

TOPONYMY OF FLAT LANDS OF KAZAKHSTAN
Toponomi Penceresinden Kazakistan Düzlükleri

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ABSTRACT

In this article toponymy of flatland of Kazakhstan is discussed. Principle of place spreading of toponyms, differing with a variety of environmental conditions, is shown. The map of oronyms of Kazakhstan with its' spreading over natural zones is presented. Also the important role of toponymic science in geomorphological researches is defined.

Keywords: *Kazakhstan, geomorphology, landscape, oronyms, flatlands, prairie landscape, natural zones*

ÖZET

Bu makalede Kazakistan'daki ova ve düz arazilerde yer alan coğrafi kavramlar toponimi penceresinden irdelenmişlerdir. Ayrıca makalede söz konusu toponimlerin mekân içindeki coğrafi dağılışı ve fiziki koşullara göre gösterdikleri değişimler tartışılmıştır. Çalışmada Kazakistan sınırları içindeki oronim kavramları ülke içinde yer alan farklı doğal kuşaklar çerçevesinde incelenmiş ve haritalanmıştır. Çalışmanın ele aldığı konulardan bir diğeri ise toponimi araştırmalarının jeomorfoloji bilimine olan etkisi ve katkısıdır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Kazakistan, jeomorfoloji, yer şekilleri, oronim, landschaft, bozkır düzlükleri, doğal kuşaklar*

1. INTRODUCTION

In science of toponymy examining in general land surfaces as the land (territory) and water space (aquatorium) is result of geographical regularity. Territories are also divided into orographical names (gr. oros "mountain" + onoma "name") of surface relief above land surface (a mountain, a hill, a height, a top, a hillock, and so on), the surface relief lower land surface (a plain, a lowland, a hollow, a bottomland, a clough, and so on). Some scientists remind that this term refers to a surface relief above land surface, as well as, to the entire land, generally to relief.

Variety of a form and shape of the surface relief promoted the richest orographic terminology. Oronyms are most often formed through geographical terms, the number of which are known, but which are often repeated. Kazakh oronyms geographically, got a special place in the writings in G. Koshkarbayev's works. Orographic terms highlighted in scientific works of such scientists as geographers G. Ts. Medoyev, E. M. Murzayev, linguists such as E. Kerimbayev, Sh. Dauletkulov, G. Ermekbayev, B. Biyarov [1].

2. THE ORIGINAL DATA AND RESEARCH METHODS

Indicator-terms as a part of oronim describe grouping property of the surface relief, and play a significant role during use of the nature. There is a peculiar feature in assignment of names to orographical objects on territories of Kazakhstan (figure 1). For example: In Saryarka which relief is characterized by low mountains, shallow hills, in a comparative form high mountains are called great, high, arrow-headed. For example: Ulytau (TN. literally – Great mountain), Karkaraly (Arrow-headed), Aksoran (White height), etc. Average and high tops of mountains are described by such terms as the stone, top, the slight residual mountain spurs which are part of the Ural Mountains entering Kazakhstan because of show up in the environmental lowland are called by the term "mountain". In the toponyms which are related to a steppe zone by color and a form are such names as: Aktau (TN. literally – White mountain), Akshatau (Whitish mountain), Karatau (Black mountain), Aiyrtau (Fork-mountain), Konyrtau (Brown mountain), Sarytau (Yellow mountain), Koktau (Blue mountain), Kokshetau (Bluish mountain), in connection with a lithology: Borlytau (Chalk mountain), Altyntau (Gold mountain), in connection with animals: Kargalytau (Cornive mountain), Teketau

(Goat mountain), Zhylandytau (Snake mountain). The indicator-terms describing the surface relief belonging to a steppe, desert and semidesertic zone can be seen in the table below (1, 2 table).

In the surface relief hollows plentifully gathers moisture, heat and a reserve of mineral substances. Even the smallest hillock changes the direction, speed of an airflow of the atmosphere of the terrestrial surface, distribution of moisture and heat balance.

3. MAIN PART

In the conditions of arid climate in connection with the fluctuating changes of providing with moisture the condition of the lake gets a response in names of lakes: *Kalgankol* (TN. literally Remained lake), *Tuzdykol* (Salty lake), *Kayrankol* (Shelf lake), *Shalakol* (Half-lake), etc. In the conditions of droughty climate shallow lakes in hollows dry up, and on their places are formed even places or water reserves in general called *takyr* (moor). In such hollows in hot summertime prevails airflow directed upwards, it promotes formation of friable material. It formed the hollows of a saline deflation giving a basis for toponyms: *Aktakyr* (TN. literally – white moor), *Kabantakyr* (Pig moor), *Takyr* (Moor), *Takyrashy* (Salty moor), etc. It defines need of basic researches for justification of geographical prerequisites of concentration and space distribution of names of the natural objects located in the territory of the Kazakhstan [2]. In semidesertic and desert zones are formed saline lands, saline lands generally are located in basins: *Aksor* (TN. literally – White saline land), *Karasor* (Black saline land), *Sarysor* (Yellow saline land), etc. So, an arrangement of steppe, semidesertic, desert zones in the big territory of Kazakhstan, a variety of forms of the surface relief (from lake and alluvial plains up to low mountains), complexity of shape from the lithological part of view, diversity of vegetation, generally features of a landscape are reflected in toponyms. Their combination in turn shaped the system of names describing the appearance of arid landscapes.

Many orographic terms: *a ravine, a ledge, a gulch, a fork*, etc., serve as hydronyms, sometimes placenames. This regularity is the common phenomenon which arose because of a physical-geographical location of objects. At the heart of the name characteristic to orographical names put appearance of the mountain (a volume, a shape, a color and so on) and only one sign among many involved in the nomination act and is

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a name basis. Each people notice all signs of objects and gives different names. If V. A. Nikonov notes stability of orographical names, V. A. Zhuchkevich says that in some territories the name of the settlement is much more ancient, than hydronym [2].

Table 1: *The taxonomical group of orographical terms as a part of toponyms*

№ Land surface classes	Land surface types	Land surface types species	Prevalent terms	Terms with limited spreading areals
Flatlands	Accumulative flatlands	marine accumulative	kara, kyzyly, oi, sai, sor, tau, tobe, tup, shagyl	don, zhota, kyl, oba, taipak, shoky, shoshak, shyn
		lacustrine alluvium	alan, batpak, oi, sai, sor, shunkyr	asar, zharyk, kum, oba, tuz, shat
		alluvium	baitak, dala, zhon, oi, oiyk, kopa, shukkyr	asar, kumak, taban, shokat
		proalluvium	adyr, bas, bauyr, dala, zhazyk, zhon, kara, kyr, oi, ozek	bokter, zhaima, etek, kankai, shoiyrylma
	Denudation flatlands	colus	dombak, zhal, konyr, kum, tobe, shagyl, shokat	asar, baiyr, zhar, kumak, turan, shoshak
		structural	bel, zhazyk, zhon, oi, takyr, tau, tobe, shagyl, shoky	adyr, kiya, kolka, oba, tobe, tortkul, shongal
	sculptural	adyr, dala, zhal, sai, tas	nura, serek, shat	
Hilly and low hilly areas	Techtonical	high, stem, hill, black, slope, red, peak, saline, peak, flint, gorge, sandy mound	biik, din, zhartas, kara, kiya, kyzyly, sengir, soran, tobe, shakpak, shat, shoshak	dombak, koktas, sayak, dogalan, koinak, kyly, kyr, tukyl, shat
	Denudation	elevation, boules, peak, hill, rubble, top, saline, mound	adyr, burat, zhal, zhartas, keregetas, koitas, konyrtas, naizatas, sengir, serek, soran, shoky	dogalan, koinak, kyly, kyr, tukyl, shat
	Erosional		adye, zhar, kara, kyr, kyrka, moiyn, oba, tau, tobe, shoky, sholak	kemer, kabak

The earth's cover characterized by various forms in territories that became the subject of studies, gives the good chance for development of nomadic cattle breeding. Kazakhs paid special attention to a relief of the local earth in the organization of estation and were able to use it favourably. They increased the ability to get deeper secrets of nature, determine the form of the relief of the local earth when moving on pasture lands: to the summer, winter, spring and autumn settlements. Nomads from olden times understood that pastures near Irtysh are full of thickets, a juicy grass, convenient for hay preparation and the gorges

between mountains are full of rivers, lakes and springs, hilly fertile districts are good pastures. When moving to the summer settlement, spending the night places movement moved slowly, allowing cattle to eat all grass [2]. It was doubtful to rescue cattle from a death without well familiar winter settlement and winter pastures. Winter settlements had to be placed in shelters of heights and hillocks, between canes and trees, in hollows of the woods and in solar ravines between mountains to be protected from a northeast wind. Movement according to seasons at cattle breeding had geocological nature. At the description of seasonal features of pastures, E. M. Masanov wrote the following: "usually winter settlements of nomads placed near the rivers and lakes with dense grass where little snow falls. On hills and heights where the wind always blows, the cattle was grazed seldom. The form of the surface relief gave many opportunities for expansion of a winter feed for cattle. At the beginning and the end of winter they used steppe and mountain districts, and in the middle of the winter they usually used slopes and Northern sides of tops [3]. Actions of the nomads subordinated to an environment in designations of the surface relief resulted in a myriad of geographical terms. Terms consisting of oronyms exactly defined the surface relief and played an important role in use of an environment. If oronymy terms defining heights of the earth, such as: *tau* (mountain), *tobe* (hill), *shoky* (hillock), *adyr* (height), *zhar* (cutbank), *oba* (barrow), describing a low relief: *sai* (ravine), *zhyra* (swashway), *kemer* (bench), *ozek* (gap), *otkel* (rift), *shunkyr* (hollow), *shungyl* (deep); describing flat lands: *dala* (steppe), *zhazyk* (plain), *kyr* (crest), *kum* (sand), *zher* (land), *saz* (clay), *topyrak* (soil), *batpak* (tarn) and so on (1-2 tables) make up 27,5% of all toponyms (more than 5400) in the East Kazakhstan region, Pavlodar region were defined 525 oronyms (11,9% of all toponyms) [4]. Thanks to this you can understand just how prevalent is an orographical terminology on natural zones in connection with distinction of a relief and forms of the Earth's surface.

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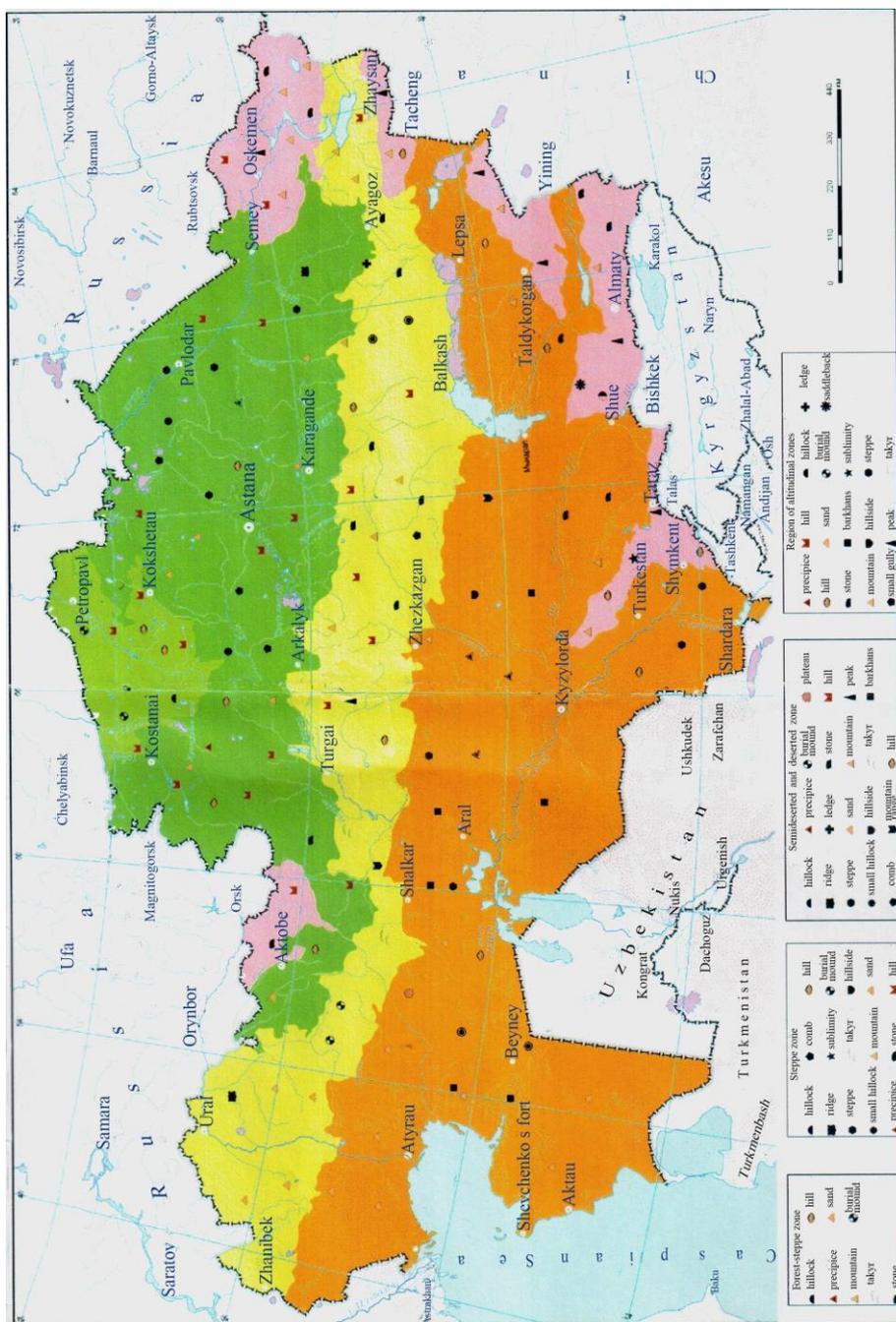


Figure 1: The oronym map of research area

In group of orographical names the singular place is taken by toponymy of steppe places. Terms describing even territories of the surface relief – *the steppe, immense, open, the earth, the plateau, the ridge, a height* and so on are often found in steppes of *Irtys* river region and the *Kulandy* steppe (*Belagash* plain, *Balapan* height, *Ali* plain), *Eraly* plain, *Saryzhazyk*, *Shyngys*, *Kokpekti* steppes and in *Zhaisan* and *Alakol* basin [2]. The word *Kyr* (crest) is the geographical term peculiar to the Mongolian languages.

So call the crest, a height stretching behind the *Irtys* River. The phrase "Mal kyrda zhailyyp zhur" (the cattle is grazed on the crest) is common among local Kazakhs (around *Akkuly*, *Bayanayl* of *Irtys*). Names of hills, mountains, settlements such as *Alakyr*, *Kyrtogan*, *Kyr*, *Kokenkyry* on the basis of the term *Kyr* meet in the east of the country. By the word *Zhazyk* are called lowland territories. In huge territories of the stretched *Saryarka* there are boundless, open steppes of *Kulandy*. In many terms reflected the geomorphological processes which are taking place between the *Irtys* River and steppes: *zhyra* (ravine), *ozek* (gap), *sai* (clough), *angar* (valley), *aral* (island), *sai* (clough), *alkap* (hollow), *kemer* (bench), *kabak* (brow), *betkey* (slope), *saz* (clay), *topyrak* (soil), *otkel* (rift), *or* (ditch), *oy* (clough), etc. [1]. In ancient Turkic language a general meaning of the widespread geographical term *zhazyk*, *yasi*, *yazy*, etc. is "the widespread plain". In steppes generally meets the land relief without shallow ravines, heights, and different roughnesses. In Kazakhstan there are a lot of small plains which are found both between mountains, and the huge plains stretching out beyond the horizon.

Table. 2: Indicater-terms of the east and nourth-east Kazakhstan's oronyms

Oronyms	Indicater-terms
Defining high land surface	adyr, angar, aral, asu, biyk, buirat, buzhyr, dara, dombak, din, don, zhar, zangar, irek, kez, kemer, kyrat, kezen, kesik, kerish, kolat, kiya, kuys, kuz, kungei, kyr, samsy, sengir, silem, suyir, syrt, sauyr, oba, or, tau, tas, tekshe, tubek, tompak, urpek, shagyl, shatkal, shyn, shat, shoky, shoshak
Defining low land surface	airyk, etek, zharyk, zhyra, koby, kemer, ozek, otkel, oiyk, sai, shukyr, shungyl, shuryk, shunkyr, ura
Defining neutral land surface	alan, alkap, ashyk, baitak, dala, zhazyk, zher, kum, saz, topyrak
Orographical metaphors	aidar, azu, auz, alkym, arka, aiyak, bas, baltyr, bauyr, bakai, bel, buyn, burym, buirek, zhal, zhambas, zhauyr, zhurek, zhelke, zhon, zhot, iyk, kabak, kabyrga, karyn, kas, kaska, kol, kolka, koiyn, kindik, mandai, moiyn, muryl, san, taban, tanau, tos, tobe, tis, tumsyk, taz, shat, ish.

In lakes and beds of the rivers flowing on slopes of the mountains terms *oiys* (vug), *oypat* (lowland), *kazanshunkyr* (basin) give plentiful information on the surface relief. In particular: *Alakol*, *Zhaisan*, *Markakol*, *Bobrov*, *Zyryan*, *Leninogor*, *Orlov*, *Naryn*, *Sibe*, *Taiynty*, *Shilikti*, etc.

Names of lowlands, valleys, canyons, hollows between mountains are also names specific to mountain areas. According to the English Encyclopaedist Allan, in scientific literature the word "steppe" meets 54 meanings. And in "the Geobotanical reference book" of O. S. Grebenshchikov the steppe on the features shares on 23 categories. Unlike other ecosystems in the biosphere, the steppe vicinity can be called as "last child" of the nature [5]. L. N. Gumilev writes that the Great steppe is "cradle" of the nomads taking the peculiar special place in a human civilization. The steppe connecting to infinity takes away not only the view of the person living on its open spaces, but also his feelings, changeable nature of the steppe enriches not only knowledge but also feelings, endless sky of the steppe, bright light, without uniform shadow not only soars the imagination of the person, but also in this imagination forces to look for strength of the Founder, and at the end, the people living in ecological arrhythmic conditions of the steppe take for a survival guarantee life in harmony with the nature. Assuming that the creature is the result of the ecosystems in which they live, whole existence of the ethnoses created in steppes can be understood more deeply only in combination with the environmental nature. And for the Kazakhs created as nomadic ethnoses, the concepts "*dala* (steppe)", "*atameken* (fatherland)" first of all grow together with cultural and spiritual life. *Dala* (steppe) – the proof of spiritual settled life of the Kazakh people [6]. Scientist, investigating place names of Kazakhstan and Central Asia, E. M. Murzayev, proved that "*dala* (steppe)" is the geographical term of Turkic language ("*Dala*" – turk. mong. plain, field).

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Steppe landscapes of plains completely occupy the territory of the Pavlodar region, almost completely cover Akmola, Kostanay regions, and also, occupy northern part of Aktobe, West Kazakhstan, Karaganda, East Kazakhstan regions. Therefore in our analyses place names of these regions will be generally covered.

The type of a steppe landscape is formed on even and slightly elevated lake and alluvial plains with absolute height from 11 m up to 150 meters and takes about 30% of the territory of Kazakhstan. Landscapes of a steppe zone are peculiar to the Kostanay steppe, the Kokshetau height, the Atbasar steppe and northern part of Irtysh basin. The called landscapes of the respective steppes are covered with a thick layer of clay created during a Neogene era, on the left-hand coast its surface covers the sandy and clay loess with thickness of 10-20 m., and sand thickness up to 20 m is peculiar to the right coast of alluvial plain of Irtysh. [7].

According to researches of K. Mambetaliyev, 29% of all names of a steppe zone make orographical indicator-terms [8]. Perhaps therefore, in the flesh, in the blood of the Kazakh people it is easy to notice a freedom of the steppe, carefree life, immense world. For the Kazakh people, grown free in embraces of the steppe special value has independence, infinity, abundance. And such names as "uninhabited steppe – deserted place, boundless steppe – left place, pale steppe – abandoned countryside, naked steppe – wide plain – wide steppe – anhydrous deserted wide steppe, dry steppe without any rain" describing national spiritual substance of the Kazakh people help to make the conclusion to the Kazakh toponyms, to distinguish stages of their development, to systematize them. Orographical names: *Akdala* (4 times), *Baydala* (2 times), *Kokdala* (4 times), *Sarydala* (7 times), *Dalakydyk*, *Dalatobe*, *Kendala* form the toponymic image of flat territories (Abay, Ayagoz, Beskaragai, Borodulikha, Zharma area). Definitions *ak* (white), *sary* (yellow), *Kok* (green), *bai* (rich), *ken* (wide), etc. bound to these toponyms show that the Kazakh people gave the spiritual substance even to common nouns adding them new functional value and indicating addition of attributes.

For the world of the nomads able to turn wide steppe under the terms of seasons in a life source, place names have special meaning. As the orientalist, academician V. V. Bartold wrote, in Central Asia namely among the Turkic people the names of toponyms strike with the modesty, clarity and sharpness, the complete susceptibility and historical accuracy. In this regularity we see the purpose of the people in precise distinguishing of features of a relief of mountains and the wide steppe. Names of the majority of the hills which are often found on flat territories

are connected with the word “Karauyl” (guard). The center of the Abay region is Karauyl village, around Zharna region is located Karauyl tobe (Guard hill), and Karauyl tobe (659 m) in Urzhar region and so on. These hills correspond to the orographical names describing hills from which the wide steppe, an approaching enemy was observed. The landscape and pasturable terms designating the nonuniform relief of a terrestrial surface: *kum* (sand), *saz* (clay), *dala* (steppe), *shagyl* (barkhan) describe a coupling of a soil and vegetable cover of the local earth, its condition, influence of ecological factors. Orographical names describing natural condition is characterized by a system of formation, history, ethnolinguistic and structural features [6].

Widely widespread form of a relief of hilly territories are hills (Kaz. *tobeler*). A spherical form, with gentle slopes, with a relative height up to 200 m – this form of a relief is called hills. From the morphological point of view except the isolated hills of spherical and the extended forms, differ crests, ridges, heights [9]. *Tobe* (hill) term which is found in different orographical objects is reflected in 68 names (table 2). Spherical, high places of different height often occur in names of mountains, lakes, summer settlements, winter settlements, old settlements. *Aktobe* (White hill) (3 mountains), *Bastobe* (*Chef hill*), *Koktobe* (*Green hill*) mountain, old settlement, *Kyzyltobe* (*Red hill*), *Konyrtobe* (*Brown hill*), *Sarytobe* (Yellow hill) (5 times), old settlement *Karatobe* (*black hill*) names have their own features. The names specifying a form of the hill like *Zhauantobe* (TN. literally – Thick hill) – 610 m, *Ulkentobe* (Big hill) for receiving orientation Karauyltobe (Guard hill) (5 times), showing quantity of hills like *Zhalgyztobe* (Lonely hill) (7 times), *Kostobe* (Pair hill), *Bestobe* (Five hills), *Ekytobe* (Two hills), *Ushyto* (Three hills) (8 times). Name Baygetobe (Finish) (2 mountains) gave when carrying out races. *Adyr* (Hillock) is a low, remotely placing stone height or the average stone mountain or top. According to G. Konkashbayev meaning of the term *adyr* (hillock) changes.

The word *Adyr* (hillock) can be found in many Turkic languages. E. M. Murzayev precisely specified how the geographical meaning of word “*adyr*” changes in Turkic-speaking territories, as well as etimologic homogeneous communication between words “*adyr*” and “*aiyr*” (doubled), and that in the old Turkic language “*aiyr*” meant "fork" [10]. It

is possible to specify names describing various features of a terrestrial relief: *Akadyr* (White hillock), *Karaadyr* (Black hillock) (3 times), *Kyzyladyr* (Red hillock) (5 mountains), *Saryadyr* (Yellow hillock) (5 mountains), names describing favorable, unfavorable environment: *Sholaldyr* (Dry hillock), *Zhylyadyr* mountain (Warm hillock) – 690 m., *Zheldyadyr* mountain (Windy hillock) – 371 m., *Zhamanadyr* mountain (Bad hillock) – 443 m., etc. The name *Bayanadyr* (Strong hillock) – 330 m – mong. rich, beautiful, came from properties of a landscape. *Kandyadyr* mountain (Bloody hillock) – 723 m., according to historical data there was a fight between Kazakhs and strangers after the Junngar invasion of 1757 in this district. Many people were lost and a place called *Kandyadyr* [11].

On the territory of East Kazakhstan region with small sharp hills there are frequent orographical terms *buirat* (range), *don* (plug), *dongal* (ridge), *dombak* (high), *kyrat* (height), *ustyrt* (plateau), *shoky* (top). A range (*buirat*) is the district with shallow sharp hills. There were names *Buirat*, *Akbuirat* (White range), *Karabuirat* mountain (Black range), hills (7 times) (*Ayagoz*, *Semei*, *Urzhar*, *Tarbagatay*). *Don* (Plug) is a tuberos sloping heights or hills of small height. There are names *Akdon* (White plug), *Donshy* (Tuberos), *Dontobe* (Tuberos hill), *Karadon* (Black plug). The term *dongal* used to indicate the form of the surface relief larger hills. *Karadongal* (Black ridge), *Sarydongal* mountain (Yellow ridge) names of winter settlements. *Dombak* (high) – tuberos and large heights. In *Abay* and *Ayagoz* regions there are names *Akdombak* (White high), *Kokdombak* (Green high) (2). *Kyrat* (height) – part of flat, the low raised mountains [2]. The *Kalba* height connects shallow tops of Kazakhstan side with spurs of *Tarbagatay*. Got a trapezium in cross-section, extending in length, narrow little hill called *kyrka* (range). The narrowest, stretching by ranks, triangular in a cross section, with sharp tops similar to canines, the average height is called *zhal* (ridge). There are about 100 oronymical names on the basis of the term *zhal* (ridge). *Akzhal* (White ridge) (18 times), *Zhal* (Ridge) (4 times), *Aygyrzhal* (7 times), *Karazhal* (Black ridge) (38 times), *Saryzhal* (Yellow ridge) (13 times), etc. There is a set of ridges. *Zhon* (Plateau) – with steep slopes, blurry round bottom, long located view of hills with passes. Names *Zhon*, *Akzhon* (White plateau) (3 times), *Itzhon* (Dog plateau), *Suluzhon* (Beautiful plateau) (2 times), *Konyrzhon* (Brown plateau) (3 times) give

an idea of features of a plateau. Pointed plugs, tapered or with round domed tops are called tops (shoky). There are names: *Aiyrshoky* (Crescent-shaped top), *Akshoky* (White top) (8 times), *Karashoky* (Black top) (10 times), *Kyzylshoky* (Red top) (5 times), *Konyrshoky* (Brown top) (3 times), in connection with quantity – *Kosshoky* (Pair top), *Besshoky* (Five tops) and *Sulushoky* (Beautiful top) (3 times), *Zhetimshoky* (Lonely top), *Myrzashoky* (Generous top), *Tasshoky* (Stone top) (about 60).

Ustirt (plateau) – the common name of the heights, which are usually often found in Kazakhstan and Central Asia. In Altai there are plateaus with names *Konyrzhon*, *Ukok*. *Zhar* (cutbank) (40 names) – the geographical term describing cliff of the river or with a steep slope. On banks of Irtysh exist cutbank with names *Aygyrzhal*, *Kyzylzhar* (Red cutbank), *Akzhar* (White cutbank), *Ulken Akzhar* (Big white cutbank) and also in Urzhar region there are cutbanks with names *Uryzhar* (Thieves' cutbank) (*Akzhar*), there is *Kysykhzhar* (Curve cutbank) next to it *Kishizhar* (Small cutbank), *Pushykhzhar* (Snubby cutbank), etc [4]. Hydronyms created with the term *Zhar* (cutbank) – *Karazhar ozeni* (the river Black cutbank), *Zharsu* (Steep water), *Zharlykol* (The lake with steep coast), *Zharkaiyn* (Birch cutbank), *Zharsor* (Saline cutbank) describe shape of object. According to legends, earlier, when Tarbagatay (Barkytbel) did not receive the name yet, from its South side there was Balkhash, and on the other hand till Alakol the territory was covered with dense forests, clear springs, the large rivers. The most beautiful on that territory was a river Urzhar (Uryzhar). For the travelers who are looking for loss, batyrs looking for the gone cattle and climbing up a high cutbank opened the view of the fine nature hidden from strangers' eyes by beautiful and plumb cutbank. Brilliant white *Akzhar* (White cutbank) later was renamed in Uryzhar (Thieves' cutbank) [12]. According to K. Kaymuldinova the name Urzhar at first was appropriated to the river, and then the top stream. In ancient times a caravan passed along the river through the internal areas. Therefore the river was called "Ury Zhar" (Thieves' cutbank). Natural process to call mountains where disappeared all thieves by such name. According to historical data, it is known, what even in the XIX century robbers under Sybankul Hankozha's leadership constantly plundered the caravans going from Chuguchak. Construction of Urzhar fortress was associated with these events [13]. According to A.

Yu. Skopin, part till the village Urzhar, steep of a bed of the river Urzhar was in the form of the canon of 5-8 m high.

Besides from an arrangement of cutbank above a watercourse could be names *Orzhar* (Top cutbank), *OrliZhar* (Ennobled cutbank). But nevertheless, in scientific etymology the word "Up" in classic Turkic language meant an adjective "white, pale". Then "Urzhar" in a direct meaning means just the direct name "Akzhar" (White cutbank). It is possible to sum up that the name *Akzhar* turned in *Urzhar* (Uryzhar) (Thieves' cutbank) for the historical reasons.

In the Kurshim region on the Kalzhyr river are many cutbanks. Local people called them *Kalynzhar* (Innumerable steepes) seeing uncountable ravines and knowing that they cannot be passed. Over time the name turned in "*Kalzhyr*" [14].

Often terms *zharyk* (cleft), *kemer* (ledge), *sai* (hollow), *shat* (narrow), *Zhyra* (ravine), *shunkyr* (basin) describing the land relief which is below the surface meet. *Kabak* (brow) – the raised tuberos height. With the term *Kabak* names *AkKabak* (White brow), *KaraKabak* (Black brow), *KokKabak* (Green brow), *KosKabak* (Pair brow), *TikKabak* (Direct brow), *Mortykabagy* (Brow overgrown with bluegrass) were created (Or Altai, Bayan, Semey) (11 names). *Сай* (hollow) – (24 times) the period when a ravine ceases to grow and the bottom of a ravine is leveled, and slopes become flat, and become covered by vegetation. The bottom is dry, when snow melts or when rain temporarily flow a stream [14]. E. M. Murzayev considers "*sai*" in the meaning of a talus of a gravel, the shallow place, a dry bed, a gulch of a ravine, gap.

The name of the mountain *Agynsay* (literally – Stream on a hollow) – 758 m, determines a flow rate by gulch, names of *Shagansay* (Small hollow), the river *SholAksay* (Short hollow) determines length, and names of *Ekysay* (Two hollows), *Kensay* (Wide hollow), *Ushsay* (Three hollows) define quantity. The name of the lake, a settlement like *Eginsay* (Hollow with crops) bound to flora, and winter settlement *Zhylysay* (Warm hollow) on the river Talsay (Hollow with trees) indicates an arrangement in the place protected from bad weather. Often meets the names created with the terms describing a land relief lower earth's surface: *an* (hole), *or* (ditch), *oi* (lowland), *oiyk* (hollow), *shukyr* (trench), *shynkyr* (funnel), *Shungyl* (deep), *шұрлық* (through), *Ura* (hole).

For example, around Katonkaragay there is village with name Park. 10 years ago inhabitants renamed it into *Almaral*. Long since, this place was called *Ura*. Hollow in the form of a hole where the wind did not reach quite justified the name. Word “Ura” was not pleasant for present generations, and they renamed it into *Almaral*, which is not related to an origin of this land [1].

Zhyra (ravine) – the local term (sometimes hydronym) describing features of the land relief. There are names *Zhyra*, *Karazhyra* (Black ravine), *Baszhyra* (Beginning) pointing to a source, *Maksut Zhyrasy* (Maksut's Ravine) which came from an antroponym, *Altynai Zhyrasy* (Altynay's ravine), etc. *Shunkyr*(funnel) – irregular, lower located hollow's part. The specified terms for to the concept "located lower than the earth level" also mean a deep hollow. According to names *Bayshukyr* (Rich hollow), *Mynshynkyr* (Thousand funnels), *Shukyr* (hollow), *Shunkyr* (Funnel), *Shukyrsaz* (Clay hollow)), *Shukyrkalzhyr* (Strong hollow)), *Shungyl* (Deep), *Shungylairyk* (Deep fork) and so on, it is possible to come to conclusion that they are very widespread and in particular degree describe a relief of the earth [2].

5. CONCLUSION

Our researches affected an orographical names of part of vicinities of east, northeast of Kazakhstan, that is toponymy of plains. Regularity of widespreading in space of the toponyms distinguishing a variety of natural circumstance became clear. We learned that system of toponyms, full of physiographic, ethnographic data describe forms of the surface relief, feature of a landscape. Systematization of an orographical names of the studied territory, classification of term systems, recovery of place names will render assistance in communication of toponymics with other sciences. It became clear that orographical names of the flat district are formed from the geographical point of view, supplement informational loading with precise data.

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