

MADAD CHOBANOV AND ONOMATOLOGICAL ISSUES

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orcid.org/0009-0008-86842722**Summary**

The article examines the scientific work of academician Madad Chobanov, who is known as a well-known Turkologist and public figure, an outstanding linguist-scientist, onomastician, especially an anthroponymist and toponymist, especially his research work in the field of onomology, and the reviews written about these works. It is noted that Madad Chobanov successfully defended his candidate dissertation on the topic "Lexicon of Azerbaijani Dialects of the Bolnisi Region of the Georgian SSR" at the Institute of Language and Literature of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan in Tashkent in 1973, and in the same year he was elected a teacher at the Azerbaijani department of the Tbilisi State Pedagogical Institute named after A. S. Pushkin. He worked at this institution of higher education, later renamed the Tbilisi State Pedagogical University named after S. S. Orbeliani, and now Ilia University, for exactly 21 years, until 1994, as a lecturer, associate professor, professor, deputy head of department, and head of department.

Madad Chobanov successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on the topic "Fundamentals of Azerbaijani anthroponymy" at Baku State University in February 1992, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philological Sciences, and was elected a professor in 1993. He has been continuing his scientific and pedagogical activities in Baku since 1994. He worked as vice-president of the "Futurologist" Continuous Education Complex, vice-rector of the Azerbaijan Futurology University, rector of the Azerbaijan Elite University, dean of the "Higher School Teachers" faculty at the Azerbaijan State Institute for Advanced Training and Retraining of Senior Pedagogical Personnel, and in 1996 was elected head of the "Languages" department at the Azerbaijan Higher Military School named after Heydar Aliyev - Azerbaijan Higher Naval School, and worked in that position with honor and dignity for many years.

The article focuses on the works of only one of these scientists - the former head of the "Methodology of Teaching the Azerbaijani Language" department of the Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University, Doctor of Philological Sciences, the late Professor Azizkhan Tanriverdi, which are well known to the scientific community, refers to his writings about academician Madad Chobanov, and briefly presents to the readers the services rendered by M. Chobanov in the field of onomology.

Key words: Azerbaijani language, linguistics, Turkology, onomastics, anthroponymy, toponymy, Madad Chobanov, Azizkhan Tanriverdi.

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1. Introduction

The well-known Turkologist and public figure, distinguished linguist-scholar, and renowned specialist in onomastics – particularly as an anthroponymist and toponymist – Mədəd Çobanov (1937–2023) lived an exceptionally meaningful and honorable life. Regardless of where he lived or worked, he always conducted himself with dignity and integrity. Beginning

his professional career as an ordinary secondary school teacher, he rose through the academic ranks to become a university lecturer, associate professor, professor, department chair, dean, and rector. Through his tireless efforts, dedicated labor, extensive and comprehensive scholarly, pedagogical, and social activities, as well as his rich and valuable body of work, he was awarded the highest academic degree – Doctor of Philological Sciences – and honored with the highest academic titles of Professor and Academician.

Academician Mədəd Çobanov delivered presentations at international congresses, scientific-theoretical and scientific-practical conferences, symposia, and seminars held in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Russia, and the republics of Central Asia. Dozens of his scholarly articles and books were published in these countries.

The works of Academician Mədəd Çobanov were highly appreciated by distinguished scholars, prominent specialists, and public figures. Among them were the world-famous writer and well-known Turkologist Chingiz Aitmatov; Academician Edhem Rahimovich Tenishev (Moscow); Academician Shanazar Shaabdurakhmanovich Shaabdurakhmanov (Tashkent); Uzbek scholars Professors Nasir Shukurov, Etibarkhanim Nasirova, Fattoh Abdullayev, Kayum Kayumov; Kazakh scholar Ali Abbas Chinar; Kyrgyz scholar Gulzura Cumakanova; Turkish scholars Hamza Zülfikar, Cengiz Alyılmaz, Doğan Kaya, Fazıl Erqaş, Metin Kara, Şurəddin Məmmədli, Gülnara Qoca-Məmmədova; as well as Azerbaijani scholars Abdüləzəl Dəmirçizadə, Afad Qurbanov, Əlövsət Abdullayev, Ramiz Mehdiyev, Həsən Mirzəyev, Nizami Cəfərov, Musa Adilov, Səyyarə Mollazadə, Həsərət Həsənov, Kamil Vəliyev, Şamil Qurbanov, Yusif Seyidov, Əflatun Saraçlı (Məmmədov), Tofiq Əhmədov, Qəzənfər Kazımov, Nizami Xudiyev, Nəbi Əsgərov, İbrahim Bayramov, Əzizxan Tanrıverdi, Buludxan Xəlilov, Aslan Aslanov, Fidan Qurbanova, Sevindik Vəliyev, Çingiz Hüseynzadə, Razim Məmmədli, Əli Rza Xələfli, Sadiq Zaman, and others.

In this article, we focus on only one of these scholars – the late Professor Əzizxan Tanrıverdi, Doctor of Philological Sciences and former head of the Department of Methodology of Teaching the Azerbaijani Language at Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University. Referring to his well-known works and his writings about Academician Mədəd Çobanov, we briefly present once again to the reader M. Çobanov's significant contributions to the field of onomastics.

2. Main part

In his article entitled “Mədəd Çobanov and Issues of Onomastics,” published in the newspapers “Şərqi səsi” (February 2007) and “Hakimiyyət və gələcək” (April 4, 2007), Professor Ə. Tanrıverdi begins with the following introduction:

“In the history of Azerbaijani science and culture, there have been many distinguished personalities who worked in several fields and achieved success in each of them. Even in the modern period, there are not few individuals with encyclopedic knowledge who stand out for the richness and breadth of their activities. One such figure is Academician Mədəd Çobanov, who is known at least throughout the Turkic world and the CIS as a scholar, teacher, publicist, and translator, and whose works have been published in Azerbaijani, Turkish, Uzbek, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Russian, Georgian, Armenian, and other languages. Regardless of the field in which he worked or wrote, he always kept in focus the greatness and strength of the Turkic world, as well as its rich language, history, and ethnography” (*Tanrıverdi, 2007*).

This characteristic is vividly reflected in more than 80 books published by the author over different years, including 15 monographs, textbooks, and teaching manuals, as well as

in more than 200 scholarly articles and over 250 scientific-publicistic writings. Among his major works are *Fundamentals of Azerbaijani Studies*, *Azerbaijani Onomastics*, *Fundamentals of Azerbaijani Anthroponymy*, *Toponyms of Borchaly*, *The Lexicon of Borchaly Dialects*, *Linguistic Analysis of the Text*, *Pedagogical Issues*, *Towards the Literary Unity of the Turkic Languages*, *The Book of Dede Qorqud – Heroic Epic*, *Literary Reflections*, *Issues of Linguistics*, and others. In all these works, his scholarly depth, national consciousness, and dedication to Turkic heritage are clearly manifested.

The article also reviews the meaningful life path of Professor Mədəd Çobanov. It notes that Mədəd Namaz oğlu Çobanov was born on April 11, 1937, in the ancient Borchaly region – in the village of Darbaz in the Bolnisi district of present-day Georgia. He graduated from the A. S. Pushkin Tbilisi State Pedagogical Institute and began his pedagogical career at the secondary school in his native village of Darbaz. After working as a teacher for one year, he was called to military service. He graduated from the Officers' School and, after being discharged from the army with the rank of senior lieutenant, worked for one year at the Bolnisi district Komsomol committee. He was later promoted and continued his activities in the district party committee.

At the same time, he pursued part-time postgraduate studies at the Institute of Linguistics named after I. Nasimi of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences. In 1973, in Tashkent, at the Institute of Language and Literature of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, he successfully defended his Candidate of Sciences (PhD) dissertation on “The Lexicon of Azerbaijani Dialects of the Bolnisi District of the Georgian SSR.” In the same year, he was elected as a lecturer in the Azerbaijani Department of the A. S. Pushkin Tbilisi State Pedagogical Institute. Later, at this higher education institution – renamed S. S. Orbeliani Tbilisi State Pedagogical University and currently known as Ilia University – he worked continuously for 21 years, until 1994, serving as lecturer, associate professor, professor, deputy head of department, and head of department.

Mədəd Çobanov successfully defended his doctoral dissertation entitled “Fundamentals of Azerbaijani Anthroponymy” at Baku State University in February 1992 and was awarded the academic degree of Doctor of Philological Sciences. In 1993, he was elected Professor.

From 1994 onward, he continued his scholarly and pedagogical activity in Baku. He served as Vice-President of the “Futurologist” Continuing Education Complex, Vice-Rector of the Azerbaijan University of Futurology, Rector of the Azerbaijan Elite University, and Dean of the “Higher Education Teachers” Faculty at the Azerbaijan State Institute for Advanced Training and Retraining of Pedagogical Staff.

In 1996, he was elected Head of the Department of Languages at the Heydar Aliyev Azerbaijan Higher Military School – Azerbaijan Higher Naval School – where he worked with honor and dignity for many years, more precisely until his retirement.

At different times, he also lectured at Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University and Azerbaijan Technical University.

He devoted great effort to the training of hundreds of teachers and dozens of scholars, serving as scientific supervisor, advisor, opponent, or reviewer for many of them.

For many years, Mədəd Çobanov was a member of the Expert Council of the Higher Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

He was elected a member of the Turkish Language Association (Türk Dil Kurumu) and a full member (academician) of the International Turan Academy and the New York Academy of Sciences.

During his tenure as Head of the Department of Azerbaijani Language and Literature at S. S. Orbeliani Tbilisi State Pedagogical University, he founded the literary association

“Qaynaq” within the department. Later, while serving as Head of the Department of Languages at the Azerbaijan Higher Naval School, he established another literary association, “Dalğalar qoynunda” (“In the Embrace of the Waves”), which he led for many years. He also served as editor of the newspaper bearing the same title. With his two-volume work *Literary Reflections*, he gained considerable authority as a literary critic.

He was the first to compile an Azerbaijani–Georgian Phrasebook (*Tbilisi, 1977, 1991; Baku, 2000*). Through works such as *I Love Georgia (Baku, 1977)*, *Songs of Friendship (in Georgian, Tbilisi, 1978)*, and the two-volume *Azerbaijani–Georgian Literary Relations (Baku, 2017, 2019)*, he contributed significantly to strengthening friendly ties between the two neighboring peoples.

In his youth, Mədəd Çobanov was also engaged in literary creativity. He authored one drama, two plays, two novellas, one epic poem, and dozens of short stories. His works were translated into Turkish, Russian, Georgian, Uzbek, English, French, and other languages. He himself translated several works from Russian and Georgian into Azerbaijani.

Əzizxan Tanrıverdi writes:

“Mədəd Çobanov is among those scholars who are able to synthesize teaching and research, theory and practice. It is worth noting that his work as a professor and head of department at a military school encouraged him to write on ancient Turkic military art. This is confirmed by sections such as ‘The Land of the Oghuz and Military Art,’ ‘The Heroes of the Oghuz and Their Battle Tactics,’ and ‘The Oghuz and Military Marches’ in Part II of the monograph *Fragments from a Journey into the World of Dede Qorqud (Baku, 1998)*, published jointly with Müşfiq Çobanlı.”

Tanrıverdi further emphasizes:

“Among the scholars conducting research in several directions within Turkology, including Azerbaijani linguistics, Mədəd Çobanov occupies a special place” (*Tanrıverdi, 2007*).

Academician Abdüləzəl Dəmirçizadə (Baku) quite rightly wrote:

“Mədəd Çobanov is one of the first scholars to investigate the contemporary problems of the Azerbaijani language from the standpoint of national consciousness and initiative.”

His numerous articles, monographs, and dictionaries published in the fields of anthroponymy, toponymy, dialectology, lexicography, and other areas are highly valued by specialists for their scholarly weight and scientific merit. They are widely cited as authoritative sources today, and there is no doubt that this will continue to be the case in future centuries.

As Tanrıverdi (2007) notes, “Problems of anthroponymy are among the topics most frequently addressed by Mədəd Çobanov.” For the first time, he compiled the dictionary *Azerbaijani Personal Names*, wrote an extensive preface to it, and published it as a separate booklet for readers (*Çobanov, 1981*). In 1993, the book was also published in Turkey under the title *Azerbaijani Male Names*.

Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor Əzizxan Tanrıverdi, in works such as *Turkic-Origin Azerbaijani Anthroponyms (1996)*, *Personal Names in the Book of Dede Qorqud (1999)*, *Grammar of the 16th-Century Kipchak (Polovets) Language (2000)*, *The Book of Dede Qorqud and the Western Dialect (2002)*, *The Figurative Language of the Book of Dede Qorqud (2006)*, *The Lexical World of the Book of Dede Qorqud (2007)*, *The Linguistic Miracle of the Book of Dede Qorqud (2008)*, *Our Language, Our Spirituality (2008)*, *Personal Names Preserved in Ancient Turkic Sources (2009)*, *Historical Grammar of the Azerbaijani Language (2010)*, and particularly in his book *Historical-Linguistic Study of Turkic-Origin Azerbaijani Personal Names (Tanrıverdi, 2012)*, devoted substantial attention to the scholarly research of Academician Mədəd Çobanov.

He notes that:

“Mədəd Çobanov has published a number of theses, articles, and monographs related to various aspects of Azerbaijani anthroponymy. In his book *Fundamentals of Azerbaijani Anthroponymy*, published as early as 1983, he discusses the lexical-semantic groups of anthroponyms, their structure, naming traditions, and the lexical-semantic characteristics of auxiliary name categories such as pseudonyms and nicknames, supporting these issues with rich linguistic data. Among the noteworthy aspects of this work is the extensive study of shared names, polynoms, palindromic names, and the abbreviation of names” (*Tanrıverdi, 2012, p. 28*).

For the first time, based on the curriculum of the course “Special Course in Linguistics” предусмотренный in the study plans of philology faculties at pedagogical universities, Mədəd Çobanov prepared in 1981 a program entitled *Fundamentals of Azerbaijani Anthroponymy* (*Çobanov, 1981*), and in 1983 he developed a corresponding textbook under the same title. After being approved by the Ministry of Education of Georgia, both the program and the teaching manual were published by the “Qanatleba” publishing house in Tbilisi.

Mədəd Çobanov continued his research on Azerbaijani anthroponymy in later years, eventually writing his doctoral dissertation on this topic. In February 1992, he successfully defended his dissertation entitled “Fundamentals of Azerbaijani Anthroponymy” (*Çobanov, 1992*) / “Osnovy azerbaydzhanskoy antroponomiki” (*Çobanov, 1992*) at Baku State University (*Tanrıverdi, 2012, p. 29*). He was awarded the academic degree of Doctor of Philological Sciences by the former USSR Higher Attestation Commission and, in October 1993, was elected Professor. (The diploma and certificate were nostrified and revalidated in 1995 by the Higher Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. – M.B.)

As Tanrıverdi (2007) emphasizes:

“This proves his special interest in the study of Azerbaijani anthroponyms. It is precisely due to these works that Mədəd Çobanov’s name is mentioned in Turkology alongside scholars such as N.A. Baskakov, E. Begmatov, N. Garbova, and T. Jamzakov, and in Azerbaijani linguistics alongside A. Qurbanov, M. Adilov, and H. Əliyev.”

According to Cəfərov (2012, p. 65), Mədəd Çobanov set as his goal the study of an urgent and highly relevant problem that required thorough investigation – namely, the formation of personal names in the Azerbaijani language, their regional distribution, frequency of usage, historical development, and other aspects. He critically analyzed previous scholarly research produced up to that time, offering scientific evaluations of each idea and argument. While examining works from different periods, he consistently adhered to the chronological principle and maintained an objective scholarly stance.

The author also addressed issues raised at onomastic conferences held both within Azerbaijan and abroad, analyzing related problems and considering the general scientific conclusions reached therein to be valuable. The dissertation carefully took into account the socio-political conditions and cultural levels of different historical periods, which enabled a more accurate interpretation of linguistic facts and enhanced the scientific quality of the research.

Throughout all chapters of the dissertation, Çobanov employed a range of specialized scientific methods consistent with the theoretical foundations of linguistics. His extensive use of comparative, historical, and quantitative methods of modern linguistics significantly increased the scholarly value of the work and enabled him to achieve his research objectives. As Cəfərov notes:

“Mədəd Çobanov’s work is, in the true sense of the word, the product of profound research and intense labor. It can be regarded as an original study in Turkological linguistics on issues of anthroponymy, based on rich linguistic material. The work possesses numerous positive qualities” (*Cəfərov, 2012, p. 65*).

Furthermore, Cəfərov (2012, p. 66) observes that:

“In Azerbaijani linguistics, anthroponyms – which constitute a broad segment of the lexical system – had not previously been studied in monographic form as an independent research topic. In selecting this subject, the doctoral candidate took into account the developmental conditions of personal names, linguistic diversity, and a number of other important characteristic features. The dissertation demonstrates M. Çobanov’s strong theoretical insight, independent research skills, and solid Turkological preparation. Overall, the dissertation is the result of labor demanding great effort. One of its notable strengths is the interconnection, logical consistency, and organic unity among all chapters of the research.” (Cəfərov, 2012, p. 66).

Based on his doctoral dissertation, Mədəd Çobanov prepared the book *Fundamentals of Azerbaijani Anthroponymy*, which was published in Russian in 1995 by the “Azerbaijan” publishing house under the title “Osnovy azerbaydzhanskoy antroponimiki” (Çobanov, 1995) and made available to a wide readership. In 1998, it was approved by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan as a textbook for higher education institutions and published by the “Maarif” publishing house (Çobanov, 1998). A revised and expanded third edition was published in 2017 by the “Borçalı” publishing house (Çobanov, 2017).

The book provides a comprehensive analysis of general information about onomastics; anthroponymy and its object of study; the history of anthroponymic research in Azerbaijani linguistics; issues of anthroponym development; the concept of name and naming systems; surnames, pseudonyms, and nicknames; the structural and semantic foundations of names; anthroponymic phenomena such as shared names; naming traditions; the structure and origin of names; poetic anthroponymy; and other related topics.

Mədəd Çobanov also paid close attention to anthroponymy as a branch of onomology, discussing its research object, subdivisions, and types. He emphasized that the primary concerns of onomology include the origin of proper names, their degree of distribution, their correspondence to referents, stylistic possibilities, and related issues. He examined major branches of onomology such as anthroponymy, toponymy, and cosmonymy, and explained the division of onomology into general and special categories from the perspective of general linguistics.

This approach demonstrates that the author laid a theoretical foundation for the diachronic and synchronic analysis of Azerbaijani anthroponyms and considered research within that framework to be methodologically sound. Moreover, in systematically examining the history of research on Azerbaijani anthroponymic units, Academician Mədəd Çobanov critically evaluated the works of scholars such as V.A. Gordlevsky, A.N. Samoylovich, A. Qurbanov, M. Adilov, Z. Sadiqov, and others. He identified unresolved or insufficiently studied problems related to anthroponyms, and by employing such a methodological approach, he was able to clarify even the most subtle details concerning anthroponymic phenomena.

Taking into account that Azerbaijani anthroponyms have been approached from various perspectives and that several views have been proposed regarding their stages of development, the author systematized previous research and presented the following classification:

The historical development of anthroponyms:

1. Ancient anthroponyms
2. Anthroponyms of the medieval period (13th–19th centuries)
3. Modern anthroponyms (20th century)

Research shows that the division proposed by the author is both scientifically and logically sound. Moreover, Mədəd Çobanov identified the anthroponymic units characteristic of each historical period. For example, he determined that anthroponyms such as Alp, Qazan, Tanqristan, Ağvuqi, and Arslan were typical of Azerbaijani anthroponyms prior to the 12th century. Likewise, he substantiated that names such as Allah-verdi, Ağası, Mədəd, Bəsdı, and Güllü were characteristic of the 17th–19th centuries.

Mədəd Çobanov extensively studied anthroponyms connected with the history, culture, ethnography, and worldview of the Azerbaijani people – names that perform a function of national etiquette. For instance, when discussing the tradition of identifying a person by their father's name, he referred to The Book of Dede Qorqud to support his argument (e.g., Bayandur, son of Qatğan; Buğac, son of Dərsə Khan). This demonstrates that the author approached anthroponymic units and their structural models from a historical-linguistic perspective.

The topic of the **“System of Azerbaijani Anthroponyms”** occupies a special place in Çobanov's research. While analyzing patronymics and surnames within the system of primary name categories, he addressed the issue from both diachronic and particularly synchronic perspectives. Surnames derived from male and female personal names, as well as those formed from lexical bases not traceable directly to personal names, were for the first time subjected to broad and systematic linguistic analysis in Çobanov's work.

The author also systematically examined pseudonyms – classified within the system of auxiliary name categories – studying their historical origins, frequency of occurrence, etymology, and geographical distribution. He concluded that pseudonyms derived from toponyms, ethnonyms, zoonyms, hydronyms, cosmonyms, as well as from common lexical items, due to their diversity and distinctive characteristics, may be considered among the rare cultural treasures of Azerbaijani heritage.

In addition, Çobanov clarified the place of nicknames within the auxiliary name category system and analyzed their types, distinguishing between individual-personal, familial-generic, and local-collective nicknames.

Paying particular attention to the semantic groups of anthroponyms, Çobanov carefully classified the meaning-based categories of Azerbaijani anthroponyms without overlooking even minor details. He extensively analyzed anthroponyms derived from toponyms, ethnonyms, hydronyms, zoonyms, cosmonyms, as well as from the names of weapons. In confirming his views on anthroponymic semantics, he frequently referred to examples from classical literary texts. For instance, anthroponyms such as Qılınc (Sword), Kaman (Bow), and Sadaq (Quiver) were linked to the line from The Book of Dede Qorqud: “In Oghuz times, when a young man married, he would shoot an arrow...,” as well as to a bayatı beginning with the line “fresh quiver, fresh arrow.”

One of the least studied issues in Turkology is that of anthroponymic phenomena. This topic was thoroughly examined in Çobanov's works on anthroponymy, where he identified and clarified their most characteristic features. He substantiated, with concrete evidence, semantic groups of anthroponymic phenomena such as shared (common) names, polynyms, palindromic names, and abbreviated names. For example:

- Shared anthroponyms: Həsərət, Şirin, İntizar
- Polynym anthroponyms: Balaxanım–Xanbaba, Aygün–Günay
- Abbreviated anthroponyms: Q-əli (Qurbanəli), İ-Xəlil (İbrahimxəlil)

Evaluating highly Çobanov's article “Anthroponymic Phenomena in the Azerbaijani Language” (Çobanov, 1988) and his book Fundamentals of Azerbaijani Anthroponymy, Əzizxan Tanrıverdi, referring to Çobanov's statement that “312 genuine personal names have been formed in the Azerbaijani language based on the word ‘gül’ (rose/flower)” (Tanrıverdi, 2012, p. 22), concludes that more than half of the anthroponyms within the Azerbaijani anthroponymic system are of national origin (Tanrıverdi, 2012, pp. 110–111).

Issues such as the orthography of anthroponyms and poetic onomastics likewise did not escape M. Çobanov's attention. He systematically examined each of these topics in separate chapters and sections. It is sufficient to note one fact: in addressing the orthography of

anthroponyms, Çobanov identified 39 principal rules and 12 sub-rules. This clearly demonstrates that he approached linguistic phenomena not as a casual observer, but with the precision of a jeweler.

M. Çobanov was also among the scholars who studied Azerbaijani anthroponyms within the broader context of Turkic anthroponymy. For example, when discussing shared names, he writes that in Kazakh anthroponymy, due to certain traditions, one encounters names formed according to specific naming customs. In families with many daughters, male children were sometimes given female names. For instance, girls were given names such as Altay, Bolat (Polad), Yanıl (Yonıl), Yanılxan, and were raised as boys. Similarly, Çobanov's research shows that the name Bəxtiyar is characteristic not only of Azerbaijani anthroponymy but also of Uzbek, Kyrgyz, and Kazakh naming traditions.

In short, Academician Mədəd Çobanov's textbook *Fundamentals of Azerbaijani Anthroponymy* is a valuable contribution not only for students of philology faculties in higher education institutions, but also for teachers of Azerbaijani language and literature in secondary and vocational schools, as well as for master's students, doctoral candidates, and researchers.

Following the first edition of *Fundamentals of Azerbaijani Anthroponymy* (1983), Çobanov published a series of important works, including *Linguistic Analysis of the Text* (1984, 1987), *On the Methodology of Teaching the Azerbaijani Language* (1986), *Surname. Pseudonym* (1987), *Semantics and Orthography of Azerbaijani Personal Names* (1990), *Azerbaijani Male Names* (1993), and others.

Among these works, *Surname. Pseudonym* and *Semantics and Orthography of Azerbaijani Personal Names* are particularly significant. The latter was approved by the Ministry of Public Education of the Republic of Georgia as a teaching aid for secondary school teachers of Azerbaijani language and literature and was published in 1990 by the "Qanatleba" publishing house. The editor of the book was Prof. Q. Kazımov, and the reviewers were T.M. Əhmədov and Prof. T. Əfəndiyeva (Çobanov, 1990).

As Ə. Tanrıverdi writes:

"In his book *Surname. Pseudonym*, published in 1987, M. Çobanov for the first time subjected surnames and pseudonyms to comprehensive study. After interpreting the issues of name and naming systems, as well as patronymics, from a Turkological perspective, the author discusses the motivational principles underlying surnames and identifies three main principles in the formation of Azerbaijani surnames: surnames derived from male names, surnames derived from female names, and surnames derived from lexical bases not functioning as personal names. The book also explains the origin, historical formation, usage contexts, meanings, areal distribution of pseudonyms, and the structural relationship between pseudonym and autonym. Additionally, an Azerbaijani dictionary of pseudonyms containing nearly 600 entries was compiled" (Tanrıverdi, 2012, pp. 28–29).

Emphasizing the richness, linguistic diversity, and functional significance of pseudonyms within the Azerbaijani anthroponymic system, Tanrıverdi notes that pseudonyms occupy a special place within the system of auxiliary name categories. While acknowledging the presence of pseudonyms formed on the basis of Arabic and Persian appellatives, he states that his own research mainly focuses on pseudonyms formed from Turkic-origin appellatives and onomastic units. He further remarks:

"The Turkic-origin pseudonyms analyzed in our study were taken from the 'Dictionary of Pseudonyms' (pp. 67–91) in M. Çobanov's book *Surname. Pseudonym*, as well as from literary works and various monographs" (Tanrıverdi, 2012, p. 143).

Professor Tanrıverdi also observes:

“M. Çobanov addressed not only the structure and lexical-semantic characteristics of nicknames, but also the issues of individual-personal, familial-generic, and local-collective nicknames” (*Tanrıverdi, 2012, pp. 28–29*).

He quite rightly concludes that Professor M. Çobanov’s research in onomastics is not limited solely to anthroponymy. A significant place in his scholarly work is also devoted to the linguistic analysis of toponymic units. Dozens of his articles on toponyms, as well as the book *Toponyms of Borchaly* (*Çobanov, 1996*), co-authored with Müşfiq Çobanlı, have long been familiar to intellectuals and the wider reading public.

The world-renowned writer and Turkologist Chingiz Aytmatov wrote:

“I am greatly pleased by the well-known Turkologist Mədəd Çobanov’s recent scientific research in the field of onomastics. His studies in the field of toponymy, in particular, are highly valuable and commendable. His presentations at the international scientific conferences held in Ufa and Bishkek especially attracted my attention. I wish him success on this path!” (*Scientific Activity of Academician Mədəd Namaz oğlu Çobanov, 2024a*).

The internationally recognized academician Edhem Rahimovich Tenishev (Moscow) wrote:

“Professor M.N. Çobanov, who is well acquainted with the history of philological science, skillfully selects and investigates topics that correspond to the contemporary level of scholarship and remain insufficiently studied. This enables him to achieve new accomplishments in the field of science” (*Scientific Activity of Academician Mədəd Namaz oğlu Çobanov, 2024b*).

Academician Shanazar Shaabdurakhmanovich Shaabdurakhmanov (Uzbekistan), who considers Çobanov to belong to the generation of scholars devoted to both preserving the rich traditions of Azerbaijani linguistics and Turkology and addressing the modern general problems of Turkology, concluded his reflections as follows:

“A close examination of Professor M.N. Çobanov’s scientific work reveals that he is among those scholars who pay special attention to organically linking the past of science with its present, and its present with its future. In other words, in his works, the historicity of modernity and the modernity of historicity are consistently analyzed in parallel” (*Scientific Activity of Academician Mədəd Namaz oğlu Çobanov, 2024c*).

In his book *Toponyms of Borchaly*, Academician Mədəd Çobanov, for the first time, clarified the history of the settlement of Turkic (Azerbaijani) tribes in Georgia by referring to historical sources such as *Moksevai Kartlisa* and *Istoriia Alvan*. He substantiated, with undeniable evidence, that the Borchaly region is an ancient Turkic homeland. Within this framework, he also explained the toponym “Borchaly” as meaning “hill of wolves.”

In the section entitled “Borchaly Toponyms Resonating with the World of Dede Qorqud,” the author discusses toponymic units such as Baydar, Bəytəkər, Sarvan, Ulaşlı, and Qızlar bulağı, highlighting their parallels with place names mentioned in *The Book of Dede Qorqud*. He emphasizes their importance for a deeper study of ancient Turkic history, language, and ethnography.

For the first time, the book analyzes Turkic-origin oikonyms in Georgia from the perspective of historical onomastics and identifies five main groups:

1. Ancient oikonyms
2. Ancient and modern oikonyms
3. Modern oikonyms
4. Hybrid oikonyms

5. Recurrent or multi-variant oikonyms

Each of these groups is substantiated with concrete linguistic evidence.

For example, oikonyms such as Aziki (Azlar), Qanlı, Qazan, Qıpçaq, Hunlar, and Qaramanlı – derived from the names of Turkic tribes that played an active role in the ethnogenesis of the Azerbaijani people – are examined within the system of ancient oikonyms.

Mədəd Çobanov was also the first to systematically analyze the semantics of Borchaly toponyms, particularly their semantic groupings. In this section, the following categories are examined from a synchronic perspective:

- Anthroponym-based toponyms: Bəylər, Qasımlı, Səfərli
- Ethnotoponyms: Quşçu, Ulaşlı, Türklər
- Hydrotoponyms: Qarabulaq, Qırxbulaq, Südbulaq
- Zootoponyms: Ayıtalası, Danaqıran, Leyləkuçan, Canavarlı
- Phytotoponyms: Armudlu, Qamışlı, Zoğallı, Vələsli, Palıdlı
- Memorial toponyms: Sabirkənd, Səməd Vurğun Street, Nərimanov Avenue, Vazeh Lane

- Cosmotoponyms: Ayorta, Güney, Gündoğan

Through such a comprehensive and methodologically grounded analysis, Çobanov significantly enriched both Azerbaijani onomastics and Turkological scholarship.

The section entitled “Brief Essays on Borchaly Toponyms” may be regarded as the central and most significant part of the book under discussion. First, this is because it provides extensive information on the historical origins of toponyms such as Azgəyliyən, Kaspi, Sadaqlı, Kəpənəkçi, and others, which resonate with the Orkhon–Yenisei inscriptions and The Book of Dede Qorqud. Second, since each toponymic unit is analyzed from a historical-linguistic perspective, the characteristic features of archaic appellative-based toponyms become clearly understandable. For example: Qarayazı (“large plain”), Qaracala (“large hollow”), Sadaqlı (derived from sadaq – “quiver”), Tüllər (from tülü – the name of a tribe), and others.

Such examples confirm that in Toponyms of Borchaly, dozens of toponymic units are provided with detailed etymological explanations. Concluding his article “Mədəd Çobanov and Issues of Onomology,” published in the newspapers Şərqi səsi and Hakimiyyət və gələcək, Professor Əzizxan Tanrıverdi, Head of the Department of Methodology of Teaching the Azerbaijani Language at Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University and Doctor of Philological Sciences, wrote:

“In this brief article, I have attempted to cover only a small portion – though the most important aspects – of Prof. Mədəd Çobanov’s research related to onomology... Finally, I sincerely congratulate the distinguished linguist-scholar, renowned Turkologist, Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor Mədəd Çobanov on the occasion of his 70th anniversary and wish him new creative successes” (*Mədəd Çobanov və onomologiya məsələləri*, 2018).

Even after this article was published, and despite his retirement, Academician Mədəd Çobanov continued his scientific and pedagogical activities until the end of his life. He authored a number of new scholarly works, served as General Director of the “Education” Center of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and was elected a member of various award commissions and editorial boards of newspapers and journals. He was repeatedly honored with certificates of merit, orders, medals, and numerous other awards.

In 2021, Academician Mədəd Çobanov was awarded the Presidential Scholarship.

His 60th, 70th, 75th, 80th, and 85th anniversaries (1997, 2007, 2012, 2017, and 2022) were solemnly celebrated in Azerbaijan and Georgia. Books were written about him, scholarly articles were published, radio and television programs were produced, and documentary films

were made. Among them was the book by Academician Nizami Cəfərov entitled “A Diligent Scholar, a Renowned Linguist-Turkologist” (Cəfərov, 2012).

Academician Mədəd Çobanov passed away on June 2, 2023, at the age of 86 and was buried on June 3 at the Dede Qorqud Cemetery in Baku.

He was also a devoted family man. Together with his wife, medical professional Rima Nadir qızı Əhmədova-Çobanova, he raised five children – four daughters and one son. All of them received higher education and have families of their own. His son and two of his daughters are scholars. He had nine grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren; nine of his grandchildren have also received higher education.

Even after his passing, Academician Mədəd Çobanov has not been forgotten. Memorial events have been held in Baku and Tbilisi, as well as in Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Marneuli, Gardabani, and other regions. Numerous poems, epics, and essays have been dedicated to his memory; various events, competitions, olympiads, and contests have been organized in his honor. Books on his life and scholarly legacy have been published; series of articles have appeared in the Azerbaijani and Georgian press; elegantly printed volumes have been presented in both Azerbaijan and Georgia; and these events have been widely covered in newspapers, radio and television programs, and on various internet platforms. All of this has further contributed to the development of Azerbaijani science and strengthened the friendship between the Azerbaijani and Georgian peoples.

3. Conclusions

In summary, in the scholarly legacy of Academician Mədəd Çobanov, such fields as the Azerbaijani language, Azerbaijani studies, Turkology, the unity of Turkic literary languages, linguistics, dialectology, onomastics – particularly anthroponymy and toponymy – as well as literary criticism, literary studies, and literary relations, including the reflection of Azerbaijani–Georgian friendship and brotherhood traditions in artistic and academic literature, were elevated to a new level of analysis.

These areas found broad expression within scientific thought through his works, ensured the enduring relevance of his scholarship, and significantly enriched Azerbaijani linguistics and literary studies, Turkology and philology in general, as well as Azerbaijani–Georgian literary and cultural relations.

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