



The use of toponyms in French poetics

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received August 2025

Received in revised form

15 September 2025

Accepted 25 September 2025

Available online

15 October 2025

Keywords:

toponym,
poetics,
lyrical poem,
imagery,
French literature.

ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the stylistic and semantic functions of French toponyms in French poetic texts (poems, poems, lyrical works). Along with toponyms in poetic discourse, they also serve as a figurative tool expressing the author's aesthetic worldview.

2181-3701/© 2025 in Science LLC.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.47689/2181-3701-vol3-iss8/S-pp217-220>

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Fransuz poetikasida toponimlarning qo'llanishi

ANNOTATSIYA

Kalit so'zlar:

toponim,
she'riyat,
 lirik asar,
obrazlilik,
fransuz adabiyoti.

Ushbu maqolada fransuz she'riy matnlaridagi (she'rlar, dostonlar, lirik asarlar) fransuz toponimlarining uslubiy va ma'noviy vazifalari tahlil etiladi. Toponimlar she'riy nutqda nafaqat joy nomlarini ifodalash, balki muallifning estetik dunyoqarashini aks ettiruvchi badiiy vosita sifatida ham xizmat qiladi.

Использование топонимов во французской поэтике

АННОТАЦИЯ

Ключевые слова:

топоним,
поэтика,
лирическое
стихотворение,
образность,
французская литература.

В данной статье анализируются стилистические и семантические функции французских топонимов во французских поэтических текстах (поэмах, стихотворениях, лирических произведениях). Топонимы в поэтическом дискурсе также служат образным средством, выражающим эстетическое мировоззрение автора.

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Language is not only a means of communication, but also a representative of the historical memory, cultural heritage, and aesthetic worldview of the people. In this process, toponyms — place names — acquire a specific semantic load and symbolic meaning, acquiring deep artistic significance in literary texts. In French poetics, toponyms are actively used as a tool that takes the reader into a certain territory, landscape, or historical period.

French poetry of the 20th century is distinguished by its extreme diversity in content and form, and its richness in various discoveries in the art of artistic expression. In particular, it was French poets who created the currents of symbolism and surrealism, which had a positive impact on world poetry. In French poetics, toponyms — place names — play a significant role as a means of artistic expression. Poets and writers use them not only to provide geographical information, but also to create an image, express mood, and reflect national culture. Through toponyms, the author takes the reader to a specific region, historical period, or cultural context. For example, in Lamartine's poetry, the names of water bodies such as "Lac du Bourget" are used to poetically describe natural landscapes, evoking a sense of tranquility and peace in the reader. In the works of Victor Hugo, toponyms such as "Mont Blanc" or "Seine" appear as symbols of grandeur, historical events, and national pride. The French symbolist poet Paul Verlaine uses city names such as "Londres" and "Paris" to express nostalgia and personal feelings.

In poetic texts, toponyms also serve as metaphors and symbols. For example, river names represent the flow of time, and mountain names represent stability and strength. In this sense, toponyms are not just geographical signs, but also artistic entities with aesthetic and spiritual significance. As a result, toponyms in French poetics serve as a powerful means of strengthening national identity, describing natural landscapes, and expressing the poet's inner world.

In French poetry, the use of toponyms is often associated with the author's personal memories or historical events. For example, Charles Baudelaire describes the city of "Paris" not only as a geographical place, but also as a symbol reflecting the culture, art, and spirit of the time. André Gide, by describing the coast of "Normandie", reveals the harmony between nature and the human psyche. Also, the names of small villages and landscapes are of great importance in French poetics. Regional names such as "Provence", "Bretagne" evoke romantic imaginations in the reader, through which the author shows national diversity. Toponyms often enrich the poetic rhythm and tone, adding musicality to the poem. Thus, in French poetics, toponyms are not only a linguistic element, but also an aesthetic and emotional tool that takes the reader into the author's world.

In French literature, in particular, in poetry, place names often serve to enhance the lyrical mood, make images more vivid and natural, and also evoke certain societies in the reader's memory. In the works of such famous poets as Victor Hugo, Alphonse de Lamartine, Paul Éluard, toponyms such as Paris, Marseille, Provence, Loire appear not only as geographical objects, but also as important elements in creating national identity and artistic images.

The aim of the study is to analyze the features of the use of French toponyms in French poetics, their semantic and artistic functions, as well as to determine the national and cultural identity of these nominative units. In the process of research, the

poetic functions and aesthetic possibilities of toponyms are highlighted based on specific examples taken from French poetry.

Toponyms, as one of the powerful figurative means of poetic language, occupy an important place in many literary traditions, in particular in French literature. They serve as a means of expressing the emotional attitude of the lyrical “I” to the place, historical memory, and cultural similarity. The poetic functions of toponyms are studied in examples of French poetry of the 19th–21st centuries. Toponyms illuminate the cultural heritage and history of the nation. Names such as Loire or Provence remind us of the beauty and uniqueness of French nature.

In French poetics, toponyms perform two main functions:

- Denotative (in direct meaning) - expressing a geographical place.
- Connotative (in additional meaning) - evoking cultural, historical, and emotional concepts.

Accordingly, French toponyms can be classified as follows:

A means of expressing emotions:

- These are names that denote real places and evoke a clear image in the reader.

Example: In Victor Hugo's poems, toponyms such as Paris, Rouen, Marseille transport the reader to a real historical and cultural space. The poet evokes a certain feeling through a geographical name. For example, the word Paris not only means the capital, but is also interpreted as a symbol of love, art, fashion, and revolution. In Baudelaire's poem "Le Cygne" dedicated to Victor Hugo, he describes Paris as a symbol of lost beauty and change:

"Le vieux Paris n'est plus (la forme d'une ville Change plus vite, hélas! que le cœur d'un mortel)"

Symbolic and mythological meanings: Toponyms often appear in historical, religious, or mythological connotations:

- In Paul Valéry's poem, the island of Cythère becomes a romantic symbol associated with the beauty of Venus:

"Cythère, île d'amour, d'où partent les soupirs"

A device that determines plot and lyrical direction: Toponymy creates plot space:

- In Victor Hugo's "Les Feuilles d'automne", toponyms such as Rouen, Normandie, and Paris serve as a backdrop for the poet's inner experiences between childhood and his present life.

In addition, the following toponyms in poetic language not only express reality, but also express the author's feelings. They often rise to the level of metaphor:

- In Jacques Prévert's poem "Barbara", the city of Brest represents the peaceful life before the war, and in the last lines, it becomes an image of memory and devastation:

"Rappelle-toi, Barbara. Il pleuvait sans cesse sur Brest ce jour-là..."

"Je revois encore Paris, la Seine et ses quais..."

Here, the toponyms of Paris and Seine express the poet's personal memories and nostalgic mood. Alphonse de Lamartine — Le Lac "Ô lac !..." In the poem about Lac du Bourget, the toponym is connected to a natural landscape and a romantic love story.

Paul Éluard — Liberté “Sur mes cahiers d’écolier / Sur mon pupitre et les arbres / Sur la neige et sur le sable...” In Éluard's poetry, toponyms, although less often in the form of specific names, create a universal French cultural space through images of places. Yves Bonnefoy uses toponyms in his poems in an ontological and philosophical context: the place appears as a source of holiness, memory, and truth.

In short, toponyms in French poetics constitute a rich linguopoetic layer that creates imagery, association, historical, and aesthetic connotations. They express in an aesthetic form the connection between the author and the place, the author and history, and the author and culture. Toponyms become not only a spatial sign in poetic discourse, but also an emotional, semantic, and stylistic center.

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