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## GEOGRAPHICAL PRINCIPLES OF GROUPING TOPONYMS OF ZHAMBYL REGION (KAZAKHSTAN)

The article analyzes scientific approaches to geographical principles of grouping toponyms. The study's relevance is due to the lack of work on the toponymy of Southern Kazakhstan and the need to develop this direction in Kazakh science. The purpose of the study was to build a classification of toponyms of the Zhambyl region based on geographical principles.

The research methodology contains the following stages of the development of geographical principles of grouping toponyms of the Zhambyl region: 1) selection of geographical names (toponyms important for the region in historical, cultural, geographical, and political aspects) and a brief description of the largest geographical objects; 2) processing of the results of the analysis of toponyms; 3) building a system of geographical principles of grouping toponyms; 4) systematization and identification of patterns of toponyms of the region. During the primary classification, two groups of toponyms were identified: geographical names related to localities and geographical names related to natural formations. Three principles of grouping toponyms of the Zhambyl region symbolizing the region in the consciousness of the Kazakh society are used: normative-legal, historical-geographical, and cultural-linguistic principles. Practical significance of the study: the toponymic classification of the main geographical names of the Zhambyl region has been compiled: 1) natural geographical names; 2) cultural and historical geographical names; 3) geographical names associated with the names and surnames of people. It was found that the main part of the toponyms of the region comes from the Turkic, Persian, Altaic, or Arabic languages. By the beginning of the XXI century, many administrative-territorial units received names in the Kazakh language. Most of the toponyms were formed from the names of natural geographical objects (mainly from the names of rivers), a small part belongs to the topographic group associated with the names and surnames of people.

**Key words:** toponyms, toponymy, onomastics, geographical names, geographical principles, grouping, classification.

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### **Жамбыл облысының топонимдерін топтастырудың географиялық принциптері (Қазақстан)**

Мақалада топонимдерді топтастырудың географиялық принциптеріне ғылыми көзқарастар талданады. Зерттеудің өзектілігі Оңтүстік Қазақстанның топонимиясы бойынша жұмыстардың жеткіліксіздігіне және қазақстандық ғылымда осы бағытты дамыту қажеттілігіне байланысты. Зерттеудің мақсаты географиялық принциптер негізінде Жамбыл облысының топонимдерін топтастыру болды.

Зерттеу әдістемесі Жамбыл облысының топонимдерін топтастырудың географиялық қағидаттарын әзірлеудің мынадай кезеңдерін қамтиды: 1) географиялық атауларды (тарихи-мәдени, географиялық және саяси аспектілерде өңір үшін маңызды топонимдерді) іріктеу және неғұрлым ірі географиялық объектілердің қысқаша сипаттамасы; 2) топонимдерді талдау нәтижелерін өңдеу; 3) топонимдерді топтастырудың географиялық қағидаттары жүйесін құру; 4) аймақ топонимдерінің заңдылықтарын жүйелеу және бөліп көрсету. Бастапқы жіктеу кезінде топонимдердің екі тобы бөлінді: елді мекендерге қатысты географиялық

атаулар және табиғи түзілімдерге қатысты географиялық атаулар. Қазақстандық қоғамның санасында өңірді бейнелейтін Жамбыл облысының топонимдерін топтастырудың үш қағидаты қолданылды: нормативтік-құқықтық, тарихи-географиялық қағидаттар. Зерттеудің практикалық маңыздылығы: Жамбыл облысының негізгі географиялық атауларының топонимикалық жіктелімі жасалды: 1) табиғи географиялық атаулар; 2) мәдени-тарихи географиялық атаулар; 3) адамдардың аты-жөнімен байланысты географиялық атаулар. Аймақ топонимдерінің негізгі бөлігі түркі, парсы, Алтай немесе араб тілдерінен шыққандығы анықталды. ХХІ ғасырдың басында көптеген әкімшілік-аумақтық бірліктер қазақ тілінде атау алды. Топонимдердің көпшілігі табиғи географиялық объектілердің атауларынан (негізінен өзен атауларынан) пайда болды, аз бөлігі адамдардың есімдері мен фамилияларымен байланысты топографиялық топқа жатады.

**Түйін сөздер:** топонимдер, топонимика, ономастика, географиялық атаулар, географиялық принциптер, топтастыру, топтастыру.

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### Географические принципы группировки топонимов Жамбылской области (Казахстан)

В статье анализируются научные подходы к географическим принципам группировки топонимов. Актуальность исследования обусловлена недостаточностью работ по топонимии Южного Казахстана и необходимостью развития данного направления в казахстанской науке. Цель исследования состояла в построении классификации топонимов Жамбылской области на основе географических принципов.

Методика исследования содержит следующие этапы разработки географических принципов группировки топонимов Жамбылской области: 1) отбор географических названий (топонимов, важных для региона в историко-культурном, географическом и политическом аспектах) и краткое описание наиболее крупных географических объектов; 2) обработку результатов анализа топонимов; 3) построение системы географических принципов группировки топонимов; 4) систематизацию и выделение закономерностей топонимов региона. При первичной классификации были выделены две группы топонимов: географические названия, относящиеся к населенным пунктам, и географические названия, относящиеся к естественным природным образованиям. Используются три принципа группировки топонимов Жамбылской области, символизирующих регион в сознании казахстанского общества: нормативно-правовой, историко-географический и культурнолингвистический принципы. Практическая значимость исследования: составлена топонимическая классификация основных географических названий Жамбылской области: 1) природные географические названия; 2) культурно-исторические географические названия; 3) географические названия, связанные с именами и фамилиями людей. Было установлено, что основная часть топонимов региона происходит из тюркского, персидского, алтайского или арабского языков. К началу ХХІ века многие административно-территориальные единицы получили наименования на казахском языке. Большинство топонимов образовались от названий природных географических объектов (в основном от названий рек), малая часть относится топографической группе, связанной с именами и фамилиями людей.

**Ключевые слова:** топонимы, топонимия, ономастика, географические названия, географические принципы, группировка, классификация.

## Introduction

Over the past three decades, Kazakhstan has been actively working to change the geographical names of settlements. On the one hand, this is the result of the formation of a new Kazakh identity and the development of the state language, and on the other, it is the result of increasing the importance of the historical heritage of the country, in which toponyms are closely related to culture, language,

traditions, peculiarities of the mental consciousness of local communities, political and socio-economic history.

Signs indicating historical-geographical, socio-political, and historical-cultural roots, naming practice is a continuous process of actualization, reassertion, and transformation of national identities (Saparov et al., 2017). Therefore, renaming places, objects, people, events, actions, and things as a way of the discursive construction of a new social reality

has become standard practice (Peteet 2005; Smagulova, Madiyeva, 2021).

In the scientific literature, “toponyms” (from Greek. *topos* – “place” and “*onyma*” – “name, title”) determine how the language signs of the natural language designate certain fragments of topographic space. These linguistic signs form a system called the “toponymic system”, which is artificially contractual. Toponyms are a kind of repositories of political, social, and cultural views of society, reflecting certain linguistic trends and features of word formation (Toporov, 1962).

Toponymy is the study of toponyms, which are proper names of places, their origin and meaning, use, and typology. In a more specific sense, the term “toponymy” refers to the inventory of toponyms, and the discipline that studies such names is called “toponymy” or “toponomastics” (Ismatova, 2021).

Modern Kazakh toponomastics is characterized by the activation of reflection on the state and prospects for the development of onomastic research, the main object of which are toponyms of various regions of Kazakhstan (Madiyeva, 2018).

The relevance of the study of geographical principles of grouping toponyms in the territory of modern Southern Kazakhstan is dictated by the need for a more informed approach to the policy and strategy of renaming geographical objects and the development of research on Kazakh toponymy in general with the involvement of toponymic material contained in historical and regulatory documents, maps and lists.

For the first time, the hypothesis of the close relationship between the landscape of the territory and the historical life of the nomads of the Great Steppe was confirmed by scientific expeditions conducted by the famous Russian scientist L.N. Gumilyov in the Caspian region in 1959-1964. Considering that the names of geographical objects have been formed over the centuries and were created in different epochs, among them some toponyms were formed gradually in a particular territory, as well as those that were inherited from the people who inhabited it. Toponyms reflect the way of life, beliefs of the people, their artistic creativity, and historical political, and economic contacts. It is in toponyms that the most valuable information about the language and history of the people is “encoded”.

In science, toponymic units have been studied from different points of view, taking into account various aspects of their multifaceted structure (his-

torical and geographical; ontological, etymological, linguocultural, cognitive, functional, sociolinguistic, psycholinguistic, semantic, etc.).

Toponymic systems in various territories in the field of onomastics theory were studied by Basik, 2006; Belenkaya, 1969; Khayitova, 2020; Murzaev, 1996; Nikonov, 1965; Stewart, 1985; Toporov, 1962; in the field of Russian toponymy – Bondalev, 1983; Berezovich, 2010; Golev, Dmitrieva, 2008; Diakonova, 2022; Karabulatova, 2002; Matveev, 2008; Shcherbak, 2008; in the field of Kazakh toponymy – Bugybayeva, 2015; Daniyarov, Korbut, 2022; Koichubaev, 1974; Konkashpaev, 1963; Kulamanova, 2006, 2014; Madiyeva, 2003, 2018; Narozhnaya, 2019; Popova, 1997; Rysbergenova, 2000; (Yeginbayeva et al., 2016); (Wendt, 2017); Smagulova, Madiyeva, 2021; Tektigul, 2021; Tobugov, 2019; Ualikhan, 2022, (Saparov et al., 2024), etc.

Many approaches, principles, and criteria for grouping toponyms have been proposed in the literature. However, their general classification has not developed to date. One of the main drawbacks of classification schemes is the inability to “fit all the variety of geographical names into the Procrustean bed of one classification” (Murzaev, 1996: 115).

An important aspect of the theory of toponymy is the typology of geographical names. Despite the presence of a large number of works, the study of the regional theory of toponyms in Kazakhstan, which has modern scientific significance, is still in its initial stage. Therefore, strengthening the theoretical study of toponymy in the context of the classification of toponyms is an urgent task set for a large number of scientists. The purpose of the scientific classification of regional geographical names is to identify similarities and differences of toponyms, and internal links between them, to form a system of classification of toponyms of various scales, forms, and contents; to lay the foundation and create conditions for in-depth study and effective management of toponyms to protect national sovereignty and strategic planning of territorial development.

The purpose of the study is to develop a classification of toponyms of the Zhambyl region based on geographical principles.

The study of geographical principles of grouping toponyms of one of the regions of Southern Kazakhstan will contribute to the development of modern linguistics and toponymy, as well as deepen

and expand knowledge of the history, culture, and ethnogenesis of the peoples of the region.

### Materials and methods

The research methodology is based on an interdisciplinary approach. The study contains a selective analysis of the available general classifications of toponyms in scientific research; the author's methodology for developing geographical principles of grouping toponyms of the Zhambyl region, including descriptive analysis, collection, study, and classification of the collected toponyms of the region, logical understanding and identification of patterns. Descriptive, geographical, cartographic, taxonomic, and historical methods of cognition were used in the study. In particular, the taxonomic method as a variant of the descriptive method was used to categorize toponymic units into certain logical classes and subclasses.

The main stages of the development of geographical principles of grouping toponyms of Zhambyl region included:

1. Selection of geographical names (toponyms important for the region in historical, cultural, geographical, and political aspects) and a brief description of the largest geographical objects.
2. Processing of the results of the analysis of toponyms.
3. Building a system of geographical principles for grouping toponyms.
4. Systematization of toponyms of the region.

The expected results of the study include the identification of geographical principles of grouping toponyms of the Zhambyl region, their systematization, and the identification of patterns.

### Results and discussion

Some scientists have tried to classify toponyms according to certain principles or criteria. One of the first classifications of toponyms was developed in 1954 by the American researcher George R. Stewart. There are ten main types of toponyms in this typology: 1) descriptive names and names of points (names describing and characterizing the quality of the object or its location); 2) associative names (names that cause associations with various objects); 3) names of incidents (names from an event related to a person, including natural disasters, calendar names, animal names, names of human

actions, names of feelings, names from sayings); 4) possessive names (names originated from the idea of property); 5) memorable names (names given in memory or honor of outstanding people); 6) recommendation names (names given by any attractive features of a geographical object); 7) folk etymologies; 8) invented names (names deliberately composed of fragments of other words); 9) erroneous names (names originated from an error made when transferring from one language to another); 10) changed names (names that were moved from one place to another) (Stewart, 1985).

In the 60s of the twentieth century, Soviet researchers (Nikonov, 1965; Belenkaya, 1969) identified three levels of the meaning of the toponym: 1) pre-toponymic, or etymological meaning; 2) toponymic, or geographical meaning (address-index component); 3) ot-toponymic, or post-toponymic meaning (associations that arise in a person in connection with a toponym).

A.V. Superanskaya grouped toponyms according to the nature of the named geographical objects: 1) toponyms formed from the noun; 2) names formed from adjectives; 3) verbal proper names (for example, the Turkic name of the Barsa desert is Kelmes (translated: "if it goes, it won't come back")) (Superanskaya 1985: 8-29).

V. A. Zhuchkevich divided all geographical names into five groups: 1) names that are indigenous to a given language, that is, with a clear meaning; 2) names that originate from the language of a certain people, but over time changed and even reinterpreted; 3) names inherited from another language and converted to phonetic features and norms spelling of the language prevailing in a particular territory; 4) foreign-language names; 5) hybrid names (Zhuchkevich, 1980).

According to F. Khayitova, when classifying toponymic nominations, it is necessary to take into account the multifaceted (intra- and extralinguistic) principles of distinguishing toponymic units, such as 1) parametric characteristics of the object; 2) ontological characteristics of the object; 3) type of toponymic basis; 4) etymological characteristics of toponyms; 5) motivational characteristics of toponyms; 6) chronological characteristics of toponyms; 7) structural characteristics of toponyms; 8) toponymic polysemy; 9) degree of toponymic nomination; 10) a kind of toponymic nomination, 11) localization of the object (Khayitova, 2020).



Thus, classification based on parametric features of an object involves the division of toponyms into macro toponyms (names of large geographical objects and political-administrative units) and micro toponyms (individualized names of small geographical objects reflecting the features of the local landscape, familiar only to residents).

Classification based on the ontological characteristics of the object is characterized by worldwide orderliness and uniformity. The peculiarity of this classification is that toponymic categorization duplicates the structure and content of categories of natural objects, i.e. forms an ontological model of categorization of the world.

According to the classification of toponyms, depending on the type of their basis related to a certain lexico-semantic or thematic group, there are anthrotoponyms, toponyms, ethnotoponyms, zootoponyms, phytotoponyms, ergotoponyms, etc.

Depending on the origin, toponyms are divided into native, borrowed, and hybrid.

The classification based on the motivational characteristics of toponyms or the clarity of their internal form assumes two groups of geographical names: motivated toponyms with a clear internal form and unmotivated toponyms with vague unclear semantics, the meaning of which cannot be deciphered.

The chronological classification of toponyms is based on the division into archaic (ancient, obsolete, obsolete) toponyms and modern (current) toponyms.

Classification according to the structural principle, simple derivatives and complex toponyms are distinguished.

Toponyms are also divided into single-subject, multi-subject, and empty. Toponyms denoting a single geographical object (or ideal toponyms) perform an individualizing function to the greatest extent. Multi-object toponyms denote several geographical objects. Empty toponyms do not refer to any existing geographical objects, i.e. they are the names of fictional non-existent geographical objects.

According to the degree of toponymic nomination, toponyms are divided into primary (nominations formed from common nouns, and non-primary (nominations formed from proper names).

The cultural opposition of “friends and strangers” is realized in the classification of toponyms according to the principle of localization of the object. The term “our” toponyms means geographical names

denoting objects within the studied linguistic area.

The specificity of the regional concept sphere of toponyms is due to several factors, including reflection of regional spiritual and axiological ideas; the spatial role of the territory; natural and climatic features; the way of settling in the territory depending on the time and place of settlement (Shcherbak, 2008).

S.N. Basik pointed out that the geographical name and toponymic complex of a particular region can be considered from such positions as belonging of the name to geographical reality (city, mountain, river, swamp, etc.); time and conditionality of occurrence; belonging to a particular language; content and etymology; its morphology; scientific justification of the display when transferring from language to language and the correct spelling in the native language; area of distribution (area) (Basik, 2006: 13).

The modern species composition of toponyms is diverse, including oronyms (names of mountains, hills, ridges); hydronyms (names of water bodies); oikonoms (names of settlements (villages, settlement, cities)); dreamonyms (names of forests, groves, parks); acronyms (names of administrative-territorial units); urbanonyms (names of streets, alleys, squares), etc. (fig. 1) (Basik, 2006: 18-21).

Thus, the methods of study and the approaches of researchers to grouping toponyms do not differ in unity, since it is necessary to take into account data arrays not only of language but also of history, culture, language, and geography. Accordingly, the geographical principles of the selection of distinctive features of toponyms should depend not only on the physical and geographical conditions of the area but also on the peculiarities of the history and culture of people, living conditions, and the scope of their economic activity.

As a result, three principles of grouping of toponyms of Zhambyl region were identified, symbolizing the region in the consciousness of the Kazakh society:

- normative-legal principle (means that a toponym is allocated (or named) based on normative acts of republican or regional significance);
- historical and geographical principle (shows the stages and specifics of the settlement of peoples on the ground, the close connection of peoples with the location of geographical objects and the history of ethnic groups, as well as connections with specific historical events and personalities);

- cultural linguistic principle (involves the analysis of toponyms as a valuable heritage of the language and culture of peoples; reveals the features of ancient migrations and interethnic contacts).

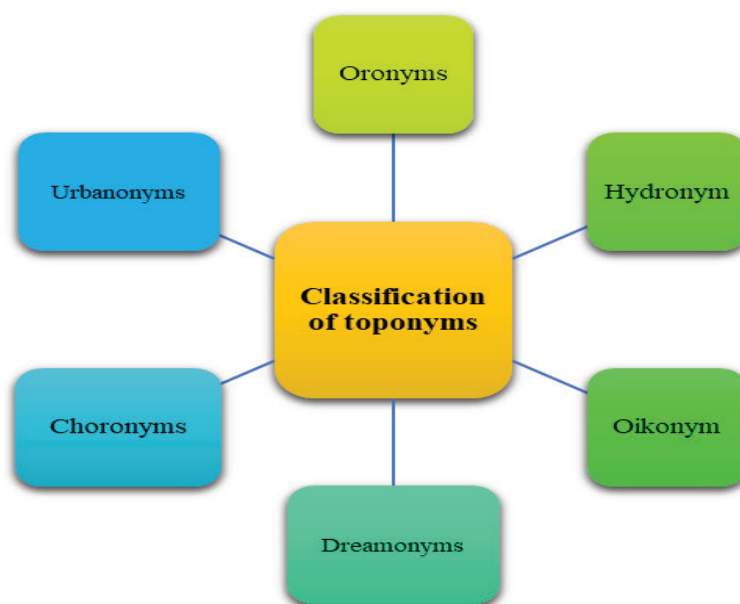


Figure 1 – The main toponymic classes

Geographically, Zhambyl region is located in the south of Kazakhstan. The territory is distinguished by a variety of natural zones, but is mostly flat, occupying 144.3 thousand square kilometers. The region borders the Karaganda region in the north, on the south – with the Republic of Kyrgyzstan and South Kazakhstan region, and on the east – with Almaty (Fig. 2).

The climate of the region is arid and sharply continental. The population of the region as of June 1, 2022, amounted to 1,153.1 thousand people, including urban – 462.1 thousand people (40.1%), rural – 691,000 people (59.9%). The population is represented by more than 90 nationalities and nationalities, and 71.4% of the permanent population are Kazakhs. Zhambyl region has significant reserves of minerals: non-ferrous metals, phosphorites, gold, gas, etc. The foothills, where agriculture is conducted, are most densely populated. In the mountains and the desert, the population is engaged in sheep and karakul breeding.

During the primary classification, two groups of toponyms of the surveyed region were identified: geographical names related to settlements and geographical names related to natural formations. Then the classes and subclasses of toponyms and

the dates of their appearance are determined (if possible).

Based on the geographical principles of grouping, the following classification groups of toponyms were identified:

- 1) natural geographical names;
- 2) cultural and historical geographical names;
- 3) geographical names associated with the names and surnames of people.

Zhambyl (formerly Dzhambul) region is a region located in the south of Kazakhstan, formed by the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR dated October 14, 1939, with its capital in the city of Dzhambul. The region was named in honor of Zhambyl Zhabayev (Dzhambul Dzhabayev, 02/28/1846 – 06/22/1945) – Kazakh and Soviet poet, akyn improviser, an outstanding representative of the folklore verbal-song tradition.

Initially, the administrative-territorial division of the Dzhambul region with the administrative center in the city of Dzhambul included Dzhambul, Talas, Sverdlovsk, Merken, Lugov, and Sary-Sui. Chui, Kurday, and Krasnogor districts. In the post-war years, the construction of the cities of Karatau and Zhanatas began at the foot of the Karatau mountains.

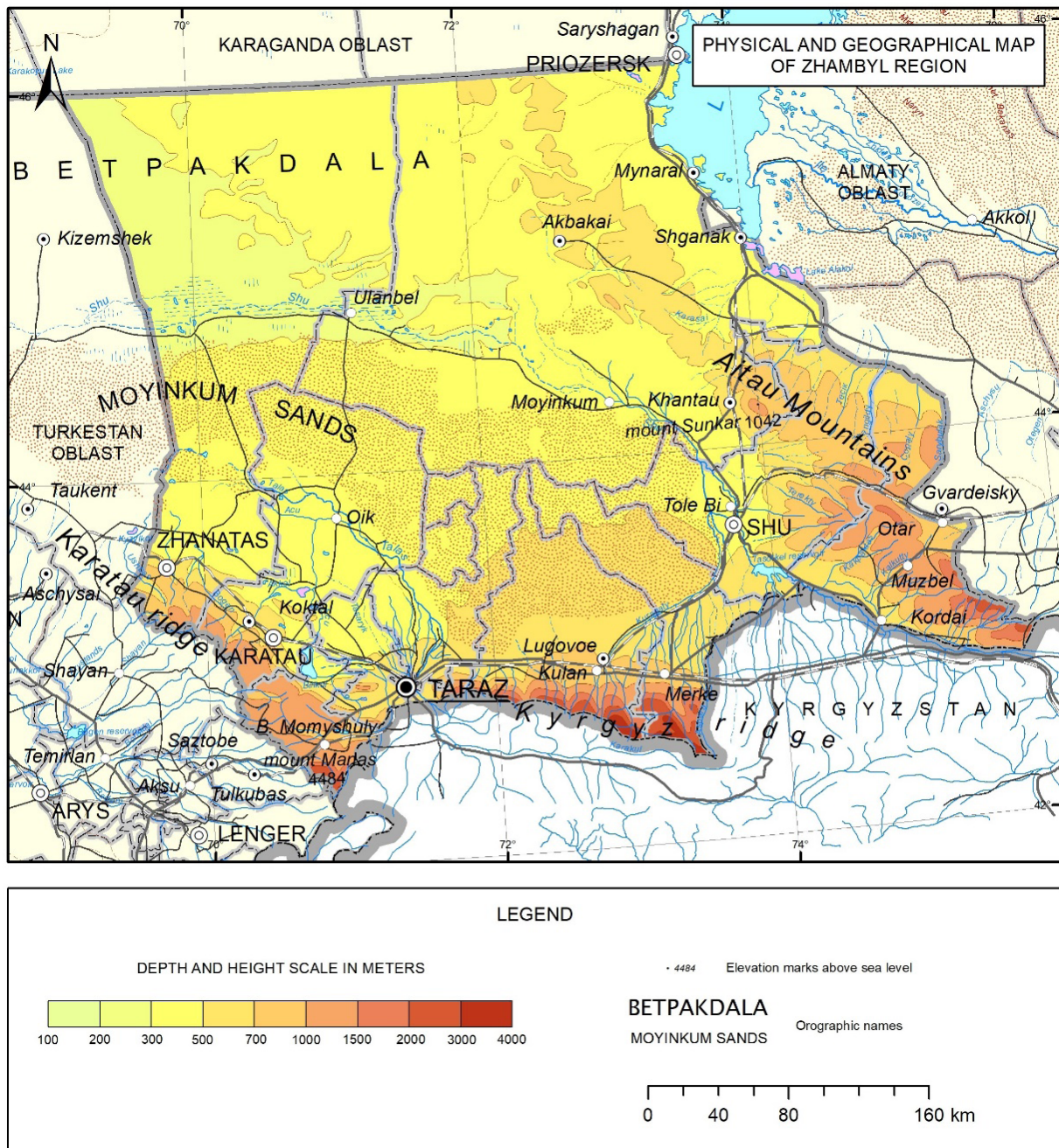


Figure 2 – Physical and geographical map of Zhambyl region(source: own study)

In 1993, the Dzhambul region was renamed, the Dzhambul district became Zhambyl, the city of Chu was renamed Shu, the Chui district of the region became Shus, the Juvalin district became Zhualyn, the Kurdai district became Kordai (Decree, 1993).

Currently, the administrative-territorial division of Zhambyl region includes 10 districts (Baizak, Zhambyl, Zhualyn, Kordai, Merken, Moyinkum,

T. Ryskulov, Sarysu, Talas, Shu) and 4 large cities (Taraz, Zhanatas, Karatau, Shu), as well as 153 rural districts and 367 rural settlements.

The city of Taraz (the administrative center of the region) is one of the oldest cities in Central Asia and one of the largest cities in Kazakhstan. In 2002 Taraz celebrated its 2000th anniversary. Various ethnic groups living in the area of the Great Steppe



had fairly developed political, trade, economic, and socio-cultural ties, which indicates a high level of development of these peoples. Information about these connections is contained in many historical sources, numerous archaeological finds, and modern research. The most striking example is the caravan routes of the ancient Silk Road, which ran mainly through cities located on the current territory of Kazakhstan and Central Asia: Taraz, Turkestan, Samarkand, Bukhara, Termez, Merv, Khiva, and others, which were not only shopping centers, but also developed centers of science, culture, and art.

Over 2000 years of its history, Taraz has repeatedly changed its name mainly for political reasons. In ancient times, the city was called Talas, Taraz, New Taraz (Kulamanova, 2014); in 1856 Taraz was renamed Aulie-Ata (Kazakh. "Aulieata"), which means "Holy Grandfather" in Kazakh; in 1938, the city was named Mirzoyan in honor of the first secretary of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan Levon Mirzoyan; after the formation of the Dzhambul region in 1939, the city was renamed to Dzhambul; in 1993. the name of the Dzhambul region in Russian was changed to Zhambyl, and the city became known as Zhambyl (Decree, 1993); in 1997 (Decree, 1997) the historical name Taraz (translated from Kazakh – "libra") was returned to the city. Sources of the IX–XI centuries call Taraz "the city of merchants", but it was also the capital center of the Turgesh, and then Karluks, Karakhanids, and Jagataids, as well as the city that minted coins in the VIII–XIV centuries. (Baypakov, Taymagambetov, 2006)

In many ancient sources, the origin of the toponym "Taraz" is usually associated with the location of the city in the valley of the Talas River at the junction of the Betpak-Dala and Moyinkum deserts, snow mountains (the spurs of the Western Tien Shan stretch to the south of the city, and the Karatau Mountains to the west). The length of the Talas River, which flows into the Talas district of the region, is 661 km. In ancient sources, Taraz is also referred to as "Tolos".

Historians consider one of the languages of the peoples who inhabited the Talas Valley to have disappeared, this is the "dead" language of the Tokhars (the oldest people assimilated among the Turks and other peoples). "Tal" means hills and elevations, and "tar" – family communities of the clans of the Great Turks, who are identified with constant movement and stay on the road. According

to scientists, the etymology of the settlement Taraz means "watershed": the hills of the Karatau spurs divide the riverbed into two branches, and Talas means "hills of the Aces" (all the peoples of Asia were called asami or azami in ancient times) (Umiryayev, 2019).

Researchers have proved the Turkic origin of such natural place names in Kazakhstan as darya – "river", su – "water, river", bulak – "spring, stream", ozek – "stream, river", sai – "mountain stream"; tau – "mountain", adyr – "ridge", to you – "hill", shoki – "top, peak, hillock", bash – "top; head", etc.

The river network of the Zhambyl region belongs to the basins of the Aral Sea and Lake Balkhash, the southwestern part of which is located on the territory of the region. According to S.A. Abdrakhmanov, there are 287 rivers and 56 lakes in the region (Abdrakhmanov, 2012). There are large lakes – Akkol, Ashikol, Balkhash and Bilikol. For example, the hydronym Akkol in translation from Kazakh means "White Lake": from the words Ak – "white" and kol – "lake". The lake is located about 3 km southwest of the center of Talas district – the village of Akkol (Kazakhstan. National Encyclopedia, 2004, p. 139). According to one version, the toponym "Balkhash" comes from the word balkas of the Tatar, Kazakh, and Altai languages, which translates as "a swampy area covered with hummocks". In the Kazakh language, "balkytu" means "melting metal", or "melting". Since the VIII century, the territory from the lake to the Tien Shan Mountains has been known as Semirechye (kaz. Zhetisu, kirg. Jety suu). There are 117 relatively large and medium-sized reservoirs and 105 reservoirs in the Zhambyl region.

There are quite large mountain systems and deserts on the territory of the region. For example, the Karatau mountain range. The toponym "Karatau" is of Turkic origin and translates as "Black Mountains". The same name is given to the center of Talas district, located in the territories of Zhambyl, South Kazakhstan, and Kyzylorda regions.

The clay-stony desert of Betpak-Dala, located on the territory of three states (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan), occupies an area of about 75 thousand km<sup>2</sup>. This is a plain in the western foothills of the Tien Shan, on the border with the sands of the Kyzylkum desert (Uzbekistan). According to one version, the toponym "Betpak-Dala" has a Turkic origin from the word "batnak" ("swampy"), and according to another – from the



Persian word “bedbakht” – “unlucky”, “ill-fated”. It is also known as the “Hungry Steppe”. The first irrigation attempts to develop the desert were made back in the 80s of the XIX century (Gvozdet, Mikhailov, 1978).

The Moyinkum Desert (or Muyunkum; Kaz. Moyynkum) is a sandy desert located on the territory of Zhambyl and Turkestan regions. From the north and east, the desert is bounded by the valley of the Chu River, from the south by the Karatau and Kirghiz Ala-Too ridges (Gvozdet, Mikhailov, 1978).

The name “Zhanatas”, which is the administrative center of the Sarysu district, means “New Stone”. The city was founded in 1969 in connection with the start of phosphorite mining in the Karatau phosphorite-bearing basin and, according to some sources, was named by geologists who discovered the deposit. It is not by chance that academician K.I. Satpayev (State Catalog ... 2012) introduced toponyms as one of the reliable signs when searching for mineral deposits.

Regarding the origin of the toponym “Shu” (Chu), some researchers believe that its meaning is not clear (Konkashpaev, 1963). But there is every reason to believe that the toponym “Chu” (from Tibetan and Chinese, meaning “water, river”) (Pospelov, 2002) has a direct connection with the Chu River, originating in the glaciers of Teskey-Ala-Too and the Kyrgyz ridge. There is also a hypothesis that the hydronym “Chu” is formed from the names

of the tribes that lived here in ancient times: chu, chue, shu, and shui. The total length of the Chu River passing through the territory of modern Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan is 1,186 km. It is one of the largest rivers in Central Asia. In Kazakhstan, there are settlements on the Chu River: Shu; Kordai; Zhuantobe; Amangeldy; Tole Bi.

Based on the data of the catalog of state geographical names of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the Zhambyl region and the topographic map of the territory, 8,735 geographical names were grouped (Fig. 2).

Figure 3 shows that the vast majority of toponyms on the territory of the region, i.e. about 70%, are the names of orographic and hydrographic objects.

The catalog contains more than 8 thousand names of mountains, hills, hills, settlements, rivers, lakes, streams, and other geographical objects. To create a catalog in the calculation of its basic data, the names assigned to the next state topographic map of scale 1:100,000 were used. The catalog also uses data from the toponymic card index of the Institute of Geography, departmental, statistical, and other data.

Based on the results of the study, a toponymic classification of the largest geographical objects of the Zhambyl region (reservoirs, rivers, lakes, mountain systems, deserts, settlements) was compiled (Table 1).

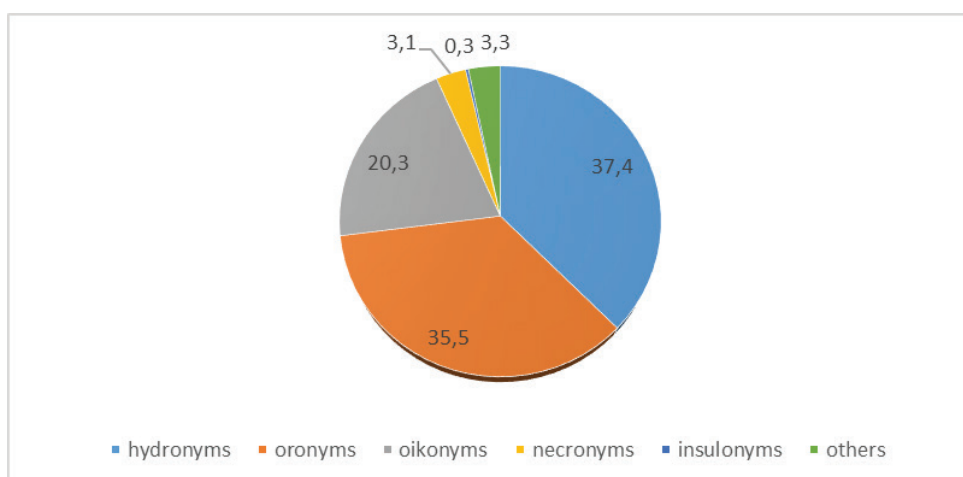


Figure 3 – Territorial toponymic system of Zhambyl region (%)

**Table 1** – Toponymic classification of the main geographical names of the Zhambyl region

№	Toponymic group	Name of the toponym	Belonging of a toponym to a toponymic class and subclass	Date of appearance of the toponym	The former name of the toponym
1	Toponymic group of natural geographical names	Talas reservoir (Talas district)	hydronyms	1942 y.	Talas reservoir
		Tasotkelskoe reservoir (Shui district)	hydronyms	1974 y.	Talas reservoir
		Ters-Ashibulak reservoir (Zhualyn district)	hydronyms	1963 y.	Ters-Ashibulak reservoir
		Big Chuy Canal (Merken district)	hydronyms	1958 y.	Big Chuy Canal
		Aksu River	hydronyms / potamonoms		Aksu River
		Asa River (Assa)	hydronyms / potamonoms		Asa River (Assa)
		Arystandy river	hydronyms / potamonoms		Arystandy river
		Ili river	hydronyms / potamonoms		Ili river
		Merke river	hydronyms / potamonoms		Merke river
		Kichi-Kemin River	hydronyms / potamonoms		Kichi-Kemin River
		Talas river	hydronyms / potamonoms	the river has been known since the V century	Talas river
		Teris River	hydronyms / potamonoms		Minbulak River
		Chu River	hydronyms / potamonoms		Chu River
		Lake Akkol	hydronym / limnonym		Lake Akkol
		Lake Alakol (Itishpes)	hydronym / limnonym		Lake Alakol (Itishpes)
		lake Auliekol	hydronym / limnonym		lake Auliekol
		Lake Aschikol	hydronym / limnonym		Lake Aschikol
		Lake Balkhash	hydronym / limnonym		Lake Balkhash
		Lake Bilikol	hydronym / limnonym		Lake Bilikol
		Lake Baizak	hydronym / limnonym		Lake Baizak
		Kashkanteniz Lake	hydronym / limnonym		Kashkanteniz Lake
		Lake Kokkol	hydronym / limnonym		Lake Kokkol
		Karatau Mountains	oronym		Argyntau Mountains
		Saryesik Ridge	oronym		Saryesik Ridge
		Talas Ala-Too mountain range	oronym		Talas Ala-Too mountain range
		Shu-Ili Mountains	oronym		Chu-Ili Mountains
		Merke Gorge	oronym		Merke Gorge
Betpak-Dala Desert	oronym		Betpak-Dala Desert / Hungry Steppe		
Moyinkum desert	oronym		Moyinkum desert		

№	Toponymic group	Name of the toponym	Belonging of a toponym to a toponymic class and subclass	Date of appearance of the toponym	The former name of the toponym
2	Toponymic group of cultural and historical geographical names	Taras city	oikonym / astyonym	I-II c. / 1997 y.	Talas / Taraz / New Taraz / Aulie-Ata / Mirzoyan / Dzhambul / Zhambyl
		Sarykemer village (administrative center of Bayzak district)	oikonym / komonym	1875 y. / 1992 y.	Mikhailovka
		Zhualyn district	choronym	1939 y. / 1993 y.	Juvalin district
		Kordai district	choronym	1939 y. / 1993 y.	Kurdai district
		Kordai village (administrative center of Kordai district)	oikonym / komonym	1893 y.	Georgievka
		Kulan village (administrative center of the district named after Ryskulova)	oikonym / komonym	it is mentioned in the chronicles of the first half of the VII century	Lugovoye village
		Merken district	choronym		
		Merke village , Zhanatas city (administrative center of Merken district)	oikonym / komonym	it is mentioned in the writings of Arab geographers from the VI century	Kokterek district
		Moyinkum district	choronym	1964 y.	Kokterek district
		village of Moyinkum	oikonym / komonym	1898 y. / 1937 y. / 1997 y.	Gulyayevka / Furmanovka
		Sarysu district	choronym	1928 y.	Sarysu district
		Zhanatas city (administrative center of Sarysu district)	oikonym / astyonym	1969 y.	Janatas city
		Talas district	choronym	1939 y. / 1993 y.	Talas district
		Karatau city (administrative center of Talas district)	oikonym / astyonym	1963 y.	Karatau city
		Shus district	choronym	1939 y. / 1993 y.	Chuy district
Shu city (administrative center of Shui district)	oikonym / astyonym		city of Chu		
3	Toponymic group of geographical names associated with the names and surnames of people	Baizak district	choronym	1938 y. / 1995 y.	Sverdlovsk district
		Zhambyl region	choronym / anthroponym	1939 y. / 1993 y.	Dzhambul region
		Zhambyl district	choronym / anthroponym	1939 y. / 1993 y.	Dzhambul district
		village named after Bauyrzhan Momysuly (administrative center of Zhualyn district)	oikonym / komonym	1933 y.	village named after Bauyrzhan Momysuly
		T. Ryskulov District	choronym	1938 y.	Lugovoy district

Note: compiled by the author.



The analysis of the toponyms of the Zhambyl region showed that their main part comes from the Turkic, Persian, Altaic, or Arabic languages. By the beginning of the XXI century, many administrative-territorial units received names in the Kazakh language (or historical names were returned to settlements). Most of the toponyms of the region were formed from the names of natural geographical objects, mainly from the names of rivers, since the regions of Southern Kazakhstan have been experiencing a shortage of fresh water for centuries, people traditionally laid cities on the banks of rivers. Only a small part of toponyms belong to the topographic group associated with the names and surnames of people.

### Conclusion

The purpose of the article was to construct a classification of toponyms of the Zhambyl region based on geographical principles. The study contains a selective analysis of the available general classifications of toponyms in scientific research; a methodology for developing geographical principles of grouping toponyms of the Zhambyl region, including descriptive analysis, collection, study, and classification of the collected toponyms of the region, logical understanding and identification of patterns. The research methodology contains four stages of the development of geographical principles of grouping toponyms of Zhambyl region: 1) selection of geographical names (toponyms important for the region in historical, cultural, geographical and political aspects) and a brief description of the

largest geographical objects; 2) processing of the results of the analysis of toponyms; 3) building a system of geographical principles of grouping toponyms; 4) systematization and identification of patterns of toponyms of the region. During the primary classification, two groups of toponyms were identified: geographical names related to localities and geographical names related to natural formations.

The study uses three principles of grouping toponyms of the Zhambyl region, symbolizing the region: regulatory, historical-geographical, and cultural-linguistic principles. According to the results of the study, a toponymic classification of the main geographical names of the Zhambyl region was compiled: 1) natural geographical names; 2) cultural and historical geographical names; and 3) geographical names associated with the names and surnames of people. It was found that the main part of the toponyms of the region come from the Turkic, Persian, Altaic, or Arabic languages. By the beginning of the XXI century, many administrative-territorial units received names in the Kazakh language (or historical names were returned to settlements). Most of the toponyms were formed from the names of natural geographical objects (mainly from the names of rivers), a small part belongs to the topographic group associated with the names and surnames of people.

In general, the toponymic system of the Zhambyl region is developing in line with the new Kazakh statehood. However, the toponymic system of the region needs additional research.

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