

THE LINGUISTIC NATURE AND CLASSIFICATION OF ONOMASTIC INDICATORS IN LINGUISTICS

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Abstract: The article examines the linguistic nature and classification of onomastic indicators. It analyzes the interpretation of the concept of “indicator” in Uzbek and world linguistics, as well as its role in the nomination process. Furthermore, the structural types of indicators are classified, and their universal characteristics in identifying the type of an object are revealed.

Keywords: onomastics, onomastic indicator, nomination, toponymy, structural classification, linguistic nature.

As time progresses, new and ever-evolving fields are emerging and flourishing in science and technology. Biotechnology, nanotechnology, psychology, computer engineering, and others are among them. Directions in linguistics such as computational linguistics, anthropocentric linguistics, neurolinguistics, onomastics, and ethnolinguistics are also among these.

Onomastics, one of these fields, is a branch of linguistics that deals with the study of names, and has been actively researched since the second half of the 20th century¹. It studies personal names, place names, names of bodies of water, animal names, and names of celestial bodies.

The term **indicator** (from Latin “**indico**” – “*I show, I determine*”) carries the lexical meaning of a marker or pointer. It exists in several fields:

- a) **In physics:** a device (instrument, apparatus, or element) that reflects the progress of a process or the state of an observed object in a form perceptible to human perception;
- b) **In chemistry:** substances that change their color or luminescence, or form a precipitate, in response to changes in the concentration of a certain component in the solution being tested;
- c) **In biology:** plants (or groups of plants) that are directly associated with specific ecological conditions²;
- d) **In the onomastics branch of linguistics:** it is interpreted as the primary identifier (a means of identification).

In linguistic literature, the term “**determiner**” – its linguistic equivalent – is frequently used in place of the concept of indicator.

In Uzbek linguistics, if **S.Naimov** introduced the term indicator into use, then **Z.Dosimov** was among the first to employ the term “**toponymic indicator**”³. The fact that **T.Nafasov** was the first in Uzbekistan to defend a doctoral dissertation on toponymic places

¹ Yo‘ldoshev B. Methodological guide for the elective course “Problems of Uzbek Onomastics”. – Samarkand: SamSU Press, 2011. – 112 p.

² National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan. Letter “I”. – Tashkent: State Scientific Publishing House “National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan”, 2002. – 492 p.

³ Naimov S. On toponymic indicators // Uzbek Language and Literature. – Tashkent, 1983. – No. 4. – P. 63-64.

him alongside the above-mentioned scholars in this field. At this point, **Bayramali Kilichev** dwells on the distinguishing aspects of the terms *indicator* and *toponym*, noting that indicators serve to **name** geographical places, while toponyms function to **distinguish** one from another. Furthermore, as E.Kurilovich emphasizes, indicators **express**, while toponyms **name**⁴.

Turning to world linguistics, Russian linguist **Boris Aleksandrovich Serebrennikov** used the term “toponymic indicators”. In the scholarly works of **G.I.Donidze**⁵, such units are referred to as “toponymic terms”. In an article by **Vera Nikolayevna Popova** devoted to the study of hydronymic terms, she employs the term “hydronymic indicator”⁶.

E.Begmatov studied indicators in Uzbek personal names⁷, M.Asomiddinova examined indicators within clothing names⁸, while Z.Dosimov⁹ and N.Uluqov¹⁰ researched hydronymic indicators. Anthroponymic indicators can be found not only in E.Begmatov’s works but also in H.Dadaboyev’s military terminology¹¹. For instance, the components *-liq*, *-begi*, *-chi*, *-og’a+boshi* found in titles such as *otaliq*, *qo’shbegi*, *parvonachi*, *eshikog’aboshi* are indicators that denote a person’s belonging to a certain social class or official position. Furthermore, in the scholarly works of H. Solikhojayeva, we encounter **chrononymic** and **geortonymic** indicators in the Uzbek language¹². For example, the affix “-lik” in the term “*iydlik*”¹³ is an indicator that attaches to a word denoting a religious ceremony, conveying the meaning of belonging or association.

Thus, **onomastic indicators** are linguistic markers related to the study of names, and they specialize within each branch of the field. For example, units such as *dengiz* (*sea*), *ko’l* (*lake*), and *anhor* (*canal*) function as **hydronymic** indicators; *yulduz* (*star*), *sayyora* (*planet*), and *quyosh* (*sun*) serve as **cosmonymic** indicators; while *kun* (*day*), *yil* (*year*), and *asr* (*century*) function as **chrononymic** indicators.

In addition, indicators are divided into several groups according to their structure. Their compositional and semantic characteristics can be summarized through the following table:

⁴ Kilichev B. Materials for independent study in the course “Onomastics”. – Bukhara, 2022. – 101 p.

⁵ Donidze G.I. Hydronymic terms in Turkic languages // Onomastics. – Moscow, 1969. – P. 170-171.

⁶ Begimov O.T. Eurasian Journal of Academic Research. Volume 3, Issue 12, Part 2. December 2023. ISSN 2181-2020. P. 279.

⁷ Begmatov E.A. The Meaning of Uzbek Names: (Explanatory Dictionary). – Tashkent: State Scientific Publishing House “National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan”, 2007. – 608 p.

⁸ Asomiddinova M. Names of Clothing Items. – Tashkent: “Fan” Publishing House of the Uzbek SSR, 1981. – 116 p.

⁹ Materials of the Republican Scientific-Theoretical Conference. A Life Dedicated to Science [Text]: collection. – Urgench: “Khorazm nashr matbaa”, 2021. – 54 p.

¹⁰ Uluqov N. “Historical-Linguistic Study of Uzbek Hydronyms.” – Tashkent: Fan, 2008. – 192 p.

¹¹ Dadaboyev H., Yodgorov H. Uzbek Military Terminology: a textbook. – Tashkent: “SAHHOF” Publishing House, 2021. – 216 p.

¹² Solikhojayeva H.Z. Linguistic Study of Chrononymes and Geortonyms in the Uzbek Language: Doctoral dissertation in Philological Sciences. – Fergana, 2019.

¹³ Uluqov N., Solikhojayeva H. Geortonyms of the Uzbek and Turkish Languages [Text]: monograph. – Tashkent: Bookmany print, 2026. – P. 17.

Type	Description	Examples
Single-base indicators	Units consisting of only one lexeme (mainly a noun), with no additional modifier.	<i>Zovur (drainage canal), daryo (river), ko'l (lake), ota (father), yulduz (star), masjid (mosque).</i>
Double-base indicators	Formed by the combination of two words, conveying a single unified meaning.	<i>Suv ombori (reservoir), madaniyat uyi (culture house), istirohat bog'i (recreation park), dehqon bozori (peasants' market), Yuqori Chirchiq (Upper Chirchiq).</i>
Multi-base indicators	Indicators consisting of three or more words or complex combinations.	<i>Kichik sanoat hududi (small industrial zone), erkin iqtisodiy zona (free economic zone), xalqaro aeroport (international airport), davlat qo'riqxonasi (state nature reserve).</i>

In general, **onomastic indicators** are universal linguistic tools that occupy a unique place in the nominative (naming) system of language, serving to specify the type and category of an object. Research in the field of onomastics – one of the distinctive and promising directions of both world and Uzbek linguistics – demonstrates that the theory of onomastic indicators remains at the center of scholarly inquiry to this day.

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