

□ R. A. Sulejmanova  
Institute of History, Language and Literature USC RAS

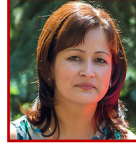


## RUSSIAN AND WESTERN FIRST NAMES IN BASHKIR ANTHROPNYMY

Exemplified by names of Bashkirs in Mechetlinsk and Haybullinsk areas of  
Bashkortostan in the period of 1930-2010's.

### BAŞKURT ANTROPONİMİNDE RUS VE AVRUPA İSİMLERİ

1930-2010 yılları Başkurdistan Cumhuriyeti Meçetli ve Haybulla mıntakalarında  
yaşayan Başkurtların isimlerinin Örneklenmesi



#### Özet

Bu makalede somut malzemeler esas alınarak Başkurdistan Cumhuriyeti'nin bazı mıntakalarında yaygın olan Rus ve Avrupalı isimleri incelenmektedir. Yazar çalışmasında, uzun süreli kullanım geleneği bulunmayan yeni isimleri oluşturmaya esas tarihsel kültürel, sosyal siyasal önkoşulları araştırmaktadır.

#### Anahtar kelimeler

Leksikoloji, onomastik, antroponimi, kişi isimleri, Rus ve Avrupa isimleri.

#### Abstract

The article is the first one to treat Russian and European names of persons from names lists of certain regions of the Republic of Bashkortostan based on much factual data. The author has investigated cultural-historical, social and political prerequisites which served as the basis for creating new names of persons lacking traditions of long standing.

#### Key words

Lexicology, onomastics, anthroponymics, names of persons, Russian and European names.

Bashkir anthroponymic system passed a long way of historical-linguistic development until it reached its current state. The composition of the names corpus has changed very much. So, even in women's names which were more conservative among the Turkic-speaking peoples, there have been profound changes. Since the beginning of the 20-ies of XX-th century Western innovations came to replace Eastern traditions. These changes are connected with the industrial development, inventions and other discoveries in various fields of science and technology. Modern Bashkir anthroponymical system under the influence of socio-political and socio-economic factors will develop following the Turkic-Bashkir, Eastern, and Russian-European traditions. These three directions are formed according to a special modern anthropological picture of the world.

In this article, written on the basis of factual materials from the archives of registry offices of Mechetlinsk and Haybullinsk districts of the Republic of Bashkortostan spanning the years of 1930-2010 the author reviews the Russian-European linguistic and cultural tradition.

In the course of the study it is revealed that, on the basis of the degree of intensity and depth of social and cultural development, the process of distribution of new names in anthroponymy of the Bashkirs in those areas differs from each other. For example, in the Mechetlinsk area among Bashkirs introduction of Western and Russian culture was more intensive than in the Haybullinsk area where this process went somewhat passively. This can be explained by the fact that in the first area mentioned above there are widespread endogamous marriages. In inter-ethnic families in choosing a name for the newborn, the preference is given to such names in the semantics of which the nationality of the child is expressed but weakly. In addition, they chose the names the external shape of which is not distorted when it sounds in Russian. To confirm our arguments here are some figures. So, in Mechetlinsk area in 1940 just 585 children were born, including 472 in the exogamic families, and 113 in the mixed ones. At the same time in Haybullinsk area the number of children in exogamic families amounted to 300, and that in mixed families was 17.

For the most complete representation of penetration in the Bashkir cultural space and spread of borrowed names we distinguish three chronological slices: the first - from the 1930s, the second taken from 1960's., and the third referring to the 1990's.

Statistics show that the first chronological slice is characterized by the greatest amount of using borrowed names among Bashkirs. However, this period is characterized by the fact that there was laid an entirely new tradition of giving Russian and Western names in anthroponymical system of the Bashkirs (for example, names of Bashkirs in Mechetlinsk and Haybullinsk areas of Bashkiriya, over the 1930-2010's.).

During the first period much attention was given to abbreviation. So, in the database we found the following names-abbreviations (from Russian): *Vil* (Lenin), *Kim* (Communist youth international), *Damir*, *Damira* (long live peace); *Lenar(a)* (Lenin army); *Rem* (Revolutionary Executive Committee); *Arenaria* (revolutionary people's army); *Mels* (Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin); *Renat* (revolution, science, labour); *Vilena* (abbreviated from Lenin).

In disputes about the meaning of these names and their place among aboriginal names there is no single opinion: some scholars consider the portion of such names to fall, others highlight the positive side in the emergence of this kind of names, considering them to be very «special kind of names», which in their origin was a reminder of what was brought by the Revolution, thus forming a sort of

«fingerprint of the epoch». Moreover, they do not stand alone, but operate in parallel with the traditional names, sometimes organically merging with them, confirming thereby that they can stand the test of time (see Nikonov's *Tasks and methods...., personal names among the Turkic peoples*). These names contain valuable linguistic and historical information, so as much as native Bashkir names they are an important material for study.

In the period mentioned we have also noted names derived from the names of writers, artists, public figures, such as *Engels, Felix, Marat, Lucia, Louise, Clara, Albert, Darwin, Raphael, Rose, Rurik, Marsel*; names of literary heroes from works of art: *Zarema, Louisa, Timur*; names formed from appellative vocabulary, and from names of rivers, mountains, cities, planets: *Mars, Pamir, Rime, Iran, Raffinat, Era, Juris(t), Romir, Idea, Zamir, Venera*. It is characteristic that at present some of these anthroponyms have well taken root among the Bashkirs. In modern Russian names they are not that common and most generally absent.

In the first chronological slice there is a tendency, when parents want to give their child an unusual name without thinking about its value. As examples of such names we include the following: *Ryan, Gelman, Klima, Hurts, Savera, Rist, Vernis, Rouret, Saber, Alvor, Riksa, Lleida-Lead* (twins), *Frat, Mores, Kema, Ruza, Ralat, Trina, Alkyne, Fehr, Solaris, Razi, Medgar, Hegel, Ryan, Lima* and others. The distinctive feature of these names is their chance, transitory character.

Male names *Vil, Renat, Damir, Marat, Vener* in all chronological sections differ in their popularity.

In the second stage (the 1960's) there is an interest in good, well-sounding names. When choosing names we have marked a tendency to return to traditional motives here. They witness falling out of use of names semantics of which have manifested revolutionary ideological motives. Interesting is the group of borrowed names united by etymological meanings. These are feminine names, which in the Russian language are the names of flowers - lilies, roses, etc - *Reseda, Sirin* (lilac), *Landysh* – (Lily of the valley), *Gloria*. These names have something in common with numerous Turkic names, in particular with names containing the component *gül* «flower». *Lilia* and *Rosa* are the ten most popular names. This was promoted by the «phonetic coincidence with the usual names *Lejla, Lälä, Rashida, Sagida*» (Nikonov 1974, p. 112). But these names (*Lilia, Rosa*) are really first names, and not altered Turkic names.

For the second stage as well as for the first, typical are names given after names of literary heroes. For example, in the 1960s, after the book by V. Dragunsky *Deniska's stories* appeared many parents named their children *Denis*. And even earlier, under the influence of the story by A. Gaidar *Timur and his team* many parents would give the name of *Timur* to their newborns.

In the third period (1990's) under study a significant place is taken by names consonant with national anthroponyms. For example, such names included in the Bashkir list of names in the 90-ies as *Adele, Adelia* (< old German) *Camilla* (< Lat.) *Karina* (< Greek) are consonant with the names of *Gadel, Gadila, Camilla, Karima*.

In the third chronological slice there is a growing interest of Bashkirs to the Russian and European names. The names that we have studied from this period are represented by such Russian names like *Anna, Irina, Larisa, Margarita, Olga, Svetlana, Julia, Vadim, Oleg, Roman* and others. Some of them are part of the ten most common names. In the Bashkir language Russian names are used both in full and in the diminutive form. The use of the diminutive form of a name is recognized by us as

undesirable, because it is extremely uncomfortable to form patronymics of such names as *Jurik*, *Vladik*. The most popular among Russian names of our names list is *Svetlana*. When you select a name an important role goes to the patronymic of a child to form a harmonious combination with the first name. In our materials the picture is reversed, for example *Nina* Ulmasculovna, *Mores* Mulajanovich, *Pamir* Allaberdievich, *Anna* Khageyevna, *Rafinat* Muhametzjanovich, *Rafinat* Rafkatovich.

Considering anthroponyms of European origin different views of researchers should be noted:

- a) among the Russian population they 'do not survive, remain in the background'(V.A. Nikonov);
- b) such names are 'actively used'(A.V. Speranskaya, A.V. Suslova).

Concerning the question of the place taken by names of this type among the Turkic-speaking peoples there are also two opinions:

- a) the names under study occupy 'a worthy place'(K. Z. Zakiryanov, V. A. Nikonov, and others);
- b) they occur less frequently than 'among Russians'(A. V. Superanskaya, A. V. Suslova).

Our study confirms the fact that most of these are widely current names among Bashkirs. Especially the trend toward an increase in their number is noticeable from 1990 to the present. In those years a pronounced tendency of Europeanization in Bashkir names commences. The following Western names can be highlighted: *Albert*, *Alfred*, *Arthur*, *Oliver*, *Marsel*, *Raphael*, *Robert*, *Edward*, *Emil*; *Albina*, *Violetta*, *Elvira*, *Elina*, *Elsa*, *Emmanuel*. Some of them like *Arthur*, *Marsel*, *Elvira*, *Elsa* were recorded in the dictionary of T. Kusimova. (Kusimova 2009, p. 22). This suggests that these names are fixed in Bashkir anthroponymical body and take there a prominent place. The popularity of these names is explained by several reasons: firstly, as identified by linguists the Turkic languages are characterized by a high rate of sonorants. Secondly, these names can be easily pronounced and are written in the Russian and Bashkir languages without special difficulties. For the foreign-language names at the forefront «are the criteria of brevity, ease of pronunciation and writing» (Uraksin 1970, p. 185). Also in comparison with the traditional names they are borrowed from other languages. In this regard remark of V. A. Nikonov is interesting: «Why of all the revolutionary figures they preferred *Marat* (other names are a thousand times fewer), and of all great artists the name of *Rafael* (names of others are not used even once)?» The fact is that in the old names of Turkic peoples there were *Murat* and *Rafil*» (Nikonov 1974, p. 25).

Some Western names have undergone phonetic changes in the Bashkir language having been adapted to the norms of correct enunciation in Bashkir. For example, when placing the accent on the final position in a name following phonetic changes happen:

- a) the transfer of the vowel *e* to *i* (*Edward* - *Idward*, *Elvira* - *Ilvira*, *Elsa* - *Ilse*, *Elmira* - *Ilmira*, *Almira*);
- b) *o* changes to *a* (*Florida* - *Flarida*);
- c) devoicing of sonorous sounds (*Eduard* - *Iduart*, *Alfred* - *Alfarit*).

Thirdly, the process of naming is increasingly influenced by the media, especially television. Names taken from literature, drama series are becoming more popular: *Edward*, *Edgar*, *Amelia*, *Angela*, *Laura*, *Milan*, *Eleanora* and others.

Only recently have the Turkic-Bashkir names started to be given to children mainly by the intelligentsia, whereas parents with lesser level of education are usually guided by the names discussed above.

Unlike names in the Mechetlinsk district in the Haybullinsk area European and Russian names are recorded in small numbers. In Bashkir families of Haybullinsk district parents give their children mostly Turkic-Bashkir, Arabic and Persian first names.

So, as a result of internationalization intrusion of Russian-European names in Bashkir anthroponymical body has been observed that has adversely affected names of the Bashkirs. So penetration of new names has led to the fact that Bashkir proper names do not fully perform the function of distinguishing one's own national identity.

Thus, replenishment of the anthroponymic system of the Bashkir people proceeded both under the influence of non-linguistic factors (national, historical, living together in one area and so on), and linguistic, the chief ones being the phonetic factor – i. e. accord with traditional names and the factor of neutrality of names in national terms.

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