

Lithuanian Place Names with the Stem “totor-”

Ilona Mickienė

Vilnius University, Kaunas Faculty
Muitinės St 8, LT-44280 Kaunas, Lithuania
E-mail: ilona.mickiene@knf.vu.lt
ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4433-506X>
Scientific interests: Onomastics, Lexicology, Word Formation

Rita Baranauskienė

Vilnius University, Kaunas Faculty
Muitinės St 8, LT-44280 Kaunas, Lithuania
E-mail: rita.baranauskiene@knf.vu.lt
ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0123-5077>
Scientific interests: Semantics, Onomastics, Linguistic Pragmatics

Abstract. Lithuania’s Tatars are amongst the oldest national minorities in the country. Culturally and ethnically different from the dominant majority of Lithuania’s population, this group have preserved their distinct customs, traditions, national and religious identity. Lithuania’s Tatar minority continues to be the subject of diverse academic studies, focusing on various aspects such as the status of this community in the 19th century (Bairišauskaitė, 1996), the oldest Tatar manuscripts (Miškinienė, 2001), the Tatar history and culture (Jakubauskas et al., 2009), female Tatar anthroponyms in 16–17th century Lithuania (Čirūnaitė, 2021). This research aims to analyse the structure and territorial spread of toponyms with the stem *totor-*, confirming the areas members of this community have inhabited in the past or continue to inhabit today. The structural analysis of toponyms with the stem *totor-* revealed the dominance of secondary place names derived from the ethnonym *totorius* (Tatar), personal name *Totorius* or another place name with the same stem. The most significant number of Tatars have historically inhabited the southern (south-eastern and south-western) and the northern parts of Lithuania.

Keywords: place names; stem *totor-*; structure; semantics; spread.

Introduction

Researchers from various fields have been studying Lithuania’s Tatar minority for several decades, focusing on its history and culture, religious and linguistic features as well as aspects of community life (Kryczyński, 1993; Bairišauskaitė, 1996; Anglickienė, 2006; Bairišauskaitė et al., 2008; Jakubauskas et al., 2009; Miškinienė, 2001, 2009). A separate series of studies examined Tatar anthroponyms (Čirūnaitė, 2001, 2009, 2010, 2018a, 2018b, 2021), with the concept of *Tatar* analysed alongside the cultural and historical interaction amongst neighbouring ethnic communities (Liutkevičienė, Palovienė, 2021).

Submitted 19 November 2024 / Accepted 24 January 2025

Įteikta 2024 11 19 / Priimta 2025 01 24

Copyright © 2025 Ilona Mickienė, Rita Baranauskienė. Published by Vilnius University Press. This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium provided the original author and source are credited.

This article focuses only on the proper names (oikonyms, hydronyms and other toponyms) with the stem **totor-** (from Lithuanian *totōris* or *totōrius* – “a member of Tatar peoples or tribes” (LKŽ)), leaving onyms with the remaining stems **totor-**, **tatar-**, **tutor-**, and **tautar-** for future studies.

The bulk of the data used in this research was obtained from two sources: the Geoinformational Database of Lithuanian Place Names (LVGDB) and the main catalogue of the Onomastic Archive at the Institute of the Lithuanian Language (LKI). Lithuanian toponyms and their linguistic-geographical data sets are currently being transferred from the LKI archive to the LVGDB, with the process already completed for the areas of Kalvarija, Kazlų Rūda, Marijampolė, Pagėgiai, Druskininkai, Birštonas, Rietavas, the districts of Švenčionys and Ignalina, parts of the Lazdijai district as well as some of the district municipalities of Alytus (see LVGDB). The current study is based on the LVGDB entries containing the stem **totor** supplemented by any place names that have not yet been transferred from the LKI archive. The LKI catalogue cards include the year and object description (in original language) provided by data collectors. In total, 158 toponyms containing the stem **totor-** were identified. Some of the place names were listed on more than one catalogue card, e.g., **Totorkalnis** (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *kalnas* [hill]) – hill in the village of Pelyšiai, Šimonys volost (LKI) and **Totorkalnis** (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *kalnas* [hill]) – hill in Panevėžys county, Šimonys volost, Pelyšiai village (1937, LKI). In this case, only one toponym is analysed, noting both dates when the name was recorded (if available). During the data collection for this study, it emerged that both the LVGDB and the LKI archive include place names containing the stem **totork-** [Tatark] and suffixes **-inis**, **-inė** or **-ynas**, **-ynė**, as well as secondary compounds. Examples include: **Totork-inis** – footpath, pond in Šakiai distr. (1982, LKI); **Totork-inė** – a meadow in Alytus co. (1935, LKI); **Totork-ynas** – damp area covered with sweet flag (from *totorka* – colloquial for ‘sweet flag’) in Šakiai distr. (1983, LKI); **Totork-ynė** – meadow in Šakiai co. (1935, LKI); **Totorkinis prūdas** (Tatarka pond) in Šakiai co. (lots of sweet flags (*totorka*)) (1978, LKI). The above toponyms are thought to have come from the name of the sweet flag plant (*Acorus calamus*). As its colloquial variant (*tatarka*) is a non-standard form with a different stem, any place names made from this word are not within the scope of the present study.

The **aim of this article** is to analyse the structure and territorial spread of onyms containing the stem **totor-**. Their structure is examined by applying structural/derivative analysis, while the localisation and spread of these place names is determined using the database and dictionary information as well as the toponymic and cultural context.

1. The structure of onyms with the stem **totor-**

The structural analysis of onyms starts with determining their type. All but one analysed examples are secondary onyms – compounds, composites or suffixal derivatives. Only one primary toponym was identified: **Totorius** (masc. *Tatar*) designates a land surface object, a meadow in Alytus distr. (1935, LKI). All of the secondary onyms are based on the ethnonym *totorius*, anthroponym *Totorius* or another toponym, e.g. **Totorišio dvaras** (Totoriškis Estate), originating from the name of a village (**Totoriškis**).

According to their type, secondary onyms fall into one of the following categories:

- a) Residential locations,
- b) Hydrographic objects,
- c) Landform (orographic) objects,
- d) Historical-cultural objects,
- e) Land surface objects (cf. LVGDB).

1.1 Compound toponyms

The analysis of secondary compound toponyms with the stem *totor-* shows that a large number of them denote **residential locations**. This group includes names of estates, villages, homesteads, and single farmsteads: *Totorišķio dvaras* (Totorišķis Estate) – estate in Rokiškis distr. (1935, LKI); *Totorių dvaras* (Tatar Estate) – former estate in Biržai distr. (1984, LKI); *Keturiasdešimt Totorių* (Forty Tatars) – the village in Vilnius distr., (“the nearby burial mound is a centuries-old graveyard. Legend has it that Vytautas brought 40 Tatar captives to what is now the territory of the village. This is where the name *Qurıq Tatar* comes from” (see VRTIC – Vilnius District Tourism Information Centre)); *Totorišķių kaimas* (Totorišķės village) – village in Rokiškis co. (1935 & 1937, LKI); *Totorių kaimas* (Tatar village) – village in Rokiškis co. (LKI); *Totorišķių kaimas* (Totorišķės village) – village in Ukmergė co. (1936, LKI); *Totorių kaimas* (Tatar village) – village in Biržai co. (1935, LKI); *Totorkalnio kaimas* (Totorkalnis village) – village in Biržai co. (1937, LKI); *Totorkiemo kaimas* (Totorkiemis village) – village in Vilkaviškis distr. (1990, LKI; “lies north east of the county centre, consists of 35 dwellings, the residents of 3 of these have moved to other villages, no one left alive in one of the dwellings; *Totorviečių sodybos* (Tatar homesteads) – footpath in Šakiai distr. (“homesteads in the former village before it was divided into separate farms” (1983, LKI); *Totorišķio vienkiemis* (Totorišķis single farmstead) – single farmstead in Rokiškis co. (1935, LKI).

Another group of compound toponyms denote **hydrographic objects**, such as swamps, lakes, springs, and streams: *Totorių šulinėlis* (Tatar well) – swamp in Druskininkai municipality (LVGDB); *Totorių bala*, also known as *Totoriabalė* (Tatar swamp) – swamp in Alytus co. (1935, LKI); *Totorių bala* – swamp in Alytus distr. (1982, LKI); *Totorių balelė* (little Tatar swamp) – swamp in Utena distr. (1977, LKI); *Totorių šulnelis* (Tatar well) – swamp in Lazdijai distr. (1974, LKI); *Totorių šulinėlis* – little deep swamp in Sejny co. (1935, LKI); *Totorišķių ežeras* (Totorišķės lake) – lake in Trakai distr. (Vanagas, 1970; VŽ; LVGDB); *Totorkiemo ežerėlis* (Totorkiemis lake) – lake in Vilkaviškis distr. (1974, LKI); *Totorkiemo ažeraitis*¹ (Totorkiemis lake) – lake in Vilkaviškis distr. (1990, LKI); *Totorio šaltinėlis* (Tatar’s spring) – spring in Alytus co. (LVGDB); *Totorių upelis* (Tatar stream) – a stream flowing into river Gulbė in Prienai distr. (1981, LKI); *Totorių upelis* – stream in Alytus distr. (1935, LKI); *Totorkalnio Straumė* (Totorkalnis current) – stream in Biržai distr. (1968, LKI); *Totorkalnės brasta*, also known as *Straumė* (Totorkalnė ford) – ford in Biržai distr. (1984, LKI).

¹ *Ažeraitis* is a dialectal form of *ežeraitis* (‘little lake’).

The toponyms in the landform (orographic) object category designate hills, hillocks, quarries, roads and streets: *Totorių kalnas* (Tatar hill), also known as *Totorių kapinės* (Tatar graveyard) – hill (“because of many Tatars buried there”) in Kaišiadorys distr. (1985 & 1986, LKI); *Totorkalnio kalnas* – hill in Šakiai co. (LKI); *Totoršlaičio kalnas* (Totoršlaitis hill) – hillock in Alytus co. (1935, LKI), also known as *Totoršlaitis* (Tatar dell); *Totorių kapai* (Tatar graves) – hillock in Ukmergė distr. (1977, LKI; “said to hide the remains of Swedish and Tatar soldiers after their battle, the Germans later used the tombstones for railway building”); *Totorių kapelių kalnas* (hill of Tatar graves) – hillock in Alytus distr. (1982, LKI); *Totorių kapinėlės* (little Tatar cemetery) – a mound of untilled land in Alytus co. (1935, LKI); *Totorių kapinėlės* – a hillock, mound of untilled land (1935, 1936 & 1986, LKI; “the person who supplied this name says that he had himself found skulls here when making holes for potato planting. There are springs nearby with many alder trees growing in the area”) in Alytus co.; *Totorių kapinėlės* – hill in Trakai distr. (1935, LKI); *Totorių kapinės* (Tatar cemetery) – hill in Alytus co. (1935, LKI); *Totorių kapinėlės* – quarry in Kaišiadorys distr. (1986, LKI); *Totorių kelias* (Tatar road) – road in Semeliškiai volost (LKI); *Totorių gatvelė* (small Tatar street) – street (“its western stretch is about 100 metres long”) in Kėdainiai co. (1935, LKI).

Historical-cultural objects (cemeteries, mills, former castle hills) are denoted by the following compound toponyms: *Totorių kapinės* (also known as *Totorių kalnas*) – hill (“former graveyard”) in Kaišiadorys distr. (1985 & 1986, LKI); *Totorių kapai* – location of Tatar burials in Alytus distr. (1977 & 1982, LKI); *Totorių kapinėlės* – cemetery in Trakai co. (1935 & 1987, LKI); *Totoriškių malūnas* (Totoriškės mill) – mill in Širvintos distr., (1976, LKI; “formerly a mill in the south of the village, near the Zirnajai lake, now in ruins”); *Totoriščio piliakalnis* (Totoriškis mound, former castle hill) – former castle hill in Ukmergė distr. (LKI); *Totoriščio piliakalnis* – former castle hill in Širvintos distr. (LVGDB; VŽ); *Totorių kalnas* (or *Totoriškių kalnas*) – former castle hill in Trakai distr., also known as Daniliškės castle hill (VŽ; LVGDB & 1984, LKI).

Land surface objects (cultivated land, fields, forests, meadows, bogs, clearings, plots of (ploughed, tilled) land) are marked by the following compound toponyms: *Totorių Koplyčia* (Tatar chapel) – a plot of cultivated land in Druskininkai municipality (LVGDB); arable land in Sejny co. (1935, LKI); *Totorių kapai* – a ploughed field in Širvintos distr. (1976, LKI); *Totorių kapai* – field in Uikmergė distr. (1977, LKI); *Totorių kelias* – field in Trakai co. (1935, LKI); *Totoriščio miškas* (Tatar forest), also known as *Aglynas*² – forest in Pabaiskas volost (LKI); *Totoriškių miškas* – forest in Aukštadvaris volost (LKI); *Totoriškių miškas* – forest in Širvintos distr. (1976, LKI); *Totoriškės miškelis* (little Tatar wood) – forest in Lazdijai distr. (1988, LKI); *Totoriškių miškas* – forest in Panevėžys distr. (1985, LKI); *Totorių miškas* – forest in Alytus distr. (1982, LKI); *Totorių miškelis* – forest in Ignalina distr. (1985, LKI); *Totorių kampinis* (Tatar corner) – meadow (“owned by a Tatar man”) in Alytus distr. (1982, LKI); *Totorių raistas* (Tatar bog) – meadow in Alytus distr. (1974, LKI); *Totoriškės raistas* (Totoriškė bog) – bog in Prienai distr. (1981, LKI);

² *Aglynas* is a dialectal form of *eglynas* (‘fir grove’).

Totoriškių raistas – bog in Alytus co. (1935, LKI); *Totorių skynimai* (Tatar clearings) – forest clearing in Širvintos distr. (1976, LKI); *Totorių kapai* – arable land in Ukmergė co. (1936, LKI); *Totorių žemė* (Tatar land) – a plot of land (“name of the village land”) in Kaišiadorių distr. (1987, LKI).

All compound toponyms included in the study were also analysed from a syntactic perspective. The results show that generally, the components of a place name are linked through genitive case expressing possessive relation of ownership, subordination or other kinds of dependency. The first component of a compound toponym defines or clarifies the second element, usually naming either the Tatar people (*Totorių*) or the places they (used to) live in (*Totoriškės, Totoriškio, Totoriškių*). Occasionally, the first component is itself a composite, most likely formed from an earlier toponym and presently denoting some part of it or a place near it (*Totoršlaičio, Totorkalnio, Totorkiemio, Totorviečių*). The second component usually denotes a place of residence (estate, village, homestead, single farmstead), or one of the following types of objects: hydrographic (swamp, lake, spring, stream), orographic (hill, hillock, quarry, road, street), historical-cultural (cemetery, mill, former castle hill), or land surface (plot of arable land, hill, hillock, field, forest, meadow, bog, clearing, (arable/tillable) land). One toponym (*Keturiasdešimt Totorių*) is structurally different to the rest of the group. Here, the first component is a numeral (“forty”) denoting a group of people (“Tatars”) named by the second component.

1.2 Composite toponyms

Another group of secondary onyms examined during this study are composite toponyms. They are constructed by joining two nouns: the first constituent is based on an ethnonym, with the second component denoting the classification parameter, i.e. type, of an object. According to their type, all analysed composites fall into one of the following categories: residential locations, hydrographic objects, landform (orographic) objects, historical-cultural objects, or land surface objects.

Composite toponyms denoting **residential locations** usually name estates, villages, and homesteads: *Totorkalnis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *kalnas* [hill]) – manor in Biržai distr. (1960, LKI); *Totorviečiai* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *vieta* [place]) – village in Šakiai distr. (1972, LKI; LVGDB; Vanagas, 1982); *Totorkalnė* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *kalnas* [hill]) – village in Biržai distr. (1984, LKI; ‘7 dwellings, Vytautas the Great settled Tatars on this hill’); *Totorkalnis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *kalnas* [hill]) – village in Biržai distr. (LKI); *Totorkiemis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *kiemas* [yard]) – village in Kalvarija distr. (1960, LKI; Vilkaviškis distr. (1990, LKI; “20 dwellings”); homestead in Vilkaviškis distr. (LKI); *Totorkalnis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *kalnas* [hill]) – former Tatar homestead in Lazdijai distr. (1988, LKI). The second constituent in the above examples is one of the following common nouns: *kalnas* (hill), *kiemas* (yard), or *vieta* (place). The onyms in this group are constructed without a connecting vowel and are all *ia* or *ė*-stem words.

Hydrographic objects are denoted by the following toponyms: *Totorabalė/Totoriabalė* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *bala* [swamp]) – swamp in Lazdijai distr. (LVGDB); *Totoriabalė* (also

known as *Totorių bala* (Tatar swamp) (1935, LKI) – swamp in Alytus distr. (LVGDB); *Totorplynė* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *plynė* [heath]) – marsh in Šakiai distr. (1983, LKI; “a small swamp on the western edge of lake Žalgiris bordering the village of Aleksandrava”); *Totorraistis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *raistas* [bog]) – swamp in Šakiai distr. (1935, LKI); *Totorupis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *upė* [river]) – stream in Radviliškis distr. (LKI; LVGDB; Vanagas, 1970). The second constituent in the above examples is one of the following common nouns: *bala* (swamp), *plynė* (heath), *raistas* (bog), *upė* (river). The composites in this group are constructed either with connecting vowels *a* and *ia* or without.

A large number of composite toponyms analysed denote **landform (orographic) objects**: a) hills, hillocks: *Totorasalis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *sala* [island]) – hill in Lazdijai distr. (1982, LKI; LVGDB); *Totorkalnis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *kalnas* [hill]) – hill in Alytus distr. (1935 & 1982, LKI; LVGDB); in Marijampolė distr. (1935, LKI; LVGDB), in Prienai distr. (1935 & 1981, LKI), in Biržai co. (1935, LKI); in Šakiai distr. (1983, LKI; “legend has it that Tatars lived here at some point; parents of older residents say there are traces of 7 former homesteads here”); *Totorkalnis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *kalnas* [hill]) – hillock in Prienai distr. (1936 & 1981, LKI); *Totoršlaitis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *šlaitas* [dell]) – hill in Alytus co., also known as *Totoršlaičio kalnas* (Totoršlaitis hill) (1935, LKI); b) (small) mounds: *Totorkalnis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *kalnas* [hill]) – mound in Lazdijai distr. (LVGDB); in Marijampolė distr. (1935, LKI); in Biržai distr. (1975, LKI); *Totorkalnis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *kalnas* [hill]) – small mound in Pasvalys distr. (1983, LKI; “there was a battle against Tatars, lots of old armour and bones found there”); c) roads, footpaths: *Totorkelis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *kelias* [road]) – road (“through the woods, a stretch of road, road through old growth forest”) in Panevėžys co. (1935, 1987 & 1990, LKI), in Pasvalys distr. (1983, LKI; “named after a battle against Tatars; Tatars used the road to chase Vytautas down”); in Prienai distr. (LKI); *Totorkalnis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *kalnas* [hill]) – footpath in Biržai co. (1935, LKI); in Panevėžys co. (1935, LKI); in Šakiai distr. (1983, LKI); *Totorupis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *upė* [river]) – footpath in Radviliškis distr. (LKI); *Totorviečiai* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *vieta* [place]) – footpath in Šakiai distr. (LKI); d) furrows, banks: *Totorgrabė* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *grabė* [German for “furrow”]) – furrow in Tauragė distr. (LVGDB; Vanagas, 1970); *Totorkalnis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *kalnas* [hill]) – bank of stream in Šakiai co. (1935, LKI).

All but one of the composites in this group are made without connecting vowels. *Totorasalis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *sala* [island]) is the only exception, as it includes the connecting vowel *-a-*. Composite toponyms formed from two nouns usually directly denote the object being named. The second constituent of these toponyms is one of the following common nouns: *sala* (island); *kalnas* (hill); *šlaitas* (dell); *kelias* (road), *grabė* (non-standard use, originates in the German word *Graben* “furrow”); *upė* (river), *vieta* (place).

The **historical-cultural object** group includes only one toponym denoting a graveyard: *Totorkalnis* – cemetery in Alytus distr. (1990, LKI; “old Tatar cemetery, now flattened”).

Composite toponyms are also used for **land surface objects**, such as pastures, meadows, bogs: *Totorlieknis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *lieknas* [pit]) – pasture in Biržai distr., also known as *Pasakmenį* (‘where the rock is’), (1935, LKI); *Totoriabalė* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *bala* [swamp]) –

meadow in Lazdijai distr. and Alytus distr. (both LVGDB); *Totorpievė* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *pieva* [meadow]) – a meadow in Tauragė distr. (1962, LKI); *Totoriltis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *iltas* [bridge]) – meadow in Kaišiadorys co. (LKI); *Totorupievis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *pieva* [meadow]) – a meadow in Švenčionys distr. (1961, LKI; LVGDB); *Totorupis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *upė* [river]) – meadow in Radviliškis distr. (LKI); *Totorupė* (*Totorupės*) (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *upė* [river]/*upės* [rivers]) – bog in Vilnius co. (LKI). The composites in this group are formed either with connecting vowels *-ia-* and *-u-* or without them. Where both constituents are nouns, the second component is one of the following common nouns: *bala* (swamp), *lieknas* (pit), *pieva* (meadow), *iltas* (bridge) or *upė* (river). The LKI Onomastic Archive also includes several entries where the type of object denoted by the toponym is not specified, e.g. *Totorkelis* (*Totor-* [Tatar] + *kelias* [road] in Prienai distr. (1981, LKI).

1.3 Suffixal derivatives

A separate group of toponyms with the stem *totor-* consists of suffixal derivatives. These place names are formed with suffixes *-inė*, *-iškė*, *-iškės*, *-iškis*, *-iškiai*, *-onys*, *-ka*. Of these, only one name contained the suffix *-inė*, and it denotes a land surface object: *Totorinė* – bushes in Ignalina distr. (LKI; LVGDB). This suffix is normally used to derive names denoting places with an accumulated amount of something or where the object described by the base word is located (Murmulaitytė, Aleksaitė, 2021). Derivatives with this suffix can also be used to name people according to their (former) place of residence. These forms can be derived from proper names and are used in Lithuania's eastern (and parts of south-eastern) subdialects (*vilkaviškinis*, *-ė* – someone from the town of Vilkaiviškis). In some cases, the derivative comes from a common noun (*kalninis* – from the word “kalnas” [hill], i.e. someone who lives in the hills) (see LKG, 1965, p. 413). This type of derivation is relatively old (Ambrazas, 2000, p. 84; cited from: Endzelytė, 2004, p. 1) and is frequently used for developing place names.

The largest number of derivatives are formed with suffixes *-iškė*, *-iškės*, *-iškis*, *-iškiai*. The suffix *-išk-* is very old and is believed to have rolled off the proto-Indo-European suffix **-isk-*. It is also found in Slavic, Germanic and Scandinavian languages (Ambrazas, 2000, p. 183; cited from: Endzelytė, 2004, p. 1). This suffix primarily means “possession of certain typical characteristics [...] which is linked to the very essence of the object” (Skardžius, 1996, p. 153; cited from: Endzelytė, 2004, p. 1). Suffixes *-iškis* and *-iškė* are used to form personal names based on the place of origin or residence and denote individuals who live in, have lived in or come from the location identified by the base word. The suffix *-išk-* is frequently found in Lithuanian toponyms, occurring in all categories of place names: residential places ((church) villages, estates, single farmsteads), bodies of water (rivers and lakes, streams, furrows, springs, swamps, marshes, deep pools), and land surface objects (cultivated land, fields, meadows, pastures, hills, forests, graveyards, various other places) (cf. Endzelytė, 2004, p. 2).

Residential places (villages, folwarks, homesteads and single farmsteads) are denoted by the following toponyms: *Totor-iškis* – the village in Panevėžys distr. (1962, LKI); *Totor-*

iškė – village in Ignalina distr. (LVGDB); **Totor-iškės** – village (“Tatarszki in Polish, south of Aukštadvaris, 62 homesteads; people say Tatars used to live here”) in Trakai distr. (LVGDB; VŽ; 1935 & 1984, LKI); **Totor-iškės** – village (“east of Žasliai; Tatars settled here back in the days of Vytautas, traces of their burial grounds are discovered here to this day”) in Kaišiadorys distr. (1987, LKI); **Totor-iškis** – village (“20 dwellings, now only 4 remain, 7 km from the county centre. The name comes from former Tatar residents, their burial grounds”) in Širvintos distr. (1976, LKI); **Totor-iškis** – village in Kupiškis distr. (1979, LKI); **Totor-iškis** – village (“population 20”) in Rokiškis distr. (1970 & 1983; LKI); **Totor-iškis** – village in Ukmergė distr. (1977, LKI); **Totor-iškiai** – village in Rokiškis distr. (1966, LKI); **Totor-iškiai** – village in Ukmergė distr. (1960, LKI); **Totor-iškės** – folwark (“Tatarszki in Polish”) in Vilnius distr. (LKI); **Totor-iškiai** – homestead in Širvintos distr. (LKI); **Totor-iškės** – single farmstead (“Tatarszki in Polish”) in Vilnius co. (LKI); **Totor-iškis** – single farmstead in Utena distr. (LKI); **Totor-iškiai** – single farmstead in Panevėžys distr. (LKI).

Hydrographic objects (swamps) are designated by **Totor-iškė** – the swamp in Skuodas distr. (LVGDB); **Totor-iškė** – swamp in Utena distr. (1972, LKI); **Totor-iškės** – swamp in Utena distr. (1979, LKI).

Common names of **landform (orographic) objects** (footpaths, hills and valleys) include **Totor-iškė** – footpath in Alytus co. (1939, LKI); **Totor-iškės** – footpath in Utena distr. (1979, LKI); **Totor-iškė** – hill in Alytus co. (1935, LKI); **Totor-iškės** (also known as **Totorių kapinės** [Tatar cemetery]) – hill in Alytus distr. (1982, LKI); **Totor-iškės** – valley in Utena distr. (1977, LKI).

Names of **land surface objects** (peat bogs, pastures, bushes, fields, forests, meadows, strips of land) include **Totor-iškės** (also known as **Pajuodraisčiai**) – peat bog in Utena co. (1935, LKI); **Totor-iškė** – pasture in Švenčionėliai co. (LVGDB); **Totor-iškė** – bushes in Lazdijai distr. (1988, LKI); **Totor-iškė** – field in Švenčionys distr., Utena co. (LVGDB); **Totor-iškis** – arable field in Panevėžys co. (LKI); **Totor-iškė** – forest in Sejny co. (LVGDB); **Totor-iškė** – forest in Lazdijai distr. (1935 & 1969, LKI; LVGDB); **Totor-iškės** – forest in Varėna distr. (1973, LKI); **Totor-iškis** – forest in Panevėžys distr. (1962 & 1973, LKI); Rokiškis co. (1937, LKI); **Totor-iškė** – a meadow in Alytus distr. (1935, 1939 & 1982, LKI; LVGDB); in Ignalina distr. (LVGDB); in Utena co. (1936, LKI); in Prienai co. (1935, LKI); **Totor-iškė (Tatariškė)** – meadow in Kaunas co. (1937, LKI); **Totor-iškės** – meadows, strips of land and a little wood in Utena distr. (1977, LKI); **Totor-iškės** – a meadow in Alytus distr. (1980, LKI); in Utena distr. (1979, LKI); **Totor-iškis** – a meadow in Utena distr. (LKI); in Ukmergė distr. (1977, LKI); **Totor-iškė** – strip of land (“part of the townland; part of the village land”) in Birštonas municipality (1935, LKI; LVGDB).

A small number of analysed toponyms contain the suffix **-onys** and denote residential locations as well as land surface objects (meadows): **Totor-onys** (Tatarancы in Polish) – village (“approx. 8–9 km north of Nemenčinė”) in Vilnius distr. (1965, LKI); **Totor-onys** – a meadow in Alytus co. (1935, LKI). Personal names are formed using the suffix **-ionis (-ionė)** and names of towns or common nouns to identify people who come from these places (**karaliaučionis (-ies)** is somebody born in Königsberg (Karaliaučius in Lithuanian;

now Kaliningrad); *sodžionis* (-ies) is somebody who lives in a village) (LKG, 1965, p. 413; Murmulaitytė, Aleksaitė, 2021).

Derivatives with the suffix *-ka* are hybrid words formed using the Slavic-origin suffix *-ka*. These toponyms denote landform (orographic) objects: **Totor-ka** – little mound in Trakai distr. (1974, LKI); **Totor-ka** – meadow (furrow) in Alytus co. (1935, LKI).

2. The spread of onyms with the stem *totor-*

Localising the place names with the stem *totor-* helps identify which Lithuanian territories have historically been inhabited by the country's Tatar population. The arrival of this community prompted new place names to be given to residential locations and geographical objects. These toponyms reflect certain geographic and historical aspects of Tatar-inhabited areas, the environment this ethnic minority lived in and the views of local people towards them. It is likely that toponyms with the stem *totor-* were created by locals who used these place names to denote areas previously inhabited by Tatars.

During the collection and analysis of data, discrepancies emerged in the localisation of Lithuanian toponyms throughout different historical periods. This is due to several changes in the administrative territorial divisions of Lithuania. In 1919, the country's territory was divided into counties (*apskritis*), volosts (*valsčius*), and elderships (*seniūnija*). The system changed in 1944 when wards (*apylinkė*) were introduced alongside counties and volosts, and again in 1953 with districts and wards used as administrative-territorial units. These were replaced with counties, municipalities (*savivaldybė*) and elderships in 1995. Today, the territory of Lithuania is divided into the following administrative units: counties, (district) municipalities, elderships, and sub-elderships (*seniūnaitija*).

The data collected for this study shows that the largest number of toponyms with the stem *totor-* are concentrated in the southern (south-eastern and south-western) part of the country, in the counties of Alytus (42, of which 26 are in Alytus distr., 10 in Lazdijai distr., 2 in Druskininkai distr., 1 in Varėna distr., with further 3 toponyms found in the areas surrounding Sejny which is now part of Poland), Vilnius (34, of which 9 are in Ukmergė distr., 7 in Širvintos distr., 7 in Trakai distr., 6 in Vilnius distr., 1 in Aukštadvaris distr., and 4 in Švenčionys distr.), and Marijampolė (17, of which 9 are in Šakiai distr., 5 in Vilkaviškis distr., 2 in Marijampolė distr., and 1 in Kalvarija distr.).

A substantial number of toponyms with the stem *totor-* were recorded in northern Lithuania, in the counties of Panevėžys (28, of which 12 are in Biržai distr., 7 in Rokiškis distr., 6 in Panevėžys distr., 2 in Pasvalys distr., and 1 in Kupiškis distr.) and Utena (15, of which 12 are in Utena distr. and 3 in Ignalina distr.). Only 3 toponyms were recorded in the north-western county of Šiauliai, all in the district of Radviliškis. The lowest number of toponyms with the stem *totor-* was recorded in the western part of the country (2 in Tauragė distr. and 1 in Skuodas distr.). 16 place names were identified in central Lithuania, all in the county of Kaunas (7 in Prienai distr., 6 in Kaišiadorys distr., 1 in Birštonas distr., 1 in Kaunas distr., and 1 in Kėdainiai distr.).

The spread of toponyms with the stem *totor-* within the territory of Lithuania reaffirms previous scientific research and is congruent with the encyclopaedic and statistical data provided by the Statistics Department regarding the areas inhabited by the country's Tatar minority. According to the Universal Lithuanian Encyclopaedia (VLE), the largest Tatar communities live in Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, and Panevėžys, as well as the following district municipalities: Vilnius, Alytus, Trakai and Varėna. The census data from 2001, 2011 and 2021 show that the highest number of Tatars lived and continue to live in the capital Vilnius, the towns of Visaginas, Klaipėda, Kaunas and Alytus, as well as the country's south-eastern district municipalities of Vilnius, Alytus, Švenčionys, and Trakai (cf. VLE).

Conclusions

The structural analysis of toponyms with the stem *totor-* revealed the dominance of secondary place names derived from the ethnonym *totorius* (Tatar), personal name *Totorius* or another place name with the same stem. Secondary onyms can either be composites, compounds, or suffixal derivatives. According to their classification parameters, onyms with the stem *totor-* belong to one of the following groups: names of residential locations, hydrographic, orographic, historical-cultural, or land surface objects.

The largest number of recorded toponyms comes from compound place names denoting land surface objects, while the biggest proportion of orographic object names is composite onyms. The most commonly used derivational suffix *-išk-* is found mainly in names designating residential areas and landform objects.

Consistent use of toponyms with the stem *totor-* highlighted by this derivational analysis will provide new impetus for investigating ethnonymic-origin place names found in other regions of Lithuania. Such research would help identify the formation tendencies across the whole country and show the traditional worldview of its regions.

The analysis of toponym localisation revealed that most Tatars have historically inhabited the southern (south-eastern and south-western) and, to an extent, northern parts of Lithuania, with fewer communities found in central and western parts of the country. The names of residential areas and various geographic objects created by the Tatar communities themselves and by local residents reflect certain geographic and historical aspects, the environment this national minority lived in and the views of local people towards them.

Acknowledgements

The authors of this article are grateful to Darius Ivoška PhD, head of the Research Centre of the Baltic Languages and Onomastics, for sharing the materials stored in the Onomastic Archive at the Institute of the Lithuanian Language.

Sources

DLKŽ – *Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos žodynas [Dictionary of Modern Lithuanian]*. Available at: <<https://ekalba.lt/dabartines-lietuviu-kalbos-zodynas/>> [Accessed 15 May 2024]. [In Lithuanian].

LATSŽ – *Lietuvos TSR administracinio-teritorinio suskirstymo žinynas. T. 1–2. 1974–1976 [Administrative–Territorial Structure of the Lithuanian SSR. Vol. 1–2. 1974–1976]*. Ed. Noreika, Z., Stravinskas, V. Vilnius: „Mintis“. Available at: <<https://portalcris.vdu.lt/server/api/core/bitstreams/7d1c1eb8-d3d2-47c8-8e39-bfd5ce9811b8/content>> [Accessed 20 May 2024].

Lietuvių pavardžių žodynas [Dictionary of Lithuanian Surnames] 1989. T. 2. Vilnius: „Mokslas“. [In Lithuanian].

LKŽ – *Lietuvių kalbos žodynas [Dictionary of the Lithuanian Language]*. Available at: <<https://ekalba.lt/lietuviu-kalbos-zodynas/>> [Accessed 25 May 2024]. [In Lithuanian].

LPŽ – *Lietuvių pavardžių žodynas [Dictionary of Lithuanian Surnames]*. Available at: <<https://pavardes.lki.lt/>> [Accessed 25 May 2024]. [In Lithuanian].

LUEV 1963 – *Lietuvos TSR upių ir ežerų vardynas [Directory of River and Lake Names in the Lithuanian SSR]*. Vilnius: Valstybinė politinės ir mokslinės literatūros leidykla. [In Lithuanian].

LVGDB – *Lietuvos vietovardžių geoinformacinė duomenų bazė [Geoinformational Database of Lithuanian Place Names]*. Available at: <<https://ekalba.lt/lietuvos-vietovardziu-geoinformacine-duomeniu-baze/>> [Accessed 27 May 2024]. [In Lithuanian].

VŽ 2007. *Vietovardžių žodynas [Dictionary of Place Names]*. Vilnius: Lietuvių kalbos institutas. Available at: <<http://vietovardziai.lki.lt/>> [Accessed 28 May 2024]. [In Lithuanian].

VRTIC – *Vilniaus rajono turizmo informacijos centras [Vilnius District Tourism Information Centre]*. Available at: <<https://www.vrtic.lt/objektai/keturiasdesimt-totoriu-kaimo-mecete-ir-kapines/>> [Accessed 29 May 2024]. [In Lithuanian].

References

Anglickienė, L., 2006. *Kitataučių įvaizdis lietuvių folklore [The Image of Foreigners in Lithuanian Folklore]*. Vilnius: „Versus Aureus“. Available at: <<https://etalpykla.lituanistika.lt/object/LT-LDB-0001:B.03~2006~1367163255725/B.03~2006~1367163255725.pdf>> [Accessed 23 March 2024]. [In Lithuanian].

Bairašauskaitė, T., Kobeckaitė, H., Miškinienė, G., 2008. *Orientas Lietuvos Didžiosios Kunigaikštijos visuomenės tradicijoje: totoriai ir karaimai. Lietuvos istorijos studijos [Orient in the Social Tradition of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: Tatars and Karaims. Studies of Lithuanian History]*. T. 6. Vilnius: Vilniaus universiteto leidykla. Available at: <<https://www.zurnalai.vu.lt/lietuvos-istorijos-studijos/article/view/8752>> [Accessed 29 May 2024]. [In Lithuanian].

Bairašauskaitė, T., 1996. *Lietuvos totoriai XIX amžiuje [Lithuanian Tatars in the 19th Century]*. Vilnius: „Mintis“.

Čirūnaitė, J., 2001. Lietuvos totorių pavardžių formavimasis XV–XVII a. [Formation of Tatar Naming Practices in 15–16th Century Lithuania]. *Baltistica*, 36 (2), p. 299–306. Available at: <<https://etalpykla.lituanistika.lt/fedora/objects/LT-LDB-0001:J.04~2001~1367179978394/datastreams/DS.002.0.01.ARTIC/content>> [Accessed 29 May 2024]. [In Lithuanian].

Čirūnaitė, J., 2009. Lietuvos totorių karių asmenvardžių raida iki pavardžių susidarymo [Personal Names of Lithuania's Tatar Soldiers and Their Development Prior to Surname Formation]. *Karo archyvas [Military Archive]*, 24, p. 35–44. Available at: <<https://etalpykla.lituanistika.lt/fedora/objects/LT-LDB-0001:J.04~2009~1367169912062/datastreams/DS.002.0.01.ARTIC/content>> [Accessed 24 March 2024]. [In Lithuanian].

Čirūnaitė, J., 2010. Lietuvos totorių karių įvardijimas XVI–XVII a. [Naming of Tatars in the Military Documents of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania]. *Žmogus kalbos erdvėje*, 6, p. 667–674. Available at:

<<https://etalpykla.lituanistika.lt/fedora/objects/LT-LDB-0001:J.04~2010~1486730671738/datastreams/DS.002.0.01.ARTIC/content>> [Accessed 24 March 2024]. [In Lithuanian].

Čirūnaitė, J., 2018a. XVI–XVII a. Lietuvos totorių moterų užrašymo standartai [Standards of Recording Tatar Women’s Names in 16–17th Century Lithuania]. In: *Kalbų studijos aukštojoje mokykloje. Konferencijos medžiaga* [Language Studies in Higher Education Institutions. Conference Paper]. Kaunas: Lietuvos sveikatos mokslų universiteto „Leidybos namai“, p. 15–24. [In Lithuanian].

Čirūnaitė, J., 2018b. Lietuvos totorių paveldimų asmenvardžių formavimas [Formation of Inherited Personal Names in Lithuania’s Tatar Community]. In: *Kalbų studijos aukštojoje mokykloje. Konferencijos medžiaga* [Language Studies in Higher Education Institutions. Conference Paper]. Kaunas: Lietuvos sveikatos mokslų universiteto „Leidybos namai“, p. 24–31. [In Lithuanian].

Čirūnaitė, J., 2021. *Lietuvos totorių vardynas iki pavardžių susidarymo XVI–XVII a.: mokslinių straipsnių rinkinys* [Lithuania’s Tatar Names Prior to Surname Formation: Collection of Academic Papers]. Kaunas: Lietuvos totorių bendruomenių sąjunga. [In Lithuanian].

Endzelytė, R., 2004. Šiaurės vidurio Lietuvos vietovardžiai su priesaga -išk- [Toponyms with Suffix -išk- in Northern and Central Lithuania]. *Acta Linguistica Lithuanica*, 50, p. 1–10. [In Lithuanian].

Jakubauskas, A., Sitdykov, D., Dumin, S., 2009. *Lietuvos totoriai istorijoje ir kultūroje* [Lithuania’s Tatars in History and Culture]. Kaunas: Lietuvos totorių bendruomenių sąjunga. [In Lithuanian].

Kryczyński, S., 1993. *Lietuvos totoriai: istorinės ir etnografinės monografijos bandymas* [Tatars: Attempt at a Historical and Ethnographic Monograph]. Vilnius: Mokslo ir enciklopedijų leidykla. [In Lithuanian].

Liutkevičienė, D., Palovienė, B., 2021. Totoriai Lietuvių kalbos žodyno pasaulėvaizdyje [Tatars in the Worldview of the Dictionary of the Lithuanian Language]. *Verbum*, 12. <https://doi.org/10.15388/Verb.20>. Available at: <<https://www.zurnalai.vu.lt/verbum/article/view/24689>>. [Accessed 24 March 2024]. [In Lithuanian].

Murmulaitytė, D., Aleksaitė, A., 2021. *Žodžių darybos vedlys* [Word Formation Guide. E-source]. Vilnius: Lietuvių kalbos institutas. <https://doi.org/10.15388/LK.2022.2>. Available at: <[ekalba.lt/zodziu-darybos-vedlys](https://www.ekalba.lt/zodziu-darybos-vedlys)> [Accessed 24 March 2024]. [In Lithuanian].

Miškinienė, G., 2001. *Seniausieji Lietuvos totorių rankraščiai (Grafika. Transliteracija. Vertimas. Tekstų struktūra ir turinys)* [Oldest Manuscripts of Lithuanian Tatars. (Graphics. Transliteration. Translation. Text Structure and Content)]. Vilnius: Vilniaus universiteto leidykla. [In Lithuanian].

Miškinienė, G., 2009. *Ivano Laucevičiaus kitabas. Lietuvos totorių kultūros paminklas* [The Kitab of Ivan Lutskevich. A Monument of Lithuanian Tatar Culture]. Vilnius: Lietuvių kalbos institutas. [In Lithuanian].

Vanagas, A., 1970. *Lietuvos TSR hidronimų daryba* [Derivation of Lithuanian SSR Hydronyms]. Vilnius: „Mintis“. [In Lithuanian].

Vanagas, A., 1982. *Mūsų vardai ir pavardės* [Our Names and Surnames]. Vilnius: „Mokslas“. [In Lithuanian].

VLE – Totoriai [Tatars]. In: *Visuotinė lietuvių enciklopedija* [Universal Lithuanian Encyclopaedia]. Available at: <<https://www.vle.lt/straipsnis/totoriai-1/>>. [Accessed 30 May 2024]. [In Lithuanian].

Author contributions

Ilona Mickienė: conceptualisation, methodology, formal analysis, investigation, writing – original draft, writing – review and editing.

Rita Baranauskienė: conceptualisation, methodology, formal analysis, investigation, writing – original draft, writing – review and editing.