

Lexical-Semantic Features of Poreyonyms

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ABSTRACT

In onomastics, the proper names of transport vehicles form a distinct microfield known as poreyonyms (poreyonymic units). The purpose of this study is to develop a multidimensional lexical-semantic classification of poreyonyms in Uzbek and English by integrating transport function, operating environment, and nominational motivation. The research employs descriptive, lexical-semantic, comparative, and onomastic methods and analyses names of land, air, water, and space transport. The analysis identifies major functional groups, including passenger, freight, and special-purpose transport, as well as environmental groups covering land, air, water, and space transport. The findings show that poreyonyms may simultaneously reflect appellative, anthroponymic, toponymic, historical, symbolic, and commercial motivations. The study further establishes nominative, differentiating, informative, advertising, and identification functions of poreyonyms. The proposed framework provides a systematic basis for comparative research in Uzbek and English transport onomastics.

Keywords: Poreyonym; poreyonymy; transport onomastics; lexical semantics; nominational motivation; Uzbek onomastics; English onomastics

1. INTRODUCTION

The proper names assigned to means of transport constitute a distinct microfield within contemporary onomastics. Poreyonyms are structurally and semantically complex onomastic units: they

function not only as technical identifiers but may also encode historical, geographical, cultural, cognitive, and commercial information [1: 363-382].

At the lexical level, particularly within the onomastic system, the proper names of transport vehicles constitute a distinct group. In onomastics, the proper name of an individual means of transport is referred to as a poreyonym (greek porey + onym, associated with movement or a means of movement) [2: 108]. The term is etymologically linked to the greek word poreia, meaning travel, journey, or movement, and onyma, meaning “name.” Thus, the term combines the notions of movement and naming.

The poreyonymic microfield encompasses the names of different types of transport. Examples include “Malibu” and “Spark” as automobile names and “Titanic” and “Santa Maria” as ship names.

Some sources distinguish the names of watercraft as navtionyms and the names of aircraft as avionyms and treat these categories separately [3: 605-614]. However, such a division is not comprehensive because it does not account for the names of all types of transport.

The novelty of this study lies in developing a multidimensional lexical-semantic framework for poreyonyms that integrates transport function, operating environment, and nominational motivation within a unified analytical model. Unlike classifications restricted to a single transport category, the proposed framework enables systematic comparison of poreyonyms across land, air, water, and space transport in Uzbek and English.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The study of transport names occupies an important place in onomastic research because vehicle names combine proper-naming functions with lexical, semantic, and nominational features. Kovács [1] provides a broad overview of vehicle names and demonstrates that such names can be analysed as a distinct field of onomastic units. Podolskaya [2] treats the terminology of onomastics systematically and provides a basis for distinguishing

different classes of proper names. Puzey [3] discusses aircraft names and shows the importance of functional and nominational criteria in the analysis of transport-related naming.

Research on automobile naming also indicates that vehicle names are motivated by different lexical and cultural factors. Piller [7] examines variation in automobile naming, while Keller [8] considers the role of naming in brand identification and market communication. These studies provide a theoretical basis for examining poreonyms not only as labels for transport vehicles but also as units characterized by specific semantic and nominational motivations. The present study extends this perspective by proposing a broader classification of transport names in Uzbek and English.

Recent onomastic research further supports the need for a comprehensive treatment of vehicle names. Kovács argues that vehicle names have been relatively underrepresented in onomastic research and proposes a broad taxonomy that brings together different vehicle categories and naming perspectives [1]. Fesenko likewise demonstrates, on the basis of 91 train names, that transport names can reflect destination, regional identity, cultural history, speed, and service characteristics, while transonymization and semantic onymization are important naming mechanisms [9]. These findings reinforce the relevance of examining poreonyms as a coherent but internally differentiated class rather than as isolated sets of names.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research draws on descriptive, lexical-semantic, comparative, and onomastic methods. The material comprises proper names of passenger, freight, public, railway, two-wheeled, air, water, and space transport. The analysis considers the lexical basis, nominational motivation, semantic characteristics, structural form, and functional roles of poreonyms. Examples were compared in Uzbek and English to identify shared and language-specific naming patterns. Etymological analysis was also used where the origin and semantic basis of a poreonym required clarification, as in the case of Ford [4; 5].

The analysis proceeded in four successive stages. First, the relevant poreonymic material was identified and grouped according to the transport object and its operating environment. Second, the lexical and semantic basis of each name was examined, with attention to appellative, anthroponymic, toponymic, historical, symbolic, and commercial motivation where such motivation was identifiable. Third, the resulting groups were compared across Uzbek and English in order to distinguish shared and language-specific patterns. Finally, representative cases were interpreted from an onomastic and nominational perspective, including the transonymic development illustrated by Ford. This procedure ensured consistent classification criteria across the different transport categories.

3.1. Poreonymy and its lexical-semantic basis

The set of poreonymic units associated with a particular language or geographical area may be regarded as its poreonymy. Accordingly, it is possible to speak of “American poreonymy,” “Russian poreonymy,” “Uzbek poreonymy,” and “English poreonymy.”

Uzbek poreonymy includes the proper names of transport vehicles actively used in the language and in practical life, including passenger and freight vehicles, buses, aircraft, helicopters, boats, ships, and trains. Examples: “Tiko”, “Damas”, “Nexia”, “Spark”, “Matiz”, and “Tracker” (passenger cars); “MAN” “TGX,” “KamAZ,” and “DAF XF” (trucks); “Mercedes-Benz Conecto,” “Yutong ZK6128,” and “King Long XMQ6127” (buses); “Boeing 737” and “Airbus 330” (aircraft); “Mil Mi-26,” “Bell H125,” and “Robinson R44” (helicopters); “Kazanka,” “Progress,” “Amur,” and “Yuzhanka (boats)” and “Afrosiyob” and “Sharq” (trains).

From a historical and etymological perspective, poreonyms belong to both native and borrowed lexical layers. Uzbek poreonyms are predominantly borrowed. This is largely explained by the fact that the transport industry developed in many foreign countries, while various types of transport were named in English, Russian, and other international languages and later entered Uzbek together with their original names.

Each poreyonym in a particular language has its own nominational-motivational basis, lexical foundation, and semantic characteristics. Ford provides a clear example. The automobile brand name Ford, and consequently the poreyonym, derives from Henry Ford's surname. In 1903, Henry Ford established an automobile company in Michigan, USA, and named it Ford Motor Company [4].

Over the course of its history, the company produced hundreds of vehicle models. As the number and range of its vehicles grew, the "Ford" name became the basis for numerous additional poreyonyms. These vehicle names form a distinct group within the poreyonymic system.

The appellative ford provided the lexical basis of the surname "Ford." In Old English, "ford" referred to a shallow part of a river that could be crossed by a person or a vehicle. The word later entered personal naming and became a surname. The development may be represented as follows: *ford* (appellative) > *Ford* (given name) > *Ford* (surname – Henry Ford).

The anthroponym Henry Ford was subsequently transferred, through transonymization, to the company name and then to the names of its automobiles. In other words: *Henry Ford* > *Ford* (surname – anthroponym) > *Ford* (company name) > *Ford* (automobile name – poreyonym). Because the Ford poreyonym derives from the surname of the company's founder, it may be classified as an anthroporeyonym on the basis of its nominational-motivational and lexical characteristics. The poreyonym is not directly related to the appellative ford; rather, its immediate connection is with the anthroponym for which that appellative served as the lexical basis. Thus, Ford functions both as the name of the company founded by Henry Ford (an ergonym) and as the name of automobiles produced by that company (poreyonyms).

The poreyonyms in this category may be grouped as follows: 1) legendary and sports cars: "Ford Mustang," a well-known pony car; "Ford GT," a racing-oriented supercar; and "Ford Model T," introduced in 1908 and associated with early mass production on an assembly line; 2) SUVs and crossovers: "Ford Explorer," a large family-oriented SUV; "Ford Escape," known

as Kuga in Europe; “Ford Bronco,” designed for off-road use; and “Ford EcoSport,” a compact crossover; 3) pickup trucks: “Ford F-150” and “Ford Ranger”; and 4) urban cars, including sedans and hatchbacks: “Ford Focus,” “Ford Fiesta,” and “Ford Mondeo” (sold as Fusion in the United States), as well as electric models such as “Ford Mustang Mach-E” and “Ford F-150 Lightning” [5].

3.2. Poreonymics and transport nomenclature

The branch of onomastics concerned with the study of poreonymic units is referred to as poreonymics. It examines the principles and methods used to name means of transport, as well as the lexical-semantic, derivational, structural, graphic, and orthographic properties of poreonymic units.

Poreonymics is closely associated with practical fields such as automotive manufacturing, mechanical engineering, aircraft manufacturing, shipbuilding, transport services, passenger transportation, railway transport, air transport, and water transport.

Poreonyms are directly related to the transport system. In Uzbek, the word transport [latin transportare – to carry, convey, transfer] is used in the following senses: 1) a branch of the national economy concerned with the transportation of freight and passengers, together with the means used for that purpose; and 2), in military usage, a vessel used to transport food, weapons, and other military supplies [6: 393].

3.3. Lexical-semantic classification of poreonyms

The lexical-semantic classification and analysis of poreonyms are based on transport-vehicle types and functions. According to service functions, poreonymic units can be divided into three groups.

1. **Names of passenger transport:** This group includes the names of buses, trains, and aircraft primarily used for passenger transportation. Examples include “Isuzu,” “Yutong, Afrosiyob,” “Sharq,” “Airbus A320,” and “Boeing 767-300ER” in Uzbek, and “London Routemaster,” “Dennis

Trident,” “Flying Scotsman,” and “California Zephyr” in English.

2. **Names of freight transport:** This group includes the names of trucks, wagons, and tankers. Examples: “MAN TGX,” “Isuzu NQR,” and “KamAZ-5490” in Uzbek usage, and “Ram 1500” and “Chevrolet Silverado” in English usage.
3. **Names of special-purpose transport:** This group covers rescue, repair, municipal, and military vehicles. Examples include “Mercedes-Benz Sprinter,” “Ford Transit,” “KamAZ-65115,” and “BTR-80” in Uzbek, and “Iveco Daily,” “Renault Master,” “Volvo FE,” “Scania P-Series,” “Leopard 2,” and Bradley M2 in English.

Transport vehicles can also be classified according to their operating environment. From this perspective, poreonyms may be classified into the following broad lexical-semantic categories.

1. *Names of land transport*

This category covers transport vehicles that operate on the Earth's surface or on rails. The poreonyms in this group can be divided into the following subgroups.

- a. **Names of passenger cars and trucks:** Examples in Uzbek: “Chevrolet Cobalt,” “Damas,” “Gentra,” “Labo,” “Isuzu NQR,” and “MAN TGS”; in English: “Toyota Corolla,” “Volkswagen Golf,” “Ford Mustang,” “Honda Civic,” “Ram 1500,” and “Ford F-Series” [7: 83].
- b. **Names of public transport:** This subgroup includes the names of buses, minibuses, trolleybuses, and trams. Examples in Uzbek: “Isuzu SAZ HC40,” “Mercedes-Benz Citaro,” “Skoda 14Tr,” “ZiU-682,” “Tatra T3,” and “Vaio LF”; English examples: “Volvo 7900,” “London Routemaster,” “Renault Master,” “Ford Transit,” “New Flyer XT60,” “Alstom Citadis,” and “Bombardier Flexity.”
- c. **Names of railway transport:** This subgroup includes passenger and freight trains, high-speed trains, and metro systems. Examples in Uzbek are “Afrosiyob,” “Sharq,” and “Nasaf”; English examples: “Orient Express,” “Flying Scotsman,” “The Ghan,” and “California Zephyr.”

4. **Names of two-wheeled vehicles:** This subgroup includes the proper names of motorcycles, scooters, bicycles, mopeds, and related vehicles. Examples in Uzbek: “Ural,” “Java,” “Vespa,” “Burgman,” “Orbea,” “Bianchi,” “Delta,” and “Riga”; English examples: “Harley-Davidson,” “Triumph,” “Vespa,” “Lambretta,” “Raleigh,” “Brompton,” “Puch,” and “Tomos.”

2. *Names of air transport*

Air transport includes vehicles designed to carry passengers, freight, or specialized equipment by air. According to their functions and operating principles, the corresponding poreonyms may be divided into several groups.

- a. **Names of passenger aircraft:** These are names of aircraft used to transport people rapidly over long distances. Examples, “Boeing 737,” “Airbus A320,” and “Boeing 787 Dreamliner.”
- b. **Names of cargo aircraft:** This group includes names of aircraft adapted to carry large and heavy loads and commercial goods. Examples: “Antonov An-225 Mriya,” “Antonov An-124 Ruslan,” “Boeing 747-8F,” “Boeing 777F,” and “Airbus A330-200F.”
- c. **Names of helicopters:** This group includes names of vehicles that can operate without a conventional runway and are used for transporting people and cargo to hard-to-reach areas, as well as for rescue operations. Examples: “Mil Mi-8,” “Mil Mi-24,” “Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk,” “Bell 206,” and “Robinson R44.”
- d. **Names of military aircraft:** This group includes names of fighter and bomber aircraft used for defence, reconnaissance, and related military purposes. Examples: “F-22 Raptor,” “F-16 Fighting Falcon,” “F-15 Eagle,” “MiG-29 Fulcrum,” and “Eurofighter Typhoon.”

3. *Names of water transport*

This category comprises the names of transport vehicles used to carry passengers and freight on seas, oceans, rivers, and lakes.

Water-transport poreonyms may be divided into the following groups.

- a. **Names of large vessels:** These include the names of liners (cruise ships), tankers, container ships, and ferries. Examples: "Titanic," "Queen Mary 2," "Oasis of the Seas," and "Harmony of the Seas."
- b. **Names of boats:** This subgroup includes catamarans, motorboats, yachts, and cutters. Examples: "Boston Whaler 170 Montauk," "Bayliner Element," "Tracker Pro Team 175," "Ranger RT178," and "Land 1650 Angler."
- c. **Names of submarines:** These include submarines used mainly for military and scientific purposes, such as "USS Nautilus," "K-141 Kursk," "Alvin," and "Mir 1."

4. *Names of space transport*

This category includes the names of rockets and spacecraft used for travel beyond the Earth and for the delivery of cargo. Examples: "Space Shuttle Discovery," "Space Shuttle Atlantis," "Space Shuttle Columbia," and "SpaceX Dragon."

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis demonstrates that poreonyms constitute a structurally and semantically heterogeneous group of onomastic units. Their classification according to transport function and operating environment reveals several major lexical-semantic groups, including land, air, water, and space transport. The material also shows that a single naming unit may reflect several nominational motivations, such as anthroponymic, toponymic, appellative, historical, symbolic, or brand-related motivation. The Ford example illustrates how an appellative lexical unit may develop into an anthroponym, company name, and subsequently a series of poreonyms through transonymic processes [4; 5].

A further result of the analysis is that the two classification principles are complementary rather than mutually exclusive. Classification by service function identifies the communicative and practical role of a vehicle, whereas classification by

operating environment identifies the broader transport domain to which the poreonym belongs. Consequently, the same poreonym can be assigned to more than one analytical dimension without contradiction. This multidimensional approach provides a more precise account of the lexical-semantic organization of transport names than classification based on a single criterion.

These findings suggest that poreonymy should not be regarded as a simple inventory of transport names. Rather, it represents a multidimensional onomastic system in which the same poreonym can simultaneously encode information about the vehicle category, its functional purpose, its geographical or cultural association, and its commercial identity. This perspective extends the analysis of transport names beyond structural description and highlights the interaction between lexical semantics, nominational motivation, and onomastic function.

4.1. *Linguistic functions of poreonyms*

The comparative material also indicates that Uzbek and English share several basic nominational tendencies, particularly the use of personal names, common nouns, geographical references, symbolic associations, and commercially motivated names. At the same time, individual poreonyms preserve language-specific historical and cultural associations. The comparison therefore suggests that poreonymy exhibits both universal and culture-dependent features: the general need to individualize transport objects is common, while the lexical resources and motivations used to achieve that function may differ between languages.

Poreonyms are proper names that identify particular transport vehicles and distinguish them from other vehicles by referring to make, model, type, or other defining features. Their principal linguistic functions can be summarized as follows:

1. **Nominative function:** a poreonym provides a name for a specific means of transport.
2. **Differentiating function:** it distinguishes one vehicle, type, or model from others.

3. **Informative function:** it may convey information about a vehicle's type, model, or technical characteristics.
4. **Advertising function:** a poreonym can promote a vehicle, attract consumers' attention, and contribute to its market appeal.
5. **Identification function:** it may indicate the manufacturer or national brand and help distinguish particular series and modifications [8: 147-155].

5. CONCLUSIONS

The study confirms that poreonyms constitute a distinct microfield within onomastics and exhibit specific lexical-semantic, nominational, and functional characteristics. Their analysis makes it possible to identify systematic patterns in the naming of land, air, water, and space transport. The proposed classification demonstrates that transport names can be grouped according to their function and operating environment while retaining individual nominational motivation. Further comparative research on Uzbek and English poreonyms may further clarify the relationship between lexical choice, cultural motivation, and the development of transport nomenclature.

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