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The evolution of the Kazakh surnames: "For" and "against"

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Abstract

The paper deals with the main peculiarities of Kazakh family names, their brief characteristics as a historical category performing important social and legal functions. It studies their development from the ancient times and specific features of functioning in the twentieth century focusing on the modern period (1990-2012). The article assigns a special reference to structural models and naming patterns of Kazakh surnames and the problem of their official registration. It gives the results of the conducted pilot content analysis monitoring the viewpoints of Kazakh people in connection with recent trends observed in surname formation.
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1. Introduction

Family names or surnames that people carry take a special place in the vocabulary of any language. Their appearance is directly connected with the historical formation of a certain lingual and cultural society. Podolskaya N.V. (1988) indicates that surnames do only denote but also identify, differentiate, mark, etc. (p.145). They perform important social and communicative functions, and the main ones are *nominative* (naming individuals), *identifying* (distinguishing individuals in society), *unifying* (uniting members of the same family, clan) and *defining* (differentiating members of one family, clan from members of another family, clan) (Madieva, Suprun 2011, p. 76).

2. The state of the problem

2.1. Brief outline of surnames as a historical category

It is obvious that the appearance of surnames was caused by the necessity to differentiate individuals of the developing community, when a proper name was no longer capable to individualize a particular member of the expanding society. Hence, a family name is a unique identifier, a specific bar code (http://articles.gazeta.kz/art.asp?aid=102411), which, in contrast to first names, may give information about its bearer: his clan affiliation, ancestors' names, occupation, place of residence, and parentage. Besides, in comparison with surnames the register of proper names is more limited, and they (proper names) are characterized by repetitiveness.

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Table 1 shows the statistics of the Kazakh population in different time periods (http://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Population of Kazakhstan).

Table 1. The Number of Kazakhs in the period of 1897-2009

1897	1926	1939	1959	1970	1979	1989	1999	2009
3392751	3627612	2327625	2794966	4161164	5289349	6534616	7985039	10096763

The figures in the table reveal a significant increase in the size of the Kazakh population in the country, for just over a century the Kazakh population increased by 6,704,012, i.e. almost three times. This fact, in turn, necessitated the appearance and formation of the structure of Kazakh surnames and their diversity. (It should be noted for comparison that in the world there are nearly 7 billion people who need additional identification, the role of which is performed by family names or other appellations similar to surnames).

These data can be regarded as one of the criteria to prove that the surname is a historical category representing an additional individualizing sign which performs important social and legal functions: individuals' identification and socialization in society. In different cultures a surname is not strictly defined, and it can include an unlimited number of components with a different order of their occurrence. However, they are generally recognized as surnames and give an opportunity to determine a person's ethnic affiliation. It should be stated that the basic stock of surnames used in an ethnic society, in most cases, are names of the native origin or names fully assimilated by the language.

2.2. Structural models of Kazakh surnames

According to Madiyeva G.B., Suprun V.I. (2011) various factors (demographic, geographic, ideological, historical, philosophical, social, cultural, linguistic) influence the character and composition of family names. For example, Russian surnames can be formed from the names of grandparents, great-grandparents given in different forms (*Ivanov, Vanin, Ivanushkin*), nicknames (*Lomonosov, Griboyedov*), they can point to place of origin (*Troubetzkoy, Shuysky*), profession (*Stolyarov, Kovalyev*). For a long time the Russian people have formed a three-component naming structure "family name + first name + patronymic", which is a cultural and historical phenomenon of the Russian national language, the same refers to the pattern "name + patronymic" (p. 71).

Since 1930, these models have been adopted throughout the territory of the former Soviet Union with a view of identification and registration of almost all of its residents. The exceptions are some peoples that have shaped the patterns of surnames independently on their national basis. For example, the first data on Georgian family names go back to the 7th and 8th centuries, and currently there are thirteen varieties of surname forming endings *(-dze, -shvili, -ava, -iya, -iani* and some others) which may indicate the relation to father, the origin from a particular region. Ukrainian surnames have typical suffixes *-enko, -uk, - chuk: Kornienko, Borisenko, Gnatiuk, Bondarchuk.* Latvian and Lithuanian surnames have forms of masculine and feminine gender: *Yekabsons - Yekabsone, Ozolinsh - Ozolinya; Butkus - Butkute, Katilyus - Katilyute.*

Kazakh surnames also have their history of formation. Despite the opinion that Kazakh surnames appeared in the 18th-19th centuries and were officially fixed on the basis of the Russian family name model with the introduction of passport system, their origin could be traced in more ancient times. In the Ancient Turkic and Late Turkic periods, besides personal names (which historically were primary), there was a tradition of using names of tribes and clans, names of locality for additional identification of a man. V.U. Makhpirov (1997) identifies several anthroponymic categories which quite fully reflect the peculiarities of functioning of anthroponyms in antiquity and peculiarities of the social and political system of society.

Kazakh people were also given heroic (male), tribal and dynastic names, personified titles, extended formulas of naming which in some cases had an important functional significance, for example, *Alp Kutluk, Bilge-kagan, Eletimish Bilge-kagan.* Such names were given to a Turkic khan or a particular clan leader by tribesmen for his heroic features; they can be found in the Turkic runic inscriptions: *My heroic name is Kara Chur, the foe (in the war) name is Kar Yazmaz*; they have a clear etymology: *Udun* means "bad", *Ish-Kula* "a friend's slave" (Amanzholov 2010, p. 88, 93).

With the spread of Islam and the influence of Arab cultural traditions of naming, in the scientific world there existed such names as *Abu Nasr al-Farabi*, i.e. from Farab, Y*usuf Balasaguni* from Balasagun, *Muhammad Haydar Dulati* from the clan of Dulat. The full name of the ancient encyclopedic scholar *Abu Nasr al-Farabi* as *Abu Nasir Muhammad Bin Muhammad Bin Tarkhan Bin Uzlagh al-Farabi* (given in Derbisaliev 1995) is structured as follows: the personal name of the great thinker *"Abu Nasir Muhammad"*, the name of his father *"Muhammad"*, his grandfather's name "*Tarkhan*", and the name of his great-grandfather *"Uzlag, al-Farabi"* which is an indication that he was born in the city of Farab; the naming of *Burhan al-Din Ahmad bin Abi Hafs bin Yusuf al-Farabi* is divided into the following components: his personal name "*Burhan al-Din Ahmad"*, his father's name *"Abi Hafs"*, the name of his grandfather *"Yusuf"*, the city of residence "*Farab*". Personal names were added with the names of fathers, grandfathers, clans, nicknames, which, in turn, could perform the function of a patronymic.

In the twentieth century, the Kazakh surnames were formed on the basis of a three-component pattern in accordance with the Russian naming model which coexists with the restored national historical naming formulas composed with the help of the elements *-uly (*for "son of"), *-қyzy (*for "daughter of"*)*, *-tegi (*for "family name") or without any affixes (*Musabaev Madi Maratuly, Mustafa Aulet Armanuly, Sherkhan Murtaza, Bayanzhan Eric*). At present, there are seventeen-eighteen models of surnames: with the help of Russian affixes *-ov, -ev, -in*; Kazakh affixes - *uly, -қyzy, -tegi*, Persian *-u* and some others.

2.3. The problem of registration of Kazakh surnames in the modern period (1990-2012)

The process of changing the anthroponymic formula, which began spontaneously among the Kazakhs (after the establishment of sovereign Kazakhstan in 1991), received its official confirmation in the *Conception of Regulating Personal Names, Middle Names and Family Names for the Kazakhs in the Republic of Kazakhstan* developed by the State Onomastic Commission in 1994. The Conception (paragraph 1) gives recommendations to spell and pronounce Kazakh first names, patronymics and surnames in accordance with the system of binomial and trinomial anthroponymic designations in the following order:
- First name, patronymic, surname;
- First name, patronymic or surname, as well as surname by patronymic (Egemen Kazakhstan, 1995).

It is also proposed to use the Kazakh affixes *-uly, -kyzy* instead of the Russian ones. Paragraph 2 of the above mentioned conception has a provision stating that in official documents (passport, identity card, school-leaving certificate, diploma, and employment record) it is necessary to preserve a three-component anthroponymical system with its constituents written in the following order: the citizen's first name, middle name or patronymic and surname. Therefore, under the provisions of the conception the Kazakh naming formula must have an official three-component formula (*Ospan Omaruly Baiken*) and an informal two-component formula (*Ospan Baiken* or *Ospan Omaruly*).

The material taken from the reports of the participants of the Republican Roundtable "The Issues of Kazakh Names' Norms" (28.11.2011) shows that in our country we have the following cases of registration in identity cards that give evidence of the evolution of surnames and spontaneous retro-formations:
• two-component naming formula where the second component used as a surname is the father's first name without the affixoid morphemes *-uly, -kyzy* (*Alua Marat*)*;*
• two-component naming formula in which the second component used as a surname is the ancestral (family) name (*Sayat Zhunus*);
• two-component naming formula in which the second component used as a surname is the father's name with *-uly ,-kyzy* (*Zhanibek Askaruly, Maryam Nurlankyzy*);
• two-component naming formula in which the second component used as a surname is the grandfather/father's name with *-tegi* (*Zheksen Alpartegi);*
• two-component naming formula in which the first component is the personal name in the genitive case, the second component used as a surname is the father's name in the possessive form (*Abdrashtyn Zharaskany*);
• two-component naming formula in which the second component in the nominative case is used as a surname (*Myrzabekten Saparhan);*

• two-component naming formula in which the second component used as a surname is the name of clan (*Nurlan Alban, Myra Kerei*);

• two-component naming formula in which the second component with the word *ubiri* ("descendant, offspring") is used as a surname (*Oryntay Bekzhanubiri).*

The father's name is often chosen as a surname. In our opinion, the component *-uly/-kyzy* should serve as a middle name. The rejection of the surname, which is based on the ancestors' names, breaks the genetic continuity of generations (http://www.kazakh.ru/talk/ mmess.html?idt=7590). It should be added that in this case there appears the problem with the change of the name after marriage since Article 182 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 17.12.1998 No. 321-I "On Marriage and Family" suggests that the marriage officer should ask about the family name chosen by spouses. It is evident that the surname with *-uly/-kyzy* can not be selected as a family name.

3. Pilot content analysis

3.1. Methodology

In order to identify the main trends in Kazakh naming patterns we conducted a pilot content analysis of responses on the Internet connected with the formation of surnames on the national basis. Such content analysis was carried out in Kazakhstani social onomastics for the first time, it did not aim at obtaining full information, but it gave the possibility of preliminary monitoring the views of Kazakh people and revealing the main trends in supporting or rejecting the use of surname forming affixes not typical for the Kazakh language.

3.2. The results of the research

Out of 160 texts of the year 2011 sampling with respondents' responses, 143 texts were chosen. 27 texts out of their total number did not meet the selection criteria due to the lack of necessary information and repetitiveness. In the course of research the following four categories of responses were developed: (1) I am "for" the national form of surnames; (2) I am "against" the national form of surnames; (3) It should be done at will of people; (4) I don't know what kind of form should be used for a surname.

The quantitative results of the content analysis are presented in Table 2:

Table 2. The results of the content analysis of respondents' responses

Categories	(1) for	(2) against	(3) at will	(4) don't know
Number of answers in %	69.2	22.4	7.7	0.7
Proportion	0.7	0.2	0.07	0.06

The examination of the table shows that: 69.2 % of respondents (it's the highest percentage) voted for the formation of the *national surname form;* 22.4 % of respondents were opponents of the formation of the *national surname form;* 7.7 % of respondents were of the opinion that the surname form can be changed at will of Kazakh people, or they do not care about the form of Kazakh surnames; 0.7 % of respondents expressed uncertainty about the situation.

The authors of the texts that express strong agreement with the necessity to develop the national form of surnames are deeply convinced that the change of the name reflects their identity and national culture. Their opponents show their commitment to the traditions and history of their families, ties of relationship, and continuity reflected in the surname. The texts of the third group show that their authors consider the choice of the surname strictly individual and for these respondents the fact of ethnic identity is more important in comparison with the change of the surname. The fourth group of texts, the smallest one, suggests that their authors don't know how to act in case of changing the form of the surname.

4. Conclusion

1. The analysis of responses and texts reveals the growing interest of Kazakh people in the change of the surname on the national basis, as well as in the arbitrary search for surname forming elements and naming formula.

2. The discussion held on the Internet testifies to the genuine public interest in reviewing forms of Kazakh surnames and indicates its specific significance.

3. This change of family names and surname formulas verifies the fact that in the Kazakh language consciousness we witness changes of priorities conditioned by referring to national sources which are regarded as markers of identity and reflection of the ethnic culture.

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