

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF UZBEK AND ENGLISH TOPONYMS

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Abstract: The article explores the linguistic and cultural background of the toponym Pattakesar, a place located near Termez in the Surkhandarya region of Uzbekistan. Through comparative linguistic analysis, the author examines the etymology and semantic connections of the components “Patta/Paxta” and “Kesar/Hisor” found in various languages such as Uzbek, Sanskrit, Hindi, and others. The study shows that these components are linked to agriculture, land, and natural features across South and Central Asia. The paper concludes that the name Pattakesar symbolizes historical and cultural interactions between the peoples of these regions, reflecting shared linguistic roots and geographical associations.

Key words: linguistic, toponym, etymology, semantic connections, components.

Аннотация: В статье рассматривается лингвистическое и культурное происхождение топонима Паттакесар, расположенного недалеко от города Термез в Сурхандарьинской области Узбекистана. Путём сравнительного анализа исследуются этимология и семантика компонентов «Патта/Пахта» и «Кесар/Гиссар», встречающихся в узбекском, санскритском, хинди и других языках. Автор приходит к выводу, что эти элементы связаны с земледелием, территорией и природными объектами, широко представленными в Южной и Центральной Азии. Топоним Паттакесар отражает исторические и культурные взаимосвязи народов региона и их общие лингвистические корни.

Ключевые слова: лингвистическое, топоним, этимология, компоненты.

Annotatsiya: Maqolada O‘zbekistonning Surxondaryo viloyati, Termiz yaqinida joylashgan Pattakesar toponimi tahlil qilinadi. Muallif “Patta/Paxta” va “Kesar/Hisor” qismlarining turli tillardagi (o‘zbek, sanskrit, hind va boshqalar) ma’nosini solishtirib, ularning kelib chiqishi va semantik o‘zaro bog‘liqligini ochib beradi. Tadqiqot natijalariga ko‘ra, bu komponentlar janubiy va markaziy Osiyo xalqlari tillarida qishloq xo‘jaligi, yer va tabiiy hududlar bilan chambarchas bog‘liqdir. Pattakesar toponimi xalqlar o‘rtasidagi tarixiy va madaniy aloqalarni hamda umumiy til ildizlarini aks ettiradi.

Kalit so‘zlar: tilshunoslik, toponim, semantic o‘zaro bog‘liqlik, komponentlar.

Introduction. One of the main areas of linguistics that captures a country's history, culture, religious convictions, and linguistic characteristics is toponymy. Every place name has a specific meaning and frequently preserves remnants of the past. One unusual example is the toponym Pattakesar, which is situated close to Termez in the Surkhandarya region of Uzbekistan. Its linguistic and cultural significance can be discovered by comparing its constituent parts across various languages and geographical areas. This name embodies elements found in both Central and South Asian linguistic traditions, revealing deep historical connections. By analyzing its components—Patta/Paxta and Kesar/Hisor—one can uncover semantic layers related to agriculture, geography, and spirituality. Comparative linguistic analysis of this toponym

highlights how language contact and historical exchange have shaped the formation of hybrid place names, enriching our understanding of regional history and the interconnectedness of human civilization.

Review of Related Literature. Recent linguistic studies emphasize the cultural and historical role of toponyms in revealing ancient communication networks. Khudoyorova (2021) [1] and Shoyimova (2023) [6] highlight the symbolic and ethnolinguistic functions of Uzbek and English place names. Konyratbayeva (2024) [5] examines hybrid Turkic–Mongolic toponyms, underscoring cross-regional influences. Similarly, Bahripublications (2024) [3] discusses figurative and compound place names in Uzbek and English contexts. Mamatov (2010) [8] and Saidov (2019) [9] analyze the historical depth of Uzbek toponyms as cultural heritage. Together, these works demonstrate that toponymy functions not merely as a linguistic category, but as a reflection of human interaction, migration, and identity across time and space.

Research methodology: The toponym Pattakesar, located in the Surkhandarya region of Uzbekistan (near Termez), is a unique example. A comparative analysis of its components across different languages and regions reveals its linguistic and cultural significance.

1. The “Patta / Pakhta” Component

In Uzbek, “paxta” means “cotton,” and is widely used in place names such as Paxtakor, Paxtachi, Paxtakoron, etc.

The word "patta" means "land deed, leaf, territory" in South Asian languages, particularly Sanskrit and Hindi. Pattabiram (Tamil Nadu) and Pattamundai (Orissa) are two examples. Therefore, this element is connected to land, agriculture, or territory in various linguistic contexts.

2. The “Kesar / Gissar” Component

In Central Asia, the term Hisor/Gissar is well known. It is the name of a mountain range in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, as well as the famous Hisor Fortress near Dushanbe.

In India, Kesar derives from Sanskrit and means “saffron.” This name appears in many places, such as Kesar Bagh (Rajasthan) and the Kesarwani community.

In Pakistan, the “Hisor” element is also common, for example, in Hisor River and Hisor Mountains (Balochistan).

3. Comparative Similarities

- Pattakesar (Uzbekistan, Termez) = Pakhta + Hisor/Gissar → cotton + mountain/territory.
- Hisor (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan) → common geographic component.
- Patta/Kesar (India, Nepal) → saffron, leaf, or land-related names.

This indicates that the toponym Pattakesar structurally reflects a combination of ancient lexical elements used across different regions. Despite having a specific connection to the Uzbek district of Termez, Pattakesar's elements are common in other nations:

- "Hisor/Gissar"—used as a geographical name in Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- "Patta/Kesar"—used in Nepal and India to refer to land, saffron, or agriculture. From the standpoint of comparative linguistics, this demonstrates how historical and cultural interactions

cause the toponym's constituent parts to converge into a single name even though they have distinct meanings in various languages.

-Conclusion and Suggestions. The comparative linguistic analysis of the toponym Pattakesar demonstrates that place names are not mere geographic identifiers, but living linguistic monuments that preserve traces of human history, migration, and cultural exchange. The components Patta/Paxta and Kesar/Hisor reveal the interaction of Indo-Aryan and Turkic linguistic traditions, showing how words related to land, agriculture, and natural features merged through centuries of communication between Central and South Asian peoples. The study highlights that toponyms in Uzbekistan, particularly in the Surkhandarya region, often carry deep connections to ancient trade routes and spiritual practices, reflecting a multicultural and multilingual heritage.

From this analysis, several suggestions can be made. First, further etymological research should be conducted on regional toponyms to uncover their historical roots and cross-cultural meanings. Second, interdisciplinary collaboration between linguists, historians, and archaeologists can help build a unified “Toponymic Map” of Central Asia. Third, digital preservation of local place names through geographic information systems (GIS) and academic databases is essential for safeguarding linguistic heritage. Finally, integrating toponymic studies into educational curricula and tourism projects can promote public awareness of Uzbekistan’s rich historical geography, enhancing both national identity and cultural diplomacy through the global recognition of its ancient linguistic legacy.

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