

Croatian and Ukrainian Anthroponymy: The Examples of the Most Common Croatian and Ukrainian Names and Surnames

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, the Croatian and Ukrainian anthroponymic corpus are compared based on the twenty most common male and female names and surnames. The linguistic and cultural similarities between the Croatian and Ukrainian first name corpus are evidenced in the two most common Croatian and Ukrainian female names are Marija and Ana (Ukrainian Gana). Besides many homonymic or similar sounding modern Croatian and Ukrainian first names, the Croatian and Ukrainian first name corpora also include cognate local and historical forms for the Christian names Josip (Ukr. Osip) and Nikola (Cro. dial. Mikula and Ukr. Mikola). Smaller differences arise from the fact that Croatians are, for the most part, Catholic, while Ukrainians are, for the most part, Orthodox Christian, resulting in a portion of the Christian names used by Ukrainians having been directly borrowed from Greek (e.g., Grigorij), while they entered Croatian through Latin as an intermediary (e.g., Grgur). The most significant differences between the Croatians and Ukrainians lie in the surname corpus in which Croatian surnames originating from first names dominate, while in Ukraine surnames derived from terms for occupations dominate.

Key words: male name, female name, surname, anthroponymy, Croatia, Ukraine

Introduction

Croatians and Ukrainians are related through ancient ties dating from the period before the settling of Croats in the region from the Drava to the Danube (while White Croats settled parts of Ukraine), and also through modern links, seeing as Croats from Pannonia and the northern Adriatic were, along with western Ukrainians, under Habsburg rule for circa two hundred years, sharing in their destiny, as were inhabitants of coastal regions from Zadar to Budva for some one-hundred years. From this period, the strongest cultural and literary Croatian-Ukrainian connections originate¹. One of their heirs became one of Croatia's greatest authors, Miroslav Krleža, who dedicated many pages to the armed conflict in Galicia, a region on the borders of what is today Ukraine and Poland.

Although Croatian and Ukrainian belong to two different branches of the Slavic language family (Croatian belongs to the South Slavic branch, while Ukrainian belongs to the East Slavic branch), there are similarities between them that are unique in the Slavic world. They

are linked through the Ikavian reflex of *jat*, with there being a difference in that among Croatians (and Bosniaks), it is a dialectal phenomenon, while in Ukrainian it is a feature of the standard language (cf. Croatian dialectal appellatives *sičanj* and *ponediljak* with Ukrainian standard *sičenj* and *ponedilok*). In doing so, one must keep in mind that most Croatian organic idioms are Ikavian (Ikavian pronunciation is most widely used among Štokavian and Čakavian speakers, and it is also found marginally among Kajkavian speakers), and in Ukrainian texts it is already in use in the tenth and eleventh centuries¹. It comes as no surprise that there are correspondences between some Croatian and Ukrainian toponyms, and on the territory in which Croatian is spoken the oikonyms Kijevo (e.g., the Croatian town Kijevo near Knin and Kijevo near Sanski Most in north-western Bosnia, in which a significant proportion of the population was Croatian until 1991) and Kijev Do (a town with a Croatian majority in Popovo in eastern Hercegovina) are recorded, etymologically comparable with the name of the Ukrainian capital city, Kijiv. The noted Croatian and Ukrainian toponyms are usually associated with the appellative *kij*

'stick, cudgel, hammer', but also with the first name Kij, recorded at the end of the fifteenth century in eastern Hercegovina², and even earlier in Old Slavic and Old Russian texts (the founders of Kijiv are mentioned as being the brothers Kij, Šček and Horiv¹). Unfortunately, similarities between the Dalmatian and Bosnian Kijevo and Hercegovian Kijev Do with Ukrainian Kijiv are not only etymological, as those settlements all suffered heavy damages during the war in the second half of 1991, and their population suffered casualties and persecution much like those suffered by the Ukrainian capital city and its population.

In this paper, based on an analysis of the twenty most common male and female names, I will attempt to illustrate the similarities and differences between the Croatian and Ukrainian anthroponymic corpus.

Most Common Croatian and Ukrainian Female Names

Among the twenty most common Croatian female names, eleven are Christian (Marija and Marica, Ana, Ivana and Iva, Katarina, Kata and Katica, Marina, Martina, and Kristina), five are folk names (Nada, Dragica, Ljubica, and Vesna), one is foreign (Maja), and three are of unknown origin. Thus, the first name Mirjana can be derived from the Christian name Mirjam or the folk name Mira, the first name Jelena can belong to both the Christian group and the folk-name group³, while the first name Sanja is connected to the verb *sanjati* (to dream) or with the homonymic Russian name derived from Aleksandra⁴. Four are Christian names among the five most common Croatian female names, while folk names are much less common among women from younger generations. The first name Gordana entered the Croatian first name corpus as the literary character's name from a novel by Marija Jurić Zagorka³. While no foreign names are found among the ten most common female names (there are only two among the twenty most common), they are extremely common among girls born at the beginning of the 21st century. Among the most common Ukrainian female names, Christian names also dominate (Marija, Gana, Valentina, Olga, Tetjana, Natalija, Katerina, Irina, and Oleksandra), while folk names (Ljudmila, Nadija, Ljubov, Svitlana and Vira) and foreign names (Galina, Oksana, Lidija, and Raisa) are somewhat less common. The first name Olena (comparable to the Croatian names Elena, Helena and Jelena) might be of Greek (mythological) or Christian origin, while the first name Nina might be derived from various derivative Christian names (e.g., Antonina, Katerina, Marina). Among Ukrainian women with Christian names, those which are common to both the Christian East and the West dominate (Marija, Gana, Tetjana and Katerina), while part of them are more common in the Christian West (Natalija and Valentina), and part of them are more common in the Christian East (Irina and Raisa). The prevalence of the first name Olga is inspired by the cult of St. Olga of Kijiv, one of the first East Slavic female

saints, who, after baptism, took the name Helena (Ukrainian Olena) and lived during the tenth century. In the modern Ukrainian first name corpus, to a lesser degree than in the Croatian, foreign names also infiltrated, especially in western Ukraine, which once found itself inside the boundaries of the Habsburg Monarchy and is culturally closer to western Europe. In the district of Lviv, the foreign name Dijana was among the ten most common female names⁵.

If we compare the most common Croatian and Ukrainian female names, we note that the Christian names Marija and Ana, Ukrainian Marija and Gana, are the most common in both first name corpora. The majority of Croatian and Ukrainian names are identical (Ljudmila, Marija, Marina, Olga, Valentina, and Vesna) or similar (Katarina and Katerina, Nada and Nadija, Svjetlana and Svitlana, Vjera and Vira, Tatjana and Tetjana), keeping in mind that the names Olga and Tatjana entered the Croatian first name corpus through the Russian first name corpus at the end of the eighteenth (Olga), nineteenth (Tatjana) and twentieth centuries, and the first name Ljudmila in the nineteenth century through Czech and Russian³. On the other hand, the folk name Vesna re-entered the Ukrainian first name corpus through the Bulgarian first name corpus after several centuries (it is recorded in medieval texts⁴). In the Croatian first name corpus the Ukrainian name Ljubov has not been confirmed. The female names Galina (derived from the Greek name Galen⁴) and Raisa (Raisa is one of the first names of Iraide of Alexandria, a martyr from the fourth century, but in both the Croatian and Ukrainian first name corpus a homonymous name can also be of Muslim origin⁴), are relatively rare. In contrast, the first names Dragica (the female name Draga has been confirmed), Gordana, Ljubica (the Croatian name Ljubica can be related to the name of the flower 'violet', or it can be derived from the verb *ljubiti* 'to love, to kiss', from whence the Ukrainian name Ljuba is derived), Maja and Mirjana have not been confirmed in the Ukrainian first name corpus, as is also the case with some Croatian shortened names (Iva and Kata) and derivative names (the derivatives Katica and Marica have not been confirmed in the Ukrainian first name corpus, while Karina and Katja, and Marika and Marusja have been confirmed).

Most Common Croatian and Ukrainian Male Names

Among the twenty most common Croatian male names, ten are Christian (Ivan, Josip, Marko, Stjepan, Ivica, Ante, Nikola, Luka, Petar, and Franjo), eight are folk names (Tomislav, Željko, Damir, Milan, Goran, Branko, Vladimir, and Mladen) and one is foreign (Mario). The first name Marijan is brought into relation with the foreign name Mario and the Christian Marija³. Sixteen of the most common Ukrainian male names are Christian (Mikola, Oleksandr, Ivan, Vasilj, Sergij, Viktor, Anatolij, Mihajlo, Petro, Volodimir, Jurij, Oleksij, Grigorij, Vitalij,

TABLE 1
THE MOST COMMON CROATIAN AND UKRAINIAN
FEMALE NAMES^{6,7}

	Croatia	Ukraine
1.	Marija	Marija
2.	Ana	Hana
3.	Ivana	Valentina
4.	Mirjana	Olga
5.	Katarina	Galina
6.	Nada	Tetjana
7.	Dragica	Nadija
8.	Ljubica	Ljudmila
9.	Vesna	Olena
10.	Marina	Natalija
11.	Kata	Nina
12.	Marica	Ljubov
13.	Martina	Katerina
14.	Katica	Svitlana
15.	Maja	Lidija
16.	Kristina	Vira
17.	Jelena	Irina
18.	Sanja	Oksana
19.	Iva	Oleksandra
20.	Gordana	Raisa

Dmitro, and Valerij), two are folk names (Igor and Oleh) and one is foreign (Leonid). At the same time, it should be mentioned that the first name Volodimir was borne by St. Vladimir the Great (958-1015), who, like St. Olga, was one of the first East Slavic saints. Croats in Bar and the surrounding area revere St. Ivan Vladimir (circa 990-1016), a not-officially canonized saint of the undivided Christian Church and the King of Duklja, so that the first name Vladimir among Croats in Bar and the surrounding area, historically including the coast of Makarska and Korčula, may be considered Christian, even though it has a folk origin. If we compare the most common Croatian and Ukrainian Christian names, we note that the Christian names Ivan, Josip, Marko, Mihajlo, and Viktor are found in both corpora. It should also be mentioned that the first name Mihajlo is traditionally found in the Dubrovnik region, and, to this day, among Croats in eastern Hercegovina (the forms Mihovil and Michael are considerably more common in the Croatian personal name corpus⁶) and that the Christian name Josip is relatively rare in the Ukrainian first name corpus. However, in the Ukrainian first name corpus, the form Osip has been noted, comparable with a homonymic Croatian form confirmed in the fifteenth century⁹. The Ukrainian Christian name Vasilj is comparable to Croatian Bazilij, which is relatively often confirmed in its various forms

during medieval times in Boka Kotorska, and the fairly common surname Vasilj in western Hercegovina shows that the name Vasilj might have been also confirmed among Croats. The Ukrainian name Sergij has a cognate in the Croatian name Srđ, to this day confirmed to be in use in the region of Dubrovnik, and formerly confirmed to be in use in Boka Kotorska and Bar. The Ukrainian Christian personal name Vitalij may be compared, on the other hand, with the medieval Croatian name Vital (cf. the surnames Vitajić and Vitaljić), as may be Oleksij with Aleksij (the former having been confirmed in the Croatian first name corpus in the twelfth century³). The Croatian and Ukrainian names Nikola and Mikola are cognates (the form Mikula has been confirmed among Čakavian speakers and partially among Štokavian speakers from Hercegovina through Dubrovnik to Boka Kotorska and Bar⁸), as are Aleksandar and Oleksandar, Andrij and Andrija, Dmitro and Dimitrij(e) (the form Mitak is also found locally among Croats from eastern Hercegovina, the eastern Neretva region and Bar¹⁰), Juraj and Jurij, Aleksij and Oleksij, Petar and Petro, Stjepan and Stepan (the form Stepan was the foundational Croatian form until the late Middle Ages), Valerije (the Croatian form Valerij has also been confirmed) and Valerij, and Vladimir and Volodimir. The Ukrainian name Grigorij is close to the relatively rarely confirmed Christian name Grigor (the foundational Croatian form is Grgur), and Francisk to the Christian names Francisko and Frančiško, forms from Boka Kotorska of the foundational Christian name Franjo (in Dalmatia Frane and Frano). The Croatian name Ante is derived from the foundational forms Anton and Antun, and in the Ukrainian first name corpus the Christian names Antonij and Anton are confirmed. Generally, the Croatian and Ukrainian corpus are linked through the usage of Greek versions of Christian names, such as Ivan, Josip (Cr. dial. and Ukr. Osip), and Juraj (Ukr. Jurij). The reflexes of Christian names such as Bazilij(e) (Ukr. Vasilij), Grgur (Ukr. Grigorij), and Srđ (Ukr. Sergij) entered the Croatian first name corpus through Latin and the Ukrainian through Greek. The derived name Ivica has not been confirmed to form part of the Ukrainian first name corpus, but the first names Ivanko, Ivas, Ivasik, and Ivaško have been (in the Croatian anthroponymic corpus the forms Ivanko and Ivas have been confirmed^{10,11}). The foreign name Mario and the folk names Tomislav, Željko, Damir, Mladen, Branko, and Milan have not been confirmed in the Ukrainian corpus. On the other hand, the first name Anatol(ij) is very rare among Croats (there are fewer than ten individuals with that name), and it entered through the Russian first name corpus, while the first name Leonid, which could have also entered the Croatian first name corpus through the Ukrainian first name corpus, is somewhat more common (31 Croatian citizens carry that name³). The first name Igor (between 1970 and 1989, the foreign name Igor was among the ten most common male Croatian names) and Oleg (cf. Ukrainian Oleh) entered the Croatian name corpus through the Russian language³.

In the male corpus of names, there is a significant difference between the western and eastern parts of Ukraine, and the influence of wartime activities is evident. Thus, in the district of Lviv from 2016 to 2021 the most common male name was Matvij (cf. the Croatian Christian names Matej and Matija), which is more common among the (Greek) Catholic population (which mostly resides in Galicia in western Ukraine) and is not found among the hundred most common Ukrainian first names. On the other hand, the first name Ostap (the Ukrainian version of the first name Eustahije), which has become one of the fifteen most common male names, has not been confirmed in the Russian first name corpus⁷.

TABLE 2
THE MOST COMMON CROATIAN AND UKRAINIAN
MALE NAMES⁷

	Croatia	Ukraine
1.	Ivan	Mikola
2.	Josip	Volodimir
3.	Marko	Oleksandr
4.	Stjepan	Ivan
5.	Tomislav	Vasilj
6.	Željko	Sergij
7.	Ivica	Viktor
8.	Ante	Anatolij
9.	Mario	Mihajlo
10.	Nikola	Petro
11.	Luka	Jurij
12.	Damir	Andrij
13.	Petar	Oleksij
14.	Milan	Grigorij
15.	Goran	Vitalij
16.	Branko	Igor
17.	Franjo	Dmitro
18.	Marijan	Oleh
19.	Vladimir	Valerij
20.	Mladen	Leonid

Most Common Croatian and Ukrainian Surnames

The first Croatian surnames already appeared in Dalmatian cities at the end of the eleventh century, in many regions they were established by the late Middle Ages (keeping in mind that Ottoman conquest slowed down the process of taking on surnames in Bosnia and Hercegovina, eastern Srijem, the northwest part of Boka Kotorska and the occupied areas of what is today Croatia), and in other Croatian regions during the sixteenth century¹². The first Ukrainian surnames appeared significantly later.

The first indications that surnames are beginning to come into use appear sporadically from the fourteenth century onward, qualifiers don't begin to be used until the sixteenth century, and the surname as a constant, unchanging, and hereditary category doesn't start to affirm itself until the eighteenth century, first in parts of Ukraine inside the Habsburg Monarchy¹³.

Of the twenty most common Croatian surnames, thirteen are definitely derived from first names: Marić (< Mara < Margareta/Marija), Jurić (< Jure < Juraj), Vuković (< Vuk), Marković (< Marko), Matić (< Mato < Matej/Matija), Petrović (< Petar), Tomić (< Toma), Pavlović (< Pavao), Božić (< Božo < Bogdan/Božidar), Grgić (< Grga < Grgur), Blažević (< Blaž), Perić (< Pero < Petar) and Pavić (< Pavo < Pavao). The surname Novak can be brought into relation with a homonymic folk name confirmed to be in use since the thirteenth century³ or might refer to immigrants (historically, the appellative was used to refer to a new inhabitant of a region). The surnames Babić (the surname Băbić is brought into relation with the appellative *băba* 'augmentative of *baka* 'grandmother, old lady') and Knežević (< *knez* 'prince') originate from nicknames. The surnames Kovačević, Kovačić and Kovač (< *kovač* 'blacksmith') are motivated by the names of occupations, while the most common Croatian surname, Horvat, is related to the ethnonym Hrvat 'Croat'.

On the other hand, of the twenty most common Ukrainian surnames, twelve originate from the names of occupations: Bondarenko and Bondar (cooper), Melnik (miller), Kovalenko, Kovalčuk and Koval (smith), Kravčenko (tailor), Olinik (oil miller), Ševčenko and Ševčuk (shoemaker, cobbler), and Tkačenko and Tkačuk (weaver). Three surnames derive from first names or nicknames, and two from ethnics. The surnames Marčenko (< Marko), Savčenko (< Sava) and Petrenko (< Petro) are derived from first names. The surnames Moroz (frost, hoar), Lisenko (baldy) and Rudenko (red head) are derived from nicknames. The surname Bojko is most often brought into relation with the Ukrainian clan Bojki, who live in the region bordered by Ukraine, Slovakia, and Poland¹, while Poliščuk is a surname related to the region of Polissje, encompassing the northern regions of Ukraine, part of southern Belarus, and a small part of eastern Poland and western Russia¹. Some researchers (like the American historian of Hungarian-Ukrainian descent, Paulo Robert Magocsi¹⁴) believe that at least part of the members of the Bojki clan descend from White Croats. The Croatian surnames Kovačević and Kovačić are equivalent to the Ukrainian surnames Kovalenko and Kovalčuk, the surnames Marković, Petrović and Savić are equivalent to the surnames Marčenko, Petrenko and Savčenko, the surname Vuković to the surname Vovk (the surname Vovk has also been confirmed among Ukrainians in Croatia), the surname Rudan to the surname Rudenko, and the surnames Mraz and Mrazović to the surname Moroz. The Croatian equivalents to the surname Lisenko are surnames such as Čelić (< Tur. *kel* 'bald') and Pleše (< Psl. **plešb* 'bald'). Furthermore, the Ukrainian surname

TABLE 3
THE MOST COMMON CROATIAN AND UKRAINIAN
SURNAMES⁷

	Croatia	Ukraine
1.	Horvat	Melnik
2.	Kovačević	Ševčenko
3.	Babić	Bojko
4.	Marić	Kovalenko
5.	Jurić	Bondarenko
6.	Novak	Tkačenko
7.	Kovačić	Kovalčuk
8.	Knežević	Kravčenko
9.	Vuković	Olinik
10.	Marković	Ševčuk
11.	Matić	Koval
12.	Petrović	Poliščuk
13.	Tomić	Bondar
14.	Pavlović	Tkačuk
15.	Kovač	Moroz
16.	Božić	Marčenko
17.	Grgić	Lisenko
18.	Blažević	Rudenko
19.	Perić	Savčenko
20.	Pavić	Petrenko

Bondarenko is comparable to the Croatian surnames Bačvar, Bačvarević and Bačvarić, the surname Olinik is comparable to Croatian Uljar and Uljarević, the surname Melnik with the somewhat rare surname Melnjak found in the region of Varaždin, and the surname Tkačenko with the surname Tkalčević (which may have originated as a translation of the German surname Weber). In addition, the Ukrainian surname Kravčenko is comparable with the Croatian surnames Krajač and Krajačić, and the Ukrainian surnames Ševčenko and Ševčuk are semantically cognate with the Croatian surnames of German origin Šoštar, Šustar, Šuster, the historical surname Postolarić (formed from the appellative *postolar* 'shoemaker' and recorded on the Kvarner islands) and the surname Obućina (formed from the appellative *obuća* 'shoes' and confirmed in Lika). It is expected that Ukrainian surnames are semantically more closely related to surnames

in central and north-western Croatian regions, in which trades were significantly more developed than in coastal regions; thus, there is a larger proportion of surnames motivated by terms for occupations.

Conclusion

The deep links between Croatia and Ukraine (such as the Ikavian reflex of *jat* and the traces of White Croats in the Ukrainian ethnogenesis) are evidenced in the Croatian and Ukrainian historical and modern anthroponymic corpus. Thus, the two most common Croatian and Ukrainian female names are Marija and Ana (Ukrainian Gana), and Croats and Ukrainians share cognate historical forms of the Christian names Josip (Osip) and Nikola (Mikula and Mikola). The corpus of modern Croatian first names is significantly more open to foreign influences, while in the Ukrainian first name corpus there are evident differences in the western (where the first names Anton and Francisk are confirmed, which are specific to the Christian West, and where also typical Ukrainian first names such as Ostap are more common) and eastern Ukraine (where first names specific to the Christian east are more common, e.g., Grigorij and Vasilij). At the same time, many Croatian first names with Ukrainian homonyms or similar forms (e.g., Igor, Olga, and Tatjana) entered the Croatian first name corpus through the Russian language. Surnames affirmed themselves in the Croatian anthroponymic corpus significantly earlier than in that of Ukraine. In the surname corpus, we find the largest differences between Croats and Ukrainians. Among Croats, surnames originating from first names dominate, while among Ukrainians, surnames deriving from occupations dominate. However, many Croatian and Ukrainian names are related through etymology or semantics (e.g., Čelić and Lisenko).

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HRVATSKA I UKRAJINSKA ANTROPONIMIJA NA PRIMJERU NAJČEŠĆIH HRVATSKIH I UKRAJINSKIH OSOBNIH IMENA I PREZIMENA

SAŽETAK

U ovome se radu na temelju dvadeset najčešćih muških i ženskih imena te prezimena uspoređuju hrvatski i ukrajinski antroponimijski fond. Jezične se i kulturološke sličnosti između hrvatskoga i ukrajinskoga osobnoimenskog fonda ogledaju u činjenici da su dva najčešća hrvatska i ukrajinska ženska imena Marija i (ukrajinski Gana). Osim velikoga broja istozvučnih ili bliskozvučnih suvremenih hrvatskih i ukrajinskih osobnih imena hrvatski i ukrajinski osobnoimenski fond ujedno bilježe i srodne mjesne i povijesne likove kršćanskih imena Josip (ukr. Osip) i Nikola (hrv. dij. Mikula i ukr. Mikola). Manje razlike proizlaze iz činjenice da su Hrvati uglavnom katolici, a Ukrajinci pravoslavci, pa su dio kršćanskih imena Ukrajinci primili izravno iz grčkoga jezika (npr. Grigorij), a Hrvati posredništvom latinskoga (npr. Grgur). Najveće su međusobne razlike između Hrvata i Ukrajinaca u prezimenskome fondu u kojemu u Hrvata prevladavaju prezimena potekla od osobnih imena, a u Ukrajinaca prezimena potekla od naziva zanimanja. Česte u odlukama o početku ili prestanku pojedine mjere. Uljudniji oblici iskazivanja zapovijedi najrjeđi su među navedenim načinima, što sugerira važnost razumijevanja poruke o zaštiti sebe i drugih i, još više, djelovanja u skladu s njom.