Names of Registered Cattle Breeds in Texas

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Onomastic research on the cattle industry of Texas and the names of the registered breeds therein reveals the use of predictable English language linguistics processes of word production. The focus is upon language change. We outline the development of the Texas cattle industry, an innovation of frontier America. We then report upon the linguistic devices used by native speakers of English to cope with that sociological change. While the language changes can be explained by existing <u>linguistic</u> insight, the addition of sociolinguistic information provides even more clarification.

TEXAS CATTLE

Fully aware that the governments and boundaries of Texas have changed considerably throughout the history of cattle and the accompanying industry, I limit this study to the geographical area of *Texas* as it exists today, The original Texas cattle, the Bison, roamed the Texas area long before people laid claim to the land. By the time France claimed "ownership,' human settlers had brought European imported cattle, especially the Corriente, from the West Indies, Florida, Central America, and South America.   Spain then declared that it (not France) owned' the land itself then "belonged"

to Spain. When Mexico ceded from Spain, Mexico claimed ownership. Eventually a group of "Texians" usurped Mexico's claim and solidified the area's name as *Texas* – an independent nation. Later, Texas itself joined the United States – after a brief alliance with the Confederate States

(According to the Handbook of Texas Online, the variant Spanish spellings of the word *texas, tayshas, texias, thecas, techan, teysas, techas* all refer to a term used among the Indians of East Texas. "The state motto, "Friendship," carries the original meaning of the word as used by the Hasinai and their allied tribes, and the name of the state apparently was derived from the same source.[1])

Texans prefer to use the term c*attle*, (not with synonyms or quasi-synonyms such as bos, *cows, ox, steers, stock)* to refer to the zoological species *bovidae.* Throughout the world six groups of bovidae exist: (1) *bison* (Europe and North America), (2) *buffaloes* (India, Africa), (3) *bos Taurus* (European oxen) (4) *bos indicus* (African Zebu), (5) *gaur, gayal*, and *banteng* (India and Southeast Asia), and (6) *Yak* (Tibet).

The convergence of cattle into Texas and the gradual registration of the various breeds has involved all groups except the last one, the *Yak*.

Until recently groups (1) bison and (2) buffaloes have had limited influence on either Texas cattle history or the naming of cattle breeds. For centuries, the native bison have grazed all over North America, from Canada to Mexico. During the sixteenth century Spanish soldiers first encountered these bison – and mistakenly referred to them

as *Búfalo* (Webster's Third New International Dictionary). The linguistic misnomer still exists in the United States English today – but with English spelling, *Buffalo*.

Before leaving this discussion of Texas cattle, the concepts of "breed" and "registration" should be addressed. The discussion demands brevity because all of the definitions of "breeds" eventually condense into what Professor and Extension Beef Cattle Specialist Stephen P Hammack professes: "In short, a "breed" is whatever you say it is" and "there is no "official" recognition of cattle breeds."[2]

Limiting ourselves, then, to the present geographical area known as the State of Texas and chiefly to two groups of bovidae, bos Taurus and bos Indicus, a formidable linguistic problem remains: the derivation of the names of registered cattle as collected by the Texas Department of Agriculture. This linguistic problem is current; during the past two decades, the number of registered cattle breed in Texas has doubled, - from 37 in 1987 to 73 in 2007.[3]

LINGUISTIC FINDINGS

Scholarship in the linguistic processes of word formation has an impressive and ongoing history. The consensus of that scholarship, however, agrees that people use nine major linguistic processes in word formation: lexicalization, compounding, prefixation, suffixation, conversion, back-formation, clipping, blends, and acronyms. [4]

As Texas ranchers and farmers, then, gradually codified the breeding of cattle, they had a little over a dozen linguistic devices to help them name the various breeds.

A close examination of the sixty-seven registered names that account for almost three thousand herds indicates that only four of the linguistic devices for word acquisition were used: **lexicalization, blending**, **compounding,** and **clipping**. In addition, seventeen names used **mixtures** of the four types.

Languages utilized in this naming process (listed in the order of their frequency) include English, French, Italian, German, African, Spanish, Tibetan, and Japanese. The predominance of English language influence should provide no surprise. The importance of French, Italian, and German, however, plus the absence of the importance of Spanish might provide surprise – as well as might the token influence of African, Tibetan, and Japanese languages.

Lexicalization

The term "lexicalization" included the broad interpretation of "re-lexicalization." The word *Montana*, while originally referring to a State in the United States, can be changed semantically to refer to a person <u>from</u> Montana. Using **lexicalization**, the registered cattle breeds *Aberdeen Angus*, *Ayrshire, Charlaise, Corriente, Devon, Dexter, Chianina, Guernsey, Galloway, Jersey, Limousin ,Marchigiana, Normande, Parthenais, Piedomontes, Pinzgauer, Salers, Santa Gertrudis, Sussex, Tarentaise, Tuli, Watusi, Zebu,* have all taken on the name of a geographical location or of person.

Aberdeen Angus reflect the names of a city and a county, respectively, in <u>England</u>; *Ayrshire* a county in <u>Scotland</u>; *Devon* a county in the southwest of England; *Dexter* derives its name from the man who originated the breed; *Galloway* the name of a

district in the southwest of Scotland; *Guernsey* the name of one of the <u>Channel Islands</u>, *Jersey* name of largest of the Channel Islands; and *Sussex,* descended directly from the red cattle that inhabited the dense forests of the Weald at the time of the Norman Conquest, reflect another English topographical name.[5]

The <u>French</u> language provides *Charolais*, from central France; *Limousin* (also *Lemosine* and *Limosine)*, from an old province in central France, *Normande* from the north; *Parthenais* from the west (near Deaux Sevres), *Salers*, a French medieval town; and *Tarentaise*, from the rugged Savoie region.

<u>Italian</u> provides *Chianina* and *Marchigiana* from central Italy and *Piedmontese* from the northwest.

From the <u>Iberian</u> side, *Corriente* is a Spanish word for "contemporary," for "current," for "day-by-day"; *Santa Gertrudis* is the name of a creek that runs through the King Ranch, in Texas.

<u>African Languages</u> provide topographical names for *Tuli* (a non-Bos Indicus breed) from the Ndobele word "utulili," meaning "dust," which describes the terrain where the Tuli were developed and *Watusi* (also *Watussi* and *Watutusi)* – the name of a minority racial group, probably of Ethiopic or Nilotic origin, which at one time were the majority among the Hutu.

Languages that include only one contribution each include <u>German</u>*, Pinzgauer*, referring to a breed that originated in the 1600s in the Pinzgauer region of Austria; <u>Japanese</u> *Wagyu* (literally meaning "Our Cattle" a cover term for numerous breeds

imported over the years); and <u>Tibetan</u> *Zebu* – from "Cebu," meaning "hump"- definitely a re-lexification, albeit a descriptive one.

And, finally, the registered name *Simmental* has Anglicized the spelling of the <u>German</u> *Zimmenthal/Simmenthal*, which **lexifies** the name of the Simme valley in the area of Berne, Switzerland

Blending

Blending involves the process of combining two or more words, but keeping only parts of the word: as in combining the words <u>smoke</u> and <u>fog</u> to produce <u>smog</u>. Marchand capsulates the huge amount of literature on the blending process (why <u>smog</u> and not <u>smof</u> or <u>foke</u>) by stating "The fancy of individuals is responsible for the coining of blend-words for expressive purposes, but whether they catch on or not depends on the constellation of so many circumstances.[6]

<u>English language</u> blends include *Amerifax*, a four-way blend, CROSS (X) done by AMERICAN breeders – involving "ANGUS and FRISIAN; *Beefalo*, BEEF and BUFFALO (while not registered in Texas, this same cross-breed is registered elsewhere as *Catalo* somewhere else as *Cattalo* and somewhere else as *Cattelo*, CATTLE and BUFFALO); *Braford*, HEREFORD and BRAHMAN; *Brahmousin*, LIMOUSIN and BRAHMAN; *Bralers*, American BRAHMAN and SALERS; *Brangus*, BRAHMAN and ANGUS; *Charbray*, CHAROLAIS and BRAHMAN; *Gelbray*, a three-way combination of GELBVIEH, RED ANGUS, and BRAHMAN; *Salorn*, SALERS and Texas (not British) LONGHORN; *Senepol*, SENEGALES and RED POLLS; *Simbrah*. <u>Italian,</u> the

only other language involved in a Texas blend, produced *Romagnola*, really one breed of cattle known as ROMAN CAMPAGNA.

As an aside, note that of the various BRAHMAN cross-breeds, four begins with a variation of *bra(h)--*, and two end in *–bra(y)*. In all six cross-breeds, the Brahman is the minority contributor – never more than 3/8ths of the registered breed.

Compounding

Again, the scholarship on compounding has created hundreds of publications, but in simple terms compounding takes two words (usually adjectives or nouns) and combines them into one word or phrase.[7] Lexicographers disagree, a majority of the time, on how the enter these creations: see for example entries for *light years*, *light-years*, and *light years*.

English language cattle breed compounds that utilize adjectives+nouns, include the *Belted Galloway*, the *Longhorn*, the *Scotch Highland*, the *Red Brangus*, and the *Shorthorn*. Those names that utilize adjective+adjectives include the *Belgian Blue,* the *British White*, and perhaps the *Red Poll* (cattle either have "horns" or the horns are cut, or "polled." Noun+noun compounds include the *Beefmaster*, the *Brahman-Zebu*, and the *Char-Swiss*.

Two German compounds, *Braunvieh* ("Brown Cattle") and *Gelbvieh* (Fawn-colored Cattle) are registered.

One French compound name is registered, the *Blonde D'Aquitaine*

Clipping

As the name implies, clipping simply shortens a word or phrase – as shortening the word **examination** to the word **exam**. Texas now has two different registered cattle, the Scottish *Aberdeen Angus* and the Texas *Angus*. It also has the *Highlands*, but not the original re-lexified *Scottish Highlands*.

Mixtures

As is true in most linguistic studies, the exceptions inevitably surface. More than a dozen such exceptions appear in this data pool. All of the exceptions utilize **two or more** of the eight word formation procedures.

In 1987, Texas had *Red Angus*, *Horned Hereford, Polled Hereford* and *Frisian-Holstein*. The names for all four breeds were **lexified,** then **compounded**. In 2007, those same cattle names were **clipped** – now known as *Angus, Hereford, and Holstein,* respectively. (The *Hereford* Association has two branches: the *Horned* and the *Polled*.)

For years European zoos found profit in exhibiting an unusual African breed of cattle, with the **compounded** name *African Ankole*, with *Ankole* being a **lexified** topographical name. American beef cattle breeders became interested in the cattle for commercial purposes – but changed the compound to *Ankole Watusi* – with *Watusi* designating another topographical region in Africa.

The **compounded** names *Brown Swiss*, *Murray Grey*, and *South Devon* all utilize adjectives to describe **lexified** topographical names: Switzerland, a valley in Australia, and England, respectively.

The **compounded** *American Breed* **lexifies** <u>America</u> and capitalizes on the American origin of *Bison* to designate a unique *Breed (Brahman, Bison, Charolais, Hereford,* and *Shorthorn*). *Maine-Anjou* **lexifies** the Maine and the Anjou river valleys in northwest <u>France</u>.

The **blended** name *Barzona* **lexifies** the name of the breeder BARD with his topographical location, the State of ARIZONA.

Russ <u>Bueling</u> **lexifies** his own name, pretends to be **blending** by capitalizing the letter /L/ and suffixing the letter /-o/ to create his North Dakota breed, the *BueLingo*.

CODA

Linguistically, our report could end a point, with a closing note that the processes used by these Texas cattlemen are, with two exceptions, within predictable patterns of other native speakers or English.[8] One of the exceptions is the lack of **affixing**. The established pattern in English language word formation is to use more affixing, thirty percent, than any of the other devices. The second exception is in the weight put on the other processes. The cattle names **lexified** about sixty-two percent of the time (expected norm would be only six percent); **blended** about twenty-two percent (norm of one percent); and **compounded** only about fifteen percent (not twenty-eight).

In explanation, the linguistic norms are misleading in one major respect: The studies included the entire range of vocabulary. This study concentrates only on onomastics. At present I have been able to find no naming studies comparable to this one. However, I did find that a closer look at the movement of cattle to Texas give sociolinguistic clues for the two exceptions previously mentioned.

That movement must start with this continent. In the opening discussion of bison, we left the impression that a handful of bison were still being cultivated. In fact, the majority of these bison are at present protected on government preserves.

This continent also produced another cattle breed before Texas came into a separate political existence. That breed is the Texas Longhorn.

The Texas Longhorns (not to be confused with European breed of the same name) are, unromantically, the offspring of oxen from the continent of Europe.[9] These particular oxen were brought by Spaniards to the area we now call Mexico when the first presidios, or settlements, were established in the seventeenth century. Over time these oxen escaped or were abandoned. In the wild they developed huge horns. Descendents of these oxen were later renamed *Texas Longhorns*.

When Anglo (as opposed to Spanish or French or Mexican) settlers began moving into the territory of Texas, they brought with them several breeds of European cattle. These cattle had been in the United States since at least 1783.

The Mexican Longhorns that were here to greet these purebred intruders from another continent (and their hybrid companions) had long legs and little substance.

However, after mostly unplanned and haphazard crossbreeding, the Texas Longhorn of

both reality and myth came into being. So prolific was the growth of this breed that

Texas ranchers found they could supply enough beef for Texans and still have a surplus.

So, borrowing trail-driving methods from Latin-American Vaqueros, the Texans moved

huge herds to other markets: New Orleans, Cuba, the Middle West, and California.

While the Longhorn was moving from its unromantic oxen origins to its place in

the Cowboy Mystique, other cattle were brought to Texas to improve the existing dairy

and beef industries. Some of these came directly from the European continent, others

indirectly, through Brazil, Mexico, Canada, and other states in the United States. For a

while the United States banned the importing of cattle (a ban that was lifted in 1972).

However, during this time three more breeds, now registered in Texas, were introduced

through the importation of their semen. These three were the dual-purpose Maine-Anjou,

the beef breed Blonde D'Aquitaine from Europe, and the beef breed Murray-Grey from

Australia.

To associate this influx of cattle with the successful Texas cattle industry, though,

is a bit premature. The northeastern portion of Texas had a climate that was appealing to

the European breeds. But the rest of Texas had a climate that was hostile. Especially

troublesome were the heat and humidity, the lack of drinking water, and the proliferation

of insects, particularly flies and mosquitoes. The abundance of land and course grass,

though, was enticing to the cattle raisers.

For cattle to provide a successful industry in the harsh climate, European breeds

needed to be cross-bred with more adaptable breeds. Various non-European breeds had

the ability to survive in such a climate, but their beef was not as marketable as that of the European. Two of these non-European breeds proved to be especially successful in such cross-breeding. The Longhorn has already been mentioned. The second was the Brahman-Zebu from India.

Only one breed of cow was brought to Texas from this, the third continent that contributed to the establishment of the Texas cattle industry. But the Brahman's contribution belies its aura of aloneness.

The term Brahman was selected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the name of all breeds of Indian cattle in the United States. In South America and in Europe these cattle are known as Zebu. For Texans involved in the exposition of cattle, this naming difference is more than a linguistic squabble. Much of the market for beef cattle today is in Spanish-speaking America, where the term "Zebu" is used to refer to *bos indicus* cattle. On the other hand, Texans must work with the United States Department of Agriculture, proponents of the term "Brahman."

Texport recognizes the problem by listing two breeders associations, both headquartered in Houston, Texas. One is the American Brahman Breeders Association, the other is the International Zebu Association. Technically, the Brahman and the Zebu are not the same breed (Briggs, 191), but linguistically Texport lists them as one, *Brahman-Zebu* (191).

In the linguistics section of this paper we mentioned that the cattle names listed in the 1986 edition of the Texport Cattle Directory were produced with only four word

formation processes: lexicalization, blending, compounding, and clipping. We now propose that two sociological variables account of these four types. The first variable is geography. Except for one or two exceptions, topographical names separate the names that were **lexified** from those that were created from the other three linguistic processes. The distinction is simple. All of the breeds of cattle that originated outside the American continent retained their original names as they arrived in Texas. Those breeds that originated in the United States received names that were the result of **compounding**, **blending**, and **clipping**.

I have had more than two decades to talk to cattlemen (not only in Texas, but in Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska) about this phenomenon. Consistently, they argue that it's the farmers' and ranchers' love of land – they wish to preserve the recognition of land. (This argument would also account for Mr. Bard's blending of his name with the State of Arizona, for his new breed the *Barzona*.

The second sociological variable is economic purpose. The two main uses of cattle in Texas are the same as elsewhere: dairy and beef. All cattle are bred for these main purposes; the secondary uses that rely on hides, bones, horns, hooves, and fat are not affected by breed type. Originally, however, cattle were bred for utilitarian dual purposes – dairy and meat.

Registered Texas Cattle Breeds of dairy and dual-purpose cattle tend to be imported, with original names: *Ayeshire, Brown Swiss, Frisian-Holstein, Guernsey, Jersey, Gelbvieh, Maine-Anjou, Pinzgauer,* and *Simmental*.

Reading the websites of the various Breeding Associations, however, reveals a third purpose: breeding. The *Bison*, the *Texas Longhorn* and the *Brahman* all had an impact on the Texas beef economy that importing from the European continent could not manage by itself. All of the breeds that originated within the United States started as hybrid beef, the offspring of breeds already named—breeds with **lexified** names.

The economic purposes of breeding therefore left breeds of cattle that needed names. **Blending** and **compounding** allowed Associations to create names that reflected both the original and the imported breed names.

Selective breeding, as distinct from crossbreeding, removed the horns from the *Hereford* breed. This removal of the horns resulted in a "polled" cow. Selective breeding also produced an *Angus* that was red, instead of the purebred black. After the *Brangus* was produced (see **blending**), selective breeding also produced a red Brangus. **Compounding** was used in naming some of these new breeds – *Texas Longhorn, Polled Hereford, Red Angus, Red Brangus.* A fifth compound name drew attention to the purpose of the breed: *Beefmaster.* (As an aside, each Beefmaster must be permanently identified with its breeder. Therefore, all breeders use a prefix name, such as "Santos Beefmaster," to designate their own cattle.)[10]

Notes

1. *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v.",

http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/TT/pft4.html no. page numbers.

(accessed September 9, 2007.

2. Ibid. no page numbers.

3. For the 1987 data see Texas Department of Agriculture. *Texport Cattle Directory*, Vol. 12, no. 1 (1986-87). For the 2007 data see Texas Department of Agriculture. *Texas Livestock Directory*. http://www.gotexan.org/vgn/tda/files/1670/10488_Livestock%20dir%200306. pdf. (accessed June 7, 2007).

4. See, for example, Ramon F. Adams. *Western Words: A Dictionary of the Range, Cow Camp, and Trail*, Rev. Ed. (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1968); Scott J. Baird, "Noun Compounding Rules in Japanese." M.A. Thesis, University of Texas – Austin. 1968; Robert B. Lees. *The Grammar of English Nominalizations*. (Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1963); Hans Marchand. *The Categories and Types of Present-Day English Word-Formation*, 2nd ed. (Munich: Beck, 1969); Thomas Pyles and John Algeo. *The Origins and Development of the English Language*, 3rd ed. (San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1982). This study of cattle names applies a consensus of such research, because as Laurie Bauer succinctly states: "There is, at the moment, no single 'theory of word-formation', nor even agreement on the kind of data that is relevant for the construction of such a theory. Laurie Bauer. *English Word Formation*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983), 1.

5. Documenting all of the sources for the information of each breed of cattle, within the prose of this article, poses more problems than help. I will, therefore, in this endnote list detailed reference points. From Livestock *Directory*, 2007*:* Amerifax, Barzona, Beefmaster, Belgian Blue, Belted Galloway, Blonde D'Aquitaine, Braford, Brahman-Zebu, Brahmousin, Bralers, Brangus, Braunvieh, British White, BueLingo,

Char-Swiss, Charolais, Chianina, Corriente, Devon, Galloway, Gelbray, Gelbvieh, Horned Hereford, Highland, Limousin, Longhorn, Maine-Anjou, Marchigiana, Murray-Grey, Normande, Parthenais, Piedmontese, Pinzgauer, Red Angus, Red Brangus, Red Poll, Salers, Salorn, Senepol, Simbrah, Simmental/Simbrah, South Devon, Tarentaise, Tuli, Wagyu, Zebu.

From Oxford English Dictionary Online: Aberdeen Angus, Angus, Ayrshire, Beefalo, Brahman, Devon, Dexter, Friesian-Holstein, Guernsey, Jersey, Hereford, Limousin, Longhorn, Murray Grey, Normande, Romagnola, Santa Gertrudis, Shorthorn, Simmental, South Devon, Sussex, Tuli, Watusi.

Also http: Belgian Blue, BueLingo, Charbray, Pinzgauer, Sussex, Tuli.

6. Marchand, *Categories and Types*, 368.

7. See especially Baird, *Japanese*, and Lees, *English Nominalizations*.

8. Pyles and Algeo, *Origins*, 289.

9. James Biefeldt D.V.M., personal communication, March, 1986.

10. M.E. Ensminger. *Beef Cattle Science*. (Danville, Illinois: The Interstate Printers & Publishers, Inc., 1976), 99.

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