

ANALYSIS OF PROPER NAMES IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract: This article examines the historical development and linguistic features of proper names (anthroponyms) in the English language. It explores the origins, evolution, and classification of English personal names, including influences from Old High German, Celtic, Scandinavian, Latin, and Hebrew sources. The study highlights the impact of historical events, literature, and cultural changes on English anthroponymy. The analysis also addresses translation and transcription issues when transferring proper names across languages. The research underscores the significance of anthroponyms as cultural and historical markers that reflect the linguistic and societal transformations of the English-speaking world.

Key Words: Proper names, anthroponyms, English personal names, historical development, name classification, linguistic influences, cultural identity, translation, transcription, literature.

Proper names or anthroponyms are a large group of words, which include names of people, personal names, patronyms (middle names), surnames, family names, nicknames and pseudonyms, cryptonyms (hidden names). Anthroponyms of literary works, the names of heroes in folklore, in myths and fairy tales are also studied. English names have come a long way of historical development which depended on the history of the English people and their language. Anthroponyms are called one of the absolute language universals, and according to Anikin, this universality is based on the same evolutionary processes of nominal systems. Proper names can be called mirrors that reflect culture. Based on these conclusions, we can say that the anthroponym is not only a linguistic, but also a socio-historical realia that appears and functions under certain conditions and is necessary for human community.

The nomenclature of modern English names is a kind of mosaic composed of the names of ancient and new, originally English and borrowed, traditional and borrowed, differing from each other in structural and semantic features. According to A. F. Artemova and O. A. Leonovich, in modern English only 6% of ancient English names are preserved. Such diversity is not accidental: personal names are associated with the spiritual and material culture of the people. Therefore, while living and developing, personal names experience various kinds of influence and go through their historical process of development, which is connected with the history of the English people and the English language. When proper names are translated into other languages, they are, as a rule, are borrowed, transcribed, but, as an exception, can be translated. So, in the works of J.A. Golikova [3, 90] anthroponyms are classified sign-names and tag-names, which are always transcribed; names with their own semantic content – the names of this group are either traditionally transcribed or translated; names which can be referred to the first or second group depending on the context, they can be either transcribed or translated, sometimes by means of tracing.

The names of Old High German origin were borrowed at various stages of the development of English. The Old High German language is known as one of the Germanic languages of the subgroup and belongs to the VIII-XI centuries. The name *Richard* (translated into Russian by transliteration – Richard) came from the Old High German language during the Old English period of the 5th-11th centuries. Let us compare the Old High German name Richort [richi “powerful state + hort” bold “]. The remaining names of Old High German origin, such as *Albert, Charles, Geoffrey, Karl, Louisa, Raymond, Roger, William*, and others, came to English through Latin and French.

The question of the Celtic component in the composition of English anthroponymy is quite complex and can be viewed ambiguously. This is due to the problem of preservation and settlement of the British tribe after the Anglo-Saxons colonized Britain. However, many of the

personal names of the Celts and the Anglo-Saxons of the Old English layer are difficult to distinguish from nicknames. In this group we can see simple one-component names (*Daene, Wulf, Beald, Britta, Tristan, Froda, Hwita, Aelf, Arthur*) and two-component or complex names like *Ethelberg, Leofwin, Wigfrith, Frithuwulf, Carmichael*: *Sir Carmichael Clarke has been found bashed in* (“Carmichael” –transcribed according to translation traditions) [1, 23].

The invasions of the Scandinavians to England, which began at the end of the 8th century and reoccurred over the next centuries to the 11th century, apparently did not have a significant impact on the naming system developed by the Anglo-Saxons at that time. Relatively quickly they merged with the Anglo-Saxons, having mastered their language, religion, public order [4, 105].

Latin names were borrowed directly from the Latin language during the Roman conquest of England (43 BC – 410) or through French during the Norman invasion that began in 1066. After the Norman Conquest, the Old English names almost completely disappeared from use, as English was the official language. Greek and Latin names were also widespread, as well as simple one-component, brought by the Normans: *William, Richard, Robert, Hugh, Ralph, Alexander, George, Clara, Paul*, etc. [35, 107]: *Whatever I told Caroline now for the demons of Mrs. If you're able to translate “Caroline” and transcription “Caroline”* [4, 107];

In the 12th century, the female names were very diverse; in addition to biblical names, there were many other, more exotic ones: *Hodierna, Italia, Cassandra*. *Also during this period, David, Thomas, Nicholas, Isabel, Matilda, Eleanor* and others. After the XIII century, the number of such names sharply decreases, which might be due to the influence of the church [4, 35].

In the XVI century after the Church Reformation by Henry VIII, the personal names of non-biblical saints for some time came out of use and the Hebrew names from the Old Testament became widespread: *Abigail* (“*Father rejoiced*”), *Abraham* (“*Father of many*”), *Benjamin* (“*my son Chali*”) and others. It should be noted that the Hebrew names began to penetrate into the English language from the year 597, when Saint Augustine appeared in England with his disciples and followers.

The body of the girl has been found at Bexhill. She has been identified as Elizabeth Barnard (“Elizabeth” – transcription is often used, sometimes the translation is “Elizabeth”) [4, 49].

A significant role in the replenishment of English names has played literature. English writers not only contributed to the revival of a number of names forgotten because of the official French language, but also created new names themselves. For example, Jonathan Swift introduced the names *Vanessa and Stella*. Thanks to Shakespeare, such names as *Silvia* (“Two Veronians”), *Celia* (“As you please”), *Julia* (“Two Veronians”), *Juliet* (“Romeo and Juliet”), *Jessica* (“Venetian merchant”) were widely used. *Ophelia* (“Hamlet”), *Viola* (“The Twelfth Night”): *Farewell, Ophelia; remember well. What I have said to you* (“Ophelia” – transcribed according to translation traditions)

In the XVIII century, the Gothic novel was revived, and with it the Old English and Middle Ages names came into use: *Edgar, Alfred, Emma, Arthur, Lancelot, Rosabel* and others. At this time, under the influence of the novels of V. Scott, the poetry of S. Coleridge, A. Tennyson, J. Byron and the Pre-Raphaelites, the following names were spread: *Christabel, Rowena, Cedric, Minna, Diana, Roland, Hugh, Walter* and others:

*The lovely lady, Christabel,
Whom her father loves so well,
What makes her in wood so late,
A furlong from the castle gate?* (“Christabel” – transcription).

At present, among the English proper names, the old names prevail. Recently, however, there has been a tendency to name children with the names of famous movie stars, heroes of detective novels and comics [5, 7].

Thus, the analysis of English anthroponymy showed that it is a specific system of naming people that has passed a long way of historical development. Anthroponyms contain unique information not only about the language, but also about the culture and history of the people. In terms of the revival of national cultures, interest in the past, the restoration of the truth of historical events, these onomastics can be useful for a number of sciences. The study of semantic, etymological and translational features of names, surnames used in works of art and poetry revealed the national originality and originality of the historical development of the English people, their culture and language.

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