



SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION OF PLACE NAMES IN TURAKURGON DISTRICT: ANALYSIS OF GEOGRAPHICAL, CULTURAL, AND SOCIAL FACTORS

Tojiboyeva Khurshida Sodikjonovna

Master's student, 2nd year

Field of study: Linguistics (Uzbek Language)

Turon University, Andijan Branch

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19481356>

ARTICLE INFO

Received: 03rd April 2026

Accepted: 05th April 2026

Online: 09th April 2026

KEYWORDS

*toponym, semantics, etymology,
To'raqo'rg'on, microtoponymy,
geographical names, cultural
factors, social factors*

ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the semantic characteristics of toponyms in To'raqo'rg'on district of Namangan region based on geographical, cultural, and social factors. It explores the origins of place names, their historical formation, and regional linguistic features.

Introduction

Toponymy is an important linguistic and geographical field that studies the historical, cultural, and spatial development of any region. Place names not only serve as geographical identifiers but also reflect the historical memory, ethnic composition, and social life of a community.

To'raqo'rg'on district, located in the Namangan region, is one of the significant administrative territories where toponyms reflect different historical layers of development. The formation of place names in this area is closely connected with natural-geographical conditions, irrigation systems, ancient agricultural traditions, and social migration processes.

For example, toponyms such as "Oqtosh," "Yangiobod," and "Qo'rg'ontepa" reflect both natural landscape features and historical settlement patterns. Therefore, the semantic classification of toponyms plays an important role in understanding the historical-geographical evolution of the region [1].

Systematic analysis shows that most toponyms in To'raqo'rg'on district can be grouped into three main categories: geographical, cultural, and social. This classification reflects the multi-layered historical development of the region.

Literature Review

Toponymic studies have been widely explored by various scholars in terms of semantic structure and etymological development.

E.M. Murzaev, in his work "Turkic Geographical Nomenclature", emphasizes that most toponyms in Central Asia are formed under the influence of natural-geographical factors. According to him, water resources, relief, and climate conditions play a primary role in the formation of place names [2].

V.A. Nikonov, in his “Concise Toponymic Dictionary”, approaches toponyms as a linguistic system and connects their etymological layers with historical processes. He also notes that toponyms can be classified based on cultural and social factors [3].

In Uzbek toponymic studies, A. Muhammadjonov highlights the strong influence of ethnic composition and historical migration on the formation of place names in Uzbekistan. In his work “Toponymy of Uzbekistan”, he provides semantic analysis based on regional examples [4].

Similarly, S. Ibragimov’s research on the Fergana Valley shows that many toponyms are closely related to ancient irrigation systems and agricultural culture [5].

These scientific approaches indicate the necessity of studying To’raqo’rg’on toponyms through geographical, cultural, and social perspectives.

Methodology

This research is based on linguistic analysis, historical-comparative methods, and statistical grouping techniques. Field observations were conducted to collect major place names in To’raqo’rg’on district and to study their etymological origins. Archival materials and maps were also analyzed to determine historical layers of toponyms. The collected data were classified into geographical, cultural, and social categories using a systematic and integrated approach.

Analysis and Results

The analysis of toponyms in To’raqo’rg’on district reveals that they can be classified into three main semantic groups:

1. Geographical toponyms

This group includes names associated with natural landscape, soil, water resources, and relief features. Examples such as “Oqtosh,” “Qoratepa,” and “Suvliqo’rg’on” reflect the natural environment of the region.

2. Cultural-historical toponyms

This group includes names related to historical monuments, ancient traditions, and ethnic-cultural heritage. Names such as “Qo’rg’ontepa,” “Eskiqishloq,” and “Xo’jaobod” reflect historical settlement systems and religious-cultural values.

3. Socio-economic toponyms

These toponyms are mainly related to human activity, economic systems, and migration processes. Names such as “Yangiobod,” “Ittifoq,” and “Mustaqillik” were formed under modern social and political influences.

The table below presents the semantic classification of To’raqo’rg’on toponyms:

Nº	Toponym	Semantic Group	Explanation
1	Oqtosh	Geographical	Rocky natural area
2	Qoratepa	Geographical	Relief feature
3	Qo’rg’ontepa	Cultural	Ancient fortress site
4	Eskiqishloq	Cultural	Historical settlement
5	Yangiobod	Social	Newly established area
6	Ittifoq	Social	Soviet-era naming
7	Xo’jaobod	Cultural	Named after a religious

			figure
8	Suvliqo'rg'on	Geographical	Water-rich area

The analysis shows that geographical toponyms dominate, which reflects the strong influence of natural conditions. Cultural toponyms represent historical layers and connections with ancient civilizations, while socio-economic toponyms mainly emerged during the 20th–21st centuries.

Furthermore, semantic layers of toponyms are often interconnected, meaning that a single toponym may reflect multiple influencing factors. This confirms the complex and multi-layered nature of the To'raqo'rg'on toponymic system.

Conclusion

Toponyms of To'raqo'rg'on district have deep historical and cultural semantic layers. Their formation is closely connected with natural-geographical conditions, historical development, and social processes. The study shows that place names are not only geographical markers but also important linguistic units reflecting historical memory and cultural identity. Studying toponyms provides deeper insight into the historical development of the region.

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