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# TOPONYMS OF TASHKENT AS A FACTOR OF REFLECTION OF HISTORICAL PROCESSES (1917 - 1980)

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**Abstract:** The article is devoted to the subject of interrelation of historical events and the processes of formation of urban toponyms, on the example of the structure of toponymic groups of names of districts and streets of Tashkent in the 20th century. The classification of these groups of toponyms and examples of toponyms reflecting historical events in the life of the city are given.

**Key words:** toponymy of Tashkent, historical factor, names of districts and streets, semantic analysis, toponymic groups.



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Currently, Tashkent is the capital of the Republic of Uzbekistan, one of the major centers of culture, art, science, technology, industry, commerce on the Asian continent, a city with a rich and interesting history. According to the results of archaeological excavations, his age is determined to be 2,200 years old. From a historical point of view, its history can be divided into the ancient, medieval stages, the period of the three khanates, the colonial, Soviet times, the era of independence. The political, socio-economic, cultural and spiritual processes of these times are reflected in the

historical sources of various types.

One of the peculiar types of historical sources are toponyms - names of localities. They appear at various stages of the history of regions and carry information about the nature, topography, climate, population, ethnic structure, administrative division, political structure, social and economic life, religion, languages of the region. It is advisable to investigate them according to geographical, linguistic and historical classifications.

Forming over many centuries, the historical toponyms of the city of Tashkent, from the point of view

of language groups, have formed certain linguistic layers, such as Sogdian, Turkic, Persian-Arabic, Russian-European, mixed. Their occurrence on the territory of Tashkent is closely connected, first of all, with political processes that entailed ethnic and other transformations on its territory. The study of the structure of toponymic groups, as well as the etymological analysis of toponyms, allows for a deeper and more reliable coverage of the history of the capital at various stages and in general.

At this stage, there are a number of scientific works of specialists, where, against the background of disclosing the historical development of the capital from antiquity to the present, information is given on the origin and etymology of some toponyms of the city of Tashkent 1. P.167; 2.P.3; 5.P.80; 6.P.24; 8.P.190.

Studies have also been carried out directly on the historical toponymy of Tashkent in the XIX - XX centuries, the emergence of toponyms, their classification, structure, quantitative indicators, dynamics, etymology, semantic and linguistic toponymic groups 3.P.234; 4.P.122 .

Thus, the emergence of a Russian-European stratum of historical toponyms in Tashkent began in the second half of the nineteenth century. and continues to the present. More precisely, they were included in the structure of the toponymy of the city under the rule of the Turkestan Governor-General, then during the period of Soviet power

(the 20th century). And in the 21st century, in the years of independent development of Uzbekistan, the share of toponyms borrowed from foreign languages in the city, as well as throughout the country, is increasingly increasing due to the active integration of Uzbekistan into the world community, the expansion of its foreign relations, the attraction of foreign investments, establishing comprehensive cooperation with many countries of the CIS, Europe, America and Asia.

Of particular interest is the classification of toponyms according to their semantic meaning, which allows to identify the specificity of urban names and their relationship to the history of the city. Thus, on the territory of Tashkent during the period under study there existed toponyms that can be divided into the following groups: anthrotoponyms, toponyms associated with the geographical features of the region, names reflecting the economic and social development of the capital, toponyms associated with cultural and spiritual development of the region related to ethnic groups, historical events, etc.

In this article, we will look at changes in the structure of the toponymy of Tashkent during the Soviet period on the example of the names of districts and streets of the city. As a result of the establishment of the power of the Soviets in Russia and on the territory of the neighboring regions, a unified control system of the USSR was introduced

with the center in Moscow, Russian was adopted as the official language. Tashkent became the capital of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic, incorporated into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. This political situation has played a definite role, both in the history of the republic and its capital city. For more than seventy years, the republic developed according to the programs of five-year plans approved by the state center, where all directions were coordinated with the political regime and ideology of the Soviet state. This specificity was reflected in the toponymy of various territories of the country, including the city of Tashkent.

It is known that during the rule of the Turkestan General Governorship (1867-1917), the city of Tashkent was its center and consisted of two parts - the Old City and the New City 3.P.28-29 . This division was maintained in the first years of Soviet power. After the establishment of the power of the Soviets, the new municipal authorities began to carry out administrative and territorial changes in the city, the initial stage of which falls on the 1920s. In 1929, a decree of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee on the organization of city councils was issued, according to which the territory of Tashkent was divided into four districts, as indicated in the document of the Executive Committee, "firstly, for the Council and, in general, the city government to establish constant control over

the life of the city and its related territories, and secondly, to create conditions for attracting people to the cause of Soviet construction" 9.P.3-20; 4.P.9 .

At first, these four city districts were simply called by numbers - "I, II, III, IV districts"; in November 1929, the decision of the Executive Committee gave them the following names: "Leninsky, Oktyabrsky, Proletarsky, Stalin's". In the 1930s, the territory of Tashkent expanded with the annexation of former collective farm lands around the city, and two more urban districts were added - Kirovsky and Frunzensky. During these years, the Proletarsky District was renamed Kuibyshevsky. So, in the names of six urban areas, five were the names of famous political figures of the Soviet state, and one (October) was named after the historical event of that period - the victory of the October revolution of 1917, which resulted in the establishment of Soviet power.

During World War II, over 1 million people were evacuated to Uzbekistan from the territories of Ukraine, Belarus, Russia and other regions of the USSR. After the war, most of this population returned to their former places of residence, but there were also those who remained to live in the republic. Due to the mechanical growth of the population during this period, the number of residents increased, which was one of the reasons for the formation here of two more new urban areas - Moscow and Central.

However, in 1956, Moscow and Stalin, in 1959, the Central districts were abolished, and the city now consisted of five districts.

In the same period, an intensive expansion of the residential area of Chilanzar in the south-west of the capital began, where neighborhoods were erected, along with local residents, representatives of various nationalities and ethnic groups, most of whom remained in the city after evacuation, were settled. As a result, in 1962 a new administrative unit in the city was formed - Chilanzar district. It is assumed that the toponym "chilanzar" refers to the group of natural names, i.e. it means "a place with many gardens." However, the full etymology of this place name has not yet been established.

It should be noted that not only political events, but also natural factors influenced the toponymy of Tashkent in the 20th century. In particular, a large earthquake of up to 8 points occurred on April 26, 1966 in Tashkent, the epicenter of which was in the Kashkar and Labzak mahalla, the maximum damage zone reached 10-12 sq. Km. As a result of this natural disaster, many buildings in the city center were destroyed: more than 2 million square meters. living space, 236 administrative buildings, about 700 trade and catering facilities, 26 utilities, about 180 educational institutions, schools for 8 thousand places, 26 cultural and educational institutions, 185 medical institutions, 245 buildings of

industrial facilities, were left without housing 78 families or 300 thousand people, there were victims 10.P.232.

To eliminate the consequences of the earthquake and in order to restore Tashkent, a large number of people were attracted from all regions of the republic, as well as from other territories of the Soviet state. The city was rebuilt in 3.5 years. According to statistics, housing was built on 3200 square meters, a lot of kindergartens, schools, institutes, buildings of state, commercial, public institutions, commercial enterprises. The reconstruction of Tashkent was carried out according to a specially developed plan. As a result, due to some expansion of the urban area, construction of new buildings, increase in population, especially due to labor migration from other territories of the country, it became necessary to increase administrative and territorial units. And in 1967-1977 4 more urban districts were formed in Tashkent: Sergeli, Khamza, Sabir Rakhimov, Akmal Ikramovsky. Sergeli district is located in the southwestern part of the capital, originated on the basis of Sergeli massif, and was mainly built up after the 1966 earthquake. This name of the area is considered ethnotoponym. In 1968, the Khamza district was established in the eastern part of Tashkent, where many industrial facilities and residential areas of the population were located.

The name of the region is an anthropotoponym, since it is

named after the famous Uzbek poet, playwright, composer, director, teacher, statesman Hamza Hakimzade Niyoz (1889-1929). In 1970, during the years of the restoration of the city after the earthquake, in the north-western part of Tashkent, another new district was formed as a result of joining to the city of some rural districts, as well as pieces of land from the October and Kirovsky districts. He was given the name of General Sabir Rakhimov (1902-1945), who died heroically in battles during World War II. The fourth district emerged in 1977, as a result of the alienation of certain territories from the Chilanzar and Oktyabrsky districts (since these regions became very densely populated). This area was named after the statesman of the republic during the years of Akmal Ikramov's Soviet rule (1898-1938). In the 1980s, the city already had ten districts. Their names can be classified according to the following toponymic groups: anthroponyms (7 names) - Akmal Ikramovskiy, Kirovskiy, Kuibyshevskiy, Leninskiy, Sabir Rakhimov, Frunzenskiy, Khamza districts; place name associated with the nature of the area (1 name) - Chilanzar region; ethnotoponym (1 name) - Sergeli district; a toponym that reflects a historical event (1 name) - Oktyabrskiy district.

It is known that in 1991 the Soviet Union collapsed due to the imminent political and economic crisis in the country. Independent

states were formed in the post-Soviet space. Among the first declared its sovereignty the Republic of Uzbekistan. In the years of independence, the city of Tashkent has retained its metropolitan position as the center of a sovereign state. The territory of the city and the urban agglomeration is expanding to this day. The role of Tashkent is growing as an important center not only in the country, but throughout Central Asia. Such an important political change is also reflected in the toponymic structure of Tashkent. A new district, Bektemirskiy, was formed, dozens of streets, hundreds of new buildings were built.

In the period under review, along with the new administrative-territorial units, many streets were formed in Tashkent, which was connected with political and socio-economic factors. The list of names of city streets was considerably enlarged by the names of new streets, as well as by renaming some of the old streets. So, in the 1930s of the twentieth century there were more than 500 large and medium length streets 7.P.1-2 .

Semantic analysis of the names of city streets of this period allows them to be classified into toponymic groups and identify the quantitative correlation, which is important in studying the dynamics of toponyms of the city, establishing the relationship between the toponymic structure of the region and its historical development.

**Table 1**  
**The classification of street names of Tashkent in the late 1930 s. 4.P.18**

<i>№</i>	<i>Toponymic groups</i>	<i>The number of place names in the group</i>	<i>Examples of street names and their meaning</i>
1.	Toponyms related to socio-economic life	132	Gulbazar street (means "flowers market"), Temiryolchilar street (named after the railway station)
2.	Mixed place names	123	3-rd Akkurgan street (the third street with the name Akkurgan is "white hill"), 2ng Saperny lane (named after the Saperny battalion, previously located here)
	Anthroponyms	110	Zengi-ata street (on behalf of the famous shrine in the Islamic world), Rosa Luxemburg street (on behalf of the famous Polish-German scientist philosopher and economist)
4.	Street names associated with nature and natural objects	71	Salar street (from the name of the river Salar, which flows through the area), Almazar street (meaning "apple orchard")
5.	Place names representing various place names	30	Khorezm street (from the name of the region in Uzbekistan, now it is the name of the region), Baltic street (from the name of the Baltic Sea in the north of Europe)
6.	Ethnoonyms	20	Kara-Kirghiz street (the name of the Turkic tribe), Turkmen street (from the name of the people in Central Asia)
7.	Street names associated with historical events	12	8 <sup>th</sup> March street (named after the holiday – International Women’s Day March 8), October street (named after the October revolution of 1917 by the Bolsheviks in Russia)

Further, due to the expansion of the city in the post-war years and during the restoration of the city after the earthquake of 1966, the territory of the city expanded, new quarters and streets were built; the status of the capital city, its position as a political and socio-economic, cultural, educational and spiritual center led to the concentration of many buildings of various institutions and enterprises, the construction of new neighborhoods and streets, each of which had its name, This position of Tashkent was directly reflected in its toponymy. Thus, in the 1980s, there were 1107 major city streets and streets of average size 11.P.119 .

It should be noted that in 50 years, that is, compared with the 1930s, not only the number of city streets has changed, but also their toponymic groups. In particular, in the 1980s, the number of large and medium-sized city streets increased by 2.1 times, the names of these streets included 1) the anthroponyms presented the most numerous group and their lot grew almost 5 times (the state policy was aimed at strengthening measures to perpetuating the memory of statesmen of the country, heroes of the Great Patriotic War, heroes of labor, honored workers of scientific and other spheres); 2) the number

of place names associated with geographic names has increased by 7 times (here there is an increase in interregional and external relations of the republic, and as a result, the geography of names has increased, that is, the addition of names associated with numerous regions of the Soviet Union, as well as with the names of cities in other countries of the socialist system); 3) street names reflecting the socio-political life of the city, more than 2 times (this indicates an increasing role of the political and ideological factor, as well as the development of branches of the national economy, expanding the network of educational and medical institutions in the capital); 4) toponyms pointing to natural objects, also increased by 2 times (due to the growing number of parks, residential areas, as well as the territorial expansion of the city due to the outskirts, which had agricultural objects with the corresponding names); 5) the number of streets named after historical events increased by 2.8 times (mainly due to events related to anniversaries of political

organizations, also historical events that took place in various regions of the Union and in a number of foreign countries that collaborated with him), 6) however, the number of ethnotoponyms remained almost unchanged (perhaps this can be explained by the fact that the Soviet government sought to consolidate the nationalities that lived on its territory without highlighting the national factor). It should be especially noted that two new semantic groups appeared in the toponymic composition of street names of this period - 7) names associated with cultural and spiritual factors in the life and activities of the population, 8) toponyms, which are oriental names of people. The appearance of these two toponymic groups testifies to the increased attention of society to the development of cultural life, to aesthetic growth, to an increase in the human need for spiritual perfection, his striving for freer thinking, capturing the beauty of the world and its essence, as well as its good intentions in the names places, objects that surround it in everyday life.

**Table 2**  
**Classification of street names of Tashkent in the early 1980 s.**  
**4.P.86**

<i>№</i>	<i>Toponymic groups</i>	<i>The number of place names in the group</i>	<i>Examples of street names and their meaning</i>
1.	Anthrotoponyms	524	Ashrafi street (on behalf of the famous Uzbek composer of the twentieth century Mukhtar Ashrafi), general Petrov street (named after the Soviet general, hero of World War II), Shastri street (named after the political leaders of India)

2.	Place names representing various place names	214	Altai street (in honor of the Altai Mountains in the south of Siberia), Odessa street (from the name of the city in the Crimea), Leninabad street (from the names of the city in Tajikistan)
3.	Toponyms related to socio-economic life	213	Airport Square (due to the location of the street near the airport), Petersburg State University street (due to the location along the street of Central Asian State University), Textile street (from the name of the Tashkent Textile Factory)
4.	Names associated with cultural and spiritual factors	141	Mehribon street (translated from Uzbek means "merciful"), "Izvestia" street (from russian "news" and this is the name of the newspaper "Izvestia", which was a periodical of the governments of the Soviet Union), Madaniyat street (translated from Uzbek means "culture")
5.	Street names associated with nature and natural objects	122	Archazhar street (in Uzbek means "spruce garden"), Ariqli street (named for the location of the street near the river), Sadovaya street (from russian "garden" and due to the location of a large garden on the street).
6.	Toponyms for Eastern names of people	40	Gayrat sreet (male name, means "energetic, decisive, hardworking, boy"), Gulsanam sreet (female name means "the most beautiful flower among the most beautiful, that is, girl of incomparable beauty"), Zumrad sreet (female name, its meaning is "a gem of green (emerald); priceless, like an emerald, or a girl with green (blue) eyes").
7.	Street names associated with historical events	30	Pobeda street (from russian "victory" and named after the victory of the Soviet Union in World War II (1939-1945)), 40 years of the Komsomol street (associated with the celebration of the 40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the political all union youth organization of the Young Communist League).
8.	Ethnotoponyms	21	Karamurt passage (associated with the name of the Turkic tribe of Kara Murut), Tatar street ("Tatars" – the name of the Turkic people).

In general, studies on the structure of the historical toponyms of Tashkent, in particular, the names of its districts and streets in the 1917-1980s, indicate the expansion of the urban area, the growth of its population, economic strengthening, the development of social, cultural, spiritual life population, which vividly reflected on its toponymy. As a result of the revolution, the Bolsheviks established Soviet power, which pursued here a centralized policy aimed at the approval of the ideology of the Soviet state. These

events were reflected in the names of urban areas, neighborhoods, streets, objects, in the names of which there are toponyms, both related to the local nature, history and traditions, and practically unrelated to the specifics of the region and not reflecting its historical development. The analysis of the semantic meaning and dynamics of the growth of urban toponyms allows us to trace the picture of the historical events that took place in this period in the capital itself and in the whole country.



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