

## An Analytical Review of Professor Tura Nafasov's Scientific Book *Uzbek Nomnomasi*

SARVINOZ CHORIYEVA  
*Karshi State University, Uzbekistan*

### ABSTRACT

*This article examines the formation, meaning, linguistic description, and historical etymology of certain toponyms (place names) within Uzbekistan. It focuses on toponymic research, a significant branch of onomastics, particularly based on Tura Nafasov's scientific book Uzbek Nomnomasi. The study explores the types, semantic value, origin, and lexical-semantic features of Uzbek toponyms. Through historical, etymological, and cultural analysis, the article highlights the role of these toponyms in the spiritual heritage of the people. In his book, Professor Nafasov traces the historical and etymological boundaries of each place name, compares them with various sources, and provides linguistic explanations. His complex and unique approach offers insights into the concepts connected to place names.*

**Keywords:** Onomastics, toponymy, oikonym, nomination, etymology, linguistic analysis, lexical semantics.

### INTRODUCTION

Onomastics, a field at the intersection of language, culture, geography, and history, reflects the worldview, historical memory, and cultural heritage of a people. The place names, personal names, and other designations formed throughout the long history of the Uzbek people are an expression of their rich cultural legacy and national identity. Studying Uzbek onomastics offers valuable insights into not only linguistic development but

also historical-geographical conditions, socio-political events, and national mentality. In recent years, significant research has been conducted in onomastics. Scholars such as Sh. Shomakhmudov, Sh. Shoabdurakhmonov, A. Madvaliev, N. Suyunov, S. Karimov, T. Nafasov, S. Korayev, and O. Begimov have made substantial contributions to the field, systematically analyzing the origins, structure, and meanings of Uzbek place names. This article analyzes the meaning, origin, cultural, and historical value of toponyms based on Professor Tura Nafasov's notable work *Uzbek Nomnomasi*.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

Tura Nafasov's research, some of which is presented in the book *Uzbek Nomnomasi*, emphasizes the linguistic analysis of place names. The book explores the meaning, formation, structure, and phonetic variation of various Uzbek toponyms. It also identifies the linguistic origins of morphemes and affixes within these names. The transition of tribal names into settlement names, the influence of ancient Turkic languages and Iranian terms, and the role of legends and folklore are thoroughly discussed. The book consists of five parts:

1. 'Historical Echoes in Names' explains the etymology of toponyms like Chirokchi, Balikchi, Uychi, Dukchi, Kahramon, Bagish, Chiljuvut, Buka.
2. 'Names Created in the Depths of Ages' includes names like Jinnidaryo, Qarshi, Boysun, Aygirtepa, Red, white, black colour elements, river names, and phonologically altered toponyms.
3. 'Their Words are of Our Kind – The Name is Ours' covers names of ancient cities and settlements such as Navkat, Jizzakh, Langar, Kitob.
4. 'Names and Oral Folk Creativity' presents folklore narratives linked to place names like Kizbandi and Uchkiz.
5. 'Esteemed Names' focuses on personal names such as Khumoyun, Chulli, and Xusrav, analyzing their historical usage.

Each part includes etymological, semantic, and historical analyses of the names, emphasizing their significance in understanding national identity.

#### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this article, the toponyms presented in *Uzbek Nomnoma* are explained through the analysis of their etymology, linguistic structure, and popular interpretations among the people. In his study of place names (toponyms), T. Nafasov employs several methodological approaches, including:

##### 1. *Historical-lexical analysis*

He investigates the origins of place names, their forms and transformations as found in historical sources. Phonetic and lexical changes within the structure of the words are analyzed. By comparing the historical and contemporary forms of toponyms, the author highlights notable phonological changes over time.

For instance: The word *Sirak* is shown to have undergone phonetic evolution through forms such as *Siroq*, *Charuq*, *Chariq*, *Shiroq*, *Shirak*, and *Chiroq*, with derivatives like *Sirakchi*, *Siroqchi*, *Charuqchi*, *Chariqchi*, *Shiroqchi*, *Shirakchi*, and *Chiroqchi* emerging via the suffix *-chi*. These are believed to have originated as tribal or clan names. The toponym *Baliqchi* is traced back to base forms such as *Baliq*, *Balig'*, *Balix*, *Baluq*, *Falg'a*, *Falga*, and *Palg'a*, reflecting phonetic transformations influenced by spoken language across historical periods. The toponym *Uychi* is described as a term belonging to the Proto-Altaic period, common to both Turkic and Mongolic languages. Its root form *uy* has developed into variants like *Udchi*, *Utchi*, and *Uychi*. The name *Dukchi* is said to have existed in various forms including *Duqchi*, *Duxchi*, *Tuxsi*, *Tuqchi*, *To'qchi*, and *Tug'chi* in earlier periods. Other examples of such phonetic evolution in toponyms include: *Bag'ish* – *Bog'ish* – *Baxsh*, *Bo'ka* – *Bug'a*, *Bayir* – *Boyir*, *Beshterak* – *Beshdarak*, *Sariqqamish* – *Sarg'amish*, *Dehkat* – *Dahkat*, *No'shkent* – *Nuzkat* – *Navkat* – *Nujkat* – *Nushkat* – *Nujobod*, *G'ishman* – *G'ishtmon* – *Xushman*,

*Tangkas – Tanxas – Tangqis – Tangqas, Jizzax – Dizak – Diza, Metan – Maton – Miton, Haromjo‘y – Haramjo‘y, Tezguzar – Dizguzar, Katob – Kitob, Navkat – Novqat, Siyob – Siyohob, Arus – Arusak – Xaros – Xaras – Xarus.*

### 2. *Ethnolinguistic approach*

Through this method, the author examines the ethnic and cultural characteristics embedded in toponyms. He identifies specific place names as being linked to certain ethnic layers or tribal/clan names.

### 3. *Structural-semantic analysis*

T. Nafasov also studies the structure and meaning of the toponyms, revealing their lexical-semantic features. He distinguishes between both the primary and secondary meanings of the words.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Toponyms play an important role in preserving the historical memory of the people. The analysis presented in the article shows that the work “Uzbek Nomenclature” reveals Uzbek toponyms not only in their lexical meaning, but also their cultural and historical essence.

Also, T.Nafasov paid attention to the components in the book, especially to the toponyms formed with the words qiz, oq, qora.

He also explained that toponyms with the girl component appear at the beginning and end of the word.

1. **At the beginning of the word:** *Qizqo‘rg‘on, Qizariq, Qizbuloq, Qiztepa, Qizto‘g‘, Qizbandi, Qizketgan, Qizqal‘a, Qizquduq, Qizort, Qizamchak, Qizmozor, Qizbuloq, Qizordu, Quz Ulush, Quz tog‘, Gizgala,*
2. **At the end of the word:** *Uchqiz, Yettiqiz, Yetimqiz, Qirqqiz, Beshqiz, Qizbuloq, Qizordu, Quz Ulush, Quz tog‘, Gizgala,*

Place names with white and black components are often found in the territory of our country. "Which words combine the words "white" and "black" to form names is also linguistically and historically important. It is also important to note that village names did not form immediately in language and speech. In ancient times, they emerged as names for various objects, phenomena, concepts, and situations. Their use as village names is their current state," the scholar emphasizes in his book. It can be observed that in the book, the components "white" and "black" form compounds with words denoting types of settlements (fortress, village), words indicating types of water bodies (river, water, canal, dahna), types of terrain and related objects (hill, foothill, ravine, sand, stone, mound). Examples include *Oqqo'rg'on*, *Oqqishloq*, *Qoratog'*, *Qoratosh*, *Qoramo'la*. At this point, place names that differ from each other by the words *oq* (white) and *qora* (black) are also listed: *Oqqum* - *Qoraqum*, *Oqtepa* – *Qoratepa* (cf. Nafasov 1993).

#### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Professor Tura Nafasov's *Uzbek Nomnomasi* is a significant scholarly resource in Uzbek onomastics. The book's toponymic data provide valuable insight into the history and culture of the Uzbek people, contributing to the development of historical, linguistic, and geographic knowledge. Given the abundance of ancient place names in Uzbekistan, collecting and studying their etymological legends is a vital area for future research. It is recommended to develop regional dictionaries based on this work, create modern digital databases, and incorporate findings into textbooks and teaching materials.

#### REFERENCES

- Nafasov, T. 1985. *Ethnolinguistic analysis of Southern Uzbekistan's Toponymy* (p. 246). Tashkent.  
———. 1988. *Explanatory Dictionary of Uzbekistan's Toponyms* (Southern regions). Tashkent: O'qituvchi.  
———. 1989. *Why is your village called that?* Tashkent: Fan.

- . 1993. *O'zbek nomnomasi*. Qarshi: Nasaf.
- . 2006. The role of tribal tamgas in the naming of Uzbek clans and tribes. *Uzbek Language and Literature*, 2.
- . & Nafasova, V. 2007. *Explanatory Educational Dictionary of Uzbek Toponyms*. Tashkent: Yangi Asr Avlodi.
- . & Tursunov, Sh. 2008. *Mahalla and Street Names of Qarshi City*. Tashkent: Ma'naviyat.

**SARVINOZ CHORIYEVA**

PHD STUDENT,

KARSHI STATE UNIVERSITY,

UZBEKISTAN.

E-MAIL: <CHORIYEVASARVINOZ69@GMAIL.COM>