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РАХМАНОВА МАХЛИЁ ИЛХОМОВНА
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A LINGUOCULTURAL STUDY OF TOPONYMS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Toponyms, or place names, are more than just geographical labels – they are carriers of cultural and historical information. The linguistic study of toponyms has long been a subject of interest in both onomastics and linguoculturology. In the context of globalization, the comparison of place names across languages reveals insights into different worldviews, traditions, and collective identities. This paper focuses on a linguocultural comparison of English and Uzbek toponyms to uncover both shared and unique elements embedded in each language's naming tradition. Toponyms, or geographical names, are not merely markers of physical space; they are symbolic representations of the worldview, history, and cultural identity of a nation. In both English and Uzbek, toponyms have preserved the legacy of ethnic groups, belief systems, and environmental interactions. The significance of studying toponyms lies not only in their linguistic value but also in their cultural and historical implications. Researchers such as V.A.Maslova and Kh.Kholmuminov[1] have underlined the importance of cultural semantics in toponymic research.

Linguoculturology is an interdisciplinary field that combines linguistic and cultural analysis to study how language reflects and shapes cultural identity. Scholars such as V.Vorobyev, E.Vereshchagin, V.Kostomarov, A.Sultangozhina, and Uzbek researchers like Y.Khojamberdiyev and Kh.Kholmuminov[2] have contributed to defining its methodological framework. In toponymy, the study of proper place names serves as a mirror of linguistic worldview, influenced by historical, religious, ecological, and social factors.

In the English tradition, researchers such as Margaret Gelling and Kenneth Cameron have shown how place names preserve Anglo-Saxon, Celtic, Norse, and Norman influences. In Uzbek, scholars have emphasized the role of tribal, geographical, and Islamic components in naming.

The study applies comparative and descriptive methods, supported by linguocultural and etymological analysis. The corpus consists of 200 English and 200 Uzbek toponyms collected from geographic dictionaries, historical maps, and online databases. Each toponym was analyzed based on its etymology, semantic motivation, and cultural significance.

1. Semantic Fields and Motivations

English toponyms often derive from physical geography (e.g., *Oxford* – «ford of the oxen»), historical ownership (*Salisbury* – from Old English *Searoburh*), or religious association (*St. Albans*). Similarly, Uzbek place names reflect physical geography (*Qiziltepa* – «red hill»), tribe names (*Qo'qon* – named after a tribal leader), and religious sites (*Hazrati Imam*). English toponyms reflect Celtic, Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Roman influences. For instance, «Oxford» means a shallow place where oxen crossed the river[3]. Similarly, «Lancaster» comes from the River Lune and Latin «castra» (fort). Uzbek toponyms, on the other hand, exhibit Persian, Turkic, and Arabic origins. «Toshkent» (stone city) and «Qo'qon» (from kavak – hollow tree) are culturally rich names reflecting historical functions and natural features.

[1] Маслова В.А. Лингвокультурология. – Москва: Академия, 2001. – 208 с.; Холмўминов Х. Ўзбек топонимларининг этнолингвистик хусусиятлари. – Тошкент: Ўзбекистон Республикаси Фанлар Академияси, Тил ва адабиёт институти, 2010. – 190 б.

[2] Верещагин Е.М., & Костомаров В.Г. Язык и культура: Лингвострановедческий аспект в преподавании русского языка как иностранного. – Москва: Русский язык, 1990. – 320 с.; Воробьёв В.В. Лингвокультурология: курс лекций. – Москва: РУДН, 1997. – 331 с.; Султангожина А. Т. Культурная семантика топонимов (на материале казахского, русского и английского языков). – Алматы: КазНУ, 2005. – 248 с.; Хўжамбердиев Ё. Ўзбек тилида топонимларнинг лексик-семантик хусусиятлари. – Тошкент: Фан, 2002. – 176 б.; Холмўмінов Х. Ўзбек топонимларининг этнолингвистик хусусиятлари. – Ўзбекистон Республикаси Фанлар Академияси, Тил ва адабиёт институти, 2010. – 190 б.

[3] Ainiala T., Saarelma M., Sjöblom P. Names in Focus: An Introduction to Finnish Onomastics. omalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura. – NY. 2012. – 376 p.; Cameron K. English Place Names. – Batsford. 1996. – 256 p.

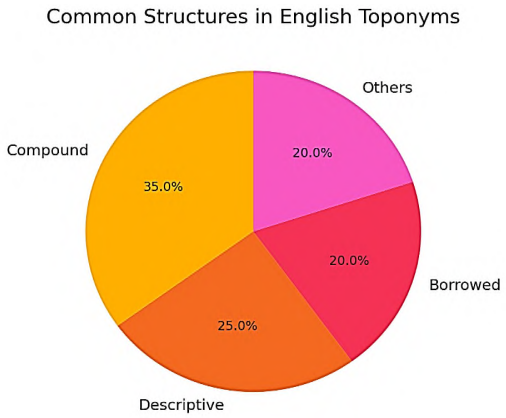
Table 1: **Sample Etymologies of English and Uzbek Toponyms**

Toponym	***Language***	***Etymology***
Oxford	*English*	*Oxen + ford*
Lancaster	*English*	*River Lune + castra*
Toshkent	*Uzbek*	*Tosh (stone) + kent (city)*
Qo'qon	*Uzbek*	*From kavak – hollow tree*

2. Linguistic Structure

English toponyms frequently consist of two elements: a descriptive prefix and a generic suffix (e.g., *Birmingham* – «home of the Beorma people»). Uzbek toponyms often use agglutinative morphology (*Qo'ng'irot*, *To'rtko'l*) and Turkic roots, indicating a strong link to language typology. In English, toponyms frequently consist of compounds (e.g., «Blackpool») or descriptive labels. Borrowing is evident from Latin and Norse. Uzbek toponyms are often descriptive («Sho'rtepa» – salty hill) or tribal («Sherobod»).

Figure 1: **Common Structures in English Toponyms**



3. Cultural and Historical Layers

English place names reflect multiple linguistic layers: Celtic (*Avon*), Roman (*Lancaster*), Anglo-Saxon (*Sheffield*), and Scandinavian (*Grimsby*)[1]. Uzbek toponyms reflect Zoroastrian, Islamic, and Turkic heritages. Names like *Samarqand* and *Buxoro* embody historical trade routes, scholarship centers, and sacred Islamic narratives.

Toponyms serve not only as identifiers but also as cultural signifiers. In the UK, names like «Liberty» or «Victoria» commemorate political milestones, while in Uzbekistan, post-independence names like «Mustaqillik» embody the national revival. Mythologically charged names, such as «Devil's Dyke» in England or «Chilustun» in Uzbekistan, point to deeper belief systems and collective memories[4].

4. Symbolic and Mythological Associations

Toponyms often preserve symbolic meaning. For instance, *Greenwich* (UK) is associated with navigation and time (Greenwich Mean Time). In Uzbek, *Nurata* is linked to legends of light and saints. These associations reveal cultural values and collective memory. Toponymic translation requires cultural sensitivity. Literal translations like «Qo'shko'pir» as «Twinbridge» lose their cultural and historical richness. Transliteration, descriptive renaming, or retention are key strategies. Toponyms reflect how cultures perceive and categorize space. English emphasizes practicality («Baker Street»), while Uzbek names often symbolize beauty or spirituality («Zaraf-shan» – gold spreader).

- Both English and Uzbek toponyms serve as linguistic fossils, preserving historical and cultural information;

- English toponyms tend to have more hybrid structures due to colonial and migratory influences;

- Uzbek toponyms reflect nomadic, religious, and tribal identity more prominently;

[1] Crystal D. The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language. CUP. – NY. 2003.– 506 p.; Gelling, M. Signposts to the Past: Place-Names and the History of England. Phillimore. – NY. 1997. – 321 p; Room, A. Placenames of the World. McFarland. – NY. 1996. – 286 p.

- Place names in both languages reveal how people perceive and interact with their environment.

Toponyms are linguistic artifacts that preserve the memory and identity of peoples and civilizations. The linguocultural comparison of English and Uzbek place names reveals rich semantic layers and differing cultural motivations. Understanding toponyms as cultural texts can enhance intercultural competence and support language learning, translation, and ethnolinguistic research. This comparative linguocultural study shows that toponyms are more than geographical markers – they are living records of human experience, history, and values. Understanding them enhances our grasp of cultural identity and intercultural communication.

Rezyume. Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o‘zbek tillaridagi toponimlarning lingvistik va madaniy xususiyatlari lingvokulturologik yondashuv asosida o‘rganiladi. Tadqiqotda toponimlarning milliy tafakkur, tarixiy xotira va madaniy identitetni (o‘zlikni) qanday aks ettirishi tahlil qilinadi. Shuningdek, ingliz va o‘zbek geografik nomlarining umumiy va farqli jihatlari turli semantik sohalardan olingan misollar asosida yoritib beriladi. Olingan natijalar geografik nomlarning madaniy qadriyatlar va dunyoqarashni qanday aks ettirishini chuqurroq tushunishga xizmat qiladi.

Resume. This article explores the linguistic and cultural characteristics of toponyms in English and Uzbek within a linguocultural framework. The study analyzes how toponyms reflect national mentality, historical memory, and cultural identity. The research highlights the common and contrasting features of English and Uzbek place names, drawing on examples from various semantic fields. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of how geographical names encapsulate cultural values and worldviews.

Резюме. В данной статье рассматриваются лингвистические и культурные особенности топонимов в английском и узбекском языках в рамках лингвокультурного подхода. Исследование анализирует, как топонимы отражают национальное мышление, историческую память и культурную идентичность. Работа выявляет общие и различающиеся черты английских и узбекских географических названий, приводя примеры из различных семантических сфер. Полученные результаты способствуют более глубокому пониманию того, как географические названия воплощают культурные ценности и мировоззрение.