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A Semantic Study of Iraqi Personal Names and Beyond

ABSTRACT

Iraqi names are simply one aspect of this investigation. The name selection is done by using a suitable evaluation of the process. In addition, it offers rationality and a purpose beyond them. The influencing factors for name selection are thoroughly described. Only names from Iraq are included in the study. During the 2022–2023 academic year, the data were gathered from English Department students at Samarra University's College of Education. It is significant to mention that the students originate from different cultural backgrounds, including cities and towns in middle and south Iraq. The data include not only the names of the students but also details about their siblings and other family members who were born after 2000 AD. Therefore, this study looked into the meaning of Iraqi personal names and beyond.

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دراسة دلالية للاسماء الشخصية العراقية وماوراءها

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الخلاصة:

تتناول هذه الدراسة الاسماء وأساليب تسمية المواليد في العراق. حيث يتم انتقاء الاسم بناء على تقدير مناسب وتحت تأثير عوامل عديدة. علاوةً على انها تتجلى فيها المنطقية والغرض المرجو من وراءها. تم ذكر العوامل المؤثرة على اختيار الاسماء بدقة وكذلك تم تضمين الاسماء العراقية فقط في هذه الدراسة. فخلال العام الدراسي ٢٠٢٢-٢٠٢٣ تم جمع البيانات من طلبة قسم اللغة الانكليزية لكلية التربية في جامعة سامراء. ومن الجدير بالذكر أن الطلاب ينحدرون من خلفيات ثقافية مختلفة بما في ذلك المدن والقرى في وسط وجنوب العراق. تشمل البيانات- اضافة لأسماء الطلبة- على تفاصيل تخص أشقاءهم وأفراد عوائلهم والذين ولدوا بعد عام ٢٠٠٠ بعد الميلاد. وعليه فإن هذه الدراسة تخطت إمعان النظر في الأسماء العراقية وحدها.

1.1 Introduction

One of the primary areas of study of linguistics is semantics. It examines how language functions in spoken and written contexts to communicate meaning (Crystal, 1991: 310). People all around the world have names. Their names semantically are treated as lexemes because they carry meaning(s). Names represent part of the personality and connected with the person alongside their life as stated by Agyekum (2006: 211). The process of naming is an essential, universal and everlasting one. It is one of the ways of identifying and distinguishing among people. An Arabic proverb says "to every person, their name is fortune".

Names can reveal cultural insights, linguistic features, and the historical background of society. As a name is a signifier, it can indicate which religion a person belongs to and their geographical origin. It may tell the occasion behind choosing such names (Zawawi,1998: xii).

The question of whether or not names have meaning has perplexed many linguists like Lyons (1989) and Crystal (1995), the majority of whom believe that names are only identifiers and arbitrary to the persons and things they are given to.

Names for individuals are called proper names, sometimes anthroponomy. They are more than strings of characters. Vital information such as titles, gender, and birthplace can also be shown by them. They also provide different elements which may vary among cultures (Snae, 1990:86). Personal names serve as a lens through which to view and explore the world. Community members communicate their experiences, emotions, pleasures, happiness, and even tragedies via names. Thus, names act as conveyors for information as a result. Additionally, a strong expertness in the language used to transmit a name is required to fully understand them (Bruce,2019:6).

According to Nicolaisen (1976) cited in Bruce (2019: 7-8), a given name can have three levels of meaning. The first of these levels is lexical, or the dictionary definition of the word(s) that make up the name. The second level is known as the associative level. It explains why some lexical components are utilized in the naming process. This is referred to as the level of connotative names. Whereas a denotative meaning of names as a name is based on lexical and

associative semantic elements but no longer dependent on them. It deals with the onomastic level, which is the third level. However, in this study, the researchers examined the names' meanings on two levels: their literal or dictionary and their associated meanings.

On the one hand, Leech (1981:9-10) explains that denotative or cognitive meaning is another name for conceptual meaning. The two Leech principles—the principle of contrastiveness and the concept of structure—deserve mentioning. Umagandhi, and Vinothini (2017: 71) clarify that conceptual meaning, as referred to by Leech, is the same as the one that other scholars refer to as "denotative," "designation," "cognitive," or "descriptive." Moreover, this meaning serves as the primary means of communication in linguistics. In contrast to other sorts of meaning, it is vital to a language's fundamental operation.

On the other hand, connotative meaning is concerned with the communicative significance that a statement carries over and beyond its merely intellectual meaning. The actual meaning that comes to mind while hearing or using a phrase. This is connected to the musical and artistic representations of an expression's meaning. For instance, a drawing of a baby or an imitation of a baby cry represent what the term "baby" means (Leech, 1981:12-13). Connotative meaning is ambiguous and open-ended. This is due to the fact that it is dependent upon the opinions and knowledge of the speakers. It might apply to any real or hypothetical attributes of the referent that the speaker names. However, a confined collection of traits with a limited number make up conceptual meaning (Umagandhi, and Vinothini, 2017: 71).

1.2 Beyond Naming

Beyond their function, personal names serve many purposes for the name-giver and the named. They are conferred at least in honor of someone who has gone before. They inform about genealogy and geography and the circumstances of birth. A passage from one stage to another may accompany changes of name, e.g., as in religious conversion or new ideological affiliation. The choice of a given name can suggest inferences (Seeman, 1983:237).

Names serve psychological purposes. They are motivated and have associations. Some conditions determine a child's name, such as the circumstances that strictly pertain to the child's birth, the social, economic, political, and other conditions affecting the family onto which the

baby was born, were there a famine, war, or economic boom. Akinnaso (2016:276-282) indicates that the name-choosing process of children gets influenced by the family's beliefs and their contribution to the family's well-being. Further, the traditional occupation or profession of the parents or the family, the hunters, drummers, or warriors contribute to choosing a child's name. For good measure, names can be motivated by social attributes such as happiness, honor, love, and dignity, which are usually derived from that event. The cultural motivation for naming may be after the name of a place, year, week, day, or other events or circumstances associated with their birth.

2.1 Data Collection, Methodology and Analysis

The data are from the students of University of Samarra / College of Education / English department. The names are either theirs' or their siblings' or children and relatives. It also presents the reflection that is the background behind choosing. The study deals with both genders, men and women. It is a synchronic one, i.e., it deals with the collected data at the current time of people who are born after 2000 AD. It does not account for the changes in naming that happened from time to time. The data are of people from various cultural backgrounds including cities in middle and south Iraq. It is important to mention that the study doesn't deal with the phonetic or morphological aspects. It is a semantic study since it tackles the meaning of personal names and beyond.

The meanings of names are interpreted by the researchers in accordance with Leech's (1981) theory. Since the current study focuses on personal names, the two categories of meanings, i.e., denotative/lexical and denotative/associative suggested by Leech are employed by the researchers.

The following points reveal the collected names with their dictionary meaning and the reasons behind their selection as stated by the people who dictated them. The dictionary meaning is taken from two online Arabic dictionaries (1) and (2) and translated by the researchers. The classification is ordered according to the associative meaning of names. It is worth-noting that certain names are repeated due to the data and difference in their associative meaning.

2.2.1 Names Relating to Religion

Religious feelings reflect on thinking, behavior, lifestyle, and linguistic behaviors like naming. In this study, the data reveal names like ‘Ali’, ‘Omer’, ‘Hussein’, ‘Baker’, and ‘Hasan’ after the Prophet Mohammed's family members and companions (Peace be upon them). For most of the Iraqis, they are the best. Thus, people hope their newborns to be like them. Consequently, names are chosen because they carry religious notions, e.g., ‘Salsabeel’, ‘Rayyan’, ‘Abbas’, etc. Others are seen in visions that are given for newborns. People usually follow them because they see it as a message from Allah.

The data analysis show the following Iraqi names that relate to religion:

The Name	Gender	Lexical Meaning	Associative Meaning
Abbas	Male	The lion that lions run away from. Brave	After the name of the Prophet Mohammad's companion (pbuh).
Abdul-Azeez	Male	Worshipper of Al-Mighty Allah	As it is one of Almighty's names.
Abdullah	Male	Worshipper of Allah.	To be a good worshipper.
Abdul-Wahab	Male	The Giver of All.	As it is one of Almighty's names.
Al-Fadhil	Male	Unrequited charity, gift, and grace.	After the nick name of the Prophet Mohammad's companion, Abbas (pbuh).
Adam	Male	The first man and Prophet mentioned in the Qur'an. In Hebrew Adam means a human being.	After the Prophet Adam's name (pbuh).
Ahmed	Male	He praised Allah and thanked His grace.	As it is one of the Prophet's Mohammad's names (pbuh).
Ameen	Male	Trustworthy.	After the description of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)
Amina	Female	Safety.	After prophet Mohammed's (pbuh) mother's name.

Ali	Male	Glory, a high place and honor.	After the name of the Prophet Mohammad's cousin (pbuh).
Asawer	Female	A round ornament worn on the wrist.	Mentioned in the Glorious Quran. The grandmother liked the name.
Aisha	Female	Alive.	After the name of prophet Mohammed's wife (pbuh).
Ayah	Female	A verse from Quran. Miracle.	Mentioned in the Glorious Quran.
Ayat	Female	Plural of Ayah, i.e., verses from Quran	Mentioned in the Glorious Quran.
Bakker	Male	The virgin and the man who did not marry.	After the name of prophet Mohammed's close companion (pbuh).
Baqir	Male	A person who expands in science.	After the name of a religious figure.
Baraa'	Female	Having no defects.	It is mentioned in the Glorious Quran
Dhuha	Female	Sunlight, day height and extension.	It is a name of Surah in the Glorious Quran.
Fadek	Female	The garden of lady Fatima the daughter of prophet Mohammed (pbuh).	After the name of one of the possessions of Fatima (pbuh).
Falah	Male	Success, victory and a good result.	As it is mentioned five times a day in the call of prayer.
Fatima	Female	Who had cut off her breast-feeding infant.	After the name of Prophet Mohammed's daughter (pbuh).
Ghasaq	Female	Dusk of the night: darker.	It is mentioned in the Glorious Quran.
Hafsa	Female	A prolific bird with white feathers spotted with blackness.	After the name of Prophet Mohammed's wife who is his companion Omer's daughter at the

			same time (pbuh).
Haider	Male	The lion.	It is one of the descriptions of Prophet Mohammad's companion, Ali (pbuh).
Hamza	Male	the lion, for its intensity and hardness.	After the name of the Prophet Mohammad's uncle (pbuh).
Hasan	Male	Beauty and every desirable delight.	After the name of the Prophet Mohammad's grandson (pbuh).
Hashim	Male	The breaker of the hollow or dry thing.	According to prophet Mohammed's (pbuh) grandfather's name Hashim bin Manaf.
Hijran	Female	Alienation	After the immigration of the Prophet Muhammed (pbuh).
Huda	Female	From the guidance, the path, and the indication gently to what leads to what is required, obedience and piety.	Mentioned in the Glorious Quran.
Hussein	Male	The diminutive of 'Hassan', and Hussein refers to the high mountain.	After the name of Prophet Mohammed's grandson (pbuh).
Ibrahim	Male	From the Hebrew meaning father of nations.	After the name of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh).
Issa	Male	One of the versions of the name Jesus.	After the name of Prophet Issa (pbuh).
Israa'	Female	Walking at night, including the night journey of the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh).	It is a name of Surah in the Glorious Quran.
Karrar	Male	Lots of hate on the enemy.	One of the descriptions of the Prophet Mohammed's cousin, Ali

			(pbuh).
Mahdi	Male	The one who gives a gift to someone else, and the one who takes the bride to her family.	After the name of an Islamic figure whose ancestor belongs to prophet Mohammed (pbuh).
Maisara	Female	Easiness and prosperity.	The mother was listening to the Quran and heard an Aya in which there is this word.
Maryam	Female	Means a lady, and in Hebrew, Miriam means a fat lady.	After the name of prophet Issa's mother (pbuh). As the mother opened the Glorious Quran and found this Surah.
Marwa	Female	A mountain in Mecca.	Mentioned in the Glorious Quran.
Mohammed	Male	What to praise a person for.	After Prophet Mohammed's name (pbuh).
Mahmoud	Male	Mahmoud from (Hamid) thanking Allah. The thing one gets satisfied and pleased with.	One of Prophet's Mohammed's names (pbuh).
Malek	Female	The angel.	Mentioned in the Glorious Quran.
Mujtaba	Male	The chosen one.	After a nick name of a religious figure.
Murtadha	Male	Satisfied with it.	After a nick name of a religious figure.
Musa'ab	Male	The blackened of men, and the stallion who is exempt from riding.	After the name of Prophet Mohammed's companion (pbuh).
Muslim	Male	Whoever enters the religion of Islam and believes in the message of Mohammed (pbuh).	Suggesting the affiliation to Islam. After Imam Hussein's cousin Muslim bin Aqeel who has carried his flag and went to the battle then dead there.
Mustafa	Male	The chosen one.	One of Prophet's Mohammed's

			names (pbuh).
Muzdalifa	Female	The site of the rituals of Hajj and the sacred site: Muzdalifah and the rolling trees.	After the name of a place in Mecca.
Nabaa'	Female	News or big event.	A Surah in the Glorious Quran.
Noor	Neutral	Light	A Surah in the Glorious Quran.
Omar	Male	Life and the length of living in it.	After Prophet Mohammed's companion (pbuh).
Othman	Male	Chick of the snake.	After Prophet Mohammed's companion (pbuh).
Rahma	Female	Goodness and grace.	Mentioned in the Glorious Quran.
Rasool	Male	A messenger.	Mentioned in the Glorious Quran.
Rayyan	Male	The bright face, the full of knowledge, the fat of things, and the well-groomed.	After the name of a place in paradise.
Ridha	Male	Satisfaction.	After the name of a religious figure.
Ruqayya	Female	The incantation that the patient lives up to.	After the name of Prophet Mohammed's daughter (pbuh).
Safa	Neutral	A place in Mecca.	Mentioned in the Glorious Quran.
Sajja	Female	Cover-up, calmness, and stillness.	Mentioned in the Glorious Quran.
Sajjad	Male	One who prostrates a lot. It also refers to someone who makes carpets.	Hoping that a person will be good worshiper.
Salsabeel	Female	The drink that passes the throat easily because it is delicious.	Mentioned in the Glorious Quran.
Shayma'a	Female	A woman with high status.	After prophet Mohammed's (pbuh) sister's name.
Sukaina	Female	Light salve-woman, cute, and with	After the name of an Islamic

		energetic soul.	figure.
Tabarek	Female	Glory be to Him, and exalted.	A name of Surah in the Glorious Quran.
Thana'a	Female	What characterizes a person in terms of praise or slander, and is now used in the place of praise.	It is a kind of praise for the prophet Mohammed (pbuh).
Tuqa	Female	Fear and respect to Allah.	Because she had preserved family and they named her to have good daughter.
Umaima	Female	Mother.	After Prophet Muhammed's aunt (pbuh).
Yaqeen	Female	Doubtless.	Mentioned in the Glorious Quran.
Yaqoob	Male	From the Hebrew name Jacob, meaning one who comes after another, and the current name is attributed to Jacob bin Isaac bin Abraham.	After the name of Prophet Yaqoob (pbuh).
Yaseen	Male	Two Arabic letters which are 'yaa'' and 'seen'	A name of a Surah in Quran.
Yasir	Male	The possible easy, the soft, the submissive, and the striker.	After the name of the Prophet Mohammed's companion (pbuh).
Yusuf	Male	From the Hebrew meaning increases, adds and brings goodness.	After the name of Prophet Yusuf (pbuh).
Zahraa	Female	Bright face and clear skin.	The title of Lady Fatima, Prophet Mohammed's daughter (pbuh).
Zain Al-Abdeen	Male	The perfect worshipper.	After the name of one of grandsons of Imam Ali, Prophet Mohammed's cousin (pbuh).
Zainab	Female	Bulbous perennial herbaceous plant	After the name of Prophet

		of the Narcisaceae family. A luxurious and precious fragrance is extracted from its flowers by distillation.	Mohammed's daughter (pbuh).
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As shown above, one of the most effective components in Iraqis' life is religion. Naming has its root in religion which accounts for the fact that a number of collected data is chosen for religious significance. As most of Iraqis are Muslims, 'Mohammed', 'Ahmed' and 'Mustafa' are chosen after the name of the prophet Mohammed (Peace be upon him). People choose these names for their newborns to be pleased and think they will never fade away or die out. In addition, people have the prophet Mohammed (pbuh) as the role model.

If a name has not yet been chosen, people regularly open the Glorious Quran to try to decide. The Surah or Ayah that appears before them will be the newborns' names like 'Naba'', 'Noor', 'Ayah', 'Mariam', 'Huda', etc. Some Iraqis choose names from the Glorious Quran because Allah's speech is the most rhetorical ever.

2.2.2 Names Relating to Heritage

As soon as the spouses have a new baby, they and their relatives and acquaintances start looking for a suitable name. A big list of names is compiled according to the gender of the newborn. The couple starts a conversation to decide what they choose. One of them may name the infant according to the name of someone important to them or because they love this name .

To preserve the "family heritage" Iraqis take satisfaction in naming their boys or girls after parents, grandparents, or other close relatives from both sides of the family. Without jeopardizing this culture or undermining these traditions. A slight change to the term may occur to make it more contemporary or turn it into a nickname or diminutive name.

It is significant to maintain that the data show people named after their parents' friends or even after relatives' friends. Some data indicate that many people named their sons and daughters after the names of their fathers, mothers, and grandparents as part of intimacy and loyalty.

The Name	Gender	Lexical Meaning	Associative Meaning
Araa'	Female	Opinions.	After the name of her grandmother who carried this name.
Dhuha	Female	Sunlight, day height and extension.	After her paternal grandmother's name.
Emad	Male	A wood on which the tent stands.	After the name of his grandfather.
Ghufran	Female	Partial or total exemption from a temporal penalty for committing sins.	Her maternal aunt has chosen the name after the name of her dead close friend.
Manar	Female	The clarity of Islam.	After the name of Al-Mosul minaret.
Nu'man	Male	Red flower.	After the name of his grandfather.
Safa	Female	Purity.	After the name of the mother's aunt.
Sarah	Female	Delight and happiness.	After the name of the father's relative.
Shaker	Male	The remembrance of the blessing and the acknowledged one, and he who rewards others for the work they have done and the abundant generous giving.	His grandmother named him after her brother.
Shukran	Female	Thanking.	The father named her after his mother.
Yasamin	Female	A type of flowers, jasmine.	Her grandmother was from turkey and carried the name of jasmine flower.

2.2.3 Names Relating to Politics and War

Usually, war brings death, loss, displacement, immigration, and sometimes a victory. Losing their sons, fathers, friends, and relatives, people attempt to condole themselves by commemorating their newborns after the names of the dead. The data show that some people named their children after the name of their brothers, uncles, fathers, friends or even officers who died while fighting in the battles. Furthermore, grandmothers named their grandsons after the name of their lost sons, like 'Ibrahim' and 'Mustafa'. An officer named his son 'Nasir' because he was born on the day of victory, as the data reveal.

Displacement, into the bargain, has effects that help in the appearance of new names carrying the meaning of longing, loneliness, and alienation like 'Hijran'.

The Name	Gender	Lexical Meaning	Associative Meaning
Ahzan	Female	Plural form of sadness.	Because her father died in a war.
Hijran	Neutral	Turning away, and leaving.	Because the family left their hometown due to war.
Majeed	Male	Who inherited great honors from his fathers, and one of names of Allah.	After his uncle's name because he has been killed.
Muhannad	Male	A sword made of iron from India.	After the name of the father's friend who was lost in a war.
Musafir	Male	One who travels from one place to another.	As his father went to the war and never came back.
Nasir	Male	Victory.	Because his birth was in the day of the end of war.
Nidaa'	Female	Call.	As there was war and her father was called to join the military.
Suhad	Female	Somnolence: insomnia, i.e., going away from sleep at night.	As the mother gave birth in terrible circumstances due to war.

2.2.4 Names Relating to Historical Figures and Events

Historical figures and events have highly affected people in almost every aspect in their life; psychologically, socially, economically, and culturally. Moreover, affected choosing names for the newborn. The collected data show such an impact. For instance, ‘Al-Khansaa’ is named after an Arabic poetess and ‘Qudis’ is named after the Palestinian city.

The Name	Gender	Lexical Meaning	Associative Meaning
Al-Mu'tadhid	Male	An actor who opposes.	After the name of a historical Islamic figure.
Al-Mu'tamid	Male	Leaning on something and relying on it.	After the name of a historical Islamic figure.
Al-Mu'tasim	Male	Protected by Allah and in His possession.	After the name of a historical Islamic figure.
Al-Mua'ataz	Male	He who is honored or strengthened by something he promised himself dear to.	After the name of a historical Islamic figure.
Al-Khansaa'	Female	Savage cow with distinctive nose.	After the name of a famous figure and poetess.
Al-Wathiq	Male	Sure of his words.	After the name of a historical Islamic figure.
Karama	Female	Human dignity: Respect for oneself, which is a sense of honor and personal value that causes them to be affected and suffer if their worth is underestimated.	The father was in Palestine and affected by the Palestinian issue and people's suffering and struggle.
Khalil	Male	The sincere friend and adviser, and the weak body.	The father was in Palestine and affected by the Palestinian issue and people's suffering and struggle. A name of place in Palestine.

Nusaiba	Female	Reducing the ratio in the sense of relevance and kinship.	It is a name of a public Arabic figure, Nusaiba Al-Ansariya.
Umayya	Female	Diminutive of a nation in the sense of being owned. Referring to the Umayyad dynasty.	After the name of historical figure. The father read the name in a book and liked it.
Qudis	Female	The Holy of Holies: the greatest sanctuary, and according to the Jews, it is a place in the Temple that the chief priest enters once a year, and among the Christians: a sacred place inside the Temple of Jerusalem, where the Ark of the Covenant is kept.	After the name of Al-Qudis, the capital of Palestine as the father liked it.
Sit Al-Nasab	Female	Lady of honor.	According to the name of Sheikh Ahmed Al-Rufae's sister, a public influential figure. The family wanted her to be a good woman like her.

2.2.5 Names Relating to Nature and Immediate Occasions

Natural phenomena and atmospheric conditions play an essential role in people's life. They have a reflection in various things like newborn naming. According to the data, names like 'Mater', 'Sahab' and 'Ra'ad' are given because of the conditions under which the child was born.

Some people have a strong relationship or show a high affiliation to the place they live in and it is reflected in naming a newborn. The name 'Rafid' is one of the collected data which shows the feeling of Tigris and Euphrates as parts of the country.

Occasionally, the parents do not determine or settle on a name for their coming newborn. Consequently, the name is chosen in immediate occasion. In such a case, several factors affect

the process. The data show that 'Maha' is named because her grandfather liked her eyes. Another is named 'Ramadan' because he was born during the holy month of Ramadan.

The Name	Gender	Lexical Meaning	Associative Meaning
Bariq	Male	A lightning burst that occurs during the accumulation of clouds in the sky, resonating to the ground with a luminosity.	There was a lightening when he has been delivered.
Doaa'	Female	The call, question, desire to Allah Almighty, and the worship.	Her mother was listening to the radio and heard the name.
Eid	Male	Day of celebrating a noble or beloved memory.	He was born during Eid when Muslims celebrate a great event.
Ghaith	Male	Rain or its good.	His grandfather named him because it was raining when he has been delivered.
Maha	Female	An analogy for good eyes, the intensity of their beauty and their witness.	Her grandfather liked her eyes and named her after a title of a poem that talks about beautiful eyes of a kind of deer called Maha.
Mawasim	female	Plural of seasons.	Her aunt named her because she likes nature and four seasons.
Matar	Male	Rain.	As it was raining in the day of his birth.
Ra'ad	Male	Thunder.	As there was a thunder in the day of his birth.
Rafid		River.	Expressing his affiliation to Iraq where Tigris and Euphrates are available.
Ramadan	Male	Which is the earth and stones that are	As the child was born in

		protected from the intensity of the sun's fall, the one who is burning with anger, and the one whose stomach is hot from the intensity of thirst when fasting.	Ramadan when Muslims have to fast.
Sahab	male	Clouds.	As the weather was cloudy in the day of his birth.
Sahar	Female	The last of the night before dawn, and the whiteness overpowers the blackness, and the highest and tip of the thing.	As the child was born at mid-night.
Sajja	Female	Calmness especially when earth is covered with darkness.	As the child was born at night.
Shihab	Male	The bright flame of fire, the luminous star, and a celestial body swimming in space.	One day the grand parents were staying awake together at night and saw a meteor in the sky. They decided to name the first grandchild according to it.

2.2.6 Globalization

People inspire renewing and keeping with contemporary life. It plays a significant role in developing the process of naming. Doing so may be because people seek fame, or if they take advantage of it, foreign names are easier to pronounce. It may also be breaking traditional values. Generally, such a process started in Iraq after opening to the outside world, i.e., after 2003.

The world became "a small village". Therefore, cultures and societies exchange not only expressions but also personal names. Hence, new and foreign ones have appeared generally for females and sometimes for males. Due to several Turkish and Western TV series on mass media, names like 'Lilas', 'Eleen' and 'Josef' entered our society. For instance, the name 'Josef' is chosen because his mother likes an actor who carries this name. It is worth noting that names like

‘Aseenat’, ‘Manassa’ and ‘Afraham’ are chosen because the parents are affected by the famous series which presented the life story of prophet Yusuf (pbuh).

The Name	Gender	Lexical Meaning	Associative Meaning
Afraham	Male	From Hebrew that refers to prophet Ibrahim (pbuh).	After the name of prophet Yusuf’s son (pbuh). They heard it in a TV series.
Aseenat	Female	From Hebrew that refers to some deities in the Paranoiac civilization.	After the name of prophet Yusuf’s wife (pbuh). They heard it in a TV series.
Diana	Female	Of Latin origin and it is said that it is the name of a sacred deity, and among the Romans Diana is the goddess of the moon and hunting, and she is the daughter of Jupiter among them.	After the British princess Diana.
Eleen	Female	One of the French forms of the Greek name Helen.	The grandmother named her as she loved an actress in a series that carries this name.
Jihan	Female	From the Persian meaning minimum.	After the name of a Turkish actress.
Layan	Female	The prosperity and grace of living.	The parents find the name new.
Leena	Female	A feminine given name of Latin origin, meaning: charming, seductive, and tender girl.	The parents find the name new and no one carried it in the family.
Manassa	female	Forgetting melancholy, pain and exhaustion.	After the name of prophet Yusuf’s daughter (pbuh). They heard it in a TV series.
Maria	Female	One of the common Spanish forms of the name Mary.	The parents liked the unique form of the name Mariam.

Miral	Female	From the Turkish meaning doe and gazelle.	The name was new and to be in accordance with father's name that starts with (M).
Lilas	Female	Non-Arabic name which means clear.	The mother saw the name written in Arabic channel.
Rateel	Female	Who recites the Glorious Quran.	The parents has chosen the name to be unique because it is rare in Iraqi communities.
Sadan	Female	Who serves in Holy Kaaba.	The parents has chosen the name to be unique because very few people have it and it has a religious notion.
Safana	Female	Pearl.	The name was rare. Their neighbor liked a Christian girl named safana.
Tamara	Female	From Hebrew, meaning palm trees or dates	A unique name.

Today, many names derive from admiration for those who carry these names. People name their son after a prominent leader, scientist, artist, or actress they admire. As a result, this designation will not have unfavorable effects on them. Naming the child after an artist may play a role in making that artist a role model for the child in their life, so they will be affected by them when they grow up. Therefore, naming children after an unjust leader may affect the child's view of injustice.

2.2.7 Names Relating to Psychological Factors

The data analysis demonstrates that many factors influence people's choice of names. Here, come to reflect some aspects of the personality or historical background. The collected data show that many people name their newborns to show the impact of a specific thing on their life. It can be either emotional, psychological, or social. The reasons seem to overlap. A name is chosen for something, but it reflects something else. For instance, it may reflect loyalty and commemoration which resulted from the war. This is evident when soldiers name their children after officers who

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died in battles. A person can choose a name that reflects one's religion and is attributed to one of their grandfathers. The issue is more than a matter of inherited customs and traditions. The goal was and still is honoring and commemorating the grandparents or parents or even friends. There is no objection to continuing with it if the name is acceptable.

The Name	Gender	Lexical Meaning	Associative Meaning
Akram	Male	Generosity.	The father was generous and he wanted his son to be like him.
Ana	Female	Arabic pronoun means 'I'.	The name is a reflection of her father, he wanted her to represent him whenever she mentioned her name.
Anmar	Male	The wool or the hair and the like has fallen off the mount: it has fallen off.	The father heard the name in his dream.
Ayat	Female	Plural of Ayah, verses.	The father dreamt about the name.
Fahad	Male	A kind of wolf.	The father liked cheetah.
Farah	Female	Joy, jubilation, and wedding party.	As she is the first newborn for the family after a long time.
Fareeda	Female	Unique.	The grandfather named her after the name of his beloved.
Haider	Female	The lion.	The father dreamt about the name.
Hiba	Female	Giving without compensation.	She came as a gift to the family.
Hudab	Female	Eye cilia.	Her maternal grandfather was an Arabic language teacher and he wanted a unique name for her.
Jihan	Female	From the Persian meaning minimum.	The parents love the Egyptian ex-president Anwar Al-Sadaat's wife. They named her after her.

Jumana	Female	The pearl.	After the name of a presenter on TV that the father liked.
Karam	Male	Of generosity and virtue.	As the father liked this trait.
Layla	Female	Ecstasy and first drunkenness.	Since the name is available in many cultures.
Lubna	Female	A tree with gum abounds in the mountains of the Levant.	Her uncle named her after his beloved's name.
Maha	Female	An analogy for good eyes, the intensity of their beauty and their wideness.	Her father's friend had a girl at the same time so they decided to name them together the same.
Milal	Female	Boring.	As the mother was bored of having no sons, just 7 daughters.
Misha'el	Male	Torch: The lamp and the like.	After the name of the leader of their tribe because he had good traits.
Mohammed	Male	Praised frequently and repeatedly.	After a vision.
Noor	Neutral	The light and the brightness.	Because the child has white skin and her mother liked brightness.
Omnia	Female	A wish.	As she was born after the death of six children. She became as a wish.
Rahma	Female	Mercy.	The mother's delivery was a tough process and she hardly survived.
Riam	Female	White or small deer	As her father liked deer
Rusul	Female	The plural of a messenger, also refers to a small slave girl.	Her sister named her after her friend.
Ruwaid	Male	The soft, blowing wind, and time-out, the pioneer, and the wandering woman	After the name of his father's dead friend.

		in her neighbors' homes.	
Sabreen	Female	Patient people.	As the father wanted a boy and a girl came.
Sarah	Female	From Hebrew, means a princess, a noble lady and a ruler.	The name is available in many cultures.
Shabeeb	Male	Description of youth: perceiving puberty and youth.	As all his brothers died before his coming.
Shathra	Female	The small pearl.	Her father likes jewelries.
Sundus	Female	Kind of soft cloth.	The child was born weak and her family expected her death. So, they chose the name that is found in the Quran hoping that she will live.
Thikra	Female	A memory.	The husband died while the mother was pregnant.
Warqa'a	Female	The dove, the wolf, and a shrub whose leaves are rounded and finely shaped are eaten by cattle.	The father named her after his favorite teacher in the university.
Worood	Female	A bunch of flowers.	The mother, when she was pregnant, dreamt of a farmer giving her a bunch of flowers.
Zeena	Female	Decoration. Beautification and improvement by increasing beauty on the original.	As she came after 12 years and beautified their life.
Ziad	Male	Growth, increase and abundance.	Because the family increased.

Data show that many people name their children after the name of their former lovers. 'Fareeda' admits that her grandfather liked a women carries the name before. Iraqis name their children after their former lovers' to show loyalty.

Psychological aspects seem to be affecting the process of naming. A woman named her daughter 'Thikra' as her husband died while she was pregnant. Therefore, she chose this name to be a symbol of a memorial. Name like 'Omnia' as her six dead children. A name like 'Sabrin' reflects the psychological state of the father who wants to show patience and contentment. He wanted a boy, then a girl came. The name 'Rahma' is one of the names that comes as a result of a difficult situation in which the mother was while giving birth. She was about to die. The name comes to be a symbol of gratitude to Almighty Allah. The strange name 'Ana' reflects the father's will. He said he wanted her to reflect him whenever telling her full name, i.e., reflecting his pride in himself .

2.2.7 Names Relating to Social Factors

Some people like to display their social role, status, experience, or social background. The data show that some people name their children after a public figure in their tribe wishing their child be like them. Others do so to show admiration and intimacy.

The Name	Gender	Lexical Meaning	Associative Meaning
Ameen	Male	Reassuring, conservative and strong.	After the name of the leader of their tribe because he was conservative.
Anwar	Male	The most light, joyful, illuminating, and bright color.	After the name of the leader of their tribe because he was a good person and a public figure.
Bushra	Female	The Good News.	After the father's cousin because he likes her.
Harith	Male	He cuts the land with a plow to cultivate it, and the lion's nickname.	After the father's friend's name.
Raghad	Female	The breadth of good living.	Her mother named her after her best friend's name.
Nibras	Female	Light.	Their neighbor named her.

Rawad	Male	From the Persian, meaning: a low and high land, abundant in pastures.	After his uncle's name.
Shahad	Female	Honey.	The doctor who helped her mother to give birth named her.
Shahad	Female	Honey.	Maternal aunt named her after her friend.
Soran	Male	The angry person who hurts others. Also a place in the north of Iraq where Kurds live.	To have affiliation to his social identity (Kurd) as he lived in an Arabic region .

2.2.8 Names Relating to Aesthetic Values

Naming can go to a further point. A parent decides to choose certain letter to be the starting letter for all their children's names. As the case is with a person who named his sons 'Aws', 'Ayham', and 'Ayman'. That is, people pay attention to the aesthetic sides of names, the rhyme and they consider other family members names too.

The Name	Gender	Lexical Meaning	Associative Meaning
Aws	Male	Wolf.	To be the first in any list.
Ayham	Male	A high mountain.	To be the first in any list.
Ayman	Male	A kind person but gets angry quickly.	To be the first in any list.
Fadia	Female	The feminine form of 'Fady' that means redemption.	To be in accordance with her sister's name, Nadia.
Fatima	Female	Who had cut off her breast-feeding infant.	To be in accordance with her sister's name, Aisha,
Rawan	Female	Extremely hot days.	Her aunt has seen a beautiful Palestinian girl named Rawan .

Rodaina	Female	From the old English place name meaning an island without trees.	Her father studied in Russia. His colleague's name was Rodaina. He liked the name.
Widyan	Female	Plural of valley.	To be in the same rhyme with her twin's name, Adyan.

2.2.9 Names Relating to Content

Many problems occur between spouses, leading to divorce, especially when the name is strange, old, and repeated in the family. Some couples choose their children's names even before they get married.

Some people spend days and nights researching before coming up with a name that pleases them and the other parties. However, they change their minds because several names are cute in one language but offensive in another.

A name is not just a word written with the birth sign but rather a natural right of the newborn, and its tender soul blossoms into its content just as flower buds bloom in the spring.

Since the names are chosen for their direct meaning, there is no associative meaning to present in this part.

The Name	Gender	Lexical Meaning
Amaal	Female	Plural of hope.
Amjjad	Male	Most noble and honorable.
Amina	Female	Safe.
Araa'	Female	Opinions.
Asa'ad	Male	The happiest.
Aseel	Female	Rectangular smooth.
Ban	Female	A kind of tall tree with soft leaves that resembles the beauty of women in its height and softness.
Baraa'	Female	Getting rid of the matter and walking away from it, and the first

		days and nights of the month.
Hamasat	Female	Plural of Hamsa: Speaking in a subtle voice or whispering.
Hala	Female	Sweet.
Hiba	Female	Giving without compensation
Humam	Male	The brave, the daring and the generous of men. The great of determination and prestige. The lion and the hump of a camel, who is not afraid and persists in his determination, which is an old pre-Islamic name.
Khlood	Female	Immortality.
Maha	Female	The feral cow is known for the beauty of its eyes and the sun.
Majid	Male	The meaning was of nobility, honor, and generosity from the fathers.
Manar	Female	The place of light, and the sign is placed between the two lands and towards them to indicate their borders, and the flag is on the way.
Misk	female	The nice order that is taken from deer.
Nibras	Female	Lamp and bold.
Randa	Female	A fragrant little tree.
Ru'a	female	Plural of dreams.
Sua'ad	Female	A hit of goodness.
Suham	Female	Plural of arrows.
Taiba	female	A good chaste woman.
Taj	Neutral	Crown.
Walaa'	Female	Loyalty.

2.3 Conclusions

Focusing on the names and beyond, the research comes up with the fact that there are many factors govern the process of naming. These factors can be external and internal, positive or negative. Religion, wars, environment, and globalization play a great role in choosing names for newborn.

From the data analysis, it has been concluded that emotional, psychological and social components are highly shown through names. Either in a way of loyalty and feeling or through commemoration and longing. Also, data reveal that some names are chosen as a symbol of affiliation to the country or a specific place.

Some people want their son's name to be unique and unheard. Others choose names used for both sexes, like Safa. Furthermore, they call the male by the name of the female, like Noor. People also give their newborns names of animals, plants, and natural phenomena.

It seems that Islamic culture has a great impact on people's life including naming children. War, as being part of Iraq's history, shares in this process since it is imposed on people's thinking.

Finally, as a result of being our society is no more gated one, it is affected by other cultures by means of globalization and mass media. When parents give their children names that are not Arabic, they may concentrate on the foreign word without considering how it may affect the child's relationship with those societies. Naming is an active and changeable issue nothing can be absolute concerning to.

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Internet Resources

(1) <http://arabicnames.hawramani.com/>

(2) <https://mawdoo3.com/>