

# TOPONYMS AND THEIR ROLE IN LINGUISTICS

Sadriddinova Hulkarkhan Zafarjan's daughter  
Turan International University Faculty of Humanities  
Linguistics (English) Department 2nd Year Graduate Student

## Abstract

This article examines the role of toponyms in linguistics, their origin, structural features, and their relationship with other areas of linguistics. Linguistic analysis of toponyms serves to reveal their historical, geographical and cultural content. Their relationship with regional dialectology, semantics and lexicography is also analyzed.

**Keywords:** Toponym, linguistics, geographical names, semantics, etymology, cultural heritage.

## Introduction

Toponyms play an important role in human history. They are not only a means of representing geographical places, but also embody cultural, historical and linguistic information. The study of toponyms in linguistics helps to determine their origin, structural peculiarities and regional characteristics.

A set of place names in a certain region is called toponymy, and a separate place name is called toponym. Toponyms, as part of the lexicon of the language, obey the laws of the language like all other words, but in terms of their appearance and some internal characteristics, they are related to the daily material and spiritual condition, economic life, dreams and aspirations of society, and differ from other groups of words to a certain extent. At the same time, the ancient phonetic, lexical and morphological elements characteristic of our national language are more preserved in the toponyms. The natural geographical conditions of the place, the ethnic composition of the population, the profession and occupation of the people, fossils, resources, historical figures and events are the main sources of toponyms.

Toponyms are divided into macrotoponyms and microtoponyms, depending on whether they are the names of large or small objects: macrotoponyms are nouns of large areas, large objects (continents, oceans, mountains, deserts, rivers, cities, villages, etc.); microtoponyms are nouns of small objects (cliffs, hills, wells, streets, mounds, etc.). But this classification of toponyms is necessary, because it is often difficult to distinguish between macrotoponyms and microtoponyms.

Toponyms are the names of geographical objects, which are divided into several types according to their different characteristics:

1. Hydronyms are the names of geographical objects related to water.  
Examples: Amudarya, Aral Sea, Issyk-Kul.
2. Oykonomilar - the names of settlements (towns, villages, rural areas).



Examples: Tashkent, Samarkand, Kashkadarya.

3. Oronyms are the names of mountains, mountain ranges, peaks and mountain plains.

Examples: Hisar ridge, Pamir, Chimgan.

4. Exonyms are names of geographical objects in another country or region adapted to another language.

Examples: London is different), Paris.

5. Dronyms-names of islands.

Examples: Madagascar, Bali, Socotra.

6. Speleonyms are the names of caves and underground spaces.

Examples: Boysun Cave, Altamira.

7. Limnonyms are the names of lakes.

Examples: Aral, Balkhash, Khojaly.

The toponymic bases in the toponymy of Uzbekistan can be divided into the same groups as in other countries.

- I. toponyms (occurred due to the natural conditions of the region): Karaboir, Uzunbuloq, Tashkuduq, Oktepa, Karakadir;
- II. (created on the basis of socio-economic phenomena) - specific to the toponyms of Karakalpakstan, created on the basis of ethnonyms of local peoples: Nuk, Chimboy, Kun'iroq, Khodzheyli, Kipchak, Mangit;
- III. toponyms (describing individual features of the object): Katta-Kishloq, Alti-Ovul, Kol-Kishlok, New-Kishlok, Orta-Ovul;
- IV. toponyms (autonomous toponyms, information about names and surnames of people): Khoja-Muhammad, Kalanjara, etc.<sup>1</sup>

Toponyms reflect the historical, cultural and natural features of the nation. Therefore, their study is important for geography, history and linguistics.

Toponyms are usually formed under the influence of natural conditions of places, historical events or ethnic groups. As a geographical name, they are a linguistic and cultural reflection of human activity. For example, many toponyms in the Uzbek language are based on the ancient Turkic language, and they reflect the historical events of that time.

Toponyms are related to several areas in linguistics:

**Etymology:** The origin history of toponyms is studied. For example, the name "Bukhara" comes from the ancient Sogdian word "Bukharak".

**Semantics:** The meaning of toponyms and their changes are analyzed.

**Dialectology:** Regional dialects and dialects influence the formation of toponyms.

**Historical Linguistics:** Ancient languages and their evolution are studied through toponyms.

Toponyms reflect national culture and history. Through them, you can get information about the historical events, folk customs and culture of the region. For example, the toponym "Koqan" is derived from the Persian language, which means "birds".

<sup>1</sup> Muminov, Sh. "Toponimlarning etimologik tahlili". Samarqand, 2020.



Today, toponyms are studied more widely with the help of geographic information systems (GIS) and linguistic analysis tools.

In conclusion, toponyms serve not only as geographical concepts, but also as an important resource in the study of language, culture and history. By analyzing them linguistically, it is possible to gain a deeper understanding of the history, development of the language and culture of the people. Therefore, toponyms should be studied as an integral part of linguistics.

### References

1. Karimov, A. "O'zbek toponimikasining lingvistik tahlili". Toshkent, 2018.
2. Smith, G. "Geographical Names and Linguistic Heritage". London, 2015.
3. Tolibov, N. "O'zbek tili dialektlarida toponimlar". Buxoro, 2017.
4. Geographic Information Systems in Linguistic Studies. Cambridge, 2019.
5. Nafasovning "O'zbekiston toponimlarining izohli lug'ati" (1988).

