

Geographical Aspects of Toponyms in the Bolnisi and Tetrtskaro Municipalities

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The toponymy of the Bolnisi and Tetrtskaro municipalities reflects a wide range of historical, geographical, and ethnocultural processes. This study aims to conduct a geographical analysis of the toponymic heritage of these municipalities, to identify their spatial and typological characteristics, and to examine the evolution of place names. Particular attention is paid to physical-geographical, historical, ethnic, religious, and socio-economic factors that influence the formation and transformation of toponyms.

The research methodology is based on a combination of historical-geographical approaches and modern geoinformation (GIS) analysis. Data sources include historical documents, archival materials, maps, as well as lexical and ethnographic data collected from the local population, which enhances the comprehensiveness and analytical depth of the study.

The results indicate that the toponymy of the Bolnisi and Tetrtskaro municipalities is multilingual and historically multilayered, reflecting the region's ethnic diversity, historical migrations, and political transformations. The study demonstrates how the natural landscape, local traditions, historical events, and cultural interactions of the region are embedded in place names. The research includes etymological, structural, and functional analyses of toponyms and examines the main drivers of toponymic change, such as linguistic assimilation, administrative reforms, historical conflicts, and demographic migrations.

This research contributes to a deeper understanding of regional toponymy, its preservation, and the future process of place-name standardization. The findings may be applied for scientific, educational, and cultural heritage conservation purposes.