

A Semantic Study of First and Nick Names in English with References to its Realizations in Arabic

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المستخلص

هذا البحث يحاول إجراء تمحيص أو فحص لظاهرة دلالية للتسمية في اللغة الانكليزية والعربية. هذا البحث ايضا يحاول تحقيق من نمط كيفية التسمية في كلتا اللغتين. يهدف هذا البحث الى إظهار التشابه والاختلافات في الخصائص والمعاني والتراكيب والشرعية واصول التسمية في كلتا اللغتين. الاسماء التي تطلع للابناء من قبل والديهم تكشف بعض الافكار حول التغير الثقافي والفكر وجوانب التداخل الحضاري الثقافي التي تميز كل مجتمع عن المجتمعات الاخرى.

الكلمات الرئيسية: علم الدلالة، الاسم، اللقب ، دراسة مقارنة.

Abstract

The present paper attempts to examine the semantic phenomenon of naming in English and Arabic Languages. It also tries to examine the naming fashion in both languages. It aims at showing the similarity and differences of the characteristics, meanings, structures, legality, origins, of naming in both languages. Names that children receive from their parents reveal certain insights about cultural change and thought and inter-cultural aspects that characterized each society from others.

Keywords: Semantics, name, nick name, contrastive.

1. Introduction

In many cultures, given names are reused especially to commemorate ancestors or those who are particularly admired resulting in a limited repertoire of names that sometimes vary by orthography. In most European

and Arabic cultures, the given name usually comes before the family name traditionally comes first in Hungary, parts of Africa and most of east Asia.

These days the subject deals with far more than etymology, and investigates a wide range of social, psychological, and legal questions. Why do names come into fashion and go out of fashion? What factors affect the success of a name? why are people so sensitive about their names?

The semantics concerning name is very straight forward because it expresses the direct association between the name itself and its referent in the real or imaginary world such as: we use the same name in our formulae for both bill and Beethoven and a single individual can have more than one name such as:(Clark Kent)"CK"(James et al, 2007: 157).

In one case the "Senator" was the name who has twice won the best legislator award by the better government association senator. Also, he was the member of the pro-labor left-wing Independent Voters of Illinois(Condon, 1966: 56).

2. Historical Hints of Meaning of English and Arabic Names

In the early middle ages, there were only first names. Surnames come later additional names used to aid identification between people and had the some given name. They are from French Surtnom, and they are found in English from the 14th century. The practice of using one or more middle names did not emerge until the 17th century(Crystal, 2003: 148). Elizabeth is an ancient name, appearing in the Old Testament as the name of Aaron's wife, and in the New Testament as the mother of John the Baptist. Its Hebrew meaning is not

entirely clear, but Elisheba might be interpreted as "Oath of God" or " God of Perfection" its role in both Jewish and Christian traditions make it very common name in Europe. In Britain, its popularity grew after the reign of Elizabeth1 and it became one of the top three girl's names along with Mary and Ann for 300 years(Crystal, 2003:148). Surname may emerge as first names in the 19th century such as Douglas(Celtic river name and dark water) and Shirley (bright clearing)(Crystal, 2003: 150).

Arabic names were historically based on a long naming system; most Arabs did not simply have given/ middle/ family names, but a full chain of names such as, Muhammad Ibn Saeed Ibn Abdal-Aziz. This system was mainly in use throughout Arabia and part of the Levant(en-wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic-name,2013:1). A common form of Muslim Arab names is the combination of "Abd" for males or "Amah" for females and "Abd" is followed by the names and adjectives of Allah such as "Abdullah and Abdulaziz" ."Abdullah" (servent of Allah for males) the feminine counter being "Amatullah". This practice possibility of 99 names for each sex, as there are 99 exclusive adjectives for "Allah" in Islam(ibid).

3.Onomatology and Its Branches

Onomatology is the study of the origin and meaning of names. A distinction is made in this field between Toponymy, the study of place name including Hydronymy, the study of names of rivers and lakes and Anthroponymy, the study of personal names(Hartmann & Stork, 1972: s.v. onomatology). One of the most popular aspects of etymology is the history of names, those words or phrases which uniquely persons, animals, places, concepts or things. In

English, names are generally identified by being printed with an initial capital letter. The science which studies names is called Onomastics (also Onomatology). Among its branches are the study of personal names (Anthroponomastics) and place names (Toponymy) (Crystal, 2003:140).

3.1 First Name and Given Name

First name is a personal name that specifies and differentiates between members of a group of individuals, especially in a family, all of whose members usually share the same family name(i.e., surname). A given name is propose fully given, usually by child's parents at or near birth, in contrast to an inherited one such as family name. A given name is sometimes legally changed through a name change. Given names are often used in a familiar and friendly manner in informal situations(en-wikipedia.org/wiki/Given name, 2003:1).

3.1.1 Types of First name or Origin of Given Names

1. They may identify a particular physical characteristics such as: Adam (red complexion), Thomas (Twin) and Charles (man).
- 2.They often express a real or desirable characteristics such as: Peter(rock), Agnes(pure) and Stephen(crown).
- 3.They may relate to a time or place of origin or to a type of activity such as: Francis (French name), Noel (Christmas), George(farmer) (Crystal, 2003:150).

3.1.2 Surnames Or Nicknames

They are used in more formal situations. The word nickname is first recorded in the 15th century "an eke "(old English eke "also") was additional name used to express such attitudes as familiarity, and affection, personal nicknames are commonest among children, but any closely knit group will generate nicknames such as the members of a family, sport team, or army unit). People who tend to be nicknamed are special friends or enemies, those in authority such as teachers, officers, politicians.

It is an important index of intimacy when we feel comfortable in using someone's nickname to their face. Some nicknames have come to be associated with particular surnames such as:(Nobby with Clark). More equal relationship have address terms that indicate similar status of the participants such as first names or nicknames: Bucky(ready for some more coffee? Thanks, Jenny(Yule, 2006:222).

3.2 Structure of the English Names

Personal names in English are generally classified into three types: the first name or given name, a middle name and the surname or family name or last name. Personal names may be with or without appositive titles, such as: Dr.Watson or John.

First or Given name	Middle name	Family or Last name
Johann	Sebastian	Bach

(Figure.(3.1) Shows Structure of the English Names).

(Quirk & Sidney, 1973:77).

4. Names In Arabic Language

Linguistically, the name can be defined as it is long generation (Al-Fairoozabady, 1991: 155). It also can be defined as a term that is named mark distinction of another (Al-Sammaraei, 2007: 65).

4.1 Parts of Name in Arabic Language

The name is divided into many parts:

1. The name is what given by the parents such as Omer, Khalid and Abdullah (Al-Sammaraei, 2007:66). Al-Suiti, ND: 281) mentions that what is given for assistance not to be for other. Ibn Hisham sees that the name either a person's name like Zaid or gender's name like Osama (Al-Ansary, 1383A.H: 96). The person's name is what has given for one of the gender's members like Ibrahim, Fatimah and Baghdad and the gender's name is what has given for the gender as all like their saying for Osama (lion) (Al-Sammaraei, 2007: 72).

Ibn Aqeel mentions that the name is divided into two parts person's name and gender's name, the person's name has two rules one is moral wants with it, the person as (Zaid and Ahmed) and the other is utterance which is coming the state later of it such as (Zaid comes laughed) (Ibn Aqeel, 1960: 127).

Hassan (ND: 291-294) shows that the name is divided into: "considerations" which is as a personal means and not as specific to the attention of people and learned sex, and knows aware person that word which indicates the appointment of a named designations never has sentenced moral and provisions for verbal as for his moral on individual

diagnosed given such as: Nabil and Baghdad). The provision verbal the effects of that knowledge. It is not thus add and it is not known, because there is no need for anything of them.

2.Nickname can be defined as the last name, any starting because it displays the name. Nickname is also defined as released as mother or brother or sister such as Abu Bakr, a good mother, a vehicle installed in the chest of an additional father or mother. Nickname may be constrained to praise or slander useful example to vilify Abu Jahl and Abu Lahab and a useful example of praising Abou Al-Fadhl(Sammaraei,2007: 66& Istrabadi, 1978: 264& Al-Ansari, 2002 :127).

There is differences between surname and title, the title is praising nicknamed him or disparage the sense that word unlike nickname ,so, it does not maximize nicknamed sense but not declared by name, some souls that addresses its name has been nicknames person boys who have such as Abu Hassan has dubbed in micro optimistic that until it becomes a live boy(Istrabadi,1978:265).

3.Title is what indicated with certain undiagnosed with poems praising or defamation notice intended in clear terms such as rational and incest (Hassan, ND: 307). Surname comes in two forms: first, what is notified praising like Zine El Abidine and the second what is notified Bzm like nose camel stopped and Qatanna(Sutti, ND: 283 & Sammaraei, 2007: 65).

4.2The Differences Between the Tittle and Surname in Arabic

Without both surname and title notice praising or vilified, even in terms of far is that relying upon the title above the significance of self-designated it that indicates the praise or slander in clear terms, one of them a notice of apparent soon not be the title just indicative of self, but is intended the two things together, indicate to named designated notice praise and this is more important than those significances. The nickname shows the praise and slander as surname but through exposure rather than by saying that because the speaker while nicknamed for someone says about for example, Abu Ali or carefree not authorized by name or title for he lays from behind to glamorize him (Hassan, ND: 307).

If the title comes with the name with nickname, then the title comes single and the title is combined with the name with the nickname(Sutti, ND: 283). If the title meets with the name, the title will be usually delayed if the title months may start nickname before name such as the Christ(the son of Mary)(Al-Sammaraeei,2007: 66).

Radhi says if the intention is to combine the name and title, name came first and then title(Istrabadi, 1978: 265). And enjoined some grammarians delayed title with the name with the nickname may apply and delay such as Abu Abdullah Zainal Abidin or Zine El Abidine Abu Abdullah. And among some grammarians say that there is three aspects of meeting the title or last name with name and nickname: (first) name with the title and must delay the title for the name says the second caliph Omar Al-Faruq(May Allah be pleased with him) and because the title is like character which is late for the prescribed. The lead title if months of name already also like us in Christ, the son of Mary.

(Second) name with nickname that you choose on whichever you want says the second caliph Omer Abu Hafs, Abu Hafs al-Omer(may Allah be pleased with him). (third) nickname with the title and the odds. Some grammarians argue that he should delay the title such as the second caliph Abu Hafs Al-Faruq, and the public grammarians say the second caliph Faruq Abu Hafs which is providing title with the nickname(Ibn Aqeel, 1960: 121 & Al-Ansari, 2002: 58-59).

4.3 Structure of the Arabic Name

1.(Ism):the ism is the personal name, for example, "Kareem or Fatimah". Most names are usually Arabic words with meaning signaling the good character of the person. Such words are employed as adjectives and nouns in regular language, for example, "Kareem means generous and Muhammad means praiseworthy".

2.(Laqab):the laqab is intended as a description of the person. The famous Abbasid caliph Haroun Al-Rasheed. So, "Haroun" is the Arabic form for Aaron and Al-Rasheed means the rightly-guided". The laqab was very popular at ancient Arab society about 1000 years ago. Today, the laqab is only used if it is actually a person's birth surname/family name.

3.Nasab:the nasab is a patronymic or series of patronymics. It indicates the person's heritage by the word ibn (colloquially bin) which means "son" or (bint) for "daughter" such as "Ibn Khadun" means (son of Khaldun). Khaldun is the father's proper name of a remote ancestor.

4. Nisbah: the nisbah could be an everyday name, but is mostly the name of the ancestors' tribe, city, country, or any other term used to show relevance. It follows a family through several generations such as:

Ism	Muhammad (proper name) means praising.
Laqab	Saeed (father's name) Saeed means happy.
Nasab	Abdal-Aziz (grandfather's name) Abdal-Aziz means servant of the magnificent.
Nisbah	Al-Filasteenee (surname) (the Palestinian) Filasteen means Palestine.

(Figure.(4.1) Shows Structure of Arabic Names).

(en-wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic-name,2003:2 and 3).

5. Naming Fashions in English and Arabic

There is no doubt that there are fashion in naming. In a particular year, one boy in three and one girl in five are given one of the 10 top first name, for example, the names which are old fashioned in Britain (Herbert, Percy, Nellie, May) and which are modern (Karen, Joanne, Craig and Darren). The American fashion was to use the middle name routinely reducing it to an initial letter as in (William P. Knott. The British fashion was either to ignore the middle name, or to keep it in full especially when it was needed to maintain family tradition, or to distinguish otherwise identical names such as John Arthur Jones (Crystal, 2003: 146-148).

All labeling is name calling just as the choice of the word propaganda is a name. The tendency is to think that labels that cause unfavorable reactions are

name calling but those that are favorable or those we habitually use are not because this is not true, for example, if we call Aaron Burr a traitor and Washington a patriot we are calling both name(Condon, 1966: 56).

We tend to over generalize the term daddy with all men. For the English speaker, the clearest linguistic markers of social relations are personal names, such as: John and Mr. brown. Each person has a number of different names and possibility a title such as: Mr. or Professor. The two combinations are the first name on its own John and the title followed by the family name Mr. Brown(Hudson, 1996: 122 & Leech, 1974: 33).

In Arabic culture, a person's ancestry and his/her family name are very important, for example, (A man has the name of Saleh ibn Tariq ibn Khalid Al-Fulan would call him by ibn (which means son of). So, Tariq is Saleh's father's name, ibn Khalid names that Tariq is the son of Khalid, making Khalid the grandfather of Saleh, Al-Fulan would be Selah's family name. Also, the Arabic word "bint"(which means daughter of). A woman with the name Fatimah bint Tariq bin Khalid Al-Fulan means as (Fatimah, daughter of Tariq, Tariq, son of Khalid of the family Al-Fulan(en-wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic-name, 2003:5).

Names that children receive from their parents reveal certain insights about culture. For example, in many societies parents name their offspring after renowned spiritual predecessors, such as Muhammad in Islamic setting and culture, Ibrahim among Muslims, Jews and Christians and Krishna in Hindu societies and so forth(Childs, 2003:17).

All Arab countries do not use the name to its full length, but conventionally use two or three word names and sometimes four name is the personal name, the middle name is the father is name and the last name is the family name, such as, Muhammad AbdulHamid Muzaffer. Almost all Arabic speaking countries such as: Maghreb or in the Levant and some North African countries excluding Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, where French or English conventions are followed, and it is rapidly gaining ground elsewhere ([en-wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic name](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_name), 2003: 3-5).

6. Naming Fashions in Different Cultures and its origins

Most common given names in English and many other European languages can be grouped into broad categories based on their origin:

1. Hebrew names are often from the Bible, which are very common in or are elements of names used in the historically Christian countries, such as: Michael, Jashua, Daniel, Joseph, Adam, Hannah and Mary.

2. Germanic names are characteristically war words like roots with the meanings like: glory, strength and will such as Edward, Albert, Carl, Alfred, Emma, Matilda and so on.

3. Slavic names are often of a peaceful character, the compounds being derived from word roots meaning "to protect", "to love", "peace", "to praise", "to give", such as (Milena, Vesna, Dobromir and so on.

4. Celtic names are sometimes Anglicized version of Celtic forms such as: Logan, Jennifer, Alan and Brian.

5. Greek names can be derived from the Greco-Roman Gods, such as: Stephen, Andrew, George, Melissa, Margaret and so on).

6. Latin names can be adopted unchanged, or modified in particular, the inflected element can be dropped as often happens in borrowings from Latin to English. For example, (Paul, Julia, Pascal, Julius and so on (Sutti, ND:282-283 & Istrabadi, 1978: 264-265)).

7. Legality of Naming

A child's given name is usually assigned around the time of birth. In most jurisdictions, the name at birth is a matter of public record and is inscribed on the birth certificate or equivalent. In some jurisdictions, mainly civil-law jurisdictions such as: French, Quebec, the Netherlands and Germany, the functionary whose job it is to record acts of birth may act to prevent parents from giving the child a name that may cause him or her harm, for example, in French, by referring the case to a local judge even spell-checking of the name is done (Crystal, 2003: 148).

There is no linguistic impropriety more likely to irritate people than a misspelling of their names; and nothing more likely to fascinate them than an account of their name's origins. Very few persons know where their name comes from, though etymological awareness of first names often accompanies pregnancy. Scribes may have introduced errors while copying from one noun script to another, or different dialect pronunciations may have led to divergent spelling of the same name. The social pressure to use a standard spelling did not emerge until the 18th century and earlier writers saw no problem in spelling a person's name in a variety of ways (ibid).

8.English Names with their Arabic Equivalent

The English named listed below are used in Western society as well as the correspondent Arabic equivalents names which are used in the Arab world and other Muslim regions:

English Names	Arabic Names
Asaph	Asaph
Job	Ayoub
Benjamin	Binyamin
David	Dawoud
Ferez	Faros
Aaron	Haroun
Eve	Hawaa
Hussein	Hussein
Abraham	Ibrahim
Elijah	Elias
Jesus	Eisa
Mary	Maryam
Moses	Moussa
Noah	Nouh
Sara(h)	Sara(h)

Obadiah	Obaidullah
Jacob(James)	Yaa'koub
John	Yahia
Jonah	Younos
Zachary	Zakaria

(Figure: (8.1) shows the English and Arabic's Names Equivalents).

(en-wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic-name, 2003: 5-9).

9. Conclusion

There seems to be a universal and deep-rooted drive to give individual names to person, but anything with which we have a special relationship is likely to be named. Names research is an open-ended and complex domain. This area of linguistic study and focus on the personal and emotional aspects of language. Naming patterns are bound to change through time. For example, the five top names given to daughters born in the USA were Mary, Linda, Susan, Patricia and Karen, whereas in 2000 they were Emily, Hannah, Madison, Ashley and Sarah. In Arab world and along the time, the names were Mohammad and Sarah in the foreground and they did not change.

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