



Article

Analysis Of Historical Titles Given to Positions and Ranks In The Kokand Khanate

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Abstract: The anthropomymic units characteristic of the Kokand Khanate era—names, patronyms, titles, pseudonyms, and attributions—are widely and actively used in historical sources, especially in historiographical works. This article presents a lexical-semantic and structural classification and analysis of the historical titles, specifically those attributed to positions and ranks, which were actively used and occupy a significant place in the anthroponymy of this period, reaching us through historical works. The sociolinguistic and linguocultural characteristics of these titles are highlighted based on evidence.

Keywords: Anthroponymy, Anthroponym, Name, Title, Historical Title, Position, Rank, Titles Attributed To Positions And Ranks, Lexical Basis, Negative Meaning, Positive Meaning, Structure, Model, Compound Titles, Complex Titles

1. Introduction

The Uzbek language has a rich and ancient anthroponymic macrocosm. The anthroponymic units of the language have evolved and developed in connection with the socio-political, economic, cultural, and spiritual life of the Uzbek people, reaching their current state through linguistic refinement and historical roots.

Names, surnames, patronyms, titles, pseudonyms, attributions, and epithets are all anthropomymic units. Titles belong to the category of ancient anthroponymic units. Like other units, titles also have their own history, lexical and nominative-motivational basis, historical-etymological sources, as well as models of formation and structure. Titles are frequently encountered in ancient Turkic monuments, classical literature, and historical works.

Like other anthroponymic units, titles also have a history of development and refinement. From this perspective, studying the lexical-semantic, nominative-motivational, etymological, and structural characteristics of historical titles has important theoretical and practical significance

2. Materials and Methods

Titles hold a significant place in Uzbek anthroponymy. In Uzbek linguistics, A. Ishayev's article on titles specific to the Mangit dialect [1,229-234] was the first study in this area. Later, E. Begmatov conducted a comprehensive study on the status, distinct characteristics, semantic groups, and function of titles within the group of anthroponymic

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units, including their differences from other units [2,49-70]. The scholar describes titles as an "additional nominative category" similar to pseudonyms and surnames [3]. M. Rashidova also focused on collecting and researching titles in the Uzbek language, publishing a treatise on this subject [4].

N. Husanov explored certain historical titles within the scope of historical anthroponyms used in 15th-century Uzbek literary monuments [5, 22-121]. In his research on regional anthroponymy, S. Rahimov examined titles from the Khorezm dialectal area [6,22-23], while R. Khudoyberganov studied the variability specific to Khorezm dialect titles [7,26]. Recently, X. Qodirova conducted a monographic study on the structural-semantic and functional characteristics of titles in the Khorezm dialect [8]. However, as noted by the founder of Uzbek onomastics, E. A. Begmatov, "... Uzbek historical onomastics, including names found in ancient writings, historical works, memoirs, manuscripts on ethics, philosophy, and religious beliefs, and written archival materials of the Khiva, Kokand, Bukhara, and other khanates, remains largely unexplored" [3,22]. Historical anthroponymic units specific to the Kokand Khanate, including titles, have not been systematically collected or studied.

In this article, based on the achievements of the aforementioned scholarly works, one type of title collected from historiographical works related to the Kokand Khanate—titles attributed to positions and ranks—is analyzed through lexical-semantic, nominative-motivational, historical-etymological, and structural methods.

3. Results and Discussion

We collected more than 300 titles from historical sources related to the Kokand Khanate. Titles associated with positions, offices, and ranks occupy a significant place among these. When discussing such titles, attention should also be given to the lexical units related to position and rank.

The word *unvon* (title) is historically and etymologically derived from Arabic, originally meaning address, heading, name, sign, or symbol. In Old Uzbek, it was used in the sense of a hereditary or job-related level, as well as an honorary or distinguished title given as an award. In modern Uzbek literary language, it is used to denote an official recognition of special service or a level of expertise in a specific field, assigned and awarded by authorized bodies [9, 583-584].

E. Begmatov refers to such titles as "Titles Associated with a Person's Position and Rank" and notes that words indicating position and rank, when placed after the name, bestow upon them the characteristic of a title [3, 66-67].

In scholarly sources on the administration of the Kokand Khanate, the positions and titles within the khanate are classified into military-administrative, court, and religious categories, each of which is further divided into high, middle, and low levels and described accordingly [10, 6-21]. Based on these scholarly sources and the collected materials, we found it appropriate to thematically categorize the titles associated with positions and ranks as follows:

1. Titles Associated with Military-Administrative Positions and Ranks.
2. Titles Associated with Court Positions and Ranks.
3. Titles Associated with Religious Positions and Ranks.

Each of these categories is further divided into specific groups based on the level of position and rank.

I. Titles Associated with Military-Administrative Positions and Ranks

Such titles can be grouped based on the level of the position or rank:

1. *Titles Associated with High-Level Military-Administrative Positions and Ranks*

Words such as *mingboshi* (commander of a thousand), *amirlashkar* (commander-in-chief), *qushbegi* (head of an administrative office), *botirboshi* (chief warrior), *noib* (deputy), *qal'abon* (fort commander), *qo'rboshi* (head of defense), *yovar* (leader of a troop), *to'pchiboshi* (chief artillery officer), and *ponsodboshi* (commander of a specific group) form the basis of

these titles. For example, *mingboshi* is a military-administrative title that refers to the commander of a military unit composed of a thousand men. This figure would be equipped with a helmet, armor, a coat of mail, a spear, a sword, a bow and arrows, and would command lower-ranking leaders, including *onboshi* (leader of ten) and *yuzboshi* (leader of one hundred).

In the Central Asian khanates, including the Kokand Khanate, this was the second-highest rank after the khan, primarily overseeing military affairs. People holding such positions were given the title of *mingboshi*, such as Yusufboy Mingboshi and Abduqahhor Mingboshi (the son of Shomirzo the judge, who served as the *mingboshi* of Mingtepa during Khudoyorkhan's rule).

The title group also includes the titles *bahodirboshi* // *boturboshi* (chief warrior). In the Kokand Khanate, *bahodirboshi* // *boturboshi* was the head of a military unit subordinate to the city governor. The *boturboshi* was also responsible for managing tasks related to nomadic tribes. The troops under his command would fight alongside the khan's army during wars. Those holding this position were known as *bahodirboshi* or *boturboshi*, such as Otaqul Bahodirboshi, who served during Khudoyorkhan's time. However, the new governor, Otaqul Bahodirboshi, was reportedly unaware of this, as he was busy stamping documents inside the palace (T. Azizi, 27).

Noib (Arabic – deputy or assistant) was a title in medieval Muslim states for the governor of a subordinate region or province. Deputies were usually considered representatives of the supreme ruler. For instance, Otabek Noib served in Khudoyorkhan's government. "The ruler of the time (Khudoyorkhan), upon observing these matters, submitted to destiny, and consulted with Otabek Noib and Mullo Ma'ruf the judge" (Ibr. Khavoqin, 334).

Yovar (Persian) – In the Kokand Khanate, the commander of a division of one hundred artillerymen was called *yovar*. This military title holder was exempt from taxes. For example, Khudoyor Yovar was one of the nobles during Sheralixon's time: "Salikhkhoja, the son of Ota, equipped his forces with weaponry and sent them to his own troops, capturing and killing notable lords and leaders such as Shodi Mingboshi, Berdiali Yuzboshi, Mirolim Yuzboshi, Khudoyor Yovar, Mullo Izzatulloh Kohistoni, and several others" (T. Turkiston, 109).

2. Titles Associated with Middle-Level Military-Administrative Positions and Ranks

Words like *yuzboshi* (leader of one hundred), *ellikboshi* (leader of fifty), and *qorovulbegi* (guard commander) form the basis of these titles. For instance, *yuzboshi* was a military title denoting the leader of a hundred soldiers, a system practiced since the time of the Turkic Khaganate. The *yuzboshi* reported directly to the *mingboshi*, with ten *onboshi* under his command. This title was applied to figures such as Berdiali Yuzboshi (a noble during Sheralixon's time) and Mirolim Yuzboshi (also a noble during Sheralixon's time).

In Central Asian khanates, including the Kokand Khanate, the head of the military guard units was called *qorovulbegi*. Individuals holding this position were given the title *qorovulbegi*, such as Abdulkhaliq Qorovulbegi (a noble during Umar Khan's reign) and Oxun Qorovulbegi, son of Ibrohim the judge.

3. Titles Associated with Low-Level Military-Administrative Positions and Ranks

Words like *mergan* (sharpshooter), *mahram* (trusted companion), *botur* // *bahodir* (warrior), and *to'pchi* (artilleryman) form the basis of these titles. For instance, Muhammadsharif Mergan, Irisqulibek ibn Dostquli Bahodir (during Norbo'tabiy's time), Imomqulibiy ibn Dostqul Bahodir (brother of Irisqulibek and father-in-law of Norbo'tabiy, the Khan of Kokand), Abdurahmon Bahodir (during Norbo'tabiy's time), and Maqsud To'pchi / Maqsud Dodoxh To'pchi (a noble who served in Umar Khan's army)

II. Titles Associated with Palace Positions and Ranks

Titles associated with palace-specific positions and ranks are generally grouped as follows:

1. Titles Related to High-Level Palace Positions and Ranks

Words like *otaliq* (guardian or chief advisor), *beklarbegi* (chief of beks), *biy* (judge or noble), *devonbegi* (head of administration), *xazinachi* (treasurer), *inoq* (close advisor), *eshikog'asi* (chamberlain), *parvonachi* (issuer of orders), *dodxoh* (judge), *dasturxonchi* (table attendant), *sarkor* (supervisor), *sharbatdor* (beverage server), *oftobachi* (cupbearer), *tunqator* (night guard), *qushbegi* (birdkeeper or hunting master), and *hidoyatchi* (guide) serve as linguistic bases for these titles. For example, Mahmud O'taliq, Mullo Abdulmo'min O'taliq, Abdulg'afforbek Yuz ibn Rahim Devonbegi (governor of Kokand during Po'latxon's time), Bobo Devonbegi (governor of O'ratepa and brother of Khudoyorbek during the reign of Norbo'tabiy, 1763-1798), Mingsher Xazinachi (treasurer under Khudoyorkhan), Boborahim Inoq (son of Rajab Qushbegi Tajik, a commander in Amir Umar Khan's army), Tug'di Inoq (a commander under Muhammadalikhan), Do'stmuhammad Eshikog'asi, Abduazimboy Parvonachi (during Amir Umar Khan's time), Abdusamad Dodxoh (deputy of Kashgar under Muhammadalikhan), Azimboy Dodxoh (during Amir Umar Khan's reign), Boyzoq Dodxoh (appointed by the Kokand Khan to oversee Kazakhs around Avliyoota), Bahodirxoja Dasturxonchi (during Amir Umar Khan's time), Tandi Inoq Sarkor (commander who fought against the Kipchaks in Andijan during Sheralixon's time), Xoniquili Sarkor (head of Kattaqo'rg'on during Abdulkarimbey's time), Abdurahmon Sharbatdor (ambassador to Turkey from the Kokand Khanate during Muhammad Alikhan's rule, 1822-1842), Abdurahmon Oftobachi (son of Musulmonquli Kipchak, served Khudoyorkhan as *oftobachi* from 1865-1875, later promoted to *parvonachi* and then *mingboshi*), Abdulqodir Parvonachi (during Olim Khan's reign), Siddiq Tunqotar (during Sheralixon's time).

2. Titles Related to Middle-Level Palace Positions and Ranks

Titles like *kitobdir* (librarian or keeper of records), *risolachi* (record keeper), *bakovul* (supervisor), *mirzaboshi* (chief scribe), *sarmunshi* (head secretary), *mehtar* (attendant), *zakotchi* (tax collector), *miroxo'r* (stableman), *shig'ovul* (guard officer), *mirob* (water distributor), and *dorug'aboshi* (chief of guards) serve as linguistic bases for these titles. For instance, Mullo Azim (Abdujalil) Mirzaboshi (during Khudoyorkhan's time), Bozorquli Mehtar, Abdurasul Zakotchi (during Khudoyorkhan's time).

3. Titles Related to Low-Level Palace Positions and Ranks

Titles such as *salomog'asi* (greeting attendant), *mirzo* (scribe), *ja'mog'a* (collector), *munshi* (secretary), *surnaychi* (oboe player), and *karnaychi* (trumpet player) serve as linguistic bases for these titles. Each title in this group has its own unique linguistic origin and meaning. For instance, *mirzo* (from Arabic-Persian – "son of an emir, descendant of an emir") was a title used in Transoxiana from the late 14th to the 15th century for Timurid princes, descendants of Amir Timur, as part of their name (e.g., Jahangir Mirzo, Babur Mirzo). Later (from the 16th to the 19th centuries), it was also used as a title for secretaries (mirza). In the khanate, it was used to refer to scribes, and people in this position held titles based on this linguistic root: Toshmuhammad Mirzo (during Norbo'tabiy's time), Xoliqqul Mirzo (a noble under Olim Khan's service).

Munshiy or *munshi* (Arabic – secretary, writer) was a title for the personal secretary of khans or certain governors in the Central Asian khanates, responsible for correspondence and record-keeping. Only educated individuals with calligraphy skills were chosen for the role of *munshi*. As scholars and learned individuals, *munshis* were distinguished from ordinary scribes and were entrusted with writing letters and decrees for the khans and amirs. Such individuals were known as *munshi*, like G'ofirboy Mirzo Munshi and Mullo Yunusjon Munshi (during Khudoyorkhan's time).

III. Titles and Honorifics Related to Religious Positions and Titles

E. Begmatov categorized these types of titles under the group of relative honorifics, referring to them as "Religious Meaningful Relative Titles" and including honorary titles such as *vali*, *mulla*, *domla*, *mufti*, *maxsum* // *maqsum*, *maxzum*, *maxdum*, *mutavali*, *oxun*

// oxund, pir, so'fi, xo'ja, xalifa, eshon, shayx, qora, hoji, and others. [3, 68]. In our view, titles like eshon and sayid can also be considered titles that refer to social rank and position.

It is advisable to classify these religious titles and honorifics as follows:

1. ***Titles Related to High-Ranking Religious Positions and Titles***

Such titles include words like shayxulislom, xoja kalon, qozi ul-quzzot, qozi kalon, qozi mutloq, qozi askar, qozi rais, qozi jilov, muftiy, a'lam, etc. These words have an etymological basis. For example, the title "xoja kalon," which referred to the head or senior of a group of religious leaders, was a prestigious title given to sayyids (descendants of the Prophet Muhammad). In the group of anthroponyms specific to the Kokand Khanate, some titles related to this term are observed: To'raxoja xoja kalon – At that time, the friendship between Amir Umar Khan and Amir Haydar was well-established, and Amir Qiblagohim's uncle, the honored sayyid To'raxoja xoja kalon, was sent as an envoy to Bukhara, to Amir Haydar Khan's court. (Muntaxab., 338).

Qozikalon – the chief qazi, the highest-ranking qazi (head of the supreme court). In the Central Asian khanates, the qozikalon was the head of all qazi, religious leaders, and mullahs, overseeing them. The chief qazi managed both religious and judicial affairs. As in other Muslim countries, in the Khiva Khanate, where legal matters were governed by religious authorities, the qozikalon was the head of both legal matters and military administration. For example, Qozikalon Niyozmuhammad was one of the courtiers of Amir Umar Khan. "...During the reign of Olimkhon, certain officials were changed, and Muhammadnurxo'ja appointed a hundred Tajiks, with their flags and banners, to Qozikalon Niyozmuhammad and Abdulboqiy, among others, to join the ranks of the rulers..." (T.Turkiston, 81).

Qozikalon Ahmad Bobo – a qozikalon during the reign of Khudoyar Khan. At that time, the qozikalon was Ahmad Bobo, and his brother Qozikalon Muhammad Bobo, alongside other religious leaders such as Qozikalon Mullo Pochojon and Qozikalon Yunusali. (T.Aziziy, 30).

2. ***Titles Related to Mid-Ranking Religious Positions***

Such titles include words like oxun, sudur, naqib, mudarris, imom, imom xatib, imomi jilov, muazzin, so'fi jilov, mutavalli, and o'roq. For example, Kalla Oxun (a disciple of Valikhon, a leader of the mosque), Mullo Bozor Oxund/domla Bozor (a famous shaykh), Solih sudur // Solihxo'ja sudur (a military leader in Sheralikhon's state), Mahmudxo'ja jilav, Sarimsoqxo'ja eshon mudarris, and Shodmonxo'ja Toshkandiy o'roq (a political and military leader in the Kokand state).

Some individuals in the khanate had multiple titles. These titles emerged based on different aspects of a person's life. For example, titles such as Eshon To'ra o'roqi kalon – a shaykh during Amir Umar Khan's era (1810-1822): Sayyids used titles like Eshon To'raxoja xoja kalon, Sayyid Sul-tonxoja xoja kalon, Sayyid Qiblagohim shayxulislom, and Eshon To'ra o'roqi kalon..." (Muntaxab., 375).

Eshon xalifa Oltmish – a close associate of Khudoyar Khan: The father-in-law of Mirzo Mahmud, Eshon xalifa Oltmish, was known for his trustworthy and devout nature, and he was entrusted with important matters..." (T.jahonnamoyi, 163).

Additionally, in the era's anthroponymy, compound titles consisting of two title names were also used. This can be explained by the process of name simplification in the usage of these titles. For example, **Hoji dodxoh** – a governor of To'raqo'rg'on during Sheralikhon's era. This title had two religious honorifics as its etymological basis: "...In the night, To'raqo'rg'on was taken by storm, and its ruler, the cruel and weak Amir Hoji dodxoh, was responsible for the bloodshed and the scene that turned the field red..." (T. jahonnamoyi, 61).

In Kokand Khanate's anthroponymy, a model of name + title + nisba (relational title) is also encountered. These anthroponymic forms reflect encyclopedic data about a specific person. For example, **Sayyid G'oziy O'ratepagiy** – the father of Khanposhshon's concubine and a confidant of Amir Umar Khan. The following statement reflects his

connection: “Amir Hazratlar sent Sayyid G’ozi O’ratepagiy, who was subjected to their wrath and exile, along with his belongings, to this region...” (Muntaxab., 389).

In the anthroponymic form above, Sayyid is the personal name, G’oziy is the title, and O’ratepagiy is the nisba (denoting his place of birth). The title **G’oziy** means a participant in holy war or someone who has fought in a religious context, while **O’ratepagiy** indicates his birthplace.

Some composite titles also include religious title + military rank + personal name. For example, **Hoji Maqsud to’pchi** (Maqsud dodxoh to’pchi) – a military commander under Amir Umar Khan’s army. Hoji Maqsud to’pchi served with twelve cannons and their gunners. (Ibr.xavoqin, 419).

Domla Xolmuhammad rais and **Domla Xo’jamquli a’lam** – officials during Khudoyar Khan’s reign: “They were advised by prominent scholars, such as Shaykh ul-Islam Namangoniy, and the mudarris (teachers) of the Jome mosque, Khalifa Safo, Domla Xolmuhammad Rais, and Domla Xo’jamquli a’lam. Unfortunately, these and other scholars were ruthlessly executed by the government...” (T.Turkiston, 119).

There are also examples of titles in the combination of **religious title + military title + personal name: Hoji Mir Qurbon** – a secret envoy sent by Amir Umar Khan to the Sultan of Rum: “Earlier, Hoji Mir Qurbon, as part of a diplomatic mission, had visited the capital of the caliphate, Istanbul...” (Ibr.xavoqin, 418).

In some cases, combinations of **name + religious title (or nickname) + occupation** are found, such as **Sayyidxon Hoji tujjor** – a merchant during Khudoyar Khan’s era: “The wise Sayyidxon Hoji tujjor, seeing the state of affairs, decided to build schools, establish law and order, and improve the military with modern equipment...” (Ibr.xavoqin, 331).

4. Conclusion

The titles related to position, office, and status can be described with the following linguistic and sociocultural characteristics and functions:

1. **Independent Usage with Name:** These titles are used alongside a person’s name, based on their position or title, emphasizing their rank and office. They generally express a positive meaning related to the person’s duties, actions, and title.
2. **Distinction Among Individuals:** These titles serve to distinguish one person from another, particularly differentiating individuals with similar names based on their rank, position, and office.
3. **Indication of Social Status:** These titles point to the individual’s position, role, or title, reflecting their social standing in society, particularly in the context of the state, kingdom, or other such hierarchies.
4. **Historical Significance:** These titles belong to specific generations or families, being passed down from one generation to the next. They reflect dynastic and lineage continuity, indicating ancestral connections and relationships.
5. **Historical Context and State Position:** The titles related to positions, office, and ranks reflect the person’s role within a specific historical period, notably in the context of the Khokand Khanate, showing the rank, function, and status of individuals in the government and society throughout different times.
6. **Reward and Recognition:** In the khanates, including the Khokand Khanate, the activities, services, and loyalty of individuals were rewarded with titles, positions, and honors. These titles served as honorary names, reflecting respect, reverence, and encouragement for the individuals, thus also illustrating social stratification of the time.
7. **Structure of Titles:** These titles typically consist of compound structures, following models such as *name + position*, *name + title*, *position + name*, or *title + name*, often used alongside the person’s name.

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