

Eureka Journal of Language, Culture & Social Change (EJLCSC)

ISSN 2760-4926 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 2, February 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/3>

FORMATION OF PHYTONYMS THROUGH MORPHOLOGICAL MEANS IN THE EPIC ‘ALPOMISH

Nekboeva Rano Zokirovna,
Senior Teacher, University of Economics and Pedagogy,
Karshi, Kashkadarya, Uzbekistan;
email: ranonekboyeva924@gmail.com
tel: +998919499414“

Abstract

This study explores the morphological formation of phytonyms—lexical units derived from plant names—in the Uzbek epic Alpomish. It investigates how morphological processes such as suffixation and derivation contribute to building vivid botanical images that serve as metaphors and similes within the oral poetic structure. The article analyzes suffix forms like -day, -dayin, and others originating from dialectal variation, highlighting their grammatical and stylistic roles in developing phytonyms. By combining linguistic, folkloric, and dialectological perspectives, the work reveals how morphological creativity supports semantic depth and aesthetic richness in Uzbek epic traditions, reinforcing cultural values and oral heritage.

Keywords: Phytonyms, morphology, Uzbek epic, Alpomish, suffixation, folk poetics, dialectology, metaphor, oral tradition

1. Introduction

The epic Alpomish represents a cornerstone of Uzbek oral literary heritage, embodying the collective cultural consciousness and artistic expression of the people. Central to its poetic artistry is the use of rich, evocative imagery, among

Eureka Journal of Language, Culture & Social Change (EJLCSC)

ISSN 2760-4926 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 2, February 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/3>

which botanical symbolism—expressed through phytonyms—features prominently. Phytonyms, or plant-based lexical units, serve not only as literal names of flora but also as metaphorical devices conveying emotions, character traits, and situational nuances.

The formation of these phytonyms in *Alpomish* largely depends on morphological derivation. Through processes such as suffixation, the epic's language transforms basic plant names into adjectival, adverbial, and other derivative forms that expand expressive capabilities. This morphological creativity heightens the vividness of similes and enhances the narrative's emotional resonance, contributing to the oral tradition's dynamism.

Previous scholarship has touched upon the poetic and semantic importance of similes and metaphors in Uzbek folklore (Yoldosheva, 1986; Komilov, 2008). However, less attention has been devoted to the morphological mechanisms underlying phytonym formation in epic texts. This article aims to fill this gap by systematically analyzing how morphological means contribute to the construction of phytonyms in *Alpomish*, emphasizing suffixational patterns and dialectal influences.

2. Theoretical Framework and Methodology

This research employs an interdisciplinary theoretical framework, drawing primarily on morphology, folklore poetics, and dialectology. From a morphological perspective, the study focuses on derivational processes, with particular emphasis on suffixation as a productive means of generating new lexical items—especially plant-related terms or phytonyms—from established roots. Folklore poetics offers a critical lens through which to interpret the symbolic functions of these lexical items within the oral poetic context of the epic *Alpomish*, illuminating how morphological forms contribute to imagery and meaning-making. Dialectology provides additional depth by tracing the origins and distribution of morphological variants used in the epic, notably those derived

Eureka Journal of Language, Culture & Social Change (EJLCSC)

ISSN 2760-4926 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 2, February 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/3>

from Kipchak dialects and urban speech varieties, underscoring the sociolinguistic texture of the text.

The empirical basis of the analysis is grounded in a close textual examination of *Alpomish*, supplemented by authoritative linguistic descriptions of Uzbek dialects (Doniyorov, 1979; Isayev, 1990) and previous scholarly studies focused on folk similes and figurative language (Yoldosheva, 1986). The investigation pays particular attention to morphological suffixes such as *-day*, *-dayin*, *-ona*, and *-larcha*, which are prominent in the formation of phytonyms within the epic's stylistic formulaic constructions. By analyzing these suffixes, the study aims to elucidate their dual role as both grammatical markers and carriers of cultural and aesthetic significance in Uzbek oral tradition.

3. Morphological Formation of Phytonyms

3.1. Suffix *-day* and Its Variants

The suffix *-day* functions as a primary morphological device for forming phytonyms in *Alpomish*. Originating from Kipchak dialects, this suffix attaches to plant names to create adjectival forms that engender simile constructions. For instance, *gul dai* (flower-like) serves as a foundational morphological pattern used extensively in poetic formulas: *gul dai yuz* (face like a flower), *gul dai bahor* (spring-like as a flower), etc.

The variant *-dayin*, also Kipchak-derived and stylistically marked, embellishes these similes further by adding both grammatical and expressive value. For example, *olmadayin* (apple-like) and *gul dai in* suggest intensified or nuanced imagery conveying emotional or descriptive subtleties.

By way of comparison, the suffix *-dek*—originating from urban dialects—is minimally used or completely absent in the epic's phytonymic formations, underscoring the dialectal specificity and oral heritage significance of *-day/-dayin* forms (Doniyorov, 1979).

3.2. Other Morphological Means

Eureka Journal of Language, Culture & Social Change (EJLCSC)

ISSN 2760-4926 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 2, February 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/3>

Other suffixes such as -ona and -larcha appear sporadically in the epic but have a more limited role in the formation of phytonyms. These affixes occasionally function to form nouns or diminutives derived from plant names, thereby contributing to stylistic variation and enriching the semantic texture of the epic. For example, these suffixes can soften or specify the meaning of the base word, adding nuances that align with the oral and emotive qualities of the narrative. Moreover, morphological derivation in Alpomish is not isolated but frequently combined with phonological and syntactic features characteristic of oral epic style. Features such as rhythmic patterns and formulaic repetition serve to enhance the memorability, aesthetic appeal, and emotional impact of phytonyms within the epic's oral performance. This integration of morphology with prosody and syntax reinforces the epic's traditional function as a vehicle for cultural transmission and audience engagement, ensuring that plant-based imagery resonates deeply through repeated melodic and narrative cycles.

4. Linguistic and Folkloric Significance

Phytonyms formed morphologically in Alpomish serve functions beyond mere physical description; they encapsulate complex symbolic meanings deeply embedded in Uzbek cultural consciousness and worldview. For instance, floral metaphors frequently symbolize youthfulness, purity, beauty, and the fleeting nature of life, while apple imagery can invoke themes of vitality, fertility, or conversely, melancholy and decline, depending on the narrative and emotional context. This layered symbolism enriches the epic's narrative texture, allowing plant imagery to function as a multidimensional semiotic resource.

The morphological sophistication evident in the selection and application of suffixes not only shapes the form but also signals dialectal origins and stylistic nuances, reflecting the oral tradition's dynamic nature. The predominance of Kipchak-derived suffixes such as -day and -dayin underscores the epic's ties to

Eureka Journal of Language, Culture & Social Change (EJLCSC)

ISSN 2760-4926 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 2, February 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/3>

specific speech communities and regional linguistic practices, asserting the role of dialectal variation in preserving and transmitting oral folklore. Furthermore, this morphological creativity plays a pivotal role in sustaining Alpomish as a living cultural artifact. It facilitates the continual emotional and linguistic engagement of generations, embedding culturally valorized images within the collective memory. Through repeated performance and linguistic innovation, the epic remains resonant and meaningful, bridging past and present while celebrating Uzbek identity.

5. Conclusion

This study has demonstrated that morphological derivation—especially through the use of suffixation—is fundamental to the formation of phytonyms in the Alpomish epic. The suffixes *-day* and *-dayin* serve pivotal functions, effectively bridging linguistic structure with cultural symbolism and the oral poetic tradition. Their dialectal origins underscore the epic's deep rootedness in Uzbek oral heritage, reflecting the vibrancy and diversity of regional linguistic variation that enriches the narrative texture.

A comprehensive understanding of morphological phytonym formation not only enhances literary analysis of Uzbek folklore but also opens valuable avenues for interdisciplinary research. Such research can integrate perspectives from linguistics, literary studies, ethnolinguistics, and cultural anthropology, thereby providing deeper insights into how language, culture, and oral tradition interplay in the preservation and performance of epic narratives like Alpomish.

References

1. Doniyorov, Kh. (1979). *Vocabulary of Kipchak Dialects*. Tashkent: Fan.
2. Isayev, A. (1990). *Uzbek Dialectal Lexicography*. Tashkent: Fan.
3. Komilov, T. (2008). *Semantics of Behavioral Verbs*. Tashkent: Fan.



Eureka Journal of Language, Culture & Social Change (EJLCSC)

ISSN 2760-4926 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 2, February 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/3>

4.Yoldosheva, S. (1986). “Ideological and Aesthetic Function of phytonyms in the Epic ‘Alpomish’.” *Uzbek Language and Literature*, 1, 47-52.