

**CONTEXTUAL FUNCTIONS OF MYTHONYMS IN THE FOLKLORIC
DISCOURSE OF KHOREZM FOLKLORE**

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Abstract

This article analyzes the role and functions of mythonyms used in Khorezm folklore within folkloric discourse. In particular, the narrative, symbolic, and pragmatic functions of mythonyms are highlighted through specific examples. The study concludes that mythonyms are significant onomastic units reflecting the people's worldview, mythological thinking, and socio-cultural life.

Keywords

mythonym, folkloric discourse, Khorezm folklore, narrative function, symbolic meaning, pragmatic function, conceptual semantics.

Introduction

Khorezm folklore is an integral part of Uzbekistan's rich cultural heritage, reflecting the ancient mythological perceptions, religious beliefs, and the harmonious lifestyle of the people with nature. Mythonyms found in folkloric texts—names used in a mythological context—constitute an important layer of the onomastic system.

In Khorezm folklore, cosmonyms (e.g., Yetti Qaroqchi [The Big Dipper], Tishtiriya), phytonyms (walnut tree, pomegranate orchard), zoonyms (blue dove, iloq), as well as mythical beings (pari [fairy], dev [giant/demon]), and magical objects (lamp, ledger) are widely utilized. These units do not merely serve a naming function in folkloric discourse but carry complex semantic and functional loads.

The purpose of this research is to analyze the narrative, symbolic, and pragmatic functions of mythonyms in Khorezm folklore and to determine their place in the national worldview.

Research Methodology

The following methods were employed in the study:

Descriptive analysis;

Semantic and conceptual analysis;

Discursive approach;

Comparative-cultural analysis.

The research materials include samples of Khorezm epics (dastons), fairy tales, legends, and ritual folklore.

Main Body

1. Narrative Function of Mythonyms

Mythonyms play a crucial role in the plot construction of folkloric texts. As primary components organizing reality, they shape the system of time, space, and characters.

Cosmonyms, particularly Yetti Qaroqchi and Tishtiriya, often serve as elements defining the time and direction of events. For instance, in epics, Yetti Qaroqchi acts as a guide for the protagonist.

Phytonyms—such as the walnut tree or pomegranate orchard—represent mythological spaces. The walnut tree is frequently depicted as a sacred site or an abode of spirits.

Zoonyms and Mythical Beings ensure plot dynamics. While the blue dove acts as a messenger of divine news, the dev and pari create dramatic conflict as opposing forces.

Thus, as an inseparable part of the narrative structure, mythonyms form the internal logical system of the folkloric text.

2. Symbolic Function of Mythonyms

Mythonyms express deep symbolic meanings in folkloric discourse:

Symbol of Sacredness: The lamp – a symbol of divine light and purity.

Symbol of Fertility: The pomegranate orchard and Tishtiriya – signs of life-giving force.

Symbol of Evil: Dev and ajina – expressions of chaos and disorder.

Symbol of Spiritual Connection: The blue dove and walnut tree – means of spiritual bonding.

Through these symbols, mythonyms transcend simple naming and acquire profound spiritual significance in the collective consciousness.

3. Pragmatic Function of Mythonyms

Mythonyms also perform practical and social tasks in folklore:

Religious-Ritual Function: Lamps and pari are utilized in ceremonies.

Social Function: Yetti Qaroqchi determines the agricultural calendar.

Didactic Function: Ethical lessons are imparted through the imagery of dev characters.

Identificational Function: Mythonyms like Koh-i Qaf (Mount Qaf) express cultural identity.

4. Conceptual Semantics and Associative Networks

Mythonyms form complex conceptual systems in the people's mind, consisting of a semantic core and related associative layers:

Yetti Qaroqchi → Guidance, cosmic order.

Tishtiriya → Rain, fertility.

Walnut Tree → Tree of life, sacredness.

Pari → Beauty and protection.

Dev → Chaos and evil.

These networks are closely linked to the religious, cosmogonic, and social experiences of the people.

Conclusion. In conclusion, mythonyms in Khorezm folklore constitute a multi-layered semantic and functional system. They play a vital role in:

The formation of narrative structures;

Expressing symbolic meanings;

Social and religious practices.

Mythonyms manifest the ancient worldview, mythological thinking, and cultural identity of the people. Their study is significant not only for folklore studies but also for linguistics and cultural studies. Future comparative studies of Khorezm mythonyms with the folklore of other regions may yield productive scientific results.

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