

TURKIC (OLD TURKIC) LAYER

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Annotation: *This study explores the Turkic and Turkic-Mongolic origins of hydronyms in the Tashkent region of Uzbekistan. It highlights how historical, geographical, linguistic, and ethnic factors have influenced the formation and evolution of place names, especially water-related terms, emphasizing their phonetic, grammatical, and dialectal features.*

Keywords: *Hydronymy, toponymy, Turkic languages, Uzbek dialects, ethnonyms, anthroponyms, linguistic history, Tashkent region.*

The centuries-old history of the peoples of Uzbekistan, their complex and prolonged interactions with other nations, and the physical and geographical conditions of their habitation have all significantly influenced the naming of geographical objects.

A considerable portion of the toponyms in Uzbekistan is based on Turkic languages. These names were formed over a long period and reflect various historical stages in the development of the people and their language. Accordingly, the hydronymy of the Tashkent region consists mainly of Turkic names, forming the most significant linguistic layer. This layer includes all hydronyms that can be explained using the Uzbek language and are closely linked to the historical development of the language, with roots extending deep into antiquity.

Hydronyms in any region are typically constructed based on local dialects, reflecting the phonetic, grammatical, and lexical features of native speakers. The hydronyms considered below demonstrate specific features of Uzbek dialects. Furthermore, this lexical layer includes certain phonetic and morphological phenomena that provide valuable material for linguistic history.

Examples include: Beklar – from Old Turkic *beg* ("chief, lord"); *Beklar* is a plural form. Tuyabo'g'iz – from *tuya* ("camel") and *bo'g'iz* ("neck"). Sulitepa – from *suli* ("oats") and *tepa* ("hill"). Qirtugan – from *qir* ("elevation") and *to'g'on* ("dam"). Salar ko'l turgan – from *salar* ("main"), *ko'l* ("lake"), and *turgan*

("standing"). Other names are derived from colors (e.g., *Qoraqultiq* – "black bay"), numbers (e.g., *To 'qqiz orol* – "nine islands"), or descriptors of nature and usage (e.g., *Bo 'z suv* – "gray water"). Many hydronyms are rooted in ethnonyms (*Mamut*, *Qozok*, *Kurama*, etc.), topographic terms (*Tepa*, *Kum*, *Chuqur*), and personal names (*Pardaboy*, *Chingeldi*). The river name *Chirchiq* (a diminutive of *Chir*) may share a common root with the hydronym *Syr* in *Syrdarya*. Turkic-Mongolic Layer This layer is mainly represented by proper names of ethnonymic and anthroponymic origin: *Oymavut* – a Kazakh ethnonym. *Chingiz* – derived from the Mongol personal name "Chingis". *Shungar* – a name associated with the Kalmyk people (Dzungars). *Jambul* – an anthroponym of Mongol origin. *Naiman Dam* – although Russian in form, it has a Mongol root *naiman*, meaning "eight", linked to an ethnonym.

Conclusion: The hydronyms of the Tashkent region primarily originate from Turkic linguistic roots and reflect centuries of cultural, historical, and linguistic development. They serve not only as geographical identifiers but also as linguistic relics, preserving the memory of past peoples, dialects, and interactions. The inclusion of Turkic-Mongolic elements further illustrates the deep ethnic and cultural connections across Central Asia, offering valuable insight into the region's rich historical tapestry.

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