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The Effectiveness Of Research Methods In Studying Microtoponyms Of Paxtachi District

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Abstract: The article provides a scientific and practical analysis of the effectiveness of research methods applied in the study of microtoponyms of Paxtachi district. It substantiates that the integrated use of linguo-onomastic, lexico-semantic, etymological, historical-typological, and cartographic methods plays an important role in identifying the origins, semantic layers, and naming features of microtoponyms. It is also emphasized that the coordinated use of local speech, archival sources, and field materials enhances research efficiency.

Keywords: Microtoponym, Paxtachi district, onomastics, linguo-onomastic analysis, research methods, lexico-semantic method, etymological analysis, historical-typological approach, cartographic method, local speech.

Introduction: Place names within the scope of toponymy also include the names of water objects and hydraulic constructions. The field that studies the names of water objects and structures from scientific-theoretical and practical perspectives is called hydronymy. The term hydronymy consists of Greek components hydro – water, onoma – name, and -ika – related to, and lexically means “related to the names of water objects”.

The micro-level geographical names of Paxtachi district under study serve as an important source in illuminating the past and future of our country and in determining the extent of changes in linguistic processes. Research conducted by Samarkand toponymist scholars in the field of Uzbek toponymy has been analyzed. Linguistic analysis of regional toponyms plays a significant role in revealing the ancient and modern stages of the country's history. Numerous studies on the toponymy

of Samarkand region have been carried out by linguists such as L.I. Royzenzon, H. Berdiyev, R. Qo'ng'urov, X. Doniyorov, B. O'rinboyev, T. Raxmatov, B. Yo'ldoshev, S. Karimov, N. Begaliyev, A. Turobov, S. Bo'riyev, and Sh. Temirov.

The toponymy of Samarkand region has been studied by the following scholars: S. Bo'riyev ("Lexico-semantic analysis of microtoponyms of Urgut district"), A. Turobov ("Research on Samarkand ethnonyms"), N. Begaliyev ("Linguistic study of hydronyms of Samarkand region"), Sh. Temirov ("Linguistic study of oronyms of Samarkand region"), while A. O'tamurodov conducted scientific research on the toponymy of Samarkand and Jizzakh regions.

Below, along with linguistic methods, scientific views are presented on geographical, cartographic, historical, statistical, and etymological methods frequently applied in geotoponymic research. It should be especially noted that it is difficult to determine which of the research methods developed to date is the most effective, since each method provides different levels and types of approaches to geographical names and plays an important role in revealing both their linguistic and philosophical essence. It is known that the original meaning of a geographical name can be identified by applying various research methods of analysis and synthesis. A geographical name, as a component of the toponymic system, is never isolated; rather, it is one of the "links" in a long and complex "chain." Therefore, conducting research with consideration of the specific features of a given region's toponymy ensures a certain degree of accuracy and effectiveness of analysis and is of great importance in establishing the scientific interpretation of geographical names.

Addressing this issue, the well-known geographer H. Hasanov states: "Every place name has, as it were, two sides – an outer and an inner one. On the surface, each name appears as a proper noun. That Africa, Greenland, China, Egypt, or Paris are place names is obvious to everyone. However, a name also has an inner side, which must be examined using a 'X-ray': where is this name located, why is it named so, and from which language does it originate? This inner feature of a place is not known to everyone; it is accessible only to the researcher".

In defining the formation and methodological foundations of toponymy, the works of Russian scholars such as E.M. Murzayev, Yu.A. Karpenko, V.A. Juchkevich, and Ye.M. Pospelov, as well as Uzbek researchers who made significant contributions to the development of Uzbek toponymy, including S. Qorayev, T. Nafasov, Z. Dosimov, and T. Enazarov, are

of particular importance. In particular, philologist T. Enazarov, in his recent research, has substantiated the effectiveness of linguistic methods in toponymic studies.

One of the main tasks of a specialist dealing with toponymic units is to obtain well-grounded scientific results through the application of various research methods. Therefore, purposeful investigation of regional place names in toponymic research is of great importance, and the research methods presented below are considered crucial for achieving effective scientific results.

It should be emphasized that it is difficult to clearly determine the priority of any single method in toponymic research, since each method reveals the meaning and essence of geographical names from different perspectives. Accordingly, ensuring methodological integration enriches the theoretical foundations of Uzbek toponymy and enables the achievement of significant scientific results in analyzing the historical-linguistic layers of Paxtachi district toponyms.

In this regard, the study of district toponyms such as Toma, Yobu (Jobu), Mesit, Burqut, Ko'rpa, Sanchiqu, Sarapoyon (currently pronounced as "Sarapan" due to phonetic adaptation in local speech), Loqay, Mojoy, Urganji, Juvontayoq (originally "Yo'g'ontayoq"), Bodoy, Bahrin, Ukrach, Momoy, Ochamayli, Chuvilloq, Polvonchi, Tutli, Sovungar, Ko'ktosh, Qo'shtamg'ali, and Jo'ymahmud demonstrates the effectiveness of methodological integration.

In this study, it is considered necessary to apply not only linguistic methods but also cartographic, comparative, stylistic, historical, etymological, descriptive, areal, semiotic, and statistical methods in a comprehensive manner. These methods provide broad opportunities to identify the origins, historical layers, semantic features, and spatial distribution patterns of toponyms. Therefore, selecting appropriate methods in the process of toponymic analysis ensures the reliability and objectivity of scientific results. As R. Rasulov notes, "The existence, conclusions, and effectiveness of any science are evaluated and measured by its research object, research purpose, and research methods".

Morphological analysis. Morphological analysis involves classifying words into parts of speech and identifying grammatical categories and word forms specific to each category. The linguistic approach allows determining the morphological structure and derivational models of toponyms. The toponym Qo'shtamg'ali is a complex derived unit formed from the components qo'sh + tamg'a + -li. Jo'ymahmud consists of the semantic combination of jo'y (irrigation channel) and Mahmud (a

personal name). Yangibuloq is a hydrotponym formed according to the adjective + noun model, indicating the emergence of a new water source.

According to the cartographic approach, these toponyms are closely connected with natural landscape elements. Toshko'prik denotes an infrastructural object located over a watercourse, while Tutli refers to a lowland area densely covered with vegetation. Yangibuloq indicates relief changes associated with a natural water source, and Ko'ktosh denotes an area characterized by rocky massifs and specific geological composition. Such analysis demonstrates the direct relationship between toponyms and the natural geographical environment.

The extensive possibilities of the cartographic method, including map compilation based on place names and the advantages of their use, were widely discussed in the works of Ye.M. Pospelov.

The comparative method enables the comparison of toponyms with similar names in other regions based on cartographic data. Through this method, it becomes possible to identify distribution features and origins of toponyms and to clarify the specific characteristics of regional toponymy. For example, Yangibuloq and Toshko'prik are found in other regions of the republic, indicating their formation as common national toponymic models. This approach integrates the toponymy of Paxtachi district into the general Uzbek toponymic system.

In the stylistic approach, the imagery and aesthetic aspects of toponyms are analyzed. The toponyms Ko'ktosh and Yangibuloq embody images of color, renewal, and naturalness, reflecting a positive semantic connotation in popular usage. Tutli symbolizes vitality and stability, while Qo'shtamg'ali represents historical identity preserved in collective memory. Toponyms, like other linguistic units, possess stylistic features and may convey additional stylistic meanings beyond their basic sense, which is studied within poetic onomastics.

Analysis of Paxtachi district toponyms based on these methods shows that place names embody a complex integration of natural-geographical environment, historical processes, ethnic layers, and expressive means of folk language. While each method illuminates different semantic layers, their integrated application allows deeper understanding of the scientific-theoretical foundations of Paxtachi district toponymy and identification of general patterns within the Uzbek toponymic system.

Historical analysis method. In onomastics, the historical method plays a crucial role in toponym analysis, as toponyms reflect the people's past history,

ethnography, and the dynamics of linguistic change. This method employs both prospective and retrospective analysis. For example, Qo'shtamg'ali reflects a historical period associated with tribal tamga symbols, while Jo'ymahmud indicates medieval irrigation activities.

Etymological method. The etymological method remains one of the most important approaches in toponymy for identifying the original meanings of geographical names. However, as noted by E.M. Murzayev, conclusions drawn without reference to geographical reality and historical data may render etymological interpretations unreliable.

Descriptive, areal, semiotic, and statistical methods further contribute to systematizing toponyms, identifying spatial distribution patterns, revealing cultural symbolism, and quantitatively analyzing toponymic units.

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