

Lesson 59

Vocabulary Practice 9: Names & Honorifics

Names

Given names in English, despite what the baby-name books may claim, are not, in practice, imbued with meaning. As such, they are transliterated rather than translated. Exceptions will occur; in fact, this author's taken name, **Amberwind**, is much more satisfying when translated (**Dathimithedeyul**: **dathi** (needle) + **mi** (leaf) = **dathimi** (conifer) + **thede** (jewel) = **dathimithede** (amber) + **yul** (wind)) than when transliterated (**Ámerewin**, or some such).

Regarding family names: Dr Elgin never addressed this topic, so it has been left to the second generation. We've decided that, in line with Láadan naming conventions, wherein the name proceeds from the general to the specific, the family name will precede the given name. In addition, for clarity, family names will also incorporate the suffix “**-shem**” (derived from “**shem**” (offspring)).

There are, in English, various types of family names that can be translated; others will have to be transliterated. Some of the general types that can be translated are patronymic names (Albertson, Bettison, Johnson/Jones, Williamson/Williams, Robertson/Roberts, etc.), trade-names (Carpenter, Cooper, Fletcher, Fuller, Smith, Taylor, Tinker, Wright, etc.), color-names (Black, Brown, Green, Grey, White, etc.), and place-names (Carlton, Fields, Rivers, Stone, etc.).

Patronymic (literally father-name) names will likely be the most difficult to translate, consisting as they do of a given name (almost always a male given name; Bettison—son of Betty—is the only one in the list above that is arguably maternal in origin, and even that one uses the male suffix **-son**). We partially translate the English, using the suffix “**-shem**” (offspring) added to the transliterated given name. Among our list above are several that show the **-son** suffix; others show only what appears to be a plural (or perhaps a possessive that has lost its apostrophe); Láadan will use the suffix “**-shem**” for both of these. Other languages use other forms of suffixes to denote patronymy: Slavic languages “**-witz**” or “**-evich**” or “**-sky**” (feminine form: “**-skaya**”) or “**-ov**” (feminine: “**-ova**”); Spanish “**-ez**” (Portuguese: “**-es**”); and many others. Láadan would use “**-shem**” in translating any of these.

Generally speaking, trade names connote that an ancestor of the family had, as an occupation, the profession or trade referenced; as such, and to mark these as family names rather than profession-related honorifics, they would take the “**-shem**” suffix. Where the vocabulary exists, these names will be translated. Names such as Fletcher, “one who attaches the feathers to arrows,” lack the necessary referents in Láadan. On the other hand, focussing on the “**feather**” aspect of this particular name, we might derive “**Hosháshem**” [**hosh** (feather) + **-á** (DOER) + **-shem** (SURNAME)]. Where translation is not feasible, professional names would be transliterated.

Color names in English commemorate an ancestor with some notable feature in that color: eyes, hair, skin tone, or some such. Most common color names do have words in Láadan. As such, these names will be translated and take the “**-shem**” suffix.

To mark place-names as a family name, we will once again employ the “**-shem**” suffix. Since we are already applying a suffix, we need not bother with a suffix to mark the part like **-ton** (town) or **-ham** (village); the remainder may be trade- or color-related and could be translated or it may be related to a given name and might need to be transliterated.

Names that do not fall into one of the above categories would likely have to be transliterated (or a Láadan name made up); in any case, it would feature the “**-shem**” suffix.

The advantage of translating names is obvious: the name is naturalized into Láadan; a transliterated name is forever marked as a borrowing. Nevertheless, it is important to note the preference of the person being named and adhere to that when referring to her—unless it is your intention to give insult.

Examples

Elizabeth Taylor
Oweháshem Elízhabeth
Carol Green
Liyeneshem Hérel
William Fields
Duneshem Wílem
Mary Jones
Zhaneshem Méri

This last name presupposes the personal name “Zhan” for the English “John.”

Honorifics

“Honorifics” or “titles” are used in English with a name (eg, “Mrs Baker,” “Dr Brown,” “Sr Mary,” “Miss Edith”) or without (eg, “Miss,” “Ma’am,” “Sir,” “Doctor,” “Father,” “Sister”).

Another class of honorifics is relationship words (eg, “Aunt Carol,” “Uncle William,” “Cousin Anna,” “Grandpa Matthew”).

Unlike in English, Láadan honorifics are applied after the name, if any, they’re used with—just as we’ve become used to doing when using a pronoun to carry Case for a name. In fact, an honorific will do double-duty, standing in for the pronoun that carries Case endings for a name as well as carrying the honorific information.

Also unlike in English, where “Dr Brown,” “Mrs Baker,” and the like are the norm, Láadan stresses personal relationships rather than mere professional/acquaintance relationships. One upshot of this focus is that the Surname-Honorific sequence will be rare in Láadan. Much more common will be Personal Name-Honorific or just the Personal Name or, if the name is not known, just the Honorific.

Professional Honorifics

Profession-based English honorifics are limited to very few high-status professions (eg, “Dr/Doctor,” “Sr/Sister,” “Fr/Father”). While in English it is common to address a physician as “Doctor,” it feels odd indeed to refer to a plumber or carpenter—or even a lawyer—in the same way. “Sister” and “Father” among Catholic worshipers are an addition to this very short list—likely some conclusion could be drawn as to the status ascribed to such people in their faith community.

Láadan profession-based honorifics are available regardless of the trade or profession. “Ábedá” (Farmer) or “Omá” (Teacher) are as valid as “Eduthahá” (Doctor) or “Wíitham” (Clergy).

Examples

Doctor Suzette Brown
Leyaneshem Shuzhéth Eduthahá
Doctor Brown
Shuzhéth Eduthahá
Doctor
Eduthahá

Nurse Anthony Carpenter
Belidáshem Átheni Onin
Nurse Carpenter
Átheni Onin
Nurse
Onin

Teacher Marsha Lake
Wiliduneshem Másha Omá
Teacher Lake
Másha Omá
Teacher
Omá

Sister Mary Elizabeth
Méiri Elízhabeth Wíitham
Sister
Wíitham

Non-Professional Honorifics

While some English honorifics are profession-based, most English honorifics refer to gender and marital status (**Mister/Master**, **Mrs/Miss**, **sir**, **ma'am**) and, in British English, degree of nobility.

In forming a Láadan honorific, on the other hand, the feeling (neutral/loved/honored/despised) the speaker has toward the person referred to by the honorific is central; the age and gender are secondary; marital status and rank are not considerations.

Non-professional honorifics in Láadan are pronomial in form; that is, they are made using mechanisms we are used to seeing when dealing with pronouns. We begin with the second-person or third-person pronoun: (**ne**: **you**, or **be**: **he/she**); if the feeling we have for the person is non-neutral, we may optionally use the inflected form of the pronoun (**na/ni/lhene** or **ba/bi/lhebe**). Plural forms are permissible, should the situation warrant. We may then add an optional age-prefix (**á-/háa-/yáa-/sháa-/zháa-**) and/or an optional gender suffix (**-izh/-id**). The table below presents the singular forms that can be formed in this way; the plural formations are straightforward.

2nd person, neutral	2nd person, beloved	2nd person, honored	2nd person, despised
Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
F	F	F	F
M	M	M	M
Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
Ne	Na	Ni	Lhene
Nehizh	Nahizh	Nihizh	Lhenehizh
Nehid	Nahid	Nihid	Lhenehid
Infant	Infant	Infant	Infant
Áne	Ána	Áni	Álhene
Ánehizh	Ánahizh	Ánihizh	Álhenehizh
Ánehid	Ánahid	Ánihid	Álhenehid
Child	Child	Child	Child
Háane	Háana	Háani	Háalhene
Háanehizh	Háanahizh	Háanihizh	Háalhenehizh
Háanehid	Háanahid	Háanihid	Háalhenehid
Teen	Teen	Teen	Teen
Yáane	Yáana	Yáani	Yáalhene
Yáanehizh	Yáanahizh	Yáanihizh	Yáalhenehizh
Yáanehid	Yáanahid	Yáanihid	Yáalhenehid
Adult	Adult	Adult	Adult
Sháane	Sháana	Sháani	Sháalhene
Sháanehizh	Sháanahizh	Sháanihizh	Sháalhenehizh
Sháanehid	Sháanahid	Sháanihid	Sháalhenehid
Senior	Senior	Senior	Senior
Zháane	Zháana	Zháani	Zháalhene
Zháanehizh	Zháanahizh	Zháanihizh	Zháalhenehizh
Zháanehid	Zháanahid	Zháanihid	Zháalhenehid

3rd person, neutral	3rd person, beloved	3rd person, honored	3rd person, despised
Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
F	F	F	F
M	M	M	M
Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
Be	Ba	Bi	Lhebe
Behizh	Bahizh	Bihizh	Lhebehizh
Behid	Bahid	Bihid	Lhebehid
Infant	Infant	Infant	Infant
Ábe	Ába	Ábi	Álhebe
Ábehizh	Ábahizh	Ábihizh	Álhebehizh
Ábehid	Ábahid	Ábihid	Álhebehid
Child	Child	Child	Child
Háabe	Háaba	Háabi	Háálhebe
Háabehizh	Háabahizh	Háabihizh	Háálhebehizh
Háabehid	Háabahid	Háabihid	Háálhebehid
Teen	Teen	Teen	Teen
Yáabe	Yáaba	Yáabi	Yáálhebe
Yáabehizh	Yáabahizh	Yáabihizh	Yáálhebehizh
Yáabehid	Yáabahid	Yáabihid	Yáálhebehid
Adult	Adult	Adult	Adult
Sháabe	Sháaba	Sháabi	Sháálhebe
Sháabehizh	Sháabahizh	Sháabihizh	Sháálhebehizh
Sháabehid	Sháabahid	Sháabihid	Sháálhebehid
Senior	Senior	Senior	Senior
Zháabe	Zháaba	Zháabi	Zháálhebe
Zháabehizh	Zháabahizh	Zháabihizh	Zháálhebehizh
Zháabehid	Zháabahid	Zháabihid	Zháálhebehid

One further note: it is possible to form an honorific using a first-person pronoun—for instance in a social situation in which it becomes necessary to correct another’s way of referring to us. In such a situation, we might use a first-person pronoun; it is difficult to imagine another use for a first-person honorific in courteous discourse.

Presented in another way, the list at right shows the options when forming nonprofessional honorifics; simply choose one element from each group. As denoted by Ø, most elements are optional.

Examples

Bí eril di le Elízhabeth Hudim wa; dibó Sháabihizh ledim di le shoneth bethu ninidedimehé.

I spoke to Queen Elizabeth; Her Majesty (adult, honored, female) commanded that I speak to you (many, honored, male) about peace.

Báa néde láad Méri Zháabahizh leth oyinan?

Does Miss Mary (senior, beloved, female) want to see me?

Age

Ø-
á-
háa-
yáa-
sháa-
zháa-

Person

ne
na
ni
lhene
be
ba
bi
lhebe

Number

-Ø
-zh
-n

Gender

-Ø
-izh
-id

Exercises

Translate the following into English.

1 Bóo dithed ne Elízabeth Ebaládim; bíi them le thuzheth udathihéeya aril wa.

E: _____

2 Báa medíbel Sháanizhizh leth ranath nizhedim?

E: _____

3 Bíi bedina Wílemeshem Méri Omátho déeladáan Láadanethum sháaleya ril wáa.

E: _____

4 Wil sha, Yáanihizh. Báa duredeb ni bebaáath?

E: _____

5 Bíid thad baneban ra le Thíben Sháalhebedim; náloláad le bina lhebedim wa.

E: _____

6 Bíi aril radozh hal le Zháanidaháa wa; dam le ihehena i lolena hi rawáan.

E: _____

7 Bíi eril mebithim ra lezh lawitheth raya wa; báa ril néde di Zháana bebaáath lezhedim?

E: _____

8 Báa tháa Hérel Bedihá? Bíi eril dush nasháad Yáabehizh duthahothedim bedishodede wáa.

E: _____

9 Bíith lhitharil le wa, Eduthahá; úuya le wohiwetha wohibidesha.

E: _____

10 Bíilan thónahelasháana shem lethwa wa; elahela náaleya shin aril; litharil le hoshemeth thenahulenal—beyeya.

E: _____

In #2, the prefix “dí-” (ALLOW) moves the “le” (I) as the Subject of “bel” (bring/take)—the one doing the bringing—to become the Object of “díbel” (ALLOW + bring/take)—the one being allowed; “Sháanizhizh” (you few honored ladies) is the Subject of “díbel”—the ones doing the allowing. “Rana” (beverage), the Object of “bel,” has no other case role to occupy, so “díbel” is *bitransitive* (having two Objects). Confusion is unlikely; “beverages” wouldn’t be allowed to bring “me.” In the event that confusion were a problem, a full embedding would be something like: “Báa menon Sháanizhizh bel le ranath nizhedimehé?” (You Madams permit [I bring beverages to you]?).

In #6, did the phrase “hi rawáan” give you any trouble? The pronoun “hi” (this/that) refers to the topic previously under discussion; “hiwáan” would be “because of the foregoing.” Splitting off the case ending and using it with “ra-” (NON) in effect reverses the function of the case. So, “hi rawáan” states that, far from being “because of the foregoing” the action is “despite the foregoing;” it’s translated here “nevertheless.”

In #7, did you have any trouble interpreting the meaning of “raya”? It’s a time-case word with “ra-” (NON) as the time specified: “at no time, never.” It’s synonymous with “rahadihad.” Used in the past, as here, it means “never before” or “never until now.” If used in the future, it would have the sense of “never again” or “never from now on.”

Translate the following into Láadan.

11 I shall ask Anthropologist Anthony at what school he (honored) studied anthropology.

L: _____

12 [Love] You (few, beloved) will be asleep when your Aunt Margaret arrives from Arkansas.

L: _____

13 Entomologist Michael and Farmer Marsha cooperate to heal the seedlings.

L: _____

14 I had hoped that Singer William would now be welcoming Priest Bethany to our town.

L: _____

15 The nurse greeted my sick great-niece, "Greetings, (beloved, infant) Little Miss."

L: _____

16 Matthew Green is extremely busy; he (honored, teen) has many things he ought to do for his family.

L: _____

17 Gardener Teresa intends to care for herself (teen) using her own common sense from this week forward.

L: _____

18 I shall beg Banker Mary—other than at the bank; perhaps she (adult) will be remorseful and not take my house away from me.

L: _____

19 Peacemaker, how (because of what) are you (honored, senior) able to show lovingkindness to THEM (many, despised)?

L: _____

20 Child, [didactically] we all are "they (many, despised)" in SOMEone's perception; [lovingly] now do you (beloved) understand?

L: _____

In #12, "arrive" is translated "finish traveling;" this uses additional vocabulary as well as reinforcing that any travel-type verb can have the English meaning of "arrive" or "depart" with the application of appropriate prefixes.

In #18, did you have trouble with the phrase "other than at the bank"? We've seen this type of construction before, but never in the Place case. Consider "at the bank" (*loshebelidesha*); if we want to reverse the function of the case to specify "anywhere but at the bank" we'd need to split the case suffix off from the noun and use "ra-" (*NON*) to reverse the case function: "*loshebelid rasha*."

Answers

- 1 Prithee call Baker Elizabeth; I need a cake tomorrow afternoon.
- 2 May I bring you ladies beverages?
- 3 Teacher Mary Williamson's lesson today is about Láadan sentences.
- 4 Greetings, Honored-Teen-Miss. What are honored-you looking for (trying to find)?
- 5 [Angry] I cannot forgive despised-adult Steven; I'm still angry (Int,Ø,+) at despised-him.
- 6 The work I shall do for Honored-Senior-You will be difficult; nevertheless, I shall demonstrate excitement (despite neg circ) and confidence (good).
- 7 We've never met a saint before; what do Senior-Beloved-You want to tell us?
- 8 Is Student Carol well? Teen-She had to leave the classroom to go to hospital.
- 9 [Pain] I'm worried, Doctor; I feel pain in my left testicle.
- 10 [Joy] My daughter just began menstruating for the first time; the celebration will be two nights from now; I'm looking forward to grandchildren with great joy—sometime.
- 11 Bíi aril dibáa le Átheni Ewithádim eril ulanin bihid ewith bebáasha—ulinesha nedabahée wa.
- 12 Bíili aril mehina nash úyahú nohim Mázhareth Berídan nashetha Araneshade wa.
- 13 Bíi mezheshub medutha Máyel Ezhubá i Másha Ábedá ádalathehéwan wa.
- 14 Bíi eril ul le rilrili elathóodi Wílem Lalomá Bétheni Wíithamedim miwith lenethosha nuyahé wa.
- 15 Bíi eril dibithim onin wohéeya wohosherídan lethadim wa, "Wil sha, Ánahizh."
- 16 Bíi shóodehul Liyeneshem Máthu wáa; dinime shub yáabihid daleth menedebéhóo onida bithada.
- 17 Bíi nédeshub naya Therísha Déelahá yáabeyóoth bash behóothanan híyahathede ril wa.
- 18 Bíi aril dithem le Méri Loshádim loshebelid rasha wa; rilrili lhitheril sháabe i raban ra belid lethoth lede.
- 19 Shoná, thad dam ni donidaneth lhebenehóodim bebáawáan?
- 20 Háawith, bíidi len woho "lhebenem" láad beyehóothonal wa; báali ril en na?