

# Comparative Study of Toponyms In English and Uzbek Languages

Usmonova Shakhnoza Yokubjon kizi

Senior Lecturer, Fergana State University, Uzbekistan

DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.47134/academia.v2i1.14>

\*Correspondence: Usmonova Shakhnoza

Yokubjon kizi

Email: [sh.usmonova@gmail.com](mailto:sh.usmonova@gmail.com)

Received: 21-01-2025

Accepted: 21-02-2025

Published: 21-03-2025



**Copyright:** © 2025 by the authors. Submitted for open access publication under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

**Abstract:** The article substantiates the idea that the nature of place names is influenced by the structure of the language, its imagery, grammatical structure, interaction with other languages, as well as the natural environment in which native speakers live. The style of thinking, perception of the world through images and representations are reflected in the names of the geographical environment, their preservation and use in everyday life, as well as in artistic practice. The use of place names, their transfer from one language to another, and the nature of the distortions that occur depend on the group and language family to which they belong. This article examines the relationship of toponymy with linguistics, history, and geography. The study is devoted to the analysis of the role of toponyms not only in the designation of geographical objects, but also in the transmission of cultural, historical and linguistic heritage of peoples.

**Keywords:** Toponymy, Geographical Objects, Linguistics, History, Culture, Translation Problems, English Toponyms, Uzbek Toponyms, Comparative Analysis, Origin, Structure, Historical Formation.

## Introduction

Toponymy is the science that studies the names of geographical features, and it is of particular importance because it is located at the intersection of fields such as linguistics, history, and geography. Toponyms preserve not only the geographical characteristics of a particular territory, but also important information related to the history, culture, and language of the people. In the context of globalization, the correct spelling and pronunciation of place names is important for international contacts.

It is known that every language, regardless of the number of its speakers, reflects the meanings of the surrounding world, including those related to spatial parameters. The richness of nature and the environment in general influences human thinking and understanding of their existence, including by naming the most distinctive events and phenomena with non-repeating names (Jeong-Eun, 2024). The interest in toponymic research is legitimate, as they reflect the history of the people, their language, and the natural environment in which they live. For linguistics, such studies are important for studying sociolinguistic processes taking place in society, as well as changes in language

systems associated with the enrichment, or vice versa, the depletion of vocabulary. It is known that knowledge of toponyms, their preservation and strengthening on the geographical map contributes to the formation of a special mentality closely related to the native language, the area of its application, the concepts that are reflected in it, as well as those that are located in its immediate social and natural environment (Zemni, 2024).

Therefore, the comparative study of English and Uzbek toponymy is relevant. These toponymic systems were formed in different historical and cultural conditions. Their comparison makes it possible to identify similarities and differences, solve translation problems, and expand the possibilities of using toponymic data in the field of tourism and education (Mohsen, 2024). The purpose of this article is to conduct a comparative analysis of the structure, semantic types, historical and cultural aspects and problems of translation of toponyms in English and Uzbek.

## Methodology

A comparative study of English and Uzbek toponymics helps to identify their similarities and differences in the system of geographical names. Generalized conclusions about the origin, structure, and historical development of toponyms in both languages are also drawn based on scientific sources.

This study is devoted to the comparative analysis of toponyms in English and Uzbek and is based on the study of scientific literature on this topic. In the course of the research, the existing sources on English and Uzbek toponymy are analyzed, as well as their phonetic, morphological and semantic features are studied (Doecke, 2024).

We should immediately emphasize that toponymic issues are especially actively explored in languages with a large number of native speakers and constantly expanding active systems. That is why we have turned to languages with different systems, i.e. languages that belong to the agglutinative and inflectional systems of vocabulary - these are Uzbek and English. The long-term practice of toponymic research has pursued several goals: as a means of determining the location, as a historical reference to ethnic and demographic processes that once took place in a given territory, as a means of distinguishing speech, strengthening the meaningful and intonational components in oral, written, artistic and other types of speech (Fu, 2024).

In the field of English toponymy, the main source for studying the etymology of place names is the work of Eilert Ekwall "The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names". Margaret Gelling's book "Signposts to the Past: Place-Names and the History of England" is devoted to the study of the history of England through place-names, and A.D. Mills' work "A Dictionary of English Place-Names" covers the semantic and etymological aspects of English geographical names. Among regional studies, an important source is the work of Albert Hugh Smith "The Place-Names of the West Riding of Yorkshire", which examines in detail the toponyms of the western part of Yorkshire (Pouplier, 2024).

As for Uzbek toponymy, the general idea is given by the work of E.M. Murzaev "Очерки топонимики". Sultonmurod Karaev's work "O'zbekiston Toponimikasi" analyzes the origin and meaning of Uzbek toponyms. Bakhtiyor Khodiev's book "Toponimika

Asoslari" outlines the theoretical foundations of toponymy using the example of Uzbek toponyms. Urinboy Bozorov's research "Buxoro Toponimlari" is devoted to the etymology and history of the toponyms of the Bukhara region.

In addition, the National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan provides toponymic data on geographical objects. Since independent research on the comparative analysis of English and Uzbek toponymics is still insufficient, this work synthesizes the available literary sources in order to identify similarities and differences in the toponymic systems of both languages.

## Result and Discussion

The main quality and purpose of toponymy in any language is to determine the nature of space, its features in order to separate it into a separate representation and for memorization, for the purpose of subsequent communication (Cusidó, 2024).

The formation of toponyms in English and Uzbek was influenced by various historical and cultural factors. The influence of Arabic, Sogdian, Persian and Turkic languages is noticeable in Uzbek toponymy, while English toponyms originated from ancient Germanic, Latin and Greek languages. English place names were formed under the influence of various historical stages and cultural influences.

Their etymological origin includes the following sources:

- Old English (Old English): For example, the name York comes from the Old English word Eboracum.
- Norman Conquest: The name London is derived from the Latin Londinium, which indicates the influence of the Normans.
- Latin and Greek: For example, Oxford ("the place where the bulls graze") comes from the Latin Oxenaforda.

English place names often consist of two or more words, such as New York or Los Angeles. Phonetically, they are usually short and clearly pronounced, and often include primary and secondary components.

Turkic elements are widespread in Uzbek toponymy. For example:

- Toshkent – means "city of stones".
- Andijon and Namangan have Turkic roots.
- Bukhara – comes from the Persian language and means "city of commerce".
- Samarkand is of Persian origin, referred to in historical sources as the "valley of Samarkand".

Uzbek place names often reflect historical and cultural events, as well as natural and geographical features. They also contain elements borrowed from Arabic and Persian. For example, words such as rim (habitable place) and bulok (source) are widely used in the names of Uzbek settlements.

Historical events and cultural influences play an important role in the formation of place names. Place names in Uzbekistan often reflect the influence of Turkic, Persian, Arabic

and other cultures. For example, the name of the city of Bukhara comes from the Persian word *bukhar*, which means "trade". The influence of Romans, Normans and other peoples is noticeable in English place names.

English toponymy is dominated by complex words and clear pronunciation, whereas Uzbek toponymy is characterized by a developed affixation system and rich phonetics. While English toponyms mainly reflect the history of Europe, Uzbek toponyms are related to the history of Central Asia.

## Conclusion

So, the study of toponyms makes it possible to expand the meaning of a geographical name in terms of its historical, social, cultural and economic value. The existence of a large number of toponyms requires their classification, which allows them to be distributed according to their structure and content. But we see that different authors take as a basis different principles of division of toponyms, which leads to the presence of different kinds of classifications (Khouidri, 2024). As can be seen from the above classifications, almost all of them are based on extralinguistic principles: the motivation of names in connection with historical, social, cultural and other factors. The linguistic component present in the classification plays an auxiliary role as an indicator of certain relations: possessive, patronymic, generic.

Comparative analysis shows that toponyms are not only names of geographical objects, but also important elements reflecting the cultural heritage of the people. Further research in this area should be aimed at studying the semantic evolution of toponyms, their socio-political significance, as well as changes in the context of globalization.

## References

- Cusidó, J. (2024). Assessing the Capability of Advanced AI Models in Cardiovascular Symptom Recognition: A Comparative Study. *Applied Sciences (Switzerland)*, 14(18). <https://doi.org/10.3390/app14188440>
- Doecke, B. (2024). The Value Of Comparative Research In An Era Of Standards-Based Reforms: Sustaining a critically reflexive professional praxis. An Australian case study. *L1 Educational Studies in Language and Literature*, 24(2), 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.21248/l1esll.2024.24.2.613>
- Fellows-Jensen, G. (1972). Scandinavian Settlement Names in Yorkshire.
- Fu, L. (2024). What are the differences? A comparative study of generative artificial intelligence translation and human translation of scientific texts. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 11(1). <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-024-03726-7>
- G'aniyeva D., Mamataliyeva N. X. Semantical and morphological analysis of toponyms in english and uzbek languages //Modern Science and Research. – 2025. – T. 4. – №. 2. – C. 1507-1513.
- Jeong-Eun, K. (2024). Identifying underachieving students in English using TOEIC Bridge: A comparative study with the College Scholastic Ability Test English Section. *English Teaching (South Korea)*, 79(2), 191–209. <https://doi.org/10.15858/engtea.79.2.202406.191>

- Khoudri, I. (2024). The use of ai in learning English: a comparative study between Moroccan and Indonesian undergraduate students from the English department. *Edelweiss Applied Science and Technology*, 8(4), 1271–1282. <https://doi.org/10.55214/25768484.v8i4.1504>
- Mohsen, M. A. (2024). Artificial Intelligence in Academic Translation: A Comparative Study of Large Language Models and Google Translate. *Psycholinguistics*, 35(2), 134–156. <https://doi.org/10.31470/2309-1797-2024-35-2-134-156>
- Makhaev M. R. et al. Regional specificity of toponym semantics: psycholinguistic study //European Proceedings of Social and Behavioural Sciences. – 2019.
- Mirakmalov M. T. et al. Physical and geographical features of the toponyms of Uzbekistan //IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science. – IOP Publishing, 2023. – T. 1284. – №. 1. – C. 012004.
- Murzayev, E.M. (1984). Ocherki toponimiki. Mysl'.
- Poupplier, M. (2024). Language-specific and individual variation in anticipatory nasal coarticulation: A comparative study of American English, French, and German. *Journal of Phonetics*, 107. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wocn.2024.101365>
- Qizi A. D. A. English and Uzbek toponymic phraseological unit: linguocultural //Eurasian Journal of Academic Research. – 2024. – T. 4. – №. 5-3. – C. 194-197.
- Qorayev, S. (1978). O'zbekiston toponimikasi. O'qituvchi.
- Room, A. (2003). Place-name changes since 1900: A world gazetteer. McFarland.
- Rusu M. S. Street naming practices: A systematic review of urban toponymic scholarship //Onoma Journal of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences. – 2021. – T. 56. – C. 269-292.
- Xodiyev, B. (1987). Toponimika asoslari. O'qituvchi.
- Xudoyorova S. English and uzbek toponymic phraseological units: Linguocultural and historical aspects //International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Culture. – 2021. – T. 7. – №. 4. – C. 201-208.
- Zemni, B. (2024). A Comparative Study of the Lexical Ambiguity of Arabic, English, and French in Natural Language Processing. *Journal of Intercultural Communication*, 24(1), 203–212. <https://doi.org/10.36923/jicc.v24i1.171>
- САФАРМУРОДОВА М. Т. Историко-сравнительное изучение топонимов в узбекский и английский языки //Актуальные научные исследования в современном мире Учредители: Общественная организация" Институт социальной трансформации". – С. 366-369.