This article explores the process of transitioning names into signs and symbols that describe the landscapes of the Valaam and Solovki islands, characterizing the spiritual and economic fields of the northern monasteries’ activity. The research of Russian North toponymy space was based on the study of toponymy of the Valaam and Solovetsky archipelagos islands, which consists of place names of both Russian and Baltic-Finnish origin. The research is connected to the growing interest in the historical, cultural, and spiritual life of the newly reborn monasteries on Valaam and Solovki. The aim of this article is to study the place names of Solovki and Valaam. The research tasks are meant to identify place names from archival and other sources, to classify, to identify the place names that are removing into signs and symbols.

Keywords: Valaam, Solovki, Russian North, sign, symbol, monasteries, toponyms, classification.
method. The results of the empirical study of the cultural landscape of Solovki and Valaam, which were conducted by the author from 2000–2018, are the basis of our work.

**Text of article**

The research of the Solovki and Valaam sign systems is based on the study of the islands’ toponymy, which consists of name signs. According to B. A. Uspensky, "the semiotics of the sign considers semantics, sintactics, pragmatism, the structure of the sign, the semantics of the language, in his opinion, is connected with the mechanism of transmission of content, which uses a certain set of elementary signs" [7, P. 273]. Names are part of the Valaam and Solovetsky archipelago islands toponymy space. Y. M. Lotman defines «such a closed space within the boundaries of culture as a continuum, filled with different types of and at different levels of organization semiotic formations, which he, similar to the ‘noosphere’ and ‘biosphere’ of V.I. Vernadsky calls the semisphere, the space of which is abstract» [2, P. 191].

Toponyms differ in semantics. They can determine the boundaries of toponymy space, indicate direction, and characterize landscape objects. Thus, in the toponymy space of Valaam and Solovki culture can be distinguished the following groups of name signs:

1. **Border signs.** This group includes the names of the extreme points of the islands in the north, south, east, and west: Valaam — Petrovsky (cape), Black (cape), Winter (cape), Cross (cape); Solovki — Ovsyannikov (cape), Pechak (cape), Rebalda (cape), Beluga (cape). Border signs may also be the names of the archipelagos islands surrounding Valaam and Solovki: Valaam archipelago — Extreme (island), Dubrovsky (island), Porfiryevsky (island), Egg (island); Solovetsky archipelago — Tops (islands), Zayatsky (islands), Anzersky (island).

2. **Landmark signs.** This group includes the names of roads, bridges, canals: Valaam — Monastery (road), Tikhinsky (bridge), Brick (channel); Solovki — Isakovskaya (road), Drinking (channel). Landmarks are also the names of outstanding elements of the landscape. It can be, for example, high mountains, alleys, groves of artificial plantings, streets, monuments: Valaam archipelago — Theodorovskaya (mountain, 42 m), Alley of the Lonely Monk (fir alley), Oak (grove); Solovetsky archipelago — Larch Alley (alley), Primorskaya (street).

3. **Signs-metaphors.** Such names are, along with border, the most ancient signs. According to A. N. Veselovsky, "the metaphors reflected the naive syncretic representation of nature, which is based on the transfer of the trait characteristic of one member of the parallel, in another: the root — the leg of a tree; grass, forest — the hair of the earth" [1, P. 126]. By O. M. Freudenberg’s definition, naming the objects of the surrounding world through metaphors denoting the body parts of a mythological being was characteristic of many languages of the world [8, P. 93]. On Valaam and Solovki, there are also metaphor signs: Valaam archipelago — Monasterin Guba (bay), Black Nose (island); Solovetsky archipelago — Humpback (lake).

4. **Microtoponym signs.** The place names of this group are signs of modernity, as they form the newest layer in the place names of Solovki and Valaam. According to A. V. Pravdikova, "Microtoponymiya consist of the objects names surrounding a ban placed on the use of these former names: Red (White, lake), Kremlin (Holy, lake) (Solovki).”

5. **Symbols.** Some of the names of objects located on the islands of the Valaam and Solovetsky archipelagos are examples of the transition of the sign into a symbol. K. G. Jung believes that the meaning of the symbol is wider and may include a sign. The symbol can be both a name and an image that has any additional meaning [10, P. 49]. According to O. Spengler’s definition, «symbols are sensual signs, recent, indivisible, and most importantly, involuntary impressions of a certain meaning. The symbol is a certain trait of reality, with immediate internal authenticity denoting for sensually awake people something that cannot be communicated in a reasonable way» [9, P. 324]. Let’s consider examples of the transition of toponymy — sign into symbol in the names of Valaam and Solovki objects.

1. A sign is a symbol of ancient culture. Thus, the sign-microtoponym of Babylon, the name of the stone structures on the Great Zaatsky Island, is transferred to other ancient places of worship located on the islands of the Solovetsky archipelago, such as labyrinths, seidas, and stone heaps, becoming a symbol of paganism. On Valaam, the symbol of paganism is the sign-microtoponym Bald Mountain, the name of the forestless top of the Black Nose Mountain.

2. A sign is a symbol of Orthodoxy. The symbol of Orthodoxy, both on Valaam and on Solovki, becomes the place name of the Saint: Valaam archipelago — Holy (island); Great Solovetsky Island — Holy (lake).

3. A sign is a symbol of a new story. The Finnish sign-microtoponym for “outpost” and “village” appeared in the 1920s and 1940s of the 20th century and are symbols of the new time in the history of the Valaam island and the Valaam Monastery. Such semantics of names have survived to this day. The New Valaam, a sign marking the location of the monastery in Finland, became a symbol of Valaam's farewell for the Valaam Monastery coenobites. The toponym Old Valaam, the sign of the first settlement of monks on the island of Saint, acquired the meaning of the symbol denoting the Valaam Monastery before its evacuation to Finland in 1940.

4. **Commemorative signs and symbols.** An example of the transition of a commemorative sign into a symbol is the name of the pine tree, known as Shishkina (Pine Shishkina). It grows on the island of Skitsky near the road to the skete in the name of All Saints. Initially, the pine was a familiar model, which was depicted in the drawings and paintings of famous Russian artist I. Shishkin. It has now become a symbol of the Valaam period in Shishkin's work.

Mount Calvary — a sign pointing to the construction site of the church in honor of the Crucifixion of the Lord and the device of the Calvary-Raspyatsky skete on the island of Anzer [6] (Solovetsky archipelago) — turned into a symbol of crucifixion and the destruction of prisoners of the Solovetsky prison special (STON).

**Conclusion**

Research of toponymy space of the Russian North was conducted on the example of formation and development of the Solovki and Valaam toponymy systems. Signs-names also contain information about the natural landscape of the Solovki and...
Valaam archipelagos islands. They characterize the Solovki and Valaam ancient culture. In certain situations, signs can turn into symbols, having wider value than signs. On the islands are saved orthodoxy, new history symbols, and memorable signs. Therefore, we can conclude that Solovki and Valaam place names, consisting of both ancient and modern signs and symbols, are part of the toponymy space of the Russian North.

**Conflict of Interest**

None declared.

### Список литературы / References


### Список литературы на английском / References in English