

Scientific-Theoretical Foundations Of Uzbek Toponymics

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Abstract: The article discusses the scientific research of several scholars on the principles of the formation of toponymy as an independent discipline in world linguistics, Russian linguistics, Central Asian and Uzbek linguistics. The scientific-theoretical foundations of the development of world toponymy are studied through the analysis of the concepts, scientific approaches and methodological principles formed in this field.

Keywords: World linguistics, toponymy, Uzbek toponymy, methodological approaches.

Introduction: Toponymy, as one of the fields preserving the most ancient, historical and cultural layers within the language system, represents the socio-historical life of a people, ethnolinguistic processes, and features of national thinking. Every nation has a naming system for certain places that develops as the result of its lifestyle, customs, national cultural views, beliefs, livelihood activities and historical heritage. Therefore, the study of Uzbek toponymy requires analysis not only from a linguistic point of view, but also in close connection with history, ethnography, geography and cultural studies.

In world linguistics, macro- and microtoponyms representing geographical names hold special significance from national, historical, socio-political, and cultural-educational perspectives. The scientific research of several scholars on the principles of forming toponymy as an independent science within world linguistics is of great importance. In particular, German geographer A. Humboldt was one of the first researchers in this area, while the works of A. Zaremba (Poland), E. Eichler (Germany), R. Sindu (France), B. Unbegaun (England), H.A. Smith, A.L. Dulzat, G.J. Copley, G.V. Lemon and others played an important role in defining the theoretical foundations of this field.

In Russian linguistics, the scientific works of A.N. Sobolevskiy, N. Nadezhdin, A.V. Superanskaya, A.A. Beletsky, O.T. Molchanova, E.M. Murzaev, N.Ya. Podolskaya, A. Nikonov and G.N. Smolitskaya cover the

formation, development and research methods of toponymy. Their studies, devoted to the origin, lexical-semantic features and linguistic analysis of geographical names, serve as important sources in the development of this discipline.

Central Asian toponyms have been studied in the works of Russian scholars such as V.V. Bartold ("Turkestan during the Mongol Invasion"), V. Vyatkin ("Materials on the Historical Geography of Samarkand Region"), N.V. Sitnyakovskiy ("Notes on the Bukhara Part of the Zerafshan Valley"). In V. Murzaev's 1957 book "Central Asia," more than 100 place names are included. Foreign scholars like the Hungarian Arminius Vambéry and Semyonov-Tianshansky also conducted research on Central Asian toponyms.

In the East, especially in Central Asia, the study of toponymy has ancient roots. Numerous works such as Yusuf Khos Khojib's Qutadg'u bilig, Beruni's Qanun al-Mas'udi, Hindiston, Saydana, Mahmud Kashgari's Devonu lug'atit turk, Ibn Sina's Seasides, Babur's Baburnama, Abulg'oziy Bahodir Khan's Shajara-i turk, and Mirzo Ulug'bek's History of the Four Uluses contain extensive toponymic information. In Beruni's Qanun al-Mas'udi, 603 geographical names are listed, and more than 40 place names appear on his geographical map.

The study of the scientific-theoretical foundations of the development of Uzbek toponymy primarily requires the analysis of concepts, scientific approaches and methodological principles formed in this field.

From the second half of the 20th century, Uzbek toponymy began to develop as an independent academic field, accumulating experience in studying geographical names linguistically, historically and systematically. At the same time, identifying the specific features of the toponymic system, its structural mechanisms, semantic motivation and typological characteristics of the nominative processes remains one of the important scientific issues.

In Uzbekistan, the study of onomastic units based on various scientific approaches has been expanding. Modern research analyzes the historical-linguistic roots, semantic features, ethnogeographical factors, social functions, grammatical structure and linguocultural content of names within an integrated approach. Especially from the second half of the 20th century and in the post-independence period, extensive research has been carried out on the functional-semantic development of toponyms, their formation mechanisms and their usage in the language system.

This is evidenced by fundamental studies created at the intersection of linguistics, history and geography, compiled dictionaries and defended dissertations. Among them, the scientific works of E. Begmatov on Uzbek anthroponyms, T. Nafasov on the toponyms of Kashkadarya region, Sh. Qodirova on Tashkent microtoponyms, Ya. Khujamberdiyev on the toponyms of Southern Kazakhstan and Surkhandarya, O.S. Gubayeva on Fergana ethnonyms, T. Rahmatov on the etymology of Samarkand toponyms, J. Latipov on the place names of Margilan, N. Okhunov on the toponyms of the Kokand group, Q. Khurramov on Uzbek geographic terms, L. Karimova on the study of toponyms in the Uzbek language, S.N. Naimov on the oikonyms of Bukhara region, Z. Dosimov on Khorezm toponyms, X. Kholmominov on the toponyms of Surkhandarya region, B. Urinboev on the toponyms of Jizzakh and Samarkand regions, A. Muhammadjonov on the scientific description and etymological analysis of toponyms, A. Otajonova on Khorezm ethnonyms and their lexical bases, T. Enazarov on the lexical foundations and etymological study of Uzbek toponyms, O. Oripov, R. Nuritdinova and others hold a special place.

In recent years, large-scale research conducted by S. Akhmadov (semantic features of Jizzakh region toponyms), Sh. Temirov (linguistic study of Samarkand region oronyms), I. Kholmuratov (oikonyms of Southern Karakalpakstan), N. Ganiyev (toponyms of Kiziltepa district), and U. Turdimurodov (lexical-grammatical and etymological study of toponyms of Khatirchi district) has played an important role in the theoretical, historical-linguistic, linguo-onomastic,

linguocultural and etymological analysis of toponymy.

Understanding the history of our country and clarifying its undiscovered mysteries has always been one of the pressing issues of our historiography. According to geographer and toponymist E.M. Murzaev, “Each historical era can be read through toponyms” The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev stated: “Respect for the state language should be regarded as respect for independence, and loyalty to the state language should be regarded as loyalty to the Motherland”.

These ideas inspire our devoted linguists, who contribute greatly to the development and history of the Uzbek language.

“In today’s globalized world, where each independent state naturally prioritizes the protection and development of its culture, values and native language, the toponymic policy developed in our country also requires serious development of toponymy in scientific-theoretical and practical directions”. As a result of these pressing issues, the study of toponyms—linguistic units reflecting the historical events, values and social activities of a particular region—is considered one of the main tasks. Accordingly, analyzing the linguistic features, dialectal composition, origin, and ethnolinguistic characteristics of the place names of Paxtachi district is of particular importance.

In world science, the description of onomastic units in the fields of geography, history, linguistics and ethnography is being extensively developed. Today, the need to study place names in a unified system from nominative-motivational, lexical-semantic, sociolinguistic and historical-etymological perspectives continues to grow.

A toponym, of course, refers to a name that distinguishes one place from another. The formation of toponyms is influenced by certain factors. These motivating factors make it possible to classify geographical names into many groups, such as names based on the location of the place, its relief, climatic features, water sources, plants, animals, mountain rocks, useful minerals, names of tribes and clans, mythological and religious names.

In the past, place names were studied at the intersection of various sciences, but in the 20th century, they began to be studied as a systematic field in linguistics. Therefore, for many years discussions continued about which discipline toponymy belongs to. For example, V. Nikonov noted: “A geographical name is a word. And like all words, it physically belongs not to geography but to linguistic laws. Toponymy does not invent new means; it uses those available in the language, even if only a small portion of them”.

Famous toponymist S. Qorayev also stated: “Geographical names—toponyms—are part of the lexical system of a language and obey linguistic laws... and toponymy, as a part of onomastics studying proper names, belongs to linguistics” . Other scholars also positively support these views. Thus, toponymy is an interdisciplinary science.

As geographer H. Hasanov said: “Both philologists, geographers and historians should acknowledge that toponymy belongs to the borders of all three sciences. Anyone wishing to seriously study toponymy must learn several sciences: a philologist must know ethnography, history, natural and economic geography; a historian must know philology and geography; a geographer must know language, history and ethnography”.

According to E.A. Begmatov, “Although linguists, historians, geographers, ethnographers and folklorists have conducted numerous studies on place names, the scope and limits of the linguistic units included in this concept are not clearly and consistently defined. Most often, place names mean only the names of regions, districts, cities, villages, neighborhoods, streets and squares”

Of course, the scope of place names is very wide and requires serious research.

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