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ИМЯ СОБСТВЕННОЕ В РОМАНЕ МАРКА ХАДДОНА «СТРАННЫЙ ИНЦИДЕНТ С СОБАЧКОЙ В НОЧНОЕ ВРЕМЯ»

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Аннотация

Статья рассматривает роль личных имен в художественной литературе, раскрываемых с помощью использования этимологического словаря. Затрагиваются социальные, лингвокультурные особенности личных имен, зависящих от таких факторов как культура, личностные ценности, отношение к людям и обществу. В современном романе Марка Хаддона «Странный инцидент с собакой в ночное время» анализируется историческая, религиозная, культурная идентичность личных имен.

Ключевые слова: план выражения, план содержания, лингвокультурный, собственные имена, современный британский роман, Марк Хаддон, «Странный инцидент с собакой в ночное время».

**THE PERSONAL NAME IN THE NOVEL ‘THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG
IN THE NIGHT-TIME’ BY MARK HADDON**

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Abstract

The article deals with the meaning of the personal names in fiction viewed diachronically with the help of etymological dictionaries. It touches social, linguocultural features of the character's names which depend on many factors such as belonging to a definite culture, individual's values, attitudes towards people, society. The historical, national, religious and cultural identities on the social and language levels are analysed in the contemporary British novel of Mark Haddon *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*.

Key words: plan of expression, plan of content, linguocultural, personal names, contemporary British novel, Mark Haddon, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*.

The personal name is a linguistic sign. This is confirmed by the fact that it has a plan of expression and a plan of content, which have their own specific features. The plan of expression and its variability are most clearly manifested in diminutive forms of personal names. As for the plan of content it has two sides. On the one hand, it is an etymology expressed by a noun from which the name originated and which gives it content, and on the other hand, over time it is lost, rethought and associatively filled with new content. Forms of expression of the content plan are nationally recognized names, middle name, names formed from family names, Puritan “virtuous” and modern names formed from appellative vocabulary, as well as cases of naming writers, literary characters, famous movie characters and actors, musicians, singers of rock and pop music.

So all these aspects will be speculated on and analyzed in the novel *The curious incident of the dog in the night time* written by Mark Haddon in 2003 and won the Whitbread ‘Book of the Year’ Award. Its title is a quotation of a remark made by the fictional detective Sherlock Holmes in the short story *Silver Blaze* (1893) by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Proper names occupy a special place in the fiction. Every great writer makes their characters particularly notable using proper names as stylistically and semantically marked expressive means, a bright sign of style, the objects involved in the development and construction of the speech and the literary composition of the text, helping to reveal the author's attitude to life.

Out of all the personal names in the novel we'll choose only one name and it is the name of the main character of the novel – Christopher John Francis Boone.

'Last names' are known as 'surnames' in the English speaking countries. They are rooted in history, in ancient origins and professions of predecessors. They are passed down from one generation to another. They can tell us something very definite about ancestors, and – although they may be changed if one chooses so (and frequently are on the female side through marriage) – they can provide a direct link to relatives in the world both past and present because they are 'family names'.

The general use of surnames in Great Britain dates back only to the 12th century AD. The tradition of surnames came to England with Normans. They used to take the names of their estates as by-names and since they became hereditary, they became surnames. This practice became common in 13th-14th centuries.

According to their origin, English surnames can be divided into four groups:

1. surnames from geographic names;
2. surnames from family relationships (patronyms),
3. surnames from occupations or status;
4. surnames from nicknames.

Here we are interested in the fourth group because some surnames are related to mental characteristics: Good, Moody (brave), Wise, Root (happy), Daft (reckless), Sturdy.

Christopher's surname is Boone. We can guess that his mother took her husband's surname as traditionally women take the man's surname upon marriage. Nowadays there is a modern trend in social-sexual practice when the male in a marriage contract may take the surname of the female and in 1979, the United Nations adopted the convention that both sexes should have equal rights. But women do still take the husband's name – it's a convention which seems to work well as long as society accepts it.

The history and origin of Christopher's surname, Boone, is unusual and interesting. It is of Old French and Anglo-Saxon origin, and has two possible sources, each with its own derivation and meaning. Firstly, it may be Norman-French, and derives from a nickname 'good', which meant 'a familiar appellation of civility'; from the Old French 'bon' – 'good' and the word 'bon' itself from the Latin 'bonus'.

The name was introduced into England after the Norman Conquest of 1066, and may have been bestowed in a complimentary or ironic sense on a 'good' person. The second possible source is also from a nickname, which is found recorded mainly in the north of England, as 'Bain', and was given to an exceptionally tall, lean person. The derivation in this instance is from the Old English pre 7th Century 'ban' – bone, as in northern dialects the long 'a' was preserved, whereas in the southern dialect it was changed to an 'o' sound.

In the modern idiom the surname from both sources can be found recorded as Bone, Bunn, Bonn, Boon(e) and Ba(yne). The surname was first recorded in the early 13th Century (Roger Bone was recorded in the 1273 Hundred Rolls of Kent); recordings from London Church Registers include the christening of John, son of John and Ann Boon, on April 5th 1677, at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, the marriage of Benjamin Boon and Ann Ball on August 1st 1686, at St. Andrew's, Enfield. The spelling of the name Edward le Bon dates back to 1204 in 'Curia Regis Rolls of Oxfordshire' during the reign of King John, known as 'Lackland'.

The etymological analysis of the surname Boone shows that Christopher and his family are 'simple, common' as many other families in this town and it also means that his father's family comes from the northern part of England.

British and American children are given 'first names' ('Christian' names/ 'given names') and two or more middle names at their birth by their parents. The first names are used usually as sex distinctive. Many names show masculine or feminine gender in their endings. For example, the names Alexandra, Antonia, Bertha, Christina, Eugenia, Frederica, Julia, Maria, Paula, Sophia, Victoria are clearly female names because of the feminine ending -a or -ia, while Alexander, Albert, Arthur, Christopher, David, Frederick, James, John, Julius, Paul, Richard, Victor are obviously male names because of their masculine endings -er, or, us.

So there are names definitely for boys and definitely for girls, but this distinction is not absolute, some of them are common for boys and girls.

In the most fundamental sense a personal name is merely an abstract linguistic symbol for an individual person. It is believed that beyond being a simple identifier, the chosen name would have a significant meaning that might serve several purposes such as to invoke some blessing from supernatural powers, to identify the new individual with ancestors, to describe some putative trait of the child, to mark an event associated with the child's birth, etc.

In the novel when Christopher introduces himself he gives all his names: first, middle and his surname – Christopher John Francis Boone.

... My name is Christopher John Francis Boone. I know all the countries of the world and their capital cities and every prime number up to 7, 507 [Haddon 2003: 2].

The writer chooses this name for his hero because in the middle of the 20th century it became popular but not only this fact he takes into consideration.

It goes back to the Late Greek name Χριστοφορος (Christophoros) meaning 'bearing CHRIST', derived from Χριστος (Christos) and combined with φερω (phero) 'to bear, to carry'. Early Christians used it as a metaphorical name, expressing that they carried Christ in their hearts. In the Middle Ages, literal interpretations of the name's etymology led to the legend about a Saint Christopher who carried the young Jesus across a river. The little boy explained to the man that he was holding not only him in his hands but sins and misfortunes of the whole world. He has come to be regarded as the patron saint of travellers.

As an English given name, Christopher has been in general use since the 15th century. In Denmark it was borne by three kings (their names are usually spelled Christoffer), including the 15th-century Christopher of Bavaria who also ruled Norway and Sweden. Other famous bearers include Italian explorer Christopher Columbus (1451-1506), English playwright Christopher Marlowe (1564-1593), English architect Christopher Wren (1632-1723) and the fictional character Christopher Robin from A. A. Milne's 'Winnie-the-Pooh' books.

As we see the meaning of the given name is 'doer of good works' and Christopher's actions reflect this meaning. Christopher Boone tries to cooperate with the world around him. He wants to investigate the murder of the dog and find its killer. The dog's death ruins his own world of order and Christopher wants to reconstruct his world. That's why he considers it his duty is to clear up not only the secret of the dog's death but the secret of his mother's death. All these things lie on his shoulders as a burden. He looks like an ordinary 15-year-old boy and the reaction of passing adults who meet him briefly is the reaction they would have to any teenager. But he is different. He has Asperger syndrome.

In medical terms Asperger syndrome is one of the forms of autism and autism is a complex neurobehavioral conditions that includes impairments in social interaction and developmental language and communication skills combined with rigid, repetitive behaviour. Children with autism have communicative trouble. They have trouble understanding what other people think and feel. This makes it very hard for them to express themselves either with words or through gestures, facial expressions, and touch.

And it is another his burden. It coincides with the origin of the name Christopher according to which once a man was crossing the river carrying a little child in his hands. And the man then was called Saint Christopher.

Naming the hero Christopher the author wants to foresee that the boy would manage to overcome the difficulties of the travel. When he decided to find his mother in London it seems that Saint Christopher led and defended him in his trip. He overcame all obstacles on his way though it was his first trip without his parents and somebody's help. In the course of the trip he gains confidence in his abilities and it represents a significant triumph for him.

Christopher has many traits that set him apart from others because of his perception of life. There are some special rules in his world that he follows: everything must have its full form, only in this case he could react, live without suffering. Thus, we can't find diminutives of his name: Chip, Chris, Kit, Kris, Topher, Kester in the book; he is unable to recognise and comprehend facial expressions besides 'happy' and 'sad' and also has difficulty in understanding metaphors.

As the origin and value of a name influences the image of the hero in general, the sound cover is also important. The sound of a name evokes certain feelings in the reader and, respectively, feelings are transferred to the carrier of this name. Various names produce different effects. Some names sound sharply and rigidly, pessimistically, others – softly and optimistically and we can feel a certain musical harmony in sounding of a name.

There are some investigations showing that names containing the letters 'b' and 'u' were associated with roundness, and 'k' and 'i' with sharpness. Round-sounding names include Leo, Molly, Nathan and Samantha, while Tia, Kira and Katie are associated with sharpness.

The round sounds are associated with female qualities and the sharp sounds with male qualities, meaning there is a link between names and the concept of gender. It also extends to personality types. The 'round' names are considered adaptable, easy going, open, friendly, funny and extraverted, while 'sharper' names are considered more aggressive, angry, determined, irritable and sarcastic.

Sharp sounds that can be found in Christopher's name and his behaviour prove this theory. He screams and reacts violently to people who touch him. He curls up and groans to protect himself against overwhelming noise or information.

Christopher Boone's middle name is John.

Referring to the appearance of middle names it should be noted that they came into use in English speaking countries approximately in the 17th century and possibly much earlier among royalty and aristocracy, as exemplified in the name of the Stuart pretender James Francis Edward Stuart (1688-1766). Since 1905, 'middle name' gained a figurative connotation meaning a notable or outstanding attribute of a person. The use of multiple middle names has been somewhat impeded recently by the increased use of computer databases.

In etymological sources the English form of John is Iohannes, the Latin form of the Greek name Ιωάννης (Ioannes), itself derived from the Hebrew name יְהוֹחָנָן (Yochanan) meaning YAHWEH is 'gracious'. The Hebrew form occurs in the Old Testament (spelled Johanan or Jehohanan in the English version), but this name owes its popularity to two New Testament characters, both highly revered saints. The first is John the Baptist, a Jewish ascetic who is considered the forerunner of Jesus. He baptized Jesus and was later executed by Herod Antipas. The second is the apostle John, who is traditionally regarded as the author of the fourth gospel and Revelation. With the apostles Peter and James (his brother), he was part of the inner circle of Jesus.

This name was initially more common among Eastern Christians in the Byzantine Empire, but it flourished in Western Europe after the First Crusade. In England it became extremely popular: during the later Middle Ages it was given to approximately a fifth of all English boys.

The name (in various spellings) has been borne by 21 popes and eight Byzantine emperors, as well as rulers of England, France, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Portugal, Bulgaria, Russia and Hungary. It was also borne by the poet John Milton (1608-1674), philosopher John Locke (1632-1704), American founding father and president John Adams (1735-1826), and poet John Keats (1795-1821). Famous bearers of the 20th century include author John Steinbeck (1902-1968), assassinated American president John F. Kennedy (1917-1963), and musician John Lennon (1940-1980).

The middle name is customarily chosen from among canonized saints or the holy angels and is given both to males and females. Besides one of the middle names may be the name of the baby's father, godfather or a predecessor. Such names are supposed to protect the bearer from evil and are given to long-awaited children. The choice of the middle name John signifies Christopher's father's love for his son and shows that he was a long-awaited child.

Christopher's second middle name is Francis. It is the English form of the Late Latin name Franciscus which meant 'Frenchman', ultimately from the Germanic tribe of the Franks, who were named for a type of spear that they used. This name was borne by the 13th-century Saint Francis of Assisi, who was originally named Giovanni but was given the nickname Francesco by his father, an admirer of the French. Francis went on to renounce his father's wealth and devote his life to the poor, founding the Franciscan order of friars. Later in his life he apparently received the stigmata.

This name became widespread in Western Europe during the Middle Ages. However, it was not regularly used in Britain until the 16th century. Famous bearers include Saint Francis Xavier (1506-1552), a missionary to East Asia, the philosopher and scientist Francis Bacon

(1561-1626), and the explorer and admiral Sir Francis Drake (1540-1595). In the English-speaking world this name is occasionally used for girls.

In some lexicographical sources the meaning of this name is a free person. The traits of this meaning we can find in Christopher's mother's dreams.

For example, sometimes Mother used to say, 'If I hadn't married your father I think I'd be living in a little farmhouse in the South of France with someone called Jean. And he'd be, ooh, a local handyman. You know, doing painting and decorating for people, gardening, building fences. And we'd have a veranda with figs growing over it and there would be a field of sunflowers at the bottom of the garden and a little town on the hill in the distance and we'd sit outside in the evening and drink red wine and smoke Gauloises cigarettes and watch the sun go down' [Haddon 2003: 98].

As the name Francis can be a girl's name as well we can guess that Christopher's mother dreamt of having a daughter.

The above mentioned meaning of the name Francis as 'free' should be emphasized here. Christopher is free in his actions. He doesn't discuss his plans with his father or with his teachers. He talks only to and cares only for himself. But on the other hand he is a mathematical savant, fond of numerals, order, everything concrete, has a photographic memory, is extremely observant, dreams of being an astronaut and takes a deep interest in science.

And I am going to pass it and get an A grade. And in two years' time I am going to take A level Physics and get an A grade.

And then, when I've done that, I am going to university in another town. And it doesn't have to be in London because I don't like London and there are universities in lots of places and not all of them are in big cities. And I can live in a flat with a garden and a proper toilet. And I can take Sandy and my books and my computer.

And then I will get a First Class Honours Degree and I will become a scientist.

And I know I can do this because I went to London on my own, and because I solved the mystery of Who Killed Wellington? and I found my mother and I was brave and I wrote a book and that means I can do anything [Haddon 2003: 268].

The quotation shows in spite of being different he manages to overcome the obstacles of life and become a self-made man.

The research allows to come to the conclusion that proper names play special functions in a literary work: nominative, carry out the function of characterizing a person or a place. Each of Christopher's names has its own sense, content, lingvocultural component and they are very important for the definition of his identity and anthropocentric identity as well.

Names aren't simple words and data carriers allowing to represent the hero fuller and brighter. Often the name helps to understand what the hero is and what the author wanted to tell the reader through a name, the hero's spiritual and physical essence. In the name of a person his personality and soul are reflected.

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НАЦИОНАЛЬНО-КУЛЬТУРНАЯ ОСОБЕННОСТЬ КВАНТИТАТИВНЫХ ФРАЗЕОЛОГИЗМОВ ФРАНЦУЗСКОГО ЯЗЫКА

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