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THE PLANT VARIETIES AND THE SYSTEM OF OFFICIAL NAMING FOR THEM

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the linguistic and sociocultural principles governing the official naming of newly created plant varieties (phytonyms). Drawing on classification and onomastic analysis, the study contrasts organically formed folk phytonyms with officially motivated names that emerge from scientific breeding (selection) activities and institutional decisions. It identifies primary motive-types for official phytonyms — anthroponymic (personal names), toponymic (place-names), and conceptually motivated (ideological, commemorative, numeric, or descriptive) — and characterises their distinctive linguistic features: lexical stability, wider distribution, formal documentation, limited dialectal variation, and deliberate semantic transparency (e.g., numeric components indicating year or phenological traits). The paper also discusses orthographic and onomastic issues that arise in practice (capitalization, transliteration, and registration), and argues for consistent codification to ensure terminological clarity in agronomy, seed production, and legal documentation. The findings underline the role of socio-institutional factors in cultivar naming and recommend normative approaches to recording and standardizing official phytonyms to support scientific communication, agricultural policy, and cultural-linguistic integrity.

KEYWORDS: *Phytonyms; Official Naming; Plant Variety Nomenclature; Selection (Breeding); Anthroponymic Phytonyms; Toponymic Phytonyms; Onomastics; Standardization*

INTRODUCTION

In recent years the development of science and technology has produced unprecedented changes and advances in all spheres of human life. Human relations with nature have also changed. People began to influence the surrounding flora and create new plant varieties. This, in turn, led to the emergence and development of the science of breeding (selection).

Selection (Lat. *seligo* — I sort, I choose) is the science that studies methods for cultivating new varieties and hybrids of plants, and new breeds of animals. It is also the branch of agricultural production that deals with breeding new varieties and hybrids of field crops and new breeds of animals. This discipline develops methods to influence plants and animals and alter their hereditary qualities for the benefit of humans. As a result of such work, new plant variety names and animal breed names have appeared. This inevitably made it necessary to distinguish and name newly created varieties, differentiating them from existing ones. This process, undoubtedly, is governed by social conditions, people's worldview, culture, and psychological state. Accordingly, creators of such names cannot stand outside these demands. Motives for naming new phytonyms derive from prevailing conditions and are formalized by official documents. Therefore, distinguishing such phytonyms from previously existing names in our language is not difficult. Given these facts, it is useful to refer to those names as **officially motivated phytonyms** or **official phytonyms**. Depending on their motivations, they can be divided into several types. While official names form part of the general system of phytonyms, they also have specific linguistic features.

Traditional vs. Official Phytonyms. First, phytonyms traditionally arise as an integral part of the vernacular and emerge over centuries as products of the language's natural development. In other words, their creator is the people, and individual authorship is typically not perceptible in the naming process. In contrast, **officially motivated phytonyms** arise as a result of the initiative of particular person(s) or institutions. This difference leads to another distinction: while folk naming often occurs without explicit negotiation among community members, naming official phytonyms involves discussion and agreement among a defined group of people.

Also, as folk creations, phytonyms often have variant names across dialects; by contrast, official motivated phytonyms retain their formal name across dialectal speech communities. For example, the *avangard* variety retains its official name across dialects. Hence, official phytonyms typically do not have synonyms in folk usage.

Stylistic coloring may occur in many phytonyms. For instance, names like *olma* (apple), *anor* (pomegranate), *anjir* (fig) carry various stylistic meanings in oral tradition and classical literature; some phytonyms become euphemistic expressions for certain notions. Such stylistic/euphemistic tendencies are largely absent in official phytonyms.

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Although some phytonyms may incorporate personal names, their distribution area often remains limited to a particular region (e.g., *dōsimpalak* — a potato variety — is characteristic of the Khorezm region). The important difference is that such folk names are not official. Official phytonyms derived from personal names differ by their formal character and often by their broader distribution.

Furthermore, numerical elements within folk phytonyms usually do not denote precise quantities. For example, *qirqg'unlik* (containing *qirq* — forty) or *beshbarmo'q* (five-fingered) do not literally mean 40 or 5; the numbers there are symbolic. In official motivated phytonyms, numeric components are used purposefully to indicate definite facts (e.g., year of variety creation, vegetative period).

Typically, a decisive criterion in naming phytonyms is a plant's salient features; therefore, emotional-stylistic connotations are rarely primary in their lexical meanings. In official phytonyms, however, such expressive features may appear (e.g., names like *alanga*, *shodlik*).

It is usually impossible to determine precisely when a given folk phytonym first appeared in a community's speech or entered the lexicon. By contrast, the emergence and active usage period of official motivated phytonyms can be established through official documents.

Another notable property is that official phytonyms are primarily limited to plant varieties; they are names created as a result of human activity to denote new varieties and hybrids. Though they belong to the general system of phytonyms, the above-mentioned properties show they possess distinct linguistic characteristics.

Classification of Officially Motivated Phytonyms. Below are common classes of official motivated phytonyms observed in practice:

1. **Phytonyms Named After Persons (Anthroponymic Phytonyms).** These names are based on the name of the plant breeder who developed the variety or on the name of a colleague, mentor, famous person, or a person dear to the breeder. Examples include apple varieties *Gulandom, Iskandar, Valentin, Pyotr I, Navoi, Napolyon*; pear and quince types *Yodgor, Dilafruz, Elsori, Kyuri, Berl Bosa, Zhozefina, Mehelinskaya*; peach varieties *Galya, Kuzgi Galya, Anna Shnet, Venta, Viktoriya, Ekaterina*; cherry cultivars *Roman Oliva, May-Duke, Bigora Groll, Francis*, etc. Such names, especially those introduced from abroad or proposed by breeders in the republic, are frequently chosen by their creators to single out the new variety.

Observations suggest that onomasiological patterns for these names follow established linguistic traditions. New varieties tend to be formed according to these templates, especially noticeable in names of horticultural crops. Sometimes a suffix forming adjectives from personal names (-i / -iy) produces phytonyms (e.g., amiri → amiriy; kamoli, hasani, doniyori, xojamurodi, navro'zboyi).

Another type forms by attaching a personal name to the crop name itself (e.g., tolif qovun — Tolib melon; xoji qovun — Khoja melon; in other languages: Azilxon qog'un, Xan qog'un; Abdulla qavun; Atabek gavun).

2. **Phytonyms Based on Toponyms (Place-Names).** Examples: *Toshkent borovinkasi, Toshkent kalvili, Toshkent rinati, Alma-Ata anori, Samarqand to'ng'ichi, Namangan almasi* (apple names); *Toshkent-1, Toshkent-2, Xorazm-120, Bukhoro-8* (cotton varieties); *Samarkand olchasi, Anatoli olchasi, China olchasi, Alay chiyesi, Badakhshan gilos, Samarkand gilos, Kashkar gilos, Qo'qon gilos, Boysun variety, Kanoy, Bukhoro bodomi, So'zak bodomi, Bostanliq* (almond varieties). In naming phytonyms officially, the origin/location of the variety is an important criterion. Such names also occur among grain crops — e.g., *Chimboy, Charxin, Nayman, Qarshi, Odessa* (barley varieties); *Kuban* (wheat); *Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan-2* (rice); *Kherson* (oat variety), etc.

The orthography and capitalization of these names deserves attention. In many publications, such phytonyms are written inconsistently — sometimes capitalized, sometimes not. This is tied to whether the phytonym belongs to the class of proper (name) nouns. E. Begmatov, in his study on the relation between ethnonyms and the language onomastic system, notes that setting criteria for what should be a proper name and determining the boundary of proper-name units is necessary. We do not intend to enter that debate here, but because varietal names have distinguishing features (denoting a specific object, connotative meaning), it is reasonable to write variety-denoting names with an initial capital letter.

3. **Official Phytonyms Motivated by Various Concepts and Categories.** Examples include names inspired by abstract concepts or attributes: *Kosmos, Lazur, Alanga, Gulshan* (rice varieties); *Toshkent–86, Uzbekistan–60* (melon varieties); *Istiqlol* (a cotton variety). Thus, official phytonyms are diverse in motivation and are often recommended by specific groups or individuals and formalized by official documents. Even if they differ from traditional naming criteria, they generally do not completely abandon traditional principles. Motivations for naming are often individual or institutional.

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CONCLUSION

To conclude, officially motivated phytonyms regulate the naming of the new plant varieties and hybrids that arise as a result of human activity. Unlike folk names, they are created by a specific person or group and formalized through official documentation. Such phytonyms are characterized by precision, stability, and a broader distribution area, and they help ensure balance and coordination in scientific and practical domains. Because official phytonyms are formed on creative and legislative grounds rather than by traditional folk naming, they play an important role in selection (breeding) and agriculture.

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