

Onomastic Study of Occupational Terms in the Uzbek Language

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Abstract: This article explores the onomastic characteristics of occupational terms in the Uzbek language. It identifies how professions influence personal and place names and examines their cultural and historical relevance. The study also addresses the stylistic devices and sociolinguistic implications associated with occupational terms in Uzbek onomastics.

Keywords: occupation, craft, seme, archiseme, onomastic unit, lexical units, dialect, synonym, polysemy, dialectal occupational terms.

Introduction.

Onomastics the study of names is a significant field in Uzbek linguistics, especially when it comes to occupational terms. These terms often serve not only as markers of social function but also as a rich source for anthroponyms (personal names) and toponyms (place names). Uzbek linguoculture has historically valued labor and craftsmanship, and this respect is reflected in names derived from occupations.

2. Methods

The study utilizes descriptive and analytical methods to examine a range of occupational terms that have been transformed into personal and place names. Lexical and morphological analyses are applied to investigate how these terms undergo onomastic conversion and periphrastic transformation.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Anthroponyms Based on Occupational Terms

Many Uzbek personal names are derived from historical or traditional professions. Names like Podabon, Mirshab, Kosiba, and Yilqichi showcase the strong link between professional roles and naming. These names can be traced to both linguistic motivations and cultural traditions aimed at preserving family professions or honoring them.

Male names often preserve the occupational root in unaltered form (e.g., Adib, Shoir, Kotib), while female counterparts are formed by adding feminine suffixes like -a (e.g., Adiba, Shoir, Kotiba). Sometimes names acquire affixes like -xon, -boy, -bek, indicating social or respectful connotations.

3.2 Toponyms and Place Names

In Uzbek toponymy, place names like Pichoqchilik, Zargarlik, and Parchabof represent the prominence of crafts in shaping local identities. These names embody the cultural and economic structures of their times and remain part of Uzbekistan's spatial memory.

3.3 Stylistic Use: Periphrasis

Occupational periphrasis is another stylistic phenomenon. Examples such as “guardians of health” (doctors), “sky falcons” (pilots), and “creators of white gold” (cotton pickers) illustrate metaphorical naming that enriches journalistic and artistic discourse. These expressions elevate

ordinary professions to symbolic status.

3.4 Sociolinguistic Dimensions: Holidays and Respect

Occupational naming extends into cultural practices such as professional holidays, e.g., “Medical Workers Day” or “Builders Day”. These designations act as professional geortonyms and reinforce societal esteem for labor sectors, helping preserve linguistic-cultural heritage.

4. Conclusion

This study demonstrates that occupational terms in the Uzbek language go beyond mere lexical units; they carry rich onomastic, cultural, and stylistic significance. Whether in the form of personal names, place names, or metaphorical expressions, these terms embody Uzbek society’s enduring respect for craftsmanship, labor, and social roles. They also reflect broader linguistic phenomena such as morphological adaptation and sociocultural motivation. Future research could further examine the comparative dimension across Turkic languages and the impact of modern professions on naming traditions.

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