

## Sociolinguistic Analysis of Changes in the Oeconyms of Andijan Region

*Gulnora Akhatovna Rasulova*<sup>1</sup>

**Abstract:** The article covers the lexical-semantic, structural, and derivational characteristics of changes in social toponyms, specifically the names of settlements such as villages and neighborhoods in the Andijan region, which are named based on the motivation of the area's relief structure.

**Keywords:** oeconym, social oeconym, lexical basis, oeconymic indicator, motive, motivation, geographic term.

Oeconyms are considered signs from a semiotic perspective but differ from other signs. Oeconyms serve the function of indicating, distinguishing, and identifying settlements. In addition to indicating, naming, and expressing, oeconyms also fulfill social-political, aesthetic, and ethnic functions<sup>2</sup>. They not only name a particular settlement and distinguish it from other places, but also express the type of administrative-territorial unit (neighborhood, village, small town, city) and the ethnic and social characteristics specific to the population.

The Andijan region was established on March 6, 1941, and reorganized on December 18, 1967. The area covers 7.44 thousand square kilometers, with a population of 3,066.7 thousand people, of which 434 thousand reside in urban areas and 2,632.7 thousand live in rural areas.<sup>2</sup>

The region is located in the eastern part of the republic, in the eastern part of the Fergana Valley.

**The region comprises 14 rural districts:** Andijan, Marhamat, Buloqboshi, Izboskan, Oltinkol, Pakhtaobod, Kurgontepa, Ulugnor, Buston, Baliqchi, Jalakuduk, Khojaobod, Asaka, and Shahrixon; 11 cities: Andijan, Asaka, Poytug, Khonobod, Chinobod, Marhamat, Turtkul, Baliqchi, Kurgontepa, Khojaobod, and Pakhtaobod; 79 towns: Kuyganyor, Polvontosh, Turtkul, Buston, Khojaobod, and Jalakuduk; and hundreds of villages<sup>3</sup>. According to the lexicon compiled for the "Encyclopedia of Andijan Region," in the early years of independence, there were 77 neighborhoods in Andijan district, 77 in Asaka district, 66 in Baliqchi district, 37 in Buloqboshi district, 67 in Pakhtaobod district, 74 in Kurgontepa district, 24 in Ulugnor district, 39 in Khojaobod district, 30 in Baliqchi district, 48 in Marhamat district, and 56 in Oltinkol district, totaling 894 neighborhoods<sup>4</sup>.

This indicates the richness of the oeconymy of Andijon region. In our independent research, we collected names of 894 villages, 909 neighborhoods (94 urban and 800 rural neighborhoods), and 11 cities belonging to the oeconymy of Andijon region. E. Begmatov, discussing the functions of language, writes, "While not denying the primary communicative function of language, it should be emphasized that it has other social, cultural, spiritual, educational, didactic, ethical, aesthetic, regional-territorial, psychological, artistic, scientific, and emotional-aesthetic social-linguistic facets<sup>5</sup>." This, of course, also applies to oeconyms.

<sup>1</sup> Senior Lecturer, Department of Uzbek Language and Literature Andijan State University

<sup>2</sup> Andijon Region. – Andijon, 2024. – Andijon Region Administration Portal.

<sup>3</sup> See: Republic of Uzbekistan (Encyclopedic Reference). – Tashkent: National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan, 2002. – p. 104.

<sup>4</sup> Official Portal of the Andijon Region Administration. – Andijon Region Administration <https://andijan.uz>.

<sup>5</sup> Бегматов Э. Антропонимлар – антропоцентриқ тадқиқ объекти // Ўзбек тили ва адабиёти, 2013. – №3. – Б.36.



After gaining independence, the sovereign state of Uzbekistan began to place great emphasis on restoring the spiritual values of the Uzbek people, helping the people understand their identity, and truly appreciating the blessings of independence. Place names, especially historical toponyms, are considered an invaluable treasure of the national language and cultural heritage. Moreover, in the early years of Uzbekistan's independence, names reminiscent of the ideology of the old regime were prominently displayed everywhere. Therefore, it was extremely necessary to eliminate names given to places during the Soviet era that were alien to the spirit of the Uzbek people's spirituality and mother tongue, and to replace them with new names. The initiator and leader of this highly necessary, grand political and linguistic endeavor was our First President, I.A. Karimov. In his speeches at the sessions of the Oliy Majlis and in various parts of the republic, he often spoke about the need to eliminate artificial toponyms left over from the old regime that were contrary to our national values. As a result, the government of Uzbekistan and local authorities began the work of changing and renewing place names to align with the demands of the independence era. This work was set on the right path both scientifically, organizationally, and practically.

The establishment of the Republican Toponymy Commission under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its serious engagement with the issues of naming toponymic objects in the country has been of great importance. Toponymy commissions were also established in the districts and major cities of the regions. The process of naming natural-geographical objects in the republic, changing their names, and assigning new names began to be implemented step by step. The adoption and implementation of these measures were significantly influenced by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Regulation of the Names of Administrative-Territorial Units, Settlements, Organizations, and Other Toponymic Objects in the Republic of Uzbekistan" adopted on May 31, 1996, and the Recommendations according to Resolution No. 203 (July 31, 1996), as well as the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Procedure for Solving Issues of Administrative-Territorial Structure, Naming Toponymic Objects, and Changing Their Names in the Republic of Uzbekistan" dated August 30, 1996. In this regard, a number of exemplary actions have been carried out by the toponymic commissions in the Andijon region and its district administrations. These actions are clearly seen in the following:

1. The regional and district toponymic commissions have been and continue to work regularly.
2. The practice of restoring historically significant names, eliminating remnants of names associated with the old regime, and writing place names in the state language of Uzbek, using the current Uzbek alphabet based on the Latin script, has been implemented.
3. Certain standards were developed for naming places after individuals.
4. There was a restriction on naming places after individuals. In this regard, toponyms previously hastily assigned and consisting of personal names were replaced with names reflecting the natural-geographical features of the place and aligned with the ideology of independence. Several areas' previous historical names were restored. During the years of national independence, hundreds of villages, neighborhoods, and communities in our republic's regions, cities, and districts, previously named after the ideology of the old regime and promoting colonial ideas without any national significance or characteristics, were changed based on citizens' suggestions and local conditions. According to the decision No. 53 of the regional governor dated March 22, 2012, more than 150 objects were renamed. For instance,

**For Asaka district:** Parkovaya Street was renamed to Chontak, Lenin Street to Al Bukhori, Sobir Rahimov Street to Namuna, and Uzbekistan Street to Iqbol.

**For Andijon city:** Mahjuri Street was renamed to Salohiyat, Kujelo Street to Shohjahon, and Mira Street to Tinchlik (its historical name).

**For Baliqchi district:** Yangi Street was renamed to Namangan, Yangi Street to Sadriddin Ayni, Yangi Street to Mahtumquli, and many other streets named Yangi Street were renamed after notable scholars and poets such as Nodira, Uygun, Sharof Rashidov, Mirzo Ulugbek, Uygun, and Zavqiy.



**For Buloqboshi district:** Akhunbabaev MFI was renamed to Yorqin Hayot, and XBK-17 Street to Tuqimachi.

**For Andijon district:** Kirov Street was renamed to Razzoq Bakhshi, and U. Ismoilov Street to Tolkucha.

5. Several historical and ancient names were restored. For example, Beshpahlavon (formerly Beshkal village), Uzbekistan (formerly K. Yashin Street), Mustaqillik (formerly Lenin Street), Milliy Tiklanish (formerly M. Lomonosov Street in Andijon city), Toshkent (formerly Semashko Street in Andijon city), I. Karimov (formerly Altinkulskaya Street in Andijon city), Ahmad Donish (formerly Yangi Dehqon Street in Andijon city), Salohiyat (formerly Gagarin Street in Andijon city), Sultonsaid (formerly S. Rahimov Street), Eshontopi (formerly 50 Years of Uzbekistan Street), Yangi Andijon (formerly U. Yusupov MFI in Qo'rg'ontepa district), and Cho'lpon (formerly Oktyabr MFI in Andijon city).
6. Issues of repetition in the system of place names were reviewed and resolved.

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