

The Origin of Topoformant Words (Nomenclature) and the Geographical Terms in Toponymy of Zangazur Area

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Abstract: *The geographical terms and the origin of nomenclature words of Zangazur area are analyzed in the article. It is shown the language affiliation of them.*

Keywords: topoformant, toponym, geography, onomastic lexis

1. Introduction

Since the ancient times the people have been using the geographical terms reflecting the specific features of the geographical objects that surrounded them (mountain, valley, hill and etc.). Toponymic terms played a significant role in the appearance of the geographical names. Those terms are formed on the basis of grammar rules and derivative means of each nation.

Mr. E.M. Murzaullayev shows that the geographical terms is a basis of the toponyms and they play a role as modifier nomens for the creation of complex structure toponyms. Such kind of words still is not toponyms. They become toponyms when they connect to the geographical names.

Generally, geographical terms are divided into two groups:

- Those ones which express a type and a kind of geographical name
- Those ones which consist of special names and thereby become toponyms.

We come across to both of the groups in the toponomic fund of investigated Zangazur area. There are such geographical objects that used only to express the type of geographical objects (kənd, dərə, səlav, yal, bel, çay and etc.) and meanwhile, there are the others that became a geographical object without geographical nomen (For example: dağ, Tap, Balık, Kəpəz, Kömür, Oyuq, Pir, Pul, Tas, Tala, Cil, Arxac, Zor, Şırmıx). Oronym and hidronym is a sphere of the topography that generally reflects the terms being introduced in toponymic creation. Zangazur has also got its own ethnic diversity as well as Azerbaijan ethnic diversity. And it is natural that an ethnic diversity of Zangazur area is represented more and less in Azerbaijani ethnic diversity.

The Turkish toponymic terms are also divided into two groups:

- Ancient Turkish origin terms (all -Turkish)
- Azerbaijani origin terms

Despite of semantics of some part of Turkish-Azerbaijani origin toponyms is not represented in Azerbaijani language and dialect anymore; it still exists in some amount in the structure of toponyms. Those toponyms (toponymic terms) are a great fact from the historical point of view. And, an instigation of the similar ones in the other Turkish languages can be helpful for a common large and precise scientific result. These geographical names (terms) are the valuable facts that disclose an identity and history of that area. Some of them are shown as follows: Balık (Balak), Yazı, Zor, Tas, Dağ, Mac, Top, Pir, Kəpəz, Şam, Kır/Kirs and etc.

An existence of the ancient Turkish elements in toponymy of Zangazur proves so that this area were inhabited by the Turkish ethnic groups even BCE. Such kind of nomens are an expression of the people's thought in terms of time and space. Our ancient generations used the common nouns as the geographical names and made them toponyms. (For example: Balık/Balak, Top, Yazı, Dağ, Tas (kənd), Mac, Pir, Giriş).

At that time, those words used as the common nouns were expressed a meaning of the household, urban and rural deals, farming deals, their belief and other features of their lifestyle. Afterwards, those words became onomastic units. Such kind of geographical terms, being the social – geographical units, are expressing the history of geography and the history of the language of our nation. That is why those toponyms are great of importance in order to identify and approve the history of the Turkish ethnic groups inhabited in that area. Thus, In Zangazur area (in a part of Armenia) a village called “Mac”, no doubt, it indicates that an ancient inhabitants of that time engaged in agriculture. “Balık” is an ancient Turkish word that expresses a meaning of city, castle. “Yazi” is an archaic Turkish origin word that expresses a meaning of steppe, desert. Only being preserved in toponyms, such kind of words almost disappeared out of our vocabulary.

Just taking into account above mentioned facts, complex and systematical study of the geographical terms, which is the most interesting part of Azerbaijani onomastics, is a great of importance in terms of political, scientific and historical view. Thus, one of significant reasons to study

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the toponyms, an important field of historical chronicle of our nation is that these types of terms reflect our historical formation, the components formed our language and the way of our ancestors. Besides, it reflects the lifestyle of the ethnic groups inhabited in that area and their language origin. These terms are containing a lot of the valuable units that can be helpful in order to reveal an ancient lexis, lexis-semantic grammatical and phonetic features of our language. Meanwhile, being the news from the past centuries, they inform about native state of our lands, landscape, our natural resources, lifestyle and culture of our people in the ancient times.

When we examine the toponymic fund of Zangazur area, we are witnessing completely of a toponymic background formed by Azerbaijani-Turkish origin toponyms. As for geographical names which introduced as non-Turkish origin words, it should be noted that, they are Arabian and Persian origin words underwent to Azerbaijani language. As for microtoponyms, it should be noted that, these types of geographical words coincide with a grammatical structure of Azerbaijani language completely. Most of those words are not used in modern Azerbaijani language. But, they still active in the names of oronymic and toponymic objects.

A term: “Yazi düzü”: There are the specific lexis units in Azerbaijani toponymy that most of them were used in all-Turkish monuments and in other related Turkish languages. Some part of these words is archaic in terms of modern Azerbaijani artistic language which mostly used in written sources, in dialect and in accent related to Azerbaijani language. One of those units that reached nowadays as a structural part of our toponyms, is “Yazi”. Oronym “Yazi” is the name of the vast steppe in Gubadli region. Being a microtoponym, that oronym even mentioned in the research work of S.P. Zelinski dedicated to the Zangazur area (“Materials for study economical household of state peasants of Caucasus region) (2,142-165 p). The word “Yazi” means a steppe, a desert, a flat and mostly were used in the ancient Turkish and Azerbaijani written monuments, including the dialect and accent of these languages. It is not only preserved in the structure of geographical names but also is still active as a geographical nomen in some dialects and accents. For instance, in some regions it appears as an independent microtoponym.

It should be noted that this word, being a second component of the complicated toponyms, made a big amount of microoronyms. For instance, we may come across to a word “Ağyazi” in Gakh region (which means small, not so big steppe), “Ağca yazi” in Lachin region, “Qarayazi” in Gazakh region (which means big, large steppe).

The toponym “Yazi” has been used in Jabrail region as well. Even, we may come across to that word in the structure of some oronyms in which it was distorted by a structure. For instance: “Giləzi” – “gil yazi” means a muddy steppe; “Alayazi” – means a flatt steppe. It should be noted that in Orkhon inscriptions the word “Yazi” was used as an expression of a steppe. So, the toponyms are

great of importance in order to study an archaic stage of the language.

Zangazur area is rich of microtoponyms that reflect an archaic lexis. We can offer as a sample “Tap Gorus” region. That microtoponym used without a geographical nomen. The meaning of that is a flat ground, namely a flat ground on the hill. So, it should be noted that, the geographical name is relevant to a location.

- Top – means a place surrounded by the dense forest
- Tas//z – means a rock. It still active in some other languages. It should be noted that all three microtoponyms have been mentioned in some Russian official documents of 19th century (2, 142 -165p)

That is, each geographical object of that area has been given a name relevant to its relief.

An element “Art”, being an ancient Turkish origin word in the geographical names of Azerbaijan, expresses a meaning of a plateau, a mountain passage, a span and etc. We can offer as a sample the word “Salvard” (Salvard peak) which is the name of highland plateau in Zangazur area (namely located in Sisyan region, Armenia) and “Sığır” which is the name of the mountain in Zangilan region.

It should be noted that it would be wrong to relate the word “Ard’/Art”, used in toponymic names, to the word “ard” which used in modern Azerbaijani language and expresses a meaning of backside, back and etc.

A.M. Murzayev has noted that the word “Art” was mentioned in the ancient Turkish topography and he has shown a spreading areal of the words containing “art” component. For instance: Mu-art, Qizil-art, Kiz-Art, Mug – art and etc.

“Parmag-barmag” geographical name: It was widely used in the ancient Turkish language and gives a meaning of a hill. We may witness such a geographical name containing a word “barmaq” in Zangazur area as well. For instance, the mountains in Gubadli region such as “Barmag” and “Besbarmag”; in Lachin region mountain “Barmaglar”; in Khizi region “Besbarmaglar” mountain and in Kalbajar region “Barmaglar” hill.

A term “Bək\\bük”: Zangazur area has also geographical names containing the word elements such as “Bək\\bük”. In the ancient Turkish language that geographical term gives a meaning of a hill, a mountain passage, a high peak and etc. There are many word combinations in Azerbaijani onomastics that containing these geographical terms. For instance, “Bük dağı” (mountain Buk), “Büktəpə” (Buk hill) in Lachin region and “Bəkdaş” (Bakdash) used as Baydağ (Baidag) among the people) mountain, located in the area of Gafan region, Armenia. Besides, we can offer the terms Bakı/Bagı which fits to above mentioned meaning. For instance, the capital of Azerbaijan “Bakı” located in a highland. Meanwhile, Kashagari mentioned the word “bəgi” in his works (1, 722p). He related the meaning of that word as a name of a man.

A term “Balık \\ **balak””: Being an ancient Turkish word, that term gives a meaning of a city, a castle. A. Mirzoyev is also noted that this word was used for the meaning of a city, a castle. Besides, the word “balak” used as a word to express a meaning of an ethnonym in Sisyan and Sarmali regions, the territory of Armenia. The word “balak” is one of dumb toponyms that introduced in the passive fund of words of Sisyan region. M. Kashagari used that word as a name of the city, a castle. That word is considered as a member of dead Turkish used before Islam, namely it is a dead toponym. (1,540p)**

A term “Bair/Bayır””: The toponymy of Zangazur area is rich as much as the composition of its relief. Thus, we may come across the word “Bair/Bayır” which means a hill, a highland, a slope. We can offer as the sample a word “Çalbayır” (Chalbayir) which is the geographical name in Gubadli region given to the highland steppe.

A term “Səngər (Sangar)””: That word was preserved in the ancient Turkish languages like “səngir” (sangir) and the meaning of that is a mountain cape. We can offer as a great sample for that a mountain Səngər which located in the territory of Əyin (Ayin) village, Gubadli region. The term “Səngər” is also mentioned in the novels of S. Ragimov. Namely, therein, he has mentioned about Səngər Mountain. Besides, there is another geographical name called as “Səngərtəpə” (Sangar hill) which given to a highland located in Zangilan region.

A term “Tap””: One of the toponymic names belonging to the relief forms in Zangazur area is a word “Tap”. It is located in Gorus region, Armenia. That word belonging to the relief form. However, it was used as a common noun and became a special toponymic lexis. It was used as a toponym and being adapted to landscape, became a special onomatological unit. It is widely used areal in the dialect of this area. That word means a flat place, a flat steppe, the flatness on the hill. Sometimes, that word used in live talk metaphorically as “Tapa gəl” (come to TAP) which means “Come to a right way”.

Mr. I. Byatramov has also notified that the meaning of that word is flatness, a flat place (3, 53p). That toponym has been used in Azerbaijan and in some areas of all-Turkish nations. We can offer as a sample the geographical names such as “Ceyranlı tapı” (steppe of deer) in Zangilan region and “Köçəri tapı” (steppe of nomads) in Gubadli region. Besides, in the territory of Gorus region, namely nearly the village Shurnukhu there is a steppe called “Hürtap”. The word “Tap” out of the name “Tap Garagoyunlu” is also belonging to this group of words.

A term “Top””: Being used as a private toponymic unit in the onomatological lexis of Zangazur area, this word is a geographical name that used without nomen. The word “Top” was mentioned in the calendar of S.P. Zelinski (“Materials for study economical household of state peasants of Caucasus region, like a private unit. (2,65p) Being accepted as a microtoponym, the meaning of that word is a forest, a glade. We can offer as a sample “Topbağ” forest located near by the village Seytas in Gubadli region. In Turkish language the meaning of that

word fits to the word forest. This word was used in word combinations either as a nomenclature term or as an epithet. The oikonym “Topçu”, existed in the territory of Ismayilli region, was formed by the word Top, too.

A term “Tas””: This appellative lexis, being used as a toponym in the language, is a member of onomatological lexis in the Turkish origin topography of Zangazur area. For instance, there is a geographical object named by Tas that located in the territory of Armenia, namely in Gorus region. In the investigated calendar of Zelinski this word was mentioned as an oronym Taz (2, 142-165p) (“Materials for study economical household of state peasants of Caucasus region). Being the modifier word, that term was also used as a toponym in the structure of the geographical names of Azerbaijani-Turkish toponymy. “Tas” means a stone, a rock and a precipice. That word is introduced in the different geographical names of the different regions. For instance: in Yakutia – Tastax, Xaratas, Tas Xarqi; In Altay – Kiziltas; Kazakhstan – Taskak, tasti; All of these words express generally a meaning of stone. This word is an oronym that has been formed relevant to a relief form.

A term “Dağ (Dag)””: The word “Dağ” is the geographical name that expresses a positive relief structure which generally used in Turkish languages including Azerbaijani. This geographical name is still used by the different forms in Turkish languages. For instance, Dağ, tağ, tao, too, tay and etc.

The geographical object Dag was the summer pasture of Azerbaijani lowland regions in the range of Gorus-Sisyan-Nakhichevan. Each region and each village has possessed their own toponyms in that area. It should be noted that the geographical name “Dağ” had been mentioned like “Taq” in the Russian Official documents of 19 century (“Materials for study economical household of state peasants of Caucasus region (2,145-162p). The meaning of that word is tall and steep slope, pasture and steppe on the hill. That geographical term was widely used in the territories of Turkish speaking nations, namely it has been introduced in toponyms. For instance: in Azerbaijan – Şahdağ, Dağ Quşçu, Dəlidağ; in Crimea – Çatırdağ, Atıdağ; in Kazakhstan – Dəmiray, Alatay; in Bashkordostan – Kırktay. In the heroism sagas, in folklore the word Dag had been accepted like a saint term and the people worshiped to that. Geographical term Dag became constant oronym lacking of elliptic geographical nomen.

A term “Daş” (dash)”: We can come across toponym and microtoponyms containing this geographical term in the structure of Turkish origin topography of Zangazur. It is natural. It is stipulated with a fact that Zangazur is a mountainous area and that fact caused of creation of such kind of geographical terms. Component “Daş” is used for the different meanings. The term was used in this area taking into the characteristic features of the objects, that is, a relief structure, geographical attitude, landscape and etc. It should be noted that “daş//dış” terms sometimes expressed other meanings and it is not coincide with the meaning of the present word “daş”. In present Turkish languages including Azerbaijani dialect the word “dış”

used in order to express a meaning of a steppe, an outside and a desert. For instance, in the word combination “Dişarı çıxmaq” (Dishari chixmag) that term expresses a meaning of an outside, outdoor. Mr. E.M. Mirzoyev has noted that a word “daş” used to express a meaning of a rock, a hill (4, 173 p.). In the territories of Turkish speaking nations there are many oikonyms with respect to a word “daş”. For instance: Daşburun, Daşaltı, Daşkəsən (dashkesen), Bəkdaş (bekdash) and etc. We can come across many toponyms in Zangazur area that containing a term “daş”. For instance: Daşlı qat, Daş kənd (Karase), Taxtadaş, Qızıldaş, Daş başı, Saldaş, Daştın, Baydaş, Daşagirən. Above mentioned geographical names containing nomens have been mentioned by Zelinski in his research work (“Materials for study economical household of state peasants of Caucasus region (2, 145-162 p).

A term “Tey”: It is an oikonym that used without a nomen in the toponymy of Zagazur area. It is a dead toponym entered to passive fund of the territory of Megri region, Armenia. It had been a name of Azerbaijani village. In 1918, that village had been destroyed and underwent genocide by Armenians. Meanwhile, in that area was a village named Tey consisting of copper mines. The ruins of that village still remain. The meaning of that word is revealed by Mr. E.M. Murzayev like a hill, a small mountain (4, 597 p.)

Toponym “Teğüt (Tuğüt)”: It is one of the oikonyms that existed in the territory of Megri region. We guess that the component teğ/tuğ used in that toponym coincides with a word tağ/tuğ/dağ either by phonetic or by linguistic meaning. The geographical name without nomen teğ/tuğ is still lives under the name of Tuğ. It should be noted that one of the geographical names without nomen used in the territory of Gorus region is a word “Diğ”. No doubt, that word originated from the words such as dağ, tağ, tuğ, tex which were used in the different forms.

The second component in the word Teğüt is “ut”, being ancient Turkish affix, expressed a meaning of a space. In Gafan region, there was a village with a name called “Tuqanlar”. In this word were used three components: Tuq+an+lar; the first component coincides with a derivative tağ/tuğ/dağ; the second component “an”, being a topoforant affix in Turkish languages, expresses a meaning of a space; an affix “lar”, being an origin affix of our language, expresses a meaning of a plurality. The all components used herein are belonging to Azerbaijani-Turkish languages. Being a dumb toponym, the word Tuqanlar introduced in passive fund of words. It was happened in the result of genocide, made by Armenians. Such kind of toponyms is a great of importance in terms of study the history of our language. The names of the villages in Lachin region such as first Tuguk and second Tuguk, namely the elements “tug”/tig is also belonging to this family of words.

A term “Xek” (Khek): That toponym was used in Zangazur area. We can come across to that oikonym in the work of S.P. Zelinski dedicated to Zangazur region (2, 142-165p) “Materials for study economical household of state peasants of Caucasus region). Even, I. Chopin has

mentioned that oikonym like “Xok” in his works dedicated to the settlements of 19th century. He considered that the village Xok is one of the ancient villages of that area (located in Sharur region). We think that Xek and Xok used by Zelinski and Chopin are the oikonyms of the same origin under the different phonetic covers. E. M. Murzayev noticed in his works that in Turkmen language this word expresses a meaning of a groove occurred in the result of rain and snow waters; in Altai languages Xek means a dry and a solid ground; In Kazakh language it means a small pond. That term became archaic for Azerbaijani language. For that reason it stayed unknown in some amount. However, it became a member of passive fund of words and had been preserved in the structure of the onomastic lexis.

A term “Qat”: That toponym lacking of nomen was also used in Zangazur area. E.M. Murzayev has used this term in two meanings:

1. Frist meaning is a swamp (4, 14p)
2. Second meaning is a settlement, a house, a village, a city, a castle (4, 263p)

There are differnt names containing that term in Gubadli region that reched our times. S.P. Zelinski (“Materials for study economical household of state peasants of Caucasus region) also mentioned about that in his works. Namely he used the names Small Qat, Big Qat, Stony Qat for the winter camps located nearby the village “Alyanli” (belonging to a tribe Alyanli) that term, herein, expressed a menaing of a settlement, house, village, castle. The component “qat” used in the name of the village Mərzqat of the Megri region (Armenia) is also belonging to that term. Qat//kat components of the toponyms Tunqat, Daxqat, Navkat used in the territories of Turkish speaking nations are also expressing the same meaning and belong to the same family of words.

A term “Düz”: It is a geographiocal term that belonging to the group of words expressing the meanings of relief forms. There is a winter camp under that name. It is located in Armenia and until 1926 it was inhabited by Azerbaijanis. That term means a steppe, a flatness, a field without groove. No doubt, it is Turkish origin word. It was in the structure of the different toponyms. We can come across that word either in the first form of modifier word combination or in the second form of modifier word combination. For instance: Böyükdüz, Düzkənd, Uludüz, Gəyəndüzü and etc.

There are different types of oroobjects and therefore, their formation, expression and geographical nomen features are differ from each other. Being a topoforant, that word is introduced in the formation of the objects with the negative relief structure. It is also used as a private toponym, for instance: Düz; like the first part of the toponym: Düzkənd (flat village); like the second part of the toponym: Böyükdüz, Uludüz, Gəyəndüzü. The toponym “Göyəndüzü”, being a word containing a phytonym character, is ascribed to the blackthorn plant. (goyen means a blackthorn and the all together they mean a steppe of backthorn)

A term “Mac”: Toponomic terms play a significant role in the appearance and formation of geographical names in the territory of Azerbaijan. In this respect, we can offer a name “Mac”. That name belongs to the family of oikonomic geographical terms that appeared in Gorus region of Zangazur Area. It was the name of the village inhabited by Azerbaijanis. In the result of genocide, Azerbaijani inhabitants had been expelled out of that village and that oikonym went to passive fund. In the calendar of Zelinski, the name of that village mentioned as “Matç” (like Russian version (2, 145-162p) (“Materials for study economical household of state peasants of Caucasus region). We guess that this toponym is reflection of a professional occupation of our ancient people. Being used without nomen, this toponym belongs to the agricultural sphere. “Mac” is the name of the tool of the people engaged in farming. Afterwards, it was entered onomatological lexis and used like the toponym. So, that term first used as the appellative lexis belonging to agricultural sphere and then it was used as the toponym. Entering to our archaic lexis, this word became toponym being used without nomen.

2. Result

Generally, there are many geographical names in the toponymy of this area with respect to geographical terms and topoformants.

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