Eurasian bilingual hydronyms nominations with the components "ak/kara"

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DOI: 10.18355/XL.2024.17.02.02

Abstract
Toponyms, not just geographical names, carry historical, geographical, and linguistic information and provide rich evidence of epochs. The names of places mirror the culture and lifestyle of people related to them and have unique features. Toponymical researches have a long history, however, there are some problems that complicate the interpretation of toponyms. Disputable issues related to the definition of toponyms sources require greater attention from linguistics, and historical and geographical sciences. The present study aims to explore Turkic hydronyms with the components "aq/ak" and "qara/kara" to identify their nomination specificity. The descriptive research design employs the methods of a complex linguistic and etymological analysis. The research data comprises of Turkic hydronyms, naming bodies of water located in the territory of the Eurasian space – Afghanistan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan. The conducted study demonstrates that the nomination of the hydronyms with the components "aq/ak" and "qara/kara" is not related to the color specifics of the bodies of water. The hydronyms with the component "aq/ak" name the water resources that are mountain snowy waters and originate from glaciers, whereas the component "qara/kara" in Turkic hydronyms indicates the spring origin of waters.
Key words: toponyms, hydronyms, names of bodies of water, Eurasia, Turkic roots, nomination

Introduction

Toponyms are more than just geographical names; they contain geographical and linguistic information as well as evidence of historical epochs. The names of various regions are a reflection of the culture and lifestyle of those who reside there, and each region has its own characteristics. Even though toponymic research has existed for many centuries, and the an abundance of books dedicated to the study of toponyms, many issues still complicate their interpretation. Not all Turkic toponyms have survived to this day; some of them have been changed, and some have been forgotten. That is why the study of toponyms, noted in historical sources, has great importance.

The issue of stratigraphic division of Turkic geographical names, due to the multi-layered nature of their composition, is one of the rather contentious ones (Murzayev, 1996). Turkic toponyms can be classified in different ways, including the Turkic layer, borrowed names, and substratum groups, which incorporate elements from different languages. However, even now, most local names still contain Turkic elements, particularly in areas where Turkic-speaking people reside.

The lack of extensive research identifying the practice of nomination and model of distribution of certain toponyms and their geographical characteristics in world practice is another problem. Our study aims to explore Turkic hydronyms (toponyms designating the proper name of a body of water) on the territory of Eurasia. The relevance of our research lies in identifying the Turkic layer in the toponymy of Central Asia, shedding light on the nomination specificity of rivers, lakes, seas, bays, and channels with the components "aq/ak" and "qara/kara". The study results will contribute to the reconstruction of the former landscape and deepen our knowledge of the etymology of hydronyms and their word-formation structure in relation to geographical characteristics.

Literature Review

Toponymy is a section of onomastics that studies the geographical names of objects, including their origin, development, spelling, pronunciation, structure, distribution area and current state. The collection of all toponyms in a certain area forms its toponymy. Within the framework of linguistics, toponyms can be classified based on the type of geographical objects and structure. According to the type of geographical objects, hydronyms, oronyms, urbanists, microtoponyms, macrotoponyms are distinguished. In this study, we will focus on hydronyms.

Toponyms, as well as hydronyms, attracted the attention of researchers of all times, starting from ancient authors and the Middle Ages. Although there is no doubt that most of the toponymic vocabulary of any language is native, there is also a borrowed component. Similarly, in the regions where not only local people lived, toponymic names were created not only by locals but also by representatives of other ethnic groups.

The study of Turkic toponyms is important in clarifying the territories that historically belonged to the Turkic peoples and requires further study. Over time, many toponyms change or are completely forgotten. Therefore, not all historical toponyms reach our days. That is why the study of localities names noted in historical sources is important to consider. All these geographical names preserve the rich appearance of the Turkic languages.

The toponymy of each region, no matter how isolated it is, is closely related to the toponymy of other regions, and these connections can be lexical and typological. They can be expressed in that toponyms of other regions are completely repeated in a given territory or their individual elements are found, as well as, in toponyms of a given territory are built according to the same models as toponyms of other territories.

Turkic-speaking people have historically lived in the northeastern and central regions of Asia, Central Asia, the North Caucasus, Eastern Transcaucasia, Asia Minor, and Northern Iran. Their nomadic lifestyle contributed to the development of toponyms across vast lands. Turkic toponyms are found in large quantities, even in those areas where Turkic people do not currently live (Murzayev, 1996). Turkic toponyms and hydronyms are widespread throughout the European continent and are found in Alaska, North America, Arab countries, and in the northeast of India (Budagov, 1997). Turkic origin is present in all places named after Turkic people, such as the Deccan plateau in the northern periphery of the Eurasian continent and Kamchatka in the Far East (Wendt, 2013). Turkisms are identified in the toponymy of Iran (Demirchay, Adzhichay, Sarychay, Karasu, Kyzyluzen, Akbolak), Iraq (the rivers Iarynchay, Kurichay, Aksu), Kashmir (village Kyz Tslyangar), and Bulgaria (Uzun Kum – "long sands").

Numerous publications are dedicated to the study of toponyms that have Turkic origins. Spinei (2010), in his work "The Romanians and The Turkic Nomads North of the Danube Delta from the Tenth to the Mid-Thirteenth Century," conducted a historical synthesis of Turkic place names in Moldova and Muntenia. D. Moldovanu (2010), in his article "Hydronyms of ancient Turkic origin in the south of Moldova", described in detail some Turkic hydronyms on the territory of Moldova.

O.E. Polyakov and N.V. Letkina (2022) identified 90 units of Turkic toponyms in the toponymic vocabulary of the Mordovian languages. Toponyms of Turkic origin found both in the territory of Mokshans' residence and in the territory of Erzyans' residence, were extracted both from the works of Finno-Ugric researchers and various dictionaries.

According to the German linguist and Balkanist, G. Weigand (1921), more than 20 names of rivers in Romania have the suffix *-lui* or *ui*. This indicates the Turkic origin of hydronyms such as Bahlui, Băldălui, Bărlui, Bănăgui, Călmăţui, Călui, Covurlui, Desnăţui, Suhurlui, Teslui, Turlui, Urlui, Vaslui, Gemărtălui/Geamărtălui. These suffixes are also present in some hydronyms of Moldova and Muntenia (Weigand, 1921).

Exploring ethnonyms and toponyms of the old Turkic inscriptions in Chinese sources, N. Kenzheakhmet (2014) states that ancient Turkic onomastics were preserved in ancient Chinese chronicles. Most of them, however, are currently being renamed into Chinese.

According to Al. Ilieș, Ilieș, D.C. and A. Deac (2015), place names are as precise and persuasive as the Earth's language. Consequently, the place names are recognized for their superior accuracy and expression, which identifies certain characteristics of the area. (Aspandiyarov, 2005). Effective human activity in a particular natural area is the primary factor that determines the influence of the geographical environment on the development of toponyms, which reflects the most alluring aspects of toponyms and provides information loads (Saparov et al., 2017).

G.K. Konkashpayev (1951) claims that nomadism led to the exceptional watchfulness necessary to exploit the land's natural features to manage farms. Because of their lifestyle, the nomads were able to observe even the smallest details of the pasture, which could serve as markers for migration or as a fortified area for livestock during unpleasant weather. They gained insight into various pastures' unique features, including lay, climate, vegetation, water sources, utilization season, and livestock suitability. A specific phrase is unique to each aspect of a mountain, shallow river, lake, meadow, or other natural feature, and it's not easy to find in other languages, particularly among agricultural people. This is because using river valleys as pasture land was crucial for breeders, and local conditions such as the river's water content and vegetation characteristics were significant (Saparov et al., 2017). The names of bodies of water indicate their microgeographic position – whether a river passes by a plant or next to a habitat, where it splits off, whether it is above or below a mountain, and how isolated it is (Eshboev, 2020).

Research methods

The study aims to investigate Turkic hydronyms with the components "aq/ak" and "qara/kara" across the entire area of Eurasia in order tto the nomination specificity of rivers, lakes, seas, bays, and channels with these Turkic roots names.

Toponymic research involves the use of various approaches and methods (Polyakov & Letkina, 2022). A descriptive research design employed the literature review methods, data collection and data systematization, a linguistic interpretation and a complex etymological analysis. A comparative historical and geographical method and structural and areal methods were utilized to analyze lexical material, taking into account the connection of the history of the language with the history of its speakers and their place.

The literature review is crucial for formulating the main ideas and trends and substantiating our study's theoretical foundation. To achieve the study goal, we employed historical-comparative and comparative-typological methods effective for the comparative study of toponyms, and organized the information about hydronyms under study through the data systematization method. The geographical method is based on the use of geographical terms – words denoting the features of a geographical object, its type and gender, that enable the reconstruction of past geographical situations and identify various components of the natural landscape.
The research data included Turkic hydronyms selected from various sources such as toponymical dictionaries, encyclopedias, and research articles. The importance of collecting, analyzing and systematizing hydronyms is since, over time, they can disappear or transform.

Results and Discussion

Most of the Turkic place names consist of binary words – usually, adjectives coming first, that denote the characteristics of objects. Many toponyms of Turkic origin are related to colors: Aqsu (white water), Aqbulak (white spring), Qarasu (black water), Qarabutak (black spring), Qaraozek (black river), Qonyrsu (brown water), Sarybulaq (yellow spring). A similar conclusion was reached by F.G. Khisamitdinova et al. (2019), explaining that color terms can be considered a shared feature of the Turkic toponymy as a whole and the reflection of the color features of the surrounding environment and the region.
The most common components in the Turkic toponymy are "aq/ak" (white) and "qara/kara" (black). The Kazakh-Russian dictionary contains five meanings of the word *aq* and eight meanings of the word *qara*. The main meaning of *aq* is "white", and that of *qara* is "black". However, the dictionary defines the term *qarasu* as "still water" and "pond" (Makhmudov & Musabaev, 1987), whereas *aqsu* is not a type of river whose water color is white (Konkashpayev1970).
Names of water bodies determine their microgeographic position, and the name of the river, for instance, may indicate whether the river is above or below the mountain, where it flows or branches, and which plants germinate nearby. E.M. Murzayev (1984) indicates that the component "aq/ak" in the names of rivers means "waters, originating in the mountains and surrounding deserts". G.K. Konkashpayev (1970) emphasizes that qarasu is a spring river, the water of which is always clear, and the term *qara/kara* has nothing in common with the meaning "black". The term *qara/kara* is used in the meaning of "land", i.e., kara-su – "land-water", "water from the earth". This ties well with the definitions of *qarasu* / 'قراصو in the Karachay-Balkar and Altai languages such as "spring", "non-freezing", "clean spring water" (Kokov & Shakhmurzaev, 1970).
In the Turkic mythology, the Universe consists of three worlds – the eternal sky, the middle world, and the underground (lower) world. The eternal sky is a haven for the god Tengri, the middle world is for people, and the god Erlik lives in the underworld. The ancient Turks called the middle world "Aq" and the underground world – "Qara" (Sultan'yayev, 1971). Hence, they might use the component "qara" in hydronyms, fed by waters coming out of the ground (springs). And if the water basin is formed with the help of melted glaciers, snow or rain, it is the merit of the middle world. Such water bodies were named using the component "aq", or the component "qara" was simply absent in the name of the water body.

This goes in line with the geographer N.N. Palgov (1959), indicating that "...the epithet "black" is due to the fact that these rivers are fed by groundwater". Foothill areas are home to this river, which receives most of its water from the melting snow and ice in the mountain catchment. Black tributary (Qarabutak, Qarasu) carries cool waters since springs flow with cold water.

We have considered Turkic hydronyms with elements "aq/ak" and "qara/kara" to deeply explore these theories on the nomination of bodies of water and the etymology of hydronyms. We selected hydronyms of the Eurasian space, comprising the countries of Afghanistan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

The ratio of Turkic hydronyms with component "aq/ak" on the territory of Eurasia is presented in Figure 1.

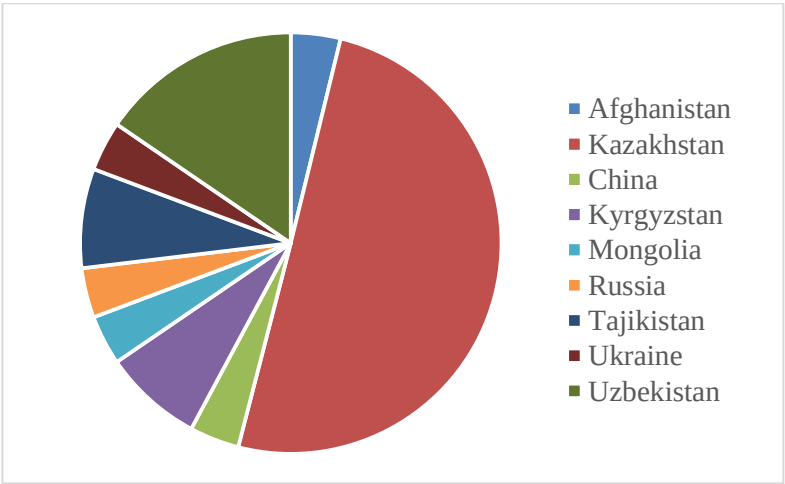

Figure 1. The ratio of hydronyms with the component "aq/ak"

Most of the hydronyms with component "aq/ak" are located in the territory of Kazakhstan (50%). Less amount of them are found in Uzbekistan (15.4%) and Tajikistan (7.6%), Afghanistan, China, Mongolia, Russia, and Ukraine (3.8%).

Table 1 describes the Turkic hydronyms with the component "aq/ak" on the territory of Eurasian space.

Table 1. Hydronyms with the component "aq/ak"

Country	**Hydronym**	**Description**
Afghanistan	Aksu	A river flowing from the mountain lake Chakmaktyn
Kazakhstan	Aqsu	Begins on the northern slopes of Zhetysus Alatau
	Aqbalshyk	A lake in Pavlodar region, Pavlodar city
	Aqdala	A lake in Karagandy region, Nura district
	Aqzhaiyk	A river in Atyrau region, Makhambet district
	Aqzharyk	A river in Karagandy region, Karkara district
	Aqkora	A river in Karagandy region, Bukar Zhyrau district

	Aqkudyk	A source, Karagandy region, Aktoya district
	Aqmalay	A salt lake in Pavlodar region, May district
	Aqmamyk	A salt lake in Karagandy region, Ulytau district
	Aqoylake	A lake in the Northern Kazakhstan, M. Zhumabaev region
	Aqsu	A river in Zhambyl district
	Aqtaiynsha	A lake in Pavlodar region, Aksu village
	Aqtuie	A lake in Pavlodar region, Ekibastuz village
China	Aksu	A mountain river (Tian-Shan), tributary of Tarim in Xinjiang-Uyghur Autonomous Region of China
Kyrgyzstan	Aksu (Saryjaz)	A tributary of the Tarim. The river originates from the Semenov glacier in the Central Tien Shan mountains of Kyrgyzstan, near the point of intersection with Kazakhstan and China.
	Aksu	A river, the left tributary of the Chu. It originates from the northern slopes of the Kyrgyz ridge. It flows into the Tasotkel reservoir
Mongolia	Aksu	A river, the sources of which are located on the glacier of the Mongolian Altai Mountains
Russia	Aksai	A river in Volgograd region, which originates in Ergeni and is fed mainly by snow
Tajikistan	Aksu	The Bartang river in the upper reaches
	Aksu	The Isfara River in the upper reaches
Ukraine	Aksu	The Southern Bug River during the Mongol conquests, Ukraine
Uzbekistan	Akbulak	A river in Namangan region, the riverbed is located in Tashkent region
	Akdakhana	The Kamashi River basin
	Aksu	The river Katta Uradarya in the upper reaches
	Aksu / Akdar'ya	A river in Uzbekistan, the left tributary of the Kashkadarya

The Akbulak River (white spring), whose source is located in Namangan region, and the riverbed is located in Tashkent region, the Republic of Uzbekistan, originates in the highlands of the Chatkal ridge (Aitbayev & Hikmatov, 2013). The Akdarya River, located in Kashkadarya region, Uzbekistan, in the upper reaches is called Aksu. The snow-glacial river originates on the slopes of the Hissar ridge and flows into the Kashkadarya River (Tomashevskaya, Sabitov & Sirlibaeva, 2014; Eshboev, 2020). The component "ak" in these hydronyms indicates that rivers are saturated with snowy waters originating from the high part of the mountain.

The rivers Aksu in Tajikistan are mountain waters that originated in the glaciers of Turkestan Ridge and run from south to north until they flow into the Syr Darya (Mirboboev, Rakhimov & Shermatov, 2013). The hydronym indicates that the rivers Aksu in Tajikistan are fed by glacial meltwater, which confirms the theory related to the component "aq/ak".

The county Aksu in Xinjiang, China, is known for its high-quality cotton, horticulture and mountain landscape. The Aksu District is named after the Aksu river, formed as a result of the melting of countless glaciers on Tomur Peak. Tarim's water source is the deep Aksu, which is the biggest inland river in China (Uson uulu et al., 2022). Rising from the Tien Shan glaciers, Aksu crosses the border of China and Kyrgyzstan. In Kyrgyzstan, the river has two names – Aksu and Saryjaz.

Another river in Kyrgyzstan, called Aksu, originates on the northern slopes of Kyrgyz ridge. Aksu is a left tributary of the Chu River and flows into the Tasotkel reservoir.

The river Aksu, located in the extreme northeast of Afghanistan in the province of Badakhshan, flows from the mountain lake Chakmaktyn. On the territory of Afghanistan, the Aksu flows about 30 kilometers in a north-easterly direction, then in an easterly direction along the state border of Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

The hydronym Aksu is also found in Mongolia (Rybkina & Rotanova, 2016), indicating a river, the sources of which are located on the glacier of the Mongolian Altai Mountains.

There is a large number of hydronyms with the components "aq" and "qara" in Kazakhstan. The left tributary of the river Aschysu in Pavlodar region, that flows into the Irtysh, is called Aksu, white and clear waters of which are fed by snow waters (Saparov, 2011). Another example is the hydronym Aqsu – a small low-water river in the northern part of Almaty region in Kazakhstan. It originates in Dzhungar Alatau glaciers, which suggests that the river is fed by glaciers and snow.

Based on the analyses of hydronyms with the component "aq/ak" on Eurasia, it can be concluded that they name mountain rivers, that supports the theory that their nomination is connected to their geographical characteristics, not their color.

Figure 2 indicates the ratio of Turkic hydronyms with the component "qara/kara" in Eurasia, namely in Afghanistan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

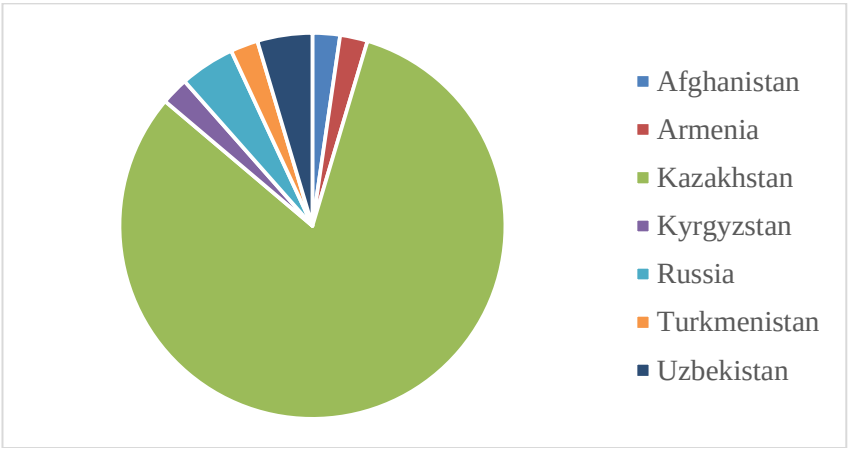

Figure 2. Ratio of hydronyms with component "qara"

The Turkic hydronyms with the component "qara/kara" were found in Afghanistan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The main part of them is located on the territory of Kazakhstan (81,4%), followed by Russia and Uzbekistan (4.6%). The same amount of water resources with the component "qara/kara" in the name is found on the territory of Afghanistan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan (2.3%). Russia

Table 2 describes the Turkic hydronyms with the component "qara/kara" on the territory of Eurasian space.

Table 2. Hydronyms with the component "qara/kara"

Country	Hydronym	Description
Afghanistan	Karasu	A river that flows into Zorkul
Armenia	Karasu (now Sevjur)	A river flows from the springs of Aragats mountain range (Araks river's tributory)
Kazakhstan	Qara-Kengir	A river originates from a spring, which located seven kilometers east of Lake Baraqkol and flows into the Sarys river
	Qaratorgai	A river in Akmola region, Ereymentau district
	Qaraadyr	A salt lake in Pavlodar region, Bayanaul district
	Qaraarsha	A river in Almaty region, Ezbekshikazak district
	Qaraaryk	A river in Almaty region, Aksu District
	Qarabarkas	A lake in Zhambyl region, Sarysu district
	Qarabastau	A river in Almaty region, Talgar district
	Qarabastuz	A river in the East Kazakhstan, Semey district
	Qarabau	A river in Atyrau Region, Inder District
	Qarabauyr	A lake in Akmola region, Zerendy district
	Qaraboget	A river in Almaty Region, Alakgul District
	Qarabuka	A river in Akmola region, Astana city
	Qarabulak	A river in Akmola region, Ereymentau district
	Qarabuta	A river in East Kazakhstan
	Qarabutak	A river in Aktobe Region, Iteke Bi District
	Qaraeren	A river in Almaty region, Uigyr district
	Qaraespe	A river in Almaty region, Zhambyl district
	Qarazhar	A river in Akmola Region, Shortan District
	Qarazhartas	A river in Karagandy region, Shet district
	Qarazhurt	A river in Almaty region, Panfilov district
	Qarakol	A river in Akmola region, Esil district
	Qarakonys	A river in Almaty region, Zhambyl district
	Qarakonyz	A river in Zhambyl region, Kordai district
	Qarakudyk	Ariver in Akmola region, Akkul district
	Qarakudyk	A river in Karagandy region, Aktoya district
	Qaraoy	A river in Aktbe region, Oyil district
	Qaraozen	A river in Volga-Zhayik basin
	Qaraolen	A lake in Pavlodar region, Akku district
	Qarasu	A river in Karagandy region, Nura district
	Qarasuyk	A lake in Pavlodar region, Kashir district
	Qaratuz	A lake in Aktobe region, Yrgyz district
	Qaratuma	A river in Almaty Region, Uyyoyr District
	Qaraturyk	A lake in Almaty region, Ezbekshikazak district
	Qaratus	A river in Mangystau region
	Qaraui	A river in Kostanay region, Zhetykara district
	Qaratorgai	A river in Kostanay Region, Arkalyk District
Kyrgyzstan	Karasu	Kyzylsu (on the territory of Kyrgyzstan – Kyzyl-Suu; translated from Kyrgyz as "red water") is a mountain river in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, which source is located on the slopes of the Zaalai ridge. The river flows

		through the Alai Valley and before the confluence of the Aylama River is called Karasu.
Russia	Biyuk-Karasu	A river, located in Crimea and fed by the largest spring Karasu-Bashi (karst springs)
	Kuchuk-Karasu	A river, located in Crimea
Turkmenistan	Karasu	A river in the Northern Kopetdag
Uzbekistan	Karasu	The right tributary of the Akdarya River (Kashkadarya tributary, Kashkadarya viloyat)
	Karasu	The right bank – canal in Tashkent viloyat, the left branch of the Bozsu canal

The bed of the Qara-Kengir River lies on the territory of the Ulytau region (Kazakhstan), as well as within the administrative boundaries of the city of Zhezkazgan, Karagandy region. The Qara-Kengir river originates from a spring, which is located seven kilometers east of Lake Baraqkol and flows into the Sarys river (Tseshkovskaya, Oralova & Tsoy, 2016).

The Biyuk-Karasu river located in Crimea is fed by the largest spring Karasu-Bashi (karst springs, Ivanyutin & Podovalova, 2019). Translated from Turkic, Biyuk-Qasaru means "big black river" because the Tatars also called any river that emerges from the ground "black". And Qarasu-Bashi - is a great loud spring flowing from the huge mouth of a karst cave. This spring is the most powerful on the peninsula.

The lake Shalkar-Egiz-Kara in the Orenburg region (Russia), on the border with Aktobe region (Kazakhstan), is very similar in shape and size to the lake Shalqar in Aktobe region (Kazakhstan), probably causing the component "egiz" (twin) in the name. However, the lake Shalkar-Egiz-Kara differs from its "twin brother" – the lake Shalqar, into which several rivers flow. The location of the lake Shalkar-Egiz-Kara on the map clearly demonstrates that no river flows into it. The component "kara" in the name indicating the presence of springs may explain the lake's replenishing its pool.

The river Karasu in Armenia, renamed Sevjur at present, flows from the springs of the Aragats mountain range.

Thus, the study results prove that the Turkic hydronyms with the component "qara/kara" name the bodies of water from underground, a spring. This confirms the theory about the hydronyms with the component "qara/kara" that mostly denote the bodies of water having spring waters.

The study findings are consistent with (Khisamitdinova et al., 2019), stating that symbolic meaning is conveyed by all color terms belonging to the most ancient part of the vocabulary in many languages.

Conclusion

The present study explored Turkic hydronyms with the components "aq/ak" and "qara/kara". There were considered the Turkic hydronyms located on the territory of the Eurasian space, especially in Afghanistan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan were considered.

The study results show that the etymology and word formation structure of Turkic hydronyms is often related to the geographical characteristics of the bodies of water. The nomination specificity of rivers, lakes, seas, bays, and channels with the components "aq/ak" and "qara/kara" is similar in the hydronyms of the Eurasian space with these components.

The conducted study demonstrates that the nomination of the hydronyms with the components "aq/ak" and "qara/kara" is not related to the color specifics of the bodies

of water. The hydronyms with the component "aq/ak" name the water resources that are mountain snowy waters and originate from glaciers. In turn, the component "qara/kara" in Turkic hydronyms indicates the spring origin of waters.

The study proved that toponyms serve as a significant source of worldview knowledge and it also has a linguocultural meaning. Geographical objects are determined by the characteristics of the geographical environment as a primary principle. The development of toponymic research is influenced by the complicated descriptive study of the relationship between hydronyms and their geographical characteristics.

Acknowledgments

We would like to express our great appreciation to Emmanuel Inegbedion MA TESOL, MSc HRIRM, BA English (linguistics), Senior lecturer at Yessenov Univery (Kazakhstan, Aktau), for proofreading this research work. His willingness to give his time generously has been much appreciated.

This research is funded by the Science Committee of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Grant No. AP13068325).

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Words: 4983
Characters: 33 209 (18, 45 standard pages)

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