Word-formation in Kazakh toponyms

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Abstract. Modern Kazakh values: nation, language, culture can be analyzed through its word-stock of geographical terms - toponyms. In general, toponyms of any country can reveal linguistic and cultural peculiarities national language: history of the nation, its famous people, development, famous events, national characteristics and etc. In our research we analyzed the word-formation analysis and ontological features of Kazakh toponyms, peculiar characteristics of well-known place names in the country and classified them according to their structure and gave detailed word-formation analysis of toponyms. While analyzing structural forms of toponyms, we pay attention to anthropological principles of regional names of geographical places: cities, towns, villages, streets, sea, rivers, deserts, forests, ethno-cultural and historical places of Kazakhstan.

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Introduction

Toponym is one of the types of lexicon which is mostly defined as: 1. A place name; 2) name derived from place name. In science toponyms are one of the types of proper names. They are known in English as "proper names". Geographical or place names are the nouns we use to refer to specific characteristics of places and geographic features. They are also called toponyms in sciences. Toponyms can be both place names, real or imaginary, as well as names derived from places or regions. They can be found in many different arenas of education, industry, enterprise, culture, and current events. It is not unusual to find toponyms used for places that withdraw other places, as well as wars, treaties and agreements, bands, food, and fabric, among other items. According to dictionaries toponym is given the following definition: " A place name or a word coined in association with the name of a place. Adjectives: toponymic and toponymous. The study of such place names is known as toponymics or toponymy - a branch of onomastics". Types of toponym include agronym (the name of a field or pasture), dromonym (the name of a transportation route), drymonym (the name of a forest or grove), econym (the name of a village or town), limnonym (the name of a lake or pond), and necronym (the name of a cemetery or burial ground) [1]. Ilvin Margin quoted in his research of place names: "Well-known and not so well-known place names in ... where you live - places you've never heard of – places you may have heard but wondered how they were given that name" [2].

Toponyms of any region are developed on the basis of one or several languages and undergo historical and linguistic changes. For correct determination of linguistic stratigraphy in a diachronic analysis of the regional toponymy it is necessary to ground the research, first of all, on the history and then on the etymology of the toponym. Substratum toponyms include in most cases names of unclear semantics and unproved etymology.

The Kazakh language belongs to the central Kipchak group of Turkic languages, that is why speaking about Kazakh toponyms it is justified to refer to them as *Turkic toponyms* or *Turkic names*. It is true to say that, if we do not take into account phonetic distinctions, a certain part of the vocabulary of the Turkic languages including the geographical names show certain similarities. Comparing Turkic languages is of great significance for revealing the semantics of substratum toponyms. For example, O.T. Molchanova, who studied toponymy of Gorno-Altai region of Russia bordering on the South Altai, mentioned that toponyms of that region cannot always reveal their meaning with the help of the Altai language, some of them can be studied with the help of ancient Turkic language, the other is connected with Kirgiz, Kazakh, Khakass, Shor, Tuvinian languages [2, 5p.]. A. Abdrakhmanov ascribes one of such disputable groups of toponyms to the Altai period, but warns about the conditionality of such classification [3]. This group of geographical names of East Kazakhstan includes Altai, Arkat, Burkat, Bakanas, Yertis, Zerendi, Katonkaragai, Kokidaba, Kalba, Karagem, Taraty. While analyzing toponyms, we should take into consideration that toponyms are closely connected with historical facts and geographic variety of the country. In Kazakhstan the formation of toponyms began with the formation of Kazakh people, but there were tribes and ancestors of Kazakh people before that time. They were Turkic people (tribes), whose language was closely related to Kazakh language in XIV-XV centuries. Therefore, when we talk about etymology of toponyms, we can say that the formation and development of toponyms in Turkic languages in general. When we go into the meaning and structure of toponyms, we have to analyze linguistic features of Turkic language, too. On the other hand, the role of Slovanic toponyms also plays very important role in the formation Kazakh toponyms. Being one of former republics of the Soviet Union, thousands of Russian toponyms were borrowed from Russian language after the October revolution for about 70 years. This period was the most productive in the formation of toponyms in whole history of the country, because the country was under the rules of USSR. The third period that changed the formation of toponyms was the latest 20 years independence of the country. There were coined national toponyms, most of Russian toponyms were replaced to national place names. So, we can divide the history of the formation of toponyms mainly into three periods and three big groups:

- 1) Toponyms before the formation of Soviet Union (Turkic toponyms);
- 2) Toponyms appeared during the Soviet Union, mostly borrowed from Russian language;
- 3) Toponyms formed after taking independence of Kazakhstan.

As to morphology, lexicon reflected in the Kazakh toponymy falls into nouns, adjectives, numerals, numerative words, verbs in the personal or participle forms, and postpositions. The Turkic affixes -cıq, -lı : -sız, -laq \sim -lav, -lıq, -nıñki and the Rumeic suffix -ɛıç can be characterized as toponymforming suffixes. The nouns are divided into appellatives and toponyms:

- anthroponyms (names of ancestors, first settlers, landowners, and historic persons): *Shyngistau, Korkitata, Turkistan* and etc.
- hagionyms (names of the saints to which churches and chapels were dedicated) -in Kazakh

mosques of great people, like: Aristanbab, Raimbekata, Domalakana.

- genonyms (names of kings or famous people) *Alban, Turiksyb*.
- ethnonyms (names of tribes and nations), and transferred geographic names: *Kazakhstan, Alban*

The appellative lexicon can be roughly divided into the following basic lexical and semantic groups:

- (1) geographic nomens, subdivided into orographic, hydrographic, and landscape terms: *Terekty, Altay, Karatau, Kazigurt, Saribulak*;
- (2) metals, minerals, and rocks: *Temirtay*, *Zhezkazgan*, *Bahti*;
- (3) flora: Karakamis, Egindikol, Ushkonir, Almaly;
- (4) fauna: Zhalpaksay, Taldykorgan, Kokshetau:
- (5) types of settlements and fortresses: Taldykuduk, Usharal,
- (6) various utility buildings and apartment houses: *Akkistau, Kuramis*.
- (7) pasturable and arable lands: *Karagayli, Zhalpaksay,*
 - (8) feuds: Kirgauldi, Shingistau;
 - (9) kinship terms: *Alban*
 - (10) titles: Ablaikhan;
 - (11) trades: *Zhibekzholy*.
- (12) household equipment: Shamalgan, Shelek, Akkudik.
 - (13) musical instruments: *Kobizdi*.
 - (14) folk and religious holidays: *Bazartobe*,
- (15) religion and mythology: *Akmola, Zhuldiz,*
- (16) cult places and buildings: *Medeo*, *Kultobe*, *Abai*, *Koktobe*.

Adjectives in toponyms inform about various attributes of geographical objects: colour, size, height, depth, form, presence or absence of certain quality, location, orientation, relative time of origin, etc. Derivational and inflexional affixes frequently met in toponyms have been revealed. In the vocabulary articles etymologic references and antonyms, synonyms, and accordingly Greek or Turkic analogues to the lexeme are given.

Toponym is, first of all, a kind of noun. Like all other nouns, toponyms are names of a person, place, or thing, and/or may label a concrete object or an abstraction. Most proper nouns refer to a specific person - *Makhambet*, a specific place - *Astana*, a specific institution or organization - *Abai university*, or a specific event - *Akmola*. In Kazakh there are a few typical characteristics which permit toponyms to be recognized. Structurally, toponym is typically characterized by the following characteristics:

- 1. ...has its initial letter capitalized: *Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Turkey*;
- 2. ...is not used in the plural: *The Caspian sea, the Balkash river*;
- 3. ...is not preceded by adjectives, numerals, demonstratives, or other modifiers.

In addition to that, the well-known names are derived from toponyms:

- -Famous people: Auezov, *Kabanbay, Zhumeken*;
- Event and agreements. For example, *Zhambul, Tole bi*;
- Derivations from literary or mythical places: *Bayanaul, Zhumbaktas*;
- -River, Lake: Balkash, Caspian, Syrdaria and etc.

Personal names are also called *eponyms*. An eponym is a word derived from the names of real, fictional, mythical or spurious character or person. Our research is devoted to the description of the group of the Kazakh toponymic words based on the word-formation analysis. Orthographical forms of Kazakh language are formed according to the rules of word-formation types, structurally they are mostly: simple and compound.

The attempt to determine the ancient border of the peoples' settlement and the language areas has become habitual in science. However, from the diachronical point of view it is impossible to divide toponyms that evolved and exist now into groups by epoch of appearance. In this respect onomastics is close to folklore: there is no data on who and when created proverbs and sayings, epic literary works, and it is even more difficult to find out who and when created toponyms. Even the Chinese chronicles, which registered everything without exception, failed to explain the meaning of many historical onomasticons, to say nothing of the nomads who had no written language. Both the Kazakh and the Russians fail to explain the etymology of Moscow though they have well-established science and history. Nevertheless, toponymy of each country has its own achievements in determining the periods of language layers development. The accent is made not on determining the age of each geographical name, but on the study of toponyms "which provide information on the history of a certain place, its language and nature" [4, 162p.].

The derivational structure of the toponymic formations regards the derivational system of the local toponomastics. As object of structural analysis appear synchronically and diachronically, both *simple* and *compound* toponyms. Among the simple ones, primary names are identified as those formed through nomination of appellatives and geographical terms, as a results of metonymical and metaphorical

processes, while the compound ones contain formants, mostly suffixes. In the Kazakh toponomastics, the suffixes are the most productive means of forming several categories of toponyms, they are national elements in Kazakh language: -ty/-ti, -dy/di, -ly/li, -shy/-shi; e.g.Zhyngyl+dy, Karagan+dy, Karagai+ly, Makan+shy.

From their structural characteristics, we can classify toponyms into: simple and compound. Simple toponyms are formed like simple words having only one stem and/or derivational morpheme, e.g.: Torgai, Atyrau, Aktau, Shalkar, Kaskelen and etc. Simple toponyms are mostly proper nouns. The common meaning of the word or words constituting a proper noun may be unrelated to the object to which the proper noun refers. Some places might be named by famous people e.g.: "Zhambul". (Zhambul is name of the one of fourteen regions in Kazakhstan. Zhambul is an outstanding poet who was a distinguished leader of his time and who was born in the district Zhambul.) One of the similarities of toponymous words like terms are fixed in the language. In other languages like proper nouns are usually not translated between languages, although they may be transliterated.

Toponyms are usually nouns that are arbitrary used to denote a geographic place names mostly formed from names of particular person, who was very familiar in the history (Zhambyl, Makhambet, Isatay, Kabanbay, Zharmukhambet, and etc.), place (Astana, Almaty, Sarkhan, Shymkent and etc.), action which was done there in some period of time (Taskesken, Zhezkazgan, Urzhar), thing without regard to any descriptive meaning the word may have (Atyrau, Sarkhan, Kostanay and etc.), from names of river or sea (Balkhash, Issyk, Zhalanash and etc.), descriptions of distinctive features of places, usually compound words one stem is with an attributive meaning, the other is an object related to that place as in (Akkhainar, Muzdibulak, Kemertogan, Kizilagash and etc).

Next, when proper names have no unique reference they behave like common names. Their usage and sound formation is changed through linguistic articulatory aspects and sound variations of different languages. E.g.: 'Petropavl' in Russian 'Petropavlsk', 'Usharal' in Rusian 'Ucharal'. However, the transcription of place names and the names of monarchs, khans, states and noncontemporary authors is common and sometimes universal. E.g.: the Kazakh word *Almaty* becomes in *Almati* or *Alma-ata*.

In the study of ancient language layers an important role is assigned to studying the etymology of appellatives which gave rise to toponyms. Many of them belong to the group of toponyms, i.e. words

which passed from the group of common names to the group of proper names. Compound toponyms are compound nouns one of which is subordinate to the root of the compound word. In Kazakh compound toponyms are met very often. In the formation of compounds we can easily meet several productive stems which are related to geographic places, like: mountain -tau, lake-kol, hill-tobe, water- su and etc. They can be traced back to the times when the human language was monosyllabic. Thus, geographical names belonging to the semantic group denoting "salient forms of the Earth relief" indicate their ancient origin, for example: tau (hill, upland, height, etc.) means "high", "round", "salient", tobe - pointed hill, mound, area covered with hummock and etc. There are a number of compound words of place names in Kazakh which has subordinate stem is 'tau' and 'tobe': Alatau, Karatau, Aktobe, Koktobe, Shubartobe in which the meaning can be understood that these geographical places are derived from names of hills or mountains. Kazakh have compound toponyms formed by means one of national appellatives: 'su'- 'water' and 'kol' - 'lake'. They are called 'hydronyms', e.g.: Aksu, Karasu, Kaskasu, Kizilsu. If we convert their meanings into English. they are translated as: White water, Blackwater, Colourful water, Redwater. In hydronyms like Akbulak, Karasu, Kosozen - the stems 'kol', 'bulak', 'ozen' - 'lake', 'pond', 'river' do not mean real lakes or rivers, they mean smaller waters than lakes and rivers. These forms also exist in different Turkic languages, can be regarded as universal terms in the formation of hydronyms.

Nowadays "kok" (blue) color is considered to be the purest, sacred and esteemed color for Kazakh people. Our national flag that is our blue banner is the proof of this. It is not accidental that our state flag is blue as the sky. Blue color denotes the idea of unity and friendship, and depicts the open sky which is considered to be the sign of peace, stability and abundance. National mentality, outlook, culture and special benevolence towards this color lead to such thought. Nature is not only an environment of existence, but an integral part of all the existence as well. Fair sky, high mountain, clean water, glaze ridge striving to skyline, all of these attracts us just because of the blue color. Moreover sometimes even green color seems like blue. Instead of saving green grass we say blue grass. Sign-oriented meaning of the colors associated with the peculiarity of Kazakh national mentality, that is with the way of life and traditions, beliefs are formed in relation to the word «kok» (blue) as well. This word links with combination words in adjective meaning, complex nominative meaning, phrasal or in figurative sense [4, 344].

Places and towns can also be given an eponymous name through a relationship (real or imagined) to an important figure. Turkistan, for example, was said to derive its name from the *Turkic*. In historical times, new towns have often been named after their founders, discoverers, or after notable individuals. In science and technology, discoveries and innovations are often named after the discoverer (or supposed discoverer) or to honor some other influential workers e.g.: *Aristanbab, Domalakana*, *Aris, Taskesken, and etc.*

There are thousands of eponyms in everyday use of Kazakh language today and study of them yields a fascinating insight into the rich heritage of the world's most popular language and its development. The list of themes where eponyms can be found is very long and various forms. The analyses presented in this study are an answer that proper names are quite often used in everyday speech. The origin of personal and place names in Kazakh language are of different types. In spite of this we identified the following six groups of the origin of personal names:

- · Mythical;
- · Derived from religion;
- · The real persons;
- · Folk etymology;
- · Others.

One of the famous toponyms which attracts many scholars attention has been — «Kazigurt» mountain, because almost three dissertation works have been devoted to it. «Kazigurt» mountains was found as one of the toponymic term which has ethnocultural and historical value in Kazakh nation. It attracted many people by its significant nature and mythological significance, too. There are a lot of historical factors and myths about Kazigurt in Kazakh language.

Bivarov confirmed Berdibek that «Dialectologist Z. Bolatov believed that in East Kazakhstan, which is separated from other places by the Irtysh River, people speak Kazakh which is quite different from the Kazakh language spoken in other places. But the result of a research showed that it is not actually so, because Kazakhs started returning to East Kazakhstan after downfall of Dzungaria, i.e. in 1755-1788 [5]. According to his investigation, Naimans and Kereys who were deprived of their historical homeland due to expansionist policy of Genghis Khan and dzungars, returned to their homelands after the laps of five centuries. During all this time they lived among Kazakhs in Ulytau, Syrdarya, Saryarka. Thus, if certain language peculiarities did exist, they smoothed away during these five centuries. The fact that Mongols and Mongolian speaking tribes of Dzungaria translated

toponymical names of the region into their language is a natural phenomenon. For example Lake Beyneteniz (see-like) or just teniz turned into *Zayssannor*, and Barkytbel Mountain turned into Tarbagatay».

Kazakhs returning to their lands changed the geographic names, but some of the Mongolian toponyms were assimilated. It is at that time when, following Kazakhs, Russian people started arriving at Altai which previously was not possible due to presence of Dzungars in the region. The Kazakhs settled at nice pastures located on the windy territories with little snow south of the Bukhtarma River. At the right bank of the Bukhtarma River which had been deserted due its worthlessness as a pasture, there started to appear Russian villages and khutors; Russian migrants were given a name of "masons" or "Poles". A. Printtsa, who studied their life, mentions that among those Russians there were old believers, soldiers, people who were trying to escape hard work at a factory, criminals, exiles, schismatics, who were persecuted due to their religious views. N.V. Alekseyenko, the researcher of the demography of East Kazakhstan, wrote: «...these fugitives started to arrive since 1760» [6.31p.]. Mostly Russian migrants started to arrive in large quantities in 1870s. Such migration of the population in XVII-XIX centuries could not but influence the toponymy of South Altai. Even if we take into account the fact that all above mentioned names refer to the Altai period because they have ancient roots or relict affixes, multiple proofs are still needed, since the very notion of «the Altai period» is yet a hypothesis. Scientists G. Ramstedt, N. Poppe, V. Kotvich and others who offered «the Altai hypothesis» based on the commonality of vocabulary. phonetic and morphological peculiarities (vocalic harmony, agglutination) of the words of Turkic, Mongolian, Tungus languages. Some specialists in Turkic philology (A. Shcherbak, O. Sunik and other) deny the Altai hypothesis, saying that these languages do not have common important words and related names. In their opinion Altai languages are not related; they blended as a result of coexistence on the same territory for many centuries.

As a result of many years of research of Turkic and Tungus languages using the method of comparative historical analysis G. Ramstedt laid the foundations of Altaistics (the science studying Altai). Later he proved that the Korean language is also genetically related to these languages. E.V. Sevortyan proves that Turkic-Mongolian languages are related and 10% of word stems in Tungus languages coincide with Turkic words [7.97p.].

Rock inscriptions in ancient Turkic and M. Kashgary dictionary give enough information about

the linguistic system of that period and indicate the way of analysis of ancient geographical names. They provide us with the information that the first ancient roots were in the form of an open syllable, followed by syncretic (homonym) roots in the form of verbal names, and finally by affixation word building. For example, orphographical term *tau* «mountain» which is considered to be the root originates in the ancient roots *tobe* which means "height". It formed the derivative appellatives *tau*, *tobe*, *tompeshik*, *dones* (mountain, hill, elevation, mound respectively).

Analysis of some ancient names such as *Muztag, Khantag, Baitag* makes it possible to assume that the term *tau* «mountain» sounded as «*tag*». Studying ancient Turkic literary texts, for instance M. Kashgari dictionary, confirms the idea of root alteration: *yaylag – zhaylag – zhaylau*; *kyshlag – kystag - khystau*; «winter cabin». Such examples are numerous [8, 19p.].

The reason that this article does not consider a group of "Kazakh oronyms" is in the fact that Kazakh toponyms belong to the Turkic layer of the language there is no necessity to analyze Kazakh geographical names with clear semantics from the point of view of their etymology. That is why we attribute geographical names with unclear semantics or having ancient formants to this layer.

Altybaity is a zhailau (pasture) in Markakol region. To determine the etymology of the word we need to single out the formant –ty in its structure. G. Konkashbayev believes that formant ty/ti in the structure of such geographical names as Almaty «rich in apples», Arshaty «rich in juniper» and others is nothing else as the suffix of relative adjectives ly/li which does not conform to the law of vocalic harmony [9, 15]. This opinion is supported by S. Amanzholov, T. Nomikhanov, A. Abdrakhmanov. Y. Koishibayev believes that ty is a modified form of the geographical term tu/ty «tau – mountain», Almaty = alma + tau; Arshaty + arsha + tau and others [10, 90-91pp.].

Both of these contradicting opinions deserve attention. According to the first opinion, if *Almaty < Almaly, Arshaty < Arshaly*, then to which of them we should refer oronyms of the South Altai *Akty, Altybaity, Kosnarty?*

Following the first opinion Akty—«aghymol», meaning «having much white color», Altybaity— «rich in Altybai», Kosnarty— «rich in Kosnar». In the second case formant—ty means «taumountain» then Akty/Aktau (white mountain), Altybaity/Altybaitau, Kosnarty/ Kosnartau become synonyms. Similar geographic names can be found in the Altai language: Baitu (Baity)— Baitau (rich mountain), Tuuratu (turatu)— Ken tau (wide mountain) [11, 146-139p]. In Turkic languages there

is a possible shortening tau>tuu>tu>ty, Altaic tu in the Kazakh language sounds as—ty: Baitau>Baity. The geographical term of the modern Yakut language tya «forest covered mountain» proves the existence of the appellative—ty with the meaning of «mountain».

In the Kazakh toponymy we often find names with the affix –ty which means existence or abundance. In the South Altai we simultaneously come across the names *Karagandy* (winter cabin, Katonkaragai region) and *Karaganty* (mountain, uplands of the Black Irtysh River).

Thus, if a word-forming suffix –ty means existence or abundance in something (Kairakty, Sharbakty, Sogeti, Temirti and others), performs the function of a suffix of an adjective, describes appearance or relief of an object, then it is an ancient Turkic variant of the appellative «tau – mountain» (Akty, Altybaity, Kosnarty and others).

In conclusion, Kazakh toponyms are based on historical facts, famous people and events in the history of the country. They have Turkic language character and Slovanic language influence. According to the semantic peculiarities they are divided into several groups: geographic nomens, subdivided into orographic, hydrographic, and landscape terms: metals, minerals, and rocks, types of settlements and fortresses, kinship terms, religion and mythology, cult places and buildings and etc. According to their structure, toponyms can be divided into: simple and compound toponyms. Compound toponyms have geographical terms: su, tobe, tau, which are very productive in the formation of toponyms. In general, toponyms are proof for the cultural and historical facts in the history of the facts.

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