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THE RESEARCH ON THE TOPONYMY OF URGENCH DISTRICT AND NAMING OF GEOGRAPHICAL OBJECTS

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ABSTARCT

The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the names of geographical objects” adopted on October 12, 2011 plays an important role in the legal regulation of relations in this area, the restoration of centuries-old traditions of our people. For centuries, it has played an important role in the economic, social and cultural life of the oasis in the Lower Amudarya region. In the second half of the 16th century, after the Amudarya changed its course and began to flow into the Aral Sea, the city of Gurganch (now Old Urgench) was left without water. That is why, the mass media, exhibition and advertising officials, and the general public need to be active in promoting large-scale work on the regulation of place names.

KEYWORDS: *Restoration, Centuries-Old, Large-Scale*

INTRODUCTION

Based on the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On regulation of naming of administrative-territorial units, residential areas, the organizations and other toponymic objects in the Republic of Uzbekistan”(Legislation Collection of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2004, No. 32, Article 363), great work has been done and is being done, during the years of independence in our country to realize national identity, revive our values, restore many ancient place names that were unjustifiably changed during the former communist regime [1].

The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the names of geographical objects” adopted on October 12, 2011 plays an important role in the legal regulation of relations in this area, the restoration of centuries-old traditions of our people. On October 16, 2012, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted a resolution on the implementation of this law.[2]

According to the resolution, research was conducted in all regions of the country. Geographical research takes into account the specifics of each field, and then explores the possibilities of their use. For example, in the scientific study of the geographical names of each region, there is enough knowledge about all its branches, ie geographical location and surface structure, land resources, climatic conditions, water and labor resources, is required.

For this reason, the natural and geographical features that underlie it should be taken into the consideration in the process of the naming and renaming of residential areas of Urgench district.

First of all, everyone wants to know the name of their place, city, village, neighborhood, street, whatever, natural feature, what human name they are associated with. Why are they called Hindukush, Ajalvodiysi (Death Valley), Borsakelmas, Dashti Margoh, Dashti Lut, Ulikdengiz (Dead Sea)? If you translate some foreign names into Uzbek, you will see strange, sometimes absurd names. Krivoy rog-curved horn, Tbilisi-boiling spring, Vladivostok-occupy the east, Velikie lyuki-big bows, Los-Angeles- “our lord, the king of angels”

The place names have a deep scientific, political, practical and educational significance and have existed for centuries as an invaluable expression of the thinking of our wise people. It is well known that many geographical names in our country are closely connected with the natural climatic conditions of the region, the economic activity of the population, as well as historical events.

Urgench district occupies 7.2% of the region's territory. It borders the city of Urgench. The district has 11 citizens' assemblies, 76 residential areas, 58 mahallas. The population as of January 1, 2019 is 191,5 thousand people with a density of 436 people per 1 sq. km. It borders with Shavat, Yangibazar, Koshkopir, Khiva and Khanka districts, as well as with the Republic of Karakalpakstan in the north-east via the Amudarya. Depending on the geographical location of the district, it is located between latitudes 40° - 31° and 42° as well 60° - 62° east longitudes. The climate of the district is sharply continental and the difference between the maximum and minimum temperatures is 78°C . As of October 1, 2018, 1321 enterprises (excluding farms) are registered in the district, of which 5 are operating on the basis of foreign capital. Enterprises operating on the basis of foreign capital make up 7.6% of the total number of enterprises operating on the basis of foreign capital in the region.

Urgench is located in the lowlands on the left bank of the Amudarya. At an altitude of 98-100 m above sea level.

Urgench district is located around the ancient and ever-young city of Urgench in Khorezm. For centuries, it has played an important role in the economic, social and cultural life of the oasis in the Lower Amudarya region. The prosperity of the district is due to its geographical location, ie the proximity of the Great Silk Roads and the capital of Khorezm - Urgench, as well as talented and hardworking people.

TABLE 1 RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF URGENCH DISTRICT

№	Urban residential areas	№	Rural residential areas
1	Cholish	1	Begovot
2	Chandirkiyot	2	Koromon
3	Gardonlar	3	Gaybu
4	Kupalik	4	Cholish
5	Okoltin	5	Chandirkiyot
		6	Yukoribog
		7	Korovul
		8	Chatkopir
		9	Galaba
		10	Chakkasholikor
		11	Yukoridorman

(The data in the table is based on data from Khorezm regional statistics department)

On this basis, there was a discussion of the tasks to ensure the implementation of the resolution of the Khorezm regional commission “On naming and renaming of geographical objects” dated November 13, 2012, and Resolution No. 242 Q of October 20, 2012 of the governor of Khorezm region “On measures to regulate the work in the field of names of geographical objects, in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan, based on the regulation No 295 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the names of geographical objects”, dated October 16, 2012.

Based on the regulation, the issues of naming and renaming of geographical objects of Urgench district were also discussed.

Urgench is one of the oldest and great cities in the country. The ancient city of Urgench (Gurganch) is part of present-day Turkmenistan (Tashhovuz region) and is now called Old Urgench. The ancient city of Urgench has been founded for more than 2000 years. The city of Urgench in Uzbekistan was founded in 1646 by Khiva khan Abdulghazi Bahodirkhan. In the second half of the 16th century, after the Amudarya changed its course and began to flow into the Aral Sea, the city of Gurganch (now Old Urgench) was left without water. Abdulghazi Bahodirkhan resettled the scattered population in the fortresses of Gurganch, Wazir and its environs and settled them in the southern part of the Amu Darya. Then, he fortified the area around the settlement with a fortress wall and named it “TozaUrgench”, ie “New Urgench”. After that, the city of Gurganch was renamed Old Urgench.[3]



Map of rural residential areas of Urgench district. (Map created by the authors).

The ethnos formed in the lower reaches of the Amudarya were called Khorezmi people until the XII century. From the 11th to the 12th centuries, the Turks and Mongols treated the Tajik-Persians and Khorezmians living in Central Asia as traders and called them “sart”. According to the available information, the Turkicized Persian-Tajik population was called “sart”.

In Khorezm, a large part of the population living in the latitude from Urgench (Old Urgench) to Khozarsp was the Turkicized descendants of Khorezmians, who were also called “sart”.

In conclusion, “sart” is not an ethnos name, but a nickname, and the term “Khorezmi” is an ethnos name.

The term “sart” is originally derived from the Sanskrit (ancient Hindi) word “Sartkhalaha”, which means “merchant”, “leader of the caravan”.

In the early 16th century, the Shaybanids from Dashti Kipchak conquered Movarounnahr, calling the settlers “Sart” and calling themselves “Uzbeks.” Thus, the term “Sart” was first applied to traders and caravan leaders, then to traders and craftsmen, then to Uzbeks and Tajiks, and finally to Uzbeks living in cities and villages. These processes contributed to the formation of the Khorezm people and they established their first state.[4]

The toponymy of Urgench district is closely connected with the toponyms of Khorezm. Here is a general description of the toponyms of Urgench district.

Arbob-kishlok. (Arbob-village) Khorezm region. Arbob is an Arabic word that means the plural form of the word “master, possessor.” It means a well-known celebrity, chief, leader, village elder [5].

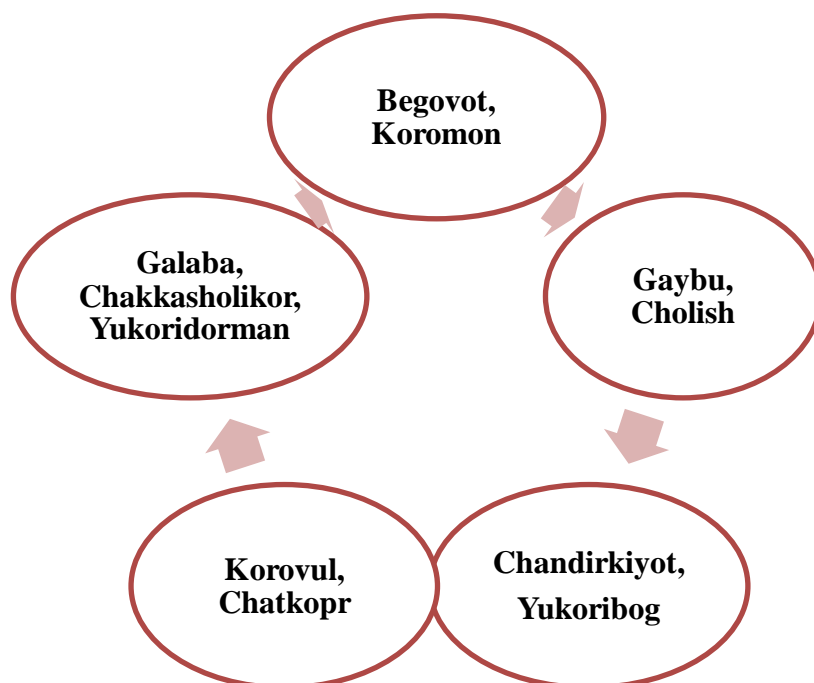
Baday-Tukay is situated in the Beruni district of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, on the right bank of the Amu Darya. Baday is a tribe of Uzbeks. They lived mainly in the lower reaches of the Amudarya in the Urgench district of the Khorezm region and were engaged in cattle breeding. They were distributed in the Surkhandarya valley in the early XIX century.

Dormon is a village name found in almost all regions of the republic and in Karakalpakstan. Dormon is the name of one of the Uzbek tribes, which lived scattered in Zarafshan, Surkhandarya, Tashkent oasis, partly in Khorezm, several parts of southern Tajikistan, as well as in northern Afghanistan. They migrated from DashtiKipchak in the 16th and 17th centuries. The villages where they lived were called Dormon, Dormoncha. The word Dormon (Mongolian: “dorba”) means “four”. [4]

Zargar-kishlok. (Jeweler village). This toponym was based on the name of the profession. A jeweler is a craftsman who makes jewelry and ornaments from metals such as gold and silver. This is the name of the village where the jewelers live. Toponyms such as Zargar, Zargarlik can be found in almost all regions of Uzbekistan.

Sevan- a city. The lake of the same name was the basis for this toponym. Sevan means “lake” in Armenian.

Chakkakishlok. (Chakka village) is in the Urgench district of Khorezm region. Chakka is found in many toponyms in Khorezm. For example, Chakkasholikor, Chakkali, Chakkalar, as well as people's nicknames: Yoldosh Chakka, Bibi Chakka. The word is interpreted by locals as “edge, outside, surface.” But the word chakka has another meaning. Chakka means something else. Chakka means “cheerful, humorous” in Persian [16].



Oykonims of Urgench district

Chandir-kishlok.(Chandir village). Toponyms with the word Chandir are found in the regions

of Uzbekistan. Now Chandir ethnic groups exist in the Turkmen people as well. In Khorezm, chandir is used to mean “strong, powerful”.

Gurganj-is recorded as Gurganch in the Turkish language; as Jurjoniya in Arabic sources. Various legends about the origin of the name have been preserved among the people. Including: it was named Hurganj or Urganchj in honor of a girl named Hur and a boy named Ganj and their love. Or Hur means “sun” (or happiness) Ganj- means “treasure”, that is “Treasure of Happiness”.

Canal Shovot - The village is located on the Shovot district of Khorezm region. The canal also flows through the city of Urgench and the Urgench district. The village of Shovot is named after the canal.

“In Khorezm, large canals and the beginnings and wide sections of canals are called “arna”. The term literally means the river divides into tributaries. The reason why artificial canals are called by this term is that these canals are considered to be part of the river in terms of size. For example, Pakhtaarna, Shovotarna, Polvonarna are the same.

Toponymist Z. Dosimov published a separate article entitled “On the word Arna” and came to the conclusion that in Sanskrit “arnos” means “stream of water” [3].

Today, we are happy to see Uzbek names that fit the streets and alleys, squares, stations and buildings of our country,. We are full of national pride. The names of the places give us an idea of the place.

Naming or renaming geographic features is a delicate and responsible matter. In this process, it is necessary to have the important knowledge, intelligence and awareness of the historical, ethnic, socio-cultural characteristics of the people.

Another important point is that when renaming a street or other object, the change must be communicated to the public in the most convenient and easy way. That is why, the mass media, exhibition and advertising officials, and the general public need to be active in promoting large-scale work on the regulation of place names. It is necessary to analyze the toponymy of Urgench district, as well as other districts of the country.

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