

# The Study of Onomastic Units in Uzbek Linguistics and Their Degree of Significance in Literary Works

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**Abstract:** As a means of communication for the Uzbek people, the Uzbek language continues to fulfill a social function even today. This, in turn, serves to ensure comprehensive communication among members of the nation. The onomastic system of the Uzbek language is a vast, multifaceted linguistic phenomenon rich in content, with its components intricately interconnected. The study of onomastic units found in literary texts is one of the pressing issues in linguistics. In this regard, it is important to analyze the lexical-semantic and stylistic features of anthroponyms used in literary texts.

Furthermore, the contribution of Uzbek linguists, writers, and poets to the current development of the Uzbek language is invaluable. Thanks to their efforts, strict linguistic norms are established in many areas of the Uzbek language, and examples of linguistic usage in communication processes are provided.

This article discusses the role of onomastic units used in the style of literary works written in the Uzbek literary language. It examines the semantic types and distinctive features of such units.

**Keywords:** Anthroponym, onomastics, literariness, work, stylistics, literary style, language, literary language, emotional, text, name.

**Introduction:** In Uzbek linguistics, onomastics — the study of names — is considered an integral part of language and culture. Onomastic units, such as personal names, place names, historical names, and other types of names, reflect the historical experience, cultural heritage, and linguistic richness of the people. Their role in literary works is highly significant, as they not only help define characters but also deepen the meaning of the text. The study of onomastic units, their degree of significance in literary works, and their place in linguistics contributes to a better understanding of the language's lexical system, semantic characteristics, and the cultural context.

## METHOD

Onomastic units can be classified into the following categories:

1. **Personal Names:** Uzbek personal names, their meanings, history, and formation processes. These

names are often connected to family traditions, national customs, and religious beliefs. For example, the name Dilshod is derived from the words dil (heart) and shod (happy), and it expresses a desire for the bearer to be a person full of positive feelings or someone who brings joy to others.

2. **Place Names:** Names representing the geographic locations of Uzbekistan and their etymology. These names are often based on geographical features, historical events, or local traditions adopted by the population. For example, if we analyze the toponyms Yangiyer, Yangiobod, Yangiyo'l, Yangiturmush, we find that the root yangi is defined in the "Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language" as follows:

1. Something that did not exist before; newly emerged (or emerging, about to emerge). New irrigation canal. New technology. New wall. New factory. New road. New academic direction. New

enterprise. New house. New city. New variety.

– A. Qahhor, Qo'shchinor chiroqlari

2. Not yet used or rarely used; in its original condition; opposite of old.

New clothes. New car.

3. Recently begun or initiated activity/life; newly appointed.

He is new to this job and needs support.

4. The next in a sequence; the current or upcoming.

New director. New position.

5. Related to the current year or season; recently harvested.

New potatoes were added to the soup. Bread from new wheat.

As seen, the word yangi in these toponyms corresponds to the first definition — “something that did not exist before; newly emerged.”

Yangiturmush refers to a newly begun life;

Yangiobod — a newly built or recently developed area;

Yangiyer — a newly opened region or area.

It is also important to note that the spelling of such toponyms varies. In written speech, both separated and compounded forms are encountered. For instance, when the toponym is derived from an adjective + derivative noun or adjective + obod structure, it is written together (e.g., Yangiyer, Yangiobod). However, if the second component is a proper noun, the name is written separately: Yangi Zelandiya (New Zealand), Yangi O'zbekiston (New Uzbekistan).

3. Historical and Cultural Names: Names representing historical figures, events, and cultural landmarks. These names embody the historical memory of the people and express the cultural heritage. For example, the name Alisher Navoi not only refers to a historical figure but also symbolizes the peak of Uzbek classical literature.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In literary works, onomastic units—especially anthroponyms—perform important functions. Their significance can be demonstrated through the following aspects:

1. Character Definition: In literary works, the names of characters can reflect their personality traits, social status, and emotional state. For example, in the novel “O'tkan kunlar” (Days Gone By), the name Otabek suggests strength, courage, and noble character, reflecting the qualities associated with beks (nobles). A character's name can be used to reveal their

inner world.

2. Cultural Context: Onomastic units provide insight into the culture, traditions, and customs of a people. For example, place names often reflect historical past and geographic features. The name Bukhara not only refers to a geographical location but is also associated with the culture and history of the people who lived there.

It is well known that the Uzbek people have always been a child-loving nation. This characteristic is reflected in their culture. Alongside sustenance, they pray to God for children and their health. In this context, in Normurod Norqobilov's story “Ayriliq quvonchi” (The Joy of Separation), the character Norboy Chol asks God for a child and names him Bozor (meaning “market” in Persian-Tajik), either because the child was born on a market day or as a wish for the house to be filled with children, like a bustling market. This naming highlights features of the Uzbek national mentality and identity.

Furthermore, when we think of skilled professionals at a market, we imagine resilient, powerful, agile, and competent individuals with serious expressions—qualities that are embodied in the character as well:

“At times, Uncle Bozor would come up the hill stomping and grumbling.” “You see, Uncle Bozor is a short-tempered man.” “Is a father only needed by me, huh? — he shouts, clenching his fists. — Look at your daughter too! Always dressing up and going from one wedding to another! Your sister-in-law can't do it all alone, can she? That poor woman is exhausted!”

3. Enrichment of Meaning: Onomastic units in literary works often serve to deepen meaning. Through them, the author can express ideas more profoundly. For instance, the name Yulduz (Star) symbolizes brightness and hope. In Abdulla Qahhor's story “Bemor” (The Patient), the anthroponym Sotiboldi is chosen to symbolically express that the character is a victim of the times, conveying this through a heavily emphasized semantic load.

4. Emotional Impact: Through names, authors can evoke emotional responses in the reader. A character's name may create symbolic associations and feelings. For example, in Oybek's novel “Qutlug' qon” (Blessed Blood), the name Gulnora suggests beauty and elegance, evoking positive emotions in the reader. Similarly, in Alisher Navoi's “Farhod and Shirin”, the name Shirin also has an emotional effect on the reader.

Many examples can be found in Uzbek literature that illustrate the use of onomastic units in literary texts. In “O'tkan kunlar”, the author's choice of the name Kumushbibi for one of the characters aims to reveal her

inner world. The name reflects her personality and helps the reader form a connection with the character.

## CONCLUSION

The study of onomastic units in Uzbek linguistics is important not only for the development of the language but also for a deeper understanding of the content and structure of literary works. Their degree of significance in literary texts is reflected through aspects such as character development, cultural context, and emotional impact. Thus, literary onomastics is an inseparable part of both literature and linguistics. Therefore, its research holds significance not only from a linguistic perspective but also in analyzing the language and style of literary works.

In the works of some authors, anthroponyms are used merely for naming the character, while in others, they serve as tools to reflect relationships between the individual and society. Proper use of these names brings the language of the work closer to the living vernacular, making them a powerful marker of national identity.

Anthroponyms are linguistic units that have a rightful place in literary texts, and authors employ them with a specific purpose. Through these names, the writer expresses ideas more deeply and helps the reader emotionally connect with the characters.

The study of onomastic units remains relevant in Uzbek linguistics, as this field plays an important role in preserving and developing the cultural heritage of our people.

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