LEXICAL SEMANTICAL STRUCTURE OF UNOFFICIAL PERSONAL NAMES (IN THE KAZAKH, RUSSIAN, AND GERMAN LANGUAGES)

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Abstract

Unofficial personal names, often known as nicknames, pet names, or endearments, form an intriguing linguistic phenomenon that traverses the boundaries of official nomenclature. This article delves into the intricate web of the lexical and semantical elements that compose these names (in Kazakh, Russian, German), aiming to unravel the motivations, cultural influences, and emotional dynamics that shape this unique facet of human expression. Through a multidimensional approach combining linguistic analysis, semantic mapping, cultural contextualization, psychological insights, and cross-cultural comparison, the study examines the underlying mechanisms that contribute to the formation and interpretation of unofficial personal names. The research reveals how these names transcend mere linguistic labels, becoming repositories of cultural symbolism, emotional connections, and individual identity. By shedding light on the nuances of these names, this article offers a comprehensive understanding of the profound interplay between language, culture, and the human need for interpersonal connection.

Keywords: *Unofficial Names, Nicknames, Semantic and Lexical Elements, Linguistic Elements.*

RESMİ OLMAYAN KİŞİ ADLARININ SÖZCÜKSEL ANLAMSAL YAPISI (KAZAKÇA, RUSÇA VE ALMANCA DİLLERİNDE)

Özet

Genellikle takma adlar, evcil hayvan adları veya sevgi sözcükleri olarak bilinen resmi olmayan kişi adları, resmi terminolojinin sınırlarını aşan ilgi çekici bir dil olgusu oluşturur. Bu makale, ifadelerin bu benzersiz yönünü şekillendiren motivasyonları, kültürel etkileri ve duygusal dinamikleri ortaya çıkarmayı amaçlamaktadır, çalışmada bu isimleri (Kazakça, Rusça, Almanca) oluşturan karmaşık sözcüksel ve anlamsal unsurların bağlantıları ortaya konulmuştur. Bu çalışma, dilbilimsel analiz, anlamsal haritalama, kültürel bağlamsallaştırma, psikolojik içgörüler ve kültürler arası karşılaştırmayı birleştiren çok boyutlu bir yaklaşımla resmi olmayan kişi adlarının oluşumuna ve yorumlanmasına katkıda bulunan temel mekanizmaları incelemektedir. Elde edilen bulgular, bu isimlerin nasıl salt dilsel etiketleri aştığını açıklamakla birlikte kültürel sembolizmin, nasıl olup da duygusal bağlantıların ve bireysel kimliğin deposu haline geldiğini ortaya koymaktadır. Ayrıca makalede, bu isimlerin nüanslarına ışık tutularak dil, kültür ve insanın kişilerarası bağlantı ihtiyacı arasındaki derin etkileşime dair kapsamlı bir anlayış da sunmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Resmi Olmayan Kişi Adları, Lakaplar, Sözcüksel ve Anlamsal Unsurlar, Dilbilimsel Unsurlar.*

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Geniş Özet

Genellikle takma adlar, evcil hayvan adları veya sevgi sözcükleri olarak bilinen resmi olmayan kişisel adlar, resmi isimlendirmenin sınırlarını aşan ilgi çekici bir dilsel fenomen oluşturur. Bu makale, insan ifadesinin bu benzersiz yönünü şekillendiren motivasyonları, kültürel etkileri ve duygusal dinamikleri ortaya çıkarmayı amaçlayarak, bu isimleri oluşturan sözcüksel ve anlamsal unsurların karmaşık ağını araştırmaktadır. Çalışma, dilbilimsel analiz, semantik haritalama, kültürel bağlamsallaştırma, psikolojik içgörüler ve kültürler arası karşılaştırmayı birleştiren çok boyutlu bir yaklaşımla, resmi olmayan kişisel isimlerin oluşumuna ve yorumlanmasına katkıda bulunan altta yatan mekanizmaları incelemektedir. Araştırma, bu isimlerin salt dilsel etiketlerin ötesine geçerek nasıl kültürel sembolizm, duygusal bağlantılar ve bireysel kimlik depoları haline geldiğini ortaya koyuyor. Bu isimlerdeki nüanslara ışık tutan bu makale, dil, kültür ve insanların kişilerarası bağlantı kurma ihtiyacı arasındaki derin etkileşime dair kapsamlı bir anlayış sunuyor.

Genellikle lakaplar, evcil hayvan isimleri, şakalar veya aile geleneklerinden kaynaklanan resmi olmayan kişisel isimler, insan ilişkilerinin derinliklerine ve dilin tuhaf koridorlarına büyüleyici bir bakış sunuyor.

Sadece aile üyelerinin bildiği tuhaf evcil hayvan isimleriyle geçen çocukluk günlerinden, hayat yolculuğu sırasında arkadaşların bahşettiği sevgi sözcüklerine kadar, bu takma adlar resmi isimlendirmenin katılığını aşıyor. Resmi olmayan kişisel isimler genellikle bir kişinin kişiliğinin nüanslarını, deneyimlerini ve başkalarıyla paylaştığı duygusal bağları kapsar. Bu keşif sayesinde, bu takma adların ardındaki keyifli hikayeleri ortaya çıkaran, nasıl hayat bulduklarını, insan ilişkilerinin dokusuna nasıl işlediklerini ve insan etkileşiminin renkli mozaiğine nasıl katkıda bulunduklarını gösteren bir yolculuğa çıkıyoruz.

Bu makale, resmi olmayan kişisel isimlerin büyüleyici evrenini araştırıyor ve çeşitli sosyal çevrelerdeki kökenlerine, gelişimlerine ve önemlerine ışık tutuyor. Anekdotları, kültürel içgörüleri ve psikolojik perspektifleri inceleyerek, bu sevimli etiketlerin kalıcı popülaritesinin ardındaki nedenleri ortaya çıkarmayı umuyoruz. İster sevginin ister yoldaşlığın, isterse sadece bir mizah dokunuşunun ifadesi olarak ortaya çıksınlar, resmi olmayan kişisel isimler etkileşimlerimize ekstra bir derinlik katıyor ve bize insan deneyimini bu kadar zengin ve unutulmaz kılan bağları hatırlatıyor. Öyleyse, bu benzersiz ve çoğu zaman keşfedilmemiş isimlendirmelerin ardındaki hikayeleri ortaya çıkarmak için dilbilimsel bir maceraya atılırken bize katılın ve insan bağlantılarının iç açıcı dünyasına bir bakış sunun.

Bu araştırmanın temel amacı, bireylere atfedilen gayri resmi kişi adlarının sözcüksel ve anlamsal yapısını kapsamlı bir şekilde incelemektir. Çalışma, bu isimlerin oluşumuna ve yorumlanmasına katkıda bulunan karmaşık dilsel unsurlar ağını analiz ederek, insan etkileşiminin bu büyüleyici yönünü şekillendiren altta yatan motivasyonları, kültürel etkileri ve duygusal dinamikleri ortaya çıkarmayı amaçlamaktadır.

Çalışmada aşağıdaki yöntemler kullanılacaktır:

Resmi Olmayan Kişisel İsimlerin Toplanması, Dilbilimsel Analiz, Anlamsal Haritalama, Kültürel Bağlamsallaştırma, Psikolojik İçgörüler, Vaka Çalışmaları ve Görüşmeler, Kültürler Arası Karşılaştırma.

Introduction

From childhood days marked by whimsical pet names that only family members know to affectionate endearments that friends bestow during the course of life's journey, these monikers transcend the rigidity of official nomenclature. Unofficial personal names often encapsulate the nuances of someone's personality, their experiences, and the emotional bonds they share with others. Through this exploration, we embark on a journey that unveils the delightful tales behind these monikers, revealing how they come to life, weave themselves into the fabric of human connections, and contribute to the colorful mosaic of human interaction.

The purpose of this research is the identification of similarities and differences in the structure and semantics of the Kazakh, Russian, and German informal personal names, identification of intralinguistic and extralinguistic factors that influence the creation of informal personal names. For achieving this objective, the following problems are to be solved in the course of the research:

- Identification of the official body of personal names in the Kazakh, Russian, and German languages and their comparison with the official personal names in the researched cultures;

- Identification of the structural and semantic types of Kazakh, Russian, and German informal personal names;

- Determination of creation motives of the Kazakh, Russian and German informal personal names.

The object of the research is Kazakh, Russian, and German informal personal names.

The subject of the research is the structure, semantics, motives, the cultural and national identity of the Kazakh, Russian, and German informal personal names.

Research Methods

The main methods of our work were descriptive and comparative ones, their choice depended on the nature of the research. The descriptive method was used in the description of informal personal names. Using the comparative method, we performed semantic and structural analysis of the given class of anthroponyms. Psycholinguistic experiment was used in identifying the most common motifs in anthroponomical nomination at the present stage. We used the method of component analysis as one of the effective means of studying the lexical meaning, as well as methods of continuous sampling in the process of collecting facts, the quantitative calculations, which allowed us to determine the percentage ratio of compared language units for various reasons; in some cases, we used the etymological analysis.

Topicality of the Research

Topicality of the research is determined by the need of the comparative study of informal names in the languages belonging to different systems in comparative terms. Structural and semantic description of informal personal names, as well as the use of derivational and motivational approach in the analysis of this class of anthroponyms functioning in various linguistic and cultural communities, allow to determine frequent and universal features of their system, to clarify the role of a motivated sign in establishing national language worlds.

The following reasons are referred to the ones determining the topicality of the research:

- The lack of lexicographical sources representing both the body of modern nicknames, abbreviations, diminutive, endearing name forms, and its description;

- Insufficient number of special researches devoted to the study of informal personal names;

- The absence of comparative and typological studies, the object of which being Kazakh, Russian, and German informal personal names.

Scientific novelty of the work lies in the fact that it is the first comprehensive description, which gives the structural and semantic, motivational, and gender singularity of informal personal names in languages with different structures. For the first time regularities of calling people informal personal names in compared cultures and their development trends have been defined; the lexical material used in the dissertation work included Kazakh, Russian, and German informal personal names in the comparative presentation; the complex research of national cultures interaction has been carried out on the level of anthroponymic units.

The practical significance of the study is that its conclusions and materials can be used in organizing and conducting special courses in Kazakh, Russian, German anthroponymics, in onomastic, in general, in lexicology, linguistics, linguistic and cultural studies, ethnolinguistics, and teaching the Kazakh, Russian, and German languages. The materials of this research can be used in compiling various kinds of dictionaries and reference books of informal personal names.

The main hypothesis of our research:

1. The functioning sphere of informal personal names in the compared languages implies relative freedom in the choice of means of expression, determined by *intralinguistic* factors (the given anthroponymic forms of official names, their lexical and semantic content, derivational means of the language that create these names, the complexity of the pronunciation of the name, emotional and expressive coloring, metaphors and associativity); by *extralinguistic* factors (the use in non-formal communication, corporatism, the number of informal personal names, person-

al identity, optionality, formality/informality, the operation in different language environment, etc.)

2. As the Kazakh, Russian, and German languages belong to different structural systems, their informal personal names differ in structure and word formation, semantic models and national peculiarities of motivation. Cultural variations in the creation and usage of unofficial names have been explored by linguists like Deborah Schiffrin, shedding light on the intricate dance between language and culture [1].

The structure of informal personal names includes qualitative names (hypocoristic, diminutive, augmentative, and pejorative) and nicknames (ameliorative, group, andronyms, mocking, school, derogatory words). The most productive way of forming emotionally expressive forms of personal names in the researched languages is morphological (affixation). Unlike the Kazakh and German languages, the number of Russian language formative suffixes exceeds the number of those in the other two languages due to the peculiarities of the grammatical structure of the language. Typological similarity of nicknames is based on similar/identical basic onomastic nomination, motivation of informal personal names; the difference is due to their cultural identity. In majority of cases (about 90%), nicknames in compared languages are semantically transparent, due to their basic functions, namely, signifying and characteristic and differential ones. Main methods of forming nicknames in compared languages are onimization and transonimization. Under conditions of contact between two heterogeneous languages (Kazakh and Russian, German and English) in the sphere of informal personal names, borrowing of a part or the whole unit of different onimistic vocabulary is observed, as well as phonetic and morphological adaptation and semantic transformation of informal personal names in the recipient language.

3. Motivation is one of the most important principles of determining the meaning of informal personal names, based on the internal form of the word and its motivating characteris-

tics. Nicknames can have several motivations, one of which is dominant, but not necessarily the primary one. When forming nicknames, imaginative nomination is particularly topical, nicknames are objectively and subjectively motivated, and along with it, nicknames can be subjectively motivated.

Differentiation of Concepts

Disclosure of semantics of such words as "informal name", "qualitative name", "nickname" will allow to correctly classify the actually collected material concerning informal personal names on certain grounds; and to determine the place of each word in the onomastic systems of studied languages.

An informal personal name (IPN) is the name that is used in colloquial speech, in everyday life, by the members of your family and friends. The following diagram shows what is included in the concept of informal personal names and what is the object of our research (see Figure 1).

The definitions are taken from the dictionary of Russian onomastic terminology by Podolskaya[2], examples are taken from the author's catalog.

A qualitative name is the name with any subjective assessment derived from the full or abbreviated stem, including augmentative, pejorative, and diminutive ones.

A hypocoristic name is the name that has a shortened form of a stem or a complete stem instead of a double stem (Kazakh – *Tokha,* Russian – *Galja,* German - *Wolfi*).

A diminutive name is the name that has a diminutive connotation in a given context created with the help of a diminutive suffix (Kazakh - *Aelaekoen*, Russian – *Katenka*, German - *Peterche*n).

An augmentative name is the name that has a magnifying and frightening connotation created with the help of an augmentative suffix (Russian – *Ivanitche;* Kazakh and German examples are not available).

A pejorative name is the name that has a scornful and derogatory connotation in the given context

1 Deborah Schiffrin, Narrative As Self-Portrait: Sociolinguistic Constructions Of İdentity, *Language İn Society* 25(2), (1996), 167.

2 Nataliya Podolskaya, *Dictionary Of Russian Onomastic Terminology. Second Ed.*, Rev. And Add. (Moscow: Nauka, 1988), 192.

Figure 1. The main types of informal personal names
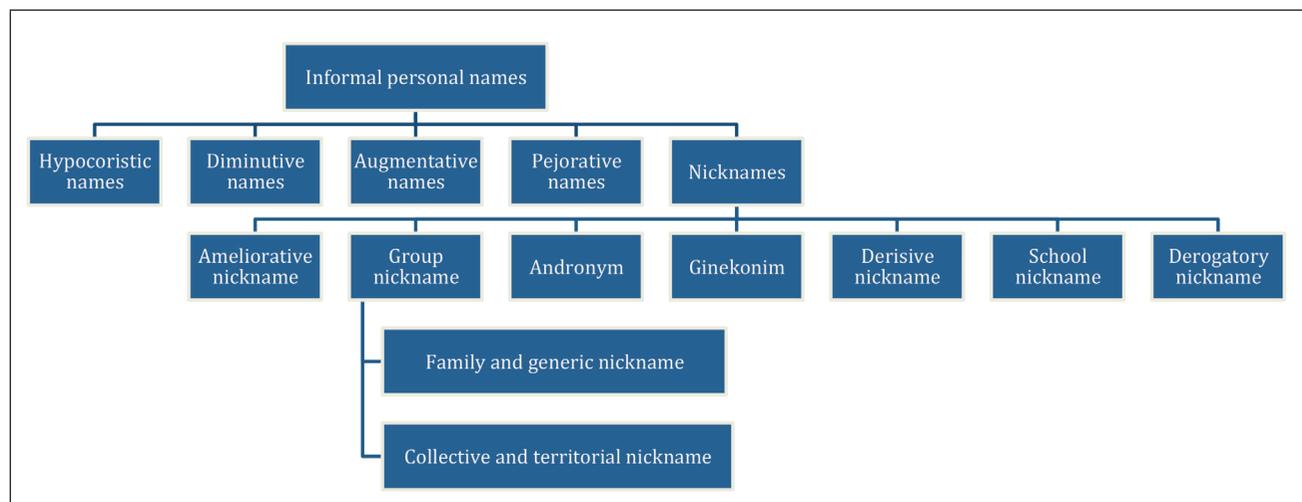
(Russian - *Duska*, Kazakh and German examples are not available).

A nickname is the name given to a person in jest, mockery, etc. (usually containing a reference to some noticeable trait of his/her character, appearance, activities, etc.) *The moniker* is the name given to a person in jest or for purposes of secrecy).

Nicknames, in their turn, are divided into several types:

An ameliorative (magnifying) nickname is the nickname, which reflects the desire to mark special human merits (Kazakh – *Saken Tapkyr (resourceful Saken):* Russian – *Jaroslav Mudryi (wise Jaroslav)*, German - *Der Tapfere*).

A group (collective) nickname is the nickname given to a group of people, a family, a community, a settlement, and an ethnic group. It has two subgroups:

A family and generic nickname. Kazakh – *Itter* (Dogs) (surname - Itbaev), Russian – *Kalatchi (kind of fancy loaf)* (from the surname Kalatchev), German - *Die Meiers* (from the surname Meier).

A collective and territorial nickname. Kazakh – *Tybylar* (residents of Tarbagatay region), Russian – *Gratchi (rook)* (residents of Pidzhakovo settlement), German - *Ossi* (East Germans).

An andronym is a nickname given to a wife. Kazakh - *Mukusja* from the surname Mukushev; Rus-

sian – *Gusynja (goose)*from the surname *Gus.* German - *Schulzchen* - Shulziha.

A ginekonim is a nickname given to a husband: Kazakh - *Baizhasarov* is the wife's surname given to him because of his weak character. Russian - *Tigra* –is the husband and wife's nickname, German - A*ndruschka* is the wife's nickname because of her work in Russia, and her husband was called the same nickname.

A derisive nickname is the nickname, which explicitly or implicitly contains mockery at the person whom it is given to (Kazakh – *Mai eshki (fat goat)*, Russian – *Pontchic (doughnut)* , German - *Die Nase.*

A derogatory nickname is a nickname that contains desire to humiliate, destroy verbally and express contempt towards a person (Kazakh – *Kysteke* , (like a girl), Russian – *Sashka Fashist*, German - *Schwein*).

A school nickname is the nickname given by the students at school to their classmate (Kazakh – *Zhylan (snake)* from the name Zhalyn; Russian – *Krjaka* from the surname Krjachko; German - *Spille* is from the surname *Spillmann.*

Informal Personal Names in the Kazakh, Russian and German Anthroponimics

According to A. Superanskaya, "historically, the emergence of the official forms of the name implies the existence of a society with well-developed jurisdiction, with the apparatus of civil servants that is authorized to

produce records and available samples, which should follow while writing. If a special, officially legalized use of names is missing, there can be no question of their informal forms; we can only talk about the different options of names, highlighting among them forms according to the sphere of communication, the age of calling and called people, their social status, relation, etc."[3] .

When addressing another person the choice of a definite form of the name turns out to be significant if its form does not conform to the standard conditions of its application. In the Russian language, the use of unofficial forms in an official speech has a special meaning. It shows the superiority of the speaker's social status, familiarity, but in some cases, it can also show good feeling towards an interlocutor. In unofficial speech, the use of official forms can demonstrate the emotional state of the speaker, his disagreement with the interlocutor, etc. In the Russian language, official names in different subtypes of informal communication possess such meanings as austerity of relationship and respectfulness.

Availability of two statuses of anthroponym and an extensive system of variant forms of the personal name in the Russian language enables native speakers to actively use them for pragmatic purposes: to determine the social distance between the speaker and the person whom the name is assigned to (high social status requires official forms, but only in a formal setting), to characterize the communicative situation (formal, friendly), to express all sorts of relationships (respect, neglect, and indulgence).

In the Kazakh antroponymics as well as in the antroponymics of other languages, there are different types of varying names. So, along with passport names household names are used at home. K. Golovina says that in the Kazakh antroponymics *lexical and syntactic* method is used to express emotional and expressive shades (prepositive and postpositive definitions): *zhanym menin (my soul), nurym menin (my light), Aisulu*; *Nurhanym, Botashym* (Nurhan, you are my little camel), etc. [4]

When addressing kids and young people, parents, relatives and adults use the words *Aiym* (my moon), *Kunim* (my sun), *Zhuldyzym* (my star*), Sholpanym* (my Venus), *Zharygym* (my cresset*), Zhaym* (my soul). The words denoting cubs and nestlings are also widely used, e.g. *Khargam* (my little jackdaw), *Khulynym* (my foal), *Botam, Botakanym, Botashym* (my colt), *Kozym* (my lamb), *Torpagym* (my calf), etc.[5]. M. Musabayeva divides such denominative anthroponyms into the following lexical and semantic groups:

- Denoting natural phenomena, celestial bodies (*ajym, kunim, zhuldyzym*);

- Denoting flora and fauna (*kozym, botam, kulynym*);

- Denoting the nature of man (*syrgalym, kekildim, kozim, bauyrym*);

- Denoting inward and material culture (*marzhanym, altynym, zhanym*);

- Denoting general concepts (*kara* shanyragym).

Musabayeva writes, "When translated into Russian or other languages, denominative anthroponyms lose their national character and their specific meaning". [6] It is due to the values of the Kazakh people, their way of life, due to everything that distinguishes the nation from other people. In our opinion, these "denominative anthroponyms" are not actually personal names. They may be substituent names and, in some cases, become original forms of official names (*guel+im = Guelim*), which are fixed in birth certificates. Denominative anthroponyms are most often used when they refer to a person in different social situations (age, status, etc.)

In everyday life and in other situations of informal communication, Russians use predominantly informal forms of personal names. They are formed from full (passport) forms in several ways:

1. Truncation of the full form of the stem (*Antonina - Nina; Iraida - Ira, Elizabeth - Lisa, Veta).*

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3   Aleksandra Superanskaya *Personal Names In The Formal And Informal Use // Anthroponymics* / Ed. Nikonov V.A., (Moskva, 1970), 180.

4   Klara Golovina, *Comparative Analysis Of Ethnic Toponyms And Anthroponyms In The Russian And Kazakh Languages* (Almaty, Dis. Of Cand.Of Philological Sciences, 2000), 30.

5   *Names Of Peoples Of Kazakhstan: A Handbook.* (Alma- Ata, 1991), 21.

6   Meruert Musabayeva, *Ethnolinguistical Description Of Kazakh Anthroponyns* (Almaty Cand. Philol. Sciences Diss, 1995), 22.

2. Joining of the basis of the full form and the suffix (*Andrei* + -ka – *Andreika; Galin* + -ka – *Galinka*).

3. Combination of both methods (*Ivan – Vanjusha, Vanja; Ljudmila – Ljudotchka, Milotchka*). The universality and cultural specificity of unofficial personal names have intrigued researchers exploring cross-cultural dimensions. Studies like those by Penelope Brown and Stephen Levinson have highlighted the importance of these names in maintaining social bonds across cultures[7].

V. Bondaletova and E. Danilina single out four ways of conveying expressive and stylistic undertones in the Russian language: morphological (word forming), phonetic, syntactic, and lexical-syntactic. "The richest means of expression is a morphological method (mostly suffixes)."

Systematizing V. Chernyshev and V.Vinogradov's material, E. Danilina identifies five basic ways of creating abbreviated forms [8]:

1. Joining suffixes -*sh*-a, -n-ja, -s-ja to the truncated stem, ending in a vowel, *Marija – Masha, Sophja – Sonja, Ljudmila – Ljusja*.

2. Joining the flexion -a (-ja): to the truncated stem, ending in a consonant, *(Petr – Petja, Anna – Anja, Nikolai – Kolja*.) Wherein, hard consonants at the end of the stem (except the labial and velar) are usually softened.

3. Clipping of last or first syllables of a full name: *Natalja – Nata, Zinaida – Zina, Ljudmila* – Mila.

4. Joining a truncated stem to an endearing formant of the type -un-ja, -ur-a, -us-ja: *Boris – Busja, Marija – Musja, Mura, Evdokija – Dunja.*

5. Joining the initial consonant and flexion – *a* to the stem *Boris – Boba, Volodimir* (ancient Russian form) – *Vova, Nikolai – Koka*. Phonological shifts, truncations, and morphemic alterations are used to create playful, distinct names. This creativity highlights language's

role as a living entity, continuously evolving to serve personal and interpersonal needs.[9]

A characteristic feature of Russian antroponymics is a large number of suffixes for the formation of informal forms of personal names. Many of these suffixes express subjective evaluation, as they can be used to convey the attitude towards a person[10].

Expressive forms of personal names are very individual and subjective.

Together with the name, a person can have a nickname: an individualizing, clarifying and characterizing name. Nicknames forming the category of informal names are the most ancient anthroponymical formations. A priori, every person has a name. Nevertheless, "when a personal name is not by itself able to individualize a particular person, an additional individualizing sign – a nickname is very helpful"[11].

The following table shows how the linguistic reality enables a person to express a feature by synonymous (in terms of expression and in terms of content) language tools. (See Table 1).

Table 1: The process of nomination

The object in the set of properties and qualities	→	A tall, thin, lanky man
↓		↓
A person's idea about the object's characteristics	→	Very tall and thin
↓		↓
Materialization of ideas in the language	→	Nickname - Noodles

Table 1 shows the motivation of the nickname "Noodles". According to the researchers, the nickname is the genetic source of all kinds of personal names. Semantics of nicknames usually corresponds to the actual characteristics of their owners. From ancient times to the present-day nicknames have been mainly prevalent in oral folk tradition» [12].

7 Penelope Brown – Stephen Levinson, *Politeness: Some Universals İn Language Usage*. (Cambridge University Press, 1987)

8 Elena Danilina, *Nicknames In Modern Russian // East Slavic Onomastics: Research Materials*. (Moskva, 1979), 76.

9 Steven Pinker, Words And Rules: The Ingredients Of Language. (New York: Basic Books, 1999), 83

10 *Names Of Peoples Of Kazakhstan*, 37.

11 Schetinin, Narrative As Self-Portrait: Sociolinguistic Constructions Of İdentity, 169.

12 Schetinin, Narrative As Self-Portrait: Sociolinguistic Constructions Of İdentity, 169.

In their scientific works I. Sreznevsky, V. Dahl and other linguists noted that "many nicknames, including dialectal ones possess familiar and derogatory tones and negative expressive coloring" [13].

However, analyzing the data obtained by the survey, we support N.Ushakov's opinion that "such narrowing of the word n*ickname* can hardly be justified because the nickname is not a static category. Observations indicate the opposite: this class of the anthroponyms is not heterogeneous; new ways of their formation have emerged. It is impossible to see only negative features in a nickname; the nickname changes its connotation in different situations and social groups" [14]. For example, the nickname *Khojan* (rabbit) was given to a boy because his name is *Ajan* and to the other boy because his front teeth stick out, and he looks like a rabbit.

Appearance and function of nicknames as informal personal names in Russian, as well as in other language groups, may be due to the following reasons. One of the factors affecting the appearance of nicknames is *thesaurus names.* In modern Russian towns and villages, many people have the same names. It happens because the range of names is constantly narrowing. The next significant factor affecting the appearance of nicknames is the human need to express assessment and characteristics of the individual by means of a language. A nickname like a mirror reflects characterlogical and evaluative features of the object. Like S.Aksenov [15], we believe that the distinctive features of nicknames are:

- Belonging to colloquial speech as a result of a secondary onomastic nomination. Secondary names are often formed on the basis of a metaphor, which takes the first place among the linguistic means of expression of visual images. Nicknames are born as a result of the transfer of the object or phenomenon name on the basis of similarity. (the nickname *Shvabra* (Mop) was given to a very tall skinny girl).

- Functioning of nicknames in informal communication. Considering the sphere of informal communication, S. Aksenov restricts it to personal and group, family-related and intimate relationship, and notes that there are no strict laws. Using nicknames in the speech, we, thus, "neutralize" formality and an official anthroponymical structure.

- Corporatism. Nicknames operate in "a relatively small community of people. This community of people can be varied and formed according to different principles: territorial, social, age, and others.

- Non-regulation (the number of nicknames that a person can have in his lifetime, is not regulated). Thus, a person can simultaneously have several nicknames that vary over time and "they can exist simultaneously or succeed one another"[16] . For example, a certain man named *Egor Lobastov* has several nicknames: *Gorynytch* (Dragon), *Yogurt* (Yogurt) and *Lobastik.*

- Individual identity. If thousands of people can have the same name, a nickname belongs to only one person. It can only be repeated in a different environment; it is impossible to call two people the same nickname in one community.

- Nominative optionality. A nickname is an optional component of an anthroponymical informal structure; not every community gives its members nicknames. Nominative optionality is a sign indicating the nature of the use of nicknames unlike the use of the name. Nicknames may reflect ideological, psychological, and other values of a given society.

- Reflection of different emotions of a calling community in the nicknames. Nowadays we can hardly determine the opinion of the society by personal names. On the contrary, we can easily define it with the help of nicknames. Nicknames characterize not only the called person, but also the calling one.

13 Izmail Sreznevsky, *Materials For The Dictionary Of The Ancient Language, (*Moskva, 1902), 851

14 Nikolai Ushakov, *Nickname And Personal Informal Names. // The Problem Of The Boundaries Of Nicknames. Common And Proper Names.* (Moskva, 1978), 150.

15 Sergei Aksenov, *Problem Of Semantic Organization Of Russian Nicknames (Based On Soviet Literature Of 60s -80s.)* (Odessa, Dis. Of Cand. Of Philological Sciences, 1988), 70.

16 Danilina, *Nicknames In Modern Russian // East Slavic Onomastics: Research Materials*, 293-295.

- Emotionally expressive coloration is naturally inherent in all nicknames. It is their common feature, in contrast to personal names, that do not possess emotionality (except for diminutive forms). Nicknames will never become neutral names because of the nature of its internal structure. They exist due to the ability of the language to have the emotional and expressive nomination (cf. vocabulary of emotional expression), through which a person expresses his mental state. Emotionally expressive coloration of nicknames stems from opposing trends in the functioning of words in colloquial speech, i.e. amelioration and pejorativeness. This implies the division of nicknames into offensive and inoffensive, but this division is very specific. Many nickname owners do not feel pejorativeness of their nicknames. For example, a girl was nicknamed *Ushi* (Ears) because of large protruding ears, and she responds to this nickname.

- Metaphors and associativity. Image is a visual representation of any object or phenomenon of reality; but the image is not an adequate reflection of reality, it has deliberately selected features through which one can express their attitude to the image and transmit the thought. Images arise in the mind of each person; their source is the world around us. For example, the boy had curly hair, he was very smart and did well at school, and he was given the nickname *Pushkin.*

- Semantic content. The meaning of nicknames is rich in connotative meaning that come out when nicknames are used in live colloquial speech.

In the German anthroponymics, personal names like all nouns may be accompanied by articles. However, the use of articles with personal names or last names possess a bit different functional load, as compared to the household word vocabulary. The article used before them performs emotional and stylistic function.

In German colloquial language as well as in the Kazakh and Russian languages informal forms of personal names are widely used. The main feature of German informal forms of personal names is that the number of short and caressing forms is not as large as in the Slavic languages[17].The most common diminutive suffixes are*: -i, -le, -lein, -chen: Peterle, Udolein, Susannchen, etc*. Nouns ending in *-i*, unlike other suffixes, lose their endearing tone. The method of forming short and endearing forms for male and female names is the same. Consequently, morphologically specified grammatical differences are not available. Grammatical gender of endearing forms is mostly neuter. There is a tendency to keep sounding of the name in the formation of its short or endearing form. For example, affectionate form of a male name *Peter* sounds like *Peterle, Peterlein, Peterchen,* female name *Petra* sounds as *Petralein, Petrachen* [18].

According to V.Schmidt, shortened names are used to save time or to express special attitude (love, affection) towards a called person. Finally, hypocoristic shortened forms of personal names are used for the expression of friendly attitude or reduction (e.g. names of in *-i* in Switzerland: *Joggeli, Uli, Vreneli*).

He singles out the methods of forming diminutive names:

1) Truncation of complex names to the first syllable (*Arnwald – Arn, Brunger – Brun, Eburhard – Ebur*);

2) Addition of suffixes *-o*, *-e*, *-i*: *Gerhard – Gero, Godafried, Godberaht, Godebald - Godo, Heinrich – Heino или Heine, Hugbert – Hugo, Kkuonart – Kuno, Odfried – Odo u Otto, Siegbert – Sigo или Sicco, Uodalrich – Udo или Uli, Eduard – Ede, Ludwig – Lude*;

3) Addition of suffixes *-iko*, *-ilo*, *-izo*: *Friedel – Fridilo, Fritz – Fridizo, Goedeke – Godiko, Goedel – Godilo, Goetz – Godizo, Kunz – Kuonizo, Lutz – Ludiko, Ludeco, Lizo*;

4) Addition of suffix *-k*: *Hugbert – Hauke, Reinhard – Reineke, Wilhelm – Wilke*;

5) Addition of suffix *-l*: *Dietrich – Dietel, Johannes – Hensel, Rudolf – Rudel, Markward – Merkel*;

17 Renate Komarova *German Anthroponymics* Part I. (Saratov: Saratov. Univ., 1979), 230.

18 Sergei Goryaev *Nominative Intentions Of The Subject Of Onomastic Nomination (Based On The Materials Of Russian Pragmones)* (Yekaterinburg, Dis. Of Cand. Of Philological Sciences, 1999), 165.

6) Addition of suffix *-z*: *Heinrich – Heinz, Hinz, Reinhard – Renz, Ulrich – Uz* [19].

Special anthroponymical means of emotional and evaluative naming of people in German culture is also a nickname *Uebername*. Nicknames appeared earlier than names and had an identifying function, i.e. they helped to identify people that had the same personal name. Originally, so-called nicknames *(Beinamen)* contained the information about the origin of the name's owner and his place of birth: W*alter von der Vogelweide, Dietrich von Berne.*

Many nicknames pointed to some physical or other distinctions of a person: *Friedrich Barbarossa (= Rotbart, "Redbeard"), Heinrich der Loewe*, etc. In the course of time, the nickname was transferred to heirs and fixed in official documents.

Depending on the strength of a negative evaluation, R Komarova[20] identifies the following types of nicknames:

1) with weak negative evaluation *(Neckname, Ulkname, Scherzname).* Most of them originate from the first and last names based on sound and semantic associations*. Joseph Hellenthal / Joseph Dunkelthal, Effi / Affe, Barbara / Babuschka*. Critical assessment of girls in the school environment is often expressed by calling them by name +suffix - *n: Muellern (= Myullersha), Schulzen (= Shultsiha);*

2) with a strongly pronounced negative, derogative (= pejorative) characteristic *(Schandname, Scheltname, Schimpfname).* These nicknames always have social conditionality (cultural and educational background of the community, ideological differences, etc.). Thus, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels often called their political opponents pejorative nicknames. For example, F.Lassal, had the following nicknames: *Lazarus der Aussaetzige (Lazarus leper)* that is a symbol of mental and physical disability, *Herr Wieseltier (Mr. Weasel), Ephraim Gescheit*

Ephraim Wise), Ephraim der Tiefe (Ephraim Deep Thought). Last nicknames of Lassalle in form are similar to titles (see: *August der Starke, Wilhelm der Schoene*). Conferring a title on an object of criticism is aimed at ridiculing his tendency to pose, megalomania that were so characteristic of Ferdinand Lassalle.

In the novel "The Hard Life of Adam Probst" Herbert Jobst, acquainting the reader with the environment in which his character is growing, writes, *"Adler calls Adam a stinky goat. Maria loves concision; she calls him a pig. So, in his short life, Adam achieved a lot. After all, only people from aristocratic circles have so many names, though they sound a bit different. "*Hostile attitude towards a foster child, low cultural and educational level of parents determine the nature of additional naming of Adam Probst"[21] .

In the story *"Hast du Maeuse?"* ("Do you have any quirks?") Ralf Rothmann depicts a young man, Harald by name, whom everyone called *Stinki (stinking)* because of the unpleasant smell that emanated from him, because he did not like to wash[22] . In his story *"Gesang der Hunde"* ("A Barking Dog") [ibid. p.9] a teenager was given the nickname *Kulturmensch* (Cultural Man) because of his manners. Unlike his friends, he really spoke literary language, without jargon, always looked smart, but his behavior and manners seemed ridiculous to others, and they gave him such a nickname.

In the era of digital communication, unofficial personal names have found new ground to flourish. Social media platforms, online forums, and digital interactions have given rise to innovative naming practices. Research by linguists such as Naomi Baron and David Crystal underscores how these platforms redefine traditional naming practices, leading to the creation of unique online personas and digital nicknames[23].

In the Kazakh language as well as in Russian and German languages, the emergence of informal personal names is associated with certain extra-linguistic factors (a long name, a difficult name, the name of a different nationality, traditions of renaming, peculiarities of a dialect, the need for evaluating a person, etc.). Expres-

19 Wilhwlm Schmidt, *Deutsche Sprachkunde. Ein Handbuch Fuer Lehrer Und Studierende Mit Einer Einfuehrung In Die Probleme Des Sprachkundlichen Unterrichts 9. Auflage. Volk Und Wissen Volkseigener Verlag.* (Berlin, 1982), 246.

20 Komarova, *German Anthroponymics,* 69.

21 Ralf Rothmann, *Ein Winter Unter Hirschen. - Suhrkamp Verlag* (Frankfurt / Main, 2001), 28.

22 Rothmann, *Ein Winter Unter Hirschen. - Suhrkamp Verlag,* 104

23 Robbins B.Naomi, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia* (Cambridge: 2003); David Crystal, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia* (Cambridge: 2003)

sive and stylistic colors of names are expressed with the help of word-forming suffixes, the amount of which varies depending on the grammatical structure of the language. In all three above mentioned languages we distinguish ameliorative, mocking, derogatory nick-names or nicknames with weak negative evaluation and strongly expressed negative evaluation.

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