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**RENDERING OF GERMANIC PROPER NAMES IN THE  
LITHUANIAN PRESS**

BACHELOR THESIS

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# INTRODUCTION

Proper names, particularly the act of naming, is a well-established research topic in disciplines as diverse as anthropology, history, law, linguistics, philosophy, social psychology and sociology. Proper names represent people on their birth certificates, various documents, gravestones and on other papers. Name forms and functions also the ideas about names and naming might differ from one culture to another. Proper names can serve as ‘culture markers’, i. e. they implicitly indicate to which culture the character belongs. The two most important criteria for proper names are their uniqueness and that they function as the identification marks of individuals. In other words, a name signifies an individual being or has unique reference. Thus, names serve to identify persons by singling them out from among other persons.

The research will focus particularly on the surnames of Germanic languages, however, their etymology and orthography are indispensable from proper nouns in general. Therefore, the terms proper nouns, proper names, personal names and surnames will be used interchangeably in this thesis.

Germanic languages comprise a largest branch of Indoeuropean languages. Currently, there are eight living Germanic languages. Nowadays when Lithuania is the member of the European Union and NATO as well as it is involved in the unavoidable globalization processes it is obvious that the Lithuanian press faces up with foreign surnames including their orthography. From the very beginning when the written language emerged in the sixteenth century in Lithuania our linguists Simonas Daukantas, Simonas Stanevičius, Dionizas Poška and others confronted with difficulties how to write foreign surnames correctly. There are no strict rules proposed by the State Lithuanian Language Commission but it provides certain guidances which should be followed. However, such famous Lithuanian linguists as Sližienė (1990), Ambrazas (2008) and other representatives of various public institutions disagree with these rules and suggest their own. We still do not have the single opinion about foreign proper names rendering into the Lithuanian language.

**The subject** of the work has been restricted to the proper names of Germanic languages in the Lithuanian press. Bearing this in mind surnames of Germanic languages will be analysed.

**The aim** of the present study is to analyse the usage of Germanic proper names in the Lithuanian press. To achieve the aim, the following **objectives** have been set up:

1. To present theoretical background of proper names in Germanic languages;
2. To reveal the non-Lithuanian surnames orthography in the Lithuanian press;

3. To classify examples according to the Lithuanian rules;
4. To estimate the frequency of examples found in the newspaper.

The problem of spelling of foreign surnames in the Lithuanian press have been widely analysed by many Lithuanian linguists such as Gustainis (1934), Jonikas (1963), Slizienė (1990), Kniūkšta (2001) and Ambrazas (2008). Great theoretical reviews on how to write foreign surnames were presented by Ambrazas (2008). However further investigation is needed, as the above mentioned linguists provide contradictive opinions, emphasize irregularities of the proper name usage in the Lithuanian press and stress the significance of the preservation of the national language.

**The novelty** of the work is in the attempt that has been made to discuss the usage and spelling of Germanic surnames in the Lithuanian press and to relate them to the Lithuanian rules set by the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language.

To achieve the best results, the following research **methods** have been used :

1. Descriptive – the analysis provided the possibility to review numeral issues concerning surnames of Germanic languages;
2. Meta – the analysis enabled the author of the bachelor thesis to interpret the results and conclusions made by other authors;
3. The statistical method helped to systemize and generalize the results. Statistical method was salutary for the processing of the results of the empirical part of the research.

**Material used in this work.** For the purpose of the investigation all examples of Germanic surnames have been compiled from the newspaper *Lietuvos Rytas*.

**The scope** of the research is 414 instances of surnames of the Germanic origin. The collected examples illustrate the usage of Germanic surnames in the Lithuanian press.

**The structure of the work.** The bachelor's paper consists of two major parts. The present paper begins with the Introduction which defines the subject of the investigation, formulates the aim and sets the objectives, discusses the novelty of the theme, describes the methods and material used in the research paper and presents the practical value of this work. The first part provides the theoretical framework of the research. The practical part consists of the classification and analysis of the drawn instances according to the Lithuanian rules. The conclusive remarks are presented at the end of the research work.

We presume that the collected data and the research itself might be useful for students and lecturers conducting research in journalism or comparative linguistics. The results of this work could be used practically in non-Lithuanian orthography teaching.

# 1. THE CONCEPTION OF PROPER NAMES

*Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language* (1976) defined a proper noun (or proper name) as "a noun that designates a particular being or thing, does not take a limiting modifier and is usually capitalised in English". The famous French *Grand dictionnaire encyclopedique Larousse* (1984) defined a proper noun as a sub-category of nouns, that designates a being or an object considered as unique. It distinguishes the following features:

1. A proper name designates a particular being or thing. Typically, authors cite names of persons and names of places as examples of proper names.
2. Proper names have a capital initial letter.
3. Proper names are not used with determiners in the same way as common names are.

Names are specifically individual and mark identity both of the unique person and of the person as a member of a group. The family chooses a name for a newborn. But society may impose constraints on the choice. Constraints inhere in social organization. A group's naming custom is one constraint. Other constraints arise in contemporary society from processes of economic, political and cultural unification and integration and from institutionalized state control over individuals. (Jernudd, Bjorn.1995)

Personal names include not only individual names but also collective names such as inhabitant names, certain bynames and especially family names. It has appeared that language philosophers tend to view proper names as a kind of indexicals, i.e. as affiliated to personal pronouns and demonstratives. Proper names constitute an open class of words. (Langendonck, W.2007)

Mark Antony Lower (1853:1) notes that, "Our proper name is ourself - in our thoughts, and in the thoughts of those who know us, and nothing can separate it from our existence. A name, however apparently insignificant, instantly recalls to our remembrance the man, his personal appearance, his moral attributes, or some remarkable event with which he is identified. <...> all names were originally significant, although in the course of ages the meaning of most of them may have lapsed from the memory of mankind."

As Lower (2005:5) points out, "<...> a single name was sufficient for each individual and that name was generally invented for the person, in allusion to the circumstances attending his birth, or to some personal quality he possessed, or which his parents fondly hoped he might in future possess."

Tim Valentine (1996:1) observes that, “Proper names, particularly the act of naming, is well-established research topic in disciplines as diverse as anthropology, history, law, linguistics, philosophy and sociology. ”

According to Claude Levi-Strauss (1966:172-175), “Proper names do not therefore constitute a mere practical modality of classificatory systems which could not be mentioned after the other modalities. They raise a problem for ethnologists, even more than for linguists. The problem for linguists is the nature of proper names and their place in the system of the language.” A proper name is important in all fields of our life.

The importance of proper names is obvious. Every individual has its own proper name, his identity, uniqueness among others. Proper names define families, nations, traditions and has connection with history. It not only identifies us as individuals but also connect us with our ancestors, help us to continue a long-lasting bond of families.

In connection to what has been presented above the next chapter will investigate surnames and their importance in human’s life.

## **1.2. The development of surnames**

Bearing the notion of the surname in mind dictionaries have observed such definitions: the encyclopedia of Britannica (2010) indicates that “a surname is a name added to a ‘given’ name, in many cases inherited and held in common by members of a family”. Originally, many surnames identified the person by his connection with another person, usually his father; others indicate his residence or occupation. The surname could also be description of the person’s appearance or his exploits. Oxford dictionary (2010) defines the surname as “a hereditary name common to all members of a family, as distinct from a forename”. The same definition is presented by the Oxford Modern dictionary (1992). Longman’s dictionary (2005) notes that the surname is “a name that you share with your parents or often with your husband if you are a married woman and which in English comes at the end of your full name”. Similar definitions are proposed by Random House Webster’s (1995) and the Penguin English (1992) dictionaries.

The acquisition of surnames in Europe during the past eight hundred years has been affected by many factors, including social class and social structure, naming practices in neighbouring cultures, and indigenous cultural tradition. Even after hereditary surnames were adopted, there was considerable variation. Hereditary surnames tended to coexist with more or less noticeable vestiges of patronymic systems. The notion of free choice between adopting the mother’s or the father’s surname is a recent phenomenon, although it is now enshrined in

the law in Denmark. In Ireland, surnames developed naturally out of a more ancient system of clan and sept names. These were themselves originally patronymic but stretched back over a thousand years. This system could in fact be regarded as an early version of a system of surnames. It was gradually incorporated into the system that was introduced into Ireland by the Normans and, later, the English. At the other end of the time scale lies Scandinavia, the region that has been to the last to abandon patronymics in favour of hereditary surnames. Surnaming crept northwards from Germany through Denmark and into Norway in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. In Iceland, the traditional patronymic naming system has still not fully given way to hereditary surnames. Over the centuries, most people in Europe have accepted their surname as a fact of life, however, much the individual may dislike the name or even suffer ridicule as a result of unpleasant connotations associated with it. (Oxford dictionary 2010)

Mark Antony Lower (1953:14) states that, “We have seen that all names were originally single, and that second names were imposed for the sake of distinguishing from each other the persons who bore a common appellation.”

According to Bernard Homer Dixon (1857:5), “All surnames originally conveyed a meaning, but from the corruption in spelling, and number of words that in the course of time have become obsolete or wholly lost, it is often impossible to discover their true signification. Surnames can be divided into several classes, one of largest being those derived from the father’s Christian, baptismal, given, or fore name, and sometimes even from mother’s name.”

Robert Ferguson (1884:1) reports that, “As some things that seem common, and even ignoble, to the naked eye, lose their meanness under the revelations of the microscope, so, many of our surnames that seem common and even vulgar at first sight, will be found, when their origin is adequately investigated, to be of high antiquity, and of unsuspected dignity.”

J. W. Freeman (2007:4) notes that, “Probably the most personal things we possess, and yet take most for granted, are our surnames. We use them daily, occasionally inscribing them with care on important documents, but more often than not scrawling them hurriedly and illegibly on letters or forms. Most of us never give them a second thought. However, a surname, is a heritage, passed down from one generation to the next, linking families over the centuries, bond that unites people. They are legacy from the past, our gift to the future. Every surname is a story in itself. It may tell you where your forebears originated, what their work was, or their social status. It may even tell you the colour of their hair or complexion, if they were bald, or had bandy legs, or were tall, short or fat. As the old proverb says: You had not your name for nothing.”

Charles Wareing Bardsley (2007:1) discovered that, “When we remember that there is nothing without a name, and that every name that is named, whether it be of a man, or man’s work, or man’s heritage of earth, came not by chance, or accident so-called, but was given out of some nation’s spoken language to denote some characteristic that language expressed, we can readily imagine how important is the drift of each - what a record must each contain. For names are enduring generations come and go, and passing on with each, they become all everlasting.”

William Dodgson Bowman (2008:3) makes clear that, “From the study of surnames we learn much about the people of the Middle Ages, that would otherwise remain shadowy and obscure. Through it the revealing light of history is turned, not on the whims of monarchs and intrigues of statesmen, but on the intimate and personal affairs of our forefathers in by-gone centuries.”

In every family the surname is the key to identification to the certain circle of people and community. Historically, the surname had an important role in the community, it showed an individual’s lifestyle and status in society. It was more like the trace than the sign of the identification because there was small communities but nowadays it is an essential key to be noticed, to be the part of the society and do not feel anonymous in the whole world.

In a connection to what has been discussed above the next chapter will overlook the proper names in the Germanic languages.

### **1.3. Proper names in Germanic languages**

The Germanic languages constitute one of the ten major branches of the Indo-European family. The early Germanic peoples were illiterate so knowledge of Proto-Germanic is based entirely on comparative reconstruction. Since all the early Germanic languages are still fairly close, however, the sounds and forms of Proto-Germanic are recoverable with reasonable accuracy. (Jasanoff, J. 2009)

According to Carol Henriksen and Johan van der Auwera (1994:1), “Of the 4,000 to 6,000 presently spoken in the world, the Germanic languages form a very small subset”. They also state that there are only twelve modern Germanic languages.

Henriksen and Auwera (1994:4) have drawn attention to the fact that, “Due to the early migration of the Gothic tribes, the language of the Goths developed differently <...>.” According to Henriksen and Auwera (1994:5), “Since the peoples of the north were linked together primarily by sea routes, it is easy to see how three separate centres of power began to emerge, a southern one (Denmark), a Baltic one (Sweden) and an Atlantic one (Norway).”



Whereas the origin of the modern North Germanic languages can be traced back to one relatively homogeneous North Germanic parent language, the case for a similar parentage of the West Germanic languages is less clear. It has been suggested instead that ancient West Germanic only existed as a conglomerate of three dialect groups, sometimes referred to after Tacitus as 'Ingwaeonic', 'Istwaeonic' and 'Herminonic' or, in modern terms, 'North Sea Germanic', 'Rhine-Weser Germanic' and 'Elbe Germanic'.

Carol Henriksen and Johan van der Auwera (1994:2) report that, "<...> we face the question of how we got from one parent language to the three branches and to the dozen or so descendant languages. One factor to bear in mind is that every language is inherently variable. A language only exists through speakers that speak idiolect, and typically share a dialect and sociolect with the people with whom they communicate most often or want to be associated. <...> The second factor responsible for the variety in Germanic is migration. When speakers move away from their homeland and cut or strongly diminish communication with those who stay behind, the inherent tendency for dialect variation increases.

To cite Henriksen and Auwera (1994:1), " <...> it is customary to divide Germanic into:

1. East Germanic, with Gothic as its prominent member;
2. North Germanic, with Icelandic, Faroese, Norwegian, Danish and Swedish;
3. West Germanic (sometimes 'South Germanic'), with German, Yiddish, Pennsylvania German, Dutch, Afrikaans, Frisian and English."

Although some of the Germanic languages gradually have vanished like Goth they still take the small place in the world's spoken language list. The living Germanic languages and their surnames will be represented below.

### **1.3.1. Danish, Norwegian, Swedish and Icelandic surnames**

Prior to about 1850 all of the Scandinavian countries used a form of patronymics. The given name of a father was used as a surname for each of the children. The son's used the father's given name and a suffix that meant 'son' and the daughter's used the father's given name and a suffix meaning 'daughter'.

During period of change (from about 1860 to 1904) you will find several possibilities for surnames:

- A person could use the patronymic name they were born with for a family surname and pass it on to all their children.
- A person could take their father's patronymic name and use it for a surname.

- A person could take an entirely different name such as a place name or a name they liked and begin using it from then on as their surname.

Scandinavians also had some general naming customs they followed to greater or lesser extent for given names. They would often name the first son after the father's father, the second son after the mother's father, the third son after the father, and other sons after uncles. Likewise the daughters were named for the grandmothers, mother, and aunts. If the spouse died and the husband or wife remarried, the next child of the same sex as the deceased spouse would be given their name. If an infant died young, the next child of that sex was given the same name. This helped lead to the use of the same given names over and over again in each new generation. In many Norwegian and Danish examples you will find two or three children in the family with the same given name who all lived. For example: the father's probate record in Norway might list among the children three sons: Torvald the elder, Torvald the middle and Torvald the youngest. Besides these customs each of the Scandinavian countries had their own unique naming customs.

Additional surnames appear in Denmark besides patronymic surnames. Unlike the other Scandinavian countries, there is not an easy explanation for when, why and how these additional surnames appear. There are some patterns but no fast and predictable rules. In Denmark there was no equivalent to the military and trade names used in Sweden.

In each of the Scandinavian countries the same dozen or so given names were generally used over and over again in different combinations making it difficult to distinguish between more than one person with common names such as Rasmus Pedersen or Jens Hansen. There might be three or four people with the exact same name living in the same small village. Among the strategies used to distinguish such people were:

- Use of an occupation: Jens Rasmusen Smed (blacksmith) or Rasmus Olsen Skredder (tailor).
- Use of age indicator: Ung (young) Jens Pedersen, Gammel (old) Jens Pedersen.
- Use of a place name where the person may have moved from: Hans Pedersen Skaarup, Rasmus Larsen Skablund.
- Use of a surname that may have come from Germany originally: Hans Jensen Schroder.
- A family could have used a more unusual patronymic surname in addition to their own patronymic. For example: Jens Pedersen Clemmendsen, Jens Rasmusen Svendsen, and Niels Rasmusen Ovesen. Sometimes they might use one or the other of the two surnames or both.

In all cases the patronymic is the primary surname and the other surname is secondary and just used to better identify him. (Horlacher, T.G. 2009)

Most Danish surnames end in *-sen*, for example: Hansen (Han's son). Surnames only became general about the middle of the nineteenth century. Until then if Hans had a son and called him Jens, he would be known as Jens Hansen. If Jens Hansen then had a son and called him Hans, he would be called Hans Jensen. At some point it became customary for people to stick with the family name they had and pass it on to their children. This is why many Danish surnames are so similar Jensen, Hansen, Larsen, Nielsen.

Many women keep their maiden names in marriage which enables them to retain their identity in cases of serial monogamy. Children inherit these double-barrelled names. If they meet a double-barrelled partner, they then have the choice of four surnames. (Dyrbye, H. 1999)

The most common names in Sweden are originally patronymic which means that the son of, for example, Karl received the surname Karlsson (Karl's son). The daughter received the name Karlsdotter (Karl's daughter). Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century these names are inherited indifferent of the previous tradition and carried as family names. Even though these 'son-names' are the most common names in Sweden, a majority of the Swedes have other family names consisting of two items from nature, for example: Lindberg (linden/lime mountain), Bergkvist (mountain twig), Alstrom/Ahlstrom (alder stream). Other names like Sjoman (Seaman) and Nyman (Newman) contain professions and adjectives. Many families also have military-oriented names as Skarpsvard (sharp sword) Skold (shield) and Stolt (proud). Persons with ancestors of noble origin in Sweden often have surnames referring to their coat of arms and sometimes the names are also of non-Swedish origin. (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Sweden.2009)

According to Carol J. Williams (2001) who is the staff writer of *Los Angeles Times*, 'When you're one of 288,496 Johanssons in a country as small as Sweden, it's awfully hard to feel special.' She states that people are tired to be someone's sons or daughters they want to be treated as individuals. Each year, about 5,000 Swedes legally change their surnames. Although first changes to reduce *-sson* took place there is still a lot of misunderstandings and limitations to people who have the same surnames.

Some Swedish last names, like Norwegian surnames, have *jo* as an affix. Many Norwegian and Swedish surnames also have *lung* and *berg*, among other suffixes. *Lindberg* is the most common last name that does not end with the suffix *sson*. The suffix *sson* is very common in Swedish last names. *Johansson* is the most common surname, *Andersson* is the second most common and *Karlsson* comes in third as the popular Swedish last name. (Fong, M. 2004)

The Norwegian surnames where up until the mid 1800's a construction of your father's given name with the ending *-son* (or *-son* or *-sen*) or *-datter*. This is identical to the system used in Iceland. To identify the homeplace, they usually added the farm's name, like Jon Jonsen, Lie. If they were moving to the new homeplace, the surname changed. Names ending in '*son*' are unusual in Norway. Much more common is the '*sen*' ending. The '*sen*' ending has the same original meaning as the '*son*' ending in English: it used to mean '*son of*'. Some of these names like *Nilsen* are, therefore, very common. However, the name like *Reiersen* is quite rare. The female equivalent to the '*sen*' ending was '*dtr*' where '*dtr*' is short for '*datter*' or '*daughter of*'. However, when the system of patronymes ended, only the male patronymes went on to become surnames, so names ending on '*dtr*' are no longer used in Norway. Some names have changed their spelling several times and people from the same family have ended up with different surnames. One example of this is the unusual name of *Qvenild* which changed to *Quenild*, *Quinnild*, *Quinnel* and *Kvenild*. All these names are actually one and the same and are all in use today. Names are often related to a place, usually a farm, or '*gaard*' (spelled '*gard*' in modern Norwegian spelling). Names ending in '*gaard*' are for this reason quite common. In general, all Norwegian surnames are either constructions ending in '*sen*' (meaning son of) or referring to some place in Norway. (Furan, S.2009)

Iceland is famous for its reservation of the patronymic system. A person's first name remains his or her primary name while the indication of whose son or daughter he or she is is viewed by Icelanders less as a name than as a secondary descriptive level. The fact that Icelandic telephone catalogue is organized by given name is a source of wonder to foreigners and a locus of national pride for many Icelanders. (Linn, R. A. 2002)

Icelanders' names are constructed from a combination of their first name and their father's (or, more rarely, mother's) first name. Girls add the suffix *dottir* (daughter) to the patronymic and boys add *son*. Therefore, Jon, the son of Einar, would be Jon Einarsson. Daughter's surname would be Einarsdottir. (Fran, P. & E. O'Caroll.2007).

### **1.3.2. Dutch surnames**

A majority of Dutch names are local and derived from places in Holland. Dutch surnames can be focusing to foreigners, especially when they are preceded by a prefix. Common Dutch prefixes include: *de*, *der*, *den*, and *het* (which all mean *the*), *op* means *on*, and *van*, *van't*, *van den*, and *van der* all mean *from*. (Morrison, T & W. Conaway.2006)

Dutch people who did have surnames often used their first name plus their profession, living area or personal appearance. Children even with established last names would also use a patronymic and often therefore received no middle names. The patronymic

was based on one's father's name. Examples would be: a boy born to Jan being named Pieter Jan's son while his daughter might be named Geertje Jan's daughter. These forms were also commonly shortened to Janszn. and Jansdr., or to Jansse and finally to Jans which could be used for both male or female children.

Many Dutch names start with a prefix like *van* (of/from), *de/het/t* (the), *der* (of the), *van de* (of the/from the) and *in het* (in the). Examples: Hooft (the head), de Wolf (the wolf), van Rijn (from Rhine) but some verb-derived names that end in *-en* that often indicate occupations like van Bruggen (of bridges) for a bridge builder. (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. *Dutch name*.2009)

### 1.3.3. English surnames

Hereditary surnames, the family names passed down from father to son, came much later to England than many other parts of Europe. What's interesting is that the most common surnames in use in England today are not all of English origin. Surnames in England generally developed from four major sources:

**1. Patronymic & Matronymic Surnames** - These are surnames derived from baptismal or Christian names to indicate family relationship or descent. Some baptismal or given names have become surnames without any change in form. Others added an ending: *son* may have formed his surname by adding *-s* (more common in the South and West of England) or *-son* (preferred in the northern half of England) to his father's name. The latter *-son* suffix was also sometimes added to the mother's name. English surnames ending in *-ing* (from the British *engi*, 'to bring forth') and *-kin* generally indicate the patronymic or the family name as well.

**2. Occupational Surnames** - Many English surnames developed from a person's job or trade. Three common English surnames - Smith, Wright and Taylor - are excellent examples of this. A name ending in *-man* or *-er* usually implies such a trade name as in Chapman (shopkeeper), Barker (tanner) and Fiddler. On occasion a rare occupational name can provide a clue to the family's origin. For example: Dymond (dairymen) are commonly from Devon and Arkwright (maker of arks or chests) are generally from Lancashire.

**3. Descriptive Surnames** - Based on a unique quality or physical feature of the individual. These surnames often developed from nicknames or pet names. Most refer to an individual's appearance - color, complexion or physical shape - such as Armstrong. A descriptive surname may also refer to an individual's personal or moral characteristics such as Goodchild, Puttock (greedy) or Wise.

**4. Geographical or Local Surnames** - These are names derived from the location of the homestead from which the first bearer and his family lived and are generally the most

common origin of English surnames. They were first introduced into England by the Normans, many of whom were known by the name of their personal estate. Thus, many English surnames derive from the name of an actual town, county or estate. County names in Great Britain such as Cheshire, Kent and Devon have been commonly adopted as surnames. A second class of local surnames derived from cities and towns such as Hertford, Carlisle and Oxford. Other local surnames derive from descriptive landscape features such as hills, woods, and streams which describe the original bearer's residence. This is the origin of surnames such as Sykes (marshy stream), Bush and Attwood (near a wood). Surnames which begin with the prefix *at* can especially be attributed as a name with local origins. *By* was also sometimes used as a prefix for local names. (Powell, K.2009)

### 1.3.4. German surnames

Many German surnames are derived from a place. Names ending in *-sen* (as opposed to *-son*) including Hansen, Jansen or Petersen may indicate northern German coastal regions (or Scandinavia). Another indicator of North German names is a single vowel instead of a diphthong: Hinrich, Bur(r)mann or Suhrbier for Heinrich, Bauermann or Sauerbier. The use of *p* for *f* is yet another as in Koopmann (Kaufmann) or Scheper (Schäfer). Certain suffixes can also tell us about a name's origin. The suffix *-ke/ka* - as in Rilke, Kafka, Krupke, Mielke, Renke, Schoepke - hints at Slavic roots. The Slavic *-ke* suffix is similar to the Germanic *-sen* or *-son* indicating patrilinear descent from the father, son of. But in the case of the Slavic *-ke* the father's name is usually not his Christian or given name (Peter-son, Johann-sen) but an occupation, characteristic or location associated with the father (krup = hulking, uncouth + ke = son of = Krupke = son of the hulking one). (German Surnames - Last Names.2009)

German surnames developed from four major sources:

- 1. Patronymic & Matronymic Surnames** - Based on a parent's first name. This category of surnames is not as common in Germany as in many other European countries. Patronymic surnames are found primarily in the Northwestern areas of Germany, although they may be encountered in other areas of Germany (Niklas Albrecht - Niklas son of Albrecht).
- 2. Occupational Surnames** - More commonly found in German families than almost any other culture, these last names are based on the person's job or trade (Lukas Fischer - Lukas the Fisherman). Three suffixes which often indicate a German occupational name are: *-er* (one who), commonly found in names such as Fischer (one who fishes); *-hauer* (hewer or cutter), used in names such as Baumhauer (tree chopper) and *-macher* (one who makes), found in names like Schumacher (one who makes shoes).

**3. Descriptive Surnames** - Based on a unique quality or physical feature of the individual. These surnames often developed from nicknames or pet names (Karl Braun - Karl with brown hair).

**4. Geographical Surnames** - Derived from the location of the homestead from which the first bearer and his family lived (Leon Meer - Leon from by the sea). Other geographical surnames in Germany are derived from the state, region or village of the first bearer's origin, often reflecting a division in tribes and regions, i.e. low German, middle German and upper German (Paul Cullen - Paul from Koeln/Cologne). Surnames preceded by *on* are often clues to geographical surnames, not necessarily a sign that an ancestor was of nobility as many mistakenly believe (Jacob von Bremen - Jacob from Bremen).

Patronymic style of personal names dominated in the Germanic languages. Many surnames originated from patronyms. It was widely spread. Usually naming in these countries was based on occupation, work or they were named by their ancestors.

After the reviewing Germanic languages orthography we need to pay attention to our Lithuanian orthography and how Germanic proper names are used in the Lithuanian press. All the articles used below will be translated by the author of the bachelor thesis.

## 2. NON-LITHUANIAN SURNAMES ORTHOGRAPHY

### 2.1. The historical development of the problem

The beginning of the history of the Lithuanian written language is traditionally regarded the middle of the sixteenth century when the first book *Catechism* was published by Martynas Mažvydas. The first Lithuanian publications were religious texts about stories of saints, facts of Christianity and God. In the old scripts Lithuanians used original orthography of foreign personal names. However, the developing language started to transform foreign surnames by adding Lithuanian inflections. In the nineteenth century such linguists as Simonas Daukantas, Simonas Stanevičius, Dionizas Poška and others tried to solve the problem of the foreign surnames spelling. They proposed that non-Lithuanian surnames should be written by their pronunciation and the original surname should be provided in brackets. (Ambrazas, V. 2008)

Lithuania has been confronting with difficulties how to write non-Lithuanian foreign surnames for a long time. To this day, there are no concrete and correct rules how to write them. Should we write surnames in their original form using Latin letters or just write down the way they are pronounced? For example: Schimmelpfennig, Stimehr, Zippel or Schimmelpfennigas (Šimelpenigis, Šimelpenigas, Šimelpenikas, Šimelpenikis), Stimehris (Štimeris), Zippelis (Cipelis). (Jonikas, P. 1963)

This question kept us on the run from the day Lithuania became independent. Kazimieras Būga, Jonas Jablonskis, Antanas Salys, Pranas Skardžius and other famous Lithuanian linguists were the first to study this problem.

The current spelling of personal names of other languages is based on the State Lithuanian Language Commission's accepted resolution 'On the Lithuanian spelling and punctuation'<sup>1</sup>. This resolution provides that personal names of other languages according to the nature of the text may be used in three forms: 1) adapted (rewritten in Lithuanian language), 2) grammatised (used in authentic form with the Lithuanian ending) or 3) original/authentic - languages which use the Latin alphabet (the personal names and place names). In fiction works, in popular children and youth dedicated publications regarding their age and education names should be adapted, that is presented by pronunciation. In scientific literature, advertisements, informational publications and special texts personal names (from other languages) should be given in the authentic form. Languages which use non-Latin

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<sup>1</sup> Prepared by the 1997 19 June resolution No. 60, 4 of 2004, 6 May resolution No. N-7 (96), <http://www.vlkk.lt/lit/nutarimai/svetimvardziai/adaptavimas.html>.



script should transcribe personal names according to their pronunciation and traditions into the Lithuanian language.

The issue of proper names rendering into the Lithuanian language was analyzed before the World War I. The well-known journalist Valentinas Gustainis (1934:6) shared the opinion that a lot of unnecessary issues rise because we do not have the will or we do not dare to resist to various dilettante projects. He continued saying that the nation overspends a lot of energy for various experiments. Gustainis (1934:7) stated that every intelligent person who loves his language wants that the language would grow and become richer. So, we cannot resist to the fact that especially in the language new sounds turn up in the words which are of the foreign origin. On the contrary, those different sounds enrich the language. It would be the different case if Lithuanians could not pronounce them anyway. Gustainis (1934:7) thanked God that Lithuanians have 'good throats' to pronounce and learn other languages, for example: English, German, Latin, etc. In his article he gave a great example: the prefect of Paris police CHIAPPE as in one daily paper became ŠIAPE meanwhile Parisians CHIAPPE pronounce as KIAP because this surname is of Italian origin and is pronounced in Italian style. From the former president surname DOUMERGUE the same newspaper transformed into DUMERA. Gustainis (1934:8) asked the rhetorical question if this was not the sign of indolence?

In his next article called *Why we deform* Gustainis (1934:81) observed the same issue in other arguments. He expressed the similar view and stated that the deformation of the language frustrates not only linguists but every intelligent person. Gustainis (1934:81) proposed several examples in order to show that our language is too little respected: Foschinis should be transcribed into Fošinis, Gilbertas - Džilbertas, Mojica - Možika, etc. In the press there is a noticed pretermission of writing foreign surnames. Such superficiality displays the low level of the culture of the person who writes and an intelligent man finds it very unpleasant.

According to Jonikas (1963:17), Lithuanians wrote and still write foreign surnames by pronunciation, for example: Keleris (in German language Keller), Šulcas (Schulz, Schultz), etc. He claims that it is not good to disregard our writing traditions. It would be better not to restrict ourselves to one variant how to write foreign surnames. Surnames should be written in their original language or by pronunciation.

Lithuanian orthography among current European languages are one of the consistent, though we face up various problems. Ambrazas (1990:71) notes that surnames as Reiganas, Momas in their pronunciation are so far from the origin as well as Reaganas, Maughamas. When we write and pronounce Čerčilis, actually we do not convey any sound of

the origin form Churchill. Indeed transformed personal names do not show neither the original graphic view nor the pronunciation.

Ambrasas (1990:68) states that some authors wrote apostrophe before all inflections while others only at some particular circumstances. That variety was eliminated by famous linguists of the nineteenth century Antanas Salys and Pranas Skardžius who established firm principles of other languages personal names. They decided to put Lithuanian inflections without apostrophes to the endings of personal names which in their origin language end in consonants: Hauptmann+as=Hauptmannas, Chamberlain+as=Chamberlainas, Moll+is=Mollis, ect. Apostrophes are recommended to write in such cases where non-Lithuanian personal name end in mute vowel or consonant: Saussure'as, Saussyre'o, Saussure'ui; Verlaine'as, Verlaine'o, Verlaine'ui; Chateaubriand'as, Chateaubriand'o, Chateaubriand'ui. Authoritative publications such as *Gimtasis Žodis*, *Lietuviškoji enciklopedija* and other confirmed such writing.

Every surname is legally formalized person's sign which no one can change in their own discretion. This is the reason why they differ from other proper names. Fairly we disgust finding in the foreign passports perverted surnames. Reasonably we require that our personal names forms will be protected by the law. While the press lacks diacritic signs typical to other languages these signs could be omitted (this is how the problem is being solved also in the other languages) and German umlaut is changed into the letter *e* after the vowel, i.e. instead of form Bruckneris it is written Brueckneris, instead of Romeris - Roemeris, ect. (Ambrasas, V.1990)

Ambrasas (1990:73) concludes that there are two officially legitimized personal names patterns of languages which use Latin alphabets: adaptation according to the pronunciation in the popular literature and original in the scientific, informational, advertising and other texts. The society has the right to choose. Only in 1997 the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language established the resolution number 60 "About the Lithuanian language spelling and punctuation"<sup>2</sup>.

However, during the next decade there were no major changes in this field. It is the view of Pranas Kniūkšta (2001:523) that non-inflective words are the foreign body of the Lithuanian language that is why the language tries to naturalize, i.e. to grammatize them. It is true to say that until now the Lithuanian language negotiated with foreign words but nowadays the situation is changing. To conclude Kniūkšta (2001:527) we could outline the main features of the discussed principles of how to grammatize personal names:

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<sup>2</sup> 1997 19 June, resolution No. 60,  
[http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_l?p\\_id=41265&p\\_query=&p\\_tr2=](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=41265&p_query=&p_tr2=)

1. Inflections of transcribed and adapted personal names are written in the simple way like in Lithuanian words.
2. Personal names which do not have inflections could be written with apostrophe.
3. Non-adapted non-Lithuanian personal names which have their own graphic are written with Lithuanian inflections and could be written with apostrophe.
4. Apostrophe is not needed when personal names according to their graphic and pronunciation do not differ from Lithuanian words.

The Seimas of the Lithuanian Republic has started again to discuss the new Lithuanian language law. It is now required by the law to prohibit the free use of their authentic forms in Lithuanian texts. However, the Seimas of the Lithuanian Republic did not agree with the government's suggestion from the year 2008 to transcribe surnames in the person documents into the Lithuanian language. (Ambrazas,V.2007)

According to Ambrazas (2007) the writing of other languages personal names has a long history. This question is relevant to the Lithuanian press from 1918 when Lithuania declared the Independence and the State of Lithuania joined the European nations political and cultural cooperation space. What is more, when in March 2004 and May 2004 Lithuania joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union the Lithuanian press, people and government found it difficult to pronounce and spell other nations names and surnames and began to transform them in their own way. This problem is not new to Lithuania, the government has been interested in it for long time but this issue was not so urgent as it is today. Ambrazas (2007) states that such Lithuania's language linguist as Jonas Jablonskis accepted to write the names of other languages authentically and proposed such forms: Wellingtonas, Wilson, Blucheris, d'Alembert, Dubois, Maupertuis, Segre, Sturge, Waterloo, ect. Jablonskis explained that writing in such a way we seek not to differ from other nations who have the same Latin alphabet. Ambrazas (2007) makes clear that it is impossible to create rules by which proper names will be adapted by the Lithuanian language because even in the Latin alphabet letters and words combinations are pronounced differently. It is also impossible from the remade names to recognize and restore their original forms, to find information in encyclopaedias, reference books or on the Internet. None of the Europe countries regulate other languages spelling of names by laws. Ambrazas (2007) hopes that the members of the Seimas will use their wisdom and the new Lithuanian language law won't be fulfilled by pointless and unrealistic requirements.

Famous Lithuanian linguists and other representatives many times addressed the government of Lithuania to stop deforming the Lithuanian language and follow the rules by which foreign surnames should be transcribed into the Lithuanian language. Writing foreign surnames in their original form is against the main Lithuanian law - State language is the Lithuanian language. This opinion was confirmed by the Lithuanian Lawyers Association in 2004. The authors of the article say that we should let them (foreign people) write and pronounce their words as they want. Our newspapers are for Lithuanians. So we should write foreign proper names for our country's people. Linguists, writers and others suggested logical halfway variants that all foreign proper names should be transcribed into the Lithuanian language and if needed to write original form as extra information in brackets. Such suggestion in 19<sup>th</sup> century was prepared by Vincas Kudirka who was the representative of the Lithuanian National Revival. Unfortunately no one pays attention to it. There are some projects about the spelling of foreign surnames but no one informs the society. So here arises the question: Why is the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language is deaf and apathetic to these suggestions? (Vaiškūnas, J & V. Landsbergis. 2007)

In the other article *The task for politicians - tell to write personal names in the Lithuanian language* the journalist Egle Digryte (2008) notes that writers, philosophers, cultural and social activists, translators and linguists argue about how to write personal names in documents, media, translated literature and elsewhere. More than 300 citizens applied to the Seimas of the Lithuanian Republic asking to prohibit the writing of foreign names, the names of cities or regions, other personal names in their original language. Linguists, in turn, suggest that (there) should not be any major revolutions in that field and we have to follow the tradition because neither one nor the other extremity would be accepted. According to Viktoras Muntianas (2007), the chairperson of the Seimas, currently, the usage of personal names is becoming dependent on all sorts of persons' fad. The State Commission of the Lithuanian Language believes that current operating principles how to use the foreign personal names reflect the two old traditions of their usage in Lithuanian texts and give the opportunity for the society to choose one of them (i.e. to use the original or adapted forms) or both at once. The chairperson of translators union Jurgita Mikutytė (2008) states that the current liberal order is by far the best because personal names can be written according to the need: in fiction and especially in children literature - adapted, in the press or in scientific texts to leave the original surname, in addition, where appropriate, to write Lithuanianized variant. The linguist Antanas Smetona (2008) also proposes to follow the traditions, the linguistic canons of science and the global experience. Smetona (2008) states that the appeal has been written by the group of people who just make a lot of noise and tries to threaten others. There

is no need to create anything. He concludes that even though foreign personal names enter the Lithuanian language, our language will live longer than the much more popular English language.

According to the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language chairperson Smetonienė (2009) discussions about foreign surnames spelling is not the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language matter but politicians matter. She states that the Seimas must solve this problem. This problem how to write foreign surnames is still urgent and there are no accurate solutions.

Liubertaitė (2010) has expressed a similar view as other mentioned linguists that foreign surnames should be transcribed into the Lithuanian language and their original surnames added as an extra information. The State Commission of the Lithuanian Language has ignored such suggestion without consideration. The Constitution of Lithuania and State Language Law enable every citizen to require that the press would use the fluent and accurate Lithuanian language. This is what Liubertaitė (2010) is going to seek with the help of other society's groups. According to Liubertaitė (2010) the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language uses tactics saying that the Lithuanian people want to write foreign surnames in their original language.

People who know several foreign languages do not find it difficult in reading foreign surnames although they are wrongly written because they know or guess the original form of them but there are a lot of people who do not know any foreign language and they feel discomfort reading and misunderstanding foreign-born surnames. Newspapers editors should understand that the Lithuanian newspaper is for Lithuanians and foreigners do not pay attention how their surnames are written there. Where is the logic to publish the Lithuanian newspaper for people who hardly understand it? Each of us likes to criticize the government for the lack of the nationalism accepting rules which are against our law. Some linguists say that even there is the risk to our national language but they just speak in superlatives to pay audience's attention. On one side it is good that our society pays attention to this hot issue especially now when we are interconnected with foreign countries but from the other side it looks ridiculous when no one wants to take the responsibility for all misunderstandings and that our country's famous linguists and other high-ranking employees fight and blame each other and take no action. It is still unclear who is guilty that Lithuanians do not know how to correctly write foreign surnames. It would be clever to transcribe foreign surnames because everyone will be able to understand them. We should cherish - not deform our language. The rules of transcriptions of non-Lithuanian proper names are presented below.

## 2.2. The rules of transcriptions of non-Lithuanian proper names

The transcription of foreign names undergoes two stages: firstly, the word is re-written in the Lithuanian graphic symbols after the rules of stem writing, secondly, the end of the word is Lithuanized after the rules of the Lithuanian grammar. Grammar rules are provided by the State Commission on the Lithuanian language in order to write non-Lithuanian proper names correctly:

1. Personal names that end with a consonant have such inflections *-as*, *-is*, *-(i)us*. The inflection *-as* is added to surnames which in the original language end in a hard consonant, for example: Brugmanas (Brugmann), Stiuartas (Stewart), Brauchičas (Brautchitisch), ect. Also the inflection *-as* is added to non-Lithuanian proper names which belong to the stem and end *-as*, *-is*, *-us*, *-es* (*-ez*), *-os*, for example: Morisas (Morris), Maltusas (Malthus), Dreifusas (Dreyfuss), ect.
2. The inflection *-is* is used then the words have unstressed diphthong *-er* or the consonant *l*, for example: Šileris (Schiller), Liuteris (Luther), Čerčilis (Churchill), ect. However, quite a big number of proper names which end by the hard consonant gets the inflection *-as*, for example: Raselas (Russell), Belas (Bell), Karlas (Karl), ect.
3. The inflection *-ius* is added mostly to the Slavic surnames but also is added to proper names which end in non-syllabled *-i* or *-j*, for example: Hemingvėjus (Hemingway), Andžėjus (Andrzej), ect.

**Note.** No inflection is added to female surnames that end in a consonant, for example: Smit (Smith), Fišer (Fischer), Gomes (Gomez), Flauer (Flower), Klemens (Clemence), Bes (Bess), Doris (Doris).

4. When non-Lithuanian proper names end with non-pronounced vowel *-e* or non-pronounced consonant, before adding Lithuanian endings apostrophe is used, for example: *Larousse'as*, *Larouss'o* (read as Larusas, Laruso), *Verlaine'as* (read as Verlenas), *Burke'as* (read as Berkas), ect. Apostrophe can be also used then the reader finds it difficult to understand the stem of non-Lithuanian proper name, for example: *Rudel'is*, *Rudel'io* (read as Rudelis). But this happens not very often.
5. Inflections are not added if the name ends in a stressed vowel, for example: Hugo, Degas (read as Dega), Camus (read as Kamiu).

Although there are certain but not completely finished rules how to write foreign surnames linguists still disagree and argue instead of reforming them. A survey of theoretical issues necessary for the analysis is presented below.

### 3. THE USAGE OF GERMANIC SURNAMES IN THE LITHUANIAN PRESS

The instances of Germanic surnames analyzed in this part have been collected from the most popular Lithuanian newspaper *Lietuvos Rytas*. The practical part is divided into three stages. Firstly, 414 examples were compiled to reveal the usage of Germanic surnames in the Lithuanian press. Germanic surnames were collected from 10 January, 2010 to 20 April, 2010. The edition of the year 2009 was analyzed. About 350 surnames were of the masculine gender and more than 50 surnames of the feminine gender. It is important to note that the female and male surnames are analyzed differently because of their different origin and composition. What is more, different rules are applied and female surnames transcriptions differ from the male surnames transcriptions. The Lithuanian rule suggests to transcribe male surnames with certain inflections but transcribing female surnames use no inflections. Secondly, instances were classified and analyzed according to their origin and Lithuanian rules. Thirdly, Germanic surnames have been statistically estimated and presented in diagram form according to their frequency.

According to the principles of the usage of foreign personal names in the Lithuanian language surnames of Germanic languages that use Latin alphabet should be transcribed. However, the selected examples show that foreign personal names are not transcribed in the Lithuanian press. Only the flection of surnames is Lithuanized following the rules of the Lithuanian grammar. As it was mentioned above, foreign personal names can be rendered according to three variants: to adapt, to grammatisise or use original/authentic form. In the Lithuanian press neither the original form is used nor the transcribed one. Usually an authentic form of a surname is used with a grammatised Lithuanian ending, for example: Jarettas is used instead of a transcribed form Džaretas.

The detailed investigation of Germanic surnames and their manifestation in the Lithuanian press will be provided in the following sections. The compiled instances were arranged into the tables according to the language of origin where the column 1 includes the original form of surnames, the column 2 presents the instance from the newspaper and the column 3 provides the versions of the surnames transcribed applying the rules established by the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language. Original forms of the surnames were reconstructed and the adapted ones were made by the author of this paper based on the material provided in the theoretical part of the thesis.

In the following paragraphs the rules of foreign personal names transcription will be illustrated with examples found in the *Lietuvos rytas* newspaper.

According to the first rule provided by Sližienė (1990) foreign surnames that end with a consonant have such inflections *–as*, *–is*, *–(i)us*. Examples will be presented in the table below.

**Table 1.** *Examples of English personal names that end with a consonant.*

Original form	Examples from the newspaper	Adapted transcription according to the rule
Bush	Bushas	Bušas
Brown	Brownas	Braunas
Smith	Smithas	Smitas
Beckham	Beckemas	Beckemas, Beckhamas
Clinton	Clintonas	Klintonas
Pitt	Pittas	Pitas
Lincoln	Lincolnas	Linkolnas
Taylor	Tayloras	Teiloras
Springsteen	Springsteenas	Springstynas
Lehman	Lehmanas	Lemanas
Fox	Foxas	Foksas
Dick	Dickas	Dikas
Paddock	Paddockas	Padokas
Ehrman	Ehrmanas	Ermanas
Scott	Scottas	Skotas
Johnson	Johnsonas	Džonsonas
Lewis	Lewisas	Luisas
Owen	Owensas	Auvensas
Hogarth	Hogarthas	Hogartas
Davis	Davisas	Deivisas
Clark	Clarkas	Klarkas

The examples compiled from the newspaper and presented in the column 2 show that all the surnames are written according to the second form of resolution (‘On the Lithuanian spelling and punctuation’), i.e. grammatised (used in authentic form with Lithuanian ending). Despite the fact that the majority of Lithuanian linguists suggest to transcribe foreign names, *Lietuvos Rytas* prefers to leave the original root with the Lithuanized flection. One of the reasons to write English surnames in such a way could be that it is the easiest and less time consuming way. Getting news in English from foreign information providers, adding the Lithuanian inflection *–as* and printing such version of surnames is the quickest way to include foreign surnames into the news article. Other reason



could be that in order to avoid mistakes the newspaper leaves the original root and adds the Lithuanian ending. That is the simplest way which does not require neither phonetic nor etymologic knowledge.

What concerns the etymology English surnames are taken from jobs, for example: *Taylor* - a cutter-out of cloth. The English surname *Smith* is derived from Old English term *to smite* that means to hit, *Clark* - an Anglo Saxon surname derived from the Latin word *clericus* which means a person who is intelligent. A surname *Beckham* is derived from the Old English byname 'Becca' (meaning a mattock) plus 'ham' means 'Becca's homestead'. As to the origin of English surnames, the compiled instances confirm the statements provided in the theoretical part where it is said that many English surnames are developed from a person's job or trade and that three common English surnames are *Smith*, *Wright* and *Taylor*. An 's' at the end of a personal name means 'son of' like *Lewis* (Lewy's son), *Davis* (Davy's son), *Williams* (William's son), ect. What is more, descriptive surnames are common in English language, for example: color - *Brown*, physical shape - *Beck*, *Armstrong*. Also place names as Lincoln mentioned in the table 1 and other examples founded in the newspaper - *Hamilton*, *London*.

What concerns the spelling of surnames it is possible to find several variants such as *Beckemas* and *Beckhamas* in the same newspaper's edition of the year 2009. The first variant of the surname shows that it was tried to transcribe it into the Lithuanian language but it was done not completely because the letter *c* was left showing non-Lithuanian transcription. The second variant was transcribed like most English surnames - the original root was left and the Lithuanian inflection added. Surnames of important persons in the world like *Bush* who was the previous president of the United States of America and *Brown* who is the current Prime Minister of the United Kingdom through all the newspaper's edition are written the same as showed in the table 1. Some surnames like *Owen*, *Scott* are just father's names used as last names. Given examples show that not always double consonants are left, for example: *Pittas* (double letter *t* is left) and *Foxas* (consonant *x* is not doubled). Such different variations of writing English surnames confirm the fact that if there are no strict rules how to write foreign surnames every time you can write them differently and do not follow rules. The Latin alphabet's letters such as *w*, *x* are not transcribed into the Lithuanian language. A lot of English surnames such as *Johnston*, *Jones* and *John* are derived from the name *John*.

**Table 2.** Examples of Norwegian personal names that end with a consonant.

Original form	Examples from the newspaper	Adapted transcription according to the rule
Richardson	Richardsonas	Ričardsonas

Hedergaaard	Hedegaardas	Hedegoras
Westergaard	Westergaardas	Vestegoras

Table 2 includes Norwegian surnames. Articles about Norwegians are not very common in the Lithuanian press. It is natural that comparing English and Norwegian surnames the latter occur less because (1) the population is less than in English-speaking countries (2) Norway is not the member of the European Union and (3) does not belong to the leading countries of the world. That is why it is hard to adapt Norwegian surnames because linguists do not pay much attention to their spelling. In the Lithuanian language suffix *aard* is rendered into the Lithuanian letter *o*. Such translation changes the original surname and is hard to identify the real one. Surnames which are really hard to pronounce and translate into the Lithuanian language should be written with the original form in brackets avoiding misunderstandings, for example: *Vestegoras* (Westergaard). However, such kind of writing is not used in the newspaper *Lietuvos Rytas*. The Latin alphabet is not Lithuanized as in the table 1 too, original root is left and the Lithuanian inflection is added. Norwegian surnames are grammatised and double letters are written as well.

Norwegian surnames are usually constructed with ‘*son of*’ and ‘*gaard*’ suffixes. *Richardson* is the son of *Richard* and other surnames with ‘*gaard*’ are related to a place, usually a farm. This is because most of Norwegians lived on farms and each farm had a name.

**Table 3.** *Examples of Swedish personal names that end with a consonant.*

Original form	Examples from the newspaper	Adapted transcription according to the rule
Sigurdsson	Sigurdssonas	Sigurdsonas
Bloomberg	Bloombergas	Blumbergas
Stauffenberg	Stauffenbergas	Štaufenbergas
Seeberg	Seebergas	Sybergas
Samuelsson	Samuelssonas	Samuelsonas

Newspaper *Lietuvos rytas* leaves double letters in Swedish surnames while rendering them into the Lithuanian language. The original form of Swedish surnames is left and the Lithuanian inflection is added.

Swedish surnames share common features with Norwegian surnames. Both have common suffixes. The suffix *sson* is very common in Swedish last names but the most popular surnames usually end in suffix *berg* like *Seeberg*, *Solberg*, ect. The Swedish surname

*Sigurdsson* means the son of *Sigurds*, *Sigurd's* son, that is why there is a double 'ss' in Swedish surnames, Sigurds son = Sigurdsson.

Recently, there is a possibility to reduce the suffix *-sson* and people use this opportunity in order to be identified not according to their ancestors but according to individualities.

**Table 4.** *Examples of German personal names that end with a consonant.*

Original form	Examples from the newspaper	Adapted transcription according to the rule
Hessemann	Hessemanas	Hesemanas
Schultz	Schultzas	Šulcas
Klinsmann	Klinsmannas	Klinsmanas
Smidt	Smidtas	Šmitas
Heidfeld	Heidfeldas	Haidfeldas
Munch	Munchas	Munkas
Lindemann	Lindemannas	Lindemanas
Haas	Haasas	Hasas

Surnames starting with consonants *Pf* or *Sch* indicate that the surname is of German origin the same as such endings as *-mann*, *-eld* and other. German surnames mostly originate from professions: *Schmidt* (smith). *Schmidt* is the most popular German surname which means *Smith* in English language. The surname *Schultz* is an occupational name for the man in charge of the village (magistrate, sheriff, overseer). German ending *feld* means the field of something. German surnames raise a lot of problems for journalists, editors and publishers because they use symbols and sounds that the Lithuanian language does not have. The usage of umlauts on certain German surnames letters is the main problem. Especially female surnames are written with umlauts. Linguists still have doubts how to write their last names and cannot find the proper solution. All German surnames are not adapted and it is hard for a reader to understand and pronounce the real surname of a person about who an article is. The newspaper leaves double letters in the spelling of German surnames.

**Table 4.** *Examples of Danish personal names that end with a consonant.*

Original form	Examples from the newspaper	Adapted transcription according to the rule
Rasmussen	Rasmussenas	Rasmusenas

Danish surnames are not present in the Lithuanian newspaper. The Danish surname *Rasmussen* contains the most common suffix *-sen* which signifies that the person is the son of *Rasmus*, his father's name was *Rasmus*. Danish surnames are not difficult to transcribe because they are written as pronounced. But it is necessary to pay attention that in this example as in other examples mentioned above the double letter problem remains unsolved.

Another problem is that in the same article found in the newspaper *Lietuvos Rytas* about some event surnames of one nation people are given differently: some with Lithuanian endings, some with no inflections. Editors do not follow recommendations of Lithuanian linguists thereby doing harm to the Lithuanian language while leaving foreign surnames without the adaptation. Such mistakes should be fixed in order to keep the newspaper of the high standard.

A number of examples showed that newspapers do not transcribe surnames into the Lithuanian language. Umlauts, double letters, the Latin alphabet and other symbols are left in all surnames of Germanic languages and sometimes even several variants of them can be found (Beckemas/Beckhemas).

The next part will deal with the second rule according to which the inflection *-is* is added when the surnames end in the diphthong *-er* or the consonant *l*. However, many surnames which end by the hard consonant can get an inflection *-as* as well.

**Table 5.** Examples of English surnames when they end with a diphthong *-er* or a consonant *l*.

Original form	Examples from the newspaper	Adapted transcription according to the rule
Stiller	Stilleris	Stileris
Malinger	Malingeris	Malindžeris
Challenger	Challengeris	Čelendžeris
Fuller	Fulleris	Fuleris
Calder	Calderis	Kalderis
Wagner	Wagneris	Vagneris
Meyer	Meyeris	Mejeris
Weaver	Weaveris	Vyveris
Weiner	Weineris	Vaineris
Tiger	Tiegeris	Taigeris

We can also find the same problem as double letters, the usage of the Latin alphabet in these examples too. The newspaper *Lietuvos Rytas* has set its own tendency of writing English surnames, i.e. only the Lithuanian inflection is added according to the rule, no other changes are made. But we can notice the exception made in the example *Tiger*: the insertion

of the letter *e*. Such mistake shows the lack of the knowledge of English language and transcription rules of this language.

Although English is a world-wide speaking language many Lithuanians still do not understand it and they face many difficulties reading newspapers where they find neither original nor transcribed version of foreign surnames. As it was mentioned before English surnames are derived from locations, for example: *Weaver* is derived from the place called Weaver Hall in the county of Cheshire. Such surnames describing activity or business the person was doing later became hereditary if the son followed his father job. The surname *Mayer* gives a status to a person because this surname was derived from a word mayor. What is more this surname is the patronymic form meaning son of Mayer. Another example *Fuller* is an occupational name for the dresser of cloth so we can add that English surnames are also derived from a person's work. The surname *Stiller* can be of several possible origins: many forms including Still, Stille and Stillman (English) and Still, Stille, Stiller, Stile, Stiling, Stilling and Stillmann (German and Dutch). This is because this surname could be derived from a word *still* meaning *calm* but also could have other meanings. Some surnames as *Challenger* describes the person's physical appearance meaning the champion or the winner. Also English surnames have connection with animals names as in the example *Tiger*.

It would not be correct to state that only several English surnames are written with small mistakes like in the example *Fuller* when the doubled letter *l* was left. Newspapers editors should consult translators because otherwise they pass the wrong message about the person who is mentioned in the particular article.

**Table 6.** Examples of German surnames when they end with a diphthong –er or a consonant *l*.

Original form	Examples from the newspaper	Adapted transcription according to the rule
Genscher	Genscheris	Genšeris
Steinbruck	Steinbruckis	Štainbriukas
Vettel	Vettelis	Fetelis
Sullenberger	Sullenbergeris	Sulenbergieris
Kohler	Kohleris	Keleris
Gerhartsreiter	Gerhartsreiteris	Gerhartšraitieris
Kretschmer	Kretschmeris	Kretšmeris
Schrenker	Schrenkeris	Šrenkeris
Becker	Beckeris	Bekeris
Schumacher	Schumacheris	Šumacheris
Schweinsteiger	Schweinsteigeris	Švainstaigeris
Kruger	Krugeris	Kriugeris

Steinmeier	Steinmeieris	Štainmejeris
Ledger	Ledgeris	Ledžeris

According to the rule set by linguists who study German language sounds *sch*, *sp* and *st* should be transcribed as *š* into the Lithuanian language. This is the most common mistake transcribing German surnames. Also there is other rule in which the German letter *v* is transcribed as the Lithuanian letter *f*. Umlauts are also used in some articles. The Latin alphabet is used in many Germanic languages and is not adapted into the Lithuanian language. Here we can notice the same problem. German language is not an exception. Also another problem using double letters is repeated. Like most Germanic languages surnames German last names are derived from the person's work, for example: *Schumacher* means *shoe maker* and German word *machen* means *doing something*. This is a very common stem in German surnames. Also the surname *Kruger* meaning the manufacturer or the merchant of glass and pottery, *Becker* meaning the baker, *Kohler* - the charcoal maker. Some surnames mean equipments: *Ledger* – the spear. The same like English surnames German last names could give the status to the person, for example: the surname *Steinmeier* originally comes from the word *Meier* that means *an administrator*.

As it was mentioned before German surnames are very difficult surnames which our linguists and editors try to transcribe into the Lithuanian language. What is more, the exception is present as in the example *Steinbuck* when the surname transcription in the Lithuanian language ends with the inflection *–as*.

Newspapers editors should know general rules of English and German languages letters transcriptions in order not to make mistakes. Especially such newspaper as *Lietuvos rytas* should follow the rules set by the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language because it is the greatest daily paper in Lithuania.

According to the next rule no inflection should be added to female surnames that end in the consonant. The table 7 gives examples of female surnames.

**Table 7.** *Examples of English female surnames.*

Original form	Examples from the newspaper	Adapted transcription according to the rule
Hathaway	Hathaway	Hetavei
Wintour	Wintour	Vintur
Jackson	Jackson	Džekson
Whiterspoon	Whiterspoon	Viterspūn
Stewart	Stewart	Stiuart

Clinton	Clinton	Klinton
Headly	Headly	Hedli
Ritchie	Ritchie	Riči
Winfrey	Winfrey	Vinfri
Smith	Smith	Smit
Knox	Knox	Noks

From examples it is clear that female surnames are not adapted into the Lithuanian language. They are presented as shown in the table 7 and are taken from foreign sources.

English female surnames do not have special ending. Women have the same surnames as their husbands or fathers have. This tradition and naming came from ancestors and is still used. According to barrister Myers (2010), ‘While in theory the choice between the male and female surname is an equal one, the distribution of preferences is uneven’. When a time comes to choose or not the husband’s surname usually the woman takes it and it seems like there is no preference for women taking their surname. But according to the Civil Code - the common family name can be chosen which is either the woman’s or the man’s surname. It does not matter that we live in the twenty first century social conventions are not changing. Many people still assume the fact that when the man and woman get married the woman takes the man’s surname. So the woman marrying *Smith* will be *Mrs. Smith*. Of course there is the law respecting the wish to change the surname.

**Table 8.** *Examples of Icelandic female surnames.*

Original form	Examples from the newspaper	Adapted transcription according to the rule
Gisladottir	Gisladottir	Gisladotir
Gunnarsdottir	Gunnarsdottir	Gunarsdottir
Sigurdadottir	Sigurdadottir	Sigurdadotir

Table 8 shows Icelandic female surnames which are like many Germanic last names constructed using patronymic system. From the examples it is clear that the suffix *-dottir* dominates in female surnames. It is important to know to which group of people you belong to and the example in Iceland when the person refers to someone as the child of another is old-fashioned. If your surname for example is *Gisladottir* that means you are the daughter of *Gisli*. Nowadays many people in Iceland like in Sweden try to identify themselves as individuals because you can be embarrassed by your ancestors and no one wants to feel anonymous in the country.

The tendency of writing double letter is repeated almost in all overlooked and presented examples above. Icelandic female surnames share the same problems as the rest of Germanic female surnames do.

**Table 9.** *Examples of German female surnames.*

Original form	Examples from the newspaper	Adapted transcription according to the rule
Tauscher Kassmann	Tauscher Kassmann	Taušer Kesman

All German surnames are difficult to transcribe into the Lithuanian language it does not matter whether it is the man's or woman's surname. It is impossible to transcribe such German female surnames as *Kohler* because if the Lithuanian version of the man's surname is *Keleris* then for the woman it should be *Kelerė* but it would be wrongly transcribed because there is no such possible variant of the surname in the Lithuanian language. In order to be sure there is an example of the German male's surname *Schauble* which is transcribed as Šoblė in the Lithuanian language. So if we transcribe female surnames with an ending –e misunderstandings will come along. The same problem is with the German female's surname *Muller* which would be incorrect to transcribe.

Female surnames should be written in their original form or original form should be added in brackets because transcribed female last names in the Lithuanian language would sound very differently from their original version. As it was shown in examples some female surnames are even impossible to transcribe into the Lithuanian language. So here we should follow the rule which indicates that no inflections should be added to female surnames.

We can notice the tendency of the newspaper *Lietuvos Rytas* which is obvious. It uses the Latin alphabet, double letters and examples are presented in the authentic form with the Lithuanian inflection paying no attention to the fact that the Lithuanian press is for Lithuanians and surnames should be adapted in our language having in mind that not all are able to read foreign surnames.

According to the fourth rule when non-Lithuanian proper names end with vowel –e or non-pronounced consonant apostrophe is used in such cases. Examples which use apostrophes are presented below.



**Table 10.** *Examples of English surnames ending with a vowel –e.*

Original form	Examples from the newspaper	Adapted transcription according to the rule
Gore	Gore'as	Goras
Bale	Bale'as	Beilas
Pine	Pine'as	Pinas
Timberlake	Timberlake'as	Timberleikas
Lane	Lane'as	Leinas
Gere	Gere'as	Gyras
Nettle	Nettle'as	Netlas
Rice	Rice'as	Raisas
White	White'as	Vaitas
Snape	Snape'as	Sneipas
Daschle	Daschle'as	Dašlas

The newspaper uses apostrophes in all examples which were found and puts apostrophe to surnames which end in the vowel –e. Nevertheless, surnames are not adapted into the Lithuanian language. This is the way they provide original background of surnames.

There are also surnames which are written in their original language without Lithuanian inflections if they end in a stressed vowel. This kind of writing, i. e. The original/authentic form of surnames, is recommended due to the fact that the age and education differ of inhabitants in Lithuania and to use the Latin alphabet and write surnames in their authentic form is one of solutions dealing with Germanic surnames spelling. The following examples will be presented in the table below.

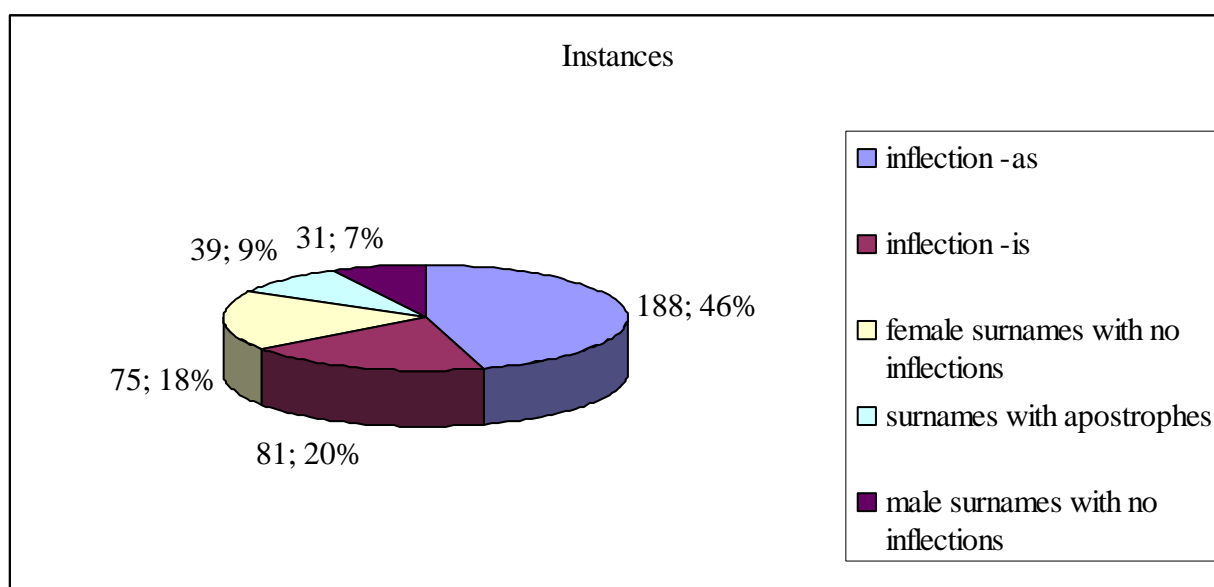
**Table 11.** *English and German surnames which are used with no inflections.*

Original form	Examples from the newspaper	Adapted transcription according to the rule
Gow	Gow	Gau
Lavigne	Lavigne	Lavin
Kennedy	Kennedy	Kenedis
Newton	Newton	Niutonas
King	King	Kingas
Murray	Murray	Murėjas
Ramsay	Ramsay	Ramzis
Keener	Keener	Kynas
Schober	Schober	Šoberis
Suleman	Suleman	Sulemanas

Blindeman Lee	Blindeman Lee	Blindemanas Li
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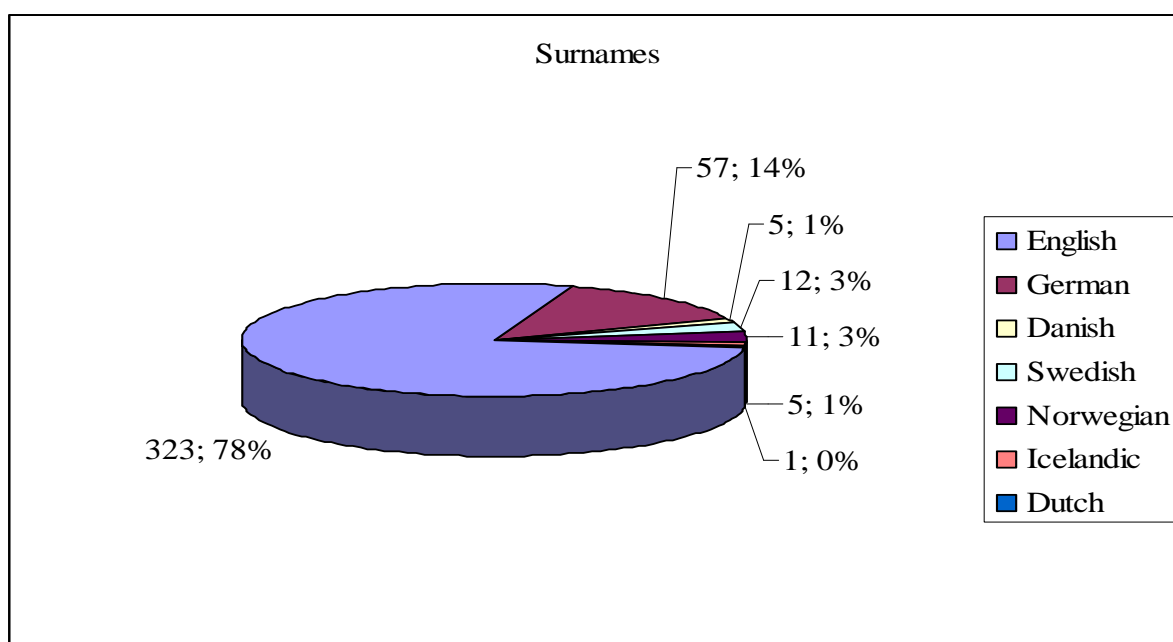
Table 11 shows that examples are written in the authentic language without Lithuanizing them. Editors contradict because sometimes they write surnames with the authentic form adding the Lithuanian inflection, sometimes only in the authentic form as in examples above. They should choose one way of spelling from the table 11: to write in the original form or in the adapted transcription adding the original form in brackets. The newspaper should keep order and write Germanic surnames in the way they decided to write them and do not mix this order through all the edition.

After observing all five main rules set by the State Lithuanian Language Commission results will be presented in a pie.



**Figure 1.** The relative frequency according to the Lithuanian rules.

Figure 1 presents instances which were classified according to the Lithuanian rules. The greatest part of Germanic surnames are composed with the inflection *-as*. It is accounted for 46 percent (188 instances). Examples with the inflection *-is* are amounted for 20 percent (81 instances). Then follow female surnames with no inflections that are accounted for 18 percent (75 instances). The least part of Germanic surnames founded in the Lithuanian press are surnames with apostrophes that are amounted for 9 percent (39 instances) and male surnames with no inflections accounted for 7 percent (31 instances).



**Figure 2.** The relative frequency according to Germanic languages.

As it is seen from Figure 2 above, the most frequent Germanic surnames founded in the Lithuanian press were of English origin. It is accounted for 78 percent (323 instances). Another Germanic language which surnames often occurred was of German origin. It is accounted for 14 percent (57 instances). Other Germanic surnames of Danish, Norwegian, Swedish and Icelandic origins were not very frequent in the Lithuanian press and were accounted for 3 percent (Norwegian and Swedish), one percent (Danish and Icelandic). Surnames of Dutch origin were hardly founded. Only one instance of Dutch surname was found.

Certain general conclusions can be drawn from the investigation. Conclusions will be presented in the chapter below.

## CONCLUSIONS

The conclusions presented below are based on the research carried out by the author of this paper. They are as following:

1. The analysis confirmed the importance of the proper name. The proper name can be considered as the part of people's life, his/her bond with the family, nation and ancestry. The etymology of Germanic surnames showed that many of them were patronymic and derived from the person's work. The distribution of compiled instances confirmed the statements provided in the theoretical part: the most frequent surnames are Smith, Taylor (English), Schmidt (German), Johansson, Andersson (Swedish).

2. The study of the non-Lithuanian surnames orthography revealed that there are three possible ways of rendering foreign personal names into the Lithuanian language: a grammatised form (an authentic form with the Lithuanian ending), an adapted form (rewritten in Lithuanian language) or an authentic form (languages which use the Latin alphabet). The compiled instances showed that the tendencies regarding the foreign surnames rendering in the Lithuanian press, particularly the newspaper *Lietuvos Rytas*, are the following: the grammatised form of the spelling is preferred to the adapted or authentic ones; the Latin alphabet, double letters, umlauts are left; the same surname is rendered across all issues of the newspaper consistently, except a few solitary instances.

3. The examples have been classified according to Germanic languages: English surnames were accounted for 324 instances, German surnames - 57 instances, Swedish surnames - 12 instances, Norwegian surnames - 11 instances, Danish and Icelandic surnames - 5 instances and Dutch only 1 instance.

4. Charts helped to show the frequency of used instances. The major part of Germanic surnames ending in *-as* were accounted for 46 percent (188 instances), *-is* 20 percent (81 instances), female surnames 18 percent (76 instances), surnames with apostrophes 9 percent (39 instances) and males surnames 7 percent (30 instances). The greatest part of Germanic surnames is composed according to the first rule adding the inflection *-as*.

5. The analysis showed that the most frequent Germanic surnames in the Lithuanian press were of English origin and the smallest part was constituted by the names of Dutch origin.

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## SOURCES

1. The edition of the year 2009 of the newspaper *Lietuvos Rytas*.

## APPENDICES

**English surnames:** Kingas, Gow, Lavigne, Jacksonas, Foxas, Gore'as, Ross, Obama, Newarkas, Carlsonas, Bushas, Brownas, Smithas, Bale'as, Hathaway, Pine'as, Wintour, Jackson, Bosworth, Paltrow, Petersas, Peters, Jamesas, Beckemas, Raver, Aniston, Tillas, Butleris, Blairas, Mather, Madoffas, Woodsas, Wilson, Goodas, Sherine, Stewart, Pattisonas, Clintonas, Carteris, Nixonas, Fordas, Reidas, White'as, Bale'as, Whitterspoon, Pittas, Williamsas, Hoffmanas, Potter, Londonas, Guntonas, Ricci, Boyle'as, Nolas, Winslet, Streep, Stilleris, Gere'as, Jennings, Lohan, Craigas, Bellas, Allenas, Wilkinsonas, Brown, Beckam, Bloombergas, Kennedy, Lincolnas, Robinsonas, Springsteenas, Bidenas, Perry, Ritchie, Hanksas, Washingtonas, Crow, Nettle'as, Cruise'as, Lloyd, Bakeris, Sloan, Lynnas, Robertsas, Arthuras, Coolidge'as, Taftas, Fox, Simpson, Malingeris, Eastwoodas, Gibbas, Clinton, Holbrooke'as, Davy, Robertsas, Greenas, Pennas, Straw, Snape'as, Tayloras, Steenas, Duncanas, Dawsonas, Truscottas, Wintas, Winfrey, Mendesas, Campbellas, Wagneris, Phelpsas, Beshearas, Dashle'as, Parkeris, Bryantas, Lehmanas, Doldas, Walsham, Keener, Patrickas, Suleman, Laxtonas, Timberlake'as, Ronsonas, Burrisas, Whitmanas, Schwartzmanas, Stanfordas, Johnstonas, Traversas, Beckeris, Holderis, Wilsonas, Lone'as, Lambertas, Splittas, Gatesas, Buffetlas, Ellisonas, Albrechtas, Darlingas, Chill, Orde'as, Banks, Goody, Fletcheris, Buttonas, Hamiltonas, Mayo, Brigham, Howardas, Lane'as, Simmondas, Geldofas, Challengeris, Hartmanas, Martinas, Headly, Bayley, Dickinsonas, Cowenas, Bocke'as Murray, Ramsay, Cowellas, Calderis, Fulleris, Rice'as, Richardsas, Benediktsonas, Willisas, Goldberg, Cleese'as, Atkinsonas, Ewen, Wright, Brunsas, Beckas, Brenneman, Wahlbergas, Martinas, Gibsonas, Durstas, Borlandas, Parker, Broderickas, Wickas, Spectoras, Clarkson, Morganas, Wigginsas, Wockensas, Tilleris, Hillas, Brittonas, Griffinas, Pullen, Roddickas, Gleave'as, Blears, Watsonas, Jordanas, Carradine'as, Binderis, King, Newton, George'as, Lee, Travolta, Scottas, Eidsonas, Pattonas, White'as, Grintas, Loydas, Price'as, Radcliffe'as, Terry, Lampardas, Rooney, Beckhamas, Clarkas, Cheney, Clark, Shackletonas, Clarke'as, Surteesas, Armstrongas, Jonesas, Bercow, Hendrixas, Gale'as, Oldmanas, Marsdenas, Foxas, Rimmington, Shriver, Malone'as, Wade'as, Weaveris, Anderson, Haltas, Duchovny, Owensas, Paddockas, Lippincottas, Greene'as, Bailey, Hinesas, Lewisas, Rome'as, Waltzas, Mayeris, Blair, Carroll, Braly, Helgersonas, Chernoffas, Brattonas, Hymesas, Hammondas, Gable'as, Harlow, Lombard, Knight, Davisas, Blake'as, Rustonas, Johnas, Close, Weineris, Cranstonas, Brady, Lettermanas, Poundstone'as, Marunde'as, Kolambusas, Worcesteris, Anholtas, Gilmore'as, Glennas, Turneris, Morrisas, Englundas, Gately, Wottonas, Duffy, Grahamas, Smith, Leggas, Simpsonas, Cameronas



Dugard, Heene'as, Faulkneris, Huberis, Edwardsas, Tiegeris, Sowellas, Hicks, Dunlapas, Milibandas, Dickas, Hogarthas, Mosley, Lott, Bowie, Masonas, Cobhamas, Wayne'as, Lewis, Chilcotas, Freedmanas, Lyne'as, Jeffersonas, Hartlis, Dowse'as, Ehrmanas, Papieras, Knox, Tolbertas, Bransonas, Rutanas.

**German surnames:** Hofas, Gerteisas, Merkel, Merkle, Ledgeris, Lagerfeldas, Roederis, Cottas, Schrenkeris, Burger, Blindeman, Steinbruckis, Gensheris, Kosslickas, Heimas, Stauffenbergas, Thierse, Seehoferis, Kretschmeris, Schauble, Schober, Kleish, Schiffer, Kohleris, Kohler, Heidfeldas, Vettelis, Glokas, Rosbergas, Jungas, Schidtas, Klinsmannas, Hagensas, Krausas, Schultzas, Biermann, Hessemanas, Gerhartsreiteris, Gronefeld, Schumacheris, Steinkrausas, Lengsfeld, Hartingas, Munchas, Krugeris, Schaffartzikas, Haasas, Steinmeieris, Gretchas, Tauscher, Muller, Lindemannas, Bruderle, Westerwelle, Kassmann, Schweinsteigeris, Kercher.

**Danish surnames:** Engebas, Olesen, Rasmussenas, Seebergas, Villumsen.

**Swedish surnames:** Johansson, Rosenbergas, Sullenbergeris, Sigurdssonas, Andersson, Berg, Lundgrenas Soderlingas, Riesenass, Bildtas, Samuelssonas, Reinfeldtas.

**Norwegian surnames:** Richardsonas, Hansen, Halvorsen, Solbergas, Heergaardas, Westergaardas, Myklebustas, Karlsenas, Jaglandas, Gundersen, Stoltenberg.

**Icelandic surnames:** Haarde, Gisladdottir, Gunnarsdottir, Sigurdardott, Sigurdardottir.

**Dutch surnames:** Sclefferis.