, prepositional substantive phrases with or without a preposition, substantive-adjectival, substantive-participial phrases, adverbial, numerical phrases and also descriptive phrases with a complicated structure are considered. The diachronic-dynamic approach to analysing the structural and semantic models of the German place names taking into account the aspects of cultural linguistics allows to objectify the changes of their form and “internal” meaning. The final result of this modelling process is the knowledge of the ethno-linguistic picture of the world at different stages of historical development.

Key words: Proper name, place name, structural model, original meaning, diachronic-dynamic aspect

INTRODUCTION

Proper names carry identification individualizing function: they are individual subjects, pointing to a specific, single denotation (Mawer).

Noting the origin of the Proper Names (PN) from Common Names (CN) in the historical aspect, H. Schmidt outlines the main stages of their development, “common name→speech proper name (cf. speech PN C. Bally)→PN as a singular term” and the author emphasizes that both PN and CN have the denotative meaning but the nature of the meanings in the transition “CN→PN” changes (Schmidt, 1997). Originating in the attributive words (appellatives) PN tend to semantic simplification, “strive to get rid of that concept which was originally inherent in them” (Zink).

Therefore, the primary task of the analysis of PN is the etymological analysis (Sommerfeld, 1952) which allows to identify both derivational and semantic structure of PN which is very important for onomastics because German studies in numerous works on word formation scrutinize only appellative lexicon while the PN are considered only in single examples and PN more frequently appear in the sections devoted to word-formation structures with “desemantized language elements” (which received the interpretation as a “unique bound morpheme” in the last decade Naida Y. etc.), i.e., fully or partially unmotivated (desemantized) word-formation models of the type: Magde-burg, Menn-weg, Schwell-brunnen, Meichels-weg, Mahom/Mohorn, etc. (Kleine, 1969; Brink, 1996).

However, the historical aspect of the study of structural and semantic modelling of place names presents a considerable interest since, they are in any case appellatives in their origin with their specific structure and definite the meaning of their components that allows to analyse place names in terms of both structural and semantic modelling and dynamic aspect, taking into account their development as PN, followed by the changes in the shape and the “internal” structure. We fully agree with Trubachov (1980) who notes that it is necessary to transfer the systematic and structural analysis of the linguistic units, typical of synchrony to diachrony combining it with the reconstruction of semantic development of words, since the etymological semantic content of lexemes may be different from the modern (synchronous) meaning: initial, etymologically revealed semantic structure of the lexeme (the original meaning) “is the key to understanding modern semantics of the word”.

The reconstruction of original forms and meanings of place names is also of interest in terms of cultural linguistics because they reflect the “language culture of the world” of this or that ethnic group in different historical stages of its development (Chalupo, 2014; Khleshko, 2014).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The application of the etymological method, the reconstruction can restore the form which is not recorded

in the written sources. The methods of system dynamics study identify the ways to change the appearance of the phonetic and morphological token and its constituent morphemes make it possible to trace the evolution of German place names. The structural analysis of the names is performed using the word-formation, the formant method, the method of analysis for the constituents applied in the analysis of structural models names.

Main part: We shall analyze, the structural and semantic models of place names in the German language, interpreting them in a diachronic-dynamic aspect.

The subject of this study is the investigation of place names, phrases or compound toponyms. Let's define the main types of the constituents, "descriptive" place names recorded in the selection of our examples.

Phrases with an article as a compulsory component of place names: Most place names in the early stage of development are used with the study, indicating that the incompleteness of the transition from the common name to proper name (daz Newhaus (1328)>Heuhaus). W. Fleischer classifies them into the category of phrases with an article as a compulsory component of place names. Subsequently different types of names developed differently. Oronyms and hydronyms starting from middle high period are used with the definite article and save it to the present day: die Alpen, das Allgau; der Rhein, die Oder, etc. Oikonyms as originally sometimes (but in the combination with a preposition is almost always see below) are accompanied by articles, then usually lose them: datz Sand Aytten Ried (1377)>Agatharied; der Ham>Hamm. Only a few place names preserve the article in the nominative or (rarely) oblique case as an evidence of their appellative "past": names of the countries die Schweiz; cities den Haag and the names of the fortresses die Marksburg.

Prepositional substantive phrases: In German, a large number of place names with prepositions zu, bei, an, vor, hinter, in, um and others are fixed in the chronicles of the towns and feudal territories. The place-names of this type can be called "localizing" (Bach, 1953) or "pointing". The following types of "locative prepositional" place names are mentioned in our investigation.

Preposition+noun dative: The main prepositions are as follows: zu (Low German to): to dem Kyle (1232)>Kiel, ze dem Troyn (1383)>Train, *ze der Ahslaha>Achslach, zue Apffeldorff (1431)>Apfeldorf, zu dem Dewbsfurt, zum Diebesfurt (1346)>Diebfurt, Zum Fall (1583)>Fall, zum Lochperg (1496)>Lohberg; bei: bei der Aetel (1323)>Attel,

bey der Mautt (1698)>Mauth, Lyubasa (1052)>Loisach, bey der Mautt (1698)>In der Mauth (1736)>Mauth, bei der Trawn (1435)>Traun, bei dem Mentzenbach (1363)>Wenzenbach, bei der Windah (1346)>Windach; in: in der Lvmb (1345)>Lam; in Prvne (1281)>Brunn in Dytfurte (1138)>Dietfurt; in der Freijung (1357)>Freyung; in Celle>Furstenzell in dem Gruenach (1426)>Grainet in der Aitenaha (1188)>Kirchaitnach in der Ramsaw (1386)>Ramsau in Norhthorn (890)>Nordhorn; vor: vor dem Flutgraben; vor dem Otenwalde; vor dem Waskensteine; Rade vorm Wald; Mvnen vor Pehmaer wald (1310)>Waldmunchen; hinter: hinter dem Flutgraben, hinter der Kirch, Hinterm Aap; unter: unterm Heiligenhauschen, unter dem Aype (1375)>die Ape; an: am Wald; yn dem Arrach (1383)>Arrach; an dem Pranberg (1427)>Brannenburg; am Haus (1528)>Haus bei Grafenau (1811)>Haus im Wald; an dem Stainberg (1431)>Steinberg (1598); an der Trebitz (1369)>Trabit; auf: auf der Hutten, in Eisenstein auf dem Neuhaub>Bayerisch Eisenstein; auff der gemain (1453)>Bayerisch Gmain; auff dem perg (1468)>Berckhaim (1498)>Bergheim; auf dem perg (1341)>Bogenberg; auf dem Erdweg (1510)>Erdweg; auf dem Kronig (1428)>Kroning; auf dem Romaberg (1495)>Ramerberg; auf der Sonnen (1674)>Sonnen; von: von der Vrienstat (1312)>Freystadt; uon dem Hage (1144)>Haag; von Turen (1478)>Thymau; von den Dreuelstain (1359)>Treffelstein.

Often one and the same place-name in their development process is used with a variety of prepositions: de Cella (1148)> in Celle (1261)>zw Awssern Czell (1414)>Aubernzell; aus der Grauenaw (1395)>bey der Grafenaw (1396)>in der Graffenaw (1456)>Grafenau in Gern (1346)>zu Gern>von der Gerlinden (1436)>Gernlinden; de Ovua (1104-1137)>den Hof zu Au (1386)> in der Halertau bei Aw (1447)>in der Hallertau zu Au (1517)>Au, i.d., Halletau.

Noun preposition+noun preposition: Sometimes, the location of the settlement receives clarification by two elements represented by prepositional substantive forms: um den Markt zu Redwitz (1426)>Marktedwitz in dem kroghe by dem have (1388)>Haffkrug; auf der Mul ze Pruk (1327)>Bruckmuhl; zu Sandmareinrichen in dem Alczgeren (1388)>im Gern zu Sand Mareinkirchen (1455)>Alzgeren; auf dem hailligen perg ze Andechs (1452)>Andechs; von der mul datz Potenwur (1317)>Bodenwohr; auf dem sloss zu Kameraw (1495)>Chameraw; auf dem orthoff zu Lengaw (1494)>Lengau; bei dem Dorf zu Kirchdorf (1075)>Kirchdorf; auf der Firmians-Mühl in der Haid (1771)>Haidmuhle; uppe dem velde to Bistorpe (1420)>Bistorf.

Noun nominative+noun preposition: Often a prepositional place name indicates not only the location but also the type of community, cf.: der werdt im see (1393)>Worthsee; marckht zu Essing (1334)>Essing; Marckt zu Nuwenkirchen (1444)>Markneukirchen; hof zu nederkirchen (1430)>Niederkirchen; hof ze Konigsee (1380)>Konigssee; ain gut im Annger (1439)>Anger; Munster bei Chamb (1301)>Munster (1359)>Nhammunster; Munster in dem Rottal (1476)>Rotthalmunster; Niederstadt zu Wildungen (1350)>Niederwildungen; Roede under dem Aype (1375)>Rath; der hof zu sand Agatten (XIV c.)>Agatharied; das Land ob der Enns; Munchen zum Closter Wall (erbach) (1264)>Waldmünchen; Piburg auf der Vilsse (1367)>Vilsbiburg.

Substantive phrases without preposition/non-prepositional phrases

Noun genitive+noun nominative: The place names with the genitive form of the noun are widespread in the old German language. In most cases, it is a proper noun denoting the owner (of the farms, estates, castles, around which the settlement is located), the founder of the village: Reichers Peiten (1420)>Reichersbeuern; Friedrichs Rod>Friedrichsroda; Otwinen brunno (779); Ascoles Wynethe (1093)>Ascherswenden; Hrodberhtinga hova (795)>Rublingshofen; Ruedl glaser (1488)>Sankt Oswald-Riedlhutte.

Alongside anthroponyms or ethnonyms as a genitive attributive component in place name common nouns denoting the marking point (“localizer”) are also used: Chirchen Tumpach (1285)>Kirchenthumbach. Genitive sometimes acts as a substitute for the prepositional common noun (in the function of a “localizer”): um den Markt zu Radwitz (1426)>des Marckts Redwitz (1441)>Marktrechwitz.

Noun nominative+noun nominative: Quite often the place names have the character of appositive phrases in which the first noun indicates the nature of the settlement (type locality) and the second noun stands for “localizing” sign (which includes the name of the owner or marking a nearby town, province, mountain, etc.) Burg Eltz, Burg Sayn, Markt Oberdorf (1898), Markt Schwaben (1928), Bad Godesberg; villa Eitraha (773)>Aiterhofen; das schlob Friedenfels (1598)>Friedenfels; Haus und Veste Fürstenstain (1381)>Fürstenstein; Hofmark Carlshuld, Gut Carlshuld (1797)>Carlshuld. These combinations are similar to genitive and prepositional place names but they are closer to PN, since it does not contain a preposition and article.

Substantive-adjectival phrases: Place names presented in the form of substantive-adjectival phrases are usually the result of a secondary nomination because with the

development and the emergence of “homonyms” (new settlements with the same name), the original place-name in the form of the noun with or without preposition needs to be clarified in most cases with an adjective (high low, old new, large small, etc.) Grob-Gerau Klein-Gerau, Oberkoeblitz Unterkoeblitz, Oberammergau Unterammergau, Altstadt Neustadt. As you can see, the adjectives with an opposite meaning implying opposition are used as a specification.

(Preposition)+adjective dative+noun dative: Place names may include a combination of a noun in dative with a specifying adjective in its structure. In this case, noun in dative can denote either a marking item or a type of a settlement: dem halven hagen vor Lechtenberge (1360)>Altenhagen; Michilun buochen (777)>Michelbuch; Aldun akkaron (X c.)>Altenacker; Newen Wiedt (1653)>Neuwied; Groten Denckte (1476)>Grob Denkte (1802); den alten marcht (1300)>Altenmarkt an der Altz; Moring (1326)>Grobmehring; Grossen Schleisham (1450)>Grossenschleishaimb (1574); Langen Mossen, Lanngenmosen, Langenmosen (1420)>Langenmosen; Steininen Kirchen (1133)>Steinkirchen. Preposition and/or the article is often omitted but the adjective inflexion retains a weak declension: den alten marcht (1300)>Altenmarkt, a.d., Altz, Newen Wiedt (1653)>Neuwied, Grossen Mering (1586)>Grobmehring.

Many place names retain their shape of a non-prepositional substantive-adjectival word combination with an adjective in a weak declension: Grobenhain, Grobenaspe, Grobenbrode, Grobensee.

Adjective nominative+noun nominative: The substantive-adjectival phrases may sometimes include inflected adjectives in nominative: das neue Haus (1673)>Neuhaus am Rennweg. However in most cases, the adjectives are combined with a noun within the place names in the indeclinable form: Sankt Ingebrehntum (1174)>Sankt Ingbert (1294); Klain Ysningen (1401)>Klein-Eisningen; Sand Oswald (1396)>Sankt Oswald-Riedlhütte; Sand Wolfgang (1480)>Sankt Wolfgang; Ring Laib (1312)>Ringelai; Rorac Musson (804)>Röhrmoos; Hinder Schmiding (1539)>Hinterschmiding; Voder Schmiding (1539)>Vorderschmiding; Under-Neukhürchen (1692)>Unterneukirchen; Vnnter Wessn (1585)>Vnnterwessen (1599)>Unterwossen; Vnnter Diessen (1478)>Unterdieben. The combinations with adjectives formed from the noun by the suffix er should be also included: Wester-Bivende (1253)>Biewende; Wester Kiellu (1013)>Westercelle; Oster Snatebul (1543)>Oster Schnatebull; das Wester Holtz (1600)>Westerholz; Suder Oug (1600)>Suderoug (1648); Suder Rade (1560)>Süderade; das Kolber Moos (1810)>Kolbermoor.

Adverbial phrases: Reflecting the position of the settlement in relation to any non-marked item are composed of an adverb and its closest definition: to dem Altona (1538)>Altona (“too close”), Olthenna (1331)>Holtenau, Altena (1270)>Althen, Altefern (“too far”), Pabfer (“just far enough”).

Substantive-participial phrases: Are formed by word-formation models specific to substantive-adjectival phrases:

Indeclinable participle+noun nominative: Hanngundt gereuth (1561), Verloren Arbeid, Verloren Cost.

Participle nominative+noun nominative: Chlaffundez wazzer (1264)>Klafferbach, Verlorenes Wasser, Verlorene Kostbrücke.

(Preposition) participle accusative+noun accusative: Wider das fallende waszer>fallenwasser.

(Preposition) participle dative+noun dative: Zu der gangenden aich (1400); *ze dem diecenden bach>Dissenbach; *ze dem watenden bach>Wattenbach; *ze der tretenden furt>Trettenfurt; *ze dem bietenden kamp>de Biedenkamp (1196)>Biedenkopf; *ze dem klingenden bache>Klingenbach; *ze der schouwenden burc> Schaumburg, ze der schulenden Burg>Schulenburg.

Numerical phrases: Such place names represent relatively recent formations. Even if not all of the place names are fixed in the form of a combination, according to A. Bach, we are still talking about the shifts formed on the basis of the phrase, not about the actual composites.

(Preposition) indeclinable numeral+noun nominative plural: Dreilinden (1833)>Dreilinden in den zwenzic morgen (1313), *vier lande>die Vierlande, *siben eichen>Sibeneichen (970)>Siebeneichen.

Numeral dative+noun dative plural: Zweinbrucken (1170)>Zweikirchen, Drinhusin (XII c.)>Drinhaus.

Descriptive phrases with a complicated structure: As the analysis of the material up to 17-18 centuries shows that the common place names shaped in the form of common phrases whose structure is very diverse are widespread on the territory of Germany: Dalem in demedorpe unde up deme Sollte>Salzdahlum; im Lutkern Borsemer Felde (1630)>Klein Borbum in der pharr zu nidern sand Johans chirichen (1394)>Johanniskirchen; Michahellis Newkirchen bei Valkchenstain>Michelsneukirchen; daz

gotshaus datz sand Veit bei dem Nevmarcht>Neumarkt-Sankt Veit; Schlob vmd Herrschaft Waldt auf dem Wasser der Altz>Wald an der Alz. Descriptive toponyms are preserved persistently giving way to compound words at the end of the 18th century.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To summarize, the most productive derivational model for place names at the earlier stages of the historical development is word groups or phrases. In this period place names are very close to the appellatives. The most striking example of the proximity of the place names to the genetic names are the prepositional structures which are becoming simpler in the process of historical development.

CONCLUSION

It should be noted that the derivational model of the phrases dominated at the early stages of the development of German place names. Subsequently, the following trends are observed: prepositional phrases are converted into simplexes losing a preposition and an article (zum Fall>Fall) or in shifts (*In celle>Incelle (1177)>Inzell); substantive-adjectival and -participial, numeral phrases usually take the form of composites (den alten marcht>Altenmarkt, Vierzighufen, ze der tretenden furt>Trettenfurt).

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