

## THE ROLE OF ATROPONYMS IN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

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**Annotation.** This article examines the role of atroponyms in language development and cultural memory. The study explains how such names move from individual identification to common vocabulary usage, becoming permanent elements of linguistic systems. The article also discusses the role of atroponyms in scientific terminology, where they help organize knowledge and maintain links between discoveries and their creators. At the same time, it addresses modern debates concerning the ethical implications of preserving certain personal names in academic discourse, especially when historical figures become controversial.

**Key words:** Atroponym, eponym, language development, personal names, terminology, historical memory, scientific vocabulary, cultural heritage, lexical formation, naming process, commemorative function, linguistic evolution

Language is constantly developing as societies introduce new words to describe discoveries, ideas, and social changes. One interesting linguistic process behind this development is the creation of atroponyms-terms derived from the names of individuals. These names may become associated with inventions, scientific principles, diseases, philosophies, or everyday objects. When personal names evolve into widely used words, they not only expand vocabulary but also preserve historical memory. As a result, atroponyms link language with cultural heritage and human achievement.

An atroponym is a term formed from the name of a person whose work or influence has had a lasting impact. Over time, that individual's name becomes connected with a specific concept or object and is adopted into common language.

For example, in medicine the condition called Alzheimer's disease is named after the neurologist who first described it. In physics, Ohm's law honors the scientist who discovered the relationship between electric current, voltage, and resistance. These examples demonstrate how personal names can become permanent elements of scientific terminology.

One important function of atroponyms is their ability to maintain historical awareness. When a person's name becomes a common term, their contribution continues to be remembered through everyday language. Even long after their lifetime, people still encounter these names in daily communication.

For instance, the well-known food item called a Sandwich originated from a historical figure whose name eventually became associated with this type of meal. Although many people may not know the full story behind the name today, the linguistic connection still reflects its historical origin. In this sense, atroponyms act as linguistic reminders of important individuals and events.

Atroponyms also illustrate how societies recognize and honor influential figures. Naming ideas, theories, or inventions after individuals highlights the cultural importance of innovation, creativity, and intellectual contribution.

In academic and scientific fields, atroponyms are frequently used to identify discoveries and theories. This practice helps organize knowledge and acknowledges the contributions of researchers and innovators.

Astronomy provides many examples of this tradition. The famous Halley's Comet was named after the scientist who calculated its orbit and predicted its return. Such naming practices ensure that scientific achievements remain connected to the individuals responsible for them.

However, in recent years, some scholars have questioned whether scientific terms should continue to rely on personal names or shift toward more descriptive terminology.

Over time, many atroponyms become so common that people no longer associate them with

their original sources. The names gradually transform into regular vocabulary items used in everyday speech.

This process demonstrates the flexibility of language. A name that originally referred to a specific person can eventually develop broader meanings and new forms. As technology, science, and society progress, new atroponyms continue to appear and enrich modern language.

Despite their cultural significance, atroponyms can sometimes raise ethical concerns. In certain cases, historical figures whose names were used in scientific terms have later been associated with controversial actions or beliefs. As a result, scholars occasionally reconsider whether these names should remain in use or be replaced with neutral alternatives.

Atroponyms illustrate the close relationship between language, history, and culture. By turning personal names into commonly used terms, societies preserve the achievements of influential individuals while expanding their vocabulary. From scientific laws and medical conditions to everyday objects and political ideas, atroponyms serve as lasting reminders of human innovation and cultural development. As new discoveries and influential figures emerge, additional atroponyms will continue to enter language, maintaining the connection between linguistic expression and historical legacy.

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