

Anthroponymy - The Science of Personal Names

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ABSTRACT

the article states that an anthroponym is a personal name, a characteristic of the individualization of an object: that each object (person) of a nomination has a name. It is further stated that the Register of names is limited, that personal names are duplicated, which is forced to give an additional name. The article claims that in a developed society, the official name of a person has the formula of his name.

KEYWORDS: *Anthroponymy, onomastics, personal names, linguistics, anthroponymy, lexical system.*

The absolute necessity of personal names for society and the difficulty in studying them required a special science - anthroponymy.

Its name is derived from the ancient Greek words (this is the scientific tradition): *anthropos* - "man" and *onoma* - "name". The term is believed to have been first proposed by the Portuguese linguist J. Leite Vasconcelva in 1887. Anthroponym is a personal name, anthroponymy is a set of any personal names, both official and unofficial, affectionate, contemptuous, nicknames, patronymics, surnames, pseudonyms, etc.

Anthroponymy belongs to two "masters". On the one hand, a personal name is not personal property. It is created by society and exists only in society. On a desert island, a person does not need a name, but he cannot do without it in communicating with people. A name is always social, no matter how purely personal, even intimate, it may seem. But a name is a word and, like all words, is subject to the laws of language, which absolutely cannot be ignored.

Let's take not even the meanings of words (even an ignorant person can hardly dispute the sociality of meanings), but the "holy of holies" of the language - phonetics (its sounds) and word formation. Is this a purely internal matter of linguistics, independent of society? An example familiar to us is three modern different names Georgy, Yuri, Egor. They were one name, "broken" into three only phonetically. But such a difference in sounds cannot be explained if you do not know that the ancient Greek Georgiy in pronunciation was not given either to the Varangian princes, whose native language was Scandinavian (hence Yurgi, then turned into Yuri), or to the people whose native language was Russian (hence Yegor, later turned into Yegor). Only by combining knowledge of the subtle features of phonetics and knowledge of the history of society can one get to the origins of these three names.

But this is also true in relation to one of the purely linguistic methods of word formation - compounding:

proper names, for example the Old Slavic Vladimir, Yaroslav, among the Russians at first served exclusively to princes, later passed on to the nobility, and after several centuries they became

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popular.

The science of personal names is, of course, a social science and, of course, a linguistic science.

Together with the sciences of other proper names, anthroponymy makes up onomastics, which includes toponymy (studies geographical names), ethnonymy (studies the names of tribes and peoples), cosmonymics (studies the names of celestial bodies), theonymy (studies names of religious origin), etc.

Onomastics, in particular anthroponymy, is successfully developing in many countries around the world. Its literature is immense. Specialized journals are also published (in France, Sweden, the USA, Poland, Czechoslovakia, etc.) 15 international congresses on onomastics were held (the last one in August 1984 in Leipzig), not counting those that were convened within individual states. There are special scientific institutes and public organizations. The largest countries have published several dictionaries of names, dictionaries of surnames, etc.

We are late with the study of personal names. Although in 1903 the wonderful "Dictionary of Old Russian personal names" by N. M. Tupikov was published, which incorporated information from archival documents published by that time, it included only a small fraction of what was stored in the archives. Later, many more were published, but the names from ancient sources were not systematized by anyone. It is unlikely that anyone will soon continue the noble work of N. M. Tupikov.

Valuable contributions to the knowledge of the history of Russian names were made by Academician A. I. Sobolevsky and Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences A. M. Selishchev. However, their work, unfortunately, remained initial sketches, fragmentary and - what is even worse - not continued by anyone. True, V.K. Chichagov, a student of A.M. Selishchev, "finished" the teacher's drafts and prepared his own small publication, but he also remained alone.

In the middle of our century, the study of personal names was successfully carried out in Ukraine, Armenia, and the Baltic republics. The Russians were lagging behind. Only the popular books of L.V. Uspensky prevented interest in names from dying out. Anthroponymy as a science did not exist.

The ongoing, organized study of names began with the onomastics group created in 1967 at the Institute of Ethnography of the USSR Academy of Sciences. A year later, together with the management of registry offices and linguists, she held the All-Union Meeting on Personal Names, at which 116 reports were heard (published in two volumes). Anthroponymy has ceased to be a side activity of isolated individuals and has received "citizenship rights." Its research has been carried out widely and is invariably reflected in the press. Anthroponymic dissertations have been defended - both doctoral and candidate's.

Those choosing a name have no one to consult with. The opinion of others is not a reliable criterion. The only ones who would be capable of qualified advice are Russian language teachers in schools and universities. This is a question about the mass culture of the population.

Registry office employees, who are not allowed to dictate to parents what to name their child, are directly involved in the assignment of names on a daily basis. However, dictating and being ready to answer questions that arise are not the same thing. And they are completely unprepared. The worst thing is that this circumstance does not bother anyone: nothing like this is provided for in their professional development programs. Of course, the task is not easy, and the circular will not help.

It's tempting to imagine the names of the future. This is what science fiction writers do, and much less often futurologists, for whom, naturally, names are not the number one problem. The most prominent Soviet futurologist I. V. Bestuzhev-Lada, disputing personal names from I. Efremov's science fiction novel "The Andromeda Nebula", where Darr Veter and Veda operate Kong et al. believe that they will be much more complex. He envisions a stepwise hierarchy of names intended

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for different types of communication, specified by an indispensable reference to the number of an individual videophone.

Making forecasts without the slightest scientific justification is not only pointless, but harmful. But there is an urgent concern about the names of the present and the names of the next decade.

We can only assume that parents will probably begin to give their child not a lifelong name, but an age-appropriate one - until adulthood. Then those coming of age will choose their own "adult" name. It is possible that their choice will turn out to be unsuccessful - "youthful mistakes" are not uncommon, but there is no one to blame but themselves. Of all the other options, this is the best. (Perhaps it will also affect patronymics and surnames. Or at the next stage?) It is premature to make concrete proposals now. But they are a matter of reflection in order to prepare for the day when such questions come to the fore.

Interest in a name is not idle curiosity. A personal name is not a personal matter. It is a social sign. Everyone needs to be familiar with names. The first task, practical, universal and mandatory, is the deliberate choice of what to name your son or daughter. But many other practical problems arise. For example, older people face difficulties when they find themselves recorded differently in documents. Until 1917, Georgy, Yuri, Egor were one name, now there are three. What should I do? Are Joseph and Osip the same name? Etc. Misunderstandings multiply, giving rise to unnecessary troubles. But familiarity with names is not limited to such practical tasks. Its functions are wider. A personal name, an integral part of the world culture of mankind, can reveal much in the history of a people and in the history of its language. The breadth of connections dictates to the researcher the need to collect immense material.

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