

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NAMING PRACTICES BETWEEN ENGLISH AND UZBEK CULTURES

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Abstract

The selection of names for people is a complex and multifaceted process that is influenced by a variety of cultural, social, and personal factors. This article explores the key motivations and considerations that guide the naming of individuals, drawing on relevant research and theoretical perspectives. Key themes discussed include the significance of names, the role of tradition and cultural identity, the influence of personal preferences and meanings, and the evolving nature of naming practices. The article provides a comprehensive overview of the topic, highlighting the importance of understanding the motivations behind name selection for various applications, such as in the fields of psychology, sociology, and anthropology.

Keywords: Name selection, personal identity, cultural traditions, meaning of names, naming practices

Introduction

The choice of a name for a person is a significant decision that can have profound and lasting implications. Names not only serve as unique identifiers but also carry a range of symbolic and functional meanings that shape an individual's sense of self and their interactions with others (Alford, 1988; Lieberman, 2000). The motivations behind the selection of names for people are complex and multifaceted, reflecting a tapestry of cultural, social, and personal factors.

One of the primary motivations in the selection of names is the preservation and expression of cultural identity and heritage. Many societies and ethnic groups have long-standing traditions and conventions around naming practices that are deeply rooted in their history, beliefs, and social structures (Akinraso, 1980; Lieberman & Bell, 1992). For example, in many African cultures, names often convey important information about the child's birth circumstances, the family's values, or the child's place within the community (Okafor, 2006). Similarly, in various Asian and Middle Eastern traditions, names may be chosen to reflect auspicious meanings, familial lineage, or religious affiliations (Alford, 1988; Lieberman, 2000).

While cultural traditions play a significant role, the selection of names is also heavily influenced by personal preferences and the meanings that individuals or families ascribe to particular names. Parents may choose names that reflect their own values, aspirations, or

personal associations, such as honoring a beloved relative or evoking a positive character trait (Finch, 2008; Rossi, 1965). Additionally, the desire to convey a unique or distinctive identity can also shape naming decisions, as individuals or parents seek to differentiate their child from others (Lieberson & Bell, 1992).

The motivations behind name selection are not static but rather evolve over time, reflecting broader social, demographic, and technological changes. In recent decades, for example, the increasing diversity of society and the global interconnectedness facilitated by technology have led to a greater variety of names and a greater fluidity in naming practices (Sue & Telles, 2007). Parents may now draw inspiration from diverse cultural influences, popular culture, or personal preferences to create unique or even "invented" names for their children (Lieberson, 2000).

In the English-speaking context, the motivations behind name selection reflect a blend of cultural traditions, personal preferences, and evolving societal trends. Here are some key factors that influence naming practices in the English-speaking world:

1. Cultural Traditions and Identity:

- Religious/Biblical names: e.g., Jacob, Sophia, Ethan, Leah
- Ethnic/Ancestral names: e.g., Declan (Irish), Malia (Hawaiian), Luca (Italian)
- Names honoring family members: e.g., William (after a grandfather), Elizabeth (after a grandmother)

2. Personal Preferences and Meanings:

- Names with personal significance: e.g., Lily (after the mother's favorite flower), Jude (after a cherished literary character)
- Names reflecting parental values: e.g., Justice, Harmony, Courage, Faith
- Names with desired meanings: e.g., Autumn (meaning "season of harvest"), Ezra (meaning "helper")

3. Trends and Fashions:

- Names influenced by popular culture: e.g., Jayden (trend inspired by actor Jaden Smith), Khaleesi (from the TV series "Game of Thrones")
- Unique or unconventionally spelled names: e.g., Kaitlynn, Aiden, Nevaeh ("heaven" spelled backward)
- Revived traditional names: e.g., Hazel, Evelyn, Arthur, Violet

4. Evolving Attitudes and Diversity:

- Multicultural names: e.g., Aaliyah (Arabic), Liam (Irish), Mei (Chinese)
- Gender-neutral names: e.g., Avery, Taylor, Quinn, Rowan
- Names expressing individuality: e.g., Maverick, Oakley, Zyra

These examples illustrate the wide range of motivations that influence name selection in English-speaking cultures, from honoring cultural heritage and personal significance to embracing societal trends and modern sensibilities. The flexibility and diversity of English naming practices reflect the dynamic and evolving nature of individual, familial, and societal identities.

The problem of motivation in naming practices has been investigated by various Uzbek linguists and scholars. Motivation can be interpreted in linguistics in two ways. The first refers to extralinguistic factors underlying the name - such as intention, desire, conviction and so on; and the second - the motivating base of any word formation - the base word, a specific means of motivating words - the formant and the result of the motivational relationship. S. Kenjaeva divides Uzbek names into three different groups:

- A) name of dedication (memorial names);
- B) descriptive names (using descriptive words);
- C) names expressing wishes.

Motivation in anthroponyms is diverse and reflects the way of life, thinking, national customs and traditions, mythological, religious, philosophical, scientific worldview of a particular group of people. Here are some examples:

1. Denoting social or financial status of parents and their achievements in certain period of life - Omadbek (meaning is luck), Zafarbek (meaning is triumph, glory), Golib (meaning is winner);
2. Denoting wishes and dreams - Tursunoy, Ulmasbek, Bakhtiyar, Barkhayot (wishing long lives); Muhammad, Islam, Sherali, Asadbek, Azad (wishing to have the same/similar qualities as bearers of the names);
3. Names created on the basis of mythological views - found a lot in folklore or literature: Gurugli, Kuntugmish, Oytoldi;
4. Based on the idea that, under the influence of mythological views, celestial bodies benefit man, the child is given the names of the Sun, Moon, stars and planets - Yulduz (which means star), Sayyora (planet), Mohi (moon), Mushtari (the name of the planet Jupiter), Chulpan - bright star (planet Venus), Zukhra.

Morphological study of proper names is not carried out like ordinary words. The morphological composition of anthroponyms is complex, undergoes various structural changes in the process of historical development, is polished and is usually not divided into morphemes. But there are some anthroponym indicators that can help you get information about a person's desired status, gender, beliefs, ancestry, etc. Some of those indicators are analysed below.

A. Indicators representing the social status of a person: Abdu/Abdi-slave, obedient suffix, bek/begim, suffixes (belongs to the family of Beks, belongs to the family of rulers), bai - (sovereign, rich), mirza - educated, literate, mirza - form of this word, poshsha (there are also forms podshoh, shoh) is a word denoting career and title, which is currently used to denote respect and morning towards women. The words "khan" and "shah" are actually synonymous with the word "king" and today they are also widely used to refer to women (for example, Shahsanam, Dilbarkhon and so on).

B. Indicators representing gender. Some words or suffixes in the Uzbek anthroponymy can denote gender. Here are some examples of these cases:

- a) representing the masculine gender - Abdu, Bek, Bey, Kul, Tora, Mirza

b) indicators representing the female gender - Begim, Beka, Bibi, Biyi, Bonu, Gul, Niso, Moh, Oy, Pari, Jamal, Honim

c) indicators representing both sexes - Khan, Sultan.

C. Indicators expressing faith and trust.

a) some proper names in Uzbek language are associated with the name of Allah: -islam, -din, -iddin (which means religion), banda (which means slave), -ulla/-ullah/-allah (which means Allah) and are formed from the beautiful names of Allah - Asmaul Husna (which are names, names, titles of the good and beautiful Allah SWT according to His attributes).

b) Indicators associated with Islamic dogmas, blessed months, days, holidays: Jumabay - taken from the holy day -Friday, Safarali, Ashurali, Ramadan, Rajabbek -names of the months in Islamic world, etc.

D. Indicators representing ancestry

a) sheikh - meaning is respectful and moral person;

b) Okhun - scholar-theologian, teacher;

c) Eshon - people of high rank, pure bloodline;

d) Mullo is an expert in theology, a literate person;

e) Sufi -follower of Sufism (which is known as tasawwuf in the Arabic-speaking world, is a form of Islamic mysticism that emphasizes introspection and spiritual closeness with God). Ultimately, the art of naming a child is a highly personal process, guided by a multifaceted blend of cultural, emotional, and practical factors. By upholding key principles centered on sound, meaning, tradition, and individuality, parents can thoughtfully bestow their child with a name that will serve as a foundation for their identity and a lasting legacy for generations to come.

The selection of names for people is a complex and multifaceted process that is shaped by a range of cultural, social, and personal factors. Understanding the motivations behind name selection is important for various fields, such as psychology, sociology, and anthropology, as it provides insights into individual and cultural identity, family dynamics, and social trends. By exploring the significance of names and the evolving nature of naming practices, researchers and practitioners can better understand the deeper meanings and implications associated with the names that individuals bear.

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