

UDC 81

TOPONIMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISTRICTS OF THE IRAVAN KHANATE

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The history of the Iravan Khanate is described that as Azerbaijan's, Turkic land. When the toponyms, oeconyms, hydronyms, and oronyms of this country are studied etymologically, it is possible to see that they are based on Turkic sources. According to some sources, Nadir Shah was killed on May 9, 1747 or on the night of July 19-20, the struggle for freedom began in Azerbaijan, and one of the khanates that emerged was the Iravan khanate. Unfortunately, these khanates were not united under a single state, each of them existed independently. The foundation of the Iravan Khanate was laid by Mirmehdi Khan Afshar in 1747 and was abolished together with the Nakhchivan Khanate by the decree of Nicholas I dated March 21, 1828. The city of Iravan, being the center of the Khanate, bore the same name.

Keywords: Western Azerbaijan, Iravan Khanate, districts, toponyms, oeconyms

Introduction

Linguists have different opinions about the etymology of the *Iravan* toponym. According to G. Gaybullayev, B. Budagov, the toponym of Iravan was formed from the combination of the words "ir" of Turkish origin and "van" of Persian origin. Thus, "ir" means *a wavy mountain peak / the sunset side of the mountain*, and the word "van" means *earth*. Also, we can mention that the particles *ar / er / ir*, which are the constituent parts of the forms *Eri-van / Arevan / Ervan / Irvan / Errevant / Irivan*, which have different pronunciations of the *Ire-van* toponym, mean *man / brave* in Turkish. According to another opinion, we can note that the name *Iravan* was formed by adding the vowel *i* to the words beginning with the consonant *r* in the dialects of the word *ravan* of Persian origin. Thus, in Persian, *ravan* means *prosperous place*. The Russian archaeologist of the 19th century, M. Nikolsky has of the opinion that the toponym of *Iravan* is derived from the *Eri* tribe living here, and is named after their place of residence. According to another view, the toponym of *Iravan* changed from the word *ebani / abani*, which existed in the ancient Urartu language, meaning *country / village / place / city*, to the form of *abani / avan / avvan / əvan* by

replacing the consonant *b* with *v* in the historical period. Proponents of this opinion do not accept the particle *ravan* as the second component of the word *Iravan*, and they have the opinion that it is derived from the word *avvan / avan*, which means *place / country* in the Urartu language. Therefore, from the opinions we have mentioned, we can conclude that although the *Iravan* toponym seems to have a simple structure at present, it was a complex ethnotoponym formed by the combination of the particles *ir / er* and *ebani / avvan / avan* in the historical period. Thus, in the ancient Turkic languages the words *ir / er* means *place / country / territory*, also it has the meaning of *man / hero / husband* and *avan - country / village / place / city*, that together meant *the country of heroes* [6, p. 215].

The Iravan khanate was a neighbor of the Karabakh, Nakhchivan, Ganja, Maku khanates, the Ottoman Empire, and the Kartli-Kakheti tsardoms. The khanate covered a large area between the Agri plain, Deralayaz and Goycha Lake. The Iravan khanate covered a large part of the territory of the former Chukhursad beylarbey. Iravan khanate consisted of 15 districts: Goyche, Zangibasar, Vedibasar, Deralayaz, Garnibasar, Kirkhbulag, Talin, Karbi, Aba-

ran, Shoreyel, Agbaba, Sardarabad, Derachichek, Pambek, Loru. Before mentioning the toponymic characteristics of *Iravan* districts, we have a brief look at the researchers of the toponyms of this region and their works. In this field, I. Bayramov's "*Toponyms of Turkic origin of Western Azerbaijan*", T. Ibrahimov's "*Goychen's toponyms*", S. Shukurov's "*The voice of Zangibasar. From our history: toponymic and ethnographic notes*", A. Rustamli's "*Azerbaijani origin toponyms of the territory of Gafan, Gorus and Sisian regions of the Armenian SSR*", "*Turkish origin place-names (toponymy) of the ancient Oghuz homeland Zangezur*" etc. books have the great importance in terms of ethnography, linguistics, toponymy. The researches of these and similar scholars reveal the Turkish identity of *Iravan*.

It should be noted that with the *Treaty of Turkmenchay* signed between Russia and Iran on February 10, 1828, the lands of Azerbaijan were divided into two parts, North Azerbaijan and South Azerbaijan, and at the same time, mass migration of Armenians to the lands of Azerbaijan, especially the *Iravan* and *Karabakh* khanates began. Thus, with the massive migration of Armenians to the area, the local population was suppressed, over time, our toponyms of Turkish origin were replaced by Armenian names, deportations, exiles, and massacres took place in order to force the local population out of these areas. During the 20th century, Azerbaijanis were deported from their historical homeland in Western Azerbaijan four times: 1905-1906 / 1918-1920 / 1948-1953 / 1988-1991.

Although the Armenians who came later to these lands drove the local population out of their homes for several years, it can be understood that the Turks always had a loyal attitude, contrary to what they claimed against them, even from the notes in the works of foreign diplomats and writers: ***"If the Turks had forced the nations they dominated to accept Islam, as the Christians did (which no one could have objected to at that time), today there would be neither the Armenian issue, nor the Cretan issue, nor probably the Eastern issue.***

However, the Turks did not do this; They followed the Holy Quran and allowed "everyone to worship in their own way" before the Europeans, who were so-called apostles of human rights. //

Edmondo de Amicis (1846-1908)

Italian poet, literary figure and journalist [4, p. 10]

After giving brief information about the history of the *Iravan* khanate, its geographical area, and the etymology of its name, we will mention the names of the districts of this land, their etymology, and their names forged by Armenians.

Goycha was one of the largest districts of the *Iravan* Khanate. This name was found for the first time in the work of Zeynaddin bin Hamdullah Ghazvini "*Zeynah Tahiril Guzide*", written in the XIV century. The name of the district was derived from the name of Goycha Lake, which is a hydrotponym. In turn, the name of this lake was first found in historical sources in *The Book of Dede Korkut* [7, p.15]. Hydronom was formed from the words *göy* (so named because of *the color of the water*, as well as *its purity and hardness*) and *göl*, and over time it changed from *Goychay* → *Goyche*. By the Armenians, the name was changed to *Sevvank* by combining the words *sev* (*black*) and *vank* (*church*) in accordance with *the black stone church* built by the Albanians in the area, and now it is called as *Sevan*.

Another of the places included in the *Iravan* khanate was **Zangezur** district, where well-known of his ozan (folk singers). It is an ethnotponym with a complex structure. It is formed from the combination of *zur*, which means *valley*, and *car / zar / zər*, which means *ravine*. According to another opinion, the toponym was related to *the zangy*'s the name of the tribe of Turkic origins. Farouk Sumer mentions them as *the judges of Algeria and Syria*.

Zangibasar was one of the big districts of *Iravan* Khanate. So, there are different opinions about the etymology of this toponym. Some have linked it hydrotponymically with *Zangichay*, which flows through its territory, and it was called *Zangibasar* because this river some-

times flooded the existing area. According to another opinion, being an ethnotoponym, the name was related to the *zangy tribes*. During the repressions, the vast majority of the population moved to neighboring Turkey. In 1950, the name was Armenianized and received the form of *Masis*. It should also be noted that the name of *Zangibasar* district, as well as its administrative center, *Ulukhanli* territorial unit, was changed to *Masis* in Armenian. The root of the word *masis* in Armenian means *mas* - area / part. The word *masis* also means *the largest* in the ancient Pahlavi language, *mountain* in the Proto-Indo-European languages.

It is possible to see that the particle *basar* has been used in the name of **Vedibasar** district. Thus, the territory was a part of the *Ilkhanate state*, the Ottoman Empire, and the Sharur-Darelayaz region at different times. The toponym is derived from the Arabic words which means *valley* *وادی* [*vady*] and *basar*. In 1968, the name was changed to *Ararat*. And the name of *Ararat* comes from *Arardu / Urartu* is the equivalent of the word meaning *high mountain* by the Urartians who lived in the 9th century b.c. . Currently, Armenians are also changing the name of *Mount Agry*, located in the territory of Turkey, to *Ararat*.

Deralayaz district is one of our historical toponyms located between *Arpachay* and *Nakhchivanchay* with the mountain range of the same name. At different times, it was part of the Nakhchivan Khanate and the Ottoman Empire. According to I. Bayramov, this ethnotoponym with a complex structure was formed from the combination of the ethnonyms "*dera*" and "*alagoz*". *Darelayaz* oeconym is also found in *Goygol* and *Khojaly* regions. Currently, the name is Armenianized and called *Vayotsdзор*. Also, it should be noted that *Kalyatag*, *Bo-yadare*, *Ganjak*, *Bojacik*, etc. located in *Deralayaz district*. These names of residential areas were also distorted and changed by Armenians.

Garnibasar district is a hydrotoponym and takes its name from the *Garni river* that flows through the area. It is a toponym with a complex structure formed on the basis of relief features. It can also be seen here that the word

basar is also used in a number of district names mentioned above. The word *garny* means *fortress* in the Urartian language. Settlements such as *Masimli*, *Bayramali valley*, *Imamverdi fortress*, which were included in *Garnibasar* district in 1935, and in 1945, the name of the district was Armenianized and named *Artashat*.

Kirkhbulak district is a hydrotoponym formed from the river of the same name. There was also a *spring* with the same name in the district. At the same time, the name of *Kirkhbulag* is found in Western Azerbaijan as a district, village, river, and as an oeconym in Sheki. The name was later changed to *Ellar* and Armenianized to *Abovyan*. The name of the village of the same name was Armenianized in 1935 and was first changed to *Razdan* and then in 1967 to *Gekhashen*.

Talin district is an ancient territorial unit, that name formed as a phytotoponym with a complex structure. The toponym is a combination of the words: the *tal* is Turkish origin which means *willow / willow bush* and the word *in* that in Turkish means *hut / home / cave*. His name was Armenianized and changed to *Aragatsotn*.

The center of **Karbi** district was the *Ashtarak* city. *Ashtarak*, being a toponym of Turkish origin, is derived from the words *ashu* and *tarak*, which means *bare rock at the top of the mountain* [3, p.135]. At the same time, there was *Karbi village* in the *Ashtarak* region, which has a sound resemblance to *Karbi* district, which is a keyhearing word. The toponym is formed by the word *kar* with Turkish origin and increasing the suffix – *pi*. In turn, the word *kar* - which means *a solid place / castle* combined with the suffixes – *p / – pi / – pe* and they commonly means *clan / tribe*. In 1930, his name became Armenianized and took the form of *Ashtarak*.

The toponym of **Abaran** district, which is structurally correct, was formed by adding the plural suffix –*an* to the Turkish word *apar*, meaning *the place where Avars lived*. According to G. Gaybullayev, B. Budagov, the toponym was related to the name of *Abaranoglu village*, which existed in the territory of Iravan

in the 16th century. In 1930, Armenians changed the name of the settlement to *Apran* [1, p.33].

Shureyel district was part of the territory of *Shoreyel / Shureyel Sultanate*. It was known that there was a village with the same name in *Shirakel* district of Iravan province. Another name of the village was *Bogazkasan*. This toponym of Turkish origin means *a place / narrow passage in the shape of a human throat*. His name was Armenianized and became *Shirak*.

Aghbaba district got its name from the mountain of the same name located on the border with Turkey. In turn, *Aghbaba Mountain* got its name from *the sacred place* located in the current area. The toponym was a distorted form of *اخي بابا* [*akhi baba*]. The toponym was distorted by the Armenians and included to the *Shirak* district.

Sardarabad district is a structurally complex anthropotoponym. Thus, the toponym *sardar* - *the judge* who governs the state, province and *abad* (which is the same as it is currently expressed) means *the village that the sardar improved / the village built by the sardar / the village founded by the sardar*. In turn, *sardar* meant the name of the *Khan of Iravan* [5, p.105]. As a result of massacres committed in 1905-1906, the Azerbaijani population was forced to leave their homeland. In 1935, the name of the district was changed to *Oktemberyan*.

There was a village with the same name located in **Derachichek** district, and both toponyms were taken from *Derachichek valley*. In 1935, the toponyms of *Eshhek guduran*, *Alipapag*, and *Gonaggormez* located in the district were Armenianized, in 1946 the name of *Derachichek* was changed to *Tsakadzor*, and in 1959 it was changed to *Hrazdan*.

Pambek district is a toponym with a complex structure related to the relief. In ancient Turkic languages, it was formed by combining the particles *paam / baam*, which means *a narrow passage*, and *bak / bek*, which means *a hill / peak*. The toponym means *a hilly / ele-*

vated village next to *a narrow pass*. Considering that the river of the same name flows through the territory of the district, some researchers consider this toponym as a hydrotoponym. She was renamed to *Lori*.

The area where **Loru** district is located was part of the Safavid state and Karabakh Beylarbeyi at different times. Since it was located in the mountainous southern part of the *Borchali* region, it was called *Dagh Borchaly* [2]. It was attacked by Armenians in 1918 and annexed by the Armenians in 1922 by the decision of the Bolshevik government.

Conclusion

The lexical-etymological analysis of the districts and toponyms of the ancient historical Turkish land of Iravan Khanate, whose names were changed by Armenians, once again proves that they were a Turkish homeland. Both in the field of linguistics and historical and archeological studies, it was clear that the main population of the Iravan khanate was Azerbaijanis. Although the names were changed by Armenians, the historical sources and the lack of historical roots of the fake names are proof that the real owners of the Iravan land are Azerbaijanis.

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İRƏVAN XANLIĞINI TƏŞKİL EDƏN MAHALLARIN TOPONİMİK XÜSUSİYYƏTLƏRİ

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İrəvan xanlığı tarixi Azərbaycan, türk diyarıdır. Bu yurdun toponimlərini, oykonimlərini, hidronimlərini, oronimlərini etimoloji cəhətdən tədqiq edildikdə onların türkmənşəli olduqlarını görmək mümkündür. Nadir şahın bəzi mənbələrə görə 9 may 1747, bəzi mənbələrə görə iyulun 19-dan 20-nə keçən gecə öldürülməsi ilə Azərbaycanda azadlıq uğruna mübarizə baş qaldırmış, meydana gələn xanlıqlardan biri isə İrəvan xanlığı olmuşdur. Əfsuslar olsun ki, bu xanlıqlar vahid dövlət altında birləşməmiş, hər biri müstəqil şəkildə mövcud olmuşdur. İrəvan xanlığının əsası 1747-ci ildə Mirmehdi xan Əfşar tərəfindən qoyulmuş və I Nikolayın 21 mart 1828-ci il tarixli fərmanı ilə Naxçıvan xanlığıyla birləşdirilmişdir. İrəvan şəhəri xanlığın mərkəzi olmaqla eyni adı daşımışdır.

Açar sözlər: Qərbi Azərbaycan, İrəvan xanlığı, mahallar, toponimlər, oykonimlər

ТОПОНИМИЧЕСКАЯ ХАРАКТЕРИСТИКА РАЙОНОВ ИРЕВАНСКОГО ХАНСТВА

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История Иреванского ханства описывается как азербайджанская, тюркская земля. Если изучить этимологически топонимы, ойконимы, гидронимы и оронимы этого района, то можно увидеть, что они основаны на тюркских источниках. По некоторым данным, Надир-шах был убит 9 мая 1747 года или в ночь с 19 на 20 июля, в Азербайджане началась борьба за свободу, и одним из возникших ханств стало Иреванское ханство. К сожалению, эти ханства не были объединены в единое государство, каждое из них существовало независимо. Основание Иреванского ханства было заложено Мирмехди-ханом Афшаром в 1747 году и упразднено вместе с Нaxчыванским ханством указом Николая I от 21 марта 1828 года. Город Иреван, являвшийся центром ханства, носил то же название.

Ключевые слова: Западный Азербайджан, Иреванское ханство, округа, топонимы, ойконимы