ENGLISH DERIVATIVES FORMED FROM ANTHROPONYMIC BASES

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Abstract

This article focuses on the derivational aspect of anthroponyms in English, providing examples and analyzing the structural patterns that define them. Among the patterns there have been revealed suffixal, prefixal formations as well as creations based on conversion. By understanding the role of derived anthroponyms, we gain valuable insights into the mechanisms of word formation and the cultural significance of names in the English-speaking world.

Keywords: Anthroponymic derivation, affixation, conversion, lexico-grammatical groups, semantic groups.

Introduction

Proper names, while not as extensive as common names in usage, play a significant role in the linguistic landscape. They serve as a foundation for the creation of idiomatic expressions, enriching the language with unique and culturally nuanced phrases [1, 1995; 4, 2005; 5, 2024]. For instance, idioms such as 'an Uncle Tom' or 'keeping up with the Joneses' demonstrate how proper names become embedded in idiomatic language, adding depth and vibrancy to communication. Additionally, proper names are often modified with diminutive forms, such as 'Johnny' from 'John' or 'Lizzie' from 'Elizabeth.'[2, 1991]. Although these are not new names, they bring an element of informality and warmth to the language, contributing to its dynamic and expressive nature. Beyond idiomatic and diminutive forms, proper names also serve as the basis for anthroponymic derivatives - terms derived from personal names that reflect societal attitudes, professions, or roles. For example, Newtonian (from Isaac Newton) and Shakespearean (from William Shakespeare) highlight how proper names influence lexical innovation. And it is just this lexical layer that can be identified as anthroponymic derivatives, has been chosen for investigation in this study to explore its role in linguistic creativity and cultural expression.

In the English language, word formation plays a crucial role in expanding its lexicon, contributing to the richness and versatility of the language. Structurally, words in English can be classified into three major types: root, derived and compound words. Each of these types reflects a different method of word formation and demonstrates how the English language evolves and adapts.

Root words, the simplest form, contain no affixes and represent the most basic linguistic unit, such as run or book. Derived words, however, involve the addition of prefixes and suffixes to root words, transforming them into new terms. For example, from the root 'happy', we derive unhappy, happiness, and unhappiness through affixation. Compound words are formed by

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combining two or more root words, such as notebook or toothpaste, which often express a more specific meaning.

While all three structural types are widely represented in the English language, their distribution is not uniform. Derived words form the largest percentage of English vocabulary, significantly outnumbering both root and compound words. According to linguistic research, it is estimated that derived words make up roughly 40-50% of the English lexicon, while root words account for about 30%, and compound words make up approximately 20-30%.[3, 1983]. The sheer volume of derived words makes them an essential subject of study for anyone interested in the linguistic characteristics of English or any other language.

Derived words in English can be formed from bases with various semantic properties. These bases can belong to different semantic categories, such as abstract nouns, concrete nouns, adjectives, or even proper names. The latter ones serving as a foundation for anthroponymic formations - units derived from personal names - play a significant role in this process. And it is these derivatives that the given article focuses on.

The above mentioned formations, known as derived anthroponyms, show how personal names can be transformed into other parts of speech or concepts, often through the use of various affixes. For instance, from the name Kemal, we derive Kemalist [the analyzed words were mainly picked up from The World Book Dictionary 5, 1987], referring to followers of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk's principles. Similarly, from Marx, we derive Marxism, and from Napoleon, the term Napoleonic arises, each illustrating how personal names can evolve into terms representing ideologies, movements, or characteristics.

Anthroponymic derivation is a prominent phenomenon in English, where words are formed from personal names. These words can be derived from male or female given names, as well as family names, In many cases, family names, or surnames, serve as the base for creating words that represent political, ideological, or social movements, as well as characteristics associated with an individual.

For example, the word Putinist is derived from the surname Putin and refers to someone who supports or adheres to the policies of Vladimir Putin. Similarly, Thatcherite comes from the surname Thatcher, referring to a follower of the policies of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Words such as Humean - a follower of the philosopher Hume; Heraclitian - a follower of Heraclitus; Albertist - a follower of Albert Magnus; Hobbist - a follower of Hobbes or advocate of Hobbism; Rtvalist - a follower of Kemal Attaturk; Mozinian - a follower or adherent of Mazzini; Shakespearean (from Shakespeare) or Darwinian (from Darwin) not only denote followers or adherents but also characteristics or schools of thought related to these historical figures.

These derivatives are mostly formed through suffixation, a common word formation process in English. Suffixes such as -ist, -ian, -ite, and -esque are highly productive in the language and are frequently attached to proper names. For instance: Marx - Marxist (a supporter of Karl Marx's ideas); Lenin - Leninist (a supporter of Lenin's ideologies); Kafka - Kafkaesque (describing situations reminiscent of Franz Kafkas works)

In addition to surnames, given names also contribute to the formation of new words. From the male name Alex, we derive Alexandrian, referring to the Hellenistic culture that flourished in

Alexandria under the influence of Alexander the Great. Similarly, the female name Victoria has given rise to Victorian, which refers to the period of Queen Victoria's reign and is used to describe characteristics associated with that time, such as moral strictness and societal norms.

The majority of anthroponym-derived words in English are formed through suffixation, as mentioned earlier. The following are some of the most productive suffixes: -ist: used to form nouns referring to followers or adherents (e.g., Marxist, Putinist); -ian: used to form both adjectives and nouns (e.g., Darwinian); -ite: used to form nouns denoting followers or members of a group (e.g., Thatcherite, Socratesite); -esque: used to form adjectives describing characteristics that are reminiscent of a particular individual (e.g., Kafkaesque, Picaresque). These suffixes not only help to create new words but also shape the meaning of the resulting word by indicating either affiliation (-ist, -ite) or resemblance (-esque).

Prefixation, although less common in anthroponymic derivation, can still be found in certain contexts. Prefixes such as anti- and pro- are sometimes added to personal names to indicate opposition or support, respectively. For example: anti-Thatcherite (opposed to Thatcher's policies); Anti-Hitler (Someone opposed to Hitler's ideology or policies); pro-Kemalist (supportive of Kemalism); pro-Clinton; Pro-Biden; neo-Darwinist (A supporter of the modern interpretation or revival of Darwin's theories, especially in evolutionary biology); pseudo-Aristotelian (Something that falsely claims to be based on Aristotle's ideas or style).

Prefix-derived words formed from proper nouns (such as personal names or surnames) typically indicate a relationship or stance towards the person in question. Prefixes like pro- and anti- denote support or opposition, respectively. Other prefixes like neo.- (meaning "new") are used to refer to modem versions of past theories or ideologies, while pseudo- (meaning "false") is used to indicate a false claim or imitation of someone's style, philosophy, or ideas. These prefixes add layers of meaning, typically signaling a stance towards the person or ideology represented by the name.

The words derived from personal names tend to fall into various lexical-grammatical classes. Most commonly, these formations result in nouns and adjectives. Nouns are often used to denote followers, ideologies, or groups of people associated with a particular person. For example: Leninist (noun) refers to a follower of Lenin; Putinist (noun) refers to a supporter of Putin.

Adjectives, on the other hand, are used to describe characteristics or qualities that are attributed to a particular individual. For instance: Shakespearean (adjective) describes something related to the works of Shakespeare; Napoleonic (adjective)

refers to the policies or characteristics of Napoleon. In addition to nouns and adjectives, some verbs can also be derived from personal names, although this is less common. For example, to bowdlerize, derived from Thomas Bowdler, means to censor or modify a text by removing potentially offensive material; mesmerize

from: Franz Mesmer, who developed theories about animal magnetism, meaning: to captivate or hypnotize; lynch - from: Captain William Lynch, associated with informal trials and punishments in the U.S., meaning: to punish someone (especially by hanging) without a legal trial.

The meanings of anthroponym-derived words can vary widely, depending on the base name and the affixes used. The resulting words often denote ideologies, movements, characteristics, or styles associated with the person from whom the word is derived. For instance: Marxism refers to the political and economic theories of Karl Marx: Thatcherism refers to the policies of Margaret Thatcher, particularly regarding free markets and individualism; Freudian refers to the psychological theories of Sigmund Freud, particularly those related to the unconscious mind.

In some cases, the derived words can take on a more generalized meaning, extending beyond the original person's influence. For example, Napoleonic is not only used to describe Napoleon's policies but also applies more broadly to any authoritarian rule resembling that of Napoleon.

Detailed consideration of proper names in respect -to word formation elements that interact with this category of words, has made it possible to reveal that they not only participate in the creation of units functioning within the same anthroponymic category but also take an active part in the formation of language units identified by different semantic features.

When examining the semantic groups within anthroponymic derivatives, we can identify several clear categories based on linguistic data:

1. Followers or adherents of a particular ideology: Words like Putinist (supporter of Vladimir Putin) or Marxist (follower of Karl Marx) denote individuals aligned with the ideas of a specific figure. These examples are well documented in dictionaries and represent a productive semantic group tied to political and ideological affiliation.

2. Ideologies or doctrines: Derivatives such as Thatcherism or Leninism represent the ideologies or political movements associated with these figures. This category is common in historical and political discourse, where -ism is a productive suffix used to create terms denoting ideologies.

3. Stylistic or artistic influence: Terms like Shakespearean (related to Shakespeare's works) or Dickensian (referring to themes or characters in Charles Dickens' works) describe literary or stylistic characteristics. The Oxford English Dictionary confirms these words as markers of influence within the artistic or cultural domains.

4. Representation of a character or identity: Words like Napoleonic (referring to traits associated with Napoleon Bonaparte) or Elizabethan (related to the reign of Queen Elizabeth I) mean historical periods or characteristics. These terms are prevalent in historical contexts and are well represented in English language corpora.

5. Social or professional roles: Occasionally, derivatives like 'nightingales' (referring to nurses, inspired by Florence Nightingale) highlight roles or professions named after figures. Although less frequent, this group emphasizes the societal impact of key individuals.

It is important to note that these groups are often more populated with derivatives from masculine names. For instance, terms like Marxist, Darwinism, and Napoleonic are widespread, while those based on feminine names are fewer, such as Elizabethan. This disparity reflects broader historical trends, where male figures have been more frequently immortalized through word formation processes.

The study of anthroponymic derivatives not only reveals key word formation processes but also provides insight into the semantic richness of these words. The groups identified - followers of ideologies, doctrines, stylistic influences, character representations, and professional roles - are derived from dictionary entries and linguistic corpora, confirming their validity in the language. By focusing on both derivational tools and the semantic roles these words play, we can better understand how names influence and reflect societal, cultural, and cultural developments. These formations can be based on both male and female names or surnames and are often used in political, ideological, or cultural contexts to indicate alignment or opposition to the person's influence or ideas.

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