# FAMILY NAMES DERIVED FROM *ЙОГУР* AND \**ЙОГУРТЧИЯ* IN BULGARIAN

**Ludwig SELIMSKI** 

The Institute of Slavonic Philology Sosnowiec, Poland

#### **Abstract**

This article aims at analyzing the family names derived from the term  $\check{u}ozyp$  in Bulgarian. The analysis focuses on 17 family names based on phonetically changed forms of the denomination  $\check{u}ozyp$ . We also refer to the equivalent nouns that exist in other languages of the Balkan region (Serbian, Romanian, Macedonian, Albanian), and point out the phonetic changes that the family names have undergone in Bulgarian, sometimes on account of hypercorrectness.

**Key words**: anthroponym, Bulgarian, yogurt, denomination, phonetic changes

#### Résumé

Cet article a pour but d'analyser les noms de famille dérivés des termes *ŭozyp* et *ŭozypmuus*, en bulgare. L'analyse est axée sur 17 noms de famille et sur le changement des formes phonétiques de la dénomination *ŭozyp*. On s'intéresse, aussi, des substantifs équivalents qui existent dans les langues balkaniques (serbe, roumaine, macédonienne, albanaise) avec la mise en évidence des changements phonétiques que ces noms ont souffert en bulgare, parfois à cause de la volonté d'être hypercorrecte.

**Mots-clés**: anthroponyme, bulgare, yogourt, dénomination, changements phonétiques

1. The subject of analysis here are 17 family names based on phonetically changed forms of the denomination yogurt/йогурт 'sour milk' (3.1.–3.6.) and yogurtman/\*йогуртчия 'yogurt producer/yogurt seller'. Only one surname in this group Yurgudov/Юргудов has been mentioned by Ilchev but he has provided no explanation. The remaining 16 have been dwelt upon here for the first time.

Bulgarian sour milk is known under the name yogurt/ŭocypm, borrowed from the Turkish yoğurt, and spread in all Balkan languages and in many European languages (for the versions in the respective languages/dialects cf. Stachowski 2006). The significance of this culinary product in everyday life and culture in the Balkans is illustrated by the fact that the saying about 'the person with bitter experience' encountered in all Balkan languages but without exact correspondent in other languages is based on this name. I have in mind here the Bulgarian saying "He who has been burned by the gruel blows to cool it" in its extended but less familiar version "He who has been burned by the bread (mpuehuua/trienitsa), blows to cool the yogurt as well" (Ikonomov, 1968: 187). The corresponding saying in the other Balkan languages is a compound sentence expressing the meaning that who was burned by the hot gruel/soup/milk, etc., would also blow to cool the sour milk/yogurt/"mutenitsa" (мътеница 'yogurt mixed with water').

This saying is based on the denomination yogurt (ŭozypm) in three Balkan languages: Turkish, Greek and Romanian. Compare: Turkish Sütten ağzı yanan, **yoğurdu** üfliyerek yer; Greek Οποιος καεί με το χυλό φυσά και το γιαούρτι; Romanian Cine s-a fript cu ciorbă, suflă și în iaurt/Cine s-a fript cu ciorbă, suflă și-n iaurt. Along with the Turkish version, which is the only one including the component 'eat/eats' (Turkish yer), there exists a version with the component 'drink/drinks': Sütten ağzı yanan, yoğurdu üfliyerek içer 'Who burned himself with the milk blows to cool the yogurt while drinking it'. In its correspondence in Macedonian "Кој се попарил од млекото, дува и на матеницата" and in its shorter version "дува и на маштеница(ma)", the basic denomination is not the expected yogurt (Maced. jozypm), but materitsa 'butter-milk or yogurt diluted with water "матеница/маштеница" (that is, you can make "matenitsa" by mixing yogurt with water)'. In the Albanian equivalent the basic word, similar to the one in Macedonian, is irin, from Turkish ayran, from which comes the Bulgarian airan (айран/mutenitsa). Still more generalized is the Serbian version – it lacks the word yogurt/jozypm or a synonym for it: Ко се један пут ожеже, и на хладно пуше 'Who is once burned blows on cold things too'.

St. Stachowski points out a few derivatives from the word yogurt/ŭozypm in some languages. Among these of more pertinence to the purpose of this article are: the Turkish yoğurtçu 'a person who makes or sells sour milk, a milkman', the Romanian iaurgìu/iugurgiu and the Spanish-Hebrew yagurčí with the same meaning (Stachowski, 2006: 186). The Polish researcher has omitted the Romanian iaurgerìe 'milkshop' (a place selling milk). The Bulgarian word \*ŭozypmuun 'a milkman, a person who makes or sells yogurt' has not been mentioned. This particular word, as I am trying to prove further on, like the forming word yogurt, becomes part of the stem of a dozen of family names, which are the subject of my further analysis.

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- **2.** In Bulgarian the Turkish word *yoğurt* is encountered in the following 12 versions:
  - 2.1. йогурт (RRODD 180).
- 2.2. **ũòzypm** (Galichnik, area of Debar; cf. BER 2: 104), with the typical Macedonian shift of stress from the last syllable towards the first syllable of the word.
- 2.3.  $\breve{u}$   $\overrightarrow{v}$   $\overrightarrow{v}$  (Strahilovo, Veliko Turnovo district), with the omission of the final consonant of the stem of the word  $(-m/*-\partial)$ .
- 2.4. ozypm (and 3 other variants), with the omission of the sound [ $mathbb{m}$ ] before a vowel ozypm (Sliven; Krustina, area of Aitos; Targovishte), ozypm, with palatalization of the end -m \* (> -m) (Alvanovo, Pevets, Targovishte district; Sachanli, area of Gyumyurgina; area of Pavel and Shiroka Laka, Smolyan district; area of Ardino and Madan; Yakovo, area of Momchilgrad; Pastrogor, area of Svilengrad; ozypo, with a voiced consonant at the end of the stem (Dushantsi, area of Pirdop), ozypo, with palatalization of the final \*- $\partial$  (>  $-\partial$ '), in the Smolyan district (BER 4: 782). The alteration of voiced ~ voiceless type of the end consonant of the stem is

encountered in the Turkish form of the name, from which it is taken: *yoğurt*, *yoğurd-u*.

- 2.5. yzypm', with omission of the sound [n] before a vowel (\*n0-> \*n0-), reduction (\*n0-> \*n9-) and palatalization of the end \*n1-n9-1 according to Gerov (5: 418) and in Momchilovtsi, Smolyan district (IIBE 4: 86).
- 2.6. ypzym, with omission of the pronunciation of the sound [m] before a vowel (\*mo- > \*mo-), reduction(\*mo- > \*my-) and metathesis (\*mo- > -mo-my-, cf. RRODD 527, in L. Karavelov: "what yogurt mypzym, what materitsa"); about the metathesis compare the Greek mapyomt (according to Stachowski 2006: 186);
  - 2.7. *ιοεγρm*, with reduction \*uo-> \*uv- (RRODD 583; RČD 1007);
- 2.8. wypm/yuurt (according to Stachowski 2006: 185), as in yugurt / wzypm (2.7), with elision of the Turkish  $\check{g}$ , the so called "soft" g (Turkish: yumuşak  $\check{g}$ );
- 2.9.  $nz\dot{y}pm$ , with mutation (\* $\check{u}o->*\check{u}e-$ ) and opening of articulation (\* $\check{u}e->*\check{u}a-$ )  $nz\dot{y}pm$  (RRODD 587); for the beginning of the word compare  $\check{u}bz\dot{y}p$  (2.3.);
- 2.10.  $\vec{nypm}$  (RRODD 590), with mutation (\* $\vec{u}o > *\vec{u}e -$ ) and opening of articulation(\* $\vec{u}e > *\vec{u}e -$ ), like in  $\vec{nzypm}$  (2.9.), as well as with elision of the Turkish soft  $\vec{g}$ . This form of the denomination coincides with the Russian  $\vec{nypm}$ , the Romanian  $\vec{iaurt}$ , the Greek  $\vec{vuayovpt}$ ,  $\vec{vuaovpt}$  and the French  $\vec{vaourt}$ .

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**3.** Family names from *yogurt/ŭozypm* and versions.

Along with some family names from the words for agents or doers, parallel functioning formations for denominations of a respective object or

instrument of activity are in use. Thus along with Airandjiev/Айранджиев, from the dialectal word airandjia/айранджия "a seller or lover of matenitsa (Turkish ayrancı)", the surname Airanov/Айранов, comes into existence and is considered an "abbreviation from Airandjiev/Айранджиев" (Ilchev, 1969: 44). In a similar manner, along with the greater number of more frequent family names from the agent word "milkman" (\*йогуртчия) there are also family names only from the stem of yogurt/йогурт (and versions). There are suggestions that the nicknames of the second type, serving as basis for the respective family names, designate the person according to the line of activity/occupation, very much like the typical suffix for doers - čiya//-džiya (-чия//-джия). The studied family names here refer to this type (3.1.–3.6.). They are 6 in number and are encountered 17 times.

- 3.1. Yortov(a)/ Йортов(a), from 1936, encountered and recorded 2 times (in the district of Bourgas and Sliven)<sup>1</sup>. The common noun \*ŭopm (yort) which is in its stem, lacks the pronunciation of the sound [й] before a vowel, shows assimilation and contraction (\*-oy- > -o-) from \*ŭòypm, which shows elision from the Turkish "soft"  $\check{g}$ , as is the case with  $n\mathring{y}pm$  (2.9.), from the Turkish  $yo\check{g}urt$  'sour milk', and with the same accentuation as in  $\check{u}\grave{o}zypm$  (2.2.).
- 3.2. *Urguteva*/**Ургутева**, only one occurrence, from 1920, in the Plovdiv district. Cf. 2.6. for the changes in the sound structure of the name of the activity which forms the stem of the word.
- 3.3.  $Urtov/\mathbf{Уртов}$ , one occurrence only, from 1957, in the Rousse district. The name of the line of activity which is in the stem \*ypm shows contraction (\*y- < \*yy-) from \*yỳpm, which lacks the sound [й] before a vowel and shows reduction from \*ŭoỳpm (from the Turkish yoğurt "sour milk"), as well as ozypm' and yzypm' (cf. 2.4. and 2.6.) and elision from the

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Всички данни за хронологията на поява, честотата и разпространението на изучаваните фамилни имена са според *База данни от компютърен архив-картотека на фамилните имена у българите през XX век в Центъра за българска ономастика "Професор Николай Ковачев" при ВТУ "Св. Св. Кирил и Методий" във Велико Търново.* 

Turkish  $\check{g}$  ("soft"  $\check{g}$ ), as is the case with  $s\hat{y}pm$  (2.9.).

- 3.4. Urutov(a)/**Урутов**(a), from 1901, recorded 8 times: 6 times in the Rousse district, 2 in Sofia. The name of the line of activity \*ypŷm, which is in the stem shows metathesis (\*-yp- > -py-) from \*yŷpm, which shows reduction (\*o- > y-) and elision from the Turkish "soft"  $\check{g}$  from the form \*oypm, for which compare  $oz\mathring{y}pm'/yz\mathring{y}pm'$  (2.4 and 2.6) and  $n\mathring{y}pm$  (2.9.).
- 3.5.  $Urugov(a)/\mathbf{Vpyrob(a)}$ , from 1926, recorded 5 times: 2 in Blagoevgrad district, 2 in the district of Razgrad, 1 in the district of Pazardjik. It is possible that it might contain an error the letter g instead of t from Urutov (cf. 3.4.).
- 3.6. *Yurgudov/***Юргудов**, which is missing in the data base (cf. reference 1), Ilchev (1969: 567) mentions it in Varna, but refrains from interpreting. It is also based on the name of the produced/sold or favourite product as is the case with ypzym (2.6.), but with preserved initial phoneme u- and the voiced variant of the end consonant of the stem (from Turkish -t//-d), as is the case with ozypd (2.4). Compare ypzymesa (3.2).

The analysis of those 6 family names (3.1–3.6) from versions of the stem  $yogurt/\tilde{u}oz\tilde{y}pm$  (from Turkish  $yo\tilde{g}urt$ ) allows for the restoration of 4 other dialectally altered versions of this stem which have not been known so far: 1. \* $\tilde{u}opm$  (< \* $\tilde{u}\tilde{o}ypm$ , cf. 3.1), 2. \*ypm (< \* $y\tilde{y}pm$  <\* $o\tilde{y}pm$ , cf. 3.3), 3. \* $yp\tilde{y}m$  (< \* $yyp\tilde{y}m$  < \* $y\tilde{y}pm$ , cf. 3.4), 4. \* $upz\tilde{y}\tilde{o}$  (cf. 3.6), but hardly \*ypyz (cf. 3.5) as well.

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- **4.** Family names from *vogurtchia/\*ŭozypmuun* and versions.
- 4.1. Yordjiev/Йорджиев, occurring only once, from 1918, in the district of Razgrad. It is a denomination according to occupation, on the basis of the dialectal  $*\check{u}op\partial \varkappa u n$ , "a person who prepares or sells yogurt, a milkman". Like other words, formed from a derivative with the suffix  $-\check{c}iya//-d\check{z}iya$  ( $-uun//-\partial \varkappa u n$ ) here again the stem to which the suffix  $-\partial \varkappa u n$  is added, is characterized not only by the elision of the Turkish  $\check{g}$  (the so-called "soft" g) but also of the y following it, when placed before a stressed

syllable. We have to mention that from the composition of this stem the ending -m (Turkish -t//-d) is dropped. Thus after the changes shown here it does not sound  $*\check{u}opm/*\check{u}op\eth$ - (< Turkish  $yo\check{g}urt$ , -du), but just  $*\check{u}op$ . This makes the occurrence of the voiced version  $-\partial \varkappa u n$  possible (from Turkish -cu//-cu). Thus the common noun  $*\check{u}op\partial \varkappa cun$ , which is in the stem of the family name  $\check{U}op\partial \varkappa cun$ , corresponds rather to the Romanian iaurgu "producer/seller of yogurt" than to the original Turkish  $yo\check{g}urtcun$ . The Romanian iaurgu can be considered to be formed by the suffix -gu (about the suffix cf. Misterski 1987: 38–39, 46–47; Ciorănescu 412, no. 4258), on native Romanian soil, from iaurt 'yogurt', with disintegration of the end -t (//-d) of the stem or from an unmentioned dialectal \*iaur, very much like the Bulgarian  $\check{u}ur$ ) (2.3) and some others, which are restored further on (cf. 5).

- 4.4. *Ugordjieva/***Угорджиева**, a single occurrence only, from 1980, in the district of Haskovo. It comes from a denomination of profession, formed with the suffix -джия from a stem such as *yzypm*' 'yogurt' (Momchilovtsi, IIBE 4: 86). Besides the hypercorrect -o- instead of \*-y- in the stem (\*yzop-<\*ŭozyp-), a remarkable feature of the derivation in this single case is the dropping of the final -m (Turkish -t//-d) from the stem \*yzopm/\*yzopð (Turkish yoğurt, -du). It is precisely the sonorous consonant -p, which due

to this change comes at the end of the stem \*yzop and conditions the use of the suffix  $-\partial \varkappa u \pi //- u \pi$  (< Turkish -cu//- cu) in its voiced version  $-\partial \varkappa u \pi$  (< Turkish -cu).

- 4.5. *Urudjova/***Уруджова**, single occurrence only, from 1960, in the district of Blagoevgrad. While suggesting that what we have here in this single case is just a spelling version (hardly can we talk of a real metathesis \*yyp->ypy-) instead of \*Уурджов-, from the Turkish dialectal \*yypdжу (< \*uğurcu), I have to stress on the fact that we come across the same characteristic here as in Угорджиева (cf. 4.4). In this version the derivation is performed on the basis of the main \*yyp-, likewise with the dropping of the end -m (Turkish -t//-d) in \*yypm/\*yypd (< Turkish yoğurt, -du) of the stem as a result of the occurrence of the voiced version of the added suffix -джия//-чия (from Turkish -cu//-çu). Compare the place name Урджулар, instead of \*Уурджулар, also written "(erroneously Орджуларе [...] Lozen)" in the district of Pazardjik (Koledarov/Michev 1973: 156, 252), supposedly from the Turkish \*Yoğurcular.
- 4.6. Yurdjiiski/Юрджийски, a single occurrence only, from 1960, in the Pazardjik district. In this version, as in Угордживва (cf. 2.4) and Уруджова (cf. 4.5), we have a derivation from the dialectal version of the stem, which is characterized by the dropping of the end consonant -m (Turkish -t//-d) of the supposed stem \*ŭyŷpm/\*ŭyŷpð (< Turkish yoğurt, -du) In this case, however, the stem is considerably better preserved than in Уруджова (cf. 4.5) without the dropping of the pronunciation of [ŭ] before a vowel and without the strange metathesis. The shaping of the final name with the suffix -cκu instead of -oв refers this family name HOpdyжийски to the western parts of the country.
- 4.7. Yurdchaeva/Юрдчаева, a single occurrence only, from 1923, in the district of Kardjali. In this case we most probably have an error in spelling or printing instead of the name Юрдчиева (cf. 4.8) that is encountered in the same district.
  - 4.8. Yurdchieva/Юрдчиева, a single occurrence, from 1947, in the

district of Kardjali. Considering again the version of the Turkish yoğurtçu 'a person making or selling yogurt, a milkman', with the suffix -çu from yogurt, in this case we have a hypercorrect spelling version of HOpmuee (4.10), in the composition of which the phoneme m is interpreted as a seemingly voiceless \* $\boldsymbol{\delta}$ .

- 4.10. *Yurtchiev(a)*/**Юртчиев(a)**, from 1906, with 9 recorded occurrences in the district of Stara Zagora. It comes from a denomination of a professional occupation \* $\iota$ opmчия, from the Turkish  $\iota$ oğurtçu 'a person who makes or sells yogurt' with the suffix - $\iota$ cu (> - $\iota$ uя) from yoğurt. This form differs from its closest form (and also closest to the Turkish stem)  $\mu$ opmчиев (cf. 4.2) in the reduction of the vowel in the initial syllable (\* $\iota$ o-> $\iota$ uy-/spelt  $\iota$ o-). Compare the place name  $\iota$ Opmчии from the same origin, the former name (until 1906  $\iota$ ) of the village of Lyubenovo (since 1969 part of Parvomai; cf. Duridanov, 1958: 18), as well as  $\iota$ Opmчу $\iota$ ap (with its Turkish ending for plural - $\iota$ ar), the former name (until 1934) of the village of Mogilyane in the district of Kardjali (cf. Koledarov/Michev, 1973: 158, 172, 275).
- 4.11. Yurchiev(a)/Юрчиев(a), from 1906, recorded 62 times in the Smolyan district. This refers to the same in origin and original meaning formation, which is in the stem of Iortchiev/Йортчиев (4.2.) and Yurtchiev/Юртчиев (4.10.). In this case, the phonetic change of sounds which makes articulation much easier than the change in Yurkchiev(a) (cf. 4.9), is the dissimilative disappearance(\*mu > u). This archaic denomination of the professional occupation lies in the stem of the place name Yurchii/Юрчии (along with Юртчии, cf. Koledarov/Місhev, 1973: 172, 275), quite aptly translated by renaming it Mlekarevo/Млекарево (in the Sliven district).

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5. We conclude that the stems of 11 family names (4.1.–4.11.) contain the name of the occupation of milkman \*ŭοεγρηνανα/\*ŭογρηνανα (from the Turkish yoğurtçu) 'a person who makes or sells yogurt; a milkman'. On account of a few sound changes pointed out in this analysis – phonetic or on account of hypercorrectness – it occurs in the following 10 versions; \*ŭορθωσια (4.1.), \*ŭορηναια (4.2.), \*οεορναια (4.3.), \*γεορθωσια (4.4.), \*γγρθωσια (4.1.), \*νρρθωσια (4.5.), \*κορθωσια (4.6.), \*κορθναια (4.7., 4.8.), \*κορκναια (4.9.), \*κορηναια (4.10.), \*κορναια (4.11.). This also means that the basic denomination yogurt/ῦοεγρη is encountered in the respective dialects in several other phonetic forms: \*ŭορ, \*οεορ and \*γεορ can be restored with greater certainty. Further on, maybe \*γγρ as well (but not \*γργ), 4.5), \*κορ and \*κορη (but not \*κορκ), because here we do not refer to the change of -m (or -θ) to -κ, but to a partial dissimilation of \*-mν- to \*-κν- (\*-mmν- > \*-κην- ), if we imagine the affricate sound ν as \*mνν.

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