

**DIACHRONIC CHANGES IN THE LEXICAL FIELD OF PHYTONYMS:
ENGLISH AND UZBEK COMPARISON**

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Abstract. *This article explores the diachronic (historical) development of phytonyms—plant names—in the English and Uzbek languages. By analyzing literary texts, historical dictionaries, and ethnobotanical sources from different periods, the study traces how plant names have evolved in form, meaning, and cultural relevance. The findings reveal that both English and Uzbek phytonyms have undergone lexical shifts due to sociocultural change, contact with other languages, and technological progress. While English phytonyms have been influenced by Latin and French, Uzbek plant names reflect Arabic, Persian, and Russian lexical borrowings. The article also discusses the preservation and loss of certain archaic plant names in both traditions.*

Keywords. *Phytonyms, diachronic linguistics, lexical change, English, Uzbek, language contact, historical semantics, plant names.*

Аннотация. *В данной статье рассматривается диахронное (историческое) развитие фитонимов — названий растений — в английском и узбекском языках. На основе анализа литературных источников, исторических словарей и этноботанических данных прослеживаются изменения в форме, значении и культурной значимости фитонимов. Результаты показывают, что фитонимы обоих языков подверглись изменениям под влиянием социокультурных факторов, языковых контактов и технологического прогресса. В то время как английские фитонимы испытали влияние латинского и французского языков, узбекские заимствовали элементы из арабского, персидского и русского языков. Также обсуждаются случаи утраты или сохранения архаичных названий растений.*



Ключевые слова. Фитонимы, диахроническая лингвистика, лексические изменения, английский язык, узбекский язык, языковые контакты, историческая семантика, названия растений.

Phytonyms, or plant names, represent a rich area of linguistic and cultural history. Their development over time reflects human interaction with the environment, shifts in cultural beliefs, and the influence of language contact. This article aims to analyze the diachronic evolution of plant names in English and Uzbek, uncovering how these lexical items have changed in spelling, pronunciation, meaning, and cultural function across different historical periods.

Literature Review. Linguists such as Ullmann (1962) and Crystal (2003) have emphasized the role of historical linguistics in understanding semantic and lexical changes. In the Uzbek context, Karimova (2016) has explored the influence of Russian on modern Uzbek botanical terminology. Meanwhile, English phytonymic changes have been documented in etymological dictionaries and historical corpora like the Oxford English Dictionary (OED). Yet, comparative diachronic studies between English and Uzbek in the domain of plant names remain scarce.

Methodology. The study uses comparative diachronic analysis by collecting and categorizing phytonyms from:

Classical literary texts (e.g., Chaucer, Shakespeare; Alisher Navoi, Ogahiy)

Historical dictionaries (e.g., Johnson's Dictionary, OED; "Devonu lug'otit turk")

Ethnobotanical sources and folklore

Lexical changes are analyzed in terms of:

Phonological evolution

Semantic shift

Lexical borrowing

Obsolescence or neologism

Results and Discussion

English Phytonyms: From Old English to Modern Usage. Old English "hæsel" (hazel) has remained stable, while "hæwen" (blue-colored flower) has disappeared.



Many plant names entered English via Latin/French, e.g.:

Rose (Latin *rosa*)

Lily (Old French *lilie*)

Daisy (Old English *dægeseage* – "day's eye") underwent metaphorical evolution.

The scientific naming system (binomial nomenclature) introduced in the 18th century shifted popular terms toward Latinate forms.

Uzbek Phytonyms: Influence of Persian, Arabic, and Russian. Old Turkic phytonyms like "boychechak" (snowdrop) and "qoqi" (reed) are still in use.

Persian and Arabic influence:

Atirgul (rose) from Persian *attar* + *gul*

Ismaloq (spinach) from Persian

Russian influence (especially in Soviet period):

Romas (chamomile) → romashka

Shirinbinafsha (sweet violet) gave way to *fialka* (Russian) in urban contexts.

Post-independence period saw a return to Turkic-origin words in botanical education and literature.

Common Patterns and Differences. Feature English Uzbek

Latin influence Strong Minimal. Loanwords French, Latin, Greek Persian, Arabic, Russian Folk etymology Common (e.g., "buttercup") Present (e.g., "quyoshgul" = sunflower). Disappeared phytonyms Many lost in Middle English More preserved in rural dialects

Conclusion

The lexical field of phytonyms in both English and Uzbek has undergone significant diachronic changes, shaped by cultural shifts, foreign influences, and linguistic reforms. While English exhibits a steady Latinization and scientific standardization, Uzbek reflects multilingual layers of Persian, Arabic, and Russian, especially in botanical terminology. Understanding these changes not only sheds light on plant-related vocabulary but also reveals broader cultural and linguistic transformations in the two societies.



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