



# GLANCES AT THE NAMES OF SOME GEMMONYMS IN THE UZBEK LANGUAGE

**Shahodat Abdiyeva Kenjebay qizi**

*Master of Uzbek Philology Faculty of Urganch State University*

## ABSTRACT

*This article discusses the onomasiological units used in the Uzbek language that represent precious stones and metals. Also, information is given about the naming principles of such units and their sociolinguistic aspects in Uzbek language.*

**KEY WORDS:** *Uzbek language, gemmonym, precious metal, official name, sociolect, artistic naming.*

Have you ever wondered how the names of familiar and unfamiliar metals and stones in the world around us are called by their names or by names that have nothing to do with them? Gold, silver, pearl, ruby, diamond and bead, coral, marble and similar names are named based on what motives and are they related to naming motives in related and non-related languages? We will try to find answers to these and similar questions in this article.

Since ancient times, people have valued certain things in life and used them as a means of calculation. The tools considered as valuables can be divided into two types. The first type includes metals such as gold, silver, and copper, and the second type includes minerals such as sapphires, rubies, diamonds, pearls, and beads.

Linguistic sources note that such units used in our language are one of the areas that have not been studied until now [1]. Names related to precious stones and metals are used in world linguistics with terms such as **gemmonym**, **chrematonym**, **mineralonym**. However, these terms are almost never found in linguistic dictionaries. For example, in the dictionary of onomastic terms of the Russian language compiled by Russian linguist N.V.Podolskaya, only the term *chrematonym* is explained [7]. Also, in the dictionary of E.Begmatov and N.Ulukov, aimed at regulating Uzbek onomastic terms, only the above term *chrematonym* is explained [4].

It is also known from the given information that this direction is one of the actual areas that are still waiting for their researchers. We see that the term *gemmonym* is interpreted as “the name of precious and semi-precious stones [5]...”

In general, during the examination of linguistic elements related to precious stones and metals in the Uzbek language, we made sure that this field will provide very relevant and interesting information for our linguistics.

For the Uzbek language, the volume of such linguistic elements constitutes a wide circle in a certain sense. In particular, such linguistic elements can be found in different forms from the

oldest sources (ancient Turkic sources), in sources related to the period of the old Uzbek language, and in texts related to our modern language. In addition, the lexicon related to precious stones and metals can be sufficiently researched and checked in terms of linguistic layers between the languages that are in linguistic contact with the Uzbek language. That is, it will be necessary to find an answer to the question of which languages are historically and etymologically related to the units related to precious stones and metals used in our language.

Of course, it will not be possible to search for answers and clarify all the above issues within the scope of this article. For this reason, we preferred to focus on the most known and famous among such units in our language, the precious metal word “oltin” (gold), which has kept its value for almost many times.

Here we face another problem. So, are the names given to precious stones and metals considered a proper unit or a common unit? Why aren't they written with a capital letter if they're going to be a proper unit? This problem is observed in several types of names that are considered to be related to the direction of onomastics. For example, phytonyms (melon, watermelon), ethnonyms (Uzbek, Kyrgyz) and others. In addition, none of the above-mentioned terms gemmonym, mineralonym, and chrematonym refers to the naming of precious metals. Their comments refer to precious stones and minerals, but there are no sufficient grounds to include metals such as gold and silver. In our opinion, it is necessary to find a correct solution to this terminological problem based on scientific approaches. The conducted investigations showed that the intended names can be divided into several categories.

1. Official naming. It is necessary to understand that this type is named from the chemical point of view of a specific metal or mineral, as well as from the point of view of literary language.

2. Dialectal or informal naming. This type refers to the name of a certain precious metal or mineral in certain regions or in the form of jargons in the language of different groups of society.



3. Artistic naming. This type refers to the naming of objects in fiction.

Within the framework of this article, we tried to analyze the name of the gold metal as the most active unit, refraining from the analysis of some of the names related to precious stones and metals used in the Uzbek language [6].

If we pay attention to the word “oltin” (gold), it should be noted that its composition is divided into two parts, that is, it is formed from the parts “ol” (red) and “tin” (coin) on the basis of lexemes related to Turkic languages. It is known that gold is compared to red in other related Turkic languages. For example, in the Turkmen language, the word gold is called “gyzyl”, which means "red". In the explanatory dictionary of the Turkmen language, it is explained as “yellow colored precious metal, gold, gilt, chemical element...” (*Gyzyl sagat. Gyzyl ýüzük. Gyzyl diş*) [9].

Gold is called “zar” in Persian language explanations [8]. It is known that the word zar means yellow as well as gold. The zar component is used in the meaning of gold in the Uzbek language such as zargar, zardozi, zarkokil.

It is noted in the sources that the word referring to the Latin word gold comes from the old Latin word “aurum” and it is noted that this word means dawn, the interpretation of the word “dawn” refers to the golden-yellow shine of this metal. The English word “gold” derives from the Indo-European word “geolu,” which also means yellow. For this peculiar property of gold, (besides copper, it’s the only metal with a distinct color), it was associated with the sun in many ancient cultures.

From the given information, it is understood that the naming of gold, which is considered a precious metal, for many languages of the world, is based primarily on its color. Since time immemorial, gold has symbolically embodied dignity, wealth, honor, prestige, etc. In the sources of the old Uzbek language, it is used in such forms as *oltun, tillo, zar*. In particular, it is one of the most active words in the language of A. Navoi's works.

*Dema, sarg'ordi Navoiyning yuzikim ishq aro,  
Buyla oltunni qilurg'a poymoling qazg'anur...[2]; or:  
Ey Navoiy oltun-u shingarf-u zangor aylama,  
Bo'ldi nazming rangidin devon qizil, sorig', yashil[2].*

In the Uzbek literary language, there are many colloquial expressions related to gold, where the word *oltin* (gold) is used. For example, *oltin jom* (golden cup, often in fiction), *oltin fasl*, *oltin kuz* (golden season, golden autumn, in the sense of autumn when the leaves turn yellow); *oq oltin* (white gold, figurative expression of cotton), *qora oltin* (black gold, figurative expression of oil) and others.

In addition, it can be observed that the **gold** element is actively used in various onomastic units. For example, the place names include: in the historical toponym of *Oltin Urda* (Golden Horde), *Oltinsoy* (Golden canal, name of a village in Bukhara region), *Oltinkul* (Golden Lake, name of a district in Andijan region), *Oltinkala* [10] (Golden fortress, name of a village in

Shavot district of Khorezm region) and others. Including personal names: *Oltinoy* (Golden Moon), *Oltinsoch* (Golden hair), *Oltinbuvish* (Golden Grandma), *Tillokhan* [3] (Goldenkhan) and others.

In general, it can be noted that by collecting and analyzing the names related to precious stones and metals used in the Uzbek language, it is clear that we will have important linguistic information for our modern linguistics. This sphere is one of the fields of Uzbek linguistics that is waiting for its young researchers today.

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