

WORD-FORMATION AND STRUCTURAL MODELS OF PHYTOTOPONYMS...

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Abstract. *This thesis investigates the word-formation processes and structural models of phytotoponyms, i.e., place names derived from plant names, within the frameworks of onomastics and morphological theory. Phytotoponyms form a significant layer of toponymic systems, reflecting the interaction between language, environment, and cultural history. The study analyzes the main derivational mechanisms involved in their formation, including affixation, compounding, conversion, semantic shift, and syntactic composition. Special attention is given to the productivity of specific morphemes and structural types across different linguistic traditions. The findings demonstrate that phytotoponyms are not only linguistic units but also markers of ecological features, settlement history, and cultural identity.*

Keywords: *phytotoponyms, toponymy, onomastics, word-formation, derivational models, structural patterns, affixation, compounding, semantic shift, metaphorization, metonymy, morphological structure, linguistic geography, ecological semantics, plant-based place names.*

Аннотация. *В данной статье исследуются процессы словообразования и структурные модели фитотопонимов, то есть топонимов, образованных от названий растений, в рамках ономастики и морфологической теории. Фитотопонимы образуют важный пласт топонимических систем, отражающий взаимодействие языка, окружающей среды и культурной истории. В исследовании анализируются основные деривационные механизмы, участвующие в их формировании, включая аффиксацию, словообразование путем сложения, конверсию, семантический сдвиг и синтаксическую композицию. Особое внимание уделяется продуктивности специфических морфем и структурных типов в различных языковых традициях. Результаты показывают, что фитотопонимы являются не только языковыми единицами, но и маркерами экологических особенностей, истории расселения и культурной идентичности.*

Ключевые слова: *фитотопонимы, топонимия, ономастика, словообразование, деривационные модели, структурные модели, аффиксация, словообразование путем сложения, семантический сдвиг, метафоризация, метонимия, морфологическая структура, лингвистическая география, экологическая семантика, топонимы, основанные на растениях.*

Annotatsiya. *Ushbu tezisdagi onomastika va morfologik nazariya doirasida fitotoponimlarning, ya'ni o'simlik nomlaridan kelib chiqqan joy nomlarining so'z yasash jarayonlari va strukturaviy modellari o'rganiladi. Fitotoponimlar til, atrof-muhit va madaniy tarix o'rtasidagi o'zaro ta'sirni aks ettiruvchi toponimik tizimlarning muhim qatlamini tashkil qiladi. Tadqiqotda ularning shakllanishida ishtirok etadigan asosiy hosila mexanizmlari, jumladan, affiksatsiya, birikma, konversiya, semantik siljish va sintaktik tarkib tahlil qilinadi. Turli tilshunoslik an'alaridagi ma'lum morfemalar va strukturaviy turlarning mahsuldorligiga alohida e'tibor qaratiladi.*

Tadqiqot natijalari shuni ko'rsatadiki, fitotoponimlar nafaqat lingvistik birliklar, balki ekologik xususiyatlar, joylashish tarixi va madaniy o'ziga xoslikning belgilari hamdir.

Kalit soʻzlar: *Fitotoponimlar, toponimiya, onomastika, soʻz yasalishi, soʻz yasalish modellari, strukturaviy modelllar, affiksatsiya, soʻz qoʻshish (kompozitsiya), semantik siljish, metaforizatsiya, metonimiya, morfologik tuzilish, lingvistik geografiya, ekologik semantika, oʻsimlik nomlari asosida yaratilgan joy nomlari.*

Introduction. Phytotoponyms, or place names derived from plant names, constitute a significant category within toponymy, reflecting the dynamic interaction between language, environment, and cultural history. These place names serve as linguistic markers that connect human settlements and landscapes with the natural environment, often indicating ecological conditions, settlement patterns, or cultural symbolism associated with specific plant species. The study of phytotoponyms is inherently interdisciplinary, encompassing linguistics, morphology, onomastics, geography, and ethnography. Understanding their formation and structural patterns provides valuable insights into how languages encode ecological, historical, and cultural knowledge in the form of toponyms.

The formation of phytotoponyms involves several key derivational mechanisms, including affixation, compounding, conversion, semantic shift, and syntactic composition. Affixation represents one of the most productive mechanisms, in which derivational morphemes such as suffixes or prefixes are attached to base plant names to produce meaningful toponyms. Examples in English include the transformation of “Oak” into “Oakwood” or “Pine” into “Pineton,” where the affix denotes a geographical feature or settlement associated with the plant¹. Compounding, another prominent mechanism, integrates a plant name with a geographical descriptor or another lexical element to form semantically precise names such as “Maple Valley” or “Birch Grove.”

This mechanism reflects the interaction between linguistic structure and the ecological or geographical realities of a location. Conversion involves the direct use of a plant noun as a place name without morphological modification, while semantic shift occurs when the meaning of a plant name expands or narrows to include symbolic, cultural, or geographical connotations, as in the transformation of “Rose” into “Rose Hill.” Syntactic composition allows for more complex multi-word phytotoponyms, often carrying literary, historical, or ceremonial significance, as exemplified by constructions such as “The Valley of the Silver Birch” or “Forest of the Golden Oak.” Structurally, phytotoponyms can be classified into several types. Simple, monolexic forms consist of a single word, usually the base plant name itself, such as “Willow” or “Ash.”

Derivative forms are created through affixation, forming names such as “Oakton” or “Willowbrook.” Compound forms combine plant names with geographical descriptors to produce names like “Pine Hill” or “Cedar Valley,” while multi-component syntactic units create more elaborate constructions often influenced by cultural or historical considerations.

¹ Prior, R. C. A. *On the Popular Names of British Plants, Being an Explanation of the Origin and Meaning of the Names of Our Indigenous and Most Commonly Cultivated Species.* Third edition. London: Frederic Norgate; Edinburgh: Williams & Norgate, 1878. -P.121-137

The structural diversity of phytotoponyms is not arbitrary but reflects the linguistic typology and morphological productivity of the language in which they occur, as well as the cultural and ecological context of the region. Beyond their linguistic and morphological properties, phytotoponyms serve as indicators of local ecology, historical settlement, and cultural identity. They often encode information about the dominant vegetation, economic uses of plants, or symbolic associations in folklore and tradition. For instance, the prevalence of oak or pine in English place names may indicate both the ecological characteristics of the region and the cultural significance attributed to these trees. The analysis of derivational patterns and structural models of phytotoponyms thus contributes not only to the study of word-formation and morphological theory but also to onomastics, linguistic geography, and cultural studies².

By systematically examining affixation, compounding, conversion, semantic shift, and syntactic composition in phytotonym formation, scholars can better understand how languages encode environmental and cultural knowledge in toponymic systems. The productivity of specific morphemes and structural types demonstrates the interplay between linguistic conventions and local practices, while the semantic and morphological diversity of phytotoponyms reflects the adaptability of language in responding to ecological and cultural realities.

Conclusion. In conclusion, phytotoponyms are complex linguistic phenomena that encapsulate ecological, historical, and cultural information through structured word-formation processes. Their study highlights the interconnectedness of language, environment, and society, emphasizing the role of morphology and derivational mechanisms in the systematic creation of place names. Through analysis of affixation, compounding, conversion, semantic shift, and syntactic composition, this research contributes to the broader understanding of onomastics, word-formation theory, and the linguistic encoding of ecological and cultural knowledge.

Phytotoponyms thus serve as a window into the ways in which human communities perceive, interact with, and linguistically represent their natural and cultural environments, underscoring the significance of structural and derivational analysis in the study of toponymy.

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