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**Introduction**

System of personal names is an important part of each national culture. We are surrounded by different people with different names but we rarely try to find out the meaning of names. This topic is chosen in order to show that system of personal names is a unique and wonderful source of information not only about every human being. Without doubt, it is a soul of every nation. Names are history: history of people, countries and states. They show evolution of cultures, their mutual communication, deep changes of mentalities and severe clashes of civilizations. The importance of name was always huge. People believed that name of human being could determine his life, bring him happiness or sorrow, make him well – known or obscure. That’s why personal names are not only reflection of nation’s mentality, history and culture. They are also a little magic, connecting people with some things they do not see.

1.Ossetian and English names are very different but they also have some structural similarities. Both nations speak Indoeuropean languages. It is a fact that makes them close to each other. English system of names has traces of Anglo – Saxon, Norman, Christian and European influence.

2.Ossetian names show all changes in our history; they are Alanian, Russian, Caucasian. English and Ossetian names are expression of different cultures based on one Indoeuropean group of languages. In this presentation we tried to follow the main changes in two nominal systems. Modern world is very turbulent but anyway it is crucially important to know the roots of your nation. It is also a factor that underlines the actuality of chosen topic. Various materials from books, magazines and Internet were used while preparing this report.

**The main part**

Full name in English – speaking countries consists of first name, second name and last name. As first and second are used not only common and traditional names but also last names. As such last names are often taken those of close relatives, famous people and outstanding historical actors.

Personal English names generally used today are very different. They consist of groups of old and modern names. One can find traditional English names and those taken from other languages. Modern English names can strongly differ structurally and semantically. The reason of such difference is the next : population of Great Britain is a product of mix between various ethnical groups – Iberian people that lived here in ancient times, Celtic tribes, Angles, Saxons Scandinavians and then Franco – Normans. In English for this reason there is a man’s name «Abraham», which is widely – spread in English – speaking countries and is at least 4000 years old, and woman’s name Sonya, taken from Russian languages only in 20th years of 20 century.

Anglo – Saxons like all over ancient Germans had only one name which could be as structurally simple(Froda – «wise, old», or Hwita – «white»), so structurally complicated ( Aethel – Beald - «noble, very good, excellent + bold, boldness », or Eadgar – «possession, estate, property, rich + spear»). Gradually simple names were displaced by two – componential. The meaning of some old – English names is impossible to connect with the meaning of components it consist of. Other names are more understandable for modern reader.

Components of Anglo – Saxon names were taken from a special list of nominal words. People believed that «good» names magically helped those who carried them and gave wealth ? health etc. Such names included word meaning «warrior», «good» , «well known». Anglo-Saxon names differed very little from nicknames given to people. Often was used typical for German names «-ing» suffix, which showed that the name bearer was the offspring of person indicated in the other part of a name. For example Bruning-son of Brun. Only 8% of English names today have their original in old Anglo – Saxon period.   
Norman invasion had a very strong effect on the history of English people and on their names, too. When the Duke of Normandy William became the King of England, all important civil and church positions were taken by people who spoke Norman- French language. Consequently Anglo- Saxon names were replaced by those traditional for conquerors (for example, William, Robert, Richard). Only several Anglo- Saxon names such as Edgar, Edward, Mildred survived this period.

During the time after Norman conquest of England names- nicknames became part of family names. Replacement of old Anglo- Saxon names was also encouraged by the influence of Christian religion. Its expansion started in 12th

century with first missionaries of Pope coming to England. Church schools and monasteries became the centers of Christian culture. Personal names from the Bible became more popular though the majority of people did not understand their meanings. Such names were mostly used among royal family and nobility of England, peasantry gave their Pagan names. Only in 16th century Christian names became dominant in the system of English personal names. One of the reasons was obligatory registration of children taking baptism. Christian names though underwent some changes connected with people’s traditions. Maria became Mary, old Jewish name Johanan became Jones and John. Woman's name Johanna has bits origin in old French and gave birth to three other separate names – Jean, Johan and Jane. The most popular names in England in 16 – 18 centuries were William, John, Thomas for men, Elizabeth and Mary for women. From the 18 century official last name of child born started to be inherited from father.

During the Reformation in Western Europe in 16th century people started to use names of different saints not written in Bible, such as Barbara, Christopher and other. Personal names from Old Testament, such as Amos, Sarah, Joseph and others became widely – spread, mostly among puritans. In the first half of 17th century were forced to leave Britain and settled in America. That’s why today names from Old Testament are more common in USA than in England. English literature also had a very strong effect on English names. Famous writers and poets created many brilliant characters whose names became very popular among Englishmen and Americans. For example, Pamela – character of a novel «Arcadia» written by Sidney, Stella – sonnet character of the same author. Historical novels of Walter Scott gave birth to a row of forgotten names, Alice was popular for a long time thanks to Lewis Carroll.Most of full names have so called «derivatives» or short forms used among relatives, friends and close people: Benjamin – Ben, Christopher – Chris. Short forms of names were widely spread among Anglo – Saxons, too. Name Eda came from Edwine. Norman conquerors brought to England diminutive suffixes of Old – French language.

**Below are the 100 most popular**

**English names for boys.**

1. Oliver

2. Jack

3. Harry

4. Alfie

5. Charlie

6. Thomas

7. William

8. Joshua

9. George

10. James

11. Daniel

12. Jacob

13. Ethan

14. Samuel

15. Joseph

16. Dylan

17. Mohammed

18. Noah

19. Lucas

20. Oscar

21. Alexander

22. Benjamin

23. Max

24. Archie

25. Riley

26. Jayden

27. Lewis

28. Logan

29. Jake

30. Ryan

31. Muhammad

32. Tyler

33. Liam

34. Henry

35. Finley

36. Leo

37. Isaac

38. Luke

39. Adam

40. Callum

41. Matthew

42. Harrison

43. Edward

44. Connor

45. Freddie

46. Mason

47. Harvey

48. Nathan

49. Jamie

50. Theo

51. Zachary

52. Alex

53. Michael

54. Toby

55. Aaron

56. Kai

57. Harley

58. Sebastian

59. Owen

60. Leon

61. Cameron

62. Charles

63. Ollie

64. David

65. Rhys

66. Aiden

67. Mohammad

68. Finlay

69. Louis

70. Luca

71. Reuben

72. Kian

73. Ben

74. Kyle

75. Louie

76. Evan

77. Ashton

78. Gabriel

79. Bailey

80. Hayden

81. Joel

82. Arthur

83. Bobby

84. Reece

85. Elliot

86. Jude

87. Caleb

88. Stanley

89. Kieran

90. Robert

91. Aidan

92. Brandon

93. Sam

94. John

95. Frederick

96. Jenson

97. Taylor

98. Dexter

99. Kayden

100. Bradley

**Below are the 100 most popular English names for girls.**

1. Olivia

2. Sophie

3. Emily

4. Lily

5. Amelia

6. Jessica

7. Ruby

8. Chloe

9. Grace

10. Evie

11. Ava

12. Isabella

13. Mia

14. Maisie

15. Daisy

16. Poppy

17. Isabelle

18. Ella

19. Freya

20. Charlotte

21. Lucy

22. Isla

23. Megan

24. Scarlett

25. Holly

26. Imogen

27. Sophia

28. Phoebe

29. Ellie

30. Summer

31. Hannah

32. Millie

33. Lola

34. Abigail

35. Erin

36. Lacey

37. Eva

38. Amy

39. Lilly

40. Katie

41. Jasmine

42. Molly

43. Alice

44. Layla

45. Brooke

46. Lexi

47. Sienna

48. Emma

49. Elizabeth

50. Leah

51. Gracie

52. Amber

53. Matilda

54. Florence

55. Amelie

56. Georgia

57. Maya

58. Isabel

59. Bethany

59. Rosie

61. Eleanor

62. Sofia

63. Anna

63. Paige

65. Faith

66. Caitlin

67. Madison

68. Lexie

69. Hollie

70. Lauren

71. Emilia

72. Keira

73. Skye

74. Esme

75. Isobel

76. Zara

77. Julia

78. Niamh

79. Tia

80. Aimee

81. Maddison

82. Rebecca

83. Sarah

84. Zoe

85. Martha

86. Harriet

87. Evelyn

88. Tilly

89. Annabelle

90. Rose

91. Maria

92. Nicole

93. Eliza

93. Heidi

95. Laila

96. Aisha

97. Alexandra

98. Libby

99. Maryam

100. Maisy

**English surnames**

English surnames as we know them today -- family names passed down intact from father to son to grandson -- began in England as early as the eleventh century. Such hereditary names were not universally prevalent and settled, however, prior to the era of the Reformation in sixteenth century England. It is conjectured that the introduction of parish registers in 1538 was a great influence in this, as a person entered under one surname at baptism would not be likely to be married under another name, and buried under a third. Some areas of England came later to the use of surnames, however. It was not until the late seventeenth century that many families in Yorkshire and Halifax took permanent surnames.

**Origins of English Last Names**

Surnames in England generally developed from four major sources:

Patronymic & Matronymic Surnames - These are surnames derived from baptismal or Christian names to indicate family relationship or descent. Some baptismal or given names have become surnames without any change in form. Others added an ending. son may have formed his surname by adding -s (more common in the South and West of England) or -son (preferred in the northern half of England) to his father's name. The latter -son suffix was also sometimes added to the mother's name. English surnames ending in -ing (from the British engi, "to bring forth," and -kin generally indicate a patronymic or family name as well.

**Occupational Surnames** - Many English surnames developed from a person's job or trade. Three common English surnames -- Smith, Wright and Taylor -- are excellent examples of this. A name ending in -man or -er usually implies such a trade name, as in Chapman (shopkeeper), Barker (tanner) and Fiddler. On occasion a rare occupational name can provide a clue to the family's origin. For example, Dymond (dairymen) are commonly from Devon and Arkwright (maker of arks or chests) are generally from Lancashire.

**Descriptive Surnames** - Based on a unique quality or physical feature of the individual, these surnames often developed from nicknames or pet names. Most refer to an individual's appearance - color, complexion, or physical shape - such as Armstrong. A descriptive surname may also refer to an individual's personal or moral characteristics, such as Goodchild, Puttock (greedy) or Wise.

**Geographical or Local Surnames** - These are names derived from the location of the homestead from which the first bearer and his family lived, and are generally the most common origin of English surnames. They were first introduced into England by the Normans, many of whom were known by the name of their personal estate. Thus, many English surnames derive from the name of an actual town, county, or estate. County names in Great Britain, such as Cheshire, Kent and Devon have been commonly adopted as surnames. A second class of local surnames derived from cities and towns, such as Hertford, Carlisle and Oxford. Other local surnames derive from descriptive landscape features such as hills, woods, and streams which describe the original bearer's residence. This is the origin of surnames such as Sykes (marshy stream), Bush and Attwood (near a wood). Surnames which begin with the prefix At- can especially be attributed as a name with local origins. By- was also sometimes used as a prefix for local names.

**The most common English surnames**

1. Smith (От англ. smith – «кузнец»)
2. Jones (От англ. имени John)
3. Williams (От англ. имени William)
4. Brown (От англ. brown – «коричневый; смуглый»)
5. Taylor (От англ. tailor – «портной»)
6. Davies (От англ. имени Davi, Davie, David)
7. Wilson (От англ. имени Will (William) + son)
8. Evans (От англ. имени Evan –англизир. формы валлийского имени Ifan)
9. Thomas (От англ. имени Thomas)
10. Johnson (От англ. имени John + son)
11. Roberts (От англ. имени son of Robert)
12. Robinson (От англ. имени son of Robin)
13. Thompson (От англ. имени son of the man known as Thom, Thomp, Thompkin)
14. Wright (От англ. craftsman, builder)
15. Walker (От англ. who "walked" on raw)

**Ossetian system of names.**

Ossetian language belongs to the Iranian branch of the Indo-European languages. Preserving the linguistic features, brings it to the specified languages and including with Russians, he was subjected to the influence of the Caucasian languages. This is reflected in the Ossetian own names.  
  
Ossetian own names according to their origin can be divided into three groups.

The first group consists of native Ossetian names. Some of them are easy to identify, as they have kept contact with the individual words in modern English Ahshar «courageа» Shagane «black dogа» Zareta «singе» Kafeta «danceе» Zarina «gold» Avdan «there are seven of black girl».  
  
However, the meaning of most of the native Ossetian names are difficult or impossible to already explained from the modern language of Ossetians. To such names includeи Gabonо, Dabe, Decca, Hazbi, Hetag, etc.  
  
It is possible that the major part of them inherited from the languages of the peoples, with whom communicated the ancestors of the Ossetians in ancient times. It is also likely that some of these words when something sounded a little differently.  
  
Changes, however, is not so much the sound of names, how many of their composition. Many of the names cease to be used with the change of generations. Others will appear with the arrival of the new generations.  
  
The differences that exist between Ossetian dialects had an impact on their own names which led to the appearance of two variants of some of the names. For example: Chermen and Kermenе, etc. Some of these names are included in the list in both versions.  
  
The second group consists of the names associated with the Christian religion. Christianity, apparentlyу to be spread among the ancestors of the Ossetians still with X in. However, the massive communion of Ossetians to Christianity is observed in the end of XVIII-beginning of XIX century.

If girls were born one after another and boys but not girls were expected they were given such names as Nalcuda (not needed), Tsamancud (not needed), Mamala (miserable).

In families where boys didn’t survive they were given names denoting some quality or they were given animal names. Shaykudz (black dog), Gabila (a puppy), Gady (a cat), Mist (a mouse). And if children were not born for a long time people were glad to have even girls. And they were given such names as Farna (happiness), Yarseta (be loved), Fardig (a bin). In this way children were diffended illnesses.

Very often new born kids were given the names of famous people, heroes of «Nartsky Legends». But along with the official name always appeared the name given by the kids mother and sometimes this name became the main one.

**The most common Ossetian male names.**

Абхаз  
Абисал  
Азамат  
Аким  
Алан  
Алихан  
Алмахсит  
Александр  
Амурхан  
Асабе  
Асаго  
Асах  
Аслан  
Асламбек  
Асламурза  
Аслангирей  
Астемир  
Аузби  
Афако  
Ахболат  
Ахмат  
Ацамаз  
Амзор  
Ахсар  
Бакке  
Борис  
Василий  
Батмурза  
Батрадз  
Батырбек  
Бачче  
Баччири  
Бекмурза  
Бексолтан  
Бесагур  
Бечмирза  
Бимболат  
Болат  
Боци  
Вано  
Васо  
Габо  
Габола  
Гагудз  
Газак  
Гайши  
Гаппо  
Гацыp  
Георгий  
Дакко  
Данил  
Давид  
Дабе  
Дакка  
Дахцыко  
Дебола  
Дрис  
Дудар  
Гери  
Герихан  
Дзабо  
Дзамболат  
Дзантемир  
Дзанхот  
Дзаххот  
Дзарахмат  
Ельмирза  
Заур  
Сослан

**The most common female names.**

Агунда

Азау

Азаухан

Аза

Аминат

Аниса

Анна

Асиат

Афасса

Ацырухс

Венера

Вера

Даухан

Дибахан

Дунетхан

Дзанатхан

Дзерасса

Езета

Заира

Замира

Замират

Зарема

Зарета

Зариффа

Зали

Залина

Зарина

Земфира

Зина

Зоя

Кябахан

Ксения

Елизавета

Лиза

Любовь

Людмила

Масо

Мадина

Мадинат

Мисурат

Надежда

Наида

Ненуца

Нина

Паса

Поли

Разиат

Рахимат

Римма

Роза

Салимат

Саниат

Серафима

Сима

Соня

Софья

Таира

Таисия

Тамара

Тереза

Фаризат

Фатима

Фатимат

Феруза

Фуза

Хадизат

Хангуасса

Ханиффа

Ханисиат

Хызмыдe

Чабахан

**Conclusions**

The adventure through English and Ossetian system of names is an exciting one. In conclusion it is important to say that this adventure actually has no end. Names change with times and epochs, they are living organisms. Some of them die, others will appear and become popular.

Many Ossetian names, for example, that were widely spread a century ago, now seem to us very strange. Large amount of old English names can be found only in books. This process of death and birth is inevitable and reflects the law of evolution.

It was shown how names change with changes of historical paths of nations. Nobody can foresee Ossetia and England in two or three hundred years. Sure, some of modern popular names will become very rare and others will take their place.

Names are perfect reflection of eternal cycle of history. It never stops. System of names is studied thoroughly all over the world. There is no nation which doesn’t understand its importance.

Some historical facts actually can be found out only through names. These are the reasons why the chosen topic is so exciting.

Name is a destiny of people, culture and nation. Knowing history of nominal system means knowing ways, traditions and mental development of cultures it is a part of. Names are probably the only full expression for the nature of things.

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**Appendix**

English personal names generally include a given name, a middle name, and a surname.

**First name / given name** (also, forename, Christian name) is a name that is given at birth and stands first in a person's full name, e.g., John, Peter, William, Anne, Elizabeth, Mary.

**Middle name** is the second name of a person. It stands between the first name and the family name. The middle name is usually represented by the middle initial in full names, for example, Alan Charles Jones or Alan C. Jones; Laura Tracey Edison or Laura T. Edison.

**Last name / surname / family name** is family name used by the members of the same family, for example, Smith, Higgins, Green, Appleby, Williamson, Mackenzie.

**Nickname** is a shortened or diminutive form of a given name, for example, Peter – Pete; William – Bill, Will; Anne – Annie, Nancy; Elizabeth – Betty, Liz; Louise – Lou. Many nicknames are also used as given names: Jack as a nickname for John and Jack as a given name in its own right; Molly as a nickname for Mary and Molly as an independent given name. Nicknames include pet names, for example, Billy, Willie, Betsy, Lizzie, Lulu.

**Male and female names**

Many names can show masculine or feminine gender in their endings. For example, the names Alexandra, Antonia, Bertha, Christina, Eugenia, Frederica, Julia, Maria, Paula, Sophia, Victoria are clearly female names because of the feminine ending A or IA, while Alexander, Albert, Arthur, Christopher, David, Frederick, James, John, Julius, Paul, Richard, Victor are obviously male names because of their masculine endings ER, OR, US (or absence of the endings A, IA).Often, the endings IE and I mark the feminine forms of names, while Y marks the masculine forms of names, for example, Nicky as a man's name and Nikki, Nickie, Nicky as women's names. But there are many nicknames that use the endings IE and Y for both male and female names: Billie (m./f.), Billy (m./f.), Bobbie (m./f.), Bobby (m./f.), Freddie (m./f.), Freddy (m./f.). And there are quite a few male and female names with the ending Y. For example, Anthony, Emery, Gregory, Henry, Jeremy, Percy, Timothy are male names, while Daisy, Dorothy, Emily, Margery, Tiffany, Valery are female names.

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