

THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF SURNAMES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19199790>

Abstract. *This article presents a comparative analysis of English and Uzbek surnames, focusing on their historical development, morphological structure, and linguocultural significance. English surnames primarily originated from occupations, patronymics, and toponyms, while Uzbek surnames evolved from personal names and lineage indicators, later influenced by Arabic-Persian culture and Russian-Soviet policies. Post-independence reforms led to a revival of traditional Uzbek forms. The study contributes to anthroponymy and comparative linguistics and provides practical insights for surname registration and the study of linguocultural identity.*

Key words: *English surnames, Uzbek surnames, anthroponymy, comparative analysis, linguocultural identity.*

Surnames constitute an essential component of the anthroponymic system and function as stable linguistic markers of personal identification within a society. As a structural element of personal naming systems, surnames reflect historical continuity, social organization, and cultural identity. Within the field of onomastics, particularly anthroponymy, the study of surnames provides valuable insight into the interaction between language, history, and society.

The evolution of surnames is closely connected with socio-political transformations, migration processes, religious influences, and administrative reforms. Therefore, the comparative investigation of surname systems enables scholars to reveal broader linguistic and cultural patterns. The relevance of this study lies in the growing scholarly interest in comparative anthroponymy and the need to examine surname formation from both historical and linguocultural perspectives. English and Uzbek surname systems represent two distinct historical and cultural traditions shaped by different social structures and political developments.

While English surnames largely stabilized between the 12th and 15th centuries following the Norman Conquest of England, Uzbek surnames underwent significant transformation particularly during the Russian imperial and Soviet periods, when Slavic morphological markers such as *-ov* and *-ev* were widely introduced. The research problem arises from the structural and historical differences in the formation of English and Uzbek surnames. English surnames traditionally developed from occupational names (e.g., *Smith, Baker*), patronymics (e.g., *Johnson*), toponyms, and descriptive characteristics. In contrast, Uzbek naming traditions historically relied on personal names combined with patronymic indicators, tribal affiliations, or honorific titles, with the later imposition of Russian-derived suffixes influencing modern surname morphology. Despite the existence of separate studies on English and Uzbek anthroponymy, a systematic comparative analysis of their historical development remains insufficiently explored. The aim of this research is to identify and analyze the historical stages of surname formation in English and Uzbek and to compare their linguocultural characteristics. The study seeks to determine how socio-political, cultural, and linguistic factors influenced the development of surname systems in both languages. The object of the research is the system of English and Uzbek surnames.

The subject of the research is the historical-linguistic process of their formation and development, including morphological structure, semantic classification, and sociocultural determinants.

Research Methods. This study employs several research methods to investigate the historical development and structural features of surnames in English and Uzbek. First, the comparative-historical method was applied to analyze the origin and stages of development of surnames in both languages within their historical contexts. This method made it possible to identify diachronic changes in surname systems and to determine the influence of socio-political and cultural factors on their formation. Second, the etymological analysis was used to examine the lexical roots, semantic sources, and original meanings of surnames. Through this method, English surnames derived from occupations, patronymics, toponyms, and descriptive characteristics were analyzed, as well as Uzbek surnames formed on the basis of lineage, tribal affiliation, honorific titles, or personal names. Third, the linguocultural analysis enabled the study of surnames in relation to national mentality, cultural values, and social identity. This approach helped reveal the role of surnames as markers of historical memory and cultural continuity within a society.

Additionally, the descriptive method was employed to systematically outline the morphological structure, affixation processes, and structural patterns of surnames in both languages. The research was conducted in several stages. At the first stage, English surnames were classified according to semantic and structural criteria. They were grouped into occupational, patronymic, toponymic, and descriptive categories. At the second stage, Uzbek surnames were examined across different historical periods, including the traditional name-lineage system, transformations during the Russian imperial period, morphological standardization in the Soviet era, and the process of nationalization after independence. At the final stage, a structural comparison of English and Uzbek surnames was carried out. This stage focused on affixation patterns, morphological models, and semantic foundations in order to identify similarities and differences between the two systems.

Results. The analysis demonstrates that the formation of English surnames became systematic after the Norman Conquest of England in 1066. The administrative reforms introduced by the Normans required more precise identification of individuals, which accelerated the stabilization of hereditary surnames between the 12th and 15th centuries. One of the most productive sources of English surnames was occupational naming. Surnames such as *Smith*, *Baker*, *Taylor*, and *Carpenter* originated from professions and reflected the social division of labor in medieval England. Occupational surnames represent one of the largest semantic groups in the English anthroponymic system. Another significant category includes patronymic surnames formed by adding the suffix *-son*, meaning “son of,” as in Johnson, Williamson, and Jackson. This morphological pattern indicates lineage and paternal descent, reflecting the patriarchal structure of medieval English society. Toponymic surnames also played an important role. These surnames were derived from geographical locations, settlements, or natural features, such as Hill, Wood, or Lincoln. They often indicated a person’s place of origin or residence.

The findings confirm that English surnames were primarily formed on the basis of occupation, lineage, and locality, and became hereditary relatively early compared to many other cultures. The Formation of Uzbek Surnames. The study reveals that traditional Uzbek naming practices were initially based on a personal name combined with lineage indicators rather than fixed hereditary surnames.

Identification was commonly expressed through constructions meaning “*son of*” (-o‘g‘li) or “*daughter of*” (-qizi), which reflected kinship relations rather than permanent family names.

The influence of Arabic and Persian culture significantly shaped the Uzbek anthroponymic system, especially after the spread of Islam in Central Asia. Many personal names of Arabic and Persian origin became widespread, and elements such as honorific titles and religious references entered the naming tradition. A major transformation occurred during the Russian imperial and especially the Soviet period. The introduction of Slavic suffixes such as *-ov* and *-ev* led to the formal standardization of surnames (e.g., Karimov, Tursunov). These suffixes functioned as morphological markers of family names and were imposed through administrative and passport systems. Following Uzbekistan’s independence in 1991, changes in surname practices were observed. Some families began removing Slavic suffixes and returning to traditional Uzbek forms, including the use of *-o‘g‘li* and *-qizi*, reflecting a process of national and cultural revival. Structural Differences Between English and Uzbek Surnames.

The comparative analysis identifies several structural differences between the two surname systems. From a morphological perspective, English surnames are generally root-based and often lack overt derivational markers in their modern form (e.g., *Smith, Brown, Hill*). In contrast, Uzbek surnames frequently contain identifiable suffixes, particularly *-ov/-ev*, which serve as morphological indicators of family affiliation. In terms of affixation, English patronymic forms with *-son* are limited to specific historical patterns and are not universally productive in modern naming. Uzbek surname morphology, however, shows stronger reliance on affixation, especially under Russian influence. Regarding gender marking, English surnames are typically gender-neutral and do not change according to the sex of the individual. In Uzbek naming tradition influenced by Russian patterns, feminine forms may take the suffix *-ova* or *-eva*, indicating grammatical gender distinctions in official documents. Overall, the results demonstrate that while English surnames stabilized earlier and developed primarily from socio-economic categories, Uzbek surnames underwent later institutional standardization and reflect stronger historical-political influence on morphological structure.

Discussion. Role of Historical Factors. The findings indicate that historical factors played a significant role in the formation of English and Uzbek surnames. Political influences, particularly the Norman Conquest, facilitated the systematic development of English surnames, while in Uzbekistan, the administrative policies of the Russian Empire and the Soviet period led to the standardization of family names. Religious factors also had a notable impact on surname systems.

In Uzbek anthroponymy, the influence of Arabic and Persian cultures, as well as Islam, is clearly evident. Similarly, some early English surnames reflect religious titles and epithets, linking personal identification with social and religious contexts. Colonialism and imperial influence significantly affected Uzbek surnames. The introduction of Slavic suffixes *-ov* and *-ev*, combined with administrative regulations and documentation systems, transformed surnames morphologically, giving them new structural and social significance. *Linguocultural Aspects.* Surnames function as markers of personal and societal linguocultural identity. The study shows that while English surnames primarily reflect socio-economic status and geographic origin, Uzbek surnames are closely tied to national consciousness, lineage, and tribal affiliation. Identity issues are particularly important: a surname not only identifies an individual but also signifies family, tribe, and national belonging. In post-independence Uzbekistan, the revival of traditional surname forms reflects a conscious restoration of national identity.

In contrast, English surnames historically indicated personal identity largely through occupation, patronymics, and locality. Globalization also affects surname systems. For example, in Uzbekistan, there is a growing tendency to abandon Slavic suffixes and revert to traditional forms, as well as to adapt surnames for international contexts. *Theoretical Significance.* This study contributes to the theory of anthroponymy by providing a comparative historical, morphological, and linguocultural analysis of English and Uzbek surnames. The findings allow for the identification of similarities and differences between the two systems and demonstrate how surname formation is linked to social and cultural contexts. Moreover, the results have significance for comparative linguistics.

By analyzing the surname systems of two languages and cultures, the study enhances the understanding of linguocultural identity and onomastic processes, thereby providing a solid theoretical foundation for investigating the interaction between language and culture.

Conclusion. This study focused on the comparative analysis of the historical development, morphological structure, and linguocultural characteristics of English and Uzbek surnames. The results indicate that English surnames primarily originated from occupational, patronymic, and toponymic sources and became hereditary and stabilized between the 12th and 15th centuries. In contrast, Uzbek surnames were initially based on personal names and lineage indicators, later influenced by Arabic-Persian culture, the Russian Empire, and the Soviet administrative policies, which led to morphological changes. In the post-independence period, a process of nationalization led to a revival of traditional Uzbek surname forms. The findings contribute to the theory of anthroponymy by providing a historical, morphological, and linguocultural comparison of English and Uzbek surnames, allowing researchers to identify similarities and differences between the two systems. From a practical perspective, these results can be applied in the compilation of anthroponymic dictionaries, official surname registration, and the study of linguocultural identity.

They also provide insights into understanding surname formation within both national and global contexts.

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