

THE LINGUISTIC ASPECTS OF INTEGRATING FOREIGN NAMES INTO ENGLISH

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Abstract. The integration of foreign names into the English language is an interesting process of adaptation, which combines phonetic, orthographic, morphological and sociocultural factors. The integration of foreign names into the English language is a complex and multi-level process that reflects not only linguistic mechanisms but also global cultural and migration processes. Studying these aspects allows for a better understanding of how languages interact in the context of globalization and how personal names become part of intercultural communication.

Keywords: Borrowed names, interpenetration of the naming systems, cultural code of a society, transliteration with adaptation.

XARİCİ ADLARIN İNGİLİS DİLİNƏ İNTEQRASIYASININ LİŖQVİSTİK ASPEKTLƏRİ

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Xülasə. Xarici adların ingilis dilinə inteqrasiyası, fonetik, ortoqrafik, morfoloji və sosio-mədəni faktorların birləşdiyi maraqlı uyğunlaşma prosesini təşkil edir. Xarici adların ingilis dilinə inteqrasiyası mürəkkəb və çoxsəviyyəli bir prosesdir ki, bu da yalnız dilçilik mexanizmlərini deyil, eyni zamanda qlobal mədəniyyət və miqrasiya proseslərini əks etdirir. Bu aspektlərin öyrənilməsi, dillərin qlobalizasiya şəraitində necə qarşılıqlı əlaqə qurduğunu və şəxs adlarının mədəniyyətlərarası ünsiyyətin bir hissəsinə necə çevrildiyini daha yaxşı anlamağa imkan verir.

Açar sözlər: Alınma adlar, adlandırma sistemlərinin qarşılıqlı təsiri, cəmiyyətin mədəni kodu, uyğunlaşdırılmış transliterasiya.

ЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКИЕ АСПЕКТЫ ИНТЕГРАЦИИ ИНОСТРАННЫХ ИМЕН В АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

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Резюме. Интеграция иностранных имён в английский язык представляет собой интересный процесс адаптации, в котором сочетаются фонетические, орфографические, морфологические и социокультурные факторы. Интеграция иностранных имён в английский язык – это сложный и многоуровневый процесс, отражающий не только лингвистические механизмы, но и глобальные культурные и миграционные процессы. Изучение этих аспектов позволяет лучше понять, как языки взаимодействуют в условиях глобализации и как личные имена становятся частью межкультурного общения.

Ключевые слова: Заимствованные имена, взаимопроникновение систем наименования, культурный код общества, транслитерация с адаптацией.

1. Introduction

Names are more than just labels; they carry deep historical, cultural and emotional resonance. In the English-speaking world, personal names reflect a complex web of linguistic evolution, cultural exchange and social change. From ancient Anglo-Saxon compounds to

modern multicultural hybrids, the English naming tradition serves as a linguistic mirror of centuries of migration, conquest, religion and globalization.

The process of integrating foreign names into English is not merely a matter of direct borrowing. It involves nuanced phonetic, orthographic and semantic adaptation, shaped by social attitudes, linguistic preferences and cross-cultural interactions. This integration reflects broader societal transformations - from the Christianization of Europe to the age of empire and from global migration patterns to contemporary identity politics.

This article explores the linguistic mechanisms and cultural dynamics involved in the incorporation of foreign names into English. It examines how names change in form and meaning as they cross linguistic borders and how they act as markers of heritage, identity and cultural affiliation. By analyzing historical trends, naming conventions and phonological adaptation, we gain insight into how personal names function not only as individual identifiers, but as vessels of collective memory and intercultural dialogue.

2. A person's name

A person's name is not just a set of sounds, it is a whole story contained in several syllables. In the English-speaking world, names represent an amazing interweaving of different cultures, eras and traditions. Scandinavian gods rub shoulders with biblical prophets, ancient Greek heroes meet Celtic kings - and all this in an ordinary English classroom.

Delving into the world of English names reveals a fascinating linguistic picture that reflects centuries of migration, conquest and cultural exchange [1].

English names have been shaped by numerous cultures and historical events, becoming a unique linguistic phenomenon. Each wave of migration, conquest and religious movement has contributed to the anthroponymic system of the British Isles.

Early Anglo-Saxon names (5th-11th centuries) reflected the heroic ideals of the Germanic tribes: Æthelred (noble advice), Eadweard (guardian of wealth), Wulfstan (wolf stone). With the Norman conquest of 1066, the first large-scale transformation occurred - old Anglo-Saxon names began to be replaced by Norman ones: William (from Wilhelm - a decisive defender), Richard (a strong ruler), Robert (bright glory) [12].

Christianization brought biblical and patristic names, which gradually replaced pagan ones: John, Peter, Thomas, Mary. It is curious that after the Reformation, Protestants often chose rare biblical names to distinguish themselves from Catholics - hence the names Zedekiah, Hepzibah, Kerenhappuch [7].

During the Renaissance (15th-16th centuries), interest in classical names of Latin and Greek origin was revived: Anthony (from Antonius), Philip (lover of horses), Alexander (defender of people). The Puritan revolution of the 17th century gave birth to names of virtue: Faith, Hope, Charity, Prudence.

The colonial expansion of the British Empire and gradual globalization led to the interpenetration of the naming systems of different nations. Today we see a surprising synthesis of various cultural traditions in the English onomasticon.

3. The modern English-speaking world

The modern English-speaking world displays an unprecedented diversity of names borrowed from different cultures. Multiculturalism, globalization and the search for uniqueness have led to the fact that traditional English names have significantly expanded [3].

Gaelic and Welsh names: Aidan (little fire), Niamh (shining), Dylan (son of the sea), Rhys (enthusiasm). Scandinavian names add a northern flavor: Erik (sole ruler), Freya (lady), Axel (father of the world), Astrid (divine power).

French names add a touch of sophistication: Isabelle (devoted to God), Etienne (crown), Camille (helper in the temple). Italian names delight with melody: Gianna (God is merciful), Marco (warlike), Sofia (wisdom). Spanish and Portuguese names add passion: Mateo (gift of God), Javier (new home), Isabella (devoted to God). German names sound substantial: Karl (free man), Otto (rich), Hans (God is merciful).

Slavic names bring an Eastern European flavor: Nadia (hope), Boris (fighter), Vera (faith). Middle Eastern and Arabic names reflect Islamic traditions: Layla (night), Zara (flower), Omar (prosperous).

Asian Names: Jin (gold), Mei (beautiful), Kai (ocean), Ling (gentle) African Names: Amara (grace), Kofi (born on Friday), Zuri (beautiful) Indian Names: Arjun (bright), Priya (beloved), Arun (dawn), Maya (illusion) Polynesian Names: Kai (sea), Moana (ocean), Tama (child), Leilani (heavenly flower) Latin American Names: Luna (moon), Rio (river), Selena (moon), Cruz (cross) [4].

Of particular interest are hybrid names created at the intersection of different cultures. The popularity of names such as Jayden, Skylar, Zayden or Aiden reflects a trend towards creating unique names with a recognizable English sound, but without direct historical roots. An interesting trend is observed in English-speaking countries: many parents choose names for their children that reflect their cultural heritage, but are simple enough for English speakers to pronounce and recognize. This is how adapted versions of traditional names appear: Sasha instead of Alexandra, Niko instead of Nikolai, Aria instead of Ariadne.

A linguistic tool for understanding the cultural code of a society. Studying foreign names in the context of the English language allows one to penetrate into the deep layers of cultural identity and value orientations of different nations.

Anthroponymy, the science of people's names, offers rich material for interdisciplinary research at the intersection of linguistics, history, sociology and cultural studies. Names can be used to trace religious preferences (Christian, Mohammed, Noah), social trends (the popularity of the names Stone, River, Meadow reflects environmental values) and even political changes

(the sharp reduction of the name Adolf after World War II) [6]. The linguistic aspects of integrating foreign names into English are interesting. It is not just borrowing, but complex phonetic and morphological adaptation. German Johannes becomes John, Russian Mikhail becomes Michael, Arabic Yahya becomes John. At the same time, there are differences in the adaptation of names between British, American, Australian and other variants of English [9].

Semantic analysis: many foreign names contain significant roots - Giovanni (Italian “God is merciful”), Vladimir (Slavic “owning the world”), Akira (Japanese “bright, clear”)

Phonetic adaptation: pronunciation adaptation - Spanish Jorge becomes George, Polish Wojciech - Wojtek.

Orthographic adaptation: spelling changes - German Müller becomes Mueller, Russian Екатерина -Ekaterina or Katherine. Gender markers: English rarely uses specific endings to indicate gender, unlike many European languages. Diminutives: English prefers short forms - Elizabeth becomes Liz, Betty, Beth [6].

4. The cultural connotations of names

The cultural connotations of names are especially revealing. For example, the name Vladimir in the English-language context is often associated with Russia, Mohammed with the Islamic world, Sven with Scandinavia. At the same time, many names perceived as typically English are actually of foreign origin: Alice (from the Old German Adalheidis - “noble”), Henry (from Heinrich - “ruler of the house”), Richard (from Ricohard - “strong ruler”). Names also reflect historical and social processes: colonization (the spread of European names to Africa, Asia and the Americas), migration (the introduction of Arabic and South Asian names to Europe), globalization (the rise of international names) and local cultural revivals (the return of Celtic names to Ireland and Scotland) [10].

Choosing a name for a child in English-speaking countries is an increasingly complex linguistic and cultural process. Parents weigh a variety of factors: from euphony to cultural identity, from family tradition to global applicability.

Phonetic aspects play a significant role in the choice of foreign names. English speakers often prefer names that are easy to pronounce and do not contain complex phonetic combinations. For example, the Italian Giancarlo is often shortened to Carlo, the Polish Przemysław becomes simply Prem. The assimilation of foreign names into English occurs in several ways. In the first case, the name retains the original spelling, but the pronunciation is adapted: Jorge ['xorxe] is pronounced as ['dʒɔ:dʒ], Guillaume [gijom] becomes [gi'joom]. In the second case, the name is replaced by the English equivalent: Ivan becomes John, Jacob becomes James, Maria becomes Mary [8].

The third option is transliteration with adaptation to English phonetics: Mikhail becomes Mikhail, Yuri becomes Yuri, Jian becomes Jian. The fourth option is the creation of an Anglicized form: Giuseppe becomes Joseph, Ekaterina becomes Katherine, Oleksandr

becomes Alexander. Euphony: compatibility with the surname, rhythmic pattern, absence of difficult-to-pronounce sound combinations.

Spelling and pronunciation: clarity of pronunciation for English speakers, no diacritics
 Cultural identity: reflection of ethnic roots, religious traditions, family heritage
 Cross-cultural applicability: possibility of using the name in different language environments
 Social connotations: avoiding names with negative associations in English-speaking culture.

5. Passport names

Names that function equally well in several cultures - so-called “passport names”. For example, Maya/Maria/Maia works in most European cultures, Adam is recognizable everywhere, Sofia/Sophia is popular from Scandinavia to Latin America [4]. An important factor is the awareness that a name can influence a child's social prospects. Research shows that people with strongly marked ethnic names may face certain prejudices in English-speaking societies. This leads to many parents from immigrant families choosing a compromise option - one name from their native culture, the other -English. There is a tendency to return to historical names with deep cultural roots. Thus, in Ireland, ancient Gaelic names are being revived (Aoife, Cormac, Fionn), in Jewish communities - biblical names (Ezra, Abigail, Noah), in Scandinavian countries - Old Norse (Freya, Thor, Odin) [11].

Literature and media play a key role in the dissemination and popularization of foreign names in the English-speaking world. Writers and content creators, choosing names for their characters, form certain cultural associations and influence naming trends. Shakespeare, for example, introduced into the English language the names Jessica, Olivia, Miranda, which he partially invented or significantly modified. In modern literature, J.K. Rowling popularized the Latin names Hermione, Severus, Draco. George Martin revived interest in medieval names: Arya, Sansa, Brandon, Jaime.

The appearance of colorful foreign characters in popular works often causes a wave of name trends. After the release of the French novel *Les Misérables* and its film adaptations, the name Cosette grew in popularity. Godzilla films and anime brought Japanese names Akira, Hiro, Koji.

Of particular interest is the technique of “cultural coding” of characters through names. In English-language literature and cinema, the name Ivan almost always marks a Russian character, Paolo - an Italian, Sven - a Scandinavian, Akira - a Japanese. Such names become a kind of cultural markers, instantly informing the reader about the origin of the character [2].

Conclusion. The integration of foreign names into the English language encompasses a multifaceted linguistic process, occurring at phonetic, morphological and semantic levels. Through transliteration and adaptation, names are adjusted to fit the phonetic and grammatical system of English. In this process, some names retain their original form, while others are modified to adopt new phonetic or orthographic shapes.

The integration of names is influenced not only by linguistic rules but also by cultural codes, social acceptance and communicative convenience. As a result of globalization and migration, names from various cultures have become more widespread in English, leading to the formation of certain standards in their recognition and use.

Thus, the integration of foreign names into English is not merely a technical-linguistic phenomenon, but also a cultural and social process. Studying this issue contributes to a deeper understanding of language contact and the cultural meanings embedded in personal names.

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