

A Cross-Cultural Analysis of Nicknaming Practices in English and Uzbek Societies"

Manzurakhon Nasriddinova

English teacher, Kimyo International University in Tashkent e-mail: manzura98nasriddinova@gmail.com

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Annotation: The cultural and linguistic facets of nicknaming customs in English-speaking and Uzbek societies are examined in this article. It examines how given names, character attributes, physical attributes, actions, and social roles are used to create nicknames. In contrast to the more straightforward and loving forms frequently employed in English, the essay emphasizes the impact of Russian diminutive forms on Uzbek nicknames. It illustrates how nicknames convey cultural values, humor, affection, and even sarcasm through examples and comparative charts. The study emphasizes how nicknames function in both cultures as unofficial yet effective means of social connection and identity.

Keywords: Nicknames, Uzbek culture, English culture, given names, personality traits, physical appearance, cultural comparison, linguistic influence, social identity, informal naming, anthroponymy

Nicknames are informal and special names which are given by people’s friends, family or relatives to to specific people to show familiarity, humor, personality or affection. In both English and Uzbek culture opting for nicknames for people is related to different aspects such as appearance and behaviour. These are not unique nicknames that people get from others based on their personality. Instead, they are generic nicknames that can be applied to anyone with similar physical or personality characteristics (such as hair color, body shape and interaction style). Some of nicknames can be offensive that might offend the targeted person, while others can be neutral or adorable. Actually, all nicknames are not used when talking directly to a person, on the contrary, such nicknames are used more often in the third person, but occasionally in the second person [7]. In case of similarity of choosing a nickname, there are some strategies in both nationalities. Firstly, it is probably based on people’s given names. Their names can be cut to make it short to catch easily. When it comes to analyzing nicknames, two aspects of monikers are important, i.e. meaning and form, as a fundamental part of any language unit [1].

Given Name (Uzbek)	Nicknames (Uzbek)	Given I Name (English)	Nicknames (English)
Gulnora	Guli	Robert	Rob, Bob
Nodira	Nodi, Nodish	Christopher	Chris or Topher
Dilshod	Dili	Jonathan	Jon or Johnny
Temur	Tima or Temka	Willam	Will, Bill
Otabek	Otash	Samson	Sam
Muhammad	Muxi		
Shahribonu	Bonush		

As it is seen on the schedule most Uzbek nicknames are made being affected by Russian culture in which they usually end with suffixes -sh, -sha, -ich, -ochka are added for endearment:

Mikhail	Mishka, Misha, Mishenka
Natalia	Nata, Natasha
Dmitry	Dimka, Dima
Ivan	Vanya, Vanyusha
Alexander	Sasha, Sashka
Ekaterina	Katya, Katyushka

Secondly, person's behavior and character can prompt nicknames to be made. These types of nicknames are getting very popular among people in both cultures. They are usually used by one's very close relatives or friends.

Nicknames (Uzbek)	Features	Nicknames (English)	Features
Bekorchixo'ja	The person who is lazy	Chatterbox	the person who is talkative
Tinchlikparvar	The person who is for peace	Boss	natural leader
Sher	The person who is brave and strong	Smarty	person who is clever
Shef	The person who is bossy	Sunshine	person who is cheerful or positive
Mulla	The person who is religious	Giggles	someone who laughs a lot

Thirdly, in both cultures an epithet is chosen to name a particular person to show how their appearance looks like. Unlike such English nicknames, Uzbek nicknames are usually used to sarcastically name the people.

Nicknames (Uzbek)	Features	Nicknames (English)	Features
Ko'kko'z	Blue eyes	Blue	Blue eyes
Sariqvoy	blond	Shorty	short
qiltiriq	Skinny	Slim	thin
Shakar	Sweet	Curly	Curly hair
Baqaloq	fat	Red	Red hair
Shilanka	tall		

Another aspect of making nicknames for people is related to their passions, interests and hobbies. That is why, in both cultures it plays a great role to form new nicknames.

Nicknames (Uzbek)	Features	Nicknames (English)	Features
Ashulachi	The person who sings a song	Bookworm	The person who loves reading
Sartarosh	The person who cuts the hair	Chef	The person who enjoys cooking
Bozorchixona	The person who loves	Gamer	Person who plays a

	the market		lot of games
Futbolchi	The peron who plays football	Runner	The person who loves running
Qovunxo'r	The person who loves eating melon	footballer	The person who plays football

In both cultures people name their family members based on how they are close to one another. Even though in Uzbek language people opt for naming their family members as the name taken from the dictionary, naming them after their own names is not social norm that can be accepted as an disrespectful relationship. It is possible to address others with thier names. For instance, they might say *Olim tog'a*, *Halima amma*, *Mohina opa* or *Fozil aka*. However, English people are inclined to call their someone significant with their given names or nick names such as, *Sam*, *Tom*, *Mark*, etc. Nevertheless, it is not common for all relatives in communicative cases. For example, they do not usually call their parents with their given names. They might use theirr names or nicks to address to their step parents.

Nicknames (Uzbek)	definitions	Nicknames (English)	definitions
Ota	father	Daddy, dad	father
Oyi	mother	Mommy, mom	mother
Tog'a	uncle	uncle	uncle
aka	brother	Bro	brother
Opa	Sister	Sis	Sister
domla	teacher	professor	Teacher
Hokim	mayor	mayor	Mayor

The names can be created based on the ironic circumstances. The names are sometimes used humorously or sarcastically. The people can be named pertaining to their behaviour, character, and personality. The are usually used to laugh at, criticize or give a hint that someone has a particular character.

Nicknames (Uzbek)	Features	Nicknames (English)	Features
Yulduz	The person who shows off	Silent	The person who is very talkative
Professor	The person who pretends to know everything	Tiny	Very big or large
Chaqqon	Very slow, not active	speedy	The person who is always slow
Boyvachcha	The person who acts as rich but not	Einstein	The person who is stupid, not smart
Yozuvchi	The person who complains for everything	Tall	The person who is short, not tall

In conclusion, nicknames are a rich representation of interpersonal interactions, language traditions, and cultural values. Nicknames are used in both Uzbek and English cultures to convey affection, characterize personal characteristics, and sometimes make lighthearted or ironic remarks. Uzbek nicknames are heavily inspired by Russian language traditions and frequently have deeper meanings than English nicknames, which tend to focus on reducing given names or making lighthearted references to physical or character features. The usage of nicknames in both countries, despite cultural variations, emphasizes the innate human need to use language to personalize relationships and identity. Gaining insight into these naming customs enhances our understanding of cultural identity and highlights the

universal human desire for expression and connection.

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