

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Toponyms Denoting the Economic and Industrial Activities of People

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Abstract

The article examines toponyms reflecting the economic and industrial activities of the population of Uzbekistan. Special attention is paid to oikonyms associated with crafts, production processes, trade, and traditional forms of economic activity. Based on linguistic material, toponymic units derived from the names of professions and types of handicraft activity (metalworking, pottery, weaving, leatherworking, etc.), as well as from names of production facilities (mills, oil presses) and commercial centers (markets), are analyzed. It is shown that these toponyms are an important source for studying the historical and economic development of regions, the social structure of society, and traditional forms of labor. It is emphasized that production and economic toponyms preserve information about forgotten crafts and play a significant role in reconstructing cultural and historical heritage.

KEY WORDS

Toponymy; oikonyms; production and economic toponyms; industrial toponyms; craft names; economic geography; traditional crafts; occupational toponyms; Uzbekistan; cultural and historical heritage.

INTRODUCTION

It is impossible to imagine the modern world without geographical names. The world of geographical names is exceptionally diverse and fascinating. From birth, people live within this complex and boundless system of place names. Our planet is woven from an intricate network of geographical names originating from different historical periods and languages. We hear them daily on the radio, read them in newspapers and magazines, and encounter them on television screens and computer monitors. Geographical maps and atlases cannot exist without them. Many events of our lives are perceived through geographical names.

Every geographical object possesses historical, geographical, or linguistic significance. It can be confidently stated that all geographical names, that is, toponyms, serve as witnesses of historical epochs. Moreover, geographical names preserve the

collective wisdom of peoples, elements of historical legends, and various aspects of cultural heritage.

The naming of toponyms is largely determined by the economic way of life of the population inhabiting a particular territory, its occupational specialization, and the nature of its economic activities. This factor is clearly reflected in the system of toponyms (names of settlements) of Uzbekistan.

The purpose of this study is to identify and analyze the toponyms of Uzbekistan associated with the occupational activities of the population and to determine their role in preserving historical and cultural heritage.

METHODS

The study is based on toponymic, etymological, and historical-comparative methods of analysis. The research materials

include data on the toponymy of Uzbekistan, names of settlements, mahallas (traditional urban neighborhoods), artisan quarters, and scholarly works devoted to toponymy.

A thematic classification was applied to the analyzed toponyms, allowing them to be grouped according to the principal types of economic activity:

1. Metalworking crafts;
2. Pottery production;
3. Weaving and tailoring crafts;
4. Leather processing;
5. Production of household goods and food products;
6. Processing of agricultural products;
7. Trade and market activities.

RESULTS

The analysis demonstrates that a significant proportion of Uzbek toponyms are directly associated with the occupational specialization of the local population. Such toponyms are particularly widespread in the microtoponymy of the ancient cities of Bukhara, Samarkand, Tashkent, Kokand, Margilan, and Andijan, as well as in regions renowned for handicraft production, including Rishtan, Shahrikhan, Chust, and Kattakurgan.

The toponyms of this category can be classified according to the following occupational groups.

a) Toponyms Associated with Metalworking Crafts and Their Products

Zargar ("jeweler") and Zargarlik ("jewelry making") denote localities where jewelers lived and worked.

Sovutsozlik ("armor production") refers to areas inhabited by craftsmen engaged in manufacturing protective armor for warriors.

O'qchi (Ukchi) denotes either an arrow-maker or an archer. Within toponymy, it reflects the residence or professional activity of representatives of this occupation.

Misgarlik and Misgaron ("coppersmithing") indicate territories historically inhabited by craftsmen engaged in copper processing and the manufacture of copper goods.

Degrezlik ("iron casting") refers to places where metal casters produced various cast-metal items.

Temirchi and Ohangaron (from Persian-Tajik "blacksmith") designate settlements associated with blacksmiths specializing in ironworking and the production of tools, weapons, and household implements.

Suzangaron denotes localities inhabited by embroidery craftsmen.

b) Toponyms Associated with Pottery and Clay Production

Kulolon and Kulolchi ("potter") belong to the group of occupational toponyms reflecting the development of pottery production in traditional craft centers of Central Asia.

Kosagaron refers to artisans producing clay and ceramic vessels such as bowls and cups.

Chinnigaron and Chinnisoz denote craftsmen specializing in porcelain and high-quality ceramic products.

Tovoqchi designates artisans producing ceramic dishes and kitchen utensils.

Tandirchi refers to craftsmen engaged in the manufacture, installation, and repair of traditional clay ovens (tandirs).

c) Toponyms Reflecting Weaving and Tailoring Crafts

Among them are: Adrasbop ("adras weaving"); Bakhmalbop ("velvet weaving"); Buyrabop ("mat weaving"); Gilambop ("carpet weaving"); Jiyakchilik ("braid weaving"); Zarbop ("gold-thread weaving"); Parpashabop ("fan making"); Olachabop ("striped textile production"); Karbosbop ("coarse cotton cloth weaving"); Kurpabop ("quilt making"); Elakbop ("sieve production"); Kigizchilik ("felt making"); Namatgaron ("felt-makers' quarter"); Buzchi ("coarse cloth weaver"); Ipakchi ("silk producer"); Tukmachi ("weaver"); Yurmaduz ("ornamental embroiderer"); Duzanda ("tailor"); Mahsiduzon ("traditional footwear makers").

These names reflect the highly developed textile and silk-producing traditions of Uzbekistan.

d) Toponyms Associated with Leather Processing

This group includes: Kunchilik ("leatherworking"); Charimgaron ("leatherworkers"); Charimgarguzar ("leatherworkers' quarter").

These toponyms indicate areas where leather processing and related crafts were concentrated.

e) Production-Related Toponyms Connected with

Agricultural Processing

This category includes the oikonyms Dashtagirmon, Tagirmonboshi, and Kushtagirmon, all containing the component tagirmon ("mill"). These names belong to the group of production-related oikonyms associated with grain processing and traditional agriculture, reflecting the importance of milling activities in the regional economy.

Similarly, Tupobjuvoz, Tupjuvoz, Suvjuvoz, and Yog'juvoz contain the component juvoz ("oil press"). These toponyms reflect the development of traditional oil-processing industries and agricultural product processing technologies.

f) Trade- and Market-Related Toponyms

Trade has occupied an important place in the economic life of Uzbekistan, including the Fergana Valley, since ancient times. As a result, the component bozor ("market") became widespread in place names.

Examples include: Bozor ("market"); Bozorkurgon ("fortress with a market"); Bozorboshi ("central market"); Bozormaydon ("market square"); Bozormahalla ("market neighborhood"); Bozoryaypan ("market of Yaypan"); Galabakkollik ("grocery traders' quarter"); Jumabozor ("Friday market"); Yog'bozori ("oil market"); Uzumbozor ("grape market"); Ustabozor ("craftsmen's market"); Saribozorcha ("small market of Sari"); Xodabozori ("Khoda market"); Qurbozor ("Eid market"); Yangibozor ("new market"). All these names directly reflect commercial and market activities.

DISCUSSION

The findings demonstrate a close relationship between the system of toponyms and the historical development of economic activities among the population. Most of the analyzed names emerged during periods of active handicraft production and reflect the territorial specialization of labor.

Particularly noteworthy is the widespread occurrence of names associated with textile production, metalworking, and trade. This confirms the historical importance of these economic sectors in the regions of Uzbekistan, especially in Bukhara, Samarkand, Tashkent, Kokand, Margilan, and Andijan.

The study of such toponyms makes it possible not only to reconstruct the economic history of individual territories but also to identify patterns of cultural interaction, the influence of craft traditions on urban development, and processes of

historical urbanization.

CONCLUSION

Toponyms associated with occupational activities constitute an important layer of historical, cultural, and linguistic information reflecting the centuries-long development of economic life in society. They are commonly assigned not only to rural and urban settlements but also to their internal structural units, including mahallas, quarters, streets, and other local spatial entities.

These geographical names record patterns of settlement, the organization of living space, the distribution of productive forces, the development of handicrafts and industries, as well as trade relations and transport-economic connections within specific territories.

Furthermore, such toponyms serve as valuable historical sources that facilitate the reconstruction of traditional economic activities, reveal regional labor specialization, and trace the evolution of socio-economic processes. Their study contributes to the recovery of information about forgotten or extinct crafts, agricultural practices, and trade networks that once played a significant role in shaping regional economies.

The analysis of these toponyms is of particular importance for historical geography, ethnolinguistics, and cultural studies because they reflect the interaction between language, culture, and human economic activity. Moreover, they provide deeper insights into urbanization processes, infrastructure development, and transformations of traditional lifestyles under the influence of socio-economic change.

Therefore, the study of occupationally motivated toponyms not only broadens scholarly understanding of the past but also contributes to the preservation of historical and cultural heritage, ensuring the continuity of traditions and the sustainability of cultural memory.

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