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THE PHENOMENON OF BINARY OPPOSITION IN THE HYDRONYMS OF THE JIZZAKH REGION

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ABOUT ARTICLE

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Abstract: This article examines the phenomenon of binary opposition, as well as the principles of positivity and negativity, in the hydronyms of the Jizzakh region. The naming principles and linguistic features of water bodies located within the region - such as rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, mudflow reservoirs, irrigation canals (aryks), springs, canals, and pumping stations - are analyzed.

The study highlights the importance of investigating hydronyms in relation to the history, geography, natural environment, hydrology, and etymology of the region. The hydronyms of the Jizzakh region are analyzed from a scientific perspective.

Furthermore, based on a comprehensive study of the field of onomastics and its main branches - toponymy and hydronymy - conclusions and recommendations are provided regarding the necessity of conducting semantic, lexical, and etymological analysis of hydronyms in the Jizzakh region.

Introduction. In hydronymy, the term binary opposition is understood as deriving from the Latin words “bis” – twice, “binaries” – dual, and “opposition” – opposition. The phenomenon of binary opposition is understood as the formation of pairs in naming water objects according

to their mutually contrasting features (quantity, quality, color, location). This phenomenon is connected with the structural semantics of onomastics and arises from the need to distinguish objects that are close to each other.

The principle of relativity is of particular importance in hydronymy. The principle of relativity is based on comparing, contrasting, and correlating the features characteristic of one water object with another water object. Comparison is often based on the location of the water object, its size, and the characteristics of the water in it, that is, its taste and color. For example: Qorasuv stream (Jizzakh region, Gallaorol district, Gulchambar, Juma rural settlement), Qorasuv collector (Gallaorol district), Oqariq irrigation canal (Bakhmal district, Do‘smat rural settlement), Kattabuloq spring (Sharof Rashidov district, Uob rural settlement), Sho‘rbuloqsoy (Yangiobod district, Uchto‘rg‘on rural settlement).

As a result, such hydronymic pairs arise within the hydronymy of one territory. The process of naming water objects based on the principle of relativity, as noted by Z. Do‘simov, is based on the relationship between the orienting object, the named water object, and the naming subject, as in other types of toponyms.

Z. Do‘simov, who studied the principle of relativity on the basis of Khorezm toponyms, shows that this principle is mainly based on spatial meaning. In the naming process based on the principle of relativity, opposition of hydronyms arises. In Uzbek hydronyms, binary, ternary, and other types of opposition are observed.

According to the Russian scholar N. V. Podolskaya, the differentiation of a name originally consisting of one lexeme by means of two antonymic words is considered binary opposition. [1]

1. Podolskaya, N.V. Dictionary of Russian Onomastic Terminology. Moscow: Nauka, 1978, p. 40.

Theoretical views on the phenomenon of binary opposition characteristic of toponyms, including hydronyms, are observed in the studies of A. S. Strizhak and N. Okhunov. [2]

Based on the above-mentioned studies, if we analyze the phenomenon of opposition specific to hydronymy, we can understand that such features as the size of water objects, their location on the earth’s surface, their distance – length or shortness, the time of emergence and construction, quantity, the ethnic composition of the population associated with them, and the characteristics of water such as taste and color are the factors that give rise to opposition in hydronymy.

As noted above, opposition in hydronymy is expressed through lexical units that express these features—namely, lexical antonyms.

Thus, opposition in hydronymy arises due to features such as size, spatial location, distance (length), time of formation, quantity, ethnic associations, as well as characteristics of water such as taste and color.

Materials and methods. The oppositions in the hydronyms of the Jizzakh region can be divided into the following types according to the factors of their formation:

1. Opposition formed according to the size characteristics of water objects.

In this opposition, the size of the hydronymic object—whether it is large or small, long or short—is important. This group of hydronyms is mainly formed on the basis of antonymic adjectives expressing the concept of size, such as “katta” (large) and “kichik” (small). The word “katta” means “relatively larger than the norm in size or dimension, huge,” while “kichik” means “relatively not large in structure, size, or dimension. [3]

2. Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language. Vol. 2.Tashkent: Gafur Ghulam Publishing House, 2022, pp. 780, 864.

3. Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language, Vol. 2. Tashkent: G‘afur G‘ulom, 2022. pp. 780, 864.

For example: Kattabuloq (located southeast of the Uob settlement, Ravot MFY, Sharof Rashidov district), Kattasoy (located west of the Qorabog‘anali settlement, M. Orolov MFY, Forish district), and hydronyms named Kattasoy are also found in Gallaorol, Sharof Rashidov, and Bakhmal districts.

Kichik Chorvoqsoy (flows near the Narvon settlement, Narvon MFY, Forish district), Uzunbuloqsoy (Forish district, Shox Usmon settlement).

In hydronyms formed based on the size characteristics of water objects, the phenomenon of ellipsis is also observed, that is, the omission of hydronymic determiners. For example: Kattachivar (Bakhmal district). This hydronym was originally called Kattachivarsoy, but during the development of the language, as a result of the tendency toward convenience, simplicity, and compactness, the hydronymic determiner “soy” was ellipsed.

2. Opposition formed according to the location of water objects.

This type of opposition is formed based on several words expressing the location of a water object. Therefore, depending on which antonymic words form this type of opposition, the following types are observed:

a) based on the words western–eastern: Western collector – Eastern collector (located in the territories of Jizzakh and Syrdarya regions).

This type of hydronym is formed on the basis of binary opposition derived from the antonymy of the words west and east, indicating the location of the object in the western or eastern direction;

b) based on the words northern–southern: Northern Mirzachoʻl Canal – Southern Mirzachoʻl Canal, Northern collector – Southern collector (located in the territories of Jizzakh and Syrdarya regions).

The Southern Mirzachoʻl Canal is one of the large canals in Uzbekistan. It flows through the territories of Syrdarya and Jizzakh regions. The Southern Mirzachoʻl Canal and its major branches were built in 1957–1962. It flows from east to west in the southern part of Mirzachoʻl. Its length is 127.7 km, and the canal is used to irrigate more than 345 thousand hectares of land in the Syrdarya and Jizzakh regions.

c) based on the words left–right: Left branch canal – Right branch canal (located in the territories of Jizzakh and Syrdarya regions). These hydronyms are named as Left branch canal – Right branch canal according to their position relative to the main water object from which they receive water.

3. Opposition formed based on the time of emergence of water objects.

This type of opposition arises on the basis of comparing water objects in a certain area according to the time of their construction and emergence. As in other types of toponyms, hydronymic opposition is formed by adding the antonymic adjectives “old” to the earlier main water object and *new* to the later one (e.g., Yangiariq, Eskiariq).

Also, in the Jizzakh region, in artificially constructed hydraulic structures, opposition is formed not only by adding the antonymic adjectives “old” and “new”, but also by adding ordinal numbers such as first, second, or third to the hydronyms. For example: First Jizzakh machine canal, Second Jizzakh machine canal.

4. Formation of opposition by means of numbers.

In this type of opposition, the names of two or more water objects and structures bearing one name are distinguished by means of numbers: First Jizzakh machine canal (a network supplying water to land areas in Zarbdor, Paxtakor, and Sharof Rashidov districts through the Jizzakh main pumping station), Second Jizzakh machine canal (a network supplying water to land areas in Zarbdor and Sharof Rashidov districts), Third Jizzakh machine canal (a network supplying water to land areas in Zarbdor, Zomin, and Sharof Rashidov districts).

This type of opposition is mainly observed in the names of canals, collectors, and pumping stations:

a) canal names: 12-Left branch, 12.4-Right branch, 15-Left branch (a network that takes water from the Central left branch canal and supplies water to land areas in the territories of Do‘stlik and Arnasoy districts, located in the Jizzakh region).

b) pumping station names: 3-Yangiobod, 4-Yangiobod (located in the territory of Yangiobod district).

c) collector names: 7-Central collector (located to the east of Gagarin city, at the confluence with the Central Mirzacho‘l collector).

5. Opposition formed based on the characteristics of water.

Such opposition is formed on the basis of words expressing the characteristics of water, such as “white, black, fresh, salty, sweet”: Oqbuloq collector (located southeast of Tuzkon lake in the territory of Forish district), Qorasuv collector (located southwest of Gallaorol city in the territory of Gallaorol district), Oqariq irrigation canal (located west of Do‘smat settlement in the territory of Bakhmal district), Kattabuloq spring (located southeast of Uob settlement in the territory of Sharof Rashidov district), Sho‘rbuloqsoy irrigation canal (located in Uchqo‘rg‘on settlement in the territory of Yangiobod district), and others.

Empirical materials related to Uzbek hydronymy have shown that opposition in hydronyms is not always expressed within the framework of two names, but can also be one-element. In this case, as N. Okhunov correctly notes, one of the antonymic lexemes forming the opposition is present, while the other does not participate and is omitted.[4]

This form of hydronyms also occupies a significant place in the hydronymy of the Jizzakh region: Kattabuloq (located southeast of Uob settlement, Ravot MFY, Sharof Rashidov district), Kattasoy (located west of Qorabog‘anali settlement, M. Orolov MFY, Forish district), Qorasuv stream (flows through Gulchambar and Juma settlements in the territory of Gallaorol district), and others.

According to Professor N. Uluqov, the naming of water objects and hydraulic structures is based on the principles of positivity and negativity.

The principle of positivity implies that the naming is based on features that orient the water object, distinguish it from other similar water objects, and express its inherent natural-geographical reality.

4. Okhunov N. The phenomenon of binary opposition in toponyms//Uzbek language and literature, 1986,No.2.p. 60.

The range and scope of natural-geographical features used as a basis in naming water objects according to the principle of positivity are quite broad.[5]

When naming water objects based on the principle of positivity, the following natural-geographical features characteristic of the object can be taken as a basis:

1. the shape of the water object;
2. the size and scale of the water object;
3. the quantity of water in the water object;
4. the characteristics of the water in the water object;
5. the condition of vegetation and trees around the water object;
6. the names of animals associated with the water object;
7. the flow characteristics of the water in the water object;
8. the location of the water object and the direction of its flow;
9. the relief characteristics of the area where the water object is located;
10. the occupations of the population associated with the water object;
11. various events related to the water object;
12. personal names associated with the water object.

Result and discussion. The principle of positivity is the most widely used and primary principle in naming water objects. A significant part of Uzbek hydronyms consists of names formed on the basis of the principle of positivity. This situation can also be observed in the hydronymy of the Jizzakh region. For example, the existence of hydronyms formed based on the characteristics of water alone - such as Oqbuloq collector (Forish district), Qorasuv collector (Gallaorol district), Oqariq (Bakhmal district, Do‘smat settlement), Moybuloq (Gallaorol district, Sayfin settlement), Sassiqbuloq (Forish district, O‘rtacho‘qqi village), Sovuqsoy (located east of Yaylovcha mountains in Gallaorol district), Ko‘kbuloq (located west of

5. Uluqov N. Historical-linguistic study of Uzbek hydronyms. Tashkent: Fan, 2008. pp. 53–55.

Oqtoshtog‘ ridge in Gallaorol district), Cho‘chqalisoy (Sharof Rashidov district, Ravot settlement), Qorasoy (Forish district, O‘xum settlement), Sassiqsoy (Sharof Rashidov district, Ravot settlement) - is a clear proof of the above statement.

Hydronyms formed on the basis of the principle of positivity express natural-geographical information about the water object and structure being named. This feature is considered the most characteristic aspect of the water object and structure and serves as the basis for their naming; once the name is formed, it serves to distinguish the water object from

other similar objects. Thus, under the principle of positivity, the water object is mainly named by expressing the geomorphological characteristics of the object and the properties of the water.

The naming of an object, including a water object and structure, based on a feature that is not typical (characteristic) for it is called the principle of negativity (from Latin “negativus” – negative). The theoretical aspects of the principle of negativity have been thoroughly studied by V. A. Nikonov and Z. Do‘simov.[6]

Within the principle of negativity, it is important to distinguish negativity, that is, a feature that does not characterize the water object and is not typical for it. According to the principle of negativity, a hydronym arises based on a distinguishing feature of the water object and structure. According to N. Uluqov, the semantic nature of a name is determined by the period, historical, social, economic conditions, and the established tradition within a given territory. The feature taken as the basis for naming a water object, as in other types of toponyms, may vary. However, the feature taken as the basis for the name must have a distinguishing character and must differentiate the water object from other similar objects. For example: Obiko‘l (Bakhmal district), Pulonsoy (Sharof Rashidov district, Xitoyuzi settlement), Vadigan (Bakhmal district, Vadigan settlement), Namingonsoy (Yangiobod district, Namingon settlement).

N. Uluqov emphasizes that the territorial scale plays a primary role in the principle of negativity. The smaller the territory, the more the negativity becomes blurred or disappears altogether. In large territories, the principle of positivity is applied. For example, the occurrence of hydronyms such as Obiko‘l and Namingonsoy in areas inhabited by Uzbeks is also considered a negative case.

Conclusion. The study demonstrates that hydronyms, as an important layer of toponymy, are not merely names of water bodies but linguistic units reflecting the social life, values, and cultural heritage of a people.

The semantic, lexical, and etymological analysis of hydronyms such as rivers, streams, lakes, and springs in the Jizzakh region serves as a fundamental source for studying regional history, geography, ethnic composition, and dialectology.

The findings indicate that opposition is a system-forming factor in hydronymy. Contrasting features such as size (large–small), location (upper–lower), distance (long–short), time (old–new), and water quality (fresh–salty, white–black) form binary and trinary oppositions through lexical antonyms.

These oppositions ensure the logical and structural integrity of the regional hydronymic system.

A comprehensive analysis of the linguocultural and linguogeographic features of hydronyms in the Jizzakh region contributes to preserving cultural heritage, restoring national values, and enriching scientific understanding of regional history. Such research also has practical significance for linguistics, history, ethnography, and tourism.

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