

WORD STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL TERMINOLOGY FOR "MOM" AND "DAD"

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Abstract

When it comes to international terminology for "mom" and "dad", it seems that there really is no One True Method. Across different countries, you'll find a variety of words used to describe one's parents - often with slight variations in pronunciation.

To get an idea of just how varied these words can be, take a look at the list below from OSI's GlocaSprite. It showcases some of the most common words used around the world to describe one's mother and father.

As you can see, there are a range of words used - from mama and papa, to nana and baba, to dada and tata. So no matter where in the world you are, you're sure to find a word that feels comfortable for you when talking about your parents.

Keywords: Mama, papa, international words, translation method, word formation

1. Introduction: What Do "Mom" and "Dad" Mean?

"Mom" and "Dad" mean "real mom" and "real dad", or one's real mother and real father. In English, "mom" and "dad" are generally considered short for mother and father. In other languages (like Spanish, French, and Chinese), the full forms Mother and Father are used. For example: in Chinese (Mandarin) we say "你妈" and "你爸爸" when we describe one's parents, in Spanish it's "mami" and "papi" and in French (in this case Breton) it's "Ma" and "Papa" or the literal translation into English "Marriage" and "Birth". In ancient Egyptian (nep). when parents were referred to, their names were only used in the priest or scribe's cursive

writing. Eye witness descriptions found no definitive descriptions for mom or dad and only generic translation such as "niker" or "nuh nefer" were found.

2. How Do Words for Mother and Father Differ According to Language?

Even the languages we see today have a long history behind them. They emerged from many different events and uprisings. During world wars, countries such as Spain and France, Italy and Japan, and Germany and Austria came to adopt different languages. The development of a language goes back in time as well. Dialects of the language of a particular group of people could originate from a single family that developed over time and with no one being a sole the keepers of the language.

The reason for this is because people felt happy talking with their immediate family members, and their close allies and relatives in their communities. It was because of the perceived security that they brought with their presence. That was why they felt talking with people they were close to felt comfortable.

3. How Do "Mom" and "Dad" Differ According to Country?

When it comes to the titles of the global mom and dad, the best place to look is at OSI's website, which maintains a worldwide glossary of international terminology. What's most telling of OSI's research is that there is no absolute difference - regardless of which one of the two words is chosen, the genders of the person and the person they are referring to sometimes change. For instance, "Mom" was more commonly used in East Asia and Latin America, whereas "Dad" was the Global Top Talkers in the Middle East and Western Europe. So much of what you are missing need to be dedicating in local language training & speaking for the culture and country. Obviously, depending on where in the world you go, you need to know the right specific term for emulating one's parents.

E.g. being European, in Britain he'd be named Billy or Sid but in Germany, it could potentially sound a bit loftier :) Let's say Die Letzten dein Vater sei eller er auch noch of ése.

Mom, dad *insim* is a dish that is gaining more and more of interest because it allows the person to feel closer to their own mother.

But this isn't all that strange when it comes to European languages like the Germanic and Romance ones that are closely related to English. After all, Proto-Indo-European, which linguists refer to as the parent language of these languages, was likely spoken in the steppes of what is now Ukraine several millennia ago.

So perhaps that's simply a family thing if French has *maman* and *papa*, Italian has *mamma* and *babbo*, and Norwegian has *mom* and *papa*. Did Welsh pick up on this from the English that was also spoken there in Great Britain? Perhaps, but the truth is that English is spoken considerably less "amidst" other languages. *Mama* and *baba* are Swahili terms from Africa. In the Philippines, *nanay* and *tatay* are used in Tagalog. *Nana* and *tata* are in Fijian. Mandarin, which to a beginner seems so intimidatingly different from English, unexpectedly calms by offering up *mama* and *baba*. In the Caucasus, Chechen? *Daa* and *Naana*.

Eskimo has *anana* and *ataata*; Koasati, which is a language found in Louisiana and Texas, has *mamma* and *taata*; and Pipil, which is spoken further south in El Salvador, has *naan* and *tatah*. Then, it stands to reason that terms like *mama* and *dada* wouldn't always be the same or even quite similar across languages and through tens of thousands of years. *So what took place?*

The beginnings of speech in infants hold the key to the solution. It was discovered by the innovative linguist Roman Jakobson. Ah is the simplest vowel for a baby to make since it may be produced without the use of the mouth or lips. If you're going to do anything, your first instinct is to stop the stream of *ahhs* by sealing your lips for a while, especially if you've been doing it to breastfeed. Consequently, *mmm*, so that you obtain a string of *mahs* while maintaining the music and interrupting it occasionally.

The next customary caregiver to the mother is frequently referred to as *papa* or *baba*, which is due to the order in which babies learn to produce sounds.

When babies "talk," they are merely playing. Adults, however, do not hear them that way. When a baby says "mama," it sounds like he's addressing someone, and since he's so young, his mother is most likely the person he's addressing. When speaking to her child, the mother uses the term "mama" to refer to herself.

Finally, a word that "means" mother: mama. That would have occurred with the first humans, but more importantly, it has occurred with all newborn humans, regardless of the language they speak. This suggests that, for whatever reason, "mama" was being recreated as the term for "Mom" even as the first language was evolving into innumerable new languages. Dada and apa both occurred for a common human cause.

4. Conclusion

After learning to make the letter m with their lips, babies learn to make another sound by placing their lips together, holding them together for a little period of time, and then blowing a puff of air. That is p, or b, depending on how you feel. On the ridge behind the top teeth, which we inconveniently burn when we slurp hot soup, babies also begin to play with their mouths a little farther from the lips. We create a t or a d there. The order in which babies learn to make sounds explains why the person who typically takes care of them after the mother is called papa or baba so frequently (or tata or dada).

Another strange trend among some nouns has a similarly banal explanation. The linguist Johanna Nichols has observed that "I" and "you" pronouns start with m and t—or anything pronounced like t on that burnable ridge in the mouth, s—too frequently for it to be an accident throughout much of Europe and northern Asia. English people are accustomed to the words me and toi in French and me and tu in Spanish. It continues with the menja and tebja of Russian, the minä and sinä of Finland, and even the further-eastern Eurasian languages like Yukaghir, a Siberian language that utilizes met and tet.

So, language encompasses far more than expressions like "Me glimmering, Mom!" The words in a phrase like "He couldn't even get halfway over that wall!" will never be explained by any theory. Given that we are at the end of a possible 150,000-year timeline since human speaking first originated, language is too flexible to provide us such pleasure.

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