

# EXPLORING SYNONYMY IN SOME WILD ANIMAL NAMES IN THE UZBEK LANGUAGE

**Khidirova Makhfuza Amirkulovna**

Senior teacher at Denau Institute of Entrepreneurship and pedagogy

[Tel:+998975538968](tel:+998975538968)

[m.xidirova@dtpi.uz](mailto:m.xidirova@dtpi.uz)

**Annotation:** This article analyzes the synonyms in wild animal names in the Uzbek language. The phenomenon of synonymy reflects the diversity of the Uzbek language's vocabulary, revealing regional and dialectal peculiarities in the naming of animals. The study explores the synonymy of wild animal names, examining the range of usage, semantic differences, and their regional characteristics. This work contributes to a deeper understanding of the synonymy of animal names and their role in the Uzbek language.

**Key words:** wild animal names, synonymy, Uzbek language, lexical analysis, regional differences, dialects, synonymous series, lexical meaning, lexical synonymy.

## INTRODUCTION

The relationship of synonymy among linguistic units is one of the extraordinarily important paradigmatic relationships in a complex and sophisticated language system. The existence of this relationship corresponds to the level of refinement and development of the system. In other words, the high level of language development and its richness and diversity are ensured by the abundance of opportunities for synonymy, for example, the presence of multiple words with similar meanings. As one of the ancient and developed languages, Uzbek possesses a substantial reserve of words that are unified or unified through numerous synonymic relationships. The Uzbek language, with its deep historical roots and rich cultural heritage, serves as an interesting object in the study of the diversity of linguistics, especially the study of animal names leads to witness the wonders of the animal world. One of the most interesting aspects of this linguistic richness is the phenomenon of synonymy, which is defined by the presence of several words with the same or similar meaning. This is particularly evident in the naming of wild animals, as different synonyms are used in different regions, dialects and contexts. Scientific research on the phenomenon of synonymy in Uzbek linguistics was widely developed mainly in the 60s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, it should be noted that research on this subject was active even in the 1940s, including S. Ibrahimov's work "Synonyms of the Uzbek language" (synonymous dictionary for students) published in Tashkent in 1939. On the eve of the 70s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the linguist Ya.D.Pinkhasov paid serious attention to the semantic nature of synonyms in the Uzbek language and divided them into two according to the meaning: 1. Ideographic synonyms are interchangeable synonyms that are used equally in any text at any time, for example, *buyuk/ulug'*, *dunyo/jahon/olam*, *ko'k/osmon*, *so'zlamog/gapirmoq*. 2. Stylistic synonyms are synonyms that are not used equally in any text

and are used with different subtleties of meaning, like *buyuk/ulug‘, ulkan/katta/zo‘r/gigant (buyuk binolar, ulug‘ binolar, ulkan binolar, katta binolar, zo‘r binolar, gigant binolar)*.<sup>1</sup>

A **synonym** is a [word](#), [morpheme](#), or [phrase](#) that means precisely or nearly the same as another word, morpheme, or phrase in a given language.<sup>2</sup> The phenomenon of linguistic units having the same meaning is called synonymy. Depending on which linguistic units this phenomenon applies to, it is divided into lexical synonymy, phraseological synonymy, and syntactic synonymy.<sup>3</sup> “In short, synonym words are a clear system of lexical units connected by a specific semantic relationship.”<sup>4</sup> Thus, in this article, we investigated the synonymic characteristics of some wild animal names and, in the process, referred to the work of various scholars to analyze the forms in which animal names were used in Turkic languages during the Middle Ages. B.B. Abdishukurov, in his dissertation titled “Zoonymy in the Turkic written sources of the 11<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> Centuries,” analyzed the synonymic aspects of animal names used in these centuries. Each language undergoes various stages of development over the centuries. This process is characterized by significant changes in the vocabulary and grammatical structure of the language. Each historical period has its own distinctive lexicon and grammatical rules, and adhering to these rules is considered somewhat mandatory. Language change is linked not only to linguistic aspects but also to the overall development of society and cultural transformations. As nations and their lifestyles, cultures, and social structures change, the vocabulary and lexicon associated with them also evolve accordingly. Thus, language continues to develop, reflecting various aspects of society in each period.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

When analyzing zoological terms from a lexical and semantic perspective, it is essential to consider various characteristics of these terms, including abstraction, general meaning, polysemy (multiple meanings), homonymy, monosemy (single meaning), and aspects of synonymy and antonymy. Indeed, the presence or absence of these characteristics in terms has always been a subject of debate. These aspects have been extensively researched by many scholars to date. Notably, B.B. Abdishukurov, in his dissertation titled “Zoonymy in the Turkic written sources of the 11<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> centuries,” provides a detailed analysis of the homonymic and synonymic aspects of zoonymy found in 11<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> century Turkic written sources. In his dissertation, he analyzes the synonymic characteristics of zoonymy in Turkic languages as follows:

B.B. Abdishukurov analyzes the synonymy of zoological terms in Turkic languages as follows:

- Synonyms in the “Devoni lug‘otit-turk”,
- Synonyms in the “At-tuhfa”,
- Synonyms used in the “Kitob ul-idrok”,
- Synonyms in the “Tarjumon”,
- Synonyms in the “Kitob bulg‘at”,

<sup>1</sup> O‘zbek tili milliy korpusining sinonim so‘zlar bazasi:monografiya / A. Eshmuminov.-Termiz : Termiz davlat universiteti nashr-matbaa markazi.2021.-119 b.

<sup>2</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synonym>

<sup>3</sup> <https://uz.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinonimlar>

<sup>4</sup> Safarova R. Leksik-semantik munosabatning turlari. – Toshkent: O‘qituvchi, 1996. 3b

➤ Synonyms found in 14<sup>th</sup> -century Khwarezmian monuments. <sup>5</sup>

We have isolated only those terms related to wild animal names and compared them with the synonymy of modern Uzbek zoonymic terms.

## Synonymy of Turkic Terms

Table 1

Synonyms in the “Devoni lug‘otit-turk”	Bo‘ri, qurt (wolf), - Arju, ashru (jackal), Bars, to‘na (tiger), Bozqush, so‘nqur (falcon), Käklik, talvir (partridge), - Bit, sunzy (louse), Chumili, qarinchha (ant), Näk, alavan (crocodile), Saqirqu, qomshuy (tick), Sarychga, chägyurka (grasshopper), Chomg‘uq, yangan (magpie), Saqargan, buzagu tılı (rat), Qoburga, yabakulaq (owl), Boz, tävəy qush (ostrich), Yamlan, küzün, kälägu (stilt), Qirg‘iy, elqush (hawk), Säçä, sançurğa, qushgaç (sparrow), Käslinçü, kälär, boynaq (lizard), Örumçäk, böy, pük (spider), Sinäk, qudğu, kimynçə (fly), Kiyik, uyuq, ıvık, soqaq (deer)
Synonyms in the “At-tuhfa”	Sanzağan, ylan (snake), Örumçäk, böy (spider), Sinäk, shibin (fly), Oğaz, ayaq (vulture), Bayğush, yablaq (owl), Sağsağan, ıtlıqaz (magpie), Badanax, buyurchuq (quail), Saqar, qashqaldoq (qashqaldoq bird), Qarınchaq, çömälı (ant), Sariñçıqa, chäkürgä (grasshopper), Öyöz, süri shibin (mosquito), Balaban, yağlabay, laçın (falcon), Kartal, qartaban (eagle), Yänäs, qısqaş, ilänkiş (crab), Qartal, qırğiy, toruntay, atmaça (hawk).
Synonyms used in the “Kitob ul-idrok”	Sazağan, yılan (snake), Qüzän, kish (otter), Kartal, köçkän (eagle), Bo‘ri, qurt (wolf), Sariñçikan, chükürgä (grasshopper), Yöz, süvrü, chibin (mosquito), Aru, bal arusu (bee), Chärchä, yälvä, bildirçın (quail), Laçın, toğan, çağan (falcon).
Synonyms in the “Tarjumon”	Ilik, uyuq (deer), Sığaq, çıbın (mosquito), Bädär, yavri (bird chick), Bo‘ri, qurt (wolf), Tavshan, qoyan (rabbit), Sarchqa, chägirkä (grasshopper), Tavshanjıl, qoraqush (desert eagle), Qandala, başık bitı (bedbug).
Synonyms in the “Kitob bulg‘at”	Bo‘ri, qurt (wolf), Sinäk, chibin (fly), Särchä, çapçuq (passer), Kälär, ıyvan (lizard), Sazağan, yılan (snake), Chi, turuntay (hawk), Yöz, sivri chibin (mosquito), Balaban, Laçın, çoğan (falcon), Chüvçän, yıbraq, köl, qırğuv (owl).
Synonyms found in 14 <sup>th</sup> -century Khwarezmian monuments	Sinäk, chibin (fly), Säçä, kälöz (passer), Bo‘ri, qurt (wolf), Laçın, toygun (falcon).

## DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The synonyms for animal and bird names listed above, despite some phonetic variations, are used in the same manner in the cited works. Notably, the synonyms found in “Devoni lug‘otit-turk” are used extensively. However, there is no clear evidence that these synonyms were also widely used in literary language. It is possible that the synonyms undergoing phonetic changes might have been more common in dialects and regional varieties. In many cases, most of these

<sup>5</sup> B.B.Abdishukurov o‘zining “XI-XIV asr turkiy yozma manbalar tilidagi zoonimlar” ,-Toshkent

synonyms have either fallen out of use in modern Uzbek or undergone various phonetic and grammatical changes. Additionally, some synonyms have completely transformed their forms, with new words taking their place. Consequently, certain animal and bird names that were once synonyms are now either replaced by other words or have disappeared from the literary language. For example, if we take the words “bo‘ri” or “qurt”, today the term “bo‘ri” and “qashqir” are used as synonyms to refer to this animal.<sup>6</sup> In many sources, the name of the animal is presented in the same form, but the use of “qurt” as a synonym has gradually disappeared, with the variant “qashqir” taking its place.

Bars and to‘na were used as synonyms, but today, in modern Uzbek, the term “yo‘lbars” is used.<sup>7</sup> The word “yo‘lbars” was formed by combining the Old Turkic word “yol”, which had multiple meanings, with the Old Turkic term “bars”, which referred to a large feline.<sup>8</sup>

The etymology of the word “bars” is not entirely clear. According to V.V. Radlov, A.M. Sherbak, and J. Kloson, the word “yol” means “line.” However, V. Bang argues that it simply means “path” because leopards can cover great distances. Additionally, V. Bang suggests that the word “yo‘l” might have resulted from a paronymic similarity to the word “ola” (to wander), highlighting an interesting etymological connection.<sup>9</sup> It is evident that the word “bars” has been preserved through centuries with certain grammatical changes, while its synonym “to‘na” is no longer used in modern Uzbek as a synonym for the term “yo‘lbars” (tiger).

Another animal name is “Näk, alavan” with “alavan” being used in the Nogai language or among the Nogai people to mean “timsoh”. However, in modern Uzbek, this term is not used as a synonym for “crocodile.” Therefore, it would be incorrect to consider “alavan” as a synonym for “timsoh” (crocodile). In Uzbek, the term “alligator” is used to denote an animal and refers specifically to a type of crocodilian.<sup>10</sup> In addition, the word “krokodil” is also used in Uzbek, but it is not a synonym for “timsoh.” Instead, it is a transliteration of the English word “crocodile.”

One of the most interesting aspects of Uzbek zoonymy is the naming process of the terms “pashsha” and “chivin.” Although some sources use these two words as synonyms, they actually refer to two distinct animals in zoology. The habitat, appearance, and body structure of these animals differ significantly. Often, when a word is used with different meanings in dialects, it can negatively impact its usage in the literary language. For example, the words “pashsha” and “chivin” are used differently in literary language and dialects. According to the explanatory dictionary, “pashsha” refers to a winged insect that multiplies in summer and feeds on liquid organic matter,<sup>11</sup> while “chivin” denotes a small, blood-sucking insect with long antennae and two wings.<sup>12</sup> In dialects, the word “chivin” may be used to mean “pashsha,” but this usage is considered incorrect in literary language. Interestingly, in the works of Alisher

<sup>6</sup> O‘zbekiston milliy ensiklopediyasi. 2000, 860 bet

<sup>7</sup> O‘zbekiston milliy ensiklopediyasi. 2000, 18 bet

<sup>8</sup> Shavkat Rahmatullayev. O‘zbek tiling etimologik lug‘ati (I-jild). Toshkent. Universitet., 2000 — 191-bet.

<sup>9</sup> <https://uz.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yo‘lbars#Etimologiyasi>

<sup>10</sup> O‘zbekiston milliy ensiklopediyasi. 2000, 352 bet

<sup>11</sup> <https://izoh.uz/uz/word/pashsha>

<sup>12</sup> <https://izoh.uz/uz/word/chivin>



Navoi, the term “chivin” is used in both senses. Remarkably, the word “pashsha” actually entered the Uzbek language from Persian, where it originally meant “chivin.” In the list of synonyms used in “Devoni lug‘otit-turk”, the term “pashsha” appears as “Sinäk, qudğu, and kimynča.” In “Kitob ul-idrok,” the term “chivin” is represented as “Yüz, süvrü, chivin”. In “Tarjumon,” the synonyms for “chivin” are “Sığaq, çibın”, in the 14th-century Khwarezmian inscriptions, the words “Sinäk” and “chivin” are used with the meaning “pashsha.” In “At-tuhfa,” both animal names are listed as “Sinäk, shibin” (for “pashsha”), and “Öyüz, süri shibin” (for “chivin”). Upon closer examination, the words “pashsha” and “chivin” are used as synonyms, despite some phonetic variations, because they share a common root. In “At-tuhfa,” the term “shibin” is used for both animal names. To clarify these ambiguities, we can refer to the information provided in the Uzbekistan National Encyclopedia regarding these animal names. In the Uzbekistan National Encyclopedia, “pashsha” (in the Tashkent dialect) and “chivin” (in other dialects) are defined as two-winged insect groups.<sup>13</sup> Meanwhile, “chivin” refers specifically to long-antennaed two-winged insects (Nematocera), a suborder of the Diptera.<sup>14</sup> This indicates that the two terms actually refer to completely different animals. In some dialects, “pashsha” might be referred to as “chivin,” leading to potential confusion. Therefore, the precise naming of animals is crucial for distinguishing between them.

## CONCLUSION

The synonymy of wild animal names in the Uzbek language holds significant importance, reflecting the richness and diversity of the language. The research reveals that in different regions and dialects, various synonyms exist for the same animal, with distinct semantic differences, regional characteristics, and usage contexts. Synonymy in Uzbek is not only about enriching the vocabulary but also reveals unique cultural and historical traces. This study demonstrates the crucial role of exploring the synonymy of wild animal names in linguistics and highlights the need for further comprehensive research in this area.

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<sup>13</sup> O‘zbekiston milliy ensiklopediyasi. 2000, 139 bet

<sup>14</sup> O‘zbekiston milliy ensiklopediyasi. 2000, 78 bet