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Anthroponym Systems in Different Languages and Cultures

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Language History and Toponomastics**

1. Introduction

- 2023: international research program on the history of personal name systems in different languages and cultures
- cognitive-pragmatic approach
- *Personal Names in a Medieval Context*



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Personal Names
in a Medieval Context

1. Introduction



- Valéria Tóth : *Personal name systems in the medieval Hungary*
- Michaela Boháčová – Žaneta Dvořáková: *The development of the Czech anthroponymic system from a cognitive-pragmatic perspective*
- Iza Matusiak-Kempa: *The Polish anthroponymic system in the 12th-15th centuries: A cognitive-pragmatic perspective*
- Adelina Emilia Mihali – Gabriela-Sînziana Ioaneș: *The Romanian mediaeval denomination system*
- Rosa Kohlheim – Volker Kohlheim: *Personal name use in the German language area in medieval times*
- Pierre-Henri Billy: *The Anthroponym system of France in the Middle Ages (11-15. c.)*
- Marcia Sipavicius Seide: *Pragmatic, cognitive and text description of the medieval Portuguese anthroponymic system: An exploratory study*
- Jaakko Raunamaa: *Finnish anthroponyms in the Middle Ages*

2. Cognitive-pragmatic model



pragmatic perspective

- how name-giving is implemented
- circumstances and conditions through which the anthroponyms become associated with a given person

categories of personal names

a) *chosen name or list name*

- as a result of a conscious decision or choice
- with the collaboration of certain people
- from a relatively closed set of names

2. Cognitive-pragmatic model



b) *automatic names*

- automatically associated with the individual
- based on community name-giving rules
- independent of the individual's or their family's naming intentions

c) *created names*

- not bound by formal rules
- created using the entire vocabulary
- creativity of the name giver
- the act of name-giving also establishes the designation itself

2. Cognitive-pragmatic model



cognitive perspective

categories of personal names

a) *feature-indicating or descriptive names*

- the closest relationship with the name bearer
- they are always motivated
- have a rich information content >
- they are descriptive

2. Cognitive-pragmatic model



b) *relationship name or nexus name*

- a certain degree of motivation and information content
- they express a sense of belonging to a community organized on a genetic or cultural basis

c) *referential names*

- no direct motivation related to the individual
- identify the individual within a smaller community

2. Cognitive-pragmatic model



d) *affective names*

- a secondary category
- emotional relationship between the name giver/name user and the person named
- created with the modification of other names >
- pragmatically: *modified name*
- the affective function is in a dominant position

2. Cognitive-pragmatic model



universal pragmatic traits

- individuals receive one or more names
- the name giver is often determined by custom
- some anthroponymic categories are assigned based on fixed practices
- the act of name-giving may also involve a name-giving ceremony

differences in name-giving practices

- EDWIN D. LAWSON 2016: matrix of similarities and differences
- RICHARD D. ALFORD 1988: name-giving customs of 60 different pre-industrial cultures from various parts of the world

3. Findings of the research program



medieval history of personal naming

- written sources
- changes

similarities and differences between naming systems:

- Hungarian, Czech, Finnish
 - role of cultural and social factors – OR – linguistic factors
 - cultural and territorial relations: Hungarian and Czech
 - genetic relations: Hungarian and Finnish

3. Findings of the research program



3.1. general observations about the broader context of the naming systems

- historical background
- religious-cultural characteristics
- sources

3.2. differences and similarities within the personal name categories

3. Findings of the research program



3.1. general observations about the broader context of the naming systems

- **historical background**
 - Hungarian Kingdom, Kingdom of Bohemia – independent states
 - Finnish area: part of the Swedish Realm
- **religious-cultural characteristics**
 - Christianity
 - Czech lands: 9th century
 - Kingdom of Hungary: 10-11th century
 - Finland: 13-15th century

3. Findings of the research program



3.1. general observations about the broader context of the naming systems

- **sources and structures to denote individuals**
 - Hungary
 - mid-9th century, but more abundant: 12th century
 - language of the charters: mainly Latin (sometimes: Greek)
 - Check-speaking area
 - 9th-10th centuries, but more abundant: 13th-14th centuries
 - language of the charters: mainly Latin (sometimes: German)

3. Findings of the research program



3.1. general observations about the broader context of the naming systems

- **sources and structures to denote individuals**
 - in the Latin documents
 - personal names (and place names) in the vernacular language
 - sometimes in Latinised forms
 - from Hungary: 1211: In Tichon artifices ... *Paulus filius Johannis*; pistoris: *filius Petri*, Stephan cum filio suo *Paulo*; *filius Petri, Paulus*
 - from Bohemia: *Johannes* alias dictus *Hanko* de Stikowicz

3. Findings of the research program



3.1. general observations about the broader context of the naming systems

- **sources and structures to denote individuals**
 - Finnish areas
 - very few sources from the 13th-14th centuries
 - literacy in Finland began in the 15th century
 - many written sources are in Latin, but most are in Swedish
 - Swedish forms typically used for recording personal names
 - e.g., the Finnish name *kocko heyki j kukola* ('Henrik of Kokko in Kukola') was adapted to Swedish: *Henric j Kukola*

3. Findings of the research program



3.2. differences and similarities within **the personal name categories**

a) **descriptive names**

- the core of the personal name system
- the most ancient personal name category
- two subcategories
 - primary names: individuals' main names with a descriptive meaning
 - secondary names: bynames associated with the name bearers in addition to their primary names

3. Findings of the research program



in Hungarian: 1277/1356: Mychael dictus *Tar* (cf. *tar* 'bald');

in Czech: 1419: Johannes *Holub* de Bitreho, (cf. *holub* 'pigeon');

in Finnish: *Henrich Sonni* (< 'bull'), *Jöns Söppä* (< *seppä* 'smith')

3. Findings of the research program



a) descriptive names

- the semantic-motivational features show many similarities
- the lexical-morphological features show significant differences
 - compound names
 - common in Slavic languages; rare in Hungarian and Finnish
 - Hungarian: 1389: Andreas *Hothwyw* (< *hat ujjú* 'having six fingers')
 - Finnish: *Oluff Mustasilmä* (< *musta* 'black' + *silmä* 'eye')

3. Findings of the research program



- names with suffixes
 - in Hungarian
 - 1198: *Sculgad* < *szolga* 'servant' + *-d* formant
 - 1273/1274: *Leanch* < *leány* 'girl' + *-cs* formant
 - 1138/1329: *Farcasti* < *farkas* 'wolf' + *-ti* formant
 - in Czech
 - 1387: *Babka* < *bába* 'grandmother' + suffix *-ka*
 - 1483: *Vopička* < *opice*, *vopice* 'monkey' + suffix *-ka*
 - 1316: *Hlawacz* < *hlava* 'head' + suffix *-áč*

3. Findings of the research program



- Metaphor and metonymy
 - in Hungarian
1198: *Bika* < *bika* 'bull'
 - in Czech
13th cent.: *Osel* < *osel* 'donkey'
 - in Finnish
Magnus Hirj < *hiiri* 'mouse'

3. Findings of the research program



b) referential names

- role of borrowed names
 - through direct ethnic and linguistic contact
 - through cultural influence
- the stock of referential personal names is determined
 - by its linguistic contacts
 - by its cultural contacts

3. Findings of the research program



b) referential names

- adopted personal names **in Hungarian**
 - through direct ethnic and linguistic contacts
 - from the Turkish languages, the Slavic languages, German
 - 1146: *Acus* (cf. Turkish *Aq-quš* 'white falcon')
 - 1211: *Bogat* (cf. Slavic *Bogatъ*)
 - 1111: *Theobaldus* Sumugin(ensis) [comes] (cf. Germ. *Theutbald*)

3. Findings of the research program



b) referential names

- adopted personal names **in Hungarian**
 - through cultural influence
 - the integration of medieval Latin personal names with the spread of Christianity
 - 1131: principes ... *Janus, Marcus*
 - 1134: *Laurentius filius Salamonis* canonici Waradiensis ecclesie
 - the names of heroes and heroines from French chivalric romances
 - 1264: *Rolando* preposito de Saag

3. Findings of the research program



b) referential names

- adopted personal names **in Czech**
 - the influences of German and Latin languages
 - *Konrád, Adalbert, Ulrich (> Oldřich), Heinrich (> Jindřich)*
 - *Johannes (> Jan, Johann), Nicolaus (> Mikuláš), Petrus (> Petr, Peter), Venceslaus (> Václav)*
 - French personal names mediated by literature
 - *Tristam, Isolda, Parcifal*

3. Findings of the research program



b) referential names

- **in Finnish**

- referential names of Scandinavian origin (related to Germanic)
 - *Vargh* (< Swedish *varg* 'wolf')
 - *Anundi* (< Old Norse *Anund*)
 - *Azico* (< Germanic *Aziko*, *Asicko*)
- the linguistic impact of Christianity >
- the dominance of Christian personal names (15th c.)
 - *Mathias*, *Ollj* (< Saint Olof), *Pauo* (< *Pavel*, *Påval*)

3. Findings of the research program



b) referential names

- adoption of religious names >
 - a fundamental change in the main features of personal naming
 - most common feature of the religious names: the lack of meaning
 - these names became more widespread >
 - the naming community did not expect names to be descriptive >
 - referential names became more homogenized, closed, and bound
 - this type of name became the most important group of referential names

3. Findings of the research program



c) nexus names

- the most common category of nexus names: **family names**
 - spread across all classes of society
- other nexus name types:
 - the category of **genus names (clan names)** in Hungarian: 13-14th c.
1204: *Tyba de genere Tomoy*
1214: *comitem Henricum de genere Zolouc*
strict social restrictions: only landlords were permitted to use it
- **family names after the roof (roof names)**

3. Findings of the research program



c) nexus names

- **family names after the roof (roof names)**

- acquired by the new owner of a house or craft from the previous owner

1404: *Martin ze Šestajovic* bought a house from *Jan Chudoba* > he subsequently was recorded as *Martin Chudoba*

- in rural areas, from the 16th century
- these names identified entire families but they were not permanent
- similar to descriptive names

3. Findings of the research program



c) nexus names

- nexus-indicating structures but not nexus names:
 - in Hungarian charters: personal names with element „*fi(a)*” ‘son of’
1474: *Nicolaus Banfi* < *bán fia* ‘son of a ban or a person named Bán’
 - in medieval Finnish documents: „*poika*” expressions
Michel Petherinpoyca ‘son of Peter’
- not passed down from generation to generation > not nexus names

3. Findings of the research program



c) nexus names

- **family names**
- consolidation of this name type:
- in Hungarian: 14-17th centuries
- in Czech: 14-15th centuries
 - but these names became de jure family names only after the legal regulation (1786)
- in Finnish: from the 16th century family names were already established even among the peasantry

3. Findings of the research program



d) affective names

- a theoretical question
- many descriptive names express emotional attitude
Finnish *lhalempi* < *iha* 'lovely, delightful, charming' + *lempi* 'love, favorite'
- but they cannot be considered affective names
- affective names are always created by modifying another personal name of the given person



Thank you for your attention!

