

## SEMANTIC ANALYSES OF ASTANA GODONYMS

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**Abstract.** *The paper is devoted to the investigation of street names of the capital city of the Republic of Kazakhstan Astana. Current work identifies some peculiarities of street names grouping them into several categories and also finding out some semantic features of street names.*

**Key words:** *Toponymy, urbanonym, godonyms, onomastics, culture, history, literature and science.*

Profoundly interesting proper names happen to be street names, which current work aims to investigate. The paper is devoted to research to street names of Astana city, the capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In this work we will attempt to find out semantic features of street names of Astana.

The variety of names, their widespread use in our life and the complexity of this aspect of the language led to establish a special branch of linguistics - toponymy. The Wikipedia gives a definition, the word "toponymy" is derived from the Greek words *tópos* (τόπος) ("place") and *ónoma* (ὄνομα) ("name"), which studies place names, their origins, meanings, use, and typology [1].

By N.V.Podolskoy's definition, urbanonym is one type of toponymy. Proper names of any intra-topographic features including agronym, godonym, oikodonym [2; 139].

"Godonym ( from Greek language "onym" means "road, street") is a type of urabanonym, which studies names of roads, avenues, and streets. Godonimiya is a complex of godonymies" [2; 52]

Street names refer to toponymic names. According to the book "Astana streets" authors of which are Sh.V.Syzdykova, A.F.Ermakhanov and L.K.Ibraeva, Astana, currently the capital city of developing country Kazakhstan, is being renovated not only in terms of construction, but also in many other spheres, e.g. economic, educational, and cultural attitudes. New names are being given to cultural spots, venues, entertainment places, districts, streets, so forth [3]. There are 640 streets in Astana [4].

Old street names were altered by new ones. From onomastic committee's view, it is clear that the names that became archaisms or obsoletes should be substituted with modern proper names, so that names of city streets corresponded to requirements of modern day. In 1997 the capital of Kazakhstan Republic was removed to former Akmola. A year later the name was changed to Astana (in translation into English means *capital*). Since that time street names of our city have been experiencing considerable changes. "Budyonny Str. was renamed Korqyt Str., Charles Marx Str. – Kenesary Str., Komsomol Str. has changed the name for Zheltoksan Str., Avdeev Str.- for Shokhan Ualihanov Str [3]". The most recent change took place in 2015 Levon Mirzoyan – Kanish Satpayev.

N.V.Podolskoy points out, that godonym as a mirror of a national culture, a movable and variable layer of linguistics contains massive data about traditions, customs, mentality and outlook features characterizing a particular linguistic field. "This science allows to see the world through eyes of ancestors [2]".

"According to onomastics committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan areas, streets, institutions, and so forth should be given the names of outstanding people who made substantial contribution to the culture, history, literature and science of Kazakhstan [5; 98]".

"We have a task to identify and give description of those people who lived and also left memorable footprints in language, history, literature, and geography. They are found in architectural monuments and historical documents. Toponyms conclude important cultural and historical information related to the spiritual and material culture or nature. Place names indicate physiographic and historical features which have already disappeared [6]".

Following issues were put forward:

1. Considering semantic features of godonyms of Astana;
2. Analysis to street names of Astana.

The classification of godonyms was carried out by researchers such as M.V.Gorbanevsky, A.V.Superanskaya, V.N.Perlin, A.M.Mezenko. According to the universal scheme of A.Mezenko [7; 35-37], godonyms of Astana can be classified into four basic principles of the nominations on the next group:

- A. Street names relating to another object;
- B. Street names relating to people;
- C. Street names relating to properties and quality;
- D. Street names relating to abstract concept;

According to A.Mezenko's classification A group has these 2 main subgroups:

1. A sign that characterizes a location of streets;

- 1.1 Street names of architectural objects;

1.1.1 Street names of educational, medical and entertainment facilities constitute 0.46% (*Jelesnodorozhnaya Str.* (from Russian "train road"), *Uchilishnyi Str* (from Russian "secondary school").

- 1.1.2 Street names of urban services don't exist.

1.2 Street names by location relating to natural objects make up 20.4% (*Sary arka Str.* is the ground covered by grass which is sunburnt. Therefore it is yellowish. *Maibalyk Str.* is a type of fish, *Gulzar Str.* Is an area of flowers, *Almaly Str.* there are many apples in this stree-t, *Sarytubek Str.* is associated with the color of peninsula "turned yellow, orange peninsula).

1.3 Repetitive street names are accounted for 3.75% (*Abay Ave.*, *Abay Str.*, *A. Chekhov Str.*, *A.Chehov L.*, *A.Zataevich Str.*, *A.Zataevich L.*).

1.4 Dimensional names have only 0.31% (*8 Nauryz Str.- 8<sup>th</sup> of March Str.*, *40-shy shakrym Str.- 40<sup>th</sup> km Str.*).

2. Street names indicating geographical objects outside the city;

2.1 Names of astyonyms are estimated 16.25%. (*Kostanai Str.*, *Taraz Str.*, *Maskey Str.*, *Almaty Str.*, *Mankent Str.*, *Janaozen Str.*, *Talgar Str.*).

2.2 Names of komonyms make up about 5% (*Bayanauil Str.*, *Aisha bibi Str.*, *Amankeldi Str.*, *Atbasar Str.*, *Akkol Str.*, *Koktobe Str.*).

- 2.3 Names of potamonyms make up 7.34% (*Talas Str.*, *Sulu Kol Str.*, *Saryozen Str.*).

We also included names of horonyms which constitute 4.375% (*Shyngistau Str.*, *Sartau Str.*, *Tarbagatai Str.*, *Jumbaktas Str.*, *Medeu Str.*, *Imanau Str.*, etc.).

### Group A

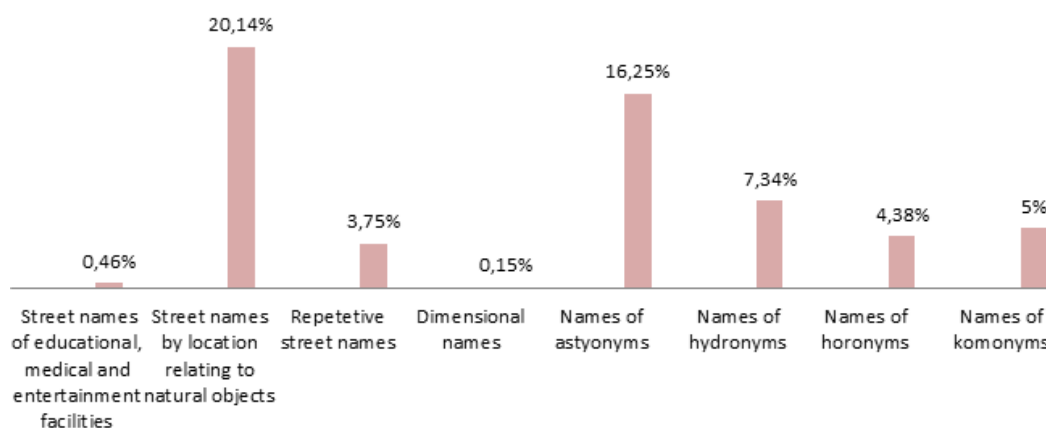


Fig. 1. Semantic classification analyses of Astana street names according to Mezenko's classification

According to A.Mezenko's classification Group B street names are divided into these subgroups:

1. called by names of nations. There aren't street names which were given with the respect of nations in Astana.

2. devoted to professions. It make up 0.3% (*Kurulysshular Str.* the name was given with the respect to builders, *Kenshiler Str.* – the name was given with respect to miners).

3 in relation to different personalities;

3.1 dedicated to:

3.1.1 names of political figures, which make up 0.62% (*D.Konaev Str.*, *K.Satpaev Str.*)

3.1.2 participants of uprisings, revolutions and wars. It constitutes 6.1% (*Agybai batyr Str.*, *Karasai batyr Str.*, *Kabanbai batyr Ave.*, *B.Momushuly Str.*).

3.1.3 outstanding writers, poets. The index is estimated for 10.7% (*M.Makataev Str.*, *Abai Ave.*, *M.Shokai Str.*, *M.Auezov Str.*, *M.Gabdullin Str.*, etc.).

From the results of our investigation there exist names of epic heroes. It makes up 2.3% (*Kyz-Zhibek Str.*, *Layla and Majnun Str.*, *Alpamys Str.*, *Bayan sulu Str.*, *Ayagoz Str.*, *Shugyla Str.* etc). The names of khans from different periods of history of Kazakh nation comprise 3.17%. (*Kenesary Str.*, *Abylai khan Str.*, *Kerei- Janibek Str.*, *Batu khan Str.*, *Berke khan Str.*.)\

### Group B

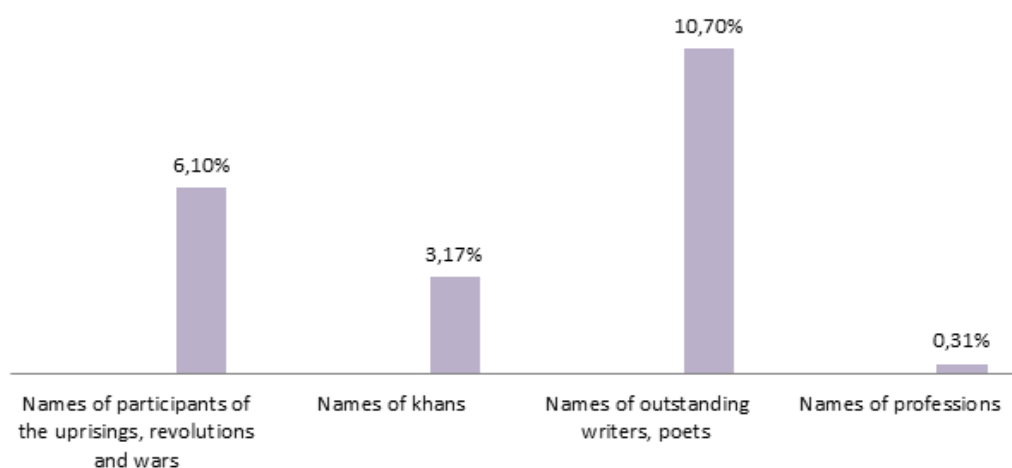


Fig. 2. Semantic classification analyses of Astana street names according to Mezenko's classification

According to A.Mezenko's classification Group C divides into these subgroups:

1. Street names characterizing its size also physiographic features make up just over 3% (*Dalnyaya Str.- Far Str.*, *Zapadnaya Str.- West Str.* ).

2. Characterization of years of streets comprise 0.15% (*Jana Str.- New Str.*).

3. Characterization of color street names constitute 0.15% (*Jasyl Str.- Green Str.*).

4. Plant names comprise 2% (*Baisheshek Str.* name was given to flower "*Galanthus*", *Tarlan Str.-*a herbal plant, *Akkain L.-* white Birch L.).

In addition, we investigated and included names of Kazakh musical instruments which make up about 5% (*Jetigen Str.-* is an old Kazakh seven-stringed instrument, *Kobyz Str.-* a musical instrument looks like a bucket with a curved stamp, *Dauilpaz Str.-*a small drum with one bottom). Names of fauna are estimated 0.7% (*Botaly Str.-* "bota" means "camel", *Zhezkyik Str.-* "Kyik" means "saiga") to the afore-given classification.

According to A.Mezenko's classification Group G divides into these subgroups:

1. Names of streets from Soviet Union are accounted for 1.25% (*Sevastopol Str.*, *Mirnyi Str.- Peaceful Str.*, *Moscow Str.*, *Leningrad Str.*).

2. Names of certain events from Soviet period constitute 0.3% (*8 Nauryz Str.- 8<sup>th</sup> March Str.*, *Oktyabrдын 70 zhuldygy Str.- 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of October Str.*).

3. Names of certain groups of people are accounted for approximately 0.3% (*Molodejnaya Str.*, *Ardagerler Str.*- has an ethical meaning. People are proud of "veteran" men who fought for the peace in our country).

### Group C

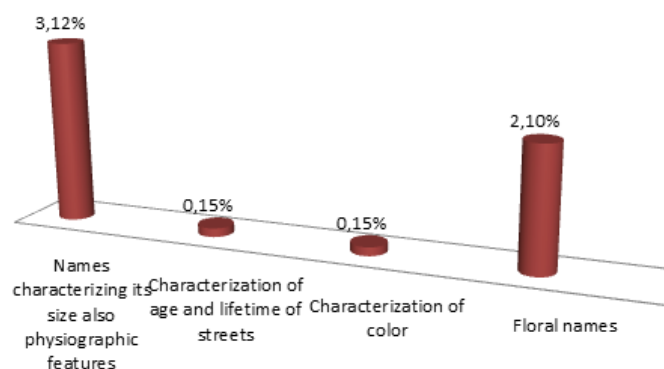


Fig. 3. Semantic classification analyses of Astana street names according to Mezenko's classification

### Group G

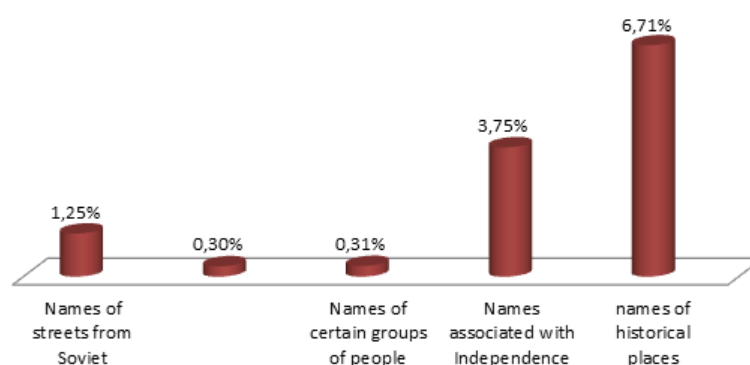


Fig. 4. Semantic classification of Astana street names according to Mezenko's classification

Also we include the names that have semantics associated with Independence which index illustrates 3.75% (*Republic Ave.*, *Beibitshilik Ave.* ("peace"), *Dostyq Str.* ("Friendship"), *Tauelsizdik Str.* ("independence"), *Birlik Str.* ("unity"), *Armandastar Str.* ("dream friends"), names have meanings that Kazakhstan is an example of tolerance, friendship and mutual, *Jeltoksan*- December events of 1986, not to forget nationalist Kazak youth). Names of streets connected with the history make up 6.71% (*Obagan Str.*, *Berel Str.*- historical monuments have being saved from sak tribe ., *Syganak Str.*, *Saraishyk Str.*, *Otyrar Str.* - ancient cities, *Akbastau Str.*- a stone monuments used for ritual purposes in Bronze Age).

As a result of our study, we found out that according to Mezenko's classification in group A the highest percentage of street names is taken by names of location relating to the natural objects, and also by names of astonyms (names of cities). They constitute approximately 20%. The percentage of smallest number of street names is about 0.5%. They are street names that are related to names of educational, medical and entertainment facilities. Kazakhstan was part of the USSR during XIX and

XX century, that's why 14.5% of street names are Russian, especially names of Russian writers and names of Russian cities.

Moving to next group B, street names relating to “participants of uprisings, revolutions and wars” and names of khans show 5% averagely, slightly less street names relating to professions. The most frequent names given to streets are the names of outstanding writers and poets who could make their great contribution to the history of our nation.

In group C the considerable number of names is given to street names of plants, names such as *Akkain Str.*, *Arakarağai Str.*, *Arshaly Str.*, *Besterek Str.*, and etc. Street names that characterize size, age, and color of streets, are estimated at 0.3%.

According to group G, Astana has large number of street names relating to the Independence of Kazakhstan. In other words, after gaining Independence, the Republic of Kazakhstan formed a new capital Astana. The index makes up 3.75%. These names are given for a good purpose to strengthen ideology and to give feeling of freedom to every dweller of our country. We want to point up there are some street names associate with the history of Kazakhstan, for example: names of old cities, names of ancient monuments. For the reason that these historical places are found in our country (6.7%) and for the memory of them so that they are kept and handed for the next generation.

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