



## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### THE ORIGIN AND MEANING OF AZERBAIJAN PERSONAL NAMES

**\*Zemfira İsahan kızı Abbasova**

Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University

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#### ABSTRACT

The study aims to learn the creation of Azerbaijan personal names. This article deals with the researching history of anthroponyms in Azerbaijan Onomastics. In this scientific work the origin and meaning of personal names are investigated scientifically. The linguistic features of onomastic unites have been attracted to the scientific research and have been received interesting facts. And also it has been used from the list of rich literature.

## INTRODUCTION

The Azerbaijan language is a language which has the tradition of many centuries' writing among Turkic languages. Writing lots of works in this language doesn't provoke surprise. Onomastic lexics has also a great and important role in the area of learning writer's tongue and style. Many scientific works have been written in this area by our scientists. So that A. Gurbanov's, R. Eyvazova's, Q. Mustafayeva's, H. Huseynova's and etc. researches can be an example of this. Onomastic lexics of our prominent writers Samed Vurghun's, Suleyman Rustem's, Mammad Said Ordubadi's and etc. works has been investigated in the scientific works of mentioned authors. But there are few linguists who have established a scientific school in the history of Azerbaijani linguists. The second half of the XX century is considered a special phase in the development of Azerbaijani linguistics, and the formation of Azerbaijani onomatology as an independent branch of theoretical linguistics—a scientific school—in this phase is directly connected with the nature and activity of Afad Gurbanov. The modern Azerbaijani literary language is a developed language with rich vocabulary. Onomastic vocabulary—the series of personal names—comprises a large layer in the vocabulary of this language. Word groups included in onomastic vocabulary are the product of specific social and historical development and represent an

irreplaceable wealth of words reflecting the life style of the people it belongs to.

### The Importance of this study

Comprehensive research into onomastic vocabulary is of great importance for studying the modern language, dialectology, history of language and other areas. In Azerbaijani linguistics research into onomastic vocabulary, which for a long period of time had remained outside the scope of research, commenced in around the 1950s. But this research was conducted from a narrow perspective, any trend towards a comprehensive investigation of a group of proper names from a linguistic standpoint was purely accidental; the study of onomastic vocabulary was characterized by a lack of system and incompleteness; no fundamental research was conducted and only etymological suppositions were put forward. This was due above all to the absence of any works reflecting theoretical and practical problems in this scientific area. Professor A.Gurbanov wrote: "Every word should be investigated comprehensively. There are not, there can't be, any meaningless words in the language, and each word and expression has a particular meaning. However, some words may express not one but several meanings. We can say that all the proper names in our language are lexical units with an appellative meaning. When it becomes an onomastic unit an appellative word turns into a proper name". The "Azerbaijani Onomatology" scientific school created by A.Gurbanov has become famous all over the world (USA, Canada, Finland,

Belgium, Norway, Turkey, Russia, Iran and etc.). Onomastics is the study of names. Names of all kinds—names of people (e.g. first name, middle names, surnames, nicknames), names of places (e.g. countries, districts, cities, towns, villages), names of landscape features (e.g. seas, rivers, streams, lakes, mountains, hills, valleys, forests, woods, moors, marshes), name of buildings (e.g. houses, churches, mosques, pubs, schools, airports, hotels, railway stations), names of routeways (e.g. roads, streets, paths, tracks, bridges, fords, canals, shipping routes), names of animals (e.g. pets, greyhounds, racehorses, cows), names of ethnic and social groups (e.g. nations, tribes, political parties, clubs, sports, teams), names of events (e.g. competitions, fairs, races), names of astronomical features (e.g. planets, stars), names of vehicles (e.g. aircrafts, locomotives, ships), names of commercial products (e.g. chocolates, lipsticks, wines), names of creative works (e.g. books, films, plays, poems), names in fiction as well as in the real world—the list goes on and on. Every language unit playing an important role in our cultural life including the investigation of onomastic lexics is important for each time.

The study of personal names (anthroponymy) is related to genealogy, sociology, and anthropology. A person's full name usually identifies that person for legal and administrative purposes, although it may not be the name by which the person is commonly known, some people use only a portion of their full name, or are known by titles, nicknames, or other formal or informal designations. The academic study of names is called anthroponymy. Onomastics is a branch of linguistics implementing investigative procedures appropriate to linguistics and resulting from the character and function of this particular category of sign. But anthroponymy is a branch of Onomastics and it is the study of personal names. Interest in names or what could be called the germs of onomastics can be found in myths, legends of ethnogenesis and works of Literature as long as thousands of years ago. But all over the world, it was the nineteenth century that saw the beginning of scholarly studies in onomastics (Intern HO. 1995, Vol. I, p.287).

### International studies

In several countries they were started in the early nineteenth century (England, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Italy, South-Africa, Japan, Australia, etc.), in others either in the middle (Switzerland, Slovenia, Croatia, USA, Estonia, Russia, etc.) or at the end of nineteenth century (Scotland, Iceland, Roumania, Finland, Lithuania, Poland, Bulgaria, Spain, Portugal, Mexico, etc.) but in Azerbaijan in the second half of the twentieth century. For many years the scientist Afad Qurbanov was primarily interested in issues of onomastics, conducting research and achieving increasingly innovative results. His first scientific work related to onomatology was his article "Azerbaijani Personal Names and their Characteristics" published in Tibilisi in 1956. Later on the researcher published his books "Modern Azerbaijani Literary Language" (1985, "Onomatology section"), "Azerbaijani Onomastics" (1986), "Issues of Azerbaijani Onomastics" (1986), "Poetic Onomastics" (1988), "Scientific and Methodic Instructions about Onomatology". There are names existing in the dictionary structure of every language in the world. Total of proper names is called onomastics. Every proper name in the language-onomastic unit is the harvest of the socio-historical development. It is known that simple words organize the base of personal names. Names of men and women are

formed from the words belonging to the same people. Name is as like as national clothes. It can seem to one as strange, ridiculous, and meaningless but the others as funny, interesting, and meaningful. But the names which the people has created in his country are always comfortable, beautiful, and suitable.

### Generalizing all of these, the investigation of onomastic units can be considered importantly from a few sides

- a) For giving completely the description of the dictionary composition of the language.
- b) Knowing or writing correctly the onomastic units is one of means influencing to the human general culture.
- c) Learning onomastic unites helps to be opened some problems of History, Ethnography, Sociology and Geographical sciences.
- d) As remaining the track of the form and conceptions which is not existing in the language now in many of the onomastic unites, the investigation of them is considered the most complex and important area of the linguistics. It can give necessary facts for Language History, Dialectology, and Style.

But there are onomastic problems which were not given the scientific explanation in Azerbaijan linguistics. First of all, terms concerning onomastics must be defined precisely, the onomastic dictionary of some writers should be compiled, stylistic sides of this language unique must be defined. Names used in art works serve to the writer's definite purpose. The name is used for naming the art image. In written Literature the craftsmen use from proper names in two directions:

1. Real onomastic units received from the people's tongue.
2. Poetical onomastic units which the writer has created.

The Azerbaijan Society of Onomastic Study was founded by Afad Qurbanov in Azerbaijan in 1986 and was called Azerbaijan Onomastics Scientific Society (AOSS). Its first (1986) and second (1988) were held At Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University. Most scientists, post graduates, linguists, historians, geographers took part in the conference. And also scientists from other countries, such as from Alma-Ata, Makhachkala, Coucand, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Bishkek, Dashkend, Kazan, Ashkhabad, Uzbekistan, Lvov and etc. came to the conference. Onomastic center was created at the faculty of Philology, Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University. From that time the day of Onomastics is celebrated on October 25 every year. The real effect of AOSS on Azerbaijan onomastic research has been felt since 1986, when its periodical "Journal of Onomastics" was started. At first it published studies and articles on all types of proper names from several regions and villages in Azerbaijan. The name is part of the person. Most names originated as meaningful words.

### The origin of the study

The proper name, 'ad', can consist of an adjective in any of its different forms, including participle or elative; of a noun (either concrete or abstract); or of a verb. Among the concrete nouns, animal names abound, partly for the animals characteristics or, in some cases, when the animal mentioned was the first thing seen after the baby's birth. (Annemarie Schimmel, 1992; Intern, Jurgen Kurt Stark, 2004). Lions are especially frequent: Asad,

Aslan, Shiraslan, Shirzad and etc. Birds, especially predatory ones, are good omens for a brave boy, Tarlan, Shahin, Shahbaz.

However, as people's intellect and horizons broadened, children began to be named in hope of their destiny:

- 1) A desire to see a child healthy, strong and brave created such names as Dagh (mountain), Deniz (sea), Polad (steel).
- 2) For a future of achievement there were names like Khan, Agha, Aykhan (king of the moon), Ulduzkhan (king of the star), Ayetkhan, and etc.
- 3) An indomitable person needed a name like Bugha (bull), Aslan (lion), Shahin (falcon, a hunting bird), Tarlan (hawk) and etc.
- 4) Women's names or matronyms generally reflect a desire for tenderness and beauty: Inji (delicate), Jeyran (gazelle), Turaj (partridge), Maral (deer) and etc.
- 5) Names of flowers and tender plants also became a popular source of names: Lale (poppy), Chichek (flower), Qerenfil (carnation) and etc.
- 6) All nature served the Muslims for names, beginning with the Sun and the Moon: Shams, Shamistan, Gunesh, Aygun, Gunay, Aydan, Aylin; with the Sky: Sema, Asiman; with the mountains: Elbrus; or lightning: Ildirim and many more are bestowed on children.
- 7) Abstract nouns are of course: Umid (hope), Ughur (luck), Arzu (wish), Sevinj (joy) and etc.
- 8) Infinitive verbs appear in as names: Solmaz, Qorkhmaz, Guven and etc.
- 9) The use of adjectives for 'adlar' (names) is common in Azeri as well: Gozel (nice), Goycek (beautiful), Narmin (soft) and etc.
- 10) Precious stones and metals also became personal names: Inji ( pearl), Yaqut (ruby), Mirvari (pearl), Altun (gold), Almaz (diamond) etc. ([www. vision. az/social,371/](http://www.vision.az/social,371/)). And also there are certain names that are common to both men and women, although they are quite rare: Tarlan (the name of a bird), Arzu (wish) and etc.
- 11) Common nouns are ulduz (star), qalib (winner), ayna (mirror) and etc.

The rose is very prominent in women's names in Turkish areas. Names with 'gul' (modern Persian 'gol', which now denotes 'flower' in general abound – Gulustan (rose garden), Gulshen (rose and joy), Gulperi (rose fairy), Charming also Baghdagul (rose in the garden), Yazgul (spring rose) and etc. Another favourite word is 'nur' (light) – Nurjan (light and body), Nurali, Nurdan (dawn of light), Nuray (light and moon). In purely Azeri names 'ay' (moon) occurs very often, as in Aysel (moon like), Ayten (moon body), Shenay (happy moon), Gunay (sun-moon), Aynur (moon and light). Like other people the Azerbaijanis have long been in the habit of adding titles and distinctions to their proper names. To turn to the derivation of Azerbaijan names and the causes for the selection of the words used for them. These causes appear to be—

- 1) The religious aspirations of the parents
- 2) Natural affection
- 3) Developed peculiarities
- 4) Special superstitions
- 5) Special customs
- 6) Names taken from other languages

Every language unit which plays an important role in people's cultural life, and also the researching of onomastic lexics is necessary at all times. Religious names, meaning by that term those having a direct reference to religious terminology, form a very large portion of Azeri proper names. The period following the adoption of Islam. The most significant feature of this period was that, names taken from the religion and its revered figures became increasingly common among Azerbaijanis: as an example we can show hundreds of examples of men and women's names such as Muhammad, Ali, Osman, Omar, Abubekir, Hassan, Husein, Allahqulu (slave of Allah), Abdulla, Fatima, Khadija, Aisha, Afet, Afaq, Fakhriya, etc. In this period some personal names of Turkic origin remained in use, however many Arabic and Persian were also introduced as personal names even when they were not so used in their original language. These include men's names such as Adil, Alim, Vali, Vidadi, Vugar, Qudrat, Abil, Panah, Ramazan, Rahim, Fazil, Farid, Khalid, Vefa, Hijran, Hidayet etc. and women's names Arifa, Afiyat, Vefa, Dilara, Leyla, Leman, Nurida, Ruhanghiz, Sakina, Tarana, Tahmina, Khuraman, Shafagat, and others.

The morphological features of personal names are as the following:

1. Personal names creating with lexical style.
2. Personal names creating with semantical style.
3. Personal names creating with morphological style.
4. Personal names creating with syntactical style.

It is known that Azerbaijan personal names are divided into three groups by morphological structure. (8, 137).

1. Simple personal names—Sefer (visit), Lale (poppy), Bahar (Spring) and etc.
2. Derivative personal names—Sachli (haired), Gullu (flowered) and etc.
3. Compound personal names—Hasanagha, Mahammedali and etc.

M. Chobanov had separated the personal names into two places in artistic works:

1. The natural names coming from the people's language to artistic language.
2. Artificial (inventing) names creating by the author directly, or to be more true the names characterised the satirist type and creating effect.(9, p.87).

## The results

As the result we can say that onomastic system has been investigated in a wide form, and their lexical--semantical, grammatical features have been analyzed scientifically, structural types of onomastic unites have been found out, poetical features of anthroponyms have been identified, onomastic unites originated from Arabic, Persian, Russian and European languages have been discovered. This work was supported by Science Development Foundation under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan –Grant N--EIF-Mob-6-2014-3(18)-07/06/5

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