LINGUACULTURAL FEATURES OF GODONYMS IN TASHKENT

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Abstract: This article explores the linguocultural characteristics of urban toponyms in Tashkent, Uzbekistan's capital. The naming of streets, districts, squares, and metro stations is analyzed through the lenses of semantics, etymology, and culture. The study reveals how these place names reflect the city's historical memory, national identity, ideological influences, and socio-cultural transformations. By examining selected examples, the paper underscores the importance of toponyms as more than just geographical markers but as carriers of linguistic and cultural significance.

Keywords: toponyms, Tashkent, linguoculture, semantics, national identity, urban names

Introduction

Godoonyms are crucial elements in understanding the cultural and historical landscape of any society. In urban settings, they are more than functional references; they encapsulate the past, cultural values, and national ideologies. Tashkent, as a city with deep historical roots and dynamic modern growth, offers a unique view into how place names serve as linguistic signposts of change. This paper aims to investigate urban toponyms of Tashkent from a linguocultural perspective, focusing on their semantic richness and socio-cultural context.

Numerous scholars have studied toponyms as part of linguocultural research. Kamilova (2015) emphasized that Uzbek toponyms reflect traditional beliefs, historical figures, and cultural norms. Ibrahimova (2019) analyzed the naming conventions in urban spaces, particularly in Tashkent, highlighting post-independence shifts. Internationally, Azaryahu (1996) argued that street names act as tools of political expression, while Helleland (2012) pointed to their role in identity formation. These works form the basis for analyzing how Tashkent's toponyms reflect its hybrid cultural and historical identity.

Methodology

This research utilizes qualitative methods including semantic and etymological analysis, historical comparison, and cultural interpretation. Data was collected from official Tashkent maps, government documents, archival materials, and observational fieldwork. The study focused on naming patterns and transformations within Tashkent's districts and major roads, comparing historical and contemporary naming trends.

The study found that Tashkent's urban toponyms can be categorized into four main groups: historical toponyms, symbolic-cultural toponyms, Soviet-era remnants, and post-independence ideological names.

Historical names include figures like Al-Beruniy and Amir Temur, which reinforce national heritage. Cultural toponyms such as 'Navruz' and 'Friendship Square' express social values and collective identity. Remnants from the Soviet period—like 'Kommunar' or 'Sergeli-5'—illustrate past ideological influences, though many have been renamed. Post-1991 toponyms like 'Mustaqillik' (Independence) and 'New Uzbekistan Avenue' symbolize national revival and state-building aspirations.

The analysis confirms that Tashkent's toponyms act as markers of both continuity and transformation. The shift from Soviet-era names to those reflecting national pride and independence illustrates an effort to reconstruct historical memory and assert cultural autonomy. Furthermore, these names serve didactic purposes, introducing historical figures and ideals to the public consciousness. The dual role of place names-practical and symbolic demonstrates their value in urban semiotics and linguocultural identity.

Tashkent's urban toponyms encapsulate complex narratives of the city's past and present. They reflect political transitions, cultural continuity, and ideological shifts. Understanding their linguocultural dimensions allows for a deeper appreciation of how language and place intertwine to shape urban identity. Further research may explore the psychological and social impacts of toponymic change on residents' sense of belonging and heritage.

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