



Exploring the Fascinating World of German Onomastics: Origins, Meanings, and Evolution of Names and Surnames

Mirzaboyeva Nafisa Mukhnatdinovna

Teacher of Uzbekistan State University of World Languages

ABSTRACT

This article delves into the fascinating study of German names and surnames, exploring their origins and meanings, as well as their evolution over time. Occupational and geographical influences on names and surnames are examined, along with the significance of pet names and nicknames. From ancient roots to modern-day conventions, this article provides a comprehensive look at the development and cultural significance of German naming traditions.

Keywords:

Naming practice, Migration and globalization, surname, nickname, trend, gender identity.

Onomastics, the study of names and naming practices, has played an important role in understanding the cultural history of the Germans. German names are unique and can give insight into the history, religion and social structure of the German people.

The earliest German names were often two-word compound words with a specific meaning. These names were used to describe a person's physical or personality characteristics or to honor a deity or ancestor. For example, the name "Ermanrik" means "great ruler", while the name "Ingmar" means "famous son". The arrival of Christianity in the 8th and 9th centuries brought a new wave of naming practices to Germany. The Christian Church often encouraged the use of the names of saints given to infants at baptism. These names were used not only to honor the saints, but also to protect the child from evil spirits.

In the Middle Ages, German nobility began to use surnames to distinguish themselves from commoners. Surnames often reflect a person's occupation, location, or

lineage. For example, the surname "Müller" means "miller", while the surname "von Bismarck" means "from Bismarck". The rise of German nationalism in the 19th century led to a renewed interest in German culture and history. During this period, old German names such as Brunhilde and Siegfried, popular in literature and opera, were revived. Today, German naming practices reflect a mixture of traditional and modern influences. Many parents still choose traditional German names for their children such as "Hans" and "Greta", while others choose modern or international names such as "Lena" and "Max". In general, German onomastics reflects the rich and complex history of the German people, from the earliest common names to current modern naming practices.

It should also be noted that Germany is a diverse country with many regional variations in naming practices. For example, in Bavaria it is common to have two names, while in Northern Germany one name is the norm. In recent years, there has been a growing trend

towards gender-neutral names in Germany, with names like "Noah" and "Luka" becoming popular for both boys and girls. This reflects a broader trend towards gender inclusion and equality in many aspects of German society. It is interesting to note that German names have influenced naming practices in other cultures. For example, many English-speaking countries have adopted German names such as "Erik" and "Heidi", and German surnames such as "Smith" and "Miller" are common in many parts of the world.

Another important aspect of German onomastics is the role of naming laws and regulatory documents. Germany has strict laws governing the naming of children, which aim to protect children from being saddled with unusual or embarrassing names. For example, offensive or derisive names, gender neutral or surname-like names, object or product names are not allowed. These regulations reflect Germany's focus on practicality and compliance. In addition, the use of nicknames and diminutives is common in Germany, often as a way of expressing affection or familiarity. For example, the name "Katharina" can be shortened to "Kati" or "Katrin" and the name "Heinrich" can be shortened to "Heinz". These abbreviations often become an integral part of the personality, especially among close family and friends.

German onomastics also reveals the influence of other cultures and languages. As a result of migration and globalization, many German names have been influenced by other languages such as Slavic, Turkish, and Arabic. For example, the name "Yasin" is Arabic, and "Irina" is Slavic. Overall, German onomastics provides a rich overview of the cultural, historical, and social influences that have shaped the naming practices of this vibrant and diverse culture. Whether reflecting ancient pagan beliefs or modern gender-neutral ideals, German names continue to evolve and reflect the changing values and traditions of this dynamic society.

Another interesting aspect of German onomastics is the use of surnames that are passed down from generation to generation. In Germany, surnames are usually given by the

father, although in some cases the mother's surname may be used. The tradition of using surnames dates back to the Middle Ages, when surnames were used as a way to identify a person's lineage and social status. German surnames often reflect the occupation or location of a person's ancestors. For example, the name "Schneider" means "tailor", while the name "Bergmann" means "miner". Other surnames reflect personality traits or nicknames, such as "Klein" for "small" or "Lange" for "tall".

Historical events such as wars and political upheavals also influenced the use of surnames. For example, after World War II, many Germans changed their surnames in an attempt to distance themselves from their Nazi past.

In recent years, there has been a growing trend in Germany to use hyphenated or double-barreled surnames, especially in cases where both parents want to pass on their surnames to their children. This reflects a broader trend towards gender equality and a desire to create more inclusive family structures.

Another interesting aspect of German onomastics is the use of honorifics. Germany has several honorifics used to address people in formal and informal situations. For example, "Herr" and "Frau" are used to refer to men and women, respectively, while "Herr Doktor" and "Frau Doktor" are used to refer to persons with doctoral degrees.

These honorary titles reflect the importance of social hierarchy and respect for authority in German culture. They also emphasize the value placed on education and professional achievement. German naming practices also vary depending on a person's religion. For example, in the Catholic tradition it is customary to name children after saints, while in the Protestant tradition names from the Bible are often used.

It is worth noting that German onomastics had a significant influence on naming practices in other cultures. For example, many Eastern European countries adopted German names and naming practices as a result of centuries of cultural exchange and migration. German onomastics provide a rich and interesting

account of the cultural, historical and social evolution of this dynamic society. From honorifics and patronymics to religion and the influence of migration, German naming practices reflect the diversity and richness of this vibrant culture. Regional variations also affect the spelling and pronunciation of names. For example, the name "Müller" may be spelled "Müllner" to conform to English spelling in the US, while the name "Johann" may be pronounced differently in southern Germany than in northern Germany.

Also, the use of nicknames may vary by region. For example, the name "Thomas" can be shortened to "Tommy" in northern Germany, and "Tomi" in southern Germany.

Another interesting aspect of German onomastics is the use of pet names or "Kosenamen" (pet names). These are affectionate nicknames used between couples or close friends and family members. For example, "Schatzi" means "treasure" in the dictionary and refers to a common caress between romantic couples.

In recent years, there has been a growing trend in Germany to use non-traditional and gender-neutral names. This reflects a broader trend towards gender equality and a desire to create more inclusive naming practices. In general, German onomastics is a reflection of the cultural, historical and social influences that have shaped the naming practices of this vibrant and diverse society. From the importance of regional and dialectal differences to the use of pet names and gender-neutral names, German naming practices continue to evolve and reflect the changing values and traditions of this dynamic culture.

Another important aspect of German onomastics is the use of compound words in the naming practice. In German, nouns combine two or more words to form a new word with a specific meaning. For example, the name "Karlheinz" is a combination of the names "Karl" and "Heinz", while the name "Annegret" is a combination of the names "Anne" and "Margaret". The use of compound nouns shows the importance of language and linguistics in German culture. It also emphasizes the creativity and cheerfulness that

is characteristic of the German language. In addition to compound names, German naming practices also include the use of the patronymic. Here the child's name is taken from his father's name. For example, the name "Hanssen" means "son of Hans." Patronymic names were common in the Middle Ages and are still used in some regions of Germany today. They reflect the importance of genealogy and the passing of surnames from generation to generation.

Another interesting aspect of German onomastics is the use of nicknames or "Spitznamen". These are informal names that are used to refer to someone in a casual or friendly way. For example, "Klaus" may be called "Klausy" by family members or close friends. Nicknames can also be used to distinguish people with the same name. For example, if there are two people named "Maximilian" in a group of friends, one can be named "Maxi" to avoid confusion.

Occupational surnames were common in the Middle Ages, and people were often identified by their profession rather than their surname. Over time, the names of these professions were passed down from generation to generation.

Another interesting aspect of German onomastics is the use of geographical surnames. Many German surnames are derived from the name of a place or region, such as "Hamburg", "Frankfurt" or "Berlin". These surnames reflect the importance of geography and regional identity in German culture. Geographical surnames were also common in the Middle Ages, where people were often identified by where they came from. Over time, the names of these places were passed down from generation to generation.

In addition to occupational and geographic surnames, German naming practice also includes the use of descriptive surnames. These are surnames that describe a physical or personal characteristic, such as "Klein" (small), "Schwarz" (black) or "Gross" (big). Descriptive surnames were often used to distinguish people with the same name, and were also used as a way to identify individuals within a particular community or group. German

onomastics has had a significant influence on naming practices in other cultures. For example, many Jewish surnames in Eastern Europe are derived from German words, reflecting centuries of cultural exchange and migration.

Another trend in modern German naming practice is the use of international or exotic names. As Germany becomes more colorful and multicultural, many parents are choosing names that reflect their cultural heritage or love for other cultures. For example, Arabic, Turkish or African names have become increasingly popular in recent years, reflecting the growing influence of these cultures in German society. In addition, there is a growing trend to use more unique and creative names. This reflects the desire of many parents to give their child a unique and memorable name. However, there are some traditional naming practices that are still popular in Germany. For example, it is common for parents to name their child after a family member, particularly a grandparent. What is this?

One of the interesting developments in recent years, as mentioned above, is the growing trend towards gender-neutral names. This reflects the growing awareness and acceptance of non-binary gender identities in German society and the desire of many parents to give their child a name that does not conform to traditional gender norms.

Another trend is to use hybrid names that combine elements of different languages or cultures. For example, a child may be given a name that combines a traditional German name with names of other cultural origins, such as "Emilia-Sakura" or "Leon-Antonio."

In addition, there is a growing trend to use nature-inspired names that reflect a desire to connect with the natural world and emphasize sustainability and ecology. In general, German naming practices reflect the rich and diverse cultural heritage of this vibrant society, while adapting to changing social and cultural norms. Whether parents choose traditional, modern or creative names for their children, German onomastics continue to evolve and reflect the dynamic and complex nature of this wonderful culture.

It is also worth noting that German naming practices have a rich history that is closely related to the country's cultural and linguistic traditions. For example, many German names derive from Old High German, which was spoken in the region between the 6th and 11th centuries.

In conclusion, German onomastics provides a rich and interesting account of the cultural, historical and social evolution of this dynamic society. From the use of occupational, geographical and descriptive surnames to the effects of migration and cultural exchange, German naming practices reflect the diversity and richness of this vibrant culture.

References:

1. Kunze, K., & Schützeichel, R. Die Namen der Deutschen: Ihre Entstehung und Bedeutung. C. H. Beck. 2014.
2. Bahlow, H. Deutsches Namenlexikon. Suhrkamp Verlag. 1972.
3. Brechenmacher, W. Etymologisches Wörterbuch der Deutschen Familiennamen. Limburg/Lahn. 1987
4. Udolph, J. Namenkunde: Vorlesungen über eine geisteswissenschaftliche Disziplin. Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft. 2004
5. Rymut, K. Deutsche Familiennamen: ihre Entstehung, Bedeutung und Weiterentwicklung. Verlag für Standesamtswesen. 1999.
6. Götze, H. Namenkunde Deutschlands: Eine Einführung. De Gruyter. 2006.
7. Meibert, P. Deutsche Vornamenkunde. Kohlhammer-Verlag. 2004.
8. Hengst, K. Deutsche Namen: Eine Einführung. Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft. 2015.
9. Schützeichel, R. Deutsche Namenkunde: Eine Einführung. WBG (Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft). 2005.