

ONOMASTIC STUDY OF THE VILLAGES IN THE UPPER DERVEN REGION

DISKURSI GJINOR DHE STEREOTIPET NË ROMANIN „JETË NË NJË KUTI SHKREPËSESH“ TË FATOS KONGOLIT

Meral VESELI¹, Luljeta ADILI-ÇELIKU², Qazibane HASHIMI³

^{1*} Faculty of Languages, Cultures and Communication, South East European University - Tetovo

^{2*} Department of Albanian Language and Literature, Faculty of Philology „Blazhe Koneski“, University „Saint Cyril and Methodius“

Skopje

³Corresponding author e-mail: m.shehabi@seeu.edu.mk, l.adili@flf.ukim.edu.mk

Abstract

This study examines the microtoponymy of the villages of the Upper Derven region in North Macedonia (Zhelinë, Dëbërcë, Çiflig, Rogle, Merovë, Novosellë, Kopaçindoll, Grupçin, and Llërcë). Despite the presence of several partial studies on Balkan and Albanian toponymy, the microtoponymic corpus of this region has not yet been systematically collected, classified, and analyzed within a unified linguistic and statistical framework.

The main objective of this research is to document and classify the microtoponyms of the region according to their linguistic origin and to analyze their lexical-semantic and phonetic characteristics. The study combines qualitative linguistic analysis with quantitative statistical procedures. The corpus was collected through field data, existing literature, and comparative linguistic sources, while statistical analysis was used to determine the distribution of microtoponyms by origin (Slavic, Turkish, mixed, and other authentic forms).

The results show that microtoponyms of Slavic origin constitute the largest group within the corpus, followed by Turkish and mixed formations, while a considerable number of authentic local microtoponyms remain preserved in several villages. The village of Llërcë shows the highest concentration of Slavic and Turkish microtoponyms, whereas Novosellë and Merovë display a larger number of authentic regional names. Statistical correlation analysis also indicates a significant positive relationship between the presence of Slavic and Turkish microtoponyms across the villages. The findings contribute to the documentation of the linguistic heritage of the Upper Derven region and provide new empirical data for further comparative studies in Balkan and Albanian onomastics.

Keywords: *onomastics, toponyms, microtoponyms, lexical-semantic analysis, linguistic origin.*

I. Introduction

Toponymy, as a branch of onomastics, studies the names of places and their linguistic, historical, and cultural significance. Place names constitute an important source of information about the historical development of a region, reflecting linguistic contact, cultural interaction, and socio-historical processes that shape the identity of communities. In the Balkan region, where different linguistic and cultural traditions have coexisted for centuries, toponymy

represents an especially valuable field for understanding historical layers of settlement and language contact.

Previous studies in Balkan and Albanian onomastics have highlighted the importance of microtoponyms as indicators of local linguistic traditions and historical continuity. However, the microtoponymy of many regions in North Macedonia remains only partially documented. While several scholars have addressed specific areas or individual aspects of Albanian onomastics, a systematic and comprehensive analysis of the microtoponymic corpus of the Upper Derven region is still lacking.

The Upper Derven region, located in the Tetovo area, represents a linguistically and culturally diverse space where Albanian, Slavic, and Ottoman linguistic influences have interacted over time. These historical contacts are reflected in the local toponymic system, where names of different linguistic origins coexist and often overlap. Studying these microtoponyms provides insight not only into linguistic processes such as phonetic change and lexical adaptation, but also into patterns of settlement and cultural interaction.

In this context, the present study aims to document and analyze the microtoponyms of several villages in the Upper Derven region. By combining qualitative linguistic analysis with quantitative statistical methods, the research seeks to classify microtoponyms according to their origin and to identify the main lexical-semantic and phonetic features that characterize the local onomastic system. Through this approach, the study contributes to the broader field of Albanian and Balkan onomastics by providing a structured corpus of microtoponyms and by offering empirical evidence for the linguistic diversity and historical development of place names in the Upper Derven region.

Research Issues

As highlighted above, referring to these facts and the toponymic and onomastic history, this linguistic study, with factual descriptions, reflects the onomastics of villages in the Upper Drina region, referring to some direct and indirect studies included for this region. Linguistically, as in any other language, including Albanian, we have changes in toponyms over the centuries, while for some we only have phonetic changes. Comparing the ancient forms of toponyms with the modern ones, we can see that Albanian toponymy has undergone a natural evolution according to the phonetic laws of Albanian, also in the Lower and Upper Derveni region. The study analyzes and investigates the onomastics of the villages of Upper Drina (Tetovo region).

This paper mainly focuses on scholarly literature from several Albanian and Macedonian authors, including: Jovan Trifunovski - Skopski Derven (Skopje - 1952); Xhemaludin Idrizi - Microtoponymy of Karshiaka of Skopje (2017); Xhemaludin Idrizi - Microtoponymy of Derveni of Skopje (2019); Haki Ymeri - The dialect of Karshiaka of Skopje, Skopje; Jovan Trifunovski - Sliv Markove Reke (Skopje - 1958); Jovan Haxhivasileviç - Skoplje and its surroundings (Belgrade - 1930); Derveni of Skopje through the centuries - Baki Bakiu (Skopje - 2011), etc.

Research Objective

Referring to the research issues, the main objective of this study is to collect and classify onomastic toponyms of Upper Derven (Zhelinë, Dëbërcë, Çiflig, Rogle, Merovë, Novosellë, Kopaçindoll, Grupçin, Cerovë, and Llërcë), as well as to provide a focused lexical analysis of microtoponyms with Illyrian-Albanian, Slavic, Turkish, mixed, and other authentic regional origins, and to identify phonetic phenomena encountered in this region.

Research Methodology

As emphasized earlier, this study primarily focuses on the analysis of scholarly literature from several Albanian and Macedonian authors. This part, as the first phase, served as preparatory work and literature review, using comparative and analytical linguistic methods, such as creating dialectological atlases of microtoponyms according to their type and distribution. Following this phase, the phonetic-grammatical analysis and sociolinguistic examination of phraseology continued, focusing on the lexical-semantic perspective of the microtoponyms of Upper Derven. The microtoponyms of Upper Derven were examined from a structural-grammatical perspective as well as analyzed linguistically.

1.1. Significance of the Study

The significance of this study lies in documenting the linguistic heritage and values of the Albanian language in North Macedonia, as well as in providing future generations with innovations and serving as a cornerstone in their more in-depth linguistic studies. Microtoponyms, as linguistic values, cannot be considered mere random names, but each microtoponym contains its own history and conveys a historical message. They are the essence of a language, just as fossil archaeology is to archaeology, the same equilibrium can be said for linguistic microtoponyms. Knowing that these place names gradually diminish in number over the years due to better living conditions or family migration to Western countries, this characteristic of the study gradually fades. Perhaps in the future, toponyms and microtoponyms, names, may be forgotten. Therefore, our idea is to build a written memory through this work, which will keep these linguistic pearls alive over the centuries, containing an entire history of this region.

1.2. Linguistic Concept of Toponymy and Onomastics

Toponymy is a branch of onomastics that studies the names of places. It is a synthetic discipline where history, geography, and language converge complementarily. Additionally, other assisting sciences of toponymy are sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, social psychology, anthropology, law, or political science. To understand the value of toponyms, we can think of each toponym (or geographic name) as the title of a story that reveals some aspects of the cultural or natural heritage of a region (Querol, 1995).

People need to name the places where they live to identify and locate them in space and to communicate and interact about them. Therefore, place names primarily have a referential value. Furthermore, place names usually derive from a common noun and for this reason, they have a semantic value, which usually describes a feature of the landscape (topography, hydrography, fauna or flora, ownership or use of land), or a specific political or historical context. Place names thus have a referential function but also another meaning. On the one hand, they refer to a specific area on the surface of the earth, bounded by more or less defined borders, on the other hand, they consist of one or more generic names with a more or less transparent meaning. This common name describes the features of the landscape and helps interpret it (Siwei et al., 2016).

Place names reinforce the identity of a place as they are symbols that define it and strengthen emotional ties with the space. Place names should be understood as part of a distant socio-spatial process that, in the present, provides an affective connection with people (Fuchs, 2015). Toponyms are divided into two categories: macrotoponyms and microtoponyms. Macrotoponyms represent the names of larger places, while microtoponyms represent the nomenclature of small local places such as mountains, fields, or parts of forests. They denote a small natural feature (e.g., a field, road, bridge, etc.). Micro-names as memorials of human memory have a special importance for the autochthony of a people and their way of life, they

are also important for other linguistic and extralinguistic disciplines, such as dialectology, linguistics, history, etc. (Ibrahimi 2010).

II. Toponymy and Onomastics of Albanians in North Macedonia

Therefore, onomastics is an exceptionally important branch of linguistics and is closely related not only to the history of material culture but also to the spiritual culture of an ethnic group, from ancient times to the present day. Its importance has been demonstrated not only in the science of language (in phonetics and grammar, lexicology, semantics, etymology, dialectology, in interlingual relations, and standardization), but also in many other extralinguistic disciplines or other sciences, such as history, geography, demography, archaeology, ethnography, mythology, as well as psychology, sociology, literature, and folklore, etc. Therefore, its subject matter has been the object of study in many fields and is studied both by onomasticians and linguists as well as historians, sociologists, jurists, etc., who delve into this topic from their perspectives.

The field of Albanian onomastics, especially that of the onomastics of Albanian territories in North Macedonia, has been studied to a limited extent. Although many scientific studies have been published in this field, Albanian onomastics, in general, can be considered a relatively new science, while that of Albanians in North Macedonia is in its early stages. If we look at the entire corpus of studies related to various problems of Albanian onomastics, carried out both by our scholars and foreign researchers, it turns out that these studies belong more to Albanian territories around the territory of North Macedonia, while until now in Albanian onomastic studies in general, the complete material of the entire territorial extent of Albanian ethnic lands has not yet been included, neither in diachrony nor in synchrony (Albanological Institute of Pristina - Baliu, 2012).

Regarding the study of the onomastics of Albanian villages in North Macedonia, it can be said that apart from some studies on specific regions and some other short observations, a comprehensive and in-depth study shedding light on this region has not yet been conducted. From this scientific field, even some of its areas, especially anthroponymy and patronymy, unlike microtoponymy, which has nevertheless been treated more, have remained almost untouched by the hand of onomasticians, for many areas of the territory of North Macedonia.

While Albanian onomastic studies in North Macedonia do not indicate a high level of development and Albanian scholars here have not made or have not been able to make sufficient progress, many treatments, monographs, and studies, especially those that speak to the identity of the population and settlements in the Albanian space in North Macedonia, we have encountered with Slavic authors. But as is known, in the studies of these authors, understood with some exceptions, how much real scientific progress can be talked about in propagandistic and politicized texts. This unfavorable situation of Albanian onomastic studies in North Macedonia is related to the lack of scientific institutions and institutional structures in the Albanian language or their delayed functioning compared to their early existence in Albania and Kosovo.

Furthermore, in none of the institutions functioning today in the Albanian language here in North Macedonia, a separate section for onomastics has yet been created that would help in the proper institutionalization of onomastic studies, as has happened in various scientific institutions in Albania and Kosovo, or even in Macedonian language institutions here in North Macedonia, within which Macedonian scholars have managed to publish a series of onomastic works that require team engagement and not just individual (Albanological Institute of Pristina - Baliu, 2012).

However, the individual efforts of Macedonian Albanian scholars should not be underestimated and represent, perhaps modest, sometimes only an initiative and sometimes a

step forward in cultivating, developing, and promoting Albanian onomastic studies and Albanian culture in general in Macedonia, from this aspect of the nation. Even without the existence of a full-fledged Albanian onomastic sector in North Macedonia, onomastics has often been the subject of study at the levels of master's and doctoral studies, monographs, articles, and numerous papers have been written, as well as various scientific gatherings have been organized: discussions, round tables, symposiums, and scientific conferences and international seminars, which have also resulted in the publication of summaries of their materials.

Onomastic issues have been treated as such or even as part of various linguistic, historical, dialectological treatments, etc., as well as in other fields and in many articles published in scientific journals published here in North Macedonia. Among them, we will mention Qemal Murati, Xhemaludin Idrizi, Mustafa Ibrahim and other authors who, as part of research in various linguistic fields, have contributed to the full field of onomastics such as Fadil Sulejmani, Haki Ymeri, Asllan Hamiti, Izmit Durmishi, etc. (ITSHKSH, 2016). The contribution of these authors is related to various fields of onomastics such as toponymy (microtoponymy, oikonimia, hidronimia, oronimia), anthroponymy, patronymics, etc., which have been treated sometimes synchronically and sometimes diachronically.

2.1. Classification of microtoponyms by origin

Microtoponyms with Slavic origin: Bellopole, Sudarek, Stamenk, Ograde, Saint George's Hill, Jerebina, Gjeçavina Pit, Mila's Path, Drava's Grove, Gjeçanivë Pit, Saint George's Hill, Spring, Drava's Grove, Markut's Arable Land, Iskit's Arable Land, Zheden, Markut's Hill, Bengoveci's Hill, Gollobërdos's Hill, Memetkonçi's Path, Markut's Hill, Bengoveci's Hill, Lipavec's Spring, Spring - (location within the village), Kistreci - (garden), Kërstecat - (arable land), Lipovica - location, Shumarve's Clearing - (garden), Kalberevo - (source), Ograde, Kistreci - (garden), Përzhallë's Hills, Mito's Hill, Opopole's Meadow, Kreka's Meadow, Damjan's Path, Përzhallë - location, Lipovec - (field), Ograde, Çiflik's Meadows, Lipovec (Slavic. lime and suffix -ovec), Zheden's Mountain, Trojza's Mountain, Ballvona's Hill, Kika's Peak, Bojana's Trench (arable land), Gjisha's Hill (grove), Vollçe - (garden), Sengledishte's Mountain, Magllavit's Hill, Jabllanica's Hill, Zadrima's Hill, Jovan's Ring, Ballvon - (old Slavic, statue), Rakovec - (Slavic. rakovec), Gradishte - location, Gërbavec (Slavic. gërbav/a/o and suffix -ec, rugged) - location, Baçilishte - (grove), Gorno Merovo - (location in the village), Gradishte (Castle) - (location related to ancient castles), Gjuri Gunga - (hill), Ivanje - (garden), Jabllanica - (grove), Ograde, Polanka - (arable land), Popovica - (source), Ramno Bërdo - (hill), Rasadishte - (arable land), Segledishte - (location within the village), Shafar - (arable land), Vodice - (garden), Vodica - (source), Kovaçi's Hills, Goliçi's Hills, Jabllanica's Places, Torbeshi's Trench - location, Zheden - (mountain), Kovaçi's Slope - (slope), Ograde, Ungarë's Hills, Përzhina's Hills, Tërška's Hills, Golina, Ograde, Stogodin's Neighborhood - (neighborhood), Buçilla, Zhivkit's Trench - (grove), Domi (at) - (social life object), Gromade - (hill), Majske's Neighborhood - (neighborhood), Ograde, Zheden - (mountain), Reka, Sfeta, Borodec, Shtarec, Rakita, John's Meadow, Osornajc, Ogradet - (arable land), Svetat - (arable land), Gaberet - (Slavic. gabber, hillock) (arable land), Brestavice; Brodec (Slavic. brodo, metathesis and suffix -ec), Cërkvica (from Slavic. cërkva and suffix -ica) - garden, Martinica's Project; Çukarka - hill, Dojnica and Dojnicat (from Slavic. doll, lug) - arable land, Govedarnik (Slavic. govedo, govedar, govedarnik -ar -nik) - barn, Lipovec (Slavic. lime and suffix -ovec) - field, Popovdolli - (arable land), Çovek's Arable Land - (arable land), Ponçe's Arable Land - (arable land), Avrami's Garden - (garden), Prapazi's Well - (mountain).

Microtoponyms with Turkish origin: At Kajnaki, Çeshmja (at) - (location within the village, related to the village's spring), Mektepi - (educational facility), Qavanit's Ridge (Javanit) - (hill), Ujlja's Neighborhood - (neighborhood), Çeshme's Grove, Kalldërma,

Karpallak (Slavic. karpa and Turkish suffix llëk-llak) - ravine, Epër's Neighborhood's Spring (at) - (spring), Demir's Spring - (spring), Lower Spring - (spring), Argaçi's Project - (stream), Terzi's Meadow - (meadow), At istikamet, Dervish's Bridge, Asllanbeq's Trench, Argaçi's Project, Bafçet's Meadows, Ramane's Spring - (spring), At Bajrak, Pasha's Grove, Ibrahim Pasha's Ridge - (hill), Boçe's Neighborhood - (neighborhood), Pasha's Grove.

Microtoponyms: At Kajnaki, Hill of St. George, Gjeçavina Pit, Mile Road, Abazi Stone, Drava's Basin, Lungjučkë Stone, Gjeçanivë Pit, Hill of St. George, Drava's Stone, Xhollë Hill, Ver-spahi Hill, Bostanishte Meadow, Fir Meadow, Arrës-Shehi Stone, Xhollë Hill, Ver-spahi Hill, Gollobërdos Hill, Kallbarevë Fountain, Çërmnajcë Hill, Mitos Hill, Juri Meadow, Mejdan Meadow, Përzhalla Ridge, Xhiteza Ridge, Rezinkë Ridge, Krastë Hill, Ballvonë Hill, Karametes Fields (ploughed land), Xhitizë Ridge, Arami Croft, Rasadi Croft, Rezinka, Settlement (also known as Old Rogle), Karaxhve Stones, Polonka Ridge, At Stanet, Reed Stack, Hilltop Reed Stack, Jabllanicë Stani, Imbërlisë Basin, Rraviçit Meadow, Popi Meadow, Avromi's Garden, Magllavi Hill, Jabllanicë Hill, Zadrime Hill, Pavles Hill (Zabel), Çausi's Ridges, Dhampirëve Ridges, Kollajn Neighborhood, Raman Neighborhood, Rai Minaet, Dervish Bridge, Stogodin Spring (spring), Porenit Ridges, Batake Ridges, Tërllakve Ridges, Taume Kullës (place in the village), Shtareci Project - place, Rakita Lines (stream), Sharakorita (plowed land), Cherry Tree (Zabel), Korjazi Hill of the Horse (mountain).

Other Microtoponyms: Ndërnaure, Beshë Spring, Pasha's Stream, Zeke's Stream, Veli's Stream, Sudarek, Lethaj, Skura Stream, Bërca, Murgjash, Redhill, Small Mountain, Fojniku, Hilltop, Elezi Hill, Kukat, Skender's Hill, Thaurët Meadow, Apple Meadow, Axhaja Meadow, Bota Road, Caucë Road, Great Road, Road to Skopje, Bride's Bridge, White Stone, Abazi Stone, Red Stone, At Lisat, Milaim's Grave, Hoxha's Graves, New Graves, Osoj Stone, Elezi Hill, Skender's Hill, Big Hill, Little Hill, Church Hill, Skondi's Hill, Ameti's Hill, Cold Water, Hold-jug, Sadolli's Stream, Tërl's Stream, Arusha's Stream, Redhill, Lejthisa Ridges, Apple Meadow, Redhill, Sefa's Ridges, Topoja's Ridges, Hazbi's Ridges, Paci's Ridges, Xhunsh's Ridges, Sheh's Ridges, Xhaka's Ridges, Sida's Ridges, Qaka's Ridges, Krasta Ridge, Shpati Hill, Baftjari Hill, Gafuri Hill, Hurdha, Ndërshkaut Meadows, Horse Road, New Graves, Old Graves, Mollësmirë Zabel, Hurdha Pit, Shpati Hill, Baftjari Hill, Gafuri Hill, Sadik's Valley, Maradollë Valley, Krasta Summit, Serveti's Hillside, Dëbërcë Project, Krekëzat (Ara), Llëkat (Ara), Spahi's Ridges (place within the village), Javanit Hurdha (Hurdha), Cumadhja (Ara), Drash Poshtëri Neighborhood (Neighborhood), Xhaka's Plough, Brangovec (source), Cumadhja (Ara), Gollobërdo Hill (Hill), Ibrahim Pasha's Knee (place connected to the stone and Ibrahim Pasha, historical figure from the Ottoman rule), Church (place within the village, formerly a church), Shpati Hill (Hill), Krasta Ridge, Krekëzat (Ara), Spahi's Ridges (place in the village), Loz (source), Lugu of the Streams (source), Lower Hazbi Stream (source), Lower Hazbi Stream (source), Lower Hazbi Stream (source), Horse Road, Fir Meadow, Lower Hazbi Stream (source), Zabel of Mollësmirë, Arrat Mëndafshe, Merize Ridges, Kreke Ridges, Lloke Ridges, Skura's Ridges, Shlloni Botës Hill, Mbajvneshë Hill, Donkey Road, Meadows above the graves, Hill behind the graves, Lugu of the Streams, Gene Merovë, Merovë's Knee, Merovë's Hill, Merovë's Project, Gorno Merovo, Lugu (Ara), Valley (Ara), Mullaka (Ara), Baçilishte (Slavic, baç, root), At the Hill of Metë's Meadow (Hill), Baraugit Meadow (Meadow), Ballvan (Ara), Bllagun, Demiri Spring (spring), Lower Spring (spring), Koses Hill (Hill), Çuka (Zabel), Çuka of Kosa (Zabel), Gene Merove (Ara), Ilin Grob (Hill), Kashlla, Kërçek Hill (slope), Kodra Meres (place inside the village), Meadows of Metë (Meadows), Baraugit Meadow (Meadow), Hajni Meadow (Meadow), Metë Meadow (Meadow), Terzis Meadow (Meadow), Karaxhe Neighborhood (Neighborhood), Marshi Neighborhood (Neighborhood), Bocon Neighborhood (Neighborhood), Kalie Neighborhood (Neighborhood), Kalije Neighborhood (Neighborhood), Marshin Neighborhood (Neighborhood), Xhafa Neighborhood (Neighborhood), Argaçit Project (stream), Qestak

(Zabel), Brahim's Knee (place connected to a grave of an old man), Qaki's Zabel, Xhepë Neighborhood, Dibran's Valley, Salih's Valley, Small Valley, Big Valley, Vërve Kaurit (Road), Lugjata, Ah Gjat', Dushka, Kuç's Knee (Hill), Ftoft' Croft (Croft), Small Croft (Croft), Zendeli's Croft (Croft), Linishte, Dibran's Valley, Salih's Valley, Torbesh's Valley, Lugjata, Hos Neighborhood (Neighborhood), Laç Neighborhood (Neighborhood), Vëjsh Neighborhood (Neighborhood), Mullajn (Croft), Murajs, Project (stream), Braim's Knee (Ridge), Stafa's Ridge, Cerovë Road (Road), Small Croft, Small Croft, Cold Water (source), Project of the Springs.

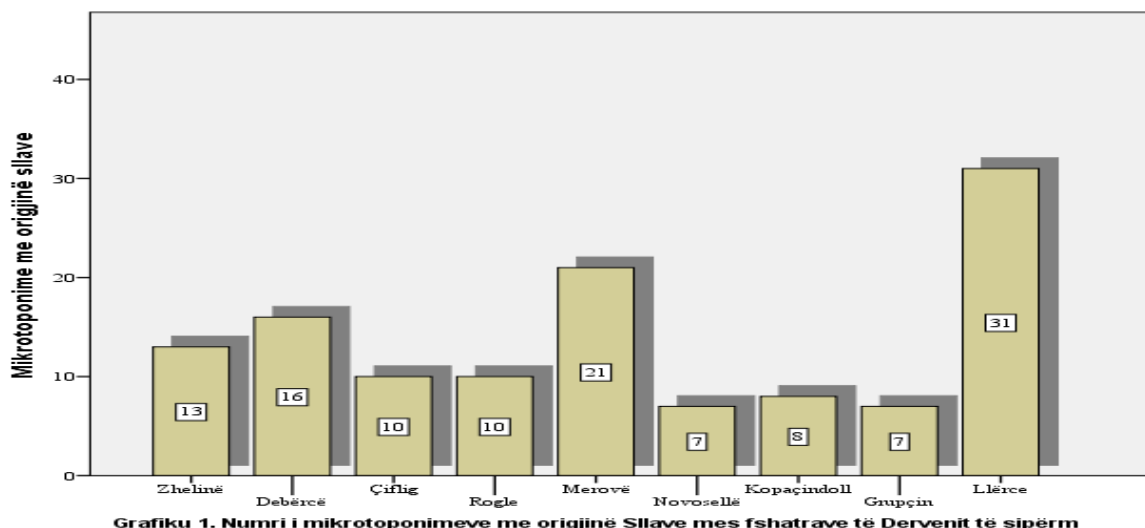
III. Descriptive and conclusive statistical analysis:

After gathering, categorizing, and processing the numerical data for microtoponyms according to their type of origin (Slavic, Turkish, mixed, and others) for each village (Zhelinë, Debërcë, Çiflig, Rogle, Merovë, Novosellë, Kopaçindoll, Grupçin, and Llërcë) in Upper Derven, in Table 1, we present the numerical data to compare the presence of the type according to origin as well as their count per village.

Table 1.
Numerical frequencies of microtoponyms (by type) across villages in Upper Derven

	Microtoponyms with Slavic origin	Microtoponyms with Turkish origin	Mixed microtoponyms (Albanian+Slavic and Albanian+Turkish)	Other microtoponyms	Total
Zhelinë	13	1	10	50	74
Debërcë	16	3	9	77	105
Çiflig	10	2	4	31	47
Rogle	10	3	10	62	85
Merovë	21	4	14	102	141
Novosellë	7	4	3	108	122
Kopaçindoll	8	2	4	47	61
Grupçin	7	5	4	59	75
Llërcë	31	11	5	68	115
Total	123	35	63	604	825

So according to Table 1, it appears that foreign microtoponyms (Slavic and Turkish) are more prevalent in the villages of Upper Derven, with 123 detected microtoponyms originating from Slavic despite 35 detected microtoponyms of Turkish origin. It's also worth highlighting the significant number of mixed microtoponyms (Albanian+Slavic+Turkish), with 63 detected in these villages of Upper Derven. For a more concise methodological analysis, below, in Graphs 1-4, we present the numerical data for each village categorized by the origin of the microtoponym:



Graph 1.

The Number of Microtoponyms of Slavic Origin among the Villages of Upper Derven

Regarding microtoponyms of Slavic origin, according to Graph 1 below, we can conclude that they are most prevalent in the village of Llërcë (31), followed by the villages of Merovë (21), Debërcë (16), Zhelinë (13), and so on. Regarding microtoponyms of Turkish origin, according to Graph 2 below, we can also conclude that the village of Llërcë has the highest number with 11 detected microtoponyms in this analysis, despite other villages of Upper Derven having fewer than 5 detected microtoponyms in this research analysis.

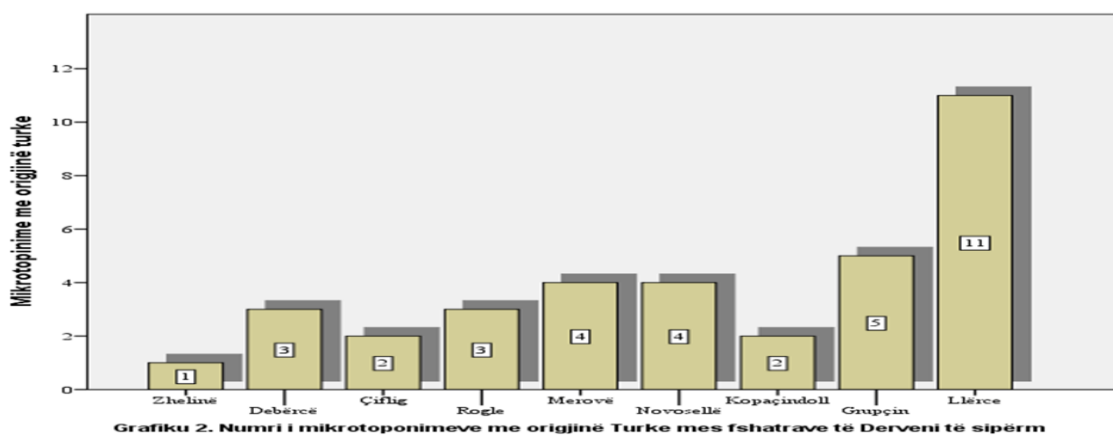
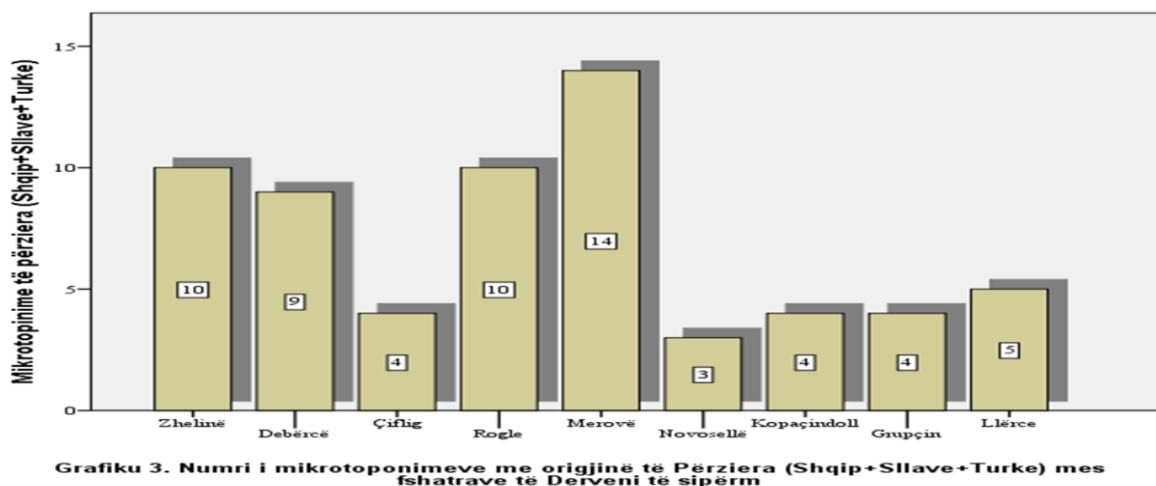


Chart 1.

The number of microtoponyms of Turkish origin among the villages of Upper Derven.

A slightly different situation is presented in Graph 3 for the presentation of mixed-origin microtoponyms (Albanian+Slavic+Turkish), where in the village of Merovë, approximately 14 such mixed microtoponyms have been found, compared to 10 in the villages of Rogle and Zhelinë, 9 in Debërcë, and fewer in other villages of Upper Derven.

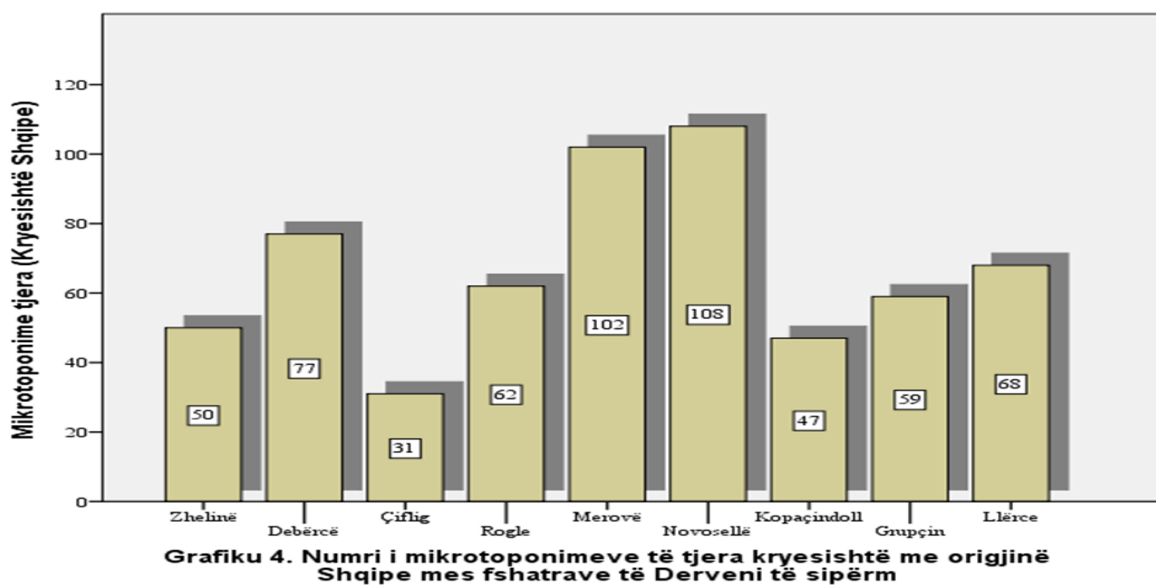
Additionally, in this segment, it is worth noting that microtoponyms of mixed origin combining the Albanian and Slavic languages dominate, while those combining the Albanian language with Turkish are less prevalent. There is almost an insignificant number of mixed microtoponyms between the Slavic and Turkish languages, as well as among the three languages Albanian, Slavic, and Turkish combined in a single microtoponym.



Graph 2.

The Number of Microtoponyms of Mixed Origin (Albanian, Slavic, Turkish) among the Villages of Upper Derven

In the category of other microtoponyms, the microtoponyms are mainly ranked as unique Albanian words for the region or village. Thus, Graph 4 presents the numerical frequencies of other microtoponyms among the villages of Upper Derven. According to the number of these other microtoponyms, Novosellë village leads with 108, followed by Merovë village with 102 other microtoponyms. Between 50 and 80, the villages of Zhelinë, Grupçin, Rogle, Llërcë, and Debërcë are ranked, while Çiflig and Kopaçindoll villages have fewer than 50 other microtoponyms. Therefore, we can conclude that Rogle village has more authentic microtoponyms compared to Slavic, Turkish, and mixed microtoponyms with a significantly lower number, unlike other villages. However, the same case does not apply to Merovë village, where there is a significant number of Slavic and mixed-origin microtoponyms despite the large number of its own authentic microtoponyms.



Graph 4.

Number of Other Microtoponyms of Albanian Origin among the Villages of Upper Derven

After these numerical analyses and comparisons of the presence of microtoponyms according to their origin type in the villages of Upper Derven, the potential interconnection dilemma between the number of Slavic and Turkish-origin microtoponyms, despite their own authentic ones, is presented. To analyze such an interconnection, Table 2 below presents the Pearson correlation coefficients between the numerical arrays of microtoponyms according to their origin type. According to the coefficients provided, only one significant positive correlation is observed, namely $r = 0.731$ with $\text{sig} = 0.025$ ($p < 0.05$), indicating a high positive correlation between the numeric array of Slavic-origin microtoponyms and Turkish-origin microtoponyms. In other words, the more Slavic-origin microtoponyms are present, the more the presence of Turkish-origin microtoponyms increases in these villages of Upper Derven.

Table1. Interrelation – Numerical Correlation among Microtoponyms by Origin					
		Microtoponyms of Slavic origin	Microtoponyms of Turkish origin	Mixed Albanian–Slavic–Turkish microtoponyms	Other microtoponyms
Microtoponyms of Slavic origin	Pearson Correlation	1			
	Sig. (2-tailed)				
	N	9			
Microtoponyms of Turkish origin	Pearson Correlation	.731*	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.025			
	N	9	9		
Mixed Albanian–Slavic–Turkish microtoponyms	Pearson Correlation	.339	-.211	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.372	.586		
	N	9	9	9	
Other microtoponyms	Pearson Correlation	.219	.266	.291	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.571	.490	.448	
	N	9	9	9	9
*. “Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).”					

IV. Summary and Conclusion

In conclusion of this section, we find that foreign microtoponyms (Slavic and Turkish) are more present in the villages of Upper Derven, with 123 detected microtoponyms of Slavic origin leading the count compared to 35 detected microtoponyms of Turkish origin. Furthermore, Slavic-origin microtoponyms are more prevalent in the village of Llërcë (31), followed by Merovë (21), Debërcë (16), and Zhelinë (13), in descending order. Additionally, we conclude that the village of Llërcë is preceded by 11 detected microtoponyms of Turkish origin despite other villages of Upper Derven, while the village of Merovë has approximately 14 mixed microtoponyms, compared to 10 in Rogle and Zhelinë, 9 in Debërcë, and fewer than 5 in other villages of Upper Derven.

Regarding other authentic microtoponyms, we conclude that Novosellë leads with 108, followed by Merovë with 102 other microtoponyms, with villages Zhelinë, Grupçin, Rogle, Lërce, and Debërca ranging between 50 and 80 microtoponyms, while villages Çiflig and Kopaçindoll have fewer than 50 other microtoponyms.

As a general observation for this section, it is evident that the village of Rogle has more authentic microtoponyms compared to Slavic, Turkish, and mixed microtoponyms, despite the presence of fewer microtoponyms in other villages. However, this is not the case with the

village of Merovë, where there is a significant number of microtoponyms of Slavic and mixed origin despite the large number of authentic microtoponyms.

Through correlation or interconnection analyses, we concluded that the more Slavic-origin microtoponyms are present, the higher the presence of Turkish-origin microtoponyms would be in these villages of Upper Derven.

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