ABSTRACT

of the dissertation by Koibakova Aizhan Syezdovna, doctoral student of the educational program "8D02305 – Foreign Philology (Oriental Languages)", submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), on the topic: «Linguistic Foundations of the Transliteration of Chinese Onomastic Names in Kazakh Latin Script»

Relevance of the research topic. The relevance of the research topic is directly connected with the current priorities of national modernization, digitalization, and scientific-innovative development, which require defining the normative and applied tasks of Kazakh onomastics within a new graphic system. The national projects "Technological Breakthrough through Digitalization, Science, and Innovation" and "National Spiritual Modernization", as well as the idea of "Uly Dala Eli," aim to strengthen national identity, preserve cultural code, and ensure its sustainable integration into the digital space. Within this framework, the correct representation, unification, and standardization of proper names become an important mechanism for ensuring the linguistic representation of national memory. In addition, the Concept for the Development of Higher Education and Science for 2023–2029 identifies the implementation of applied research results into practice, as well as the development of evidence-based standards and scientifically grounded recommendations, as priority directions.

First, the relevance of the study is reinforced by the ongoing phased transition of Kazakh writing to the Latin alphabet. The new script, alongside the modernization of the national orthographic system, necessitates a revision of the principles for rendering foreign proper names, including Chinese onomastic names. Previously established writing practices largely relied on transcription traditions mediated through the Russian language; however, in the context of Latin-based writing, the principles of sound representation undergo significant transformation. The objective is not merely to follow the principle of "one sound - one letter," but to develop a scientifically grounded, consistent, and stable graphic model that aligns with the phonological system of the Kazakh language and ensures readability and recognizability.

Second, in modern Kazakh-language media, educational literature, and translated texts, the parallel use of multiple orthographic variants of Chinese onomastic names indicates that a stable norm has not yet been fully established. Such variability not only complicates text comprehension but also creates tangible obstacles in digital databases, information retrieval systems, official document circulation, and data identification processes.

Third, the phonological structures, writing principles, and onomastic systems of the Chinese and Kazakh languages differ significantly in typological terms. The syllabic organization, tonal system, logographic writing, and pinyin transcription of Chinese create phonological and graphemic challenges when adapting names into the alphabet-based, agglutinative Kazakh language. Moreover, the number of specialized studies devoted to rendering Chinese onomastic names in Latin script

remains limited, while the existing Cyrillic-based practices cannot be considered fully systematized or normatively unified. Therefore, determining the linguistic foundations of transliterating Chinese onomastic names into Latin script constitutes a relevant research direction at the intersection of onomastics, orthography, and applied linguistics. It contributes to alignment with international practices, reduction of phonetic distortion, facilitation of digital implementation and search, and ultimately strengthens the position of the Kazakh language in the scientific and information space.

Object of the study. Chinese onomastic names, transliteration, and transcription.

Subject of the study. Phonetic, graphic, and orthographic patterns and principles applied in the processes of transcription and transliteration of Chinese onomastic names into the Kazakh language.

Purpose of the study. The aim of the research is to develop a scientifically grounded and practically applicable transliteration model that ensures the consistent representation of Chinese onomastic names in Latin script, based on a comparative analysis of the phonological systems of the Chinese and Kazakh languages. To achieve this goal, the following objectives have been set:

- to determine the linguistic nature of onomastic names and describe the semantic, structural, and functional features of Chinese proper names within the framework of onomastic theory;
- to systematize the theoretical foundations for transferring Chinese onomastic names from one language to another, clarifying the scientific principles of transcription and transliteration and the limits of their application;
- to analyze the practice of rendering Chinese onomastic names in Cyrillic script and identify the phonetic, orthographic, and historical causes of orthographic variation;
- to describe the syllabic-phonological system of the Chinese language and demonstrate the impact of the structure of initials and finals on transcription and transliteration processes;
- to compare the phonetic systems of the Chinese and Kazakh languages, identifying sound correspondences and divergences in order to substantiate the phonetic prerequisites for transliterating Chinese proper names into Kazakh;
- to develop a scientifically grounded orthographic transliteration model for the consistent representation of Chinese onomastic names in Latin script and to propose a system of principles for its implementation.

Sources of the study. The empirical material includes Chinese onomastic names collected from Kazakhstani electronic media sources (https://akorda.kz/, https://kaz.inform.kz/, https://aikyn.kz/), as well as reference works such as T. Kalibekuly's *"Directory of Settlements Inhabited by Kazakhs in China"* (2024), *"Scientific and Theoretical Foundations of Orthography Based on the New Kazakh Latin Alphabet. Orthographic Prospectus,"* and *"Dictionary of Foreign Onomastic Names in the Kazakh Language"* (2020). Additionally, the online encyclopedic resource https://www.wikipedia.org/ was used. In the course of the study,

approximately 200 toponyms and more than 120 anthroponyms were collected and analyzed.

Theoretical and methodological foundations of the study. The theoretical and methodological framework of the research is based on the following scholarly principles and approaches:

- the general theory of onomastics, including the structure of the onomastic system, as well as the functions and typology of proper names, as developed in the works of representatives of the Kazakh onomastic school (A. Qaidar, T. Zhanuzak, B. Biyarov, A. Zhartybaev, Q. Rysbergen, E. Koishybaev, A. Abdrakhmanov, A. Nurmagambetov, G. Madiyeva, S. Imanberdiyeva, N. Rsalieva), and in the studies of prominent scholars such as A. V. Superanskaya, V. D. Bondaletov, V. A. Nikonov, E. M. Murzaev, A. K. Matveev, N. V. Podolskaya, D. I. Yermolovich, Richard Coates, Willy Van Langendonck, and John Stuart Mill;

- studies in Chinese linguistics that describe the system of proper names, as well as approaches to interpreting, classifying, normalizing, and standardizing onomastic units, reflected in the works of Ma Jiangrong, Li Jinxi, Yan Bojun, Wang Li, Liu Shuxin, Wu Zuwen, Cheng Jiangmin, Cao Changyuan, Yang Lizhong, Zhong Anni, Zhou Shujun, Shi Fu, and Liu Changfen;

- theoretical developments in phonetics and phonology aimed at comparing the sound systems of Chinese and Kazakh, as well as principles of sound representation and orthographic decision-making in Latin script, as presented in the works of A. Baitursynuly, Q. Zhubanov, I. Kenesbaev, A. Zhunisbek, S. Myrzabekov, and N. Uali, A. Zhunisbek, Q. Rysbergen, A. Bazarbayeva, A. Fazylzhan, Q. Kuderinova, Zh. Zhumabayeva, N. Amirzhanova, T. Kalibekuly, and Q. Gabitkhanuly, which served as a basis for systematizing the representation of Chinese names in Latin-based script;

- theoretical concepts concerning the transition of Kazakh writing to the Latin alphabet, developed in the works of N. Uali, A. Zhunisbek, Z. Bazarbayeva, E. Kazhybek, A. Aldash, B. Momynova, Q. Qalybayeva, A. Salkynbay, B. Kapalbek, Sh. Zhalmakhanov, O. Zhubai, Q. Kuderinova, A. Fazylzhan, N. Amirzhanova, E. Maralbek, and others;

- theoretical approaches within structural linguistics and semiotics addressing issues of transcription and transliteration, as developed in the works of Roman Jakobson, B. A. Uspensky, L. V. Shcherba, L. R. Zinder, A. M. Sukhotin, N. F. Yakovlev, as well as studies on practical principles of transliteration (S. A. Bondaruk, S. A. Tyurin, H. Zikmund, S. V. Kolesnik), which informed the clarification of principles for transferring proper names across languages.

Research methods. The study employs descriptive-analytical methods, phonological analysis, comparative linguistic analysis, graphemic correspondence analysis, and orthographic modeling.

Scientific novelty of the study.

- the semantic, structural, and functional features of Chinese proper names are systematized within the framework of onomastic theory, and criteria for their description in Kazakh are clarified, which allowed for defining theoretical parameters for integrating Chinese exonyms into the Kazakh onomastic space;

- the scientific principles of transcription and transliteration, as well as their scope of application in the transfer of Chinese names across languages, are systematically refined; on this basis, a language-dependent transliteration approach grounded in the improved Kazakh Latin alphabet is substantiated;

- the variability of Chinese onomastic names in Cyrillic script is comprehensively analyzed, revealing its phonetic, orthographic, and historical causes, and demonstrating its dependence on Russian-mediated transmission and graphemic influence;

- the syllabic-phonological system of the Chinese language is examined in relation to transliteration tasks, and the possibilities of representing initials and finals in Latin script are described; problematic sound sequences that present challenges for accurate representation are identified;

- through a comparative analysis of the phonetic systems of Chinese and Kazakh, the linguistic foundations of transliteration are established, providing an empirical basis for proposing Kazakh graphemic solutions for sounds such as *j, q, x, zh, ch, sh*, as well as a number of finals;

- an orthographic transliteration model and a system of principles for the consistent representation of Chinese onomastic names in Latin script are developed; the model is based on compromise graphemic strategies that simultaneously satisfy the requirements of Kazakh phonology and international compatibility.

Theoretical significance of the study. The dissertation clarifies the mechanisms of interaction between the syllabic-phonological structure of Chinese proper names and the phonemic-orthographic system of the Kazakh language, proposing a theoretical model of name transformation in an interlingual context. For Kazakh onomastics, the study defines typological and normative parameters for incorporating foreign exonyms into the national onomastic space and strengthens the scientific justification for standardization processes.

Practical significance of the study. The practical significance of the research lies in the development of a transliteration model and a system of orthographic principles that ensure the consistent representation of Chinese onomastic names in the Latin script. The proposed solutions facilitate the standardized use of Chinese proper names in official documentation, cartography, educational materials, and media texts, as well as reduce orthographic variation. The findings can serve as a source and normative basis for compiling Kazakh-Chinese onomastic dictionaries and thematic reference works. The collected corpus of names and validated orthographic models contribute to the expansion of the onomastic subcorpus of the National Corpus of the Kazakh language and enhance search and identification processes in digital databases. The research materials can also be utilized in developing national large language models, including QazLLM, improving the accuracy of recognition and generation of proper names.

Main provisions for defense:

- the logographic-syllabic and morphologically neutral structure of Chinese onomastic names does not fully correspond typologically to the phonemic and agglutinative nature of the Kazakh language; however, preserving the syllabic organization of Chinese and systematizing phonetic correspondences make it

possible to develop a scientifically grounded transliteration model in Kazakh Latin script;

- the representation of Chinese proper names in Latin script should not be mechanically dependent on pinyin, as normative adequacy is determined by conformity to the phonological system and internal orthographic logic of the Kazakh language; accordingly, the principles of transcription and transliteration are refined, and a language-dependent model is substantiated;

- the analysis of Kazakh textual practice reveals the stable coexistence of multiple orthographic variants of Chinese onomastic names; identifying the phonetic, orthographic, and historical causes of this variability substantiates the need for scientifically grounded standardization of a unified transliteration system;

- applying a single universal principle to all types of onomastic units leads to a partial loss of semantic and cultural information in anthroponyms, toponyms, ergonyms, ideonyms, and choronyms; therefore, a differentiated strategy is justified: full transliteration for anthroponyms, limited calquing for toponyms, and a hybrid approach for names of organizations, works, and choronyms;

- the Kazakh Latin script is generally sufficient to represent the main phonemes of pinyin; however, sound series such as j/q/x, zh/ch, as well as finals involving i and e require specific orthographic solutions; compromise graphemic strategies are proposed that align with Kazakh phonology while maintaining international compatibility;

- the transliteration of Chinese onomastic names is considered not only a linguistic issue but also a sociolinguistic phenomenon connected with language policy, education, cartography, and digital identification; therefore, standardization should be institutionally закреплена and implemented in practice.

Publications. The main results and conclusions of the research have been published in domestic and international academic journals in the form of scientific articles. The total number of publications is 7.

Structure of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, includes 7 tables and 4 figures, a list of references, and 3 appendices.