

Sami names

Sami names from pre-Christian times are largely unknown today. Due to the church's negative attitude, they have rarely been documented. The Sami were early influenced by the Nordic naming custom and used Nordic names or a Sami version of the names.

Older Sami names that have been preserved are mainly found in state registers in the form of census and tax records. in the church's baptism and death registers and house inquiry registers. That the connection with the family is important is shown by the way of talking about a person with the addition of parents' names, such as Nilsa-Juhán or Katrijna-Lássi.

Names used today as family names may originally have been a nickname of an ancestor. They are names that go back to a characteristic or event, for example *Valkeapää* - white head or *Laula* - song or the singing one. It can also be names that indicate geographical origin such as the name *Kappfjell*.

As a result of the cultural encounter with the Swedish church and the state, one can see the use of "son-names", which is common in church records from the 18th and 19th century. The Swedish custom that father and eldest son have alternate first and last names and that other children have the father's name with the suffix -son or -daughter was taken up by many.

In a study of first names based on church sources from *Guovddageaidnu* (Kauotokeino in northern Norway), Håkan Ryding has obtained the most common first names for men, from 1552 and for women, from 1772 until today.

The most common male names are: Niillas, Áslat, Ánde, Biera and Mihkkel.

The most common female names are: Elle, Máret, Innga, Biret and Ánne.

