

## SIMILARITIES OF TOPONYMS WITH THE DENDRONYM COMPONENT IN ENGLISH AND TATAR AND THEIR SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION

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**Abstract:** The purpose of the article is to reveal some basic similarities of toponyms containing the dendronym component in the English, Russian and Tatar languages. All toponyms have a complicated nature, thus causing some difficulties in their systematization. Some attempts will be made to offer the semantic classification of geographical names, the definition on this basis of general principles for the formation of names of geographical objects and the identification of the main-lexico-semantic groups among them. The material of this paper can be recommended for use in modern practice of higher institutions, as well as in the system of language training.

**Key words:** linguistics, foreign languages, onomastics, semantics, toponymy, classification, principle.

### 1 Introduction

#### 1.1 The Importance of The Problem

Language is the most important and perfect means of human communication, a means of exchange of thoughts. Language can perform these diverse and complex functions because it is a very flexible and at the same time perfectly organized system. On the globe there is a huge number of languages, each of which possesses certain features common to other languages, as well as features that we find only in a separate language. General, structural features are found in a variety of languages that have no genetic relationship, such as in English and Tatar [Bol'shaja sovetskaja jenciklopedija [The Soviet encyclopedia]. 1988; Hisamova V.N. 2015]. Typological studies significantly extend the boundaries of linguistic research, moving them beyond genetically related languages, a circle of different and sometimes rare languages, enriching with this the material of little-known languages, which is attractive to research, and thus allows solve broad general language problems [Suleibanova M. U. 2009].

According to the figurative expression of E.M. Vereshchagin and V.G. Kostomarov, language is "a true mirror of national culture" [Smolickaja G. P. 2002; Vereshchagin E. M. Jazyk i kultura. 1990]. It reflects the way of life, mentality, worldview, national character, system of values, types of social behavior, traditions and customs, habits, beliefs of native speakers. A detailed comparison of the linguistic phenomena of the different-structural languages occupies one of the priority places in linguoculturology [Shajhullin T. A. 2011, 233].

The relevance of this study is closely intertwined with the general tendency of linguistics in determining the human factor in the language, since the most valuable results are found when comparing languages, both genetically related and unrelated.

The purpose of this article is the semantic classification of geographical names, the definition on this basis of general principles for the formation of names of geographical objects and the identification of the main lexico-semantic groups among them. Classification of geographical names is one of the important methods in their study, because the semantic analysis of toponyms "1) gives the basis for a correct interpretation of the etymologies of names, 2) makes it possible to study ancient or archaic words that are rarely or completely not used at present, preserved only in toponymic vocabulary, helps to restore the meaning of such words, 3) explains the regularities of the appearance of geographical names, 4) determines the nature and degree of the development of culture, life activity of tatar people

in the period of occurrence of these names, "[ Garipova F.G. 1998, 22-23].

#### 1.2 Status Of The Problem

Wonderful words "Toponymy is the language of the Earth" belong to N.N. Nadezhdin.

In the Dictionary of literary Slovene [Bajec A . 1994, 1409] the term toponym is defined as "the proper name of a place or another part of the Earth's surface..."

The term geographical name is indicated as its synonym. Kladnik defines geographical name as a "type of proper name that is traditional by definition and unambiguously defines and individualizes a person, feature or concept (personal, objective and geographical proper name or toponym in a wider sense [[Kladnik D. 1999, 62].

Geographical names are necessary for society, because with their help a person can orient in the surrounding world. It is impossible to imagine the modern world without geographical names, otherwise all spheres of service will cease to exist. Also toponyms are valuable in that they carry different and valuable linguistic, ethnographic, historico-geographical and other information. It is also necessary to point out the fact that, in addition to the physical and geographical features of the object, the geographical names contain information about the people's traditions and outlook.

With a toponymy it is possible to analyze the relations among people, history, geography and culture. People with different professional backgrounds can find a lot of useful information in study of geographical names. Linguists may specialize in the historical and genealogical aspects of languages. Scholars and historians could use toponym research to trace ancient movement of people.

Basically place names contain a treasure of ancient language signs, which are known to store information on the history of settlement, the economic activities of the original settlers and political developments.

A knowledge of place-names (towns, mountains, rivers, lakes, springs and other geographical sites), can be of great help to history because place-names seldom change. Even their phonetic evolution hardly ever leads to radical modifications and seldom affects the old pronunciation and spelling. It is for this reason that the study of place-names can reveal facts relating to the past and so yield information concerning the history, religion and civilization of the first occupants of the places concerned.

Interest in the comprehension of geographical names arose at the earliest stages of civilization. Dendronyms, that is, names of trees, also reflect the oldest layer of vocabulary, and, being in the composition of geographical names, are of great interest for study. By means of dendronyms, the language reflects the understanding of nature, the attitude of people towards the flora and fauna of their predecessors. With the help of this lexicon, the following generations receive valuable information about natural objects, trees, before they meet them in reality.

One of the most important problems of onomastics is the study of the mechanism of nomination and correlation in the names of its basic concepts for onomasiology as "concept", "reality", "name".

[Akhmetzhanov I.G., Garaeva A.K. 2016] Geographical names are diverse in their semantics. A.Superanskaya notes the fact that "the semantics of a toponym is a complex of information about a named object, the attitude of a speaker to an object, familiarity with the semantics of the appellative toponym and its association in speech. To understand the meaning of the geographical name,

it is necessary to know the typical situations in which it is used "[ Superanskaja A.V. 2009, 322].

A.R. Khismatova in her dissertation on the topic "Dendronyms in Bashkir and German" indicates the presence of toponyms with a component of dendronym in Bashkir and German languages. For example: toponyms formed from dendronyms: Imenlek "Dubniak, Dubrava" (Gafur.rn), Baytali "rich willow" (Kushnar district), Yukaelekel "lime-tree + lake" (Dyurt.rn); Eichstätt (Eiche "oak"), Birnbach "pear + creek" (Rheinland -Pfalz), Eichtal "oak + valley" (Ostholstein), in the Bashkir language: Seyetau "cherry-mountain" (Baltach.rn), Seyletuguy "Cherry meadow, floodplain" (Orenburg.), Birnfeld "pear + field" (Bayern).

Akhmetzyanov I.G., Garaeva A.K. 2016 When studying toponyms, it is important to remember the process of transonymization - the transition of names from one category to another. A.R. Khismatova writes that "our task was to trace the name of the tree / shrub to the toponyms. The study of the above examples shows the multistage nature of this process. For example: dendronym> hydronym / oronym> oikonym - Birkenbach "birch + creek" (Nordrhein-Westfalen); dendromym> oikonym> hydronym-Jukaleiort (Cig., rn); dendromonym> oikonym> urbanon - st. Sosnovskaya (Ufa) "[ Hismatova A.R. 2005, Pospelov E.M. 2008].

## 2 Methods

Preparing this article for comprehensive analysis a set of basic methodological principles and ideas has been used. In the course of study of the problem contrastive-comparative, descriptive, historical methods for the investigation of geographical names were used.

Toponyms containing dendronym component in all three languages (Russian, English and Tatar) were collected (more than 120) for the needs of this research.

Methodological foundation of this work is based on the theoretical theses highlighted in the works of linguists in the sphere of onomastics.

As the methodological basis for writing this paper were the works of such prominent scientists as E.M. Murzaev, F.G. Garipova, E.M. Pospelov, A.V. Superanskaya, A.D. Mills and others. These scientists analyzed geographical names from various angles, focusing on different historical, cultural, etymological, semantic and sociolinguistic aspects. The lexico-semantic classification of toponyms with the dendronym component in our opinion can be carried out taking into account the generalizations and conclusions of the above studies.

## 3 Results And Discussions

The collected data was classified in different categories.

Material, drawn from toponymic dictionaries, we divided into three large groups:

1. Toponyms, in which there is a term denoting a piece of land on which trees grow.
2. Toponyms with the dendronym component, denoting coniferous tree species.
3. Toponyms with the dendronym component, which denote deciduous tree species.

### 3.1 Russian, Tatar And English Toponyms, In Which There Is a Term Denoting a Piece Of Land On Which Trees Grow

Toponyms play an important role in the life of a person, performing a definite function. Let us turn to the toponym with the term "forest." The forest plays a certain role in human life, in other words, some call the forest "human lungs", because the forest enriches the environment with oxygen.

On the Internet edition <http://rustrana.rf/article.php?nid=3072>, the definition of a forest is given as follows: "The forest is a natural complex of woody, shrubby, herbaceous and other plants, as well as animals and microorganisms are biologically interrelated in their development and influencing each other and the external environment. The forest forms a more or less closed forest stand. Forest has a great influence on soil formation, hydrologic cycle processes, climate, etc. The forest is one of the planetary accumulators of living matter in the biosphere. The forest actively interacts with the troposphere and determines the level of oxygen and carbon metabolism."

Having studied and analyzed a sufficient number of Russian, Tatar, and English toponyms with the dendronym component (more than 120), it can be stated with some certainty that trees have played an important role in determining the residence of people from ancient times. One can notice that among the geographical names with the dendronym component there are more often toponyms with such terms as "les – (forest)", "roshcha – (grove)" and "bor – (forest of coniferous trees)" in Russian, "urman – (forest)" in Tatar and "wood - (grove)", "forest - (forest)", «hurst - (wooded hill)» in English.

With the term "les" / "urman" / "forest", to which the definition is given above, both in Russian, in Tatar and in English, the following toponyms occur:

A) in the Russian toponymy:

Vizheles is a village in the Ryazan region,

*Dereva* - a village in the Leningrad region (dereva - an ancient word, known in Novgorod as forests),

*Pereslavl-Zalessky* - a city in the Yaroslavl region,

*Vereya* is a city in the Moscow Region (from the Russian dialectal dereva - a forest site),

*Lesnoi* - a city in the Sverdlovsk region,

*Lesosibirsk* is a city on the Krasnodar territory

Also, we can note the toponym Krasnyi Oselok (Oselok is a glade in the forest, burned to arable land).

B) in the Tatar toponymy:

*Urman kule* (Lesnoye) - the village of B. Klyari in the Kamsk-Ustinsky region,

*Urman* - a village in the Zelenodolsky district,

*Urmanay* - a village in the Aznakaevsky district,

*Urmandy* - a village in the Aksubaevsky district,

*Urmanchy* - a village in the Mamadysh district,

C) in the English toponymy:

*Waltham* – Kent,

*Forest and Frith* – hunting grounds Durham,

*Forest Hill with Shotover* – Oxfordshire Forest,

*Frithville* – a forest riverbank, a quay near the forest in Lincolnshire,

*Firbank* is a city in Westmorland.

The term "grove", "roshcha" is also widely represented in the toponymy of the languages in question. The large encyclopaedic dictionary

[<http://slovo.ru/index.php?a=&ID=55574&pg=85&s=%D0&w=%D0%CE%D9%C0>] suggests the following definition of this term - "GROVE, a small, often isolated from the main forest

area, usually consisting of single-aged trees of deciduous species (birch, oak, etc.)."

In English, the word "wood" is close in meaning to the word "grove" of the Russian language. These terms are found in such names as:

A) in the Russian toponymy:

*Beryozova Roshcha* is a plantation near Derbyshki village, Kazan.

*Roshchino* - an urban village in the Leningrad region.

B) in the English toponymy:

*Woodthorpe* is a town in Derbyshire,

*Hazelwood* is a town in Derbyshire,

*Hurst* is a small town in Dorset [Akhmetzyanov I.G., Garaeva A.K. 2016].

The term "bor" in Russian means "Coniferous, usually pine forest, growing on a dry, elevated place" (Modern Dictionary of the Russian Language by T.F. Efremova).

In the Russian toponymic dictionary of E.M. Pospelov (2008) there are many geographical names, which include the term "bor" [Pospelov E.M. 2008]. Unfortunately, in the toponymy of the English language on the material of this study, we did not find names with the above term. Perhaps more detailed and thorough research will allow us to identify the geographical names denoting "coniferous forest".

Despite this fact, we would like to give examples of Russian toponymy with this term, namely:

*Bor* is a city in the Nizhny Novgorod region,

*Borovsk* is a city in the Kaluga region,

*Krasny Bor* - an urban village in the Leningrad region,

*Sosnovoborsk* is a city in the Krasnoyarsk Territory,

*Sosnovy Bor* is a city in the Leningrad Region,

*Borovoye Matyushino* - a cottage community near the city of Kazan.

*Zelyony Bor* - a small settlement near the city of Kazan.

The above examples are an indisputable proof that the terms denoting land plots on which trees grow have played an important role in human life [[Reaney P.H. 1960].

### 3.2 Russian, Tatar And English Toponyms With a Component Dendronym, Denoting Coniferous Trees

Coniferous forest is one of the most interesting phenomenon on our land, and many scientists are still studying the heritage of these forests. Coniferous forests grow in areas with cold climate, and no wonder that in Russian and Tatar languages there are geographical names, in which you can see the names of coniferous trees, such as "sosna / narat - (pine tree)", "el / chyrshy - (fir tree)" and "listvennitsa - (larch)". For example:

A) in the Russian toponymy:

"Sosna"

*Sosnovka* - an urban village in the Kukmor district of Tatarstan,

*Sosno-Ozerskoe* is a village, a district center in Buryatia,

*Sosnovy Bor* is a city in the Leningrad Region,

*Sosnogorsk* is a city in the Republic of Komi.

Also with the name of this tree there are such names as *Sosnovoborsk*, *Sosnovskoe* and others.

"El"

*Elniki* is a village in Mordovia,

*Yelnya* is a city in the Smolensk region,

"Listvennitsa "

*Listennitsa* - a working village in the Irkutsk region, next to which larch grows.

B) in the Tatar toponymy:

"Narat"

*Narat Asty* is a village in the Sarmanovsky and Muslyumovsky Districts,

*Narat Astinsky Bor* is a natural reserve on the territory of the Muslyumovsky District,

*Narat-Elga* is a village in the Chistopol district,

*Naratly*, a village in the Almetyevsky and Bugulma districts,

*Naratlyk* is a village in Arsk and Vysokogorsky district,

*Naratli Kichu* - a village in the Menzelinsky district,

«Chirshy»

*Chirsi* is a village in the Elabuga and Vysokogorsky districts.

In Russian and Tatar toponymy, the dendronym with "sosna" component, "el", "listvennitsa", although not very often, but occurs in the language, which cannot be said about the English toponymy – there were no names in the dictionaries in which the above-mentioned component could be present.

The occurrence of such toponyms in the Russian and Tatar languages speaks about the climatic features of the territory, the prevalence of taiga, coniferous forests.

### 3.3 Russian, Tatar And English Toponyms With a Dendronym Component, Which Denotes Deciduous Tree Species

A large Soviet encyclopedia says that "Deciduous forests consist of trees and shrubs with large or small leaves; are distributed in temperate, subtropical and tropical zones. To the deciduous forests one can refer to evergreen forests of tropical and subtropical belts - in these forests, the leaves change gradually, imperceptible to the eye, and deciduous forests, in which the leaves fall in different seasons: in temperate latitudes - in the autumn, in the cold season (summer-green forests), in the tropics and subtropics - in the summer, with the onset of drought (winter-green forests)." We refer the names of such trees as "birch", "beech", "elm tree", "willow", "maple", "alder", "linden tree", "poplar", "ash" [Bol'shaja sovetskaja jenciklopedija [The Soviet encyclopedia]. 1988] to the deciduous tree species.

In Russian, Tatar and English toponymy there is a sufficient number of toponyms, in which you can find the names of deciduous trees. For example:

"Beroyza" / "kaen" / "birchtree"

A) in the Russian toponymy:

*Berezaika* is a working village in the Tver region,

*Berezniki* is a city in the Perm region,

*Berezovo* is a workers' village in the Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug,

*Bereznyak* is a village in the Kukmor district of Tatarstan.

B) in the Tatar toponymy:

*Kayn Saz* - a village in the Muslyumovsky district,

*Kaenly*-village in the Nizhnekamsk district,

*Kaenlyk* is a village in the Kukmorsky district,

*Kayensar* is a village in the Kukmorsky, Baltasinsky and Atinsky districts.

C) in the English toponymy:

*Barclay* - a city in Scotland, the form of "Berkeley" - in Scottish means "birch tree"

*Birchanger* is a town in Essex,

*Birches* is a city in Cheshire,

*Birkdale* is a locality in Lancashire.

Buk / beech tree

A) in the Russian and Tatar languages there are no examples.

B) in the English toponymy:

*Beech hill* is a town in Berkshire,

*Beech* is a city in Staffordshire.

"Vyaz" / "elm tree"

A) in the Russian toponymy:

*Vyazniki* is a town in the Vladimir region (the name is from the old-Russian vyaznik- the elm forest).

B) there are no examples in the Tatar toponymy

C) in the English toponymy:

*Elm* is a city in Cambridgeshire,

*Elmton* is a town in Derbyshire,

*Elmsted* is a settlement in Kent,

*Elmore* is a city in Gloucestershire.

"Iva" / "tal" / "willow tree"

A) in the Russian toponymy:

*Ivnya* is a working village in the Belgorod region (after the name of the river Ivnia - from Iva).

B) in the Tatar toponymy:

*Talli Bulyak* is a village in Aznakaevsky and Bugulma district,

*Talli Kul* - a village in the Bavlinsky district,

C) in the English toponymy:

*Willington* is a city in Cheshire,

*Willey* is a town in Stropshire,

*Willenhall* is a city in Staffordshire,

*Willtoft* is a town in Yorkshire.

Maple tree "klyon"/"maple tree"

A) in the Russian Tatar toponymy there are no examples.

B) in the English toponymy:

*Mapleton* is a city in Derbyshire,

*Mapperley* is a city in Derbyshire,

*Mappleborough* is a city in Warwickshire,

*Mapleton* is a town in Yorkshire.

"Olcha" / "alder"

A) in the Russian toponymy:

*Olkhovka* is a Russian village in Mordovia,

*Olshanik* is a settlement in the Leningrad Region,

[1] *Olkhovatka* is an urban settlement in the Voronezh Region [Akhmetzyanov I.G., Garaeva A.K. 2016].

B) there are no examples in the Tatar toponymy

C) in the English toponymy:

*Alderley* is a city in Gloucestershire,

*Aldershot* is a city in Hampshire,

*Alderwasley* is a settlement in Derbyshire.

"Lipa" / "yuka" / "lime tree, linden"

A) in the Russian toponymy:

*Lipetsk* - a city in the Lipetsk region (next to the river Lipovka),

*Lipnya* - a village in the Nizhny Novgorod region,

*Lipovoye* - a village in the Mamadysh district of Tatarstan,

*Lypky* is a city in the Tula region.

B) in the Tatar toponymy:

*Yukale* is a village in Almetyevsky district,

*Yukachy* is a village in the Mamadysh district.

C) in the English toponymy:

*Lindhurst* is a city in Nottinghamshire,

*Limehouse* - the settlement in Greater London,

*Linby* is a city in Nottinghamshire,

*Lindale* is a city in Cumbria.

"Osina" / "Aspen tree"

A) in the Russian toponymy:

*Osinniki* - a city in the Kemerovo region,

*Osinovo* - settlement in Yudino near Kazan,

[2] *Podisinovets* - a working village in the Kirov region [Akhmetzyanov I.G., Garaeva A.K. 2016].

B) there are no examples in the Tatar toponymy

C) in the English toponymy:

*Aspley Heath* is a town in Bedfordshire,

*Aspenden* is a city in Hertfordshire,

*Aspull* is a city in Lancashire.

"Yasen" / "Ash tree"

A) in Russian and Tatar toponymy there are no examples.

B) in the English toponymy:

Ashover is a city in Derbyshire,

Ashton is a city in Cheshire,

Ashfield is a city in Suffolk,

Ashcott is a settlement in Somerset.

"topol"/"poplar"

A) in the Russian and Tatar languages there are no examples [1].

B) in the English toponymy:

Poplar is a settlement in Greater London.

#### 4 Summary

Toponyms are an important part of geographical and cultural environment. They identify some geographical entities of different kinds and represent historical, linguistic and cultural values of people. Place names are therefore of major social importance. A place name usually exists in relation to a geographical object. This important function of place-names means that they are essential linguistic tools for society and people. True understanding and classification (based on a definite component) of place names as a historical and valuable linguistic source has long been central for many scholars.

#### 5 Conclusions

We have analyzed more than 120 toponyms with the dendronym component in Russian, English and Tatar languages. According to the results of our research there are some parallel toponyms in all three languages. To a larger extent they are closely connected with climate, landscapes inhabited by people. All the above examples show how much Russians, Tatars and English are actively using the names of different trees and lands in the name of their settlements. It is also important to note that some dendronyms occur in the toponyms of the languages under investigation, while others, namely "maple", "beech" are found only in the English language. The majority of toponyms are regarded as a result of human activity and they represent the existing world round us.

The materials of this article can be recommended for use in modern practice of higher institutions as well as in the system of language training. Results of this research paper can be used by linguists in conducting studies on comparative typology, the history of the language and for further investigation of geographical names in contrastive-comparative terms.

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**Primary Paper Section: A**

**Secondary Paper Section: AI**