

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NAME ETYMOLOGY: A STUDY OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK ANTHROPNYMS

O. Nematova ¹*Abstract:*

This article explores the etymology of common anthroponyms in English and Uzbek, examining how historical and cultural contexts shape their meanings. By analyzing the cognitive processes involved in understanding and interpreting these names, we aim to highlight the interplay between language, culture, and identity. The findings suggest that while both languages exhibit unique naming conventions, they also share common cognitive mechanisms that influence how names are perceived and understood.

Key words: Anthroponyms, etymology, cognitive linguistics, cultural significance, comparative analysis, identity.

Introduction

It goes beyond mere labelling — anthroponyms, or personal names, carry with them a strong cultural identity and facilitate a historical narrative. As such, they are key markers of identity that mirror the values, beliefs, and social structures of the cultures they are part of. The study presents a contrastive study of the common anthroponyms in English and Uzbek, revealing the cognitive perception that the anthroponyms mapped to the respective social order and how the cultural narratives drive their markers. Grasp the dynamics of collective and individual identities to have deeper respect for the role names play in these identities.

Methods

This qualitative study draws on etymological research, linguistic analysis, and cognitive theory. Anthroponyms from both English and Uzbek were chosen based on their frequency of use, including some culturally significant words. These names were tracked back, using etymological dictionaries, historical texts, and current naming practices, as far as they could go. Cognitive processes were extracted and analyzed from the literature on cognitive linguistics and name perception.

Data Collection: A list of common anthroponyms was compiled from various sources, including national statistics on name popularity, cultural studies, and linguistic databases. Names were categorized based on their etymological roots and cultural significance.

Etymological Analysis: The origins of selected names were traced using etymological dictionaries and historical texts. This analysis focused on the linguistic roots of names, their meanings, and any historical events that may have influenced their adoption.

Cognitive Analysis: Existing literature on cognitive linguistics was reviewed to identify the cognitive processes involved in name interpretation. This included studies on semantic associations, memory recall, and the impact of cultural context on name perception.

Results

Etymology of Common Anthroponyms:

English Names: Common English names such as "John," "Mary," and "William" have roots in Hebrew, Latin, and Germanic languages. For instance, "John" derives

from the Hebrew name "Yohanan," meaning "God is gracious." This reflects the historical influence of religious texts on naming practices in English-speaking cultures. Similarly, "Mary" has its origins in the Hebrew "Miriam," which is often associated with meanings of bitterness or rebellion, yet has evolved to symbolize purity and motherhood in Christian contexts.

Uzbek Names: In contrast, Uzbek names like "Dilshod," "Gulnora," and "Aziz" often have Persian, Arabic, or Turkic origins. "Dilshod," for example, combines "dil" (heart) and "shod" (happy), conveying a sense of emotional well-being. The name "Gulnora," meaning "flower of light," reflects the cultural appreciation for nature and beauty. This illustrates the cultural significance of names in expressing personal attributes and aspirations.

Cognitive Processes in Name Interpretation:

Names are understood through a variety of cognitive mechanisms, including semantic reference, memory retrieval, and sociocultural context. Names have meanings and associations, and they tend to conjure certain images or feelings. For instance, the name "Mary" might invoke concepts of purity and

¹ Nematova Oygul Jamshid qizi, Samarqand davlat chet tillari instituti magistranti

motherhood because of biblical imagery, dear to Christians, while "Dilshod" might evoke feelings of zest and warmth (in Uzbek culture).

Cognitive linguistics suggests that names are not merely labels but are imbued with cultural narratives that shape how individuals perceive themselves and others. This is evident in the way names can influence social interactions and identity formation. Research indicates that names can affect first impressions, social status perceptions, and even professional opportunities, highlighting their cognitive and social significance.

Historical and Cultural Contexts:

The historical context of naming practices reveals significant differences between English and Uzbek anthroponyms. English names have been shaped by various historical events, including the Norman Conquest and the Reformation, which introduced new linguistic influences and cultural narratives. The adoption of names from different cultures often reflects social mobility and changing societal values.

Conversely, Uzbek names reflect the region's rich history of Persian and Arabic influence, as well as the Turkic heritage. The cultural significance of names in Uzbekistan often ties to familial lineage, social status, and aspirations, highlighting the importance of names in personal identity. For example, names like "Aziz" (beloved) and "Sardor" (leader) carry connotations of respect and aspiration, which are highly valued in Uzbek society.

Discussion

The comparative analysis of English and Uzbek anthroponyms reveals both distinct and overlapping cognitive processes in name interpretation. While the etymological roots of names differ significantly, the cognitive mechanisms that underlie their understanding are similar. Names serve as cultural signifiers, carrying meanings that resonate with individuals' identities and societal roles.

Cognitive Mechanisms: The cognitive processes involved in interpreting names include semantic associations, which are influenced by cultural narratives and personal experiences. For instance, the name "William," often associated with leadership and nobility due to historical figures like William the Conqueror, may evoke a sense of authority and respect in English-speaking contexts. In contrast, the name "Dilshod," with its connotations of happiness and emotional warmth, may foster a sense of community and familial bonds in Uzbek culture. These associations are shaped by the cultural narratives surrounding each name, which are reinforced through social interactions and media representations.

Cultural Narratives and Identity: The historical and cultural contexts in which these names are situated further enrich their meanings. In English, names often reflect religious and historical narratives, while in Uzbek culture, names are deeply intertwined with personal attributes and familial connections. This interplay between language, culture, and cognition underscores the importance of anthroponyms in shaping individual and collective identities. For example, the prevalence of names with religious significance in English-speaking countries can be traced back to the influence of Christianity, while the use of names that signify positive traits in Uzbek culture reflects a societal emphasis on personal virtues and aspirations.

Social Implications of Names: The implications of naming extend beyond individual identity to encompass broader social dynamics. Research has shown that names can influence perceptions of social status, competence, and even attractiveness. In English-speaking contexts, names that are perceived as traditional or prestigious may confer advantages in professional settings, while names that are considered unconventional may lead to biases or stereotypes. Similarly, in Uzbekistan, names that reflect cultural heritage and familial lineage can enhance social standing and community respect. This highlights the role of names as not only personal identifiers but also as tools for navigating social hierarchies.

Globalization and Naming Trends: The impact of globalization on naming practices is another area of interest. As cultures interact and influence one another, naming conventions evolve, leading to the emergence of hybrid names that blend elements from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. For instance, the increasing popularity of Western names in Uzbekistan, such as "Kevin" or "Jessica," reflects a shift in cultural values and aspirations, particularly among younger generations. Conversely, the adoption of Uzbek names in English-speaking contexts can signify a growing appreciation for cultural diversity and heritage. This phenomenon raises questions about the cognitive processes involved in name adaptation and the implications for identity in a globalized world.

Conclusion

This study highlights the significance of etymology in understanding the cognitive and cultural dimensions of anthroponyms in English and Uzbek. By examining the historical and cultural contexts that shape the meanings of names, we gain valuable insights into the ways in which language and identity are interwoven. The findings suggest that while English and Uzbek anthroponyms exhibit distinct characteristics, they also share common cognitive mechanisms that influence how names are perceived and understood.

Future research could expand on this analysis by exploring additional languages and cultural contexts, further enriching our understanding of the cognitive characteristics of anthroponyms. Additionally, empirical studies examining the social implications of names in various cultural settings could provide deeper insights into the dynamics of identity formation and social interaction.

References:

- [1]. Crystal, D. (2000). *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. Cambridge University Press.
- [2]. Gurevich, A. (2015). *Cognitive Linguistics: An Introduction*. Cambridge University Press.
- [3]. Khamraev, A. (2018). *Uzbek Names: Cultural and Linguistic Perspectives*. Tashkent: Uzbekistan State University Press.
- [4]. Langacker, R. W. (2008). *Cognitive Grammar: A Basic Introduction*. Oxford University Press.
- [5]. McNamee, S. (2016). "The Power of Names: How Personal Names Influence Perception and Behavior." *Journal of Social Psychology*, 156(3), 245-258.
- [6]. Norrick, N. R. (2005). "Names and Naming: A Sociolinguistic Perspective." *Names*, 53(1), 1-12.
- [7]. Ponomareva, N. (2019). "Cognitive Aspects of Name Perception in Multilingual Contexts." *International Journal of Linguistics*, 11(2), 45-60.
- [8]. Tashkent State University of Uzbek Language and Literature. (2020). *Etymological Dictionary of Uzbek Names*. Tashkent: TSU Press.