



## THE ROLE OF PSEUDONYMS IN THE ONOMASTIC SYSTEM OF THE UZBEK LANGUAGE

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### Introduction

The onomastic system of the Uzbek language is a complex linguistic layer that includes personal names, nicknames, toponyms, ethnonyms, and pseudonyms. Within this system, pseudonyms represent a distinct category that plays an important role in expressing the creator's personal identity, artistic style, and socio-cultural worldview.

The historical evolution of pseudonyms ranges from ancient Turkic written monuments to classical literature, the Jadid period, and the modern era, where they have performed different functions. The phenomenon of pseudonyms in Uzbek literature is significant not only as a form of creative signature but also as a means of expressing national identity. Therefore, their study from linguistic, semantic, and cultural perspectives is highly relevant for Uzbek linguistics and literary studies.

The analysis of pseudonymic nominations shows that pseudonyms possess a specific semantics, and their roots often reflect a person's character traits, physical features and shortcomings, behavior, origin, various objects, animals, plants, profession, occupation, social status, life events, and more. In this regard, metaphorical processes—particularly metonymy and metaphonymy (as identified in cognitive linguistics)—play an important role in the creation of pseudonyms.

### Methods

The research was based on the following methods:

- **Historical-linguistic analysis** — the formation of pseudonyms from ancient Turkic sources to the modern period was examined.

- **Comparative analysis** — Uzbek literary pseudonyms were compared with those in Persian-Tajik and Arabic literary traditions.
- **Semantic analysis** — the motivational structure, symbolic meanings, and poetic functions of pseudonyms were analyzed.
- **Discursive approach** — the role of pseudonyms in creating virtual identity in the modern internet environment was considered.

Based on this methodology, the role of pseudonyms in the onomastic system was identified as a linguistic unit, and their semantic and cultural functions were systematically described.

The semantic motivations behind these anthroponyms are primarily associated with:

- social status and external appearance;
- professions;
- toponyms;
- religious beliefs and faith;
- names of animals and plants;
- family relationships.

## Results

### 1. Historical Stages

- **Ancient period** — early forms of nicknames and personal names.
- **Classical period** — pseudonyms of poets such as Navoi and Babur formed the foundation of the national literary school.
- **Jadid period** — pseudonyms of writers such as Cholpon, Fitrat, and Qodiriy became symbols of national awakening.
- **Modern period** — pseudonyms are widely used in the internet and social media as forms of virtual identity.

### 2. Linguistic Features

- **Semantic motivation** — a pseudonym reflects the poet's worldview, creative direction, or national values.
- **Structural formation** — phonetic harmony, brevity, and memorability of form.

- **Functional role** — artistic signature, social symbol, and means of expressing national identity.

### 3. Place in the Onomastic System

Although pseudonyms are related to anthroponyms, their poetic and cultural functions distinguish them as a separate category. In the onomastic system, pseudonyms occupy a unique position as linguistic units that combine personal, aesthetic, and socio-cultural meanings.

| Onomastic unit       | Characteristics                             | Relation to pseudonym                                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Personal name</b> | Identifies an individual                    | A pseudonym often replaces a personal name in an artistic form        |
| <b>Nickname</b>      | Based on personal traits or characteristics | A pseudonym is close to a nickname but has a poetic function          |
| <b>Toponym</b>       | Geographical names                          | Some pseudonyms are derived from toponyms (e.g., “Bukhari”)           |
| <b>Ethnonym</b>      | Names of tribes and peoples                 | A pseudonym may express ethnic identity                               |
| <b>Pseudonym</b>     | Creative signature, poetic symbol           | Performs aesthetic and cultural functions within the onomastic system |

#### Discussion

Onomastics is currently developing worldwide and increasingly attracting the attention of researchers who study proper names using modern linguistic approaches. This is due to the fact that the study of names, their origins, and naming processes has become a central focus for linguists, ethnographers, and onomasticians.

Pseudonyms in the onomastic system of the Uzbek language have developed as a special type of anthroponym and play an important role in defining the creative style of poets and writers, expressing national identity, and creating virtual identity in the modern era.

- In the **classical period**, pseudonyms were used as religious, Sufi, and aesthetic symbols.



- In the **Jadid period**, pseudonyms became a symbol of national awakening and resistance to colonial domination.
- In the **modern period**, pseudonyms are interpreted as personal brands and instruments of identity formation in the digital environment.

This process is closely connected with the historical evolution of Uzbek literature and broader cultural transformations.

### Conclusion

Pseudonyms have been formed in the onomastic system of the Uzbek language as a distinct linguistic and cultural unit. Unlike personal names and nicknames, they function as creative signatures, poetic symbols, and expressions of national identity.

For this reason, their study from linguistic, semantic, and cultural perspectives is highly relevant for Uzbek linguistics and literary studies. From the earliest stages of classical literature through the Jadid period to the modern era, pseudonyms have performed different functions.

Anthroponymic forms include personal names, pseudonyms, nicknames, surnames, and patronymics. The system of personal names, or the anthroponymic system, refers to a set of conventions regulating the selection and usage of personal names within a particular society.

Personal names may consist of one or several components, such as given names, surnames, and patronymics.

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