



## ETHNOGRAPHIC TERMS DENOTING KINSHIP

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### INTRODUCTION

In modern Uzbek and Uyghur languages, kinship terms can be categorized into three main groups based on their origin and meaning:

#### I. Blood-related Kinship Terms

This category includes terms that denote direct blood relations in Uzbek, Uyghur, and other Turkic languages, such as ona (mother), ota (father), aka (older brother), tog'a (maternal uncle), xola (maternal aunt), buva (bobo) (grandfather), buvi (grandmother), amma (paternal aunt), and nabira (grandchild).

#### II. Kinship Terms Formed After Marriage

These terms appear after marriage and include words like er (husband), xotin (wife), kuyov (son-in-law), kelin (bride/daughter-in-law), pochcha (sister's husband), boja (co-brother-in-law), ovsin (co-sister-in-law), qayin ona (mother-in-law), qayin ota (father-in-law), quda xola (co-mother-in-law), quda buva (co-grandfather-in-law), o'gay ota (stepfather), o'gay ona (stepmother), and o'gay bola (stepchild).

#### III. Terms of Close Relations

This group, specific to Uzbek and Uyghur languages, differs entirely from the first two categories. It consists of terms that incorporate the word tutingan (adopted/fictive kinship), such as tutingan ota (adopted father), tutingan ona (adopted mother), tutingan o'g'il (adopted son).

#### Euphemisms Related to Personal Names

Euphemisms associated with personal names can be classified as follows:

1. Euphemisms related to rituals
2. Euphemisms related to generative units

Euphemisms linked to personal names are primarily associated with kinship formed after marriage. For instance, terms such as er (husband), xotin (wife), qaynata (father-in-law), qaynana (mother-in-law), qaynegachi (husband's younger sister), qaynaga (husband's elder brother), qaynsingil (wife's younger sister), and pochcha (sister's husband) belong to the micro-field of post-marriage kinship distinctions.

#### The Ethnographic Term "Boja"

The word boja represents a unique social concept in the Uzbek kinship system, which does not have a direct equivalent in many other cultures or languages.

The term boja refers to the kinship relationship between the wives of two men. The way bojas interact during weddings, funerals, or other gatherings—through jokes, friendly exchanges, and gift-giving—reflects important cultural characteristics. This relationship holds significant importance in local traditions. The bond between bojas is often characterized by warmth and humor, which is frequently depicted in Uzbek folklore. For example, Uzbek folk anecdotes often feature humorous interactions between bojas.

### The Ethnographic Term "Ovsin"

The word ovsin is another term specific to the Uzbek kinship system. Since it does not have a direct equivalent in many other cultures, it serves as an ethnographic term that reflects Uzbek national customs and social relationships.

Ovsin describes the relationship between women who have married into the same family as daughters-in-law. This concept holds a special place in the Uzbek family structure and distinguishes it from other cultures. The bond between ovsins is often highlighted in traditional ceremonies, such as weddings or the welcoming of a new bride into the family. The interaction between ovsins is marked by mutual support, solidarity, and respect, reflecting key cultural values.

For instance, when a new bride enters the family, her ovsins welcome her, guide her in adjusting to the household, and teach her how to communicate with the mother-in-law. These interactions play a crucial role in maintaining harmony within the family and upholding traditional customs.

### The Role of Ovsins and Their Cultural Depictions

Ovsins are depicted as individuals who support each other and actively participate in family events together. Their relationships can sometimes involve rivalry and, at other times, solidarity, which is frequently reflected in folklore and literature.

The theme of ovsin relationships appears in folk proverbs, fairy tales, and legends. For example, the Uzbek proverb states: "Ovsin – bir-biriga ko'z, bir-biriga so'z" (Ovsins are each other's eyes and words), highlighting their close yet complex bond.

### The Ethnographic Terms "Qaynota" and "Qaynona"

The kinship terms qaynota (father-in-law) and qaynona (mother-in-law) emerge after marriage and hold a special place in Uzbek culture, associated with deep respect and honor.

### Etymology of "Qaynota"

The word qaynota refers to the husband's father in relation to the wife, or the wife's father in relation to the husband. This term originates from the ancient Turkic word qayin, which initially meant the relatives of a wife (for a husband) or the relatives of a husband (for a wife). The second component, ata, means father in Turkic languages.

Over time, these words merged in Old Uzbek, leading to phonetic changes. The i in qayin was dropped, and the a vowels later shifted to ä, resulting in the transformation:

qayin ata → qayinata → qaynata → qäynätä.

In Jadid literature, different variations of the term appear, including qaynona, qaynana, and qayin ona, all referring to mother-in-law.

Maslahat natijasida qaynona bilan kelin uyda qoladigan bo'lib, ikki-uch oydan beri bularnikida yashaydigan qarindoshlardan Savribibi degan kampir qizlarga ko'z-quloq qilib berilgan edi (Cho'lpon. "Night and Day").

- Joduni kim qildiradir?

- Qayin otasi, qayin onasi, qola bersa, xotini (Qodiriy. "O'tkan kunlar").

Uziqararoq qaynananing qo'lig'a tushub qolsa, nima bo'ladi bu? (Cho'lpon. "The springs are boiling.")

The term quda is closely associated with Uzbek wedding traditions and represents a unique cultural concept specific to Uzbek society. In Uzbek customs, quda signifies a two-way kinship bond, referring to the relationship between the parents of the bride and groom.

Zebini tushirib kelish uchun shaharga borgan xotinlar, ularning o'z tillari bilan aytsak, "qudala", boshlarida Poshshaxonga o'xshagan eslik va ayyor bir juvon turganiga qaramasdan, negadir kichkina mittini nazardan qochirdilar (Cho'lpon. "Night and Day").

Thus, most ethnographic terms denoting kinship are associated with wedding ceremonies.

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