

Some Comments on the Etymology of The Nurata Toponym

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Abstract: *The motivational meaning of the limited scope of work does not allow for an etymological analysis of all of the obscure toponyms. Therefore, we briefly analyze the meaning and etymology of the toponym Nurata below. Motivational meanings of the given type of toponyms, their etymology can be revealed on the basis of special analyzes. There are a number of myths and legends among the people about the motivation of the names mentioned. One of such names is the toponym Nurata.*

Keywords: natural features, motivation, complementary, contradictory interpretations.

Introduction

Observations on the lexical and semantic features of toponyms in the territory of Nurata district showed that these names can be divided into several groups according to the meanings they mean. These are:

1. Lexical and nominative (motive) meaning clearly visible toponyms. In this group of names, the meaning of the toponym and why the object is named in this way, the motivation of the name, is clearly visible and the meaning of the name is understandable to the locals. Toponyms of this type are:

1) Names referring to the physical-geographical and other natural features of the place: Willow - an area covered with willow vegetation; Walnut - an area occupied by walnut trees, a garden; Salty well - a well with salty water; Jiydali is like a place where a jiida tree grows.

2) Ethnotoponyms. These types of names mean that the area represented by the name was inhabited or inhabited by an ethnos whose name was given to the toponym in the past: Bahrintop, Boytobi, Bolgali, Jaloyir;

3) Modern, new names. Such names are given in the immediate vicinity of the object, and the motive on which the name is based is known to many: Friendship Matonat, Culture, Enlightenment.

4) Anthroponyms. Respect for the memory of some people, their names are immortalized, and the motives underlying them are known to many: Abdulla Qahhor Street, Alisher Navoi mahalla, Beruni mahalla, Ibn Sino mahalla, Mashrab Street, Nodirabegim Street, etc.

2. Toponyms whose lexical basis, meaning and motivation are determined on the basis of material of another language. A certain part of the names in the toponymy of Nurata are famous horses of this character, which are mainly Persian-Tajik toponyms. Therefore, the meaning and motivational basis of these toponyms can be clarified only when analyzed in terms of the Tajik language. For example: Dehibaland - deh (village) + high (high) - a village above, high up. Sentob - Sint Tajik - cold) + weather (water) - cold water. Obi rasta - water (water) + rosta (low, low) - low, water flowing downwards. Obichappa - water (water) + chappa (reverse, left) - reverse flowing water. Doba // Duoba - du (two) + oba (water) - two waters, that is, the obichashma stream flows into this guzar and divides into two. Shakarak - sugar (sweet, sweet) + ak (extra) - a sign of sweetness, sweetness of the inhabitants of that neighborhood.

3. Vocabulary is clear, clear, but the motivational basis is vague, hidden toponyms. In these types of names, it is clear what kind of lexeme the word that is the basis for the toponym is. For example, the toponym Bakhiltag is a combination of the words Bakhil and Dag; The toponym Aktag is the word for white and mountain; It is clear that the toponym Karatag is a derivative of the combination of the words black and mountain. However, the nominative meaning of these toponyms does not come directly from the simple meaning of the root words, but from their portable symbolic meanings. Bakhiltog - This means that the mountain is short of water, plants and animals. Aktag is a high, snow-covered mountain that looks white from afar; Karatag is a low mountain, darkened in the distance.

4. Indefinite, complex toponyms. While it is clear what the toponym is the name of the object, why the object is so named, the motivational basis of the name becomes unclear. A number of names in the toponymy of Nurata have the following features: Fozgan, Kochot, Temirkovuk, Yovkeldi, Ajarariq, Beshbalik, Doyakhotin, Zulmkoriz, Itchichqon, Kampirsay, Kelinchak, Kelinsoy, Mojirim, Odamoldi, Oltmishtur, Qizbobuq, Qiziqduk.

Materials and methods

There are many complementary or contradictory interpretations of the meaning and motivation of the toponym Nurata, which include linguistic, historical, geographical, etymological, ethnographic and mythological interpretations and assumptions¹.

Despite the fact that the linguistic structure of the toponym Nurata, ie the appellative basis, consists of two lexemes nur and ota (ato), which are also functional in modern Uzbek, there is no consensus among researchers on the meaning of this toponym. The area that bears the name Nurata has an ancient history and in some sources it is given 2400-2500 years. The construction of Nurata is associated with the name of Alexander (Alexander of Macedon). Boboqul Mirzaev summarizes it as

¹ Mirzaev B. Excerpts from the history of Nurata // Friendship flag. - 1996. 31 May. - B. 6.

follows: "In 324 BC, he entered Central Asia with 160,000 troops (Iskandar - O.O.) ... captured many cities and villages ... and then separated from many soldiers in the capture of Marakand, modern Samarkand. After that, Alexander turns his back and turns north². He passed through the mountains, stopped at the place where the present fortress was built on top of the present mountain, and was amazed to see light radiating from the ground to the sky³.

Strange, what a mystery. When the sun's light reaches the earth, it reaches the lowlands as if it were spreading to the sky, a wonderful sight - the whole earth is blue, water is flowing northwards from a few springs. On the far side was a fountain of light, which was inhabited by giants and fairies. Then he will drive out the giants and fairies ... "and from there he will build a fortress and a city. The same narration is given in other sources.

Academician Ya.Fulomov in his article "Fortress of Light" says that the Fortress of Light was built in the IV-V centuries BC.

Journalist A. Mukhtorov and archaeologist B. Urokov wrote that "the Palace of Light is also called Alexandria, because it was built by Alexander."

Alexander may have come to the Light, seen the fountain, and built the castle. But before he came, there was a name for this area, a spring! Did Alexander change him? Or if they were nameless, did Alexander name them first? What is it called? It is clear that Alexander did not call the castle or the spring "Light". Because light, meaning "enlightenment", is an Arabic word that entered the Turkic language after the Arab conquest of Central Asia.

In one of his articles, Ismailzoda cites the legend that the ancient name of the city of Nur was Kokhzor. The change of the name to Nurata is based on the scattering of light from the spring itself, and it is written that Nurata Nur + ato means "place where light spreads." However, some sources question the Tajik name of Kokhzor, as historical sources suggest that the Persian-speaking population entered the area from the 10th to the 11th centuries⁴.

The toponym of light is mentioned in many written sources as being the name of a village in ancient times. The most convincing proof of this is that Abu Bakr Muhammad Ja'far Narshahi wrote that the village of Nur existed even before Bukhara: "The city of Bukhara had not yet come into being, but some of the villages had emerged. Nur, Harqanrud, Vardona, Tarobcha, Safna and Isvana are among those villages. In other parts of his work, Narshahi mentions Nurata in the form of Nur: It is found in the form of Nurata Nur in Hafizi Abru's Geography, as well as in historical sources of the Timurid period⁵. In general, in the VIII-IX centuries, and even later, the place in question was called Nur⁶. Even German Vamberi's History of Movarounnahr records the form of the toponym Nur: "In 1220, the second city conquered by Genghis Khan was Nur." Some researchers note that the toponym Nur in the form of Nurata was found in written sources in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries⁷.

When looking for the meaning and etymology of the name Nurata, we must pay attention to the following aspects:

- If the name of the place is associated with the Arabic word Nur, then this toponym appeared at least after the VIII century;

- since Nur is not the ancient name of the place, it is necessary to look for what the ancient name is;

- If Alexander named this place, then the name he gave must be Greek. But there is no evidence that Alexander gave the place a Greek name.

- Light: 1) the name of the village; 2) name of the spring; 3) the name of the castle (fortress); 4) the name of the mountain. Whose light first appeared as a famous horse? As it is a natural phenomenon, the spring and the mountain are ancient objects. The village came after natural objects because the castle (fortress) was an artificial object. According to authoritative sources, the Fortress of Light existed in the V-VI centuries. In many sources, the origin of the toponym Nur is explained by its connection to the source, its properties⁸.

Conclusion

It is clear that the first, ancient form of the toponym Nurata was Nur. In this case I have to look for the meaning and etymology of this aspect in the lexeme of Light.

So, in our next research, that is, in our scientific research, we will give our own scientific basis and relevant conclusions about it.

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⁵ There. - 20 pages.

⁷ Uzbek Soviet encyclopedia. 8 vols. 1976. p.96.

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