

LINGUOCULTURAL FEATURES OF TOPONYMS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

O.To'raqulova

*Lecturer at the Senior Department
of the Faculty of Philology, DIEP*

G.Abduraxmonova

*Students of DIEP institute, Faculty
of Philology, Department of Foreign
Languages and Literature, 4th course*

Abstract

Place names are studied in this article as language units that keep history, culture, memory, and social experience. The main aim is to compare English and Uzbek toponyms and show how cultural meaning is carried in their form and use. Attention is given to lexical structure, etymological layers, semantic motivation, and cultural background. The study is based on books and articles on onomastics and toponymy, and on selected literary examples from Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and Abdulla Qodiriy's *Bygone Days*. Descriptive, comparative, etymological, and linguocultural methods are used. The analysis shows that English toponyms often preserve old settlement and administrative history, while Uzbek toponyms often reflect landscape, trade routes, local life, and layered contact with Persian, Arabic, and Turkic traditions. As a result, toponyms are shown as cultural signs rather than simple geographical labels. The article may be useful for comparative linguistics, translation studies, and linguocultural research.

Keywords: toponym, place name, linguacultural, English, Uzbek, etymology, comparative analysis.

Introduction

Place names are seen every day on maps, in books, in speech, and in official documents. Still, a place name is not only the name of a location. A place name is often connected with old life, local memory, natural conditions, and social change. For that reason, the study of toponyms has an important place in linguistics and cultural studies.

English and Uzbek toponyms are especially useful for comparison. A long and mixed history stands behind both naming systems. English place names keep traces of Celtic, Latin, Old English, Norse, and French layers. Uzbek place names also show a deep historical path and carry Turkic, Persian, Arabic, and local Central Asian features. Because of this, a name can tell much more than direction or position.

A comparison of English and Uzbek toponyms helps reveal how space is understood in two different language traditions. Some names describe land, water, or color. Some names keep memory of rulers, tribes, religion, trade, or settlement. Some names change form through translation, but cultural meaning still remains. English-Uzbek comparison is still not wide enough in recent student research, so the topic remains timely and useful.

The main purpose of the article is to identify linguacultural features of English and Uzbek toponyms and to explain how these features appear in structure, meaning, and textual use. The tasks are defined as follows: to review major studies on toponymy; to describe methods suitable for this topic; to compare selected English and Uzbek place names; and to analyze literary extracts where toponyms carry important cultural meaning.

Special attention is given to both language form and cultural sense. Short literary extracts are used because a place name shows its full value within context. Through such an approach, a clearer picture can be reached about the relation between language, history, and worldview.

Literature review

The study of place names has a long history. In modern onomastic research, place names are treated as a major part of name studies. Carole Hough, in *The Oxford Handbook of Names and Naming*, presents onomastics as a broad field and shows that place-name research now includes theory, methodology, history, society, and literary use. Such a view is helpful because the present topic also needs more than one angle.

A recent and useful general source is *Place Names: Approaches and Perspectives in Toponymy and Toponomastics* by Francesco Perono Cacciafoco and Francesco Cavallaro. The book explains that place-name research can be historical, synchronic, social, and cartographic. This framework is valuable because English and Uzbek toponyms cannot be understood by one method only. Historical development, language contact, and cultural use must all be considered together.

Victor Watts, in *The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names*, worked with historical spellings and etymological evidence. That dictionary is very important for English material because many English place names have old forms that are no longer clear in modern spelling. Botolv Helleland also made an important contribution by showing that place names work as links to the past and as signs of emotional and social belonging. These ideas are useful for the present article because many Uzbek and English toponyms carry not only factual meaning, but also memory, pride, fear, or local attachment.

Another important line of research is the classification of naming motives. Jan Tent and David Blair proposed a typology of place naming based on naming motivation. Later, David Blair revised this model and explained naming intention in a

clearer way. These studies are helpful because they show how names may come from landscape, events, persons, directions, emotions, religion, or social use.

In Uzbek and comparative scholarship, several recent works give direct help to this topic. Safura Xudoyorova studied English and Uzbek toponymic phraseological units through descriptive and comparative methods and showed that place names in phraseological expressions carry national and historical meanings. Feruza Khayitova examined English and Uzbek literary texts and discussed the translation of toponyms into Uzbek, especially transcription and translation problems. Lobarkhon Artikova also focused on place names in English-Uzbek translations and showed that accurate transfer depends on cultural, historical, and geographical background.

In Uzbek scholarship, S. Qoraev's *Toponimika* remains a basic source for the study of geographical names. Overall, earlier research has already shown that place names preserve history, show language contact, and carry cultural meaning. At the same time, a clear and simple comparison of English and Uzbek material, supported by short literary extracts, is still needed. That gap gives direction to the present article.

Methodology

The research is qualitative in character. A mixed but clear method is used so that language form and cultural meaning can be studied together.

First, the descriptive method is used. Selected English and Uzbek place names are described according to form, visible elements, and basic meaning. Second, the comparative method is used. English and Uzbek names are placed side by side in order to observe common and different patterns. English names with elements such as -chester, -by, and minster are compared with Uzbek models such as -kent, tepa, and color-based place names.

Third, etymological analysis is used. This method helps trace older language layers and show why a modern name still carries older meanings. Fourth, linguocultural interpretation is applied. In this stage, attention is given to what a place name suggests about local worldview, memory, trade, religion, settlement, and social relations.

Finally, contextual textual analysis is used for literary extracts. Short extracts from Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and Abdulla Qodiriy's *Bygone Days* are examined. In these extracts, place names are observed inside narrative context. This helps reveal emotional tone, historical background, and cultural association.

The material is taken from published books, journal articles, and selected literary passages. The analysis is organized from general theory to specific examples. Such a sequence makes the results easier to see and explain.

Analysis and discussion

English and Uzbek toponyms show both common and different features. In both languages, place names may describe land, people, power, settlement, and memory.

Yet the dominant cultural emphasis is not always the same. English material often preserves older administrative and settlement terms, while Uzbek material very often keeps links with land use, trade routes, color symbolism, and local social memory.

English names often contain clear historical elements. Winchester carries the old element -Chester, connected with a Roman camp or fortified settlement. Westminster contains minster, a word tied to a church foundation. Derby shows the Norse element -by, meaning village or settlement. Such names reveal how English space was shaped by conquest, administration, and settlement history.

Uzbek place names often show other cultural priorities. Tashkent is commonly explained as “stone village,” which joins physical description and settlement meaning. Uzbek place names also often include elements such as -kent, tepa, and color words like oq-. These forms can point to elevation, settlement, landscape, or symbolic value. In many cases, the name also reflects long contact between Turkic, Persian, and Arabic traditions.

The main theme of the article becomes even clearer in a literary context. On a map, a place name shows its location. In a literary text, the same place name can show fear, prestige, memory, trade, distance, or power. For that reason, short extracts are used below. Each extract is followed by a simple analysis and short discussion.

Extract 1. Arthur Conan Doyle, The Hound of the Baskervilles

“Dartmoor, then, can be represented as an unsafe abode.”

Simple analysis. The name Dartmoor is used here with a strong feeling of danger. The place name not only marks a region. A dark image is created around the moor. Wild land, fear, distance, and legend are brought into the text through one name.

Discussion. This use is important because English toponyms in fiction often carry landscape memory. The natural feature becomes part of the story's mood. A reader receives not only geography, but also local atmosphere and cultural imagination. Thus, the toponym works as both setting and meaning.

Extract 2. Arthur Conan Doyle, The Hound of the Baskervilles

“Welcome, Sir Henry, to Baskerville Hall!”

Simple analysis. Baskerville Hall joins family name and place name in one unit. The toponym points to land, house, status, and inheritance at the same time. Social rank and family history are felt immediately.

Discussion. This example shows another common English pattern. A place name may preserve the bond between territory and lineage. In such cases, a toponym reflects not only physical place but also power structure. The cultural meaning is connected with class history, family tradition, and the idea of ownership.

Extract 3. Abdulla Qodiriy, Bygone Days

“merchants from Tashkent, Samarkand and Bukhara.”

Simple analysis. Three city names are placed together in a very compact way. A trade world is opened through these names. Urban life, movement, markets, and regional links are suggested without long explanation.

Discussion. In Uzbek literary context, famous city names often function as signs of civilizational space. Tashkent, Samarkand, and Bukhara are not random locations. Each name carries social prestige, historical depth, and cultural memory. The extract also shows how toponyms can build a wider map of everyday life in Central Asia.

Extract 4. Abdulla Qodiriy, Bygone Days

“not to come to Tashkent.”

Simple analysis. Tashkent in this line is more than a city label. Tension is attached to the name. Distance, warning, and possible danger are felt through the short expression.

Discussion. A place name in Uzbek prose can therefore work as a social signal. Political conditions, public unrest, family fear, or moral judgment may be hidden behind the name. The toponym enters the emotional structure of the story and gains symbolic force.

The extracts show one central point very clearly. In both traditions, the toponym becomes stronger inside context. A place name is not limited to map function. A place name may carry mood, trade, fear, family history, or social warning. This shift from geographical meaning to cultural meaning is one of the main linguocultural features of toponyms.

The topic also has direct value for translation. A translator who sees only the surface form may lose the deeper signal. Baskerville Hall is not only a building name, and Tashkent in Qodiriy is not only a point on the map. Cultural weight travels with the name. Because of this, place names should be read carefully in linguistic, literary, and translation analysis.

Conclusion

The study has shown that English and Uzbek toponyms contain rich linguacultural meaning. A place name was found to preserve history, identity, and local worldview in a very compact linguistic form. English material often keeps traces of settlement history, administrative structure, and old language layers. Uzbek material often reflects landscape, trade, urban culture, and long contact between several language traditions.

The literary extracts also made one point especially clear: inside a text, a toponym becomes more than geography. Mood, fear, prestige, memory, and social meaning can all be carried by a place name. This result confirms that toponyms should be studied in living context, not only in lists or maps.

The novelty of the article lies in a simple but connected comparison of English and Uzbek material through both scholarly discussion and literary evidence. A combined use of descriptive, comparative, etymological, and linguacultural methods

made it possible to see both structure and cultural depth. Such findings may be useful for further work in comparative linguistics, translation studies, literary analysis, and cultural language research.

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