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## FEATURES OF ONOMASTIC UNITS RELATED TO MINERALS

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### Abstract

This article provides a comparative analysis of the lexico-semantic and linguocultural features of onomastic units related to minerals in the English and Uzbek languages. During the study, the sources of formation, semantic groups, and etymological layers of toponyms, oronyms, hydronyms, oikonoms, and ergonyms related to ore, metal, mineral, and mining activities were studied. It has been established that natural-geological, historical, economic, ethno-cultural, and anthropogenic factors play an important role in the formation of mineral names in both languages. It also analyzes the symbolic meanings of the names of minerals and precious stones such as gold, silver, copper, iron, diamond, emerald, related to the cultural views, customs and values of the people. The research results show that onomastic units related to minerals perform not only nominative but also linguocultural and cognitive functions.

**Keywords:** Mineral onomastics, onomastic units, lexical-semantic analysis, linguoculture, toponym, oronym, hydronym, oikonym, ergonym, mining terminology, mineral names, English, Uzbek, comparative linguistics.

### Introduction

The historical development, social life and culture of each nation are reflected in its language, especially in its onomastic system. Onomastic units appear not only as a means of naming but also as a cultural code that preserves the experiences of a particular people related to nature, society, and history. In this regard, names related to natural resources, in particular, ores, minerals and mining activities, form a unique layer of onomastics.

In many countries of the world, minerals have been one of the main factors of economic development. This is reflected in the names of geographical objects,



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settlements, mountains, rivers, and industrial enterprises. On the territory of Uzbekistan, names such as Zarafshan, Almalyk, Altynsay, and Miskurgan are associated with ancient mining culture, while in English, names such as Gold Hill, Silver Creek, Iron Mountain, Diamond Valley, and Copper Mountain are closely linked to geological features and mining activities.

In the context of globalization, the comparative study of onomastic systems in different languages is becoming one of the relevant areas of linguistics, ethnolinguistics and linguoculturology. In particular, the comparative study of the lexical-semantic and linguocultural aspects of onomastic units related to minerals allows to determine the attitude of different peoples to nature, economic activity and national thinking.

The most important source of onomastic units related to minerals is the natural-geological environment. Geographical objects are named based on the characteristics of minerals, minerals, or rocks in the area where they are located. For example, in names such as Altynsay, Kumtepa, Miskurgan, and Altynbulak, the type of ore is directly reflected.

Such names served as a means of expressing the natural resources of the region by the population even in the periods when geological exploration was not developed.

Onomastic units that emerged as a result of the development of the mining and metallurgical industry are considered to belong to the economic and production source. The names of mines, mines, shafts, metallurgical enterprises, and settlements formed around them constitute this group.

For example, names such as Konchilar, Rudnik, Shaxtachilar qishloği were formed in connection with human labor activity and the production process.

Some onomastic units arose in connection with the history of ancient mines, trade routes, and ore mining centers. Archaeological research indicates that metallurgy and mining were developed in Central Asia as far back as pre-Christian times. Therefore, traces of ancient mining traditions have been preserved in some toponyms.

Minerals and precious stones are also associated with the mythological views, customs, and aesthetic representations of the people. Therefore, many onomastic units are used in a symbolic sense.



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For example, names such as Altynbulak, La'litau, Yakutli, and Firuza Tapa embody the people's views on wealth, abundance, and beauty.

Onomastic units formed based on the names of scientists, geologists, and statesmen who discovered deposits constitute an anthropogenic source. Such names are especially common in the modern mining industry and serve to immortalize the memory of a particular person.

Semantically, onomastic units related to minerals are divided into the following groups:

- names formed on the basis of metal names;
- names formed based on the names of minerals and rocks;
- names formed based on mining terms;
- names derived from the names of precious stones.

This classification allows for the determination of the semantic foundations of names.

Etymologically, onomastic units related to minerals can belong to the Turkic, Persian-Tajik, Russian and international layers.

The Turkic layer includes names such as Altinsay, Kumtepa, and Tashbulak. In the Persian-Tajik layer, names such as Zarafshan ("gold-scattering") are found. Terms such as Rudnik, Shakhta, and Karer, formed under the influence of the Russian language, are also included in some place names.

In conclusion, onomastic units related to minerals are an important linguistic layer that embodies the relationship of a people with the natural environment, economic activity and cultural thinking. Natural-geological, economic, historical, ethno-cultural, and anthropogenic factors play an important role in their formation. The classification of these onomastic units allows for a deeper study of their semantic and linguocultural characteristics. In this regard, the study of onomastic units related to minerals is of great theoretical and practical importance for the fields of onomastics, linguoculturology, ethnolinguistics, and terminology.

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