

## ANNOTATION

of the doctor of philosophy (PhD) dissertation in the field of specialty

8D02304 - Philology

"Toponymic legends and narratives in the Eurasian space"

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**General description of the work.** Currently, the science of folklore is developing together with other humanities, new genres are appearing. One of such genres is toponymic folklore. This genre, which arose on the basis of a close connection between folklore and toponymy, has a significant impact on the world of science, culture and art. The main branches of the toponymic folklore genre are toponymic legends and narratives. These genres exist among all peoples of the world, because historical events that took place in a particular country, various conflicts and military actions, migrations of peoples, natural phenomena, events associated with famous historical figures, and other memorable events are preserved in the form of legends, narratives and myths. Such toponymic narratives contain rich information about the past history of peoples, their social life, their understanding of the environment and nature, as well as their cultural and aesthetic knowledge. Therefore, for a comprehensive study of this topic and the search for common ground, it is advisable to jointly study toponymic legends and narratives of different peoples. All this determines the reasons for studying toponymic legends and narratives of Eurasian countries such as Great Britain, Germany, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. We believe that such studies are of great importance both for conducting a comparative analysis and for identifying cultural interactions and the unity of cognitive and aesthetic foundations between peoples.

**Relevance of the topic.** Every nation on earth has cognitive features that reflect its national spiritual world. Such unique features that reveal the spiritual side of the peoples living and developing in the Eurasian space are revealed through their legends and narratives. This happens because these narratives preserve and pass on to future generations the knowledge and understanding of the world around people, their life experience, beliefs and mythological ideas. Among these legends and narratives, those associated with land and water are of particular importance. These names preserve knowledge about a specific ethnic group, its connection with the environment, traces of various historical events that took place in the territory of their residence, and also serve as the basis for the emergence of legends and traditions. Toponymic narratives, being the property of the people's consciousness, reflect all aspects of the spiritual and material life of a person, which determines the relevance of our study.

**The theoretical and methodological basis for studying** toponymic legends and narratives within the Eurasian space is grounded in the application of theoretical and conceptual approaches from various academic disciplines such as folklore studies, history, cultural studies, ethnography, ethnology, linguistics, and philosophy. In this context, the works of academician S.A. Kaskabasov, who explored the close relationship between folklore and toponymy and analyzed the folklore and



mythology of different nations from a folkloristic perspective, as well as those of A.Sh. Pangerev, who was the first to study the genre forms of toponymic folklore, have been taken as the primary methodological foundation.

Additionally, the research draws on the methodological insights of foreign scholars such as Arnold Toynbee, Karl Jaspers, Edward Sapir, Benjamin Whorf, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Victor Turner, Mikhail Bakhtin, and others. Their works consider the influence of toponymic legends and myths on historical, cultural, and social phenomena, highlighting their symbolic features and ethnographic significance.

**Research Aim:**

To study the genesis, typology, and poetics of toponymic legends and narratives within the Eurasian space.

**Research Objectives:**

1. To formulate a scientific rationale for the theoretical foundations of studying toponymic legends and narratives in the Eurasian space; to identify their characteristics as a national and worldview phenomenon that reflects the people's perception of space and historical memory;
2. To explore the origin of the genres of legends and narratives in Eurasian toponymic folklore, as well as their typological features and poetics as applied in different countries;
3. To identify the main motives behind the emergence and dissemination of toponymic legends and narratives among the peoples of Eurasia; to analyze the causal factors that give rise to these genres, such as historical events, natural phenomena, migration, and warfare;
4. To determine the cognitive, informational, locative, and aesthetic functions of toponymic legends and narratives; to conduct a comparative analysis taking into account the ethnic characteristics of different peoples;
5. To substantiate new paradigms for the study of toponymic legends and narratives; to examine toponymic narratives from an interdisciplinary perspective, contributing to the formation of new directions and methods in folklore studies;
6. To investigate the role of toponymic legends and narratives as part of spiritual heritage and their function in preserving and reviving the historical consciousness of the peoples of Eurasia; to analyze their significance as cognitive, educational, and cultural codes passed down through generations;
7. To study the artistic methods and means used in the poetics of toponymic legends and narratives; to analyze the peculiarities of figurative techniques, mythological images, and symbols.

**Object of the Study:**

Toponymic legends and narratives of the United Kingdom, Germany, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan within the Eurasian space.

**Sources of the Study:**

The primary sources used in the dissertation are the folklore materials of the peoples of the Eurasian region, including the genres of toponymic legends and narratives. The research also draws upon theoretical works by scholars from



Kazakhstan, as well as from neighboring and distant foreign countries, and folklore collections containing legends, myths, and mythological narratives.

#### **Research Methods:**

The dissertation employs historical-comparative, comparative-typological, analytical, systematizing, generalizing, and cross-cultural methods of analysis.

#### **Scientific Novelty of the Research:**

1. For the first time, a comprehensive study of toponymic legends and narratives of the Eurasian region (the United Kingdom, Germany, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan) has been conducted;

2. The genesis, typology, poetics, and geographical distribution of toponymic legends and narratives in Eurasia have been examined;

3. The cognitive, informational, locative, and aesthetic functions of toponymic legends and narratives within the Eurasian space have been identified;

4. Common motives underlying the emergence of toponymic legends and narratives among the peoples of Eurasia have been revealed;

5. The functional specificity of toponymic legends and myths has been substantiated, taking into account the ethnic characteristics of the peoples of the Eurasian region;

6. For the first time, the poetics of toponymic legends and narratives in the Eurasian space has been studied through comparative analysis.

#### **Theoretical Significance of the Study:**

This research introduces the folklore of the peoples of Eurasia – specifically the genres of toponymic folklore such as legends and narratives – into scholarly discourse, defining their scope of use in different countries and expanding theoretical understanding of intercultural interaction.

The study considers toponymic legends and narratives as outstanding examples of folk creative heritage, thoroughly exploring their cognitive, informational, locative, and aesthetic dimensions.

Moreover, the research presents new insights into the relationship between toponyms preserved in the historical memory of a people and their ethnographic and linguistic aesthetic contexts. The analysis of ethnographic material contributes to a deeper understanding of the cultural traditions and customs of Eurasian peoples associated with place-naming practices. The comparative analysis of toponymic legends and narratives within the Eurasian space highlights the theoretical significance of the research topic.

#### **Practical Significance of the Study:**

The results of this research can be utilized in educational institutions for the development of academic courses and programs in folklore studies, history, cultural studies, ethnography, and linguistics. This will enable students to gain deeper knowledge of toponymic legends and narratives, as well as their cultural and historical significance.

The research can contribute to the creation of new tourist routes and cultural projects aimed at promoting the cultural heritage of the Eurasian regions. On its basis, recommendations and methods can be developed for the preservation and dissemination of toponymic legends and narratives within public memory.



The results can also be applied in local history initiatives and international programs focused on environmental studies, thereby fostering mutual understanding and cooperation among various ethnic groups. Furthermore, the research opens new possibilities for the advancement of academic disciplines and the conduct of new interdisciplinary studies.

#### **Theses to Be Defended:**

1. The toponymic legends and narratives that have developed in various regions of Eurasia (the United Kingdom, Germany, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan) represent a unique folkloric phenomenon that reflects the peoples' distinctive spatial perception and historical-ethnic identity. In this context, it is essential to establish theoretical foundations for the study of toponymic legends and narratives in the Eurasian space.

2. The study of the genesis, typology, and poetics of toponymic legends and narratives, as well as the identification of their cognitive, locative, informational, and aesthetic functions, opens a new direction in contemporary folklore studies.

3. Mythological, historical-cultural, and ethnographic motifs present in the toponymic legends and narratives of each nation play a crucial role in shaping national culture and creating a sacred image of space. In turn, this makes it possible to identify similar structural and regional characteristics of these genres.

4. The study of toponymic legends and narratives lies at the intersection of several disciplines, including folklore studies, toponymy, ethnography, geography, history, and linguistics. Based on this interdisciplinary approach, the worldview, poetic thinking, attitude toward nature, and perception of the environment and space among the peoples of Eurasia are revealed.

5. A comparative analysis of the toponymic legends and narratives of the United Kingdom, Germany, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan, taking into account their ethnic characteristics, opens new cognitive horizons and contributes to strengthening cultural ties and cooperation across the Eurasian space.

#### **Publications and approval of the research.**

There have been published 8 articles on the main sections of the dissertation.

*Among them, two articles are in peer-reviewed scientific journals indexed in the Scopus database:*

1. Epic toponyms as carriers of a linguocultural code. Eurasian Journal of Applied Linguistics (2023), 9(1), 13-23. Doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.32601/ejal.901002>  
<https://ejal.info/manuscript/index.php/ejal/article/view/440/119>

2. Eurasian bilingual hydronyms nominations with the components "ak/kara". XLinguae, Volume 17 Issue 2, April 2024, ISSN 1337-8384, eISSN 2453-711X. DOI: 10.18355/XL.2024.17.02.02

*Articles published in journals recommended by the Committee for Quality Assurance in Science and Higher Education of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan:*

1. Toponymic folklore as a genre of oral folklore. Scientific journal "Keruen" No. 3, 84 volumes, 2024 ISSN: 2078-8134 | ELSSN: 2790-7066.  
<https://doi.org/10.53871/2078-8134.2024.3-15>

2. Toponymic folklore researches in the Eurasian space. Scientific journal "Keruen" No. 1, volume 86, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.53871/2078-8134.2025.1-12>

*Articles published in collections of international conference proceedings:*

1. Features of toponymic folklore of the Turkic civilization. International scientific conference "Kazakh literary criticism: traditions and continuity". - Uralsk: Publishing center of the West Kazakhstan Innovation and Technological University, 2023. - P. 71-73. <https://wkitu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/konf-so-y-var-24.1123.pdf>

2. Toponymic legends as a cultural heritage of the Turkic peoples. Collection of materials of the traditional XI international conference "Zhubanov's Heritage", dedicated to the 125th anniversary of K.K. Zhubanov's birth. - Aktobe: Aktobe Regional University named after K. Zhubanov, 2024. - 306-309 p.

3. Heroic epic of the peoples of central asia and southern siberia. Collection of materials of the International scientific conference "Heroic poem of Kobylandy and the national heroic spirit". - Aktobe: Aktobe Regional University named after K. Zhubanov, 2024. - P. 118-121.

4. Turkic culture and its development. "A young look at Turkic science". (Türk Dünyasına Genç Bakışı) International Symposium, April 25-26, 2024 Turkey, Ankara.

**Structure of the scientific work.** The dissertation consists of an introduction, two chapters, a conclusion and a list of references.

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