The Role of Greek Culture Representation in Socio-Economic Development of the Southern Regions of Russia

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Abstract:
This article researches how the Greek lingvoculture represented in onomasticon of the South of Russia. The South Russian anthroponyms, toponyms and pragmatonyms are considered in this article and how they verbalize the most important values and ideological views.

It is proved in the article that the key concepts of the Greek lingvoculture such as: “Peace”, “Faith”, “Love”, “Heroism”, “Knowledge”, “Alphabet”, “Power”, “Charismatic person” and “Craft” are highly concentrated in the onomastic lexis of the researched region.

The mentioned above concepts due to their specific pragmatic orientation are represented at different extend.

Keywords: Culture, linguoculture, onomastics, concept anthroponym, toponym, pragmatonim.

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1. Introduction

There is unlikely to be any other culture that influenced so much on the formation of other European cultures, as the Greek culture. The fate of the Greek people is closely winded with the fate of the Russian people and dates back in the times of the Great Greek Colonization (VIII – VI BC), when the Greeks founded dozens of big cities (polises) on the territory of the modern South of Russia: Bosporus Cimmerian, Olvia, Tauric Chersonesos, Phanagoria, Tire, Nymphaeus, Hermonassa, Tanais; and the ancestors of the Grekovs (anthroponym denoting the origin of the bearer) is found in a number of the Don Stanitsys.

Moreover a number of toponyms, showing the close historical connection with the Greek culture still exist in the researched region:

✓ the village Grechesky in the Tuapse District of the Krasnodar Krai;
✓ the Greki village in the Kalininsky District of the Krasnodar Krai;
✓ the Grekovo settlement in the Millerovo District of the Rostov Region;
✓ the Grekovo-Ulyanovka village in the Rodionovo-Nesvetay District of the Rostov Region;
✓ the Grekovo-Petrovsky and Grekovo-Stanitsky villages in the Millerovo District of the Rostov Region;
✓ the Grekov village in the Orlovsky District of the Rostov Region.

2. Theoretical, Empirical, and Methodological Grounds of the Research

Since old times there is the Greek legacy in all spheres of the Russian people’s lives: in philosophy, science, art, but most of all in the language. The interconnection of two cultures resulted in the continuity of cultural phenomena and consequently language continuity. Linvoculturology is a science considering a language as a cultural phenomenon and in this research performed on the basis of modern anthropocentric paradigm we operate with linvoculturology categories, and define the Greek lingvoculture as a special type of the connection of the Greek language and culture “where not only a language picture of the world, but conceptual, cultural and value pictures of the world as well are expressed” (Evsyukova, 2016).

Any linguoculture influences the formation of a linguistic picture of the world of each of its bearers, and since Greek linguoculture became the basis for all European linguoculture, it turned out to be included in the conceptual apparatus of any educated carrier of the Indo-European language, including Russian.

The main linvoculturology category is a concept, that is “a clot of culture in human consciousness; it is that helps culture enter the mental world of a human. And, on the other hand, concept is the thing through which an individual – an ordinary one, not “a creator of cultural values” – himself enters the culture and in some cases influences it” (Stepanov, 1997).
Thus, it is possible to describe this or that culture through distinguishing the most significant concepts. It is known that the most significant concepts of the Ancient Greek linguoculture are such cultural dominants as Origin, Religion\(^5\) (Tursidu, 2016), Language\(^6\), Rationalism, Democracy, Game, True, Beauty, Kindness, Hospitality (Chkalova, 2006), Heroism, Freedom (Belyayeva, 2008), Science, Measure (Beltimirzaeva, 2016). All enumerated concepts are connected with cultural constants of the Russian ethnos. According to Stepanov (2004) the fundamental ones for the Russian culture are: Language, Cause and Purpose, House, Comfort, Fear, Sadness, Sorrow, Conscience, Morality, Intelligentsia, Peace, Life, Time, Russ, Your People, Strange People, Person, Soul, Law, Number, Account, Alphabet, Knowledge, Science, Truth, Word, Faith, Love. Joy, Will, Essence, World, Universe, Eternity. The concept structure involves the whole conceptual part of it on the one hand and cultural on the other.

The cultural component of the concept is its etymology, history, assessment and associations (Stepanov, 2004) and is the aspect due to which it is possible to compare conceptual systems of two linguistic cultures. Thus, the Russian and Greek lingvocultures are closest from the conceptual point of view of their significance for the carriers of such axiological installations as: Time, Faith, True, Knowledge, Science, Language, Heroism, Crafts, Alphabet and World.

It should be mentioned that with the cultural development both the values and a concept cultural significance change. In addition, we have an opportunity to describe the characteristic features of this or that lingvoculture through the prism of a language phenomenon. Such a phenomenon in our case is the onomasticon of the Southern Region of Russia.

*Onomasticon I*: Dictionary or a list of any proper names (completed usually separately for different categories of onyms, in particular anthroponymicon, toponymycon). Repertoire of the proper names of the given ethnos, the given socium, for the given period (Podolskaya, 1978). Thus, “it is a range of the proper names, used by a people, is characterized with essential stability and traditionalism” (Superanskaya, 1977).

This stratum of lexis is especially interesting because it is the oldest language universalities (proper names have always existed in all languages) is the specific and isolated from other lexical strata. Thus, the subject matter of our research is onomastic

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\(^5\)It is a religious rod of history that promoted cultural and historic interaction of these peoples for many centuries and allows to speak affinity and similarity of some structural elements of the Greek and Russian mentality (Tursidu, 2016).

\(^6\)The Old Greek language (one of the ancients Indo-European languages fixed with writing system XV-XI BC) played a special role in the formation of the European cultures and the Indo-European languages.
Lexis of the Southern Region of Russia of the following types: anthroponyms, toponyms and the youngest onyms layer - pragmatonyms.

**Anthroponym** is a type of onyms, any proper name, which a person (or a group of people) can have, i.e., name, patronymic name, surname, nickname, pseudonym (Podolskaya, 1978).

**Toponym** (geographical name) is a type of onyms. A proper name of any geographical object, including hydronym, oikonym, oronym, speleonym, urbanonym, agronym (Podolskaya, 1978).

**Pragmatonym** is a nomen to denote a trade mark (Podolskaya, 1978). In modern understanding it is a purposefully created to be applied in trade and protected by a law of word or phrase, which are names of different types of goods and services.

Anthroponyms and toponyms, being the most stable part of the onomasticon, constitute a core of the onomastic space, and pragmatonyms were on the periphery for a long time. However, the latest researches give good reasons to place the pragmatonyms among the onomastic lexis (Evsyukova and Glichova, 2011). The choice of the onomasticon as a subject matter of this work is due to the fact that the first place among all proper names, used in the Russian language are the anthroponyms of the Greek origin (Shchetinin, 1996); toponimic map of the Southern Region of Russia was being created together with Greek migration; pragmatonyms being the most numerous stratum among other names, actualize the biggest number of the elements of the Greek lingvoculture.

A bigger share of anthroponyms originates from the words having everyday but the important meaning for the culture. Many of popular in all times names in the South of Russia as well as on the other territories of Russia were borrowed from the Greek language, for example: Alexander, Varvara, Vasily, etc. Being the first and the main element of an individual’s identification the names reflect such notions that verbalize the most important, significant elements of the lingoculture: kindness, courage, braveness, good, beauty, etc. Thus, the most popular name Alexander is formed of the old Greek words Ἀλέξ — “defender” and ἀνδρός — «man», that together means “people’s defender”. The other widely spread name Nikolay has Greek elements: νίκη — «victory» and λαός — «people», the etymology of the name Eugene is in Greek lexeme εὐγενής — «noble».

If the anthroponyms of Greek origin appeared in the South of Russia due to the close political, economic and cultural links between Russia and Greece, toponyms were often borrowed in the course of the historical development of the region. The ancient Greeks founded their settlements on the Black sea coast as long ago as in the late VII century BC. That is why some modern settlements of the researched region used to have Greek names. The important port of Novorossiysk was founded by the Greeks in V century BC and used to be called “Bata” from the Greek “deep”. This
name probably was given to the settlement due to location at the coast. In the second part of VII BC on the place of modern Taganrog there used to be one more Greek settlement, called Kremni (from Greek Κρημνοὶ - “slope”).

In the South of Russia there are toponyms with final -pol, which entered the Russian language from the old Greek (πόλη), meaning “city”. For example, Stavropol from Greek σταυρός — «cross», πόλις — «city».

We cannot fail to mention the ancient Greek city Tanais, whose excavations are being carried out near Rostov-on-Don. Its name coincided with the river name where the city was located and is translated as “falling down”.

3. Results

Historical interaction of the Russian and Greek cultures resulted in exchange of not only material values, but the values of speculative nature the most important for the understanding of the world and people’s self-awareness and life. The most important is a constant “Peace”, having common semantic roots both in the Russian and Greek languages: “Peace” as a universe, the system of the world in a whole, and “Peace” as quietness, good relations, absence of war or quarrel. According to Stepanov (2004) this concept in the Russian lingvoculture comprises the following notions: place on Earth around us; community; peace; agreement; life; “native” in contrast to “strange”. In the Greek world outlook the concept “Peace” is verbalized in the word “cosmos” κόσμος, and involves such notions as: order, harmony, beauty. In Homer’s poems there is an understanding of “Peace” as home – place to live, to act and to struggle between Gods and people.

Thus, the Greek concept Cosmos turns out to be the prototype of the Russian concept “Peace” and actualizes conceptual meanings in such anthroponyms as Kuzma – Kozma – Kosma (the name is widely represented in the Russian classical literature and was considered to be forgotten for a long time, lately has become more popular in the South Russia) originates from the Greek word κόσμος - cosmos; Irina – from the old Greek εἰρήνη — «peace», «calmness» - is also one of the widely spread female name.

Aglaya (from the old Greek Ἀγλαΐα — «beauty, dazzle»), Galina (from the Old Greek γαλήνη — «calmness»), Xeniya (from the Greek Ξένια, which in its turn — from the old Greek ἥξεια — «hospitable»). Kuzminka (from the Greek Κοσμάς — «peace») – village in the Neklinovsky District in Rostov Region, Irinovka (— from the old Greek εἰρήνη — «peace», «calmness») — village in the Zernograd District in Rostov Region and a settlement in the Krilavskoy District in Krasnodar Krai, Balka Aksyutkina (from the mentioned above Greek root ἥξεια — «hospitable») in the Kasharsky District in Rostov Region and a settlement Kazminskoe in the Kochubeevsky District in Krasnodar Krai are among the toponyms verbalizing the concept “Peace”.
Pragmatonyms actualize the concept “Peace” through the following units: cosmas tv, harmony of the world (alcoholic drinks), “Harmony of the cozy home” (name of household goods) – a trade mark verbalizing simultaneously several components of the given concept; home, calmness, harmony.

The representation of constant “Faith” in the onomasticone of South Russia: Being the most important elements of the person’s identification and the geographical objects, anthroponyms and toponyms, from the etymological point of view, reflect such notions which verbalize the most significant concepts of the researched lingvocultutre. For example, the concept “Faith” has a significant importance for the Russian and Greek cultures. This cultural constant is almost equal in the Russian and Greek lingvocultures because the development of this concept in its modern perception took place in the Christian epoch. Since that very moment the Russian and Greek cultures turn out to be closely connected spiritually by the common religion. In the Southern Region of Russia omasticon the concept “Faith” is represented by the following anthroponyms of the Greek origin:

✓ Anastas, Anastasia (in Greek Αναστασία) — «resurrection»;
✓ Agnia — «chaste»; Makary, Makar — from Greek Μακάριος, which in its turn — from the Old Greek μάκαρ — «blessed»;
✓ Feodor, Theodor (from Greek Θεόδωρος — «God’s gift»);
✓ Fyokla (from the Old Greek Θέλα — «God’s glory»).

In the Southern Region of Russia omasticon the concept “Faith” is represented by the following toponyms of the Greek origin: the city of Stavropol (from Greek σταυρός — «cross», πόλις — «city»), a village Afonka in Krasnodarsky Krai (from Greek Ἀθως — «A Holly Maintain»).

On the South-East spit of the Taman Peninsula in Krasnodar Krai there is a cape with a Greek name Panagia. It is one of the most ancient toponyms in this territory. Originally the Greeks described Our Lady with this word, and it meant “saint”. Later this lexeme obtained additional meanings and started to be translated as “light”. Probably this very meaning was applied to characterize the cape.

Pragmatonyms also exploit the constant “Faith” incorporating the components of the given concept in its structure. For example, trademarks of cosmetics or alcohol with lexical units of the Greek origin: Dear Angel, the Angel of Beauty, Angel and Demon from the Old Greek ἄγγελος, angelos — «messenger, herald» (a spiritual, a bodiless creature, announcing the God’s will and possessing supernatural abilities).

The concept “Heroism, Victory” in the onomasticone of South Russia: Another relevant concept of the Greek lingvoculture is a concept “Heroism, Victory”. Its semantic content is reflected in a number of the spread in the South of Russia anthroponyms and toponyms. The most spread ones are the proper names derived from the Greek root ἀλέξω, derived from the old Greek ἀλέξω — «defend»,
«repulse», «prevent». Such anthroponyms as (Alexandra, Alexandrov, Alexey, Alekseev), and a number of toponyms (Alexandria is a village in the Blagodarno urban district of the Stavropol Krai, Alexandrovka is a village in the Azov District of the Rostov Region, a farm in the Aksai District, a village in the Matveyev-Kurgan District, a settlement in the Tarasovsky District and even a microdistrict of Rostov-on-Don, Aleksandrovske - the administrative center of the Aleksandrovsky District of the Stavropol Krai, the Aleksandrovsky farm in the Oblivsky District of the Rostov Region, the Alexandria village as a part of Georgievsky District of the Stavropol Krai, Alekseevka - the village in Ocjabrsky District of Rostov Region, Aleksanevy - farm in the Verchnedonskoy District, Rostov Region, Alekseev – a village in the Zavetinsky District, Rostov Region, Alekseevskoe – a village a part Blagodarnensky Urban District of the Stavropol Krai) belong to them.

Apart from that among the anthroponyms belonging to the same concept sphere are: male name Andrei and the surname Androsov (from the Greek Ἀνδρέας) – “courageous, brave”; Arseny (from the Greek ἀρσέν – “courageous”); Nicholas (from other the Greek νικάω – ‘conquer’ and λαός – ‘people’; Nicka (from the Greek Νίκη, which in turn is from the Old Greek νίκη – “victory”); Nikita (from the Greek Νικήτας, which in turn is from the Greek νίκη – “victory”, and the Old Greek φέρω – “I bring”); Nikon (from the Greek Νίκων, which in turn is from the Old Greek νίκονος – “victorious”). Among the toponyms belonging to this concept sphere are:

✓ Novonikolaevka - a village in the Azov District of the Rostov Region;
✓ a Mykolayiv rural settlement - a municipality in the Proletarsky District of the Rostov Region;
✓ a Mykolayiv farm in the Kagalnitsky District of the Rostov Region;
✓ a village in the Andropovsky District of the Stavropol Krai;
✓ a Nikolsky farm in the Zavetinsky District the Rostov Region.

The pragmatonyms of this concept also turn out to be sufficiently developed, and include such trademarks as glory to heroes-winners, the last hero (tv show), hero of the day, rock heroes, heroes (computer games), birth of heroes (wine). These foundations are also used due to the presence in their semantics cultural and historical connotations.

*Verbalization of concept "Love" and in South Russian onomastics:* “Love” is one of the most fundamental concepts in the analyzed linvocultures. It verbalized in a few words in the Greek culture: Eros (from the old Greek Ἔρως) -God of love or carnal love; Agape, agape (sometimes also agapi, from the old Greek ἀγάπη) - love of neighbor; Philia (from the old Greek φιλία) - brotherly or friendly love; Storge (from other Greek, στοργή) is a family, related love, the love of parents for children. Let us give examples of this concept in the onomasticon of the South of Russia.
Agapenko is a last name widely spread among the Don Cossacks, derived from the male name Agap (from the old Greek ἀγάπη). In most cases the borrowed Greek names were not translated into Russian. However, “there is a successful exception from this rule; the names of three sisters-martyrs – Pistis, Elpis and Agape. They became well-known and dear names Faith, Hope, Love” (Shchetinin 1996). This concept is realized in the following toponyms in the South of Russia: Filippovsky is farm in the Chertkovsky District of the Rostov Region; Filippenkov is farm in the Kamensky District of the Rostov Region. In the pragmatonyms the concept “Love” is represented by the following ones: beauty salon Agape, means of personal use of eros, the name of the musical group band eros.

The concept "Power" representation in onomasticon of South Russia: Another widely represented concept of the Greek lingvoculture is “Power”. It is verbalized in the following proper names:

✓ Basil from the Greek βασίλευς – “king”;
✓ Vasilisa from the Greek βασίλισσα – “queen”;
✓ Gennady from other Greek Γεννάδιος; γεννάδας (gennadas) – “noble”, “of noble origin”; Eugene from the Greek. Ευγένιος, which is in turn from the Old Greek. ευγενής – “noble”;
✓ Kira from the Greek Κύρα which is in turn, is from the Old Greek κύριος – “master”;
✓ Cyril from the Greek Κύριλλος, which is in turn from the Old Greek κύριος is the “master”.

The toponyms in whose roots this concept is reflected include:

✓ Kireevka is a farm in the Oktyabrsky District of the Rostov Region;
✓ Vasilievsky is a farm in the Belokalitvinsky District of the Rostov Region, a settlement in the Kamensky District of the Rostov Region and a farm in the Abinsk District of the Krasnodar Krai;
✓ Vasilieva is a farm in the Tselinsky District of the Rostov Region;
✓ Vasilievo-Shamshevo is a village in the Kagalnitsky District of Rostov region.

The pragmatonyms which incorporated in the concept “Power” turn out to be really frequent in the onomasticon of the South of Russia. In most cases they use lexical basis “tsar” (from the old Greek καῖσαρ, through Latin caesar), that is probably explained by a special attitude of the Russian people to the idea of the autocracy (from the Greek Αυτοκρατορία from αὐτός (self) + κρατέω (rule) - autocracy), which used to be national ideology in the first half of the XIX century. The examples of the trademarks verbalizing this concept are: Tsargrad, Tsar Nikolai, Tsar Saltan, Tsar-Meat, as well as the Pragmatonyms Siberian Crown (from the Greek Κόρωνη – “crown, wreath”).
The verbalization of culture concept “Charismatic personality”: The Greek culture concept “Charismatic personality” is also found in the anthroponyms and toponyms of the South of Russia. Its semantic content can be found in such names as:

- Agatha, Agafia (from the Greek άγαθή – “good”);
- Gerasim (from the Greek Γεράσιμος – “venerable”);
- Gregory (from the Greek γρήγορος – “vigilant”);
- Plato (from Greek Πλάτων, which is in turn from the Old Greek πλατύς – “broad”, “broad-shouldered”) and the derivative of his name Platov, worn by the famous Don Cossack ataman Matvei Ivanovich Platov;
- Tikhon (dr.-Greek Τύχη – “fate”, “case” - fortunate );
- Fevronia (from the Greek Φευρωνία, which is in its turn, from the Old Greek φοίβος – “radiant”).

Another anthroponym belonging to this concept sphere is the common name of Kaloferov, having Greek root “carrying good, prosperity, happy life”. The toponyms in whose roots this concept is reflected include:

- Platonovka is a farm in the Azov district of the Rostov region;
- Platonov is a farm in the Tatsinsky district of the Rostov region;
- Grigorievskaya village in the Seversky district of the Krasnodar Krai;
- Grigorievka farm in the Azov district of the Rostov region and a village in the Matveyev-Kurgan district of the Rostov region.

The pragmatomsyms verbalize this concept using the names of heroes and the Greek Gods for the trademarks. For example, Vines is a trademark of carpets. Often the anthroponyms of the Greek origin such as Martha (from the Greek Lady) - Frau Martha (household goods), Archimede - glass and porcelain are used in the names of trademarks.

The concept "Craft" in onomasticone of South Russia: Another concept of the Greek lingvoculture well represented in the toponyms and anthroponyms of the South of Russia is “Craft”. It is verbalized in such toponyms and anthroponyms as:

- George from the Greek γεωργός is a “farmer”;
- Tamyanov from the Greek word ταμείο, which is translated into Russian as “cashier, treasurer”);
- Loizov from the Greek λογιστή – “bookkeeper, accountant”.

And also in toponyms:

- Keramik a farm in Novoaleksandrovsky District of the Stavropol Krai;
- Georgievskaya the village in Kochubeevsky District of the Stavropol Krai.
This concept is actualized in the pragmatonyms with such basis as “ceramics” from the Greek κεραμίκος «pottery», then made of ceramics κέραμος «clay; clay tableware») Baltceramica, Luxurious Ceramics, Décor Ceramics.

The representation of concept “Knowledge” in pragmatonyms of South Russia: The concept sphere “Knowledge” (from the Greek γνώσις — “knowledge”) contains such concepts as “Alphabet” and “Science” (actions to obtain knowledge), which are widely spread among the pragmatonyms, but do not actualize in the toponyms and anthroponyms. They comprise the names containing the Greek letters. The word “alphabet” consists of the letters of the Greek alphabet ἀλφα “alpha” and Βήτα “beta” (in Byzantium pronunciation “vita”, as well as the Russian word “Azbuka” formed by the first two letters of the Glagolitic alphabet “Az” and “Buki”. The wide spread pragmatonyms are:

✓ “Alpha” from Greek ἀλφα is the first letter of the Greek alphabet, in the system of the Greek notation of numbers meaningful, from the Phoenician letter "Aleph", which means “bull” 1): Alpha-Bank, Alpha-Audit, Alphafit, Alpha Mobile, Alfamobil and others;
✓ “Beta” from Greek Βήτα - [beta / vita], the second letter of the Greek alphabet, derived from the Phoenician letter "bet", which means “home” - Betamix, Betalink, Betaservice, Betasuper, etc.;
✓ “Gamma” γάμμα - the third letter of the alphabet is also sufficiently frequency among trademarks, Gamma, Gamma-Design, Gamma-Expert.

The cases of the use of other Greek alphabet letters are extremely small, for example Yota from the Greek. Ψιότα “Iota” - the tenth letter of the alphabet is the trademark of the mobile operator; it is due to the fact that they are conceptually comprehensible mostly for the academics. The study of pragmatonyms with the Greek borrowings, related to cognitive activity - to “Science”, showed that they are most widely used in the pharmaceutical industry trademarks, for example:

✓ Angiotrofin “angeon” - vessel and “trophy”;
✓ Theobromin “food of the gods”;
✓ Ihtiol from the Greek “fish” and Latin “butter”.

7The phonemic Greek writing dating back to the Phoenician, originated presumably in the IX-VIII centuries BC. The alphabetic Greek writing was divided into two branches: the Eastern and the Western. The Western Greek letters became the starting point for Etruscan, Latin and Old German, the Eastern Greek developed into classical Greek and Byzantine writing. The Modern Greek alphabet consisting of 27 letters was formed in the V-IV centuries BC. It was the Greek writing, which the Slavic enlighters Cyril and Methodius used to create the Slavic writing.
Also the goods to provide science activity, for example, Biocontrol, Biocology, Photox, Aerogeophysics, Electron and many others.

The Greek elements are often used as typical basis to design verbal trademarks, for example:

- aero- Transaero is the trademark of the airline;
- auto- Macauto - service provided by the fast food chain Macdonalds;
- bio- Bioshampoo - shampoo;
- hydro- Olay Hydroextreem – cosmetics;
- photo- Adobe Photoshop - computer software);
- therm- Biotherm - cosmetics.

The wide use of this kind of foundations to create the verbal trademarks is explained by the fact that the meaning of these components is known to the speakers of the European languages. This fact simplifies the “decoding” of such names, and also facilitates their internationalization and makes international communication easier.

4. Conclusions

It is difficult to overestimate the role of Greek linguoculture in the formation and development of the onomasticon of the Southern region of Russia. The proportion of its presence in anthroponyms is about 40%, in toponymy about 15%, and the use of words of Greek origin in the formation of pragmatonyms strives for the absolute majority, but it is difficult to calculate, due to the mobility and variability of this class of onyms.

The Greek linguoculture verbalization in the analyzed phenomenon occurs at the level of the most important values and philosophical attitudes of the Russian culture, which were inherited from the Greek culture more than two millennia ago. Thus, the constants “Peace”, “Faith”, “Love”, “Heroism”, “Knowledge”, “Alphabet”, “Power”, “Charismatic Personality” and “Craft” are the most important axiological values for the Russian and Greek linguocultures. It should be noted that the degree of representation of each of these concepts in the onomastic classes is different, due to the special pragmatic orientation of each of them. However, their ability to store and transmit the richest spiritual and cultural heritage created by scientists, artists and spiritual leaders of the times of prosperity of the great Greek culture is undeniable.

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