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## **Английские имена собственные в произведениях о Гарри Поттере**

Статья посвящена этимологии и разным прочтениям имен, терминов и названий магических мест в серии книг о Гарри Поттере, написанной британской писательницей Джоан Роулинг. Особое внимание уделено семантизации иноязычной лексики романов.

### **Proper Names in Harry Potter books**

Every person at least once in their life has heard about “the boy who lived”. Fourteen years, seven books and eight blockbuster films later, the Harry Potter brand, valued at over \$15 billion, is still going strong [1]. The huge advantage of Harry Potter novels is that this is a good literature for English learners. Many non-native speakers reread it in English. The language is beautiful and quite simple, partly because J. K. Rowling has written her novels for children. In addition, the books and the films based on them have produced an incredible amount of new words and phrases. The author thought through every detail in her Harry Potter series. Rowling's work is so thought-out and profound that the words, names and terms deserve a close look. This article deals with etymology and semantics of the words used in these novels.

First, we will take a closer look at words that came from Old English and modern English. The most important place in the Harry Potter universe, Hogwarts Castle, is a wondrous, magical building with many towers and turrets. It is home to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. “Hogwarts” is actually the name of a flower. Once a friend from London asked J. K. Rowling if she had remembered when they first had seen Hogwarts. She did not understand what she was talking about until she recalled the day they went to Kew Gardens and saw those lilies that were called Hogwarts. “I had seen them seven years before and they'd bubbled around in my memory. When Hogwarts occurred to me as a name for the school, I had no idea where it came from”, – said Rowling [2]. Nobody knows if it is true, although the «wort» part does mean “plant”, as in St. John’s Wort.

The four Houses at Hogwarts are Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, and Slytherin. Each name is worth a look. The name Gryffindor is closely associated with the mythical griffin, also spelled gryphon and griffon. The griffin has the head and wings of an eagle and the body of a lion. Gryffindor’s animal is a lion, and the house colours are gold and scarlet, lion-like colours. In Old English, “dor” means gate or door. In French “d'or” means “of gold”, one of the Gryffindor House colors, though it can also come from the Greek word “dora” meaning “gift”. The name Hufflepuff conjures up images of huffing and puffing. Its animal is the badger. The Ravenclaw is an obvious combination of the well-known bird and claw. Its colors are bronze and blue. They are easily associated with the sky, flight and birds. The name of the fourth House – Slythering – has the idea of snakes in it due to the word “slither”.

People that readers get to know on the first page of the first book are the Dursleys, an ordinary English family. Mr. Dursley and Mrs. Dursley are Harry’s uncle and aunt. They have a spoiled and fretful son Dudley. “The Dursleys were what the wizards called *Muggles* (not a drop of magical blood in their veins)” [3]. Rowling claims that she made it up herself: “I was looking for a word that suggested both foolishness and lovability. The word “mug” came to mind, for somebody gullible, and then I softened it. I think “muggle” sounds quite cuddly” [4]. Although she said that she had never heard it before, it has been around in one form or another for almost a century. Lewis Carroll used it as the name of the villain in his short story “Wilhelm von Schmitz” in 1854. The word has also been used in American drug slang and Louis Armstrong and his orchestra recorded a song called “Muggles” in 1928. A British writer Carol

Kendall used the word “muggles” in two stories, written in the 1940s and 1950s (the name of candy maker). So the question is whether Rowling just popularized the word, genuinely created it without realizing that she has heard it before or really invented it.

Hermione Granger and Ronald Weasley are Harry’s best friends. Rowling chose the name Hermione from a queen in Shakespeare's play “A Winter's Tale”. She chose a very unusual name because she worried that if there were a real child somewhere whose appearance or personality might be similar to Hermione that had the same name, she may be teased. Hermione is pronounced “Her-MY-oh-knee”. Weasley means “like a weasel”. Rowling once said that she had had a great fondness for the Family Weasel. Ginny is a Ron’s little sister and Harry’s future wife. Ginevra is the Italian form of Guinevere (“fair one”), the name of King Arthur's wife.

The second group of names is borrowed from other languages. Most of them have Latin and French roots. For example, Draco (Draco Malfoy, Harry Potter’s antagonist at Hogwarts) is Latin for dragon, ultimately from the ancient Greek “drakōn”, meaning serpent. Draco is also the name of a constellation of stars, and of the first lawgiver in ancient Athens. This is a perfect name for a nasty child from Slytherin. The surname Malfoy consists of two word. The first part “mal” shows up in English in words such as malevolent, malicious, or malign, and comes from the Latin adjective “malus” meaning evil or bad. The second part “foy” (“foi”) is French for faith and comes from the Latin “fides”, meaning trust, confidence, reliance, belief, or faith. This Latin word gives us in English faith, fidelity, and related words. Therefore, these two parts combined result in “bad faith”, “evil belief”, or any other combination of the above meanings.

Arch-villain and ultimate antagonist in the Harry Potter series is the evil wizard who started life as Tom Marvolo Riddle. “Tom Marvolo Riddle” is an anagram to “I am Lord Voldemort”. Voldemort in French means flight (Vol) of (De) Death (Mort). In addition, according to Rowling, “Voldemort” is pronounced with a silent “t” at the end, as in the French word “mort”.

Combinations of these two ways create some interesting meanings, in Albus Dumbledore’s case, for instance, who was the Headmaster of Hogwarts and a great wizard. “Albus” is “white” in Latin; “Dumbledore” is the word for “bumblebee” in England in 18 century. Rowling said she had wanted to associate his name with bees because she

imagined him wandering around the castle humming to himself. Interestingly, the word “Dumbledore” has another possibly important meaning. Christopher Woosley wrote that Dumbledore was a style of hat that had been popular in London in the 1880s-1890s. Considering this meaning, Albus Dumbledore's name would have the meaning “White Hat”. “White Hat” is a term for the good character or protagonist of a story. Rowling might have named her character taking it into account. Later Rowling revealed interesting details on the relevance of alchemy in the series. She said that the colours red and white represented two different sides of human nature. These colors inspired the names of two hugely important to Harry people Rubeus (red) Hagrid and Albus (white) Dumbledore. The red is warm, practical and wild; the white is impressive, intellectual, and somewhat detached. Regardless the word “Hagrid”, the source of his name is an Old English word. If you were hagrid, you had had a bad night. “Hagrid is a big drinker – he has a lot of bad nights”, – said Rowling about him [5].

J. K. Rowling uses a pun in her books. The first magic place Harry visited is Diagon Alley. The words “Diagon” and “Alley” when pronounced together produce the word “diagonally” which is most probably the origin of the name “Diagon Alley”. Unfortunately, the wordplay in the name Diagon Alley is lost in other languages, since it is simply not reproducible.

It only remains to say about Harry Potter himself. Rowling said that she named her character for her old friend Ian Potter. Moreover, Harry is the favorite author's name. According to The Daily Mail, the real man named Harry Potter was born in 1989 in Portsmouth. His mother named him for Prince Harry. Therefore, Harry Potter is a usual English name and the reader can learn it from the beginning of the story: “– What's his name again? Howard, isn't it? – Harry. Nasty, common name, if you ask me. – Oh, yes – said Mr. Dursley, his heart sinking horribly. – Yes, I quite agree” [6]. However, Harry is name for kings. Harry is an English short form (“spoken form”) of Henry in medieval England. Most English kings named Henry were called Harry. In addition, it is possible that the name “Harry” originate from Greek name: Haris (χάρις), which means “grace”. In Old German it means “master of the house”, “heim” is “house” and “ric” is “power”. This meaning can be associated with the fact that Harry is an heir of Gryffindor House. The surname might come from Latin “potens, potentis”, meaning “powerful”. In English, the word “potter” has another meaning. A potter is a person who spends time in a relaxed way

doing small jobs and other things that are not very important. Therefore, the name Harry Potter might mean that he is a boy who is destined to create great things, but he is just a kid and cannot spend all his time on fulfilling the prophecy.

Overall, it is evident that J. K. Rowling has done a tremendous job. She chose names of her characters, magical places and terms wisely. Unfortunately, the real meaning of the word might get lost in translation process or simply cannot be understood by people speaking a foreign language. In this case, readers lose important details. That is why people who are interested in gaining a better understanding of the text or learning English more thoroughly should look into a question of origin and meaning of significant words in the Harry Potter universe.

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