

Adjectival Surnames in the Kharkov Register of 1660

WOLODYMYR T. ZYLA

THE HISTORY OF SURNAMES is a history of nations and peoples — in which the nature of human beings, their ethnic origin, and their historical past are inseparably involved. Thus, to explore the subject of surnames is to become intimate with the lives of private people and public individuals who are inexorably bound up with the religious, cultural, social, and political forces dominating their particular age or aspect of civilization.

In the case of Kievan Rus', the first period of national growth began with its conversion to Christianity, and is evidenced by the fact that an individual at that time held only one name, but that, from the eleventh century on, princes, bojars, and clergy were mentioned under two names (Christian and old Slavic); and, by the end of the thirteenth century, princes were already making steady use of Christian names. In the next two centuries, in addition to a second name, various descriptions became necessary when a single name proved insufficient fully to identify the individual. For the same reason, there were instances in which a person was identified by three or more names.

Applied to many members of the same family, the grandfather's name was gradually developed into a permanent patronymic title, although it is difficult to say at what time the surnames were formed and in what way they reached a stage of permanency.¹ In the sixteenth century, only noblemen and landowners were in possession of surnames which could be passed on to their sons. Common people were identified by Christian names or individual surnames which had no ancestral basis and which could not descend to an heir.²

¹ J. P. Hursky, "The Origin of Patronymic Surnames in Ukrainian," *The Annals of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the United States*, VIII (New York, 1960), 171.

² *Ibid.* p. 173.

However, the development and extension of the state government made the need for the identity of an individual compulsory. In order to achieve security in written agreements and in view of other legal involvements, the nobility were the first to adopt permanent surnames. The commoner in turn imitated those who were socially above him. Also a strong factor working for a common hereditary surname was the need to unite members of a family into a society. Thus, with the introduction of social law and parish records, surnames acquired a permanent character. In 1642, the Metropolitan Petro Mohyla³ ordered the Orthodox clergy to keep records of births, marriages and deaths. In 1687, similar steps were taken by the zealous Bishop Osyp Šumljans'kyj⁴ in Galicia.

The Kharkov Register of 1660 shows clearly that all classes of society had established surnames, which appear, furthermore, with a clarity of roots and suffixes. This fact offers proof that Ukrainian surnames of this time were no longer in a state of structural fluidity, but were, in fact, already formed since they had, by the weight of several generations' usage, acquired stability. It is, however, difficult to say with any degree of certainty whether these surnames at this time were completely hereditary or merely in use on an individual basis during a given generation.

In this article we will consider the semantic connections between surnames from the Kharkov Register of adjectival origin ending in *-skyj* (*-s'kyj*) and *-ckyj* (*-c'kyj*) and old toponyms and hydronyms. In the Register are 72 surnames with these suffixes, a number which forms about 3.2 per cent of all surnames registered during the 1660 census in Kharkov.⁵ The surnames with the suffix *-sk(yj)* were, according to some scholars, formed in the territory of the Galician-Volhynian principality, and already in the fourteenth century they were the most numerous in Galicia.⁶ I. D. Suxomlyn assumes that among commoners these adjectival surnames were already used,

³ Petro Mohyla (1596–1647) was a man of great learning, educated both in Paris and Oxford. In 1633 he was elected Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. An exceptional leader, he devoted himself exclusively to religious and cultural purposes.

⁴ Osyp Šumljans'kyj was an Orthodox Bishop of L'viv. An energetic individual with a literary gift, he had much sympathy for Ukraine and her people.

⁵ Kharkov Census of 1660 recorded 2,236 surnames.

⁶ L. L. Humeč'ka, *Narys slovtvorčoji systemy ukrajins'koji aktovoji movy XIV to XV st.*, (Kiev, 1958), pp. 37–40.

and that this usage started in the tenth or eleventh century, but only in conversational contexts.⁷ A study by St. Rospond⁸ states that the suffixes *-sk*, *-sko* were also common for old Polish toponyms, for example: *Dolsko*, *Rajsko*, *Bielsk*, *Gdańsk*: adjectival names which spread during the fifteenth century into the Dnieper basin. After the Polish-Lithuanian Union (1569), and towards the middle of the seventeenth century, Ukrainian colonists came to settle the empty steppes of Slobodian Ukraine and brought with them their surnames. Thus, surnames ending in *-skyj* became increasingly numerous within the territory of the Ukraine of the seventeenth century. We read in volume two, part two of *Arxiv jugo-zapadnoj Rossii*, that "Middle-lower class citizens of large and small cities and towns, imitating the nobility, added to their surnames the suffix *-skyj*. This happened also in the seventeenth century."⁹ A similar phenomenon, says the Polish scholar K. Nitsch, took place in Poland at that time. The peasants who were called *Wilki*, *Sikora*, *Kozioł* transformed their surnames into *Wilczyński*, *Sikorski*, *Kozłowski*.¹⁰

The nucleus of surnames ending in *-skyj* is closely linked with the local toponyms of the Poltava area, whereas the majority of the surnames with this ending show a strong connection with other parts of the Ukraine.¹¹ They were formed from the names of villages, towns, natural boundaries, and the names of the rivers. It is interesting to note also that some surnames of this type were even formed from more recent names. From the semantic point of view, these surnames indicate not only the name of the person but also the place of his origin. But from the information we have, it is difficult to testify whether they still represented only the relative adjectives, which indicate rather the place of the person's origin.

Already before the census of 1660 most of these surnames had gone through the process of substantivation, a hypothesis which can be proved by the fact that the father's name ending in *-skyj*

⁷ I. D. Suxomlyn, "Ukrajins'ki prizvyšča z prykmetnykovymy sufiksamy," *Pytannja istoričnoho rozvytku ukrajins'koji movy*, (Kharkov, 1962), p. 268.

⁸ St. Rospond, "Sufiksy *-sk* i *-sko* w nazwach miejscowych polskich do XVI wieku," *Lud Słowiański*, II, Book 2, 129.

⁹ Published in Kiev, 1888. See p. XX.

¹⁰ K. Nitsch, "Pogadanki o imionach i nazwiskach," *Język polski*, No. 2 (1957), 155.

¹¹ Suxomlyn, *op. cit.*, p. 274.

developed by all probability into the son's name with the suffix *-enko*. Unfortunately, we do not have direct proof in the census that the surnames ending in *-skyj* actually produced the son's name ending in *-enko*. Consequently, this relationship must be projected from the study of names contained in the *Aktovye knigi Poltavskogo gorodovogo urjadu XVII veka*,¹² in which the relationship between the persons is mentioned. Thus, for example, Pêsockyj gave rise to Pêsočeneko. In the Kharkov Census, however, we do have four distinct examples of this process:

Kalenykovskyj (26: 188, 150)¹³

< Kalenyčenko (26: 186, 149)

< Kalenyčenko (26: 192, 153);

Stasovskyj (25: 169 verso, 140)

< Stasenکو (25: 173 verso, 142)

< Stasenکو (26: 183, 146);

Vasyl'kovskyj (25: 169 verso, 140)

< Vasylenکو (25: 164, 138)

Vasylenکو (26: 189, 151)

Vasylenکو Vološynکو
(26: 192, 153).

As may be seen in the last example, each name has not only acquired the *-enko* suffix but has developed even further, into a double surname.

Let us now examine some of the surnames that are derived from the towns and villages of older and more recent times. The surname Pesockyj (26: 200, 159), mentioned earlier, appears also in the census and has a toponymic root from the name of the village *Pêsočynکو* (presently *Piščane*), which is mentioned in the Laurentian Chronicle in 1092 in connection with the attack of Cumans on the left bank of Dnieper.¹⁴ The surname Poltavskyj (25: 164, 138) is

¹² Ed. V. L. Modzalevskij, I (Černyhiv, 1912), 147, 148.

¹³ In my notation the original number of the Kharkov Census book is listed to the left of the colon. The original number of folios as they appear in the Census book is listed to the right of the colon. The last number to the right lists the page of the *Zapysky istoryčno-filolohičnoho viddilu, Vseukrajins'ka Akademiya Nauk* in which the Census books have been reprinted. This publication was edited by M. Hruševs'kyj, XX (Kiev, 1928), 138–173.

¹⁴ Suxomlyn, *op. cit.*, p. 269.

derived from the name *Poltava*, old Ukrainian L(з)tava, as mentioned in the Hypatian Chronicle in 1174.¹⁵ The surname Bala-klyjskyj (26: 183, 147) is derived from Balaklava in Crimea, which is mentioned in 1475.¹⁶ The surname Vylenʹskyj (26: 197, 156) is derived from *Vilna*, *Vilno*, *Vilnius*, which is mentioned in 1587 and which, according to Safarewicz, is a derivative of the river *Vilia*, which in turn comes from Lithuanian *vilnis* ("wavy").¹⁷ The surname Hadjackyj (26: 184, 147) is derived from the town *Hadjač* in the Poltava area. J. B. Rudnyc'kyj says its origin should be traced to *had* ("reptile").¹⁸ The surname Kremenčuckyj (25: 166, 139) is derived from the *Kremenčuk*, one of the oldest settlements of Poltava region, as mentioned by Erik Lassota in his description of the Dnieper region (1594) and in the book *Description d'Ukraine* (1660), by the French engineer and cartographer, Guillaume de Vasseur de Beauplan, who speaks of traces of old ramparts and sites of an ancient town.¹⁹ A. Jabłonowski says, "There existed formerly a little Tatar or Cuman town ('kermenczyk'). In 1590 an order was given to build a new castle on its ruins."²⁰ The surname Kodackyj (26: 182, 146) is derived from the fortress *Kodak* on the lower Dnieper, which was built in 1635 by the Polish government in order to stop the flight of the Kozaks to Zaporizžja. The Kozaks plundered it, and in retaliation the Poles executed Hetman Ivan Sulyma and his associates. The surname Vasylkovskyj (25: 169 verso, 140), and its derivatives already mentioned, are probably from the old place *Vasyliv* in Bukovina. This place was well-known during the princely era. It is possible to derive this surname also from *Vasylivka* in the middle Dnieper, where interesting family burial grounds of the post-Paleolithic age were found.

According to I. D. Suxomlyn, personal names were also formed from the village names; for example, from the village *Stasi*, *Ivašky*, *Petrivci*, appeared surnames Ivaškovskyj, Petrovskyj,²¹ Stasovskyj (25: 169 verso, 140). The last surname is verified by the Kharkov Census.

¹⁵ M. Vasmer, *Russisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch*, II (Heidelberg, 1955), 399.

¹⁶ J. B. Rudnyc'kyj, *An Etymological Dictionary of the Ukrainian Language*, Part I (Winnipeg, 1962), 61.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, Part 5, 428.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, Part 6, 522.

¹⁹ *Ukraine: A Concise Encyclopedia*, I (Toronto, 1963), 38.

²⁰ A. Jabłonowski, *Źródła dziejowe . . .*, XI, 83.

²¹ Suxomlyn, *op. cit.*, p. 270.

There are also surnames which are derived from the hydronyms. For example, the surname Kalenykovskyj (26: 188, 150) and its derivatives already mentioned, came from the name of a *Kalynivka* River, the right tributary of Irpen' in the Dnieper basin. There is also a village of the same name in the Kiev area, but we were not able to find the date of its foundation.²² At this point it can be assumed that the oldest names of its rivers and tributaries are well reflected in the system of Ukrainian surnames, a fact which has an important scholarly meaning because the hydronyms are much older than the toponyms. O. X. Vostokov wrote about this subject as follows: "the names of rivers and lakes and other natural boundaries in any land should be much more older than the names of the cities and administrative units, because around them settled primitive men in groups or in the so-called scattered settlements well before larger settlements or towns came into being and were organized into large societies."²³

Of interest is also one surname which developed from the name of another nation: Pruskyj (26: 193, 154), which is derived from *prusak*, dialectal *prucak*, old Russian *Prusy* mentioned in the Pskovian Chronicle in 1422.²⁴ The same name is well-known in the Ukraine and, as we see, gave rise to one surname mentioned in the Kharkov Census.

Some surnames with the suffix *-skyj*, although not formed directly from the masculine names, are somehow connected with them. In the census is mentioned Makoveckyj (26: 204, 161) from the name *Makovij*, the name of a saint whose memory was commemorated in the Ukraine on August 1 (according to the Julian Calendar).²⁵ The surname Vasyľ'kovskyj could also be linked with the name *Vasyľ'* or *Vasyľ'ko*. The last variant has examples within the princely families of Galicia and Volhynia: for example, Prince Vasyľ'ko Romanovyč of Volhynia and Vasyľ'ko Rostyslavyč of Terebovlja.

As has just been seen, the surnames ending in *-skyj*, *-ckyj* are connected with toponyms of the entire Ukrainian national area.

²² V. Ja. Nežnyypapa, *Ukrajins'ko-rosijs'kyj slovnyk heografičnyx nazv U.R.S.R.* (Kiev, 1964), p. 71.

²³ Suxomlyn, *op. cit.*, p. 272.

²⁴ Vasmer, *op. cit.*, p. 451.

²⁵ B. D. Hrinčenko, *Slovar' ukrajins'koji movy*, II (Kiev, 1908), 400.

A few of them go beyond the Ukrainian and Slavic area. For instance, the Kharkov residents carrying surnames predominantly ending in *-enko*, formed 53 per cent of the population, whereas the adjectival surnames ending in *-skyj*, *-ckyj* formed only 3.2 per cent. The explanation for this development may be the fact that the Slobodian Ukraine – and the Kharkov area in particular – were resettled during the period after the Lublin Union, and during the next century, when there was more security in this area. The settlers came from all areas of the Ukraine with their own peculiar surnames. A similar situation also occurred in Poltava area, where the *-enko* surnames were in the dominant position and *-skyj*, *-ckyj* surnames formed only an insignificant group, as can be seen from the study of the *Aktovye knigi Poltavskogo gorodovogo urjadu XVII veka*.

The second question to be considered here is the fact that the Slavic surnames, and Ukrainian surnames in particular, can be explained from the study of Slavic and Ukrainian toponyms or hydronyms. There is consequently no need to resort to Finnish, Turk or Adigei (Circassian) languages²⁶ to explain Slavic toponyms or surnames derived from those toponyms.

Despite the fact that the surnames in Kharkov Census appear completely formed and are set morphologically in a correct way, and that, according to all the requirements of semantics and the syntax, certain insignificant deviations from the rules can be traced in their structure, these deviations are obvious and characteristic of such formations. Thus we trace in this article two parallel endings *-skyj* and *-enko* for the same root. This duality is the semantic mixing of two different formants, a mixing which appears in conversational practice, and which invades the recorded census as well as the *Aktovye knigi Poltavskogo gorodovogo urjadu XVII veka*. Furthermore, it can be said for both recorded documents that the formant *-enko* became predominant. Is this predominance the result, on the one hand, of a special love of Ukrainians for their national surname ending in *-enko*, or, on the other, of some other hidden factors which govern the situation? In my opinion, it is a traditional convention which expressed itself in this peculiar suffix,

²⁶ Recently Ukrainian scholar V. Chaplenko proposed Adigei (Circassian languages) as the source of many Ukrainian toponyms and surnames. See his *Adyhejs'ki movy — ključ do tajemnyč' našoho substratu* (New York, 1966), pp. 48–52.

acquired national features, and was used with distinction by Ukrainians as their national surname.

The final question to be considered is the fact that the seventeenth century Ukrainian surnames as recorded in Kharkov Census or in the *Aktovye knigi Poltavskogo gorodovogo urjadu XVII veka* deviate only slightly from the required norm. Semantically and structurally they are completely formed surnames, which have reached our time and which can be found not only on the left bank of the Ukraine, but also in the territory of Volhynia, Podillja, and the territory of the Transcarpathian Ukraine. Clearly Ukrainian traditions are well preserved in the toponyms and in the surnames derived from them.

Texas Tech University

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