

# Definition to Ethnotoponyms and research the ethnic history of the Uzbek people

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## Abstract

The article discusses Geographical names for different locations. In the study of ethnic history and peoples' settlement, ethnotoponyms are crucial because they reveal the ethnic makeup of the populace.

*Keywords: toponyms, geographical names, tribes, clans, tribal composition, ethnotoponyms, genealogy, ethnic history.*

## Аннотация

В статье рассматриваются географические названия различных местностей. При изучении этнической истории и расселения народов этнотопонимы имеют решающее значение, поскольку они раскрывают этнический состав населения.

*Ключевые слова: топонимы, географические названия, племена, кланы, племенной состав, этнотопонимы, генеалогия, этническая история.*

## Annotatsiya

Maqolada turli joylarning geografik nomlari ko'rib chiqiladi. Etnik tarixni va xalqlarning joylashishini o'rganishda etnotoponimlar juda muhimdir, chunki ular aholining etnik tarkibini ochib beradi.

*Kalit so'zlar: toponimlar, joy nomlari, qabilalar, klanlar, qabila tarkibi, etnotoponimlar, genealogiya, etnik tarix.*

## Introduction

Geographical names belonging to a certain group of people's ethnic, cultural, or linguistic traits are known as *ethnotoponyms*. Toponyms like this are useful for researching history and ethnography since they frequently provide information on the origins, migrations, languages, and cultures of various peoples. Gaining a deeper understanding of ethnotoponyms not only helps one learn more about the geographic distribution of ethnic groups, but also about historical processes like statehood creation, cultural contacts, and population relocation.

### The meaning of the “ethnotoponym

Geographical names known as ethnotoponyms are names that express the ethnic or cultural traits of the local population. They might contain the names of towns, areas, rivers, mountains, and other natural features that are somehow connected to particular ethnic groups.

As a result, historians and ethnologists have a significant role to play in thoroughly reviewing and examining a variety of topics pertaining to the ethnic history of the Uzbek people, the history of settlement in certain areas, and the quirks of their daily and cultural life.

It is still unclear how many geographical names there are in Uzbekistan overall. The amount of microtoponyms has not yet been disclosed; however some reports claim that over 25,000 macrotoponyms have been found. Consequently, geographers, cartographers, historians, ethnologists, archaeologists, and linguists study this field of study.

Up until 1918, the land that is now Uzbekistan was divided into social, territorial, and professional divisions, as well as peoples, tribes, and clans.

### Types of ethnotoponyms:

✓ Ethnic names *for places*. Towns or villages have sometimes been given their names because a particular ethnic community founded or lived there. For instance, "Armenia" is derived from the Armenian ethnonym, and "Georgia" identifies the nation as belonging to the Georgian culture and language.

- ✓ Geographical items connected to a particular *ethnic group*. The names of natural features like lakes, rivers, and mountains can also contain ethnotoponyms. For instance, the mountain range known as the "Altai" has come to represent and serve as a geographical meeting point for numerous Central Asian ethnic groups.
- ✓ *Historical and cultural toponyms*. The historical events of migrations, wars, and conquests are linked to some ethnotoponyms. Names like "India," which is derived from ethnonyms used by ancient peoples, or "Mongolia," where the toponym denotes the Mongol people, are two examples.
- ✓ Toponyms associated with *linguistic traits*. Geographical names can occasionally be linked to a language group that has historically called a place home. For instance, "Tatarskaya Street" and "Yakutsk" are just two examples of spots in Siberia with names derived from different Turkic or Finno-Ugric ethnic groups.

## The function of ethnotoponyms in historical and cultural research

Ethnotoponyms are crucial to the reconstruction of history because they serve to pinpoint the historical residences of particular ethnic groups. One way to learn more about the migration of Turkic and Mongolian peoples is to look at the names of the rivers and mountains in Central Asia.

Ethnotoponyms can also function as markers of social and cultural shifts throughout the region's history. The name of a location may change depending on the new owners, invaders, or cultural trends when the ethnic makeup of the region or area changes over time.

Socio-ethnic conditions became the basis for such a mixed placement and led to the emergence of many ethnonyms. This situation was especially observed in XIX – early XX century. For example, in some places of the Zarafshan oasis, in particular in the Bulungur district, the share of ethno- and genealogical (genealogical) understandings has reached 80%. Territories where nationalities, tribes and clans are located in a mixed manner are called the names of tribes and clans densely located in these places. Therefore, if we know the tribal genealogy of the Uzbek people well, according to With these ethnotoponyms, we will be able to determine the tribal composition of local Uzbeks and restore the areas of their placement (settlement). By grouping toponymic material, you can get information about the migration of tribes and peoples, as well as other historical and ethnographic information. By grouping toponymic material, you can get information about the migration of tribes and peoples, as well as other historical and ethnographic information<sup>1</sup>.

There are many ethnotoponyms in the toponymy of Uzbekistan, formed from ethnonyms – the names of tribes, clans of Uzbeks, of which there are 92 according to genealogy. In particular, the names of the most numerous Kipchak tribe and their clans formed the basis of many ethnotoponyms in different regions (Kipchokmahalla, Kipchokovul, Puchukoi, Bachkir, Tumor, Elton, etc.)<sup>2</sup> Some ethnotoponyms are found in a number of regions (for example, the village of Karochi is in Shakhrikhansky, 11 Bakhmali, Zaamin districts; the village Parchayuz is in Bekabad, Gulistan, Zaamin districts; Uaz - in Zaamin, Bekabad, Boevut districts, etc.).

Some of the ethnotoponyms are named after the clans of other peoples. For example, the place of compact accommodation of the Kyrgyz was called Kirgizkishlok, Kirgizov street, Kigizmakhalla et al., as well as on the basis of the names of the Kyrgyz genera Bagish, Munduz, Hidircha, Teyit, Korateit, etc. The place where the Tajiks lived was called Tojikkishlok, Tojikravot, Tojikovul, etc. There are also ethnotoponyms formed from the names of other peoples: Arabovul, Arabon; Kozokovul, Uyguobod, Kashkarkishlok, Tatartupi, Nogaikurgon, Lulichek, etc.<sup>3</sup>

## Problems with identification and ethnotoponyms

<sup>1</sup>Podolskaya Y.G. (1964), Kakuyu informatsiyu nesoyt toponym, Prinsipy toponimiki, p. 99

<sup>2</sup> Okhunov N. (2005), Uzbekiston toponimikasi, p.28

<sup>3</sup> Okhunov N. (2005), Uzbekiston toponimikasi, p.32

In order to preserve cultural and ethnic identity, ethnotoponyms are frequently employed. In nations with a multitude of ethnic groups, for instance, place names might act as a reminder of a specific ethnic group's historical virtues, cultural customs, or land rights.

Ethnotoponyms can occasionally lead to political disagreements. In states where multiple ethnic groups reside, toponymic changes could be interpreted as an effort to eradicate one of these groups' cultural heritage and historical memory. Under such circumstances, the maintenance or alteration of ethnotoponyms may play a significant role in cultural and political discussions.

### Examples of ethnotoponyms in various nations

- *Russia*: Numerous ethnotoponyms that reflect the ethnicity of the local population may be found in Russia, such as "Chuvashia," "Bashkortostan," and "Tatarstan." We can get a sense of the diversity of the peoples that call Russia home from such names.
- *Central Asia*: In Central Asian nations like Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan, ethnotoponyms are frequently connected to historical locations, nomadic tribes, and ancient peoples. For instance, the terms "Kyrgyzstan" and "Turkmenistan" designate the Kyrgyz people and the Turkmen, respectively.
- *Europe*: The ethnic origin of European countries is indicated by ethnotoponyms like "England" (the country of the Angles), "Scotland" (the land of the Schotts), and "Germany" (the territory of the Germans).

### In conclusion

Geographical and cultural identity, which shows the bond between individuals and their areas of residence, is significantly influenced by ethnotoponyms. They are essential to the study of migration and ethnic shifts, as well as the historical and cultural evolution of certain areas and populations. Ethnotoponym research reveals many intriguing facets of the human past, present, and is an essential component of the study of history, culture, and geography.

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