ETYMOLOGICAL ORIGINS AND HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF STREET NAMES IN ASTANA CITY (KAZAKHSTAN)[1]

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Abstract: *Astana is the young capital of independent Kazakhstan that is booming on a yearly basis. One of the clearest reflections of this process is the emergence of many new streets. Our research concentrates on the place names in Astana as the new capital of Kazakhstan. This paper presents the analysis of etymological origins and historical aspects (renamings) of street names; demonstrates how and to what extent the street names can be classified into categories.*

Keywords: *Onomastics, streets, names, categories, etymology, origin.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The renaming of streets and squares is a most common process during social and political changes. According to the data of the Committee on Languages of The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Kazakhstan, during 1991-2005, names of 3 regions, 12 cities, 53 districts, 7 regions of Astana, 43 railway stations, and 957 small villages were changed. Moreover, the transcription of names was modified in 3 districts, 12 cities, 14 regions, 76 railway stations, 22 outskirts, and 890 institutions (Table 1).

The status of the city and its name (previously, Akmolinsk, Akmola, Tselinograd) changed several times. Our research concentrates on the place names in Astana as the new capital of Kazakhstan.

There are comprehensive studies on street names in various countries and towns, *for example*, the USA, South Africa, Taiwan, Bucharest, Budapest, Manhattan, Milan, Singapore. These studies group the street names and analyze their history. In fact, streets and squares are named after individuals, settlements, historical and political events, names of flowers, rivers, lakes, and mountains. The names depend

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Table 1
Chronology of renaming of the main cities in Kazakhstan

Year of renaming	Previous names	New names
1991	Shevchenko	Aktau
1992	Tselinograd	Akmola
1998	Akmola	Astana
1993	Alma-Ata	Almaty
4 May 1993	Djambul	Zhambyl, later Taraz
7 October 1993	Kokchetav	Kokshetau
17 June 1997	Kustanai	Kostanai
11 March 1999	Aktubinsk	Aktobe
21 June 2007	Semipalatinsk	Semei

on the time of name-giving and the culture. For this, these names can and have been used as valuable source for the local history as well as for onomastics (Guyot, 2007; Light, 2004; Huang, 2011).

Onomastic research is usually focused on linguistic features (Aksholakova, 2012), etymological origins (Kotliarova, 2008; Kamzabekuli, 2012; Artikbayev, 2014), and aspects of urbanistics (Imanberdieva, 2004; Maratova and Omisheva, 2009). These works deal either with the names in a region, or with certain types of streets/squares. Most extensive onomastic studies in Kazakhstan are regional doctoral theses and monographs (Akzhigitova, 2013; Ergazieva, 2010).

The process of renaming is subject to onomastic, historical, geographic, linguistic, and ethnologic studies. Raulin (1984), Light (2004), Tucci (2011), Marcos (2009), Feirstein (2001), Gray (2000) and Baldwin (1989) have studied as big cities as Milan, Bucharest, Moscow, Berlin, Finland, Manhattan. Donald (1997), Jiang (2007), Rose-Redwood (2008), Phillips (1977), Gill (2005) and Huang (2011) have considered the historical features and reasons of renaming. Corwin (1978), Ferguson (1988), Azaryahu (1997), Guyot (2007) and Mukand (1986) have attempted to find general principles of renaming. All these studies have analyzed the new street names and the effects of renaming on the residents.

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The last ten years have seen major renaming of streets and squares in Astana. The renaming of the streets came as a result of moving the capital from Almaty to Astana because of a huge increase in the population. This was done in 1991 after Kazakhstan gained its Independence. The 2014 map of Astana contains 824 street names. They originate from quite different historical points of time and various forms of government policy. The renaming of Astana took place over three main

periods - Akmolinsk before 1961, Tselinograd 1961-1992, Akmola 1992-1998, Astana 1998 till today. The following paragraph will expand on this.

Akmolinsk (Akmola) was founded in 1830 as fortification for the Siberian Cossacks. At the beginning of 1838 only 15 families lived here. In the middle of the XIX Century, the city became strategically important as fortress between Western Siberia and Central Asia (Nyssanbayev, 1998: 190). In 1863, Akmolinsk (Akmola) became a district, and in 1868 the capital of that district. Gradually the city budget increased and with it the construction of public and commercial buildings, shops, private merchants' mansions, warehouses, religious schools (medrese), churches, libraries were actively built. The population reached more than 9000 in 1897 (National Population Census) and 15,000 in 1914 (Kazakhstan National Encyclopedia, 1998: 487).

Up until the independence of Kazakhstan in 1991, the official language in Astana was Russian. As a consequence, all names of buildings and institutions, streets and squares were exclusively in Russian. Accordingly, most common models are the adjectival type on -ski / -skaya, -ny / -naya (60% -70% of all names), corresponding to a grammatical system of the Russian language.

3. THE SEMANTIC AND POLITICAL PRINCIPLES OF NAME GIVING

Many streets are named after companies. For instance, in 1950, there were 5350 such streets in London, 1628 in Paris, 5003 in New York, 1914 in Philadelphia, 3923 in Baltimore, 2262 in Detroit and 1360 in Chicago. Astana is by no means an exception; most of streets were named after of companies or buildings. In 1838, the first mosque was built in Akmolinsk, and the street along it was called *Mosque Street* (*Mechetnaya*). The Post office is located in the *Post Office Street* (*Pochtamtskaya*). Until 1920, one of the largest streets of Akmolinsk was the *Church street* (*Tserkovnaya*), because of the Alexander Nevsky Church (Dubitsky, 1986: 24-28).

Similarly, the development of trade is reflected in street names, such as *Trade Street* (*Torgovaya*), *Big Market Street* (*Bolshaya Bazarnaya*), *Small Market Street* (*Malaya Bazarnaya*), *Caravan Street* (*Karavannaya*). Other street names point to important buildings or institutions, such as *Castle Street* (*Krepostnaya*), *Parliament Street* (*Dumskaya*), *Jail Street* (*Tyuremnaya*), *College Street* (*Uchilishchnaya*), *Hospital Street* (*Bolnichnaya*), *Cossaks Street* (*Stanichnaya* - settlement of the Cossaks), *Tatars Street* (*Tatarskaya* - settlement of the *Tatarians*). Geographic names like *Akmola street* (*Akmolinskaya*) and *Step street* (*Stepnaya*) are related to locations, too (Dubitsky, 1986: 44). The naming of streets according to the semantic principle yields an information and guiding system, both for residents and for visitors. Azaruakhu (1997) points out that street names are also used for political reasons. As street names remind about key events and personalities in the local or country's history and develop a powerful symbolic value, they serve as a mean for identification.

The next period of naming streets in the history of Kazakhstan begins with the Soviet October Revolution in 1917. Street names were changed on occasion of third anniversary of this revolution. *Uchilishnaya* (*College Street*) was renamed *Kommunisticheskaya* (*Communist Street*). *Malaya Bazarnaya* (*Small Market Street*) was changed to *Proletarskaya*, *Beregovaya* (*Shore Street*) to *Internatsionalnaya*, *Catolicheskaya* (*Catholic Street*) to *Pervomayskaya* (Street of May, 1), *Bolnichnaya* (*Hospital Street*) to *Krasnoarmeyskaya* (*Red Army Street*), *Tserkovnaya* (*Church Street*) to *Lenin Street*, *Bolshaya Bazarnaya* (*Big Market Street*) to *Karl Marx Street*, and *Torgovaya* (*Trade Street*) to *Bukharin Street* (City Archives: 250, OP1, D3, L236).

In this way, the principle of naming was fundamentally changed from the oriental-semantic one to the semiotic ones. In all major cities of the Soviet Union, the central streets were renamed after Lenin, Marx, Communism, Peace, Internationalism, the October Revolution, Bolshevistic leaders and the like. The street names no longer bear geographical information, but promote the political-ideological values of the new rulers. This paradigm change from the semantic to the semiotic principles served the new propaganda. This process of 'special' political significance seemed to have been aimed at curbing the idea of national consciousness of citizens.

In the 1960s, Akmolinsk was developing as one of the major socio-cultural and political centers of the Kazakh Socialistic Soviet Republic. Its territory was connected with the railway system of the USSR. In 1961, Akmolinsk was renamed as Tselinograd (Kazakhstan National Encyclopedia, 1998: 488). During this time, there was a certain return to the semantic principle, *that is* to content-related name-giving. Examples are *Vagonnaya* (*Carriage Street*), *Pivnaya* (*Beer Street*), *Zavodskaya* (*Plant Street*), *Pervotselinnikov* (*The first virgin men*), *Kirpichnaya* (*Brick Street*), *Vstrecha* (*Meeting Street*), *Remontnaya* (*Repair Street*), *Sportivnaya* (*Sports Street*) and *Delegatov* (*Delegates' Street*).

In 1991, since acquiring independence, Astana has undergone a number of significant changes. In 1991, Tselinograd city returned to its former name, Akmola. In 1997 Akmola was proclaimed to be the capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and in 1998 the city was renamed to Astana (*Capital*). A boom of naming and renaming of streets and facilities accompanied this particular period. This process continues under the influence of both national and global factors of informational, ideological, cultural and civilizational characters. The official priorities are the desire to move away from the totalitarian past, the need to promote national culture and history and the restoration of the status of the state language.

4. COLLECTING DATA FOR THE STUDY

Lining up the conception of development of Astana, Kazakhstan's president Nazarbayev stated that the new capital must exhibit the rich heritage of the past

as well as the best achievements. According to our survey, many street names reflect natural beauty by heightening and emphasizing unique natural features. For example, streets in big sprawling grids are named after local trees, flowers, and animals.

In order to obtain a list of street names, types of street names' systems have been studied. Four pointers were used: (1) *busy indicator (streets, avenues);* (2) *thematic names;* (3) *alphabetical order of the names of streets,* and (4) *square system* (Corwin, 1978). Busy indicator (streets, avenues) is one of the simple systems in renaming streets. This system needs names to add the word 'street' or 'avenue'. *Busy indicator system* is used in Astana, the main streets are named prospects or avenues, and adjoining ones are divided into streets, boulevards, or alleys. The main streets are Republic street, Abylaikhan avenue, Kabanbai batyr prospect and so on. These avenues are very busy with much vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Thematic names include names of flowers, national symbols, political and other leaders. This system assumes one main street is named by one theme, and adjoining streets should be connected with this theme. For instance, in Columbia, Maryland, the main system is named in honor of one poet, and adjoining streets carry names of poems of this author. In Astana (Essil district), the main street is named Domalak ana (mother), and adjoining streets (Umai ana, Bayan sulu, tumar khanim, Aisha bibi, kis Zhibek, Aiman Sholpan, Maryiam Zhagor kizi, Akyn Sara, Zhuban ana, Akbayan, Akzhunis, Ulbike akyn, Kusni Korlan, Gaukhartas) are named in honor of great women of Kazakhstan, who made a huge contribution in the history of our country (ana – mother, sulu – beauty, kiz - girl, akyn – poet).

Alphabetical order is helpful for the post office service in order to have cardinal points. All streets are named by alphabetic order. Unfortunately, there is no such system in Astana, because it needs permanent changes and has difficulties in naming.

Square system means dividing a street into squares (North, East, West, South and North-West, North-East, South-West, and South-East). Washington is an example of this system. The main axis crosses on the building of Capitolium and divides into North Capitolium, South Capitolium, East Capitolium, and West Capitolium. In Virginia, August County is divided into 8 sectors, 4 squares, and 4 sub squares. For instance, 340 Fourth Avenue, N.W., which means that the house is in North-West, Block 3 from North-South, and Block 4 from East-West in North-West Square. The advantage of the square system is in its combination that is easy to find the necessary street and address. M.A. Corwin (1978) made a table of cities where these systems are used (Table 2).

Table 2
The system of street names in European cities

Busy indicators	Thematic and alphabetic order	Square system
Louisiana	California	Texas
Minnesota	Colombia	Milan
California	Minnesota	Нью Мексико
Alabama		Louisiana
Wisconsin		California

Street naming is a part of history, which needs memory, hope and our vision. There are 2 ways of naming streets:

– Practical and functional (American). Streets are named by geographical names and determined by numbers. It is one of the easiest ways of street naming.

– Functional or symbolic (European). Street names are connected with the names of famous people, political or historical events, key dates and so on.

From the research that has been carried out, the practical (42%) and functional (34%) ways are used in renaming streets. In order to be accurate in naming streets, we considered Fernando's features and categories of renaming streets:

1. Category of name (names belonging to physical or political geography, historical names or historical persons, offices.

2. Category of time (the names connected with the political and social coups)

3. Category of memory (the category of memory plugs in distant and near remembrances of habitants of city). This category envisages a political context, state context, continental context (Markos, 2009).

This research pushes to classify and divide the street names of Astana into different elements. It was listed 16 different principles of name grouping: khans and akyns, military activists, geographical places, cities, natural fauna, politicians, political events, great women, scientists, artists, historical places, people of art, writers, lakes, and mountains (Table 3).

Table 3
Categories of street names in Astana

No	Street names	Amount
1	Geographical places	111
2	Lakes	71
3	Mountains	69
4	National values	65
5	People of art	52

No	Street names	Amount
6	Natural fauna	50
7	Writers	46
8	Military activists	44
9	Political events	35
10	Cities	34
11	Politicians	29
12	Historical places	27
13	Khans and Batyrs	25
14	Scientists	22
15	Great women	14
16	Artists	6

According to the presented categories of Fernando, we set basic categories of the names of streets in Astana. *Category of names*: khans and national heroes (batyrs), military activists, politicians, scientists, artists, writers, people of art, great women; *category of time*: historical places, political events; *category of nature*: geographical places, natural fauna, lakes, and mountains; *category of memory*: cities, national values (songs, dances, clothes, games, customs, and instruments).

Having analyzed the categories of street names in Astana, we came to the conclusion, that category of nature (42%) was most popular. The other categories that follow are: names (34%), memory (15%) and time (9%). See Figure 1.
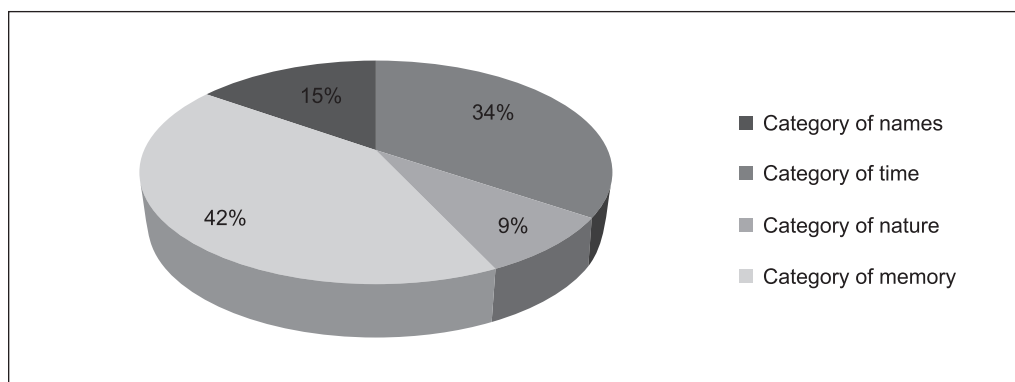

Figure 1: Categories of street names in Astana

5. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The history of Akmola starts in 1830 with the construction of the Akmola fortress to make it the main town on the Ishim River. There are several versions of the origin of this name. The first version was the direct translation of this word (Akmola – white

grave). According to the Byzantine writer Prokopius, the Huns called 'Mola' a high barrow or fortress. Akmola was a center of cattle fairs and famous for abundance of milk products. Thus, literally, Akmol means 'Ak' – white and 'Mol' - abundance.

In 1893, Akmola was changed into Akmolinsk. Akmolinsk was a district city with a 6,428 population, 3 churches, 5 schools and 3 factories. In December 1960, Akmolinsk was renamed Tselinograd (Tselina means Virgin place). This renaming was connected with the record grain crop.

In 1991 the Republic of Kazakhstan became independent. The young state turned to the history and lost the original roots. In order to contribute to the memory of ancestors the city received back its original name – Akmola. The availability of land for the further expansion of the Akmola played a special role in the choice of a new capital. In December 1997, Akmola was announced the capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In 1998, the government of the country made decision the change the name Akmola to Astana, which stands for "capital" in Kazakh. The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan in his book 'The Kazakhstan way' (2006) noted that the word "Astana" is harmonious and does not change its consonance in all international languages.

Presently, Astana is a big city, which is divided into 3 districts: Almaty, Saryarka, and Essyl. The names of districts harmoniously combine with the rich heritage of the past and achievement of contemporaneity. The street naming in three districts are both historical and referential. About half of the streets of the three districts in category of names bear names of Khans[2] and national heroes[3] (Almaty – 32%, Saryarka – 13%, Essyl – 26%). There are 25 streets in Astana which are named in honor of Khans (Abulkhair, Zhanibek, Kerei, Kassymkhan, Abylai, Kenesary) and Batyrs (Bogenbay, Tailak, Sauryka, Malaysary, Bogembay, Kabanbai, Malaysary, Zhanybbek, Bayan, Iset, Baygozy, Zhatay, Urazymbet, Tursynbai, Raiymbek). In 2015, Kazakhstan celebrated the 550 anniversary of the Kazakh Khanate. Kazakh Khanate plays a special role in education in the minds of all people. This date is very

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[2]   Kazakh Khanate was formed on the territory of modern Kazakhstan and adjacent to it States (1465-1847), in the process of disintegration of the Golden Horde. In 1227 on the territory of Kipchak was formed protokazahskoe State as part of the Golden Horde -Blue Horde (Ulus Orda-Ezhena). After separation from the Golden Horde, the White Horde in 1361 it became an independent state. By 1500, the Kazakh Khanate significantly expanded its territory and has spread to the entire eastern part. The formation of the Kazakh Khanate was complex in nature and multidimensional time-consuming process. It was a natural result of the socio-economic and ethno-political events in the vast area of East, and Turkestan (South Kazakhstan).

[3]   From the beginning of the XVII century, Kazakh Khanate is undergoing profound upheavals caused by the further aggravation of the foreign policy position. The most terrible danger looming over the Kazakh people from the strong and aggressive military-feudal Jungars Khanate. The struggle between Kazakh and Dzungars lasted more than a century. In 1726 the work of salvation of the country took over the people, pulling from its midst outstanding organizers and leaders - Bogenbay, Tailak, Sauryka, Malaysary, Bogembay, Kabanbai, Malaysary, Zhanybbek, Bayan, Iset, Baygozy, Zhatay, Urazymbet, Tursynbai, Raiymbek and many others.

important for the whole country; each of us must get to discover new knowledge and new insights into the epoch of the Kazakh statehood.

Category of Name

At the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries the colonial Kazakhstan has entered a new stage of its intellectual development. The adaptation of the traditional Kazakh society to the conditions and needs of the market-capitalist relations has captured the last bastion of the indigenous population - village and the agrarian sector of the economy, undivided domination of the political-ideological metropolis, and the growth of social and cultural identity of the peoples of the Eurasian space. The names of military activists (Almaty – 47%, Saryarka – 41%, Essyl – 5%), politicians (Almaty – 25%, Saryarka – 50%, Essyl – 15%), scientists (Almaty – 42%, Saryarka – 38%, Essyl – 12%), artists (Almaty – 21%, Saryarka – 0%, Essyl – 0%), writers (Almaty – 52%, Saryarka – 41%, Essyl – 5%), people of art (Almaty – 40%, Saryarka – 54%, Essyl – 6%), great women (Almaty – 15%, Saryarka – 20%, Essyl – 42%) bear names of streets. They are R. Koshkarbayev[4], M. Mametova[5], T. Ryskulov[6], U. Gagarin[7], A. Imanov[8] etc. They made a contribution and played a vital role in developing of our country. See Figure 2.
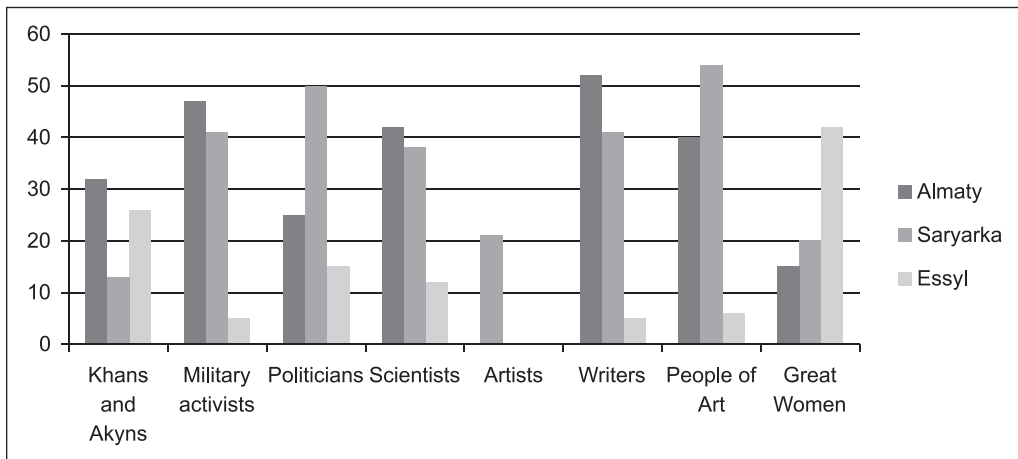

Figure 2: Names of famous people in Astana's districts

[4]   Rakhimzhan Koshkarbaev (1924-1988) - a Soviet officer, a veteran of World War II, April 30, 1945 in conjunction with the first Red Army Gregory Bulatov hoisted the flag on the facade of the Reichstag building.

[5]   Mametova Manshuk (1922-1943) - the first Kazakh woman who was awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union.

[6]   Turar Ryskulov (1894-1938) – a Soviet statesman in Central Asia.

[7]   Yuri Gagarin (1934-1968) – a Soviet cosmonaut, Hero of the Soviet Union, holder of the highest distinctions series states, honorary citizen of many Russian and foreign cities.

[8]   Amangeldy Imanov (1873 - 1919) – the head of the popular uprising in 1916 against the Russian monarchy and an active participant in the establishment of Soviet power in Kazakhstan.

Category of Time

The history of any country weds by political and historical events. The history of Astana has three main periods of becoming a new capital (1862-1919, 1920-1990, 1991-2015). All of these periods are the witnesses of the historical (Almaty – 32%, Saryarka – 36%, Essyl – 22%), and political (Almaty – 30%, Saryarka – 46%, Essyl – 15%) events, that occurred in the life of the country and city. They are referred to Victory Day (1941-1945), December events in Kazakhstan in 1986[9], Independence Day (1991)[10], Cosmonaut, Peace, Veterans, Pioneers, Constitution and so on. See Figure 3.
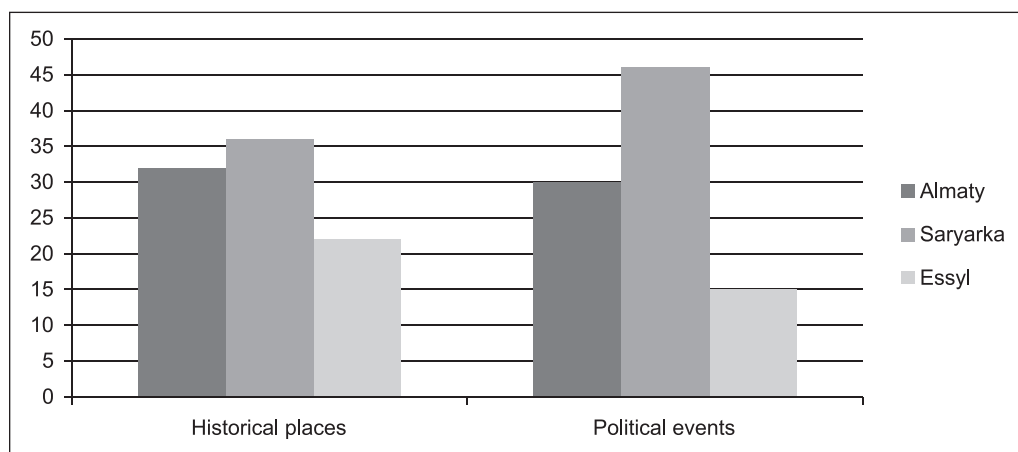

Figure 3: Names of historical and political events

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[9] The reason of December Events 1986 was a change of top management in Kazakhstan. Long before that, in Kazakhstan and Moscow began to sound criticism of the leadership of the republic and personally against the first secretary of the Communist D.Kunaev, who at that time was about 75 years old. Everyone understood the inevitability of change of the ruling elite, especially as talking about it and the Moscow rulers. However, it was expected that this will happen in a democratic way, so further developments were rightly regarded by the people as a violation of the power of the same principles enunciated. For such a short time it has been resolved one of the most important issues - the change of political leadership D.A.Kunaev, who headed the republic for almost a quarter century. Instead, he was elected G.V.Kolbin, until the election of the republic does not work and an absolute majority of the population is not known. That is, the head of the republic was elected person is not only associated with Kazakhstan and not knowing the local conditions, but do not be registered in any of the local party organizations, and not having a Kazakh residence permit. This was perceived as an insult to the Kazakh people and triggered a spontaneous protest.

During the tragic events of December 17-18 people were killed, many were wounded and injured. This period was marked in Kazakhstan increased totalitarian and repressive functions of the state. The number of detainees was about 8.5 thousands people. Instituted 99 criminal cases (46 in some time been rehabilitated). 2 people were sentenced to death; 83 - to imprisonment of from 1.5 to 15 years. 52 people have been expelled from the party, the 787 - member of the Komsomol, 1138 - received the Komsomol foreclosure, 12 Rectors dismissed from their posts, 271 students expelled from schools.

[10] Kazakhstan proclaimed its sovereignty on 25 October 1990 and complete independence on 16 December 1991.

Category of Nature

The most part of the territory of Kazakhstan is endless steppes, deserts and mountains, which are habitat for thousands of species of animals and birds. With regard to water resources of the country, Kazakhstan has 8500 small and large rivers[11]. Today, Kazakhstan attaches great importance to the preservation of ecosystems, flora and fauna of the Aral Sea, which is partly situated on the territory of the country. Just Kazakhstan belongs to the whole northern and part of the east coast of the Caspian Sea - is almost 2,340 km. Moreover, there are about six thousand plant species, its open spaces can be found around 500 species of birds, 178 species of mammals, 49 species of reptiles, 12 species of amphibians, and in rivers and lakes are about 100 species of fish. The nature of Kazakhstan is diverse, its immense desert tracts, and mountains are high and severe. Flora and fauna of the country is represented by various kinds of rare and unique plant and animal species, many of them listed in the Red Book.

Thus, the most frequent category of street naming is the category of nature, which shows and reminds about beautiful places of Kazakhstan[12] (Almaty – 23%, Saryarka – 62%, Essil – 12%). Many of streets are named by the names of plants, flowers (Almaty – 30%, Saryarka – 64%, Essyl – 21%). Names of lakes represent 24% in Almaty, 37% in Saryarka and 10% in Essyl. The names of mountains (Almaty – 30%, Saryarka – 42%, Essyl – 14%) which cover all West and South part of Kazakhstan are mentioned too. See Figure 4.
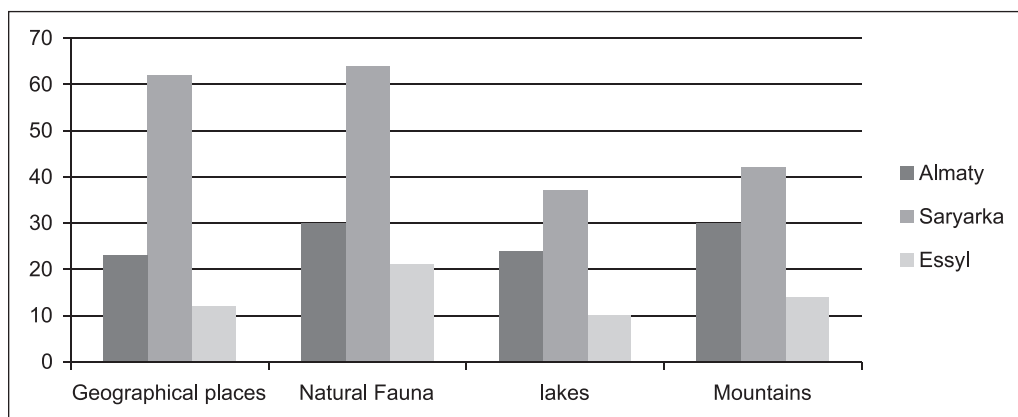

Figure 4: Names of nature

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[11]   The largest of them are Ural, Emba and Syrdarya, Ishim, Ili, Tobol and Irtysh. One of the largest lakes in Kazakhstan is Lake Balkhash.

[12]   Kazakhstan takes the 9th place in the world (2 mln.724,9 000 km^2), with a population of just 17 million.

Category of Memory

Astana reflects the history of Kazakhstan in naming streets. There are a lot of streets with the name of ancient and modern cities of Kazakhstan, such as Turkestan, Akmeshit, Orynbor, Sauran, Akmola, Taraz, Tashkent, Atyrau etc. (Almaty – 40%, Saryarka – 45%, Essyl – 23%). In order to store national customs and traditions, some streets in Astana are named by the names of our national instruments[13] (dabyl, dombra, kobyz, syrnai), games[14] (Almaty – 24%, Saryarka – 30%, Essyl – 28%) (Figure 5).
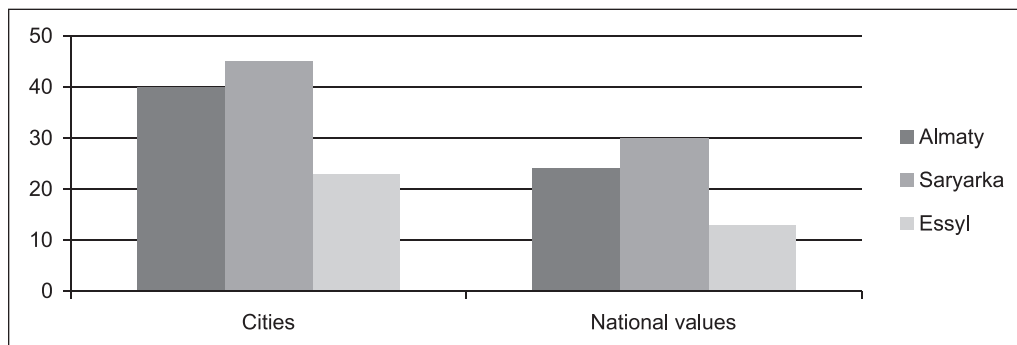

Figure 5: Names of cities and national values

Street naming is very significant to Astana. It is linked to the development of our young capital, stormy economy and cultural growing. Street naming plays an enormous role in civil society.

6. CONCLUSION

Based on the research, in Almaty district 32% of streets are named by khans and national heroes (batyrs) names, and 47% of streets carry names of military activists.

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[13] Dabyl - a percussion instrument, the rim with a handle on both sides covered with leather. Usually Dabyl soldiers used (in the attack). It was a very powerful tool with a loud sound, which served to signal. In ancient times, percussion instruments (dabyl, dauylpaz and shyndauyl) were widely used in the life of the Kazakhs.

  Dombra is a stringed musical instrument that exists in the culture of the Turkic peoples. Dombra is considered the national instrument of the Kazakhs, Nogai and other nations.

  Syrnai has a sharp, shrill sound, able to imitate the cries of various birds and animals. This property is an instrument used by hunters.

  Kobyz resembles the human voice. Playing Kobyz has a magical purpose - to influence the society, nature, animals and ancestral spirits. Our kobyz became the ancestor of all European bow string instruments - violin, viola, cello and double bass.

[14] Kok-Boru - a symbiosis of races and games. Riders compete for a goat carcass not only to possess it, but to keep, throw in the "cauldron" (gate) of the opposing team, or by other rules, to get to the carcass before the stipulated area, for example, a village beyond which opponents have the right to fight for it.

  Shagai, asyk is a hoof bones of sheep. Shagai collected and used for games in the Central Asia, Mongolia and other countries.

In Saryarka district, 62% of streets connect with the names of geographical places. However, in Almaty and Saryarka districts there the same number of streets with names of cities-heroes, as Moscow, Leningrad, Taraz, Aktau etc. Almost 64% of streets were named by animal, birds, and plants names. It relates with the boundless spaces and riches of flora and fauna of Saryarka.

Today, in the epoch of development of cultural heritage, national culture, traditions, the customs of the Kazakh people are restored and recommenced each year. Saryarka district binds the history of origin to new and old political events (46%), including names of political figures (50%), whose names deserve carries the names of streets in Astana.

In all districts of Astana there are the names of streets related to the historical places (Almaty - 32%, Saryarka - 36%, Essyl - 22%). The names of people of art do not drop off also, and all new streets in the districts of Almaty (50%) and Essyl (26%) carry the names of composers, akyns, and actors.

It is necessary to say that the history of our country closely relates to Russian, foreign and home literature. This factor clearly effects on the streets of Astana (Djambul Zhabayev street, Ilias Esenberlin, Sharl de Golle, Goethe, Taras Shevchenko and so on.).

Essyl district is a new part of Astana, before today, there are streets that are not renamed and have numeration (52%) only. Though in some parts of Almaty district (10%) and Saryarka (17%) there are streets simply with numbers, and has not been renamed.

At present time, many streets of city have lost their names and are renamed by the names of housing estates. Such changes take place in almost in districts, whose buildings have new architectural designs. For instance, such changes are in Almaty district (in Koblandy batyr street, Sh. Kudaiberdi street, Baitursynov street, Koshkarbayev street, Nazhmidenova, and Kaldaiakova streets), Saryarka district (Saryarka and Bogenbay avenue), Essil district (Sarayshik, Kunaev, Dostyk, Syganak, Orynbor, Kerei and Zhanibek khandar streets).

With the acquisition of the status of the capital, large-scale works are done in the city which leads to a radical change and expansion of infrastructure in a short period of time. Currently, every street of modern Astana carries profound historical, philosophical meaning, symbolic ideas, and each reflects the spirit of the whole country. Astana 'godonimy' has its own unique history and well-adjusted trend of modern development.

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