

A Structural and Linguistic Analysis of Russian Toponyms in the Toponymic System of Uzbekistan

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the structural features of Russian toponyms functioning within the toponymic system of Uzbekistan. The study focuses on the formation, composition, and linguistic organization of Russian geographical names that emerged as a result of historical, cultural, administrative, and socio-political processes in the region. Special attention is paid to the structural models of Russian toponyms, including simple, compound, derivative, and hybrid forms. The article also analyzes the interaction between Russian and Uzbek linguistic elements in place names and identifies the main principles of adaptation and transformation of Russian toponyms in the Uzbek linguistic environment. The research demonstrates that Russian toponyms in Uzbekistan represent an important component of the country's onomastic space and reflect the complex history of interlingual and intercultural contacts.

Keywords: Russian toponyms, toponymic system, Uzbekistan, structural features, onomastics, geographical names, linguistic adaptation, Russian-Uzbek language contact, place names, hybrid toponyms.

INTRODUCTION

Toponymy occupies an important place in the study of language, history, culture, and social development, since geographical

names preserve information about the linguistic and cultural identity of a particular territory. Place names are not only nominative units used to identify geographical objects, but also linguistic signs that reflect historical events, ethnic contacts, administrative changes, migration processes, and cultural interaction. Therefore, the study of toponyms allows researchers to reveal the connection between language and society, as well as the influence of extralinguistic factors on the formation of the onomastic space.

The toponymic system of Uzbekistan is characterized by a complex historical and linguistic structure. It has been formed under the influence of different languages, cultures, and historical periods. Alongside ancient Turkic, Persian-Tajik, Arabic, and Uzbek layers, Russian toponyms also occupy a specific place in the onomastic landscape of the country. The emergence and functioning of Russian geographical names in Uzbekistan are closely connected with historical, socio-political, economic, and cultural processes that took place in Central Asia, especially during the period of active Russian-Uzbek language contact.

Russian toponyms in Uzbekistan demonstrate various structural models. They may appear as simple names, compound names, derivative forms, commemorative names, descriptive names, and hybrid constructions combining Russian and local linguistic elements. Their structural organization reflects both the internal laws of the Russian language and the influence of the Uzbek linguistic environment. In this regard, the analysis of Russian toponyms makes it possible to determine the main word-formation patterns, semantic features, and adaptation mechanisms characteristic of this layer of geographical names.

The relevance of this study is determined by the need to examine Russian toponyms as an important component of the multilingual and multicultural toponymic system of Uzbekistan. Although many studies have been devoted to general problems of Uzbek toponymy and onomastics, the structural features of Russian toponyms functioning in Uzbekistan require more detailed linguistic analysis. Such research is significant for understanding the interaction between Russian and Uzbek

languages, the preservation of historical memory in place names, and the development of comparative onomastic studies.

The purpose of this article is to identify and analyze the structural features of Russian toponyms in the toponymic system of Uzbekistan. To achieve this aim, the article considers the main types of Russian toponyms, describes their morphological and word-formation models, and reveals the role of linguistic and extralinguistic factors in their formation and functioning. The study contributes to a deeper understanding of the structural organization of Russian geographical names and their place in the broader onomastic space of Uzbekistan.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The study of toponyms has a long tradition in both general linguistics and regional onomastics. Toponyms are considered not only geographical names but also complex linguistic units that preserve historical, cultural, ethnic, administrative, and social information. In the context of Uzbekistan, the analysis of Russian toponyms requires an interdisciplinary approach, since these names function within a multilingual and multicultural toponymic system.

Among the fundamental foreign studies, the works of V. A. Nikonov occupy an important place. In his research on toponymy, Nikonov emphasized that geographical names should be studied in connection with their origin, semantic content, historical development, pronunciation, and spelling. His approach is important for the present research because Russian toponyms in Uzbekistan cannot be analyzed only as formal lexical units; they must also be examined as historical and social markers. Nikonov's principles help to identify the relationship between the structure of a toponym and the conditions under which it was formed.

A. V. Superanskaya made a significant contribution to the general theory of proper names. She considered proper names as a special category of linguistic signs with specific semantic, grammatical, and functional characteristics. Her theoretical views are useful for studying Russian toponyms in Uzbekistan because

they make it possible to distinguish toponyms from common nouns and to analyze their nominative function. In particular, Superanskaya's ideas allow researchers to examine Russian geographical names as stable onomastic units that may preserve their form even when the language environment changes.

E. M. Murzaev's works are also highly relevant to this topic. Murzaev studied toponymy from the perspective of geography, history, and linguistics. He paid special attention to the connection between geographical terms and place names, as well as to the role of natural features in the formation of toponyms. This approach is especially important for the analysis of Russian toponyms in Uzbekistan, since many geographical names are connected with relief, water objects, settlements, administrative units, and other spatial characteristics. Murzaev's research provides a methodological basis for identifying geographical and semantic components in the structure of toponyms.

V. A. Zhuchkevich developed general principles of toponymic classification and emphasized the importance of studying geographical names according to their structure, origin, and territorial distribution. His works are valuable for the present article because they support the classification of Russian toponyms into simple, compound, derivative, commemorative, descriptive, and hybrid forms. Zhuchkevich's theoretical approach helps to systematize Russian toponyms within the broader toponymic system of Uzbekistan.

In Uzbek onomastic studies, A. A. Zakirov's dissertation abstract 'Toponymy of the Jizzakh Region of the Uzbek SSR' is one of the important regional studies. Zakirov analyzed the toponymy of Jizzakh region from the linguistic point of view and paid attention to the historical and structural features of place names. His work is significant for the present article because Jizzakh region contains various layers of toponyms, including Turkic, Iranian, Arabic, and Russian elements. This makes his study useful for understanding how Russian toponyms function among other linguistic layers.

S. N. Nayimov's research on the oikonyms of Bukhara region is also important for the study of Uzbekistan's toponymic system. His dissertation focused on settlement names and

revealed their linguistic, historical, and semantic features. Since oikonyms constitute one of the most important groups of toponyms, Nayimov's work is relevant for analyzing Russian settlement names in Uzbekistan. His approach helps to examine the internal structure of oikonyms, their lexical basis, and the influence of bilingual and multilingual conditions on their formation.

N. B. Adizova's PhD dissertation abstract on the lexical-semantic study of microtoponyms of Bukhara district contributes to the modern development of Uzbek toponymic research. She analyzed the lexical-semantic, etymological, grammatical, and linguotoponymic features of microtoponyms. Her research is useful for the present article because it demonstrates how place names can be classified according to their semantic types, morphological structure, and derivational models. This is especially important for studying Russian toponyms that have undergone adaptation in the Uzbek linguistic environment.

M. T. Mirakmalov's doctoral dissertation abstract on the physical-geographical features of Uzbekistan's toponyms and geographical linguistics provides an interdisciplinary framework for toponymic analysis. His work focuses on the relationship between geographical names and natural features, as well as on the creation of toponymic classifications and maps. This research is relevant for the analysis of Russian toponyms in Uzbekistan because it shows the importance of considering geographical, cartographic, administrative, and linguistic factors together.

The reviewed studies show that toponyms should be analyzed as complex linguistic and cultural units. Foreign scholars such as Nikonov, Superanskaya, Murzaev, and Zhuchkevich developed the theoretical foundations of toponymy and onomastics, while Uzbek scholars such as Zakirov, Nayimov, Adizova, and Mirakmalov provided valuable regional material on the toponymic system of Uzbekistan. However, the structural features of Russian toponyms within the toponymic system of Uzbekistan have not yet been studied sufficiently as a separate research problem. Therefore, the present article aims to fill this gap by analyzing the structural models, word-formation

patterns, and linguistic adaptation of Russian toponyms in Uzbekistan.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The main method used in this research is the structural-semantic analysis method. This method enables the study of Russian toponyms in Uzbekistan according to their structural organization and semantic characteristics. It helps to identify simple, compound, derivative, commemorative, descriptive, and hybrid models of Russian geographical names. Through this method, the article analyzes the internal composition of toponyms, their word-formation features, and their semantic motivation within the toponymic system of Uzbekistan. As a result, the structural-semantic analysis reveals the linguistic mechanisms of formation and functioning of Russian toponyms in the Uzbek linguistic environment.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The structural-semantic analysis of Russian toponyms in the toponymic system of Uzbekistan shows that this group of geographical names is not homogeneous. Russian toponyms differ according to their structure, derivational model, semantic motivation, and historical function. They include simple lexical names, compound names, derivative forms, anthroponymic names, ideological names, descriptive names, and hybrid constructions. The analysis also demonstrates that many Russian toponyms in Uzbekistan are connected with the Soviet period, administrative naming practice, industrial development, migration processes, and Russian-Uzbek language contact.

From the structural point of view, the first group is represented by simple one-component toponyms. These names usually consist of one lexical unit and do not contain an additional geographical or derivational component. Examples include Дружба, Калинин, Гагарин, and Пушкин. Structurally, these toponyms are simple because they are formed from a single lexical base. Semantically, however, they are different. Дружба

means “friendship” and reflects an ideological and social value. Калинин, Гагарин, and Пушкин are anthroponymic toponyms because they are based on personal names. Thus, even structurally simple names may have complex cultural and historical meanings.

The second group consists of compound Russian toponyms. These names are formed by the combination of two lexical components. Examples include Красный Восток, Красный Маяк, Карл Маркс, Память Ленина, and 30 лет Победы. In these examples, the structure of the toponym is based on a two-component model. Красный Восток consists of the adjective красный “red” and the noun восток “east”. Красный Маяк includes the adjective красный and the noun маяк “beacon.” These names are not purely descriptive; they also contain ideological meaning, because the adjective красный was widely used in Soviet naming practice. The toponym Память Ленина has a memorial meaning and expresses the idea of preserving political memory. The structure 30 лет Победы is also ideologically motivated and refers to the commemoration of Victory.

The third group is represented by derivative toponyms formed with Russian word-forming suffixes. A clear example is Михайловка, which contains the anthroponymic base Михаил- and the suffix -овка. This suffix is typical for Russian settlement names and often indicates a village or settlement connected with a person, family, or historical founder. Another example is Федоровское, which contains the base Федор- and the suffixal form -овское. These examples demonstrate that Russian toponyms in Uzbekistan preserve traditional Russian derivational models. The presence of such forms shows the transfer of Russian naming patterns into the Central Asian toponymic environment.

The fourth group includes descriptive toponyms. These names are based on physical-geographical, spatial, or functional features of the place. For example, Горный is derived from the Russian word гора “mountain” and means “located in a mountainous or elevated area.” Суперфосфатный is connected with an industrial or chemical object and reflects the functional

specialization of the settlement. Красногорск can also be analyzed as a descriptive toponym: it combines the element красн- “red” and the root -гор “mountain,” with the suffixal element -ск. Structurally, this model shows the combination of adjective, geographical root, and toponymic suffix. Semantically, the name may be interpreted as “red mountain” or “place connected with a red mountain/industrial settlement”. This type of toponym demonstrates the close relationship between linguistic form and geographical or economic reality.

The fifth group consists of hybrid toponyms that combine Russian and non-Russian elements. Such forms are especially important for the study of Russian toponyms in Uzbekistan because they reflect interlingual contact. One example is Советобад, where the Russian/Soviet component Совет- is combined with the Persian-Tajik element -абад meaning “settlement” or “inhabited place”. Another example is Ленинабад, which combines the anthroponym Ленин with the element -абад. These hybrid names show that Russian ideological or anthroponymic components could be integrated into local Central Asian word-formation models. Therefore, hybrid toponyms represent a special structural type formed under the influence of both Russian and local naming traditions.

Table 1. *The structural-semantic classification of the analyzed examples can be presented in the following table*

Type of toponym	Structural model	Examples	Semantic motivation
Simple one-component toponyms	One lexical base	Дружба Интернационал Калинин Папанин Пушкин	Ideological, anthroponymic, commemorative
Compound toponyms	Adjective + noun; noun + noun; numeral + noun	Красный Восток Красный Маяк Карл Маркс Память Ленина 30 лет Победы	Ideological and memorial meaning
Derivative toponyms	Anthroponymic base + suffix	Михайловка, Федоровское	Settlement connected with a

			personal name or Russian naming model
Descriptive toponyms	Qualitative or geographical base + suffix	Нагорный, Суперфосфатный, Красногорск	Physical-geographical, spatial, or industrial feature
Hybrid toponyms	Russian component + local component	Sovetabad, Leninabad	Russian ideological component adapted to local toponymic tradition

The analysis shows that Russian toponyms in Uzbekistan are structurally organized according to several productive models. The most common models are one-component names, two-component compound names, suffixal derivative names, and hybrid formations. Each structural model performs a specific semantic function. Simple names usually preserve ideological or personal memory; compound names express political, historical, or commemorative meanings; derivative names reflect Russian settlement-naming traditions; descriptive names point to geographical or functional features; and hybrid names demonstrate language contact.

A separate important feature is the semantic transformation of Russian toponyms after independence. Some Russian and Soviet-period names were replaced by Uzbek or historically motivated local names. For example, the former city name Дружба was changed to Питнак. Similarly, several names such as Интернациональный, Красный Восток, Красный Маяк, Ленинабад, Михайловка, and Советобад were replaced by names reflecting local language, culture, and historical identity. This process shows that toponyms are not static linguistic units. They change according to political, cultural, and social needs.

From a semantic point of view, Russian toponyms in Uzbekistan can be divided into four main groups: ideological toponyms, anthroponymic toponyms, descriptive toponyms, and hybrid contact toponyms. Ideological names include Дружба,

Интернациональный, Красный Восток, Красный Маяк, and 30 лет Победы. Anthroponymic names include Калинин, Гагарин, Пушкин, Карл Маркс, Память Ленина. Descriptive names include Нагорный, Красногорск, and Суперфосфатный. Hybrid names include Советобад and Ленинабад. This classification proves that the structural form of a toponym is closely connected with its semantic content.

Thus, the results of the structural-semantic analysis demonstrate that Russian toponyms in Uzbekistan represent a historically formed layer of the country's onomastic system. Their structure reflects Russian word-formation patterns, while their semantic content reflects political ideology, historical memory, geographical features, industrial development, and intercultural contact. The existence and transformation of these toponyms show the dynamic nature of the toponymic system of Uzbekistan and its connection with broader historical and linguistic processes.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of Russian toponyms in the toponymic system of Uzbekistan shows that this layer of geographical names has a complex structural and semantic nature. Russian toponyms functioning in Uzbekistan were formed under the influence of historical, political, administrative, cultural, and linguistic factors. They reflect different periods of language contact and preserve important information about the interaction between Russian and Uzbek linguistic traditions.

The structural-semantic analysis revealed several main types of Russian toponyms: simple one-component names, compound names, derivative forms, descriptive toponyms, anthroponymic names, ideological names, and hybrid constructions. Each group has its own structural model and semantic motivation. Simple and compound toponyms often express ideological and commemorative meanings, while derivative names preserve traditional Russian word-formation patterns. Descriptive toponyms reflect geographical, spatial, or functional features of a place. Hybrid toponyms, combining Russian and local linguistic

elements, demonstrate the influence of multilingual contact in the formation of the onomastic space of Uzbekistan.

The study also shows that Russian toponyms are not static linguistic units. Some of them continue to function in the modern toponymic system, while others have been replaced by Uzbek or historically motivated local names. This process proves that toponyms are closely connected with social memory, national identity, and cultural transformation. Therefore, the study of Russian toponyms in Uzbekistan is important not only for linguistics and onomastics, but also for understanding the historical and cultural development of the region.

In conclusion, Russian toponyms constitute a significant component of Uzbekistan's multilingual toponymic heritage. Their structural organization reflects Russian naming models, while their semantic content reveals historical memory, ideological influence, geographical features, and intercultural interaction. Further research may focus on the regional distribution of Russian toponyms, their phonetic and grammatical adaptation in Uzbek speech, and the comparative study of Russian, Uzbek, Persian-Tajik, and other toponymic layers in Central Asia.

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