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ZONING OF OIKONYMS OF THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KARAKALPAKSTAN

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Abstract: In the article, the scientific research works of foreign and local scientists who geographically studied the names of settlements, that is, oikonyms, are analysed. The object of the research is 1151 oikonyms of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. The purpose of the scientific work is the oikonymic zoning of oikonyms of the Republic of Karakalpakstan by quantitative analysis of their linguistic structure, topoterminological structure, and lexical-semantic structure. In carrying out scientific work within the framework of this goal, field research was mainly conducted to determine the linguistic and lexico-semantic typology of oikonyms. In the process of quantitative analysis of oikonyms, the statistical method and cartographic and zoning methods were effectively used in their zoning. In terms of territorial distribution, Karakalpaks predominate in the northern and central districts, and Uzbeks predominate in the southern districts. In addition, they have their own nominative traditions in naming oikonyms, and this circumstance has been revealed in the study that the oikonyms of Karakalpakstan were formed in the northern regions from Karakalpak names, and in the southern regions, they were formed mainly from Uzbek names, and this circumstance served as the basis for dividing the region into two oikonymic regions. Furthermore, the distribution of local geographical terms by territories, i.e. mainly hydronymic in the northern districts, and oikonymic terms in the central and southern districts, was determined. At the same time, the identification of territorial differences in lexical and semantic features served as the basis for dividing the Northern oikonymic region into four micro-regions: the Aral Sea region, the Northeastern, Western, and Central, and the Southern oikonymic region into three micro-regions: the Southern Left Bank, the Southern Right Bank, and the Kyzylkum.

Keywords: toponyms, oikonyms, local geographical terms, oikonymic regions, oikonymic micro-regions, oikonymic zoning, cultural geography, rural geography, ethnonyms, anthropo-oikonyms

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INTRODUCTION

Since the production, economic, and social activities of humanity are carried out within the framework of the geographical environment, consisting of many objects with their names, the names of geographical objects are always the same, that is, they perform the function of an address, without geographical names there is no socio-economic formation. Geographical names, as direct symbols of history, are constantly supplemented, renamed, and updated due to the lifestyle of the people who lived there for centuries, serving the various needs of society.

At the same time, geographical names reflect the diversity of the surrounding natural environment, the availability of natural resources, the diversity of landscapes, climatic and hydrographic, relief and orographic features, as well as the appearance, location, and other important features and characteristics of natural and other objects. In general, geographical names are often a rich source of diverse information. Therefore, the study of geographical names, their scientific research, and the determination of the etymology and meaning of each place name are among the urgent tasks.

Place names are amazing, and living works of art have been created by millions of people over thousands of years. Doğru (1984) tells about the geographical features, migrations, events, stories, facts, and finally, the entire history of that region. That is, they all have a language. In other words, they are all part of cultural heritage, its oral form.

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From this point of view Hanilçe (2013), place names, which have an important share in the cultural treasures of societies, preserve the memories of the societies to which they belong and play an important role in the transfer of culture from the past to the future. The place names created by indigenous peoples have now become the property of world geography and cartography. Sometimes they are accepted in their original form, but most often the names reflect changes in the living language. As noted, any place name arises out of necessity, its form changes in the process of performing its function, and ultimately retains its time.

Saparov et al. (2017) emphasized that toponymic research allows determining the ethnic composition of the population of a certain territory, which peoples lived in this territory, in which language the authors of these names spoke in ancient times, i.e., the etymology of place names. For this reason, it is necessary to study geographical names, especially their territorial distribution and scientific research of the reasons for their origin. Because through these aspects, to a certain extent, toponymic regularities are determined, and this information serves toponymic zoning.

Basik (2020) studied urban place names and their significance in our lives. Rusu (2020) conducted a quantitative analysis of the political formation and post-socialist toponymic changes of the Romanian cities of Brașov, Cluj-Napoca, and Sibiu. Atik et al. (2022) observed landscape features through place names in rural areas of the Mediterranean, while the names of some settlements and villages in Serbia and their locations on topographic maps were developed by Marković (2024). The map of Romanian city names based on female names was studied by Rusu (2024), the spatial distribution characteristics and influencing factors of traditional villages in the Jiarong Tibetan area of western Sichuan, China were studied by Li et al. (2024), the distribution characteristics and formation of traditional village toponyms in western Hunan Province, China were studied by Liu et al. (2024), the distribution and formation of traditional village names in Southeast Guizhou Province were studied by Chen et al. (2025), and the assessment of the location potential of traditional villages in Sichuan Province for tourism development was studied by Xia et al. (2025). Moreover, Rose-Redwood et al. (2018) conducted numerous studies on the names of streets and their names, which are part of cities, settlements, and villages.

Moreover, a number of geographers have been engaged in toponymic zoning, and in Manakov's (2006) research, based on the formant method, the toponymic zoning of the European part of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus was carried out. In this case, the presence of Slavic toponymic formants - prefixes, suffixes, and affixes - in the names of settlements of the Eastern European Plain was statistically analysed using the cartographic method. In the toponyms of different parts of the Eastern European Plain, the predominance of certain formants adding a certain "tone" (character) was determined, and on this basis, the studied region was divided into 7 toporegions. Taranova (2004) conducted geo-toponymic zoning in the territory of Ukraine's Holohora-Kremenets range and the area of Male Polissya.

It identifies nine geo-toponymic regions, and in each of them, the connection of geographical names with natural conditions is observed. Afanasev (2005, 2006) proposed toponymic zoning of Ukraine in his research. According to it, nine toponymic regions have been identified in the country. The theoretical foundations of these works serve to a certain extent in the toponymic zoning of oikonyms of our region. A unique experience of toponymic zoning of the territory of Uzbekistan, published in scientific literature, can be observed in the textbook “Toponymy” by Nizomov et al. (2013). These authors divided the territory of Uzbekistan into 8 toponymic regions: Tashkent-Mirzachul, Zarafshan, Kyzylkum, Lower Amudarya, Ustyurt, Fergana, Surkhandarya, and Kashkadarya.

Figure 1. Location of our research object (Source: Google, accessed on 16.09.2025)

This zoning scheme covers the entire territory of Uzbekistan, and this experience is characterised by a more general formulation of the relevant scientific problem. In particular, the work under consideration does not indicate specific criteria for toponymic zoning, does not carry out statistical (quantitative) analysis of the composition of toponyms and does not compare them in the context of the identified toponymic regions, and zoning is carried out only at one territorial level. Moreover, in this case, not just oikonyms, but all categories of toponyms are taken as objects of zoning. The object of our research is the oikonyms of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, which is an administrative-territorial unit of the Republic of Uzbekistan located in the center of the Central Asian region and located in the northwestern part of Uzbekistan. The territory of Karakalpakstan is mainly occupied by the Aral Sea in the northern part, the Ustyurt Plateau in the western part, the Kyzylkum Desert in the eastern part, and the Amudarya delta in the southern and central parts. The fact that the main area is occupied by such various landscape types is reflected in the formation of toponyms of this territory, especially oikonyms, their territorial differences, as well as the diversity of local geographical terms across the territory (Figure 1). The Republic of Karakalpakstan administratively and territorially consists of the capital city of Nukus and 16 districts. In this study, the names of settlements in the Republic of Karakalpakstan were obtained based on the Resolutions of the Praesidium of the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the District Councils of People's Deputies on the issues of administrative-territorial division as of January 1, 2021. According to these official documents, as of January 1, 2021, there were 12 cities, 26 towns, and 1113 rural settlements in the republic, that is, a total of 1151 settlements. In the article, the determination of the quantitative composition of the lexico-semantic features (etymology) of the oikonyms of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and its administrative-territorial units was carried out based on the total number of settlements recorded in the above-mentioned documents. Furthermore, the linguistic composition of oikonyms was analysed in the context of administrative-territorial units.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The process of toponymic zoning of the studied territory is a rather complex issue, and its implementation requires the application of various methods. These are the methods of comparing different toponymic data with each other, the method of describing the number of toponyms according to their genetic origin, the cartographic method, the direct study of toponyms in field conditions, and the selection of leading toponyms that are numerous.

When writing this article, the lexico-semantic meaning of oikonyms, the determination of topoterminological aspects, i.e., local geographical terms in the composition of oikonyms, were mainly used as a result of scientific expeditions to remote villages and auils in the territory of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, i.e., field research, and when analyzing the obtained results, statistical research methods were mainly used to determine their numerical values. In addition, historical maps were studied in terms of the location of settlements, their historical origin, and for the first time, based on the analysis of collected materials, using the methods of zoning and mapping of oikonyms of the republic, oikonymic zoning and mapping of oikonyms of the republic were carried out. Below we present the results obtained from scientific research.

Toponyms distributed across regions are not uniform in their genetic origin. For example, while orotoponyms are more common in some regions, hydrotoponyms or petrotoponyms may dominate in some regions. Their distribution areas are separated by a kind of invisible curve - a linguogeographic boundary. It is this curve that can serve as a boundary for toponymic regions. Consequently, the numerical abundance of a toponymic type indicates the specific geographical conditions of that place, and it is distinguished as a separate region. In this way, toponymic zoning is carried out.

It is known that the diversity of the natural environment, the history of local peoples, the economic and cultural way of life, and linguistic features lead to territorial differences in geographical names. These differences serve as the main criterion for toponymic zoning. Juchkevich (1968) is a specialist who has published the most scientific works on toponymic zoning, indicating geographical (territorial), linguistic, and historical principles as the main principles of this zoning.

It is difficult to imagine any geographical research without the method of zoning. Toponymic regions, like physical-geographical and economic-geographical regions, are located in a certain territory that is not exactly repeated in nature and have a separate geographical name. At the same time, it is natural that there are similarities between toponymic regions, but they differ in their main important features. The renowned toponymist and geographer Juchkevich (1968) wrote that "when determining the territorial characteristics of toponymy, issues of zoning principles arise first." There are specific principles of toponymic zoning, which consist in adhering to the objective territorial division of the identified regions. Toponymic zoning is carried out mainly on the basis of the principles of territoriality, historical-genetic, complexity, and relative homogeneity.

A systematic approach should be applied to the socio-geographical study of place names in a certain territory, in particular, oikonyms. At the same time, the oikonyms of the studied territory are perceived as integral elements of the historically formed and developing geocultural environment of that territory, and attention is paid to the fact that they embody the important features of that geocultural system in the past and present. From this point of view, it is advisable to consider the oikonymy of a certain territory as a territorial cultural system and study it as a territorial oikonymic system.

It is known that oikonymy reflects the historical and cultural development of the territory, through oikonymy it is possible to study the ethnocultural and historical-geographical conditions of the territory. In this research work, each district of the Republic of Karakalpakstan was taken as a territorial oikonymic system. In this case, oikonyms were analysed from the point of view of language structure, i.e., spectral-stratigraphic, origin and meaning, i.e., lexico-semantic and topoterminological. Quantitative analysis of the above-mentioned spectral-stratigraphic, lexical-semantic, and topoterminological indicators in the identification of oikonymic regions and micro-regions was carried out within the framework of the oikonyms of the capital city of Nukus and 16 districts (total 1151), which are considered administrative-territorial units of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Neighbouring districts were grouped in terms of similarity. The

language structure served as the basis for the identification of oikonymic regions, where Karakalpak (Kipchak dialect) names prevailed in the northern regions and Uzbek (Karluk dialect) names in the southern regions.

For many centuries, Karakalpaks have lived in these regions, namely in the northern and central districts, and Uzbeks in the southern districts, and their nominative traditions are clearly manifested in the naming of places. These aspects deserve to serve as a region-forming criterion. In addition, the lexico-semantic and topo-terminological features of oikonyms were taken as the basis for the division into oikonymic micro-regions, and neighbouring districts with similar lexico-semantic and topo-terminological features were grouped and divided into oikonymic micro-regions.

Like any territorial system, the territorial oikonymic system has its own composition, that is, its structure, and this structural structure has a multifaceted character (Figure 2). In particular, the presence of names in territorial oikonymic systems, usually belonging to different languages, is the basis for analysing the linguistic or spectral-stratigraphic composition of these systems. In this case, the oikonyms of the region are grouped according to their belonging to different languages, and the most common of the identified groups is selected as the oikonymic background of the corresponding region. Considering that language segments were formed in different historical periods, they are considered as stratigraphic layers of the territorial oikonymic system. The lexico-semantic structure of the territorial oikonymic system implies a typological study of the etymological formation of oikonyms in the studied territory and the diversity of their lexical meaning. It is known that oikonyms, as proper nouns, are formed according to various word-formation models. They can consist of one or more words, formed using various toponymic terms and toponymic formants (suffixes).

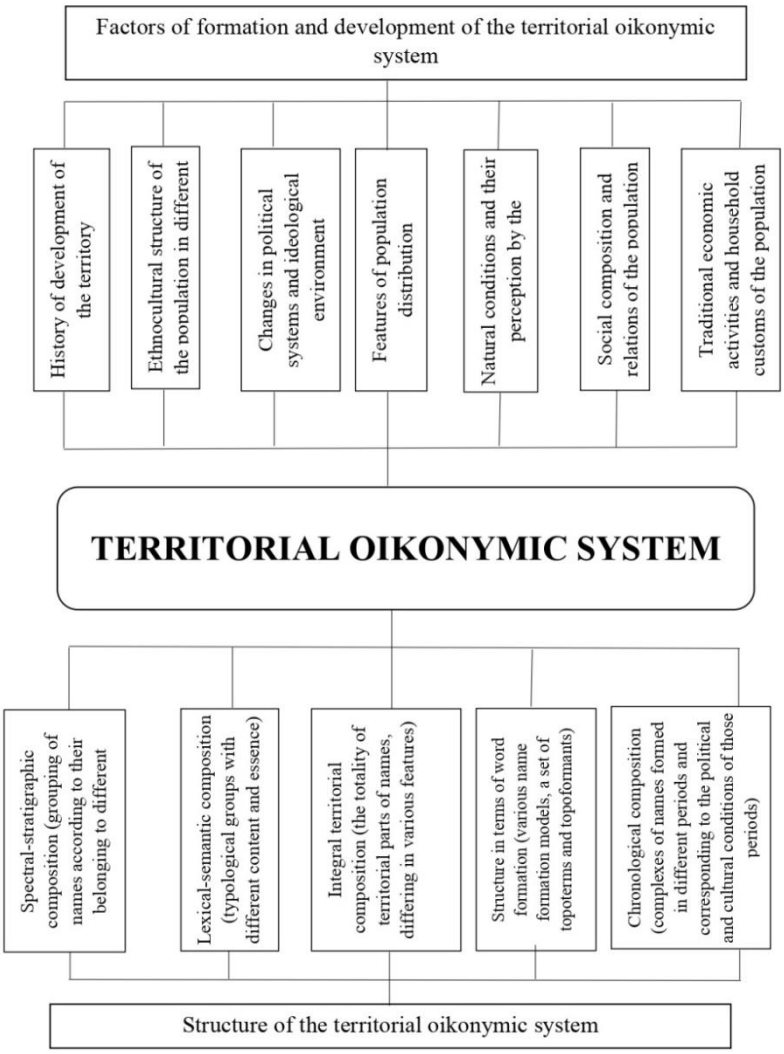

Figure 2. The structure of the territorial oikonymic system and the factors of its formation (Source: Authors)

These features of oikonyms are the basis for studying the structure of the territorial oikonymic system in terms of word formation and reflect an important feature of the oikonymy of a particular region.Territorial oikonymic systems have a rather variable character, and this feature is greatly influenced by the socio-political system and ideological environment in society. Historical experience shows that when the system of political governance in states changes, place names also change, are adapted to the new ideological and spiritual environment, and newly founded settlements are named according to the requirements of the time. As a result, in the oikonymy of many regions, names formed in different periods and embodying their socio-ideological features are encountered. The structure of territorial oikonymic systems in this aspect

constitutes its chronological structure. Spectral-stratigraphic, lexico-semantic, word-formation (in particular, terminological), and chronological differences in the oikonymy of territories with a large area are often expressed territorially.

These territorial differences are the basis for the zoning of territorial oikonymic systems. Oikonymic zoning involves dividing the oikonymy of the studied territory into smaller parts that differ from each other in various historically formed structural features and reflects the territorial composition of large territorial oikonymic systems. The structure of territorial oikonymic systems is historically formed and changed under the influence of several factors. The main of these factors are: the history of the development of the territory, the peculiarities of the settlement of the population, the ethnocultural composition of the population in the past and present, the social composition and relations of the population, traditional economic activities and everyday habits of the population, natural conditions and people's attitude to them, as well as the political system and ideological environment (Figure 2). When studying territorial oikonymic systems from a socio-geographical point of view, it is necessary to identify and analyse not only their structure of various kinds, but also the factors that influenced this structure. In socio-geographical research, the territorial oikonymic system is considered an integral and important element of the geocultural system. Therefore, through oikonyms, it is possible to obtain valuable historical and geographical information about the ethnocultural situation in the territory and its historical changes, the directions of population migrations associated with the development of the territory, the lost elements of the traditional way of life and social relations of the local population, individuals who played a special role in the history of settlements, and the state of natural-anthropogenic landscapes in the past. Consequently, territorial oikonymic systems, embodying the historical and modern features of natural-economic and socio-cultural systems of the corresponding territories, are a source of information about their origin and evolution, disappeared features. Moreover, a comprehensive study of territorial oikonymic systems based on a broad cultural-geographical approach contributes to a more complete disclosure of the historical, socio-spiritual significance of place names, the development of local history knowledge, the formation and promotion of unique "brands" of settlements, and the deeper study and protection of the cultural heritage of the regions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the course of our research, the composition of all oikonyms currently existing in the Republic of Karakalpakstan was studied in three aspects by districts, analysed and summarised on a specific quantitative and statistical basis. These are linguistic, i.e., spectral-stratigraphic, semantic, i.e., lexico-semantic, and word-formation, i.e., terminological aspects. The generalisation of the analysis made it possible to clearly distinguish the cases of territorial stratification in the oikonymy of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. In this case, first of all, territorial differences in different features of oikonymy are noticeable between the four southern districts of Karakalpakstan, namely Amudarya, Beruni, Turtkul, and Ellikkala districts, as well as other territories of the republic. In particular, if we pay attention to the linguistic structure of oikonyms, in the four southern districts, the majority of oikonyms, that is, 77.3%, are Uzbek, and in the rest of the republic, 88.5% of all oikonyms are Karakalpak. Therefore, it is justified to divide the oikonymy of the territory of the Republic of Karakalpakstan into two oikonymic regions in terms of language composition - Northern and Southern (Table 1).

The oikonyms of Bozatau, Muynak, and Takhtakupyr districts can be distinguished as a oikonymic micro-region of the Aral Sea region. Of the 88 oikonyms here, 40 or 45.5% are oikonyms formed from hydronyms. Because in the past, there were many lakes and riverbeds here, and the population used more water bodies to determine (identify) the location of villages, that is, wherever the village was located, the settlement was often named according to the corresponding hydronym.

Table 1. Linguistic structure of the oikonymy of the Republic of Karakalpakstan (Source: Authors)

Number and percentage of oikonyms belonging to a particular language								
Name of administrative-territorial units and total number of oikonyms			Karakalpak		Uzbek		Other languages	
			Quantity	%	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
1	Bozatau	26	25	96.1%	0	0	1	3.9%
2	Chimbay	120	116	96.7%	0	0	4	3.3%
3	Kanlykul	39	32	82%	3	7.7%	4	10.3%
4	Karauzek	97	90	92.8%	0	0	7	7.2%
5	Kegeyli	132	128	96.9%	0	0	4	3.1%
6	Khojeyli	64	42	65.6%	8	12.5%	14	21.9%
7	Kungrad	48	41	85.4%	4	8.3%	3	6.3%
8	Muynak	22	19	86.5%	0	0	3	3.5%
9	Nukus	40	33	82.5%	2	5%	5	12.5%
10	Shumanay	105	98	93.3%	3	3%	4	3.7%
11	Takhiatash	32	15	46.9%	12	37.5%	5	15.6%
12	Tarkhtakupyr	40	38	95%	0	0	2	5%
13	Nukus city	2	2	100%	0	0	0	0
Northern oikonymic region		767	679	88.5%	32	4.2%	56	7.3%
14	Amudarya	129	10	7.8%	98	76%	21	16.2%
15	Beruni	71	3	4.2%	57	80.3%	11	15.5%
16	Ellikkala	92	6	6.5%	73	79.3%	13	14.2%
17	Turtkul	92	2	2.2%	69	75%	21	22.8%
Southern oikonymic region		384	21	5.5%	297	77.3%	66	17.2%
Karakalpakstan Republic		1151	700	60.8%	329	28.6%	122	10.6%

To date, most of the cores of these lakes and rivers have dried up and disappeared, but the names of the villages serve as a source or a kind of "trace" indicating the historical hydrography of these territories. In the formation of oikonyms of this micro -region, the topo-terms *"kul"* (meaning lake) and *"ozek"* (meaning root) participated in 20 of the total number of oikonyms, that is, in 22.7% (Figure 3). In the Kegeyli, Nukus, Chimbay, and Karauzek districts, which are part of the Northeastern oikonymic micro-region, there are a total of 389 oikonyms, of which 203 or 52.2% are ethnooikonyms. This circumstance constitutes the main feature of the northeastern oikonymic micro-region. The widespread use of ethnonyms in these territories is historically associated with the fact that tribes of the Karakalpaks built settlements along irrigation ditches and ravines.

Moreover, in this oikonymic micro-region, 97 oikonyms, that is, 24.9%, are formed with the participation of the *auil* (meaning village) topo-terms, which also determines its peculiarity. The territory of the Kungrad and Shumanay districts can be designated as a Western oikonymic micro-region. In this case, the main lexico-semantic feature of oikonymy is associated with the abundance of modern (standard) oikonyms. In the newly developed irrigation massifs of Karakalpakstan, settlements were given many standard ideological names during the Soviet period, most of which were changed during the period of independence to modern (standard) names such as Doslyk, Gulistan, Pakhtakesh, Abad, Pakhtaabad, Tinishlyk, Jaslyk.

In total, there are 153 oikonyms in the micro-region, of which 72 (47%) are modern (standard) names. The large number of newly developed lands, the assignment of modern (standard) names to settlements located on the Ustyurt plateau, and the change of many names by the government in recent years have led to the priority of modern (standard) names. Of the topo-terms involved in the formation of oikonyms, the largest share (7.2%) belongs to the *"auil"* topo-term.

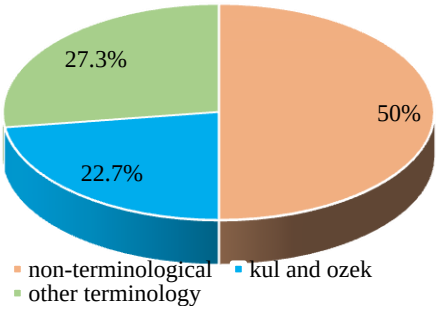

Figure 3. Proportion of topo-terms in the composition of oikonyms of the Aral Sea oikonymic micro-region

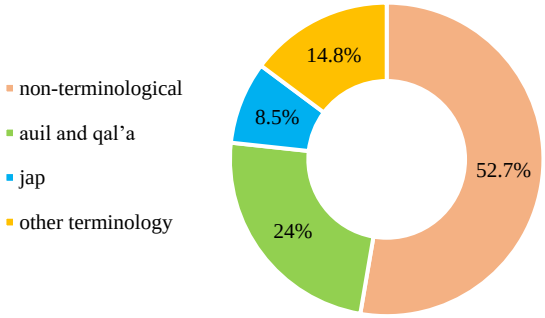

Figure 4. Proportion of topo-terms in the composition of oikonyms of the South Left Bank oikonymic micro-region

The city of Nukus, Takhiatash, Khojeyli, and Kanlykul districts are designated as the Central oikonymic micro-region. The peculiarity of this oikonymic micro-region is explained by the fact that the shares of oikonyms formed from hydronyms, ethno- and anthropo-oikonyms in the lexico-semantic structure of local oikonymy are quite close to each other. In the historical past, when naming settlements in this region, tribal names, nearby water bodies, as well as the names of wealthy people and elders from the tribes were widely used. In this oikonymic micro-region, there are a total of 137 oikonyms, of which 36 (26.3%) are oikonyms formed from hydronyms, 32 (23.3%) are ethnooikonyms, and 21 (15.3%) are anthropooikonyms. Also, the largest share of topo-terms (30 of them, i.e., 21.9%) falls on the topo-term "*auil*".

In the territory of the Northern oikonymic region, there are a total of 767 oikonyms, of which 679, or 88.5%, are Karakalpak oikonyms. District oikonyms have territorial features in terms of lexico-semantic composition and topo-terms involved in their formation. Taking them into account, the Northern oikonymic region can be divided into four micro-regions: the Aral Sea region (Bozatau, Muynak, Takhtakupyr districts), the Northeast (Kegeyli, Nukus, Chimbay, and Karauzek districts), the Western (Shumanay, Kungrad districts), and the Central (Nukus city, Takhiatash, Khojeyli and Kanlykul districts). The territory of the Amudarya district belongs to the South Left Bank oikonymic micro-region. In total, there are 129 oikonyms in the district, of which the largest number (25 or 19.4%) are ethno-oikonyms, as well as 23 or 17.8% are anthropo-oikonyms, and 20 or 15.5% are oikonyms formed from hydronyms. Of the total number of oikonyms, 20 names, i.e., 15.5%, were formed using the topo-term "*auil*" (meaning village), 11 names, i.e., 8.5%, were formed using the topo-term "*qal'a*" (meaning fortress), and 11 names, i.e., 8.5%, were formed using the topo-term "*jap*" (meaning canal) (Figure 4). The South Right Bank oikonymic micro-region includes oikonyms in the oasis part of the Beruni, Turtkul, and Ellikkala districts. In this oikonymic micro-region, there are a total of 255 oikonyms, of which 112 or 43.9% are oikonyms formed from modern (standard) names. The large number of newly occupied territories, changes made to oikonyms by the government have led to an increase in oikonyms formed from modern (standard) names. In addition, in the formation of oikonyms in the oikonymic micro-region, the topo-term "abad/obod" was often involved (21 oikonyms, i.e., 8.2% of the total number of settlements).

In recent years, due to the abandonment of settlements in the desert-pasture areas of Karakalpakstan by the population, settlements such as "Keneli" and "Sipali" in the Takhtakupyr district have been liquidated, and they are being removed from the settlement register. However, in the Kyzylkum part of the Turtkul and Ellikkala districts, several small villages have been preserved, the names of which have their own peculiarities in terms of language and lexical-semantic structure. Oikonyms belonging mainly to the Kazakh and Turkmen languages are found here. From a lexico-semantic point of view, anthropo-oikonyms dominate their structure. Such features are the basis for identifying the Kyzylkum oikonymic micro-region within the Southern Oikonymic Region. In total, there are 384 oikonyms in the Southern oikonymic region, of which 297, or 77.3%, belong to the Uzbek language. District oikonyms differ significantly in terms of lexico-semantic composition and the

composition of topo-terms involved in their formation. Taking these differences into account, the Southern oikonymic region can be divided into the South Left Bank, South Right Bank, and Kyzylkum oikonymic micro-regions (Figure 5).

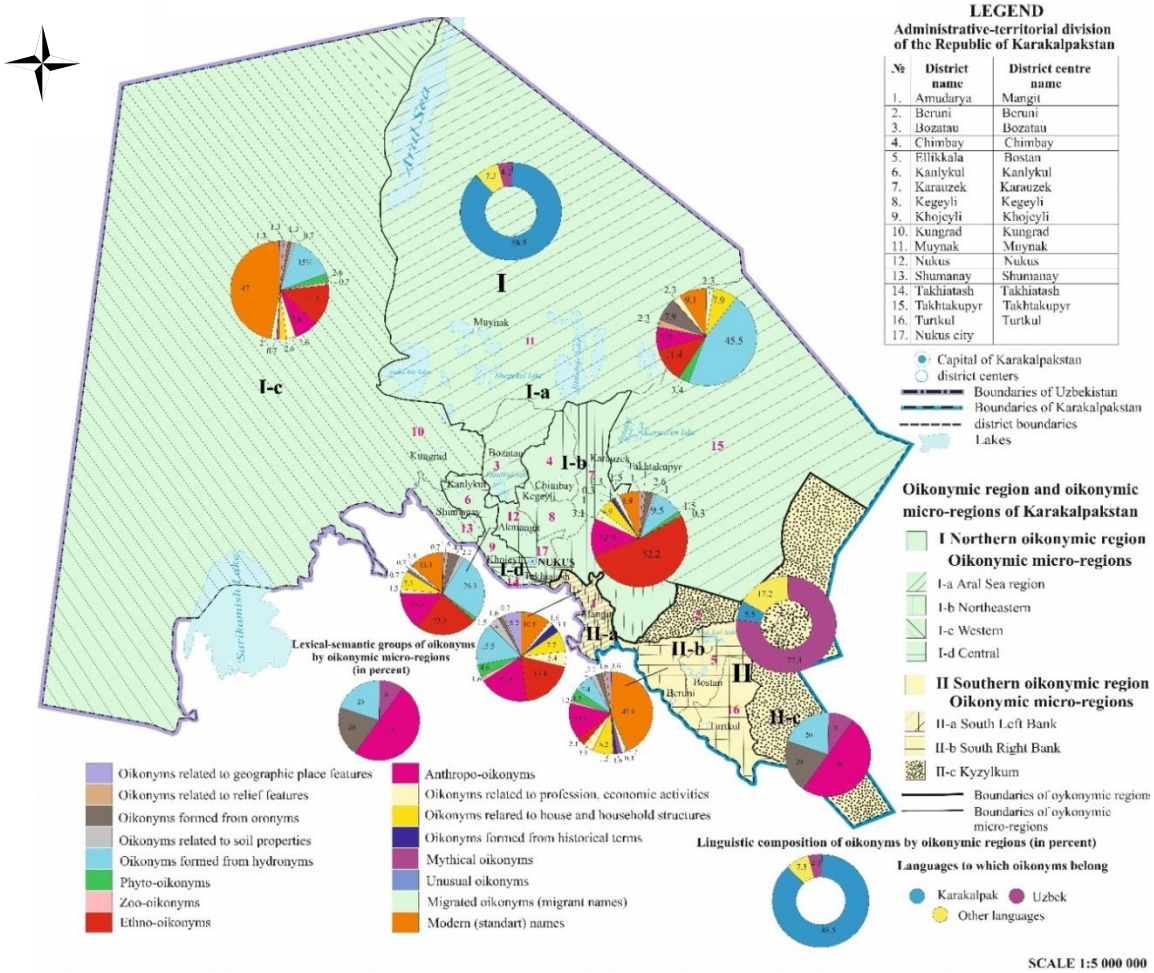

Figure 5. The map of oikonymic zoning of the Republic of Karakalpakstan (Source: Authors)

When studying the lexico-semantic and terminological composition of oikonyms in the context of districts in both oikonymic regions, some internal differences are observed. Taking these differences into account, several oikonymic micro-regions can be distinguished within the Northern and Southern oikonymic regions of Karakalpakstan (Figure 5).

Juchkevich (1968) divided the territory of the former Soviet Union into 30 toponymic regions within the framework of his network of political and administrative divisions and divided them into 9 groups. Uzbekistan, in particular, Karakalpakstan, is mainly noted as a territory where ancient toponyms are widespread. Kupach (2007) cites the principle of taking into account geo-toponymic differentiation as the basis of geo-toponymic zoning. This consists in taking into account the general and regional patterns of the distribution of the name, which is manifested both in the entire territory to be divided and in its individual territories. The principle of uniformity, that is, the identification of geo-toponymic systems, emphasizes that their boundaries and properties are determined based on the analysis of the interaction of the factors and components of the toponym-forming systems. At the same time, it was shown that the genetic approach to the placement of regional systems allows us to determine the reasons for the formation, development, and isolation of geo-toponymic systems.

CONCLUSION

In general, it has been established that in the formation of oikonyms of the territory of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the leading place is occupied mainly by the names of peoples' clans and tribes, the names of water bodies, modern (standard) names, and oikonyms formed from personal names. In this case, it was established that oikonyms formed from water bodies and local hydrological toponyms predominate mainly in the northern districts, that is, in the Bozatau, Muynak, and Takhtakupyr districts, located on the southern shore of the Aral Sea. It has also been proven that this region has long had a system of branched lakes and riverbeds on the southern shores of the Aral Sea, and the historical settlements of the population were mainly located along these lakes and riverbeds. However, in the previous period, due to the drying up of the Aral Sea, which ranked 4th in the world in terms of size, and the drying up of the lake system adjacent to it and located on its southern shores, some settlements in this area have now disappeared and been removed from the registry, as well as the fact that the names of hydraulic structures of the previous period have been preserved only in oikonyms. Moreover, in this research work, it was confirmed that in the territories of the southern shore of the Aral Sea and the Amudarya River

delta, as we all know, there are many ethnonyms formed mainly from the names of Karakalpak, partly Kazakh, and Uzbek tribes and clans, and from historical times, these peoples have lived in these territories mainly as tribes and clans.

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