

Surnames in *-kevič* // *-xevič* // *-gevič*

BOHDAN STRUMIŃSKYJ

G. SHEVELOV¹ STATED THAT surnames in *-kevič* had come into being in White Ruthenia where they were first recorded in the mid-fifteenth century (Tyškievič of Łahojsk, ca. 1450) and began to spread to the Ukraine in the sixteenth century, first to the Dnipro area and Volhynia and, to a lesser extent, to Podolia, Podlachia and northern Galicia; they probably spread to the whole of Galicia in the eighteenth century (and in a much lesser extent to Bukovina). In the late sixteenth century, in connection with the equalization of rights of White-Ruthenian and Ukrainian noblemen with their Polish counterparts after the Lublin Union of 1569 and the ensuing Polonization of the former, such names also began to appear among Poles or Polonized White Ruthenians and Ukrainians.² Shevelov found only one in Poland of that time: Tyszkiewicz, the name of a man from Lithuania, 1589, in Cracow documents. It was only in the seventeenth century that the *-kiewicz* names began to spread in Poland, particularly in towns where they started to supplant the older *-kowic* surnames.³

The story of *-kevič* presented by Shevelov is conclusive on the whole, but his theory of the genesis of such surnames is not so: he posits a White-Ruthenian progressive palatalization of *-k-* after a soft consonant which necessitated the *-evič* variant of patronymical formative instead of *-ovič*. This progressive palatalization is not attested in White Ruthenia.

To solve the problem we must: 1) widen the circle of investigation to Lithuania where surnames of Slavic origin are very frequent, 2) consider the names with the *-ovič*//*-evič* oscillation in which other guttural

¹ G. Y. Shevelov, "Nazwiska słowiańskie na *-kevič*," in *Symbolae in honorem Vitoldii Taszycki*, Wrocław, 1968, pp. 303-14 (with comprehensive bibliography).

² B. Strumiński, "Ukrainizmy gramatyczne we współczesnym języku polskim," in *Poradnik Językowy*, Warszawa, 1961, p. 404.

³ Shevelov, p. 304.

consonants occur before the suffix (e.g., such surnames as Polish Andrychiewicz, Langiewicz, Ukr. Šuxevyč).

Below is a synopsis of statistics about surnames derived from guttural-terminated stems by means of the *-evič* or *-ovič* formatives (*-ėvič-ius* and *-āvičius* in Lithuanian, including their feminine forms in *-vičiene* and *-vičiute*). The material has been taken from the following encyclopedias and dictionaries: *Mažoji Lietuviškoji tarybinė enciklopedija*, vol. I, Vilnius, 1966, the first 400 pages; *Bielaruskaja savieckaja encykłapiedyja*, vol. I-II, Minsk, 1969-70; *Encyklopedija ukrajinoznavstva: Slovnykova častyna*, vol. I-III, Paris-New York, 1955-59; *Polski słownik biograficzny*, Kraków, 1935-59, fasc. 1-2, 25-43.

		<i>-evič</i>	<i>-ovič</i>	
Lithuania	-k-	37	3	
	-g-	2	-	
	-ch-	-	1	
White Ruthenia	-k-	26	11	
	-ch-	-	5	
Lithuanian (later Russian) Ukraine	-k-	18	6	} 13
Galicia	27	5	} 47	
Bukovina	2	-		
Transcarpathia	-	-		
Lithuanian (Russian) Ukraine	-ch-	1	1	} 3
Galicia	-	-	2	
Polish settlements				
in Lithuania	-k-	2	-	} 5
in White Ruthenia		5	3	
in Galicia		5	-	
in other parts of the Ukraine		3	1	
Polonia Minor		14	1	
Polonia Major		5	-	
Mazovia		3	-	
Pomerania	-g-	-	1	} 2
Polonia Minor		-	1	
Mazovia (Warsaw)	-ch-	1	-	} 3
Pomerania		-	1	
Polonia Minor		-	1	
Polonia Major		-	1	

The upper part of the chart shows that the *-kevič* type of surnames is better developed there than in the neighboring White Ruthenia. This suggests a different explanation of its origin than the one given by Shevelov: the Lithuanian stratum of lords who adopted White Ruthenian surnames (originally patronymica) were insensitive to the Slavic alternation of *-evič*//*-ovič* and could easily apply *-evič* also to hard stems (Mackevič—Mackēvičius, etc.).

The middle part of the chart shows that the *-kevič* type is better developed in Galicia than in the former Lithuanian Ukraine where it spread first. Perhaps the restrictions put by the Russian government in the former Lithuanian Ukraine on the use of these names⁴ explain this strange phenomenon. Our chart also shows that in the parts of the Ukraine which were not within the old Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth the *-kevič* type is either absent completely (in Transcarpathia⁵) or has developed only slightly (in Bukovina where Polish influence was significant).

Since Shevelov provided only a hypothetical date of the expansion of the *-kevič* type to Galicia, we can check his assumption by some statistics from the capital of Galicia, L'viv (Lemberg, Leopoldis). In the goldsmiths' guild of that city the *-kovič* type (Strzeczkwicz, Brajchowicz, etc.) prevailed over the *-kevič* type (Iwaszkiewicz, 1598, etc.) by the ratio 11:4 between the late sixteenth and the late seventeenth centuries. However, almost all of them already had the Ruthenian *-wicz* instead of the Polish *-wic* (with one exception: *Moskowic*, 1601-8).⁶ We have a contemporary witness, W. S. Jeżowski, to the effect that the Ruthenian *-wicz* became the usual suffix for Polish burghers in the early seventeenth century: "it is good for an artisan to have a *-wicz* surname, not a *-ski* one which belongs to nobility."⁷

In the L'viv documents published by J. P. Kis' in 1961 (concerning mostly burghers and suburban commoners) we also find a prevalence of the *-kovič* type, among both Ruthenians and others, in the period between 1598 and 1643: 20: 1 (Donowakowicz, Rogowicz, Czechowicz, etc. versus Żydkiwicz), but the ratio becomes reverse for the period between 1677 and 1766: 25 (Paśnikiewicz, Ozgiewicz, etc.) as against

⁴ L. Zales'ka-Onyshkevych in F. Bogdan, *Dictionary of Ukrainian Surnames in Canada*, Winnipeg-Vancouver, 1974, pp. 13, 23.

⁵ Shevelov cited one name from that area with this suffix: *Žatkevych*; but this is a mistaken rendition of the name of the well-known Transcarpathian Ruthenian politician whose real name was: *Žatkovyč*.

⁶ W. Łoziński, *Złotnictwo lwowskie*, Lwów, 1912.

⁷ W. S. Jeżowski, *Oekonomia abo porządek zabaw ziemiańskich*, Kraków, 1838 (1648), quoted by E. Wójcicki, *Biblioteka starożytna pisarzy polskich*, II, p. 232.

ten (Gąsiorowicz, etc.). In the late seventeenth century some surnames or patronymica of the same persons hesitate between the two types (Kłoskowicz//Kłoskiewicz, Jankowicz//Jankiewicz, 1679). If we limit ourselves to the late seventeenth century only (1677-1693), the predominance of *-kevič* is also clearcut: 17:9.⁸

A similar predominance of the *-kevič* type can be observed among the L'viv Armenians in the period between the late seventeenth and the late eighteenth centuries: four names (Steckiewicz, etc.) against two of the *-kovič* type (Senkowicz, Sachagowicz).⁹

On the other hand, L'viv Jews displayed resistance to the *-kevič* type: all the seven Jewish surnames with a guttural stem plus the *ole + vič* suffix which we have found in L'viv between the late sixteenth and the mid-eighteenth centuries are of the *-kovič* type (Dankowicz, Symchowicz, etc.).¹⁰

The *-kevič* type becomes even stronger in the inscriptions from the Stryj graveyard in L'viv concerning people born between 1759 and 1861: 34 surnames of this type (Mackiewicz, Donigiewicz, etc.) against only six of the *-kovič* type (Rewakowicz, Bogowicz, etc.).¹¹ Thus, Shevelov's assumption about the eighteenth century as the time when the *-kevič* type spread to Galicia is close to historical reality. Actually, those names won upper hand there in the late seventeenth century and consolidated in the eighteenth century.

The bottom of our table shows that the main center of the *-kevič* type of surnames among Poles is Polonia Minor, the closest neighbor of Galicia. In the capital of Polonia Minor, Cracow, this type was not very common in the seventeenth century: among the city councillors of that time there were eight people with *-kowicz* surnames as against two with *-kiewicz*.¹²

In the Cracow guild of painters from 1585 to 1845 the names of the *-kowicz* type (Dłutkowicz, 1585, Brachowicz, etc.) generally prevailed over those of the other type (Gurkiewicz, 1684, Albrychiewicz, etc.) by the ratio 28 to ten. But if we separate the names of the late period (1717-1845) we shall see a reverse ratio: six to four in favor of the *-kiewicz* type. The hesitation between both types which occurred in L'viv in the late seventeenth century manifests itself in Cracow much later: in mid-eighteenth century (Konikiewicz//Konikowicz, 1751,

⁸ *Social'na borot'ba v misti L'vovi v XVI-XVIII st.*, pid red. J. P. Kisja, L'viv, 1961.

⁹ B. Janusz, "Mons pius" *Ormian lwowskich*, Lwów, 1928.

¹⁰ D. M. Bařaban, *Dzielnica żydowska*, Lwów, 1909.

¹¹ J. Biařynia-Chofodecki, *Cmentarz Stryjski we Lwowie*, Lwów, 1913, pp. 74-86.

¹² J. Bieniarzówna, *Mieszczanństwo krakowskie XVII w.*, Kraków, 1969, p. 32.

Albrychiewicz, 1753//Albrychowicz, 1756).¹³ It was in the same time, the mid-eighteenth century, that the family of Cracow artisans named *Drelinkowic* (formerly *Drelinek*, German *Dreyling*) changed its name into *Drelinkiewicz*.¹⁴

Consequently, it is obvious that the *-kiewicz* surnames shifted to Polonia Minor from Galicia where they became victorious earlier. Therefore one cannot accept Shevelov's assumption that this type of names developed in the Ukrainian language of Galicia under the Polish influence.¹⁵

The history of the *-kevič* type of surnames shows that the less native it was for a language the more liberally it was used: the non-Slavic Lithuanians were the main "culprits" in ruining the original limitation of the *-evič* names to soft-consonant stems and the Poles were responsible for the widest morphonemic extension of the *-evič* suffix: to all three Polish gutturals, *k*, *g* and *ch*. The two east Slavic languages where the *-kovič* type was native still retain a certain restriction in the distribution of the Lithuanian innovation *-evic* in it, as the lack of Ukrainian **-bevyč*, **-gevyč* and White-Ruthenian **-chievič*, **-bievič* and **-gievič* names shows.

All told, the history of the *-kevič* type of names is a characteristic example of a deep symbiosis of languages within the linguistic league of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth from the fifteenth through the eighteenth century.

A postscript in proofreading: A. P. Nepokupnyj, in *Balto-severno-slawjanskije jazykovye svjazi* (Kiev, 1976), p. 163, cites an even earlier example of the name type in question than that found by Shevelov: in 1440-43, a Lithuanian in White Ruthenia was called Sudimont (= Lithuanian *Sudimantas*) Dorgevič (from the Lithuanian first name *Dargis*). Thus my assumption about the Lithuanian origin of the *-kevič* type of surname (patronymica) gets another support.

Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute

¹³ W. Gąsiorowski, *Cechy krakowskie*, Kraków, 1860.

¹⁴ J. Pachoński, *Zmierzch sławetnych: Z życia mieszczan w Krakowie w XVII i XVIII wieku*, Kraków, 1956, pp. 52, 59, 61, 69.

¹⁵ Shevelov, p. 312.