

# Aspects of Research the Connotation in Compounds with Color Component (on the Example of Uzbek Place Names)

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*Abstract---Problems related to nomination or simply “naming” have always been a topical item for scholarly disputations. People were interested in the nature of naming, how people name an object in his/her language and why one and the same object is named quite in another way. In other languages starting with ancient Greek philosopher Plato, this problem was touched on by hundreds and thousands of scholars. Giving a name to a place is not so difficult to compare with names of people and things. People see the nature and see the specific features of the nature, landscape and compare them with other rivers, mountains, hills, villages, plains using their knowledge and give name to them. Up to now linguists saw no problems here but starting with the rise of cognitive linguistics, scholars began noticing some interesting features of place names. In the article the authors analyzed the features of place names with color component on the material collected from the maps of 5 regions of Uzbekistan: Tashkent, Djizakh, Ferghana, Andijan and Namangan regions. The material was collected from the special maps having metric details to villages with springs, streams; pathways etc. Authors analyzed the degree of the correspondence between the elements of place names as compared to the real landscape of the named place. Statistical data are used to compare the distribution of the name in an area. This is all, what was done from the point of linguistics. Each time the authors see a place name they try to give its etymology and compare it with existing etymological and translation dictionaries. And the authors found that the place name can be used in its primary, dictionary meaning but also it can be used metaphorically or connotatively. In this article the authors made an attempt at finding solutions to such problems.*

**Keywords:** connotation, nomination, etymology, color component, combinability, dictionary meaning, metaphorical meaning.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The term “connotation” came into linguistics from logic and philosophy. It was borrowed from the Latin word –

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“connote” – which means “I have additional meaning”. Connotation is an emotional, evaluative or stylistic coloring of the usual and occasional character language units. In its wide meaning connotation is any component which completes subjective-notional or denotational as well as the grammatical contents of the linguistic unit. It gives an expressive function on the basis of the information related to empirical, cultural, historical, and the other knowledge of the speakers with emotional and evaluative relation of the speaker to the denoted subject with stylistic registers characterizing the conditions of speech, sphere of language activity, social relations of the participants of the speech act and its forms. In its narrow meaning, connotation is the component of the meaning of the language unit, which appears as its secondary function of naming, and which completes the meaning of the word with associative-imaginary representation in speech act on the basis of the perception of the inner form of the name.

## II. THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF CONNOTATION IN LINGUISTICS

Subjective nature of “connotation” in speech is opposed to the objective content of the language units oriented to the cognitive function of the language.

The notion “connotation” was primarily used in the Port-Royal grammar in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It was used to denote the features (accidencies) to oppose the denotation (extensional).

In the linguistics of the XIX century connotation began to be used to denote all emotionally colored elements of the expressions related to the pragmatic aspect of the speech. [Look: Bloomfield L. Language. Oxford, 1968; Kolshanskiy G.V., Vinokur T.V., Ullman S., Shakhovkiy V.I., Teliya V.N.]

In this article the authors are attempting at analyzing the connotation in the compound place names from the position of linguoculturology. Linguoculturology has newly been actual in linguistics and its theoretical basis was worked out in the last decades. In the present article we are planning to analyze essential notions used in linguoculturology to the

analysis of the place names with the toponymic component.

As we know present day linguoculturology deals with the following essential problems:

- the notions of cultural concept and cultural constanta;
- cultural semantics of the language units (cultural semes, cultural background, cultural concepts);
- terminological and conceptual apparatus of linguoculturology;
- linguo-cultural competence of the speaker;
- conceptsphere or to determine the sum of the essential concepts related to specific culture;
- to find the culturally marked linguistic units.

Wilhelm von Humboldt once wrote, that “material and spiritual culture are united in the language. Any culture has national character and is expressed in the language by means of a special world outlook. Inner form of the language is the means of expressing “national spirit”, its culture. Language is a prism linking the speakers and the world surrounding them [Selected works, Moscow, 1983, p. 126].

Linguoculturology as an aspect of linguistic investigation appeared within the anthropocentric paradigm, and in the present article we used ideas and notions of contemporary grammatical cognitivism expressed in the theories of Langacker, Jackendoff and Talmy, who share a great deal of assumptions and views concerning the cognitive organization of language.

Here are some assumptions:

1) Meaning is conceptualization. The meaning of the toponymical compound word with a color component is conceptualized or formed in the brains of the speakers by developing the connotative aspect of the color component. People formed place names using the most significant noticeable without some great efforts, features. These features were expressed by means of the color components in place names, like *Blackville*, *Yellowstone*, *Whitehall*, *Greenland* etc.

2) There is difference between real world and the conceptualized world. For example, *White sea* is not always white and *Black sea* is not always black. More examples are like *Red sea* is not red and *Yellowstone* is not rich in yellow stones etc. Name is approximate, but close and exact.

3) There is no direct correspondence between these two worlds. *Blackhill* is not black altogether; *Yellowriver* is not yellow, etc.

4) Human beings have inborn capacity for such internal organization of information, which is expressed by these operations. They notice the similarity between the objects of the world and the capacity of the words, which express any idea or object existing in the real world. For example, in the Uzbek language they say “Qizil buloq” (Red spring), but logically water can never be red in the nature. The same as “Qora buloq” (Black spring), etc.

As it becomes clear from the above mentioned, the cognitive operation used by humans to organize and structure linguistic information cannot always be used to structure nonlinguistic information at the same time.

### III. COMPOUND NOUNS AS A STRUCTURAL TYPE OF WORDS

A special attention is needed to investigate the structural, semantic and other features of compound nouns with color component.

Compound nouns can be of the following types: composite word, solid compound, aggregative compound, truncated compound, asyntactic compound,

The eastern culture is marked by the wide use of connotations with color component in different fields of everyday life, culture and literature. This is true in relation to the nomination of geographical objects, places, etc. In nearly all regions and districts, we find the place-names with color component, ex. *Qora-tepa* (*blackhill*), *Oq tepa* (*white hill*), *Qizil buloq* (*red spring*), *Qizil tepa* (*red hill*), *Ko’k tepa* (*blue hill*), *Sariq Suv* (*yellow water*) and many others. secondary derivative compound, separable compound, determinative compound, intensive compound, iterative compound, close compound, copulative compound, mechanic compound, adverbial compound, neutral compound, juxtaposed compound, limiting compound, attributive compound, primary compound, subordinated compound, appositional compound, progressive compound, regressive compound, syntactic compound, compound proper, coordinated compound, stem-compound, exocentric compound, endocentric compound [Akhmanova O.S. Dictionary of linguistic terms, M, 1966, p. 432].

According to H. Marchand, there are some types of compounds according to the relationship between the components of compound. They are the following:

- The underlying concept is that of purpose, destination: *theater ticket*, *freight train*, *bread basket*, *paper clip*, *reception room*, *concert hall*, *wind shield*, *tooth brush*, etc.

- The significance of the second word is naturally dependant on that of the first word: *windmill*, *watermill*, *water clock*, *motorcar*, *motorboat*, *steam engine*, *sea bird*, *water rat*, *lap dog*, etc.

- The first word denotes the originator of what is expressed by the second word: *rainwater*, *rainbow*, *bloodstain*, *pipe smoke*, *birth right*, *smoke-screen*.

- The underlying concept is that of resemblance: *blockhead*, *bellflower*, *goldfish*, *horse-fish*, *iron-weed*, *silk weed*, *wire-grass* [H.Marchand. The categories and types of Present Day English Word Formation, Wiesbaden, 1960].

We distinguish the following structural types of compounds in English.

- 1) Noun + noun: *night-school*, *boy-friend*, *girl-friend*, *maid-servant*;
- 2) Adjective + noun: *black-cock*, *green-room*;
- 3) Gerund + noun: *writing table*, *drawing room*;
- 4) Verb + noun: *scatter brain*, *Breakstone*;
- 5) Noun + preposition + noun: *man of war*, *son in law*;
- 6) Noun + conjunction + noun: *bread-and-butter*, *come-and-go*;
- 7) Noun + linking vowel + noun: *handicraft*,

speedometer;

Here are some examples with color component: *light-blue, light-brown, dark-brown, red hat*.

In this article we will make an attempt at investigating the etymology, semantics and functional aspect of the place names with the color component.

For this purpose, we have looked through existing translation and explanatory dictionaries of the Uzbek language to pick out the material for this study [12].

Here we consider that first of all will make a list of words exactly, place names with a color component then analyze their history using the etymological dictionary to discuss the items given there in order to state whether we can get some useful information which could meet our demands [1, 124].

The second step was componential analysis of these words to have some data in the problem of combinability of these color components.

The third step was to state why this word was named in this way what cognitive information, knowledge we could get from these names [11, 86-87].

The fourth stage was to make general conclusions in order to work out statements related to the linguocultural features of nomination in Uzbek speaking people [3, 26; 8, 188-189].

If necessary, we tried to compare the case with the Russian and English place names with color component. Some scholars analyzed the etymology of the place names, some of which we mentioned above. Thus A.V. Dybo, in her work "Linguistic contacts of early Turks" gives the following information about the history of some place names. Common Turkic *'jarik', cleft, crevice, gorge, cavine, canyon*.

*Tarov. Chor, chorik channel, Southern – chor - spit, chory, soy and – riverside, Bulog' – (spring) – Yakutian – bulus ( bulu- gac); glacier; but glacier, ice-cover, and spring ( bulus centa – spring water), Tuvinian ' buloq' ice-crust, pack glacier, Tofalar- buloq ice crust, water above ice , probably it is a siberian parallel to common Turkic bulok ( spring) [6, 42-43].*

It is notable to add that in some modern Uzbek qipchak dialects the speakers misuse the ending – q (as in *buloq*) they pronounce it with voiceless stop [k] like *'bulok'* which gives the exact copy of the Common Turkic *'bulok'*.

Some other examples: 'quying' changes into 'kuying' <'quyosh'> *kuyosh* - the sun 'sakkiz > saqqiz' –eight, etc, ('qipchoq' > *kipchok*, (*kipchak*) a tribal name).

Let's make a preliminary list of two items to be investigated within the frames of the article.

1. Words with component **"suv"(water):** *Oqsuv (White water), Bo'zsuv, (Dark water), Qizil-suv (red water), Qora-suv) black water, Sariq suv (yellow water), ko'k suv (green water);*

2. Words with the component **"tosh" (stone):** *qoratosh (blackstone), oqtosh (whitestone), ko'k tosh (blue stone); saritosh (yellowstone);*

3. Words with component **"tepa" (hill):** *Oqtepa (white hill); qora tepa (blackhill), qizil tepa (red hill); ko'k tepa (blue hill); sariq tepa (yellow hill);*

4. Words with component **"buloq" (spring):** *Oq buloq (white spring); ko'k buloq, (blue spring); qora buloq (black spring);*

5. Words with the components **"o'rda" (castle):** *Qizil-o'rda (red castle); oqo'rda (white castle);*

6. Words with the component **"minor" (minarette):** *Oqminor (white minarette); ko'k minor (blue minarette);*

7. Words with the component **"qo'rg'on" (castle):** *Oq qo'rg'on (white castle); qora qo'rg'on (black castle); katta qo'rg'on (big castle), Bozor qo'rg'on (castle founded close to the market place or settlement, town);*

8. Words with the component **"obod" (new village):** *chin obod (China town), Nurobod (town of electricity); Akbar obod (town founded by Akbar, one of the grandsons of Bobur); Haydarobod (town founded by Haydar); Sulton obod (town founded by Sultan).*

We can continue enlisting the place names with color components but they are very many and the same regularity will be repeated in the further presented example. Therefore, we'll pass on to the analysis of the words under investigations.

Analysis show the following.

1) In nearly all cases we see the words **"oq" [white]** and **"qora" [black]**; and one of the most active words forming compounds is the words **"red"**. Therefore it is recommended to find the causes of such a wide usage of the adjectives **"white"** and **"black"** in compounds of this sort.

The word *Oqsuv* [white water] doesn't mean that the water looks like milk. This kind of water is observed in the places close or in a nearby territory to the mountains and water running down into mountain meet some rocky surface containing chalk gets saturated with water and this water becomes white.

This is the naïve explanation of the meaning of the word "white" in such component. This is not true. The thing is that white water is observed not in all mountains. And in many mountains the water running down is not white but fragrant, colorless.

The real genuine meaning off the word "Oqsuv" – white water, can be explained if we look through the explanatory dictionary of the Uzbek language. But there we don't find that one of the meaning, of the word white is "small, little, not large". That's if the stream is not large it is small and it contains not much water running down the stream or brook, that is white, not water [5, 346].

Many Uzbek speakers don't understand it and they still think that "white water" must be white water. It is because that the meaning "small, little" "insignificant" was lost in Uzbek. It existed in old or common Turkic and through it this word survived in place names and in connotations [9, 134].

In order to analyze compounds with color component we have looked through the detailed maps of the regions in Uzbekistan used for the military purposes to register the place names with color component. The result was that in Tashkent, Andijan, Namangan, Ferghana and Djizakh regions of Uzbekistan we found 436 names in total. Among 159 names with the component "black", 126 names with the component "white", 92 names with component "red" and 37



words with components “yellow”, 22 places names with the component “blue”.

*In Tashkent region:*

Names with component “white” *Oqtosh* (white stone).

*Oqbel* (white waist) name of the mountain. The name was given because of the snow covering this region for greater part of the year.

*Oqbostov* – originated from the word “*oqbo'z tog'*” – white – deserted mountain. Now this mountain is in the territory of Kazakhstan.

*Oqbuloq* – white spring or a small, spring.

*Oqjar* - white abyss. This name was registered in 3 places of the region. All of them are in Kazakhstan.

*Oqmola* [white plough]

*Oq-kapchigay* [white kapchigay]

*Oq-maskat* [white maskat, a sort of grapes].

*Oqmuynoq* - [white neck]. It is interesting to note that in this name we observe haplology or over usage of the word “white” because “*oqmuynoq*” means “*oq*” [white] and it comes out to be white neck.

*Oqoltin* - this place name was registered in 3 districts. It means white gold. The name is a metaphor to the color of cotton, which is named as “white gold” in Uzbekistan.

*Oqovul* – [white village]. This is not of course a village. Where all the houses were painted in white, where everything bricks, posts, roots even the trees are white. Of course, as we have mentioned above, the word “white” in ancient Turkic, in the – centuries as it is shown in *Orkhon-Yenisey* runic scripts. It had one more meaning - small. And “*oqovul*” should be translated not as “White village” but as a “small village”. It is really a small village with a population of about a thousand or fewer people.

*Oqqovoq* – (white pumpkin) – a name of a village. This name can be etymologized simply with the direct primary dictionary meaning of the word “white”. Maybe one peasant of the village practiced planting white sort of the pumpkin (round-shaped).

The population of the village used to plant native long shaped pumpkins. And the newly planted round shaped pumpkin became the place name for this village as the place where for the first time this new sort of pumpkin was cultivated.

*Oqtapa* – (white hill) this place name was used for 3 villages in Tajikistan. The name was etymologized by us as a village where we can see a hill not very high enough. In Uzbekistan we can find may be about one hundred “*Oqtapas*” if not more. Even in Tashkent, the capital city of Uzbekistan we find 6 places bearing the name “*Oq tepa*”, they are situated in different districts.

*Oqo'rg'on* – “white barrow”, the barrow which is painted in white or barrow which has a white wall.

*Oqtom* – “with white roof” This name was registered in 2 districts of Tashkent region and in 1 village of Fergana region.

*Oqtoyloq* – (white yearling, young horse).

*Qizil askar* (red soldier). This place name was registered in 3 villages in Kazakhstan not far from Uzbekistan borders. This name came into existence in the nearly 20 ties of the XX century, when the army of Bolsheviks in Russia chose the color as the state flag of the country. And literary “*qizil*

*askar*” corresponds to a soldier of the soviet army. In those villages the Bolsheviks had a temporal military camp in the above mentioned years.

*Oqtosh* – (white stone), this place name is registered in 4 districts of Tashkent region. This name was given to the villages which are situated in deserted areas with a high degree of salination of the soil. And in such a land everything seems to be white, to say nothing to the stones.

*Qizilbuloq* – (red spring), this place name is registered in many other districts of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Usually this name is given to the places, where there are some deposits of water rich in minerals. Therefore, color of the water is a bit different than in other sources. This place name has some synonyms or variants like *Qizilsuv* (red water); *Qiziltepa* (red hill); *Qiziljar* (red abyss); *Qizilsay* (red stream); etc.

In Tashkent region we come across the following place names with color component – “*qora*” (black).

*Qorabov* (black garden); *Qorabastov* (the mountain with black top); *Qorabog'* (black garden); *Qoraboshsoy* (the stream which begins on a black land); *Qorabulog'* (black spring); *Qora-debe* (black hill, variant of *Qora-tepa*, *Karatepe*, *Kara-tepa* ). *Qorajingil* (a place where one can find lot of blackened bushes). *Qoramozor* (black cemetery). *Qora-qir* (black steppe); *Qoraqiyasoy* (the stream running through the black steppe); *Qoraqum* (black sand); *Qoraxitoy* (black china).

The following comments can give about the most interesting cases. “*Qoraxitoy*” isn't “black China”: it is translated a big village founded by the Chinese immigrants. As it is known from the history, a great part of Eastern Turkestan, which is Singtzyan was the territory of Kokand khanate. And the Khan made the uygurs and Uzbeks from China migrate to the deserted areas of Khanate to cultivate them. As they spoke nearly the same language as Uzbeks, it wasn't difficult to live and work here together as farmers or later as representatives of other trades and professions. The name like *Chinobod* (China town); *Urmonbek* (land of *Urman-beg* the son of Khan); *Qashqarmahalla* (Kashgarian community); *Nasriddinbek* (the lands of *Nasriddin beg*, the son of Khan); *Uygur-obod* (Uygur town); etc.

In Tashkent there is a place name “*Textapul*” which is referred to as a name which means a place where wood was manufactured by the corresponding tradesman, like carpenters, etc. But this is a false etymology. It came out that in ancient Turkic the word “*pul*” meant “a bridge”. So, the place name can be translated as “wooden bridge”, a village which has a wooden bridge over the river or stream [5, 371].

Place names with the word ‘*ko'k*’ ‘*blue*’.

*Ko'kbet*. [ blue faced ]; *Ko'kbel* [ with blue waist]; *Ko'kola* [blue, motley], [ in two places]; *Ko'korol* [ blue island]; *Ko'ksaroy* [ blue palace], [ in two places]; *Ko'ksayek* [ blue stream]; *Ko'ksuv* [ blue water] [ two places]; *Ko'kterak* [blue popple]; *Ko'ktosh* [ blue rock].

The next element to be friend in place names is the component ‘*sariq*’. Its variants ‘*sari*’, were found to

following names with “sariq” in the 3 regions Fergana valley.

*Sari-kamish* [yellow cane] the name found 3 times, for one village, one stream and one pass, over the mountain.

*Saribel* [yellow waist] name of a mountain

*Sarijuga* [yellow stream]. The next of a stream collector for used waters.

*Sarikuy* [yellow sheep]

*Sariqsuv* [yellow water]. The name given to the river or stream which mostly has yellow muddy and silt water.

*Saritol* [yellow willow], name of a village.

*Saritalaa* [yellow field], name of a village [2, 232].

In ancient Turkic color terms not only denoted their primary, dictionary meaning, but also they were next to denoting the Compass face, as well as the size of the nouns they are used with for example:

*Black* – denoted north, big and evil beside its primary meaning dark;

*White* – denoted small, and west;

*Blue* – denoted east, sky.

In modern Uzbek explanatory and translation dictionaries, such kind information is lacking, therefore when we come across with such statements in newspapers and elsewhere people don't understand them, readers can misunderstand them.

Our analysis of the color component words served that the following words can be used as a second element of the compound nouns the first element being color terms.

They are the following: *adir* – hill, hillock; *ort- back*; the rear side; *archa* - the fur tree; *ota* – the saint, father; *bosh*, *boshi* – head, top; *bel* – the back, the top point of the mountain ridge; *buloq* – spring; *tepa* – hill; *yaylov* - the meadow; *dovon* – heights; *jar* – abyss; *jilg'a* – stream, *ko'l* – lake; *qir* – mountainous area; *kiya* – sloppy area; *qo'rg'on* – hill or castle; *qum* – sand; *soy* – riverside, *suv* – water; *tosh-stone*; *tog'* – mountain; *qurum* – round shaped stone etc.

**Table 1. Functional aspect of place names with color component & Results**

Words	Total number of cases	Used in its primary dictionary meaning	Used in its metaphorical meaning
<b>White</b>	126	99	27
<b>Black</b>	159	118	41
<b>Red</b>	92	70	22
<b>Yellow</b>	37	23	14
<b>Blue</b>	22	16	4
<b>Total</b>	436	328	108

In Kashgar, Eastern Turkistan, we find the city Karakorum (black; round shaped stone) the landscape proves the correctness of the name there. It is necessary to remember that this “qurum” has one more meaning that is “the ash of the burnt coal” which covers the walls of the stones, bulwarks, mantelpieces, chimneys as well as the metal dishes used for this purposes. And the real black reminders of the smoke made by the black coral.

**Table 2. Territorial classification of compounds.**

Component of the compound word	Tashkent region	Fergana region	Namangan region	Andijan region	Other neighboring countries	Total
<b>White</b>	35	48	29	12	126	29.6%
<b>Black</b>	37	50	36	32	159	36.4%
<b>Red</b>	19	22	26	24	92	21.4%
<b>Yellow</b>	6	12	10	8	36	8.4%
<b>Blue</b>	13	4	3	3	23	4.7%
<b>Total</b>	110	133	104	79	436	100%

We can make a far-going conclusion if we analyze the data presented in these tables, but we leave these problems for the other investigators, beginning their scholarly studies.

#### IV. CONCLUDING REMARKS.

We can summarize the following on the given problem. Place names can be one of the most reliable sources for learning the history of an ethnicity or locality, or the culture of the community inhabiting the area, if applied with complete adequacy and logical consequence. A slight in correspondence of facts make it useless for using in historical and ethno genetic investigations.

1. In some elements in place names we observe the case of regular correspondences or we can see repetition of the second element. They came to be similar or the place was named in this way because of the influence of different factors.

- The geographical area or landscape is similar in two or more places;
- They are located in different areas, that is they are not in neighboring areas;
- They don't belong to one administrative or municipal division;
- They were established and named in one and same period of time;
- This name was given to the place by people living there;
- This name was given to the place earlier than the present population there and began living these, inheriting all the names given by the prior people that are ethnic units.
- If they were established in different periods of time one of them was renamed later, at the time of naming the others
- The population these two places bearing the same name speak the same language
- If the population these two places bearing the same name don't speak one language, then one of them came there later, after it had been named
- The population of these places don't know that , they are bearing the same name with other place or places if there are more than two places bear one name
- Linguist should make attempt at the state of affairs in other languages to state whether this phenomenon

has a universal character or not.

2. If in the course of time the languages of people living in these places change, then place names may undertake some phonetic changes, so they can become different either graphically or phonetically to become etymological doublets

3. Whatever the history of the place might be the name it bears can give lot information concerning the early days of the ethnic group living there, because if there is a mountain on a certain area the name depends on the people who live there. If English people live they we'll be end, with – hill, if Turkish speaking people settle there they name it with *tog*, *tov*, *tau*, *taw*, *tag* etc. If Slavic speaking people settle there, they name it with the element –*gor*.

Detailed investigation of the elements of the compound place names can give much information for the people, who are interested in toponymy, to get very valuable knowledge they are seeking. Place names reflect the periods of life people lived, and migrations they made within that period..

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