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MOTIVATIONAL BASES OF THE TOPONYMS IN ENGLISH AND UKRAINIAN

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Abstract. *The article explores the field of toponymy in English and Ukrainian. Toponyms reflect linguistic, cultural, and historical aspects, offering insights into the rich world of semantics, etymology, and linguistic connections. The study compares the motivational bases of toponyms in both languages, emphasizing categories such as anthroponyms, professions, phytotoponyms, zoo - toponyms and religious symbols.*

Ukrainian toponyms are analysed, revealing motivations related to people, professions, production processes, natural areas, animals, plants, settlement types, and more. The article also delves into hydronyms and street names, comparing Ukrainian and English examples. The article underscores the importance of toponymy in uncovering linguistic, historical, and cultural facets. It provides a comprehensive analysis of toponymic motivations in Ukrainian and English, showcasing similarities and differences between the two languages. The study highlights the significance of toponyms in understanding language evolution and cultural heritage.

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The modern study of toponymy is a fascinating branch of linguistics that considers toponyms as an important linguistic element. Toponyms, whether they are the names of cities, villages, rivers, or mountain peaks, reflect an incredible linguistic and cultural heritage. Studying them allows us not only to reveal and interpret the history and geography of a region, but also to dive into the rich world of semantics, etymology, and linguistic connections.

The analysis of toponyms provides us with a wide range of linguistic, historical, and cultural aspects. The study of the structural and morphological features of toponyms in English and Ukrainian is significant for more profound understanding of linguistic and cultural interrelations between peoples and regions.

Modern research in the field of toponymy is moving from the study of toponyms of a particular region or country: Chernihiv [1], Vinnytsia [2], Canada regions [5], to a comparative analysis of the toponyms of several areas, for example, Ukraine and Croatia [8], Iran and England [9]. This approach makes it possible to reveal the deep mechanisms of nomination, which lasted for thousands of years, when people gave their names to living beings and objects of the landscape surrounded them. The universal or, on the contrary, unique features of the respective nomination process can only be explored through comparative analysis.

The study **aims** to compare the toponymic systems of Ukrainian and English.

Since place names are linguistic by nature, toponymy interacts with various branches of linguistics. Among them are onomastics, which is the science of the origin and spread of proper names; historical linguistics; etymology, which is the science that studies the origin of words; and semantics, morphology, phonetics, and dialectology [6]. The study of toponyms in linguistics includes analysing the historical development of the language, identifying ancient polemics, conducting etymological analysis, establishing connections with specific languages, and identifying linguistic and dialectical features. Linguistic geography studies the distribution of toponyms over the Earth's surface and the territorial differentiation of the meanings of these words, as well as their transference to other territories [3].

Each toponym has its own specific semantics, which includes several meanings. The primary and most important meaning is the *direct* geographical one, which directly refers to a specific geographical object. The second meaning is *pre-toponymic* or etymological, related to the origin of the word that later became a toponym. The preservation of the pre-toponymic meaning depends on how widespread and clear these meanings are in the language. The third meaning is the *post-toponymic* meaning, which develops over time after a word becomes a toponym. This meaning is determined by the specifics of the connections between what is named and how it is named. These connections reveal regularities in the internal structure of words and in their external form.



The lexical and semantic analysis of Ukrainian toponyms began with the selection of 470 toponyms, which included 345 oikonyms, 51 hydronyms, and 74 godonyms. The motivation of toponyms is determined by the specifics of the connections between the referent and the verbal form. Such connections reveal regularities in the internal structure of words and in their external form.

The study identified categories of Ukrainian toponyms based on their motivational sources:

1. toponyms motivated by the names of people (anthroponyms), which accounted for 25.8% of the sample. An example of this is *Andriivka* – *Андріївка*, *Arkadiivka* – *Аркадіївка*, *Antoniv* – *Антонів*, *Bohdanivka* – *Богдаївка*, *Ivanivka* – *Іванівка*, etc. The majority of the names are male, but there are also female names, such as *Vladyslavka* – *Владиславка*. Some anthroponyms occur several times, such as *Volodymyrske* – *Володимирське* – 2, *Ivanivka* – *Іванівка* – 3, *Tarasivka* – *Тарасівка* – 12. A separate subspecies is made up of toponyms motivated by the names of historical figures, making up only 1.1% of all toponyms. Within this group of toponyms, the most significant are names derived from famous historical figures, such as military heroes, poets, writers, sculptors, artists, and spiritual leaders. *Mazepyntsi* village was founded in the 16th century. Legend has it that Ivan Mazepa arrived at the village with several dozen cossacks after being defeated in a fight against the Moscow tsar. The Moscow cavalry trampled them with their horses' hooves. Today, a mound stands at the site, honoring the tragedy [4].

2) toponyms motivated by the names of professions, crafts, or occupations account for 3.4% of the total. For instance, *Kovalyn* – *Ковалин*, *Kukhari* – *Кухарі*, and *Chabany* – *Чабани*. There are numerous legends surrounding the origin of the name Chabany. According to one of them, the name was given to a tract where residents of the villages of Hatne and Khotiv grazed flocks of sheep and other cattle. The word shepherd has Turkic origins. In this area, shepherds historically constructed temporary shelters to protect themselves from the elements, such as rain and snow, before building permanent homes near the road. The village was subsequently named after the tract [7].

3) toponyms (8.2%) related to the production process, specifically the manufacture of tar and resin – *Buda* – *Буда*, *Huta* – *Гута*, and *Rudnia* – *Рудня*.

4) toponyms related to natural areas make up 6.4% of the settlements. The settlements of *Sosnivka* – *Соснівка*, *Velykyi Lis* – *Великий Ліс*, and *Vyshniaky* – *Вишняки* reflect the world of the mixed forest zone. Some toponyms, such as *Haï* – *Гай*, *Haïok* – *Гайок*, *Haïove* – *Гайове*, *Stepok* – *Степок*, and *Stepove* – *Степове*, indicate the spread of forest-steppe zones.

5) toponyms motivated by animal names (zoo - toponyms) make up 7.8% of the total. Examples include *Bobryk* – *Бобрик*, *Vetryk* – *Веприк*, *Vovchiv* – *Вовчків*,

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and *Kozliv* – *Козлів*. Some, such as *Lebedivka* – *Лебедівка* and *Horobiivka* – *Горобіївка*, occur several times. The origin of Bobryk village is likely connected with the abundance of beavers and the beaver trade that once existed in the village.

6) phytotoponyms are toponyms motivated by plant names, account for 3% of the occurrences. For instance, *Kalynivka* in the Kyiv region appears five times, but in different districts. According to legend, *Berezivka village* – *Березівка* got its name because it was surrounded by birch forests. *Lipovy Rih village* – *Липовий Річ* was probably so named because people were engaged in beekeeping and collecting lindens honey.

7) toponyms by settlement type – 7.4%. Examples include *Horodyshe* – *Городище* and *Bezuhlivka* – *Безуглівка*.

8) toponyms by location – 4.3% – *Zabuchchia* – *Забуччя*, *Zalissia* – *Залісся*, *Zarichchia* – *Заріччя*, *Pidhirtsi* – *Підгірці*. The settlement was originally located in the mountains, but eventually moved downhill, hence its name is *Pidhirtsi*.

9) toponyms related to mineral resources account for 3.1%. For instance, *Torfiane* – *Торф'яне* and *Zalizne* – *Залізне*.

10) toponyms containing a colour in their name make up 7% of the total. Examples include *Chornobyl* – *Чорнобиль*, *Bila Tserkva* – *Біла Церква*, and *Chervone* – *Червоне* (which has 11 different districts). The most commonly used colours are white, red, and green. The name “Chornobyl” is derived from the wormwood plant, which has a dark stem colour.

11) toponyms motivated by religious symbols, Christian and pagan beliefs, etc.: *Babyn Torzhok* – *Бабин торжок* is a historical area located in the central part of Kyiv. The name of the area comes from the statues of gods (“babas”) and quadricycons that were brought here in 989 by Kyivan Prince Volodymyr Sviatoslavych during his campaign to Chersonese [7]. This group is not very numerous, so we refer to it as the “Other” group in the diagram.

12) toponyms motivated by ethnic semantics, such as *Yevbaz* – *Євбаз* a historic area that was once a bazaar on the site of the modern Peremohy Square and the surrounding area (Shevchenkivskyi district). The name “Yevbaz” originates from the Jewish Bazaar and is of folk origin [7]. Due to its small size, this group will be referred to as “Other” in the diagram.

13) toponyms describing landscape and relief features account for 3% of the text. Examples include *Lozovy Yar* – *Лозовий Яр*, *Zhytni Hory* – *Житні Гори*, *Zelenyi Yar* – *Зелений Яр*, *Zabiria* – *Забір'я*, *Zelena Poliana* – *Зелена Поляна*, and *Kruti Horby* – *Круті Горби*. The name *Zabiria* has an ancient origin, derived from the Old Slavic word “bar”, which refers to a wet place in front of a swamp or between slopes, or a shallow ridge at the bottom of a river.

14) In addition to the above mentioned classifications, 5.4% of oikonyms have a number in their name. Examples include *Semyhory* – *Семигори*, *Semypolky* – *Семиполки*, *Trylisy* – *Триліси* (the name of this ancient village, once a fortified town surrounded by forest on three sides and one of the oldest settlements, comes from the triple oak palisade built around the local fortress); *Piatyhory* – *П'ятигори* and *Piatykharka* – *П'ятихатка* (the name comes from the first five houses built here by the tsarist army).

15) Some oikonyms (7.5%) are derived from hydronyms. This means that their names coincide with a particular water body or tributary, as cities or villages are frequently located on their banks. For instance, *Irpin* – *Ірпінь*, *Boiarka* – *Боярка*, and *Prypiat* – *Прип'ять* are vivid examples.

Consider the hydronyms of the Kyiv region and their motivational bases. We analysed 51 hydronyms. It can be argued that the derivational bases have similar semantics as oikonyms. Hydronyms containing an animal in the name account for 11.7%, including *Vuchok* – *Бичок*, *Bober* – *Бобер*, *Buhaivka* – *Бугаївка*, and those containing a plant in the name account for 12.4%, such as *Ocheretianka* – *Очеретянка*, *Rohozianka* – *Рогозянка*. The number of hydronyms with a colour in the name is 9.8%; for example, *Chorniavka* – *Чорнявка*, *Syniavka* – *Синявка*. A popular phenomenon is the coincidence of the name of a settlement with the name of a water body – 13.7%, in particular, *Yushkiv Rih* – *Юшків Річ* and *Irpin* – *Ірпінь*. Landscape and relief features account for 10.2%, for example, *Khreshchatyi Yar* – *Хрещатий Яр*. About 5.7% of hydronyms contain a common name, such as *Stav* – *Став*, *Strumok* – *Струмок* or *Stavskiy* – *Ставський*. Such hydronyms as *Danylivka* – *Данилівка*, *Illia* – *Ілля*, and *Marianivka* – *Мар'янівка* have an anthroponymic meaning and account for 7.6%. In addition, there are hydronyms with names of foreign origin. For example, the Tal River – *Таль* is of Turkic origin and means “willow”.

An analysis of 74 streets in Kyiv with the letters A and B revealed that 15.8% of them have geographical names, such as *Azerbaidzhanska Street* – *вул. Азербайджанська*, *Azovska Street* – *вул. Азовська*, *Baturynska Street* – *вул. Батуринська*, and *Batumska Street* – *вул. Батумська*. Additionally, 32.4% of the streets are named after notable individuals, including writers, historians, politicians, and scientists. Examples include *Antonovycha Street* – *вул. Антоновича*, *Amosova Street* – *вул. Амосова*, and *Andrii Pervozvannyi Street* – *вул. Андрія Первозванного*. 14.8% are derived from professions or production processes, for example, *Ahrehatna Street* – *вул. Арегатна*, and *Avtozavodska Street* – *вул. Автозаводська*. 9.4% of street names refer to certain historical events or monuments, e.g., *Babyn Yar Street* – *вул. Бабин Яр*, and *Barrykadna Street* – *вул.*



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Барикадна. Some streets contain common names of places located nearby. For example, *Bankova Street* – вул. Банкова was named after the building of the Kyiv office of the State Bank located opposite it. *Basseina Street* – вул. Басейна has several legends of origin. According to the first one, the name comes from a pool of drinking water fed by natural springs. According to another version, it comes from a small fountain pool built in the 1940s near Bessarabska Square.

To analyse the motivational bases of English toponyms, we selected 33 administrative districts, the so-called “boroughs,” and 250 towns in Greater London. All place names were grouped into certain categories.

The first group includes toponyms derived from anthroponyms, ethnic group names and other personal names. For example, Richmond upon the Thames was named after the former Henry VII. Camden was named after the first Earl Charles Pratt, and Haringey got its name after Haering, a Saxon chieftain. Thus, 18% of the studied toponyms originated from a name. The second group of toponyms comprises names derived from the area's characteristics, accounting for 27%. Examples include *Bexley*, *Lewisham*, *Bromley*, *Croydon*, *Barking*, and *Dagenham*. The name “Levesham” means “meadow home,” i.e., a meadow. “Croydon” originates from Old English, where “croh” means crocus flower and “denu” means valley. Enfield also comes from the Old English word for “lamb field,” i.e., a field of lambs [10]. The third group of toponyms is derived from common place names, which makes up 55% of the total. An example is *Harrow*, which means “temple” in Old English. *Redbridge* got its name from the “brick bridge that crossed the River Rodling,” a brick bridge over the River Rodling. Another example is *Sutton*, which means “south farm” in Old English. The fourth group consists of toponyms derived from the names of the rivers on which they are located. An example is *Wandsworth*, *Brent*. Brent may have been named after the river, which means 'high' in Celtic. This group of toponyms accounts for only 6%. The next group is toponyms, whose names are derived from adjectives. For example, *London*, which sounds like Londinium in Latin, probably means “wild” in Latin. This group of place names accounts for 3%.

We consider the motivational bases of 76 London's hydronyms. 25.7% of all hydronyms are names derived from specific places or localities. An example is Alders Brook, which means “the stream where alders grow”. The Darent River got its name from the Celtic word for “stream where oaks grow”. The second group of hydronyms derived from names or famous figures is 17%; in particular, the Earl's Sluice is named after an Earl in the time of Henry I, and the Frays River is legendarily named after John Fray, who owned Cowley Hall in the 15th century [10]. Around 20% of hydronyms include an adjective in their name or require one when translated from another language. Examples include Longford River, Old River Lea, and New River,

which all feature adjectives such as “long”, “old”, and “new”. The River Thames, which originates from the Latin word “Tam” meaning “dark”, is one of the most well-known rivers. Another group includes hydronyms that got their name from the cities where they flow – 16.1%. Examples include the Rom River, which comes from the name Romford, and the Ching River, which got its name from the city of Chingford. The Crane River means “crane” in Ukrainian, is essentially a zootonym. The peculiarity of English hydronyms is that most of them contain a common name (river, stream, creek, brook).

We analysed 62 street and square names and identified the following motivational groups.

1. Street names in honour of monarchs, members of the royal family, famous people (28.4%): *King William Street*, *Queen Victoria Street* – streets named after the King and Queen.

2. Street names named after physical and geographical objects (15.2%). For example, *Fleet Street*, named after the Fleet River.

3. Street names named after towns and villages (11.5%): *Oxford Street* – literally “the road leading to Oxford”.

4. Street names that reflect everyday life and work (9.8%): *Haymarket* – “hay market”, in honour of the agricultural market [10].

5. Street names after famous buildings (14.2%). For example, *Great Tower Street* – “the road leading to the Tower”.

6. Street names after landowners (5.9%), including Bond Street, named after Thomas Bond, who bought the adjacent block and built it up with shops.

Conclusion. After analysing Ukrainian and English toponyms of Kyiv and London, specifically oikonyms, hydronyms and godonyms, we can conclude that the motivational bases of Ukrainian oikonyms are significantly larger. However, there are similarities with English ones, such as names derived from anthroponyms, hydronyms, specific places and features of localities. The motivational bases of Ukrainian and English hydronyms differ. Only English hydronyms are derived from the names of famous figures, but both are equally correlated with the names of the surrounding area or zoonymic. Regarding godonyms, semantic and linguistic analysis has shown that the derivational bases have features in common, including names after famous people, buildings, and specific historical events.

The study of toponyms contributes to the preservation and study of linguistic and cultural heritage, enriches linguistic research, and enhances our understanding of language. Toponyms provide valuable data that helps reveal the diversity and dynamics of language.



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