

**LINGUOCULTURAL AND STRUCTURAL-SEMANTIC FEATURES OF  
UZBEK AND ENGLISH TOPONYMS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF  
TERMEZ AND WINCHESTER PLACE NAMES**

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**Abstract**

This article presents a comparative linguocultural study of Uzbek and English toponyms based on the examples of Termez (Uzbekistan) and Winchester (England). The research focuses on the structural-semantic characteristics, etymological origins and cultural symbolism of oikonyms and urban toponymic objects such as streets, districts, public places, and facilities. The study applies descriptive, etymological, componential and comparative methods to identify similarities and differences between the toponymic systems. The results demonstrate that Uzbek toponyms tend to reflect socio-historical markers, ethnographic realities and national values, whereas English toponyms show stronger traces of Old English, Latin and Christian cultural memory. The article highlights the metaphorical mechanisms of naming in both languages and reveals the role of toponyms as carriers of cultural identity and historical narrative.

**Key words:** toponymy, oikonym, linguoculturology, structural-semantic analysis, Termez, Winchester, comparative linguistics.

**Аннотация**

В статье проводится сравнительное лингвокультурологическое исследование узбекских и английских топонимов на примере оиконимов Термез и Винчестер. Рассматриваются структурно-семантические особенности, этимологические корни и культурная символика городских топонимических объектов: улиц, районов, общественных мест и учреждений. В исследовании применяются описательный, этимологический, компонентный и сопоставительный методы. Результаты показывают, что узбекская топонимия чаще отражает историко-социальные реалии, этнографические особенности и национальные ценности, тогда как английская топонимия сохраняет следы

древнеанглийского, латинского и христианского культурного наследия. Особое внимание уделяется метафорическим механизмам номинации и роли топонимов как носителей культурной идентичности.

**Ключевые слова:** топонимия, оиконим, лингвокультурология, структурно-семантический анализ, Термез, Винчестер, сопоставление

### **Annotatsiya**

Maqolada o‘zbek va ingliz toponimlarining lingvokulturologik hamda struktur-semantik xususiyatlari Termiz (O‘zbekiston) va Vinchester (Angliya) shahar nomlari misolida qiyosiy yondashuv asosida o‘rganiladi. Tadqiqotda oykonimlarning etimologik ildizlari, semantik motivatsiyasi, shuningdek, shahar ichidagi toponimik obyektlar (ko‘chalar, mahallalar, jamoat maskanlari, muassasalar nomlari)ning shakllanish qonuniyatlari tahlil qilinadi. Ishda tavsifiy, etimologik, komponent tahlil hamda qiyosiy metodlardan foydalanildi. Natijalar shuni ko‘rsatadiki, o‘zbek toponimlari tarixiy-ijtimoiy belgilar, etnografik realiyalar va milliy qadriyatlar bilan bevosita bog‘liq bo‘lsa, ingliz toponimlari qadimgi ingliz, lotin va xristian madaniy xotirasining izlarini ko‘proq saqlab qolgan. Maqolada metaforik nomlash mexanizmlari ham yoritiladi.

**Kalit so‘zlar:** toponimika, oykonim, lingvokulturologiya, struktur-semantik tahlil, Termiz, Vinchester, qiyosiy tilshunoslik.

### **Introduction**

Toponyms represent a specific layer of linguistic units that combine language, culture, history and social memory. In modern comparative linguistics, the study of place names has expanded beyond etymology and geography and has evolved into linguocultural analysis. Toponyms not only denote physical space but also encode cultural codes, historical narratives and collective identity. In Uzbek linguistics, the study of toponyms is closely connected with national heritage, ethnographic realities and socio-historical conditions. In English linguistics, toponymy is characterized by a high level of historical stratification, reflecting Old English, Norse, Norman and Latin influences.

The relevance of this research stems from the increasing attention to cross-cultural toponymic studies and the need to examine how different cultures conceptualize space through linguistic nomination. Termez and Winchester, as historically significant cities, provide a suitable comparative basis for identifying universal and specific patterns of toponymic formation.

### **Research aim**

To identify and compare the linguocultural and structural-semantic characteristics of Uzbek and English toponyms based on the examples of Termez and Winchester. Objectives to analyze the etymology and semantic motivation of the oikonyms Termez and Winchester; to compare structural models of toponymic formation in Uzbek and English; to investigate metaphorical mechanisms in naming urban objects; to reveal cultural and historical factors reflected in place names.

### **Materials and Methods**

The material base includes: the oikonyms Termez and Winchester; selected urban toponyms (districts, streets, public institutions, recreational places) from both cities. The following methods were used: descriptive method – classification and linguistic description of toponyms; etymological analysis – revealing historical roots and sources of place names; componential analysis – analysis of semantic components (topoformants, lexical stems); comparative method – identifying similarities and differences between the systems; linguocultural interpretation – decoding cultural symbolism and values embedded in names.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

In contemporary toponymic research, oikonyms (city names) are considered not only geographical identifiers but also linguistic markers that preserve historical memory, social experience, and cultural worldview. Within the present comparative framework, the oikonyms Termez (Uzbekistan) and Winchester (England) were analyzed as key units representing two different toponymic traditions and cultural-historical landscapes.

The oikonym Termez belongs to the oldest urban names in Central Asia. Its historical significance is closely linked to the region's role as a strategic and cultural contact zone. Termez has been shaped by multiple civilizations and cultural layers (including Persian, Turkic, Arabic and Islamic influences), which has contributed to its toponymic complexity. From a linguocultural perspective, the name *Termez* functions as a symbolic indicator of ancient settlement traditions, multicultural interaction, and border-space conceptualization. In other words, Termez represents not merely a city but a historically meaningful *space of communication* formed through centuries of trade, migration, political changes, and religious development.

By contrast, Winchester demonstrates a different type of toponymic continuity. The city has played a major historical role in the formation of English political and religious institutions. In English toponymy, the component *-chester* is widely associated with

Latin *castra* (“camp”, “fortified settlement”), reflecting Roman military and administrative heritage. Therefore, Winchester as an oikonym embodies not only the idea of an urban settlement but also the cultural memory of Roman Britain and later Anglo-Saxon political structures. Additionally, Winchester is deeply connected with Christian institutional history, as the city has long been recognized as a cathedral-center. Thus, its name carries strong associations with authority, governance, tradition, and religious heritage.

This comparison indicates that Termez tends to reflect intercultural and regional contact, whereas Winchester primarily represents institutional continuity and historical stratification.

### **Conclusion**

The comparative analysis of Termez and Winchester toponyms demonstrates that place names function as linguistic-cultural codes encoding collective memory and cultural values. Uzbek toponymy tends to reflect ethnographic realities, social ideals and national-cultural worldview. English toponymy, exemplified by Winchester, preserves historical stratification and institutional-religious symbolism, reflecting Old English and Latin cultural memory.

This research confirms that toponyms are not merely geographical labels, but dynamic linguocultural units shaped by social history, cultural ideology and semantic motivation. Therefore, comparative toponymic studies contribute to understanding national linguistic pictures of the world and mechanisms of cultural representation in language.

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