

## LINGUOCULTURAL PECULIARITIES OF ANTHROPNOMS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

G. Nurullayeva<sup>1</sup>, A. Faleeva<sup>2</sup>

*Abstract:*

This article examines the linguocultural peculiarities of English anthroponyms, exploring how personal names express cultural and social values and historical contexts. It reflects the relationship between language and culture in forming personal names, taking some important factors into account such as etymology, naming conventions and the influence of popular culture. The article explores aims to highlight the significance of anthroponyms in understanding identity and cultural points within English-speaking countries.

*Key words:* anthroponyms, linguocultural, naming conventions, etymology, identity, historical significance, language and culture.

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The study of anthroponyms, personal names, provides valuable data which examines the intricate relationship between language and culture. In English-speaking societies, names are not only labels, but also they encapsulate historical narratives, cultural significance, and social identities. This article aims to express the linguocultural peculiarities of English anthroponyms, exploring how names evolve and reflect societal values, norms, and trends. It is evident that, from traditional naming preferences influenced by heritage to contemporary shifts influenced by media and globalization, the evolution of names offers insights into broader cultural dynamics. By analyzing various examples and trends, this article illuminates meanings embedded in English anthroponyms, indicating their crucial role in shaping individual and collective identities within diverse communities. According to the dissertation fulfilled by Jorida Cila in York University, there are a number of key symbolic functions served by names, including names as indicators of social and cultural information, and parental hopes and visions about their child's future. [1, 4]

Personal names in the English language carry significant cultural value, serving as an important part of every society. As mentioned in the article namely "Personal names and cultural reconstructions: introduction to the volume" Personal names are an indispensable part of all human cultures. No culture has yet been identified in which individuals would not or do not have personal names. The ways of naming, however, vary greatly between different cultures. Therefore, examining personal naming systems can reveal characteristics of the culture. [2, 1] Each name often expresses historical and cultural narratives, revealing much about the time and place. For instance, "Edgar" which was derived from Old English, not only connects individuals to their Anglo-Saxon ancestry but also carries meanings associated with nobility and valor.

Anthroponyms, or personal names, are an essential part of linguistics and play a significant role in expressing the culture, history, and values of a society. In English-speaking cultures, anthroponyms are deeply rooted in the historical, social, and linguistic contexts of the language. The development of linguistic science in the twentieth century contributed to the emergence of new aspects of the study of linguistic units. Most the most popular of them is the study of the language as an integral part of the culture, which provides a deeper insight into the culturally linguistic units. A special place among semiotic signs is occupied by

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<sup>1</sup> Nurullayeva Gulnur Rufat qizi, Master student of SamSIFL, Samarkand city

<sup>2</sup> Faleeva Anastasiya Vadimovna, PhD, senior lecturer of SamSIFL

anthroponymic vocabulary with distinctive features. [3, 8] The study of English anthroponyms from a linguocultural perspective provides a deep understanding into how names reflect and transmit cultural values, traditions, and identities. Several key aspects highlight this relationship:

1. **Historical Roots of English Anthroponyms.** Main languages that contribute to the development of the English culture and language are Old English, Latin, Greek, Norman French, and Germanic languages. Above mentioned languages have had a great impact on the origin of many English personal names. For example, William (from Norman French "Willaume") became popular after the Norman Conquest in 1066 and reflects the influence of French culture on English society. For example, William is a popular classic name that has endured for centuries. Not only is it commonly used in the English language, but it has its equivalent in other traditions as well. [7] Alfred (from Old English) is an Anglo-Saxon name meaning "elf-counsel," indicative of early English mythology and belief systems. [4] These historical layers show how English names were influenced by various linguistic and cultural interactions over time.

2. **Religious and Biblical Influence.** Christianity has had a profound impact on the anthroponymy of English-speaking cultures, especially through biblical names. Names like John, Mary, David, and Elizabeth are derived from Hebrew or Greek origins and were introduced through Christian tradition. John is the English version of the Hebrew name Yochanan, which means "God is gracious." There are a few Johns in the Bible. There was John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus who preached about the Messiah's coming; and there was John the Apostle, one of Jesus' 12 disciples and the author of the Gospel of John. Mary (from the Hebrew "Miriam") reflects Christian reverence for the mother of Jesus. [5] These names often carry religious symbolism and are associated with virtues promoted by the Christian tradition. Besides them, there are a plenty of personal names which carry religious value.

3. **Cultural Trends and Naming Practices.** The evolution of naming practices and trends has experienced significant cultural and societal changes. For example, during the XIX century names inspired by literature and royalty gained more popularity, being the brightest example Victoria which was inspired by Queen Victoria. Meanwhile, in modern times there has been a valuable interest in names which are influenced by globalization. Names such as Aiden, Liam, and Harper have gained popularity in recent decades, often influenced by celebrities, media, and cultural diversity.

4. **Gendered Anthroponyms.** As in many languages, English anthroponyms often express clear gender distinctions. Names like James, Richard, and Thomas are traditionally masculine, while Emily, Charlotte, and Sophia are feminine. However, in recent years, there has been a shift toward gender-neutral names such as Taylor, Jordan, and Alex, reflecting evolving societal attitudes toward gender roles and identity. [6]

The use of gender-neutral names is often seen as a reflection of more egalitarian and inclusive cultural norms, highlighting the linguocultural interplay between language and social progress.

5. **Nicknames and Shortened Forms.** It is clear that, anthroponyms in the English language have a rich tradition of nicknames or shortened forms of names. For example, Robert may become Bob or Rob, while Katherine may be shortened to Kate or Kathy, reflecting linguistic and cultural connections. Because these type of anthroponyms can indicate informality and familiarity in personal relationships.

6. **Social Status and Naming.** In English-speaking societies, anthroponyms have historically been used as a symbol of social status. Aristocratic families often favored certain names to show prestige, such as George, Charles, and Henry. In contemporary society, there is a growing trend of using rare or unconventional names as a marker of individuality, sometimes signaling a desire to stand out or be unique.

7. Cultural Borrowing and Globalization. Globalization has facilitated the trend of borrowing names across cultures. English anthroponyms also include names from different backgrounds. This trend reflects the high interaction between cultures and the exchange of ideas and trends. For example, Isabella is a common name in English-speaking societies which is originally an Italian name.

In conclusion, English anthroponyms carry rich linguistic value and cultural significance. From historical roots to religious connotations, social identity, and global influences, the study of English names helps us to notice a strong interplay between language, culture, and society. Names are important part of a culture's history, values, and evolution, and they continue to evolve in response to changing cultural landscapes.

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