The Arabic Origins of English and European "Place Names": A Consonantal Radical Theory Approach

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ABSTRACT
This paper examines the Arabic origins of some common place names in English, German, French, Latin, Greek, Russian, and Sanskrit from a consonantal radical or lexical root theory perspective. The data consists of the names of around 60 key cities like Birmingham, Brighton, Cambridge, Chester, Derby, Exeter, Glasgow, London, Manchester, Oxford, Queensville, York. The results clearly show that all such names have true Arabic cognates, with the same or similar forms and meanings whose different forms, however, are all found to be due to natural and plausible causes and different courses of linguistic change. Furthermore, they show that place names play an important role in both near and distant genetic relationships, As a consequence, the results indicate, contrary to Comparative Method and Family-Tree Model claims (e.g. Campbell 2013; Harper 2012-18), that Arabic, English, and all Indo-European languages belong to the same language, let alone the same family. Therefore, they prove the adequacy of the
consonantal radical theory in relating English, German, French, Latin, and Greek to Arabic as their origin all because, unlike any other language in the group, it shares cognates with all of them in addition to its huge linguistic repertoire phonetically, phonologically, morphologically, syntactically, and semantically.

Keywords: Place names, Arabic, English, German, French, Russian, Latin, Greek, Sanskrit, historical linguistics, consonantal radical/lexical root theory

1. INTRODUCTION

All names, whether personal or place, have meanings which may refer to (a) religious and biblical phenomena such as God and His prophets and their disciples like Christchurch, Petersburg, Theoville, (b) natural phenomena such as mountain, cape, valley, water like Cape Town, Perth, Waterloo, (c) agricultural phenomena such as field, farm, plant like Chesterfield, and (d) the persons who set them up such as London, Birmingham, Washington.

The investigation of place names or toponyms is especially important in the investigation of both near and distant genetic relationships amongst languages (Campbell 2013: 436). As to English place names, they have different origins that indicate the people who established them first after their invasion of England. Campbell (2013: 436-37) mentioned three different sources as follows:

i) Some place names came from Latin which are marked by such suffixes as -caster, cester, -chester, from Latin castra 'camp; originally 'military posts', borrowed into Old English as ceaster in Lancaster, Gloucester, Chester, Dorchester, Winchester.  

ii) Other names (over 2000) were from Scandinavian languages which are distinguished by such suffixes as (a) -by, from Old Norse -by -settlement, village, town, habitation, homestead' as in Busby, Derby, Grimsby, Kirby, Rugby, (b) -thorp (-thrup), from Old English thorp 'village, hamlet, estate, farm' as in Gunthorpe, (c) -waite, -thwaite, from Old Norse thveit 'clearing' as in Curthwaite, Seathwaite.

iii) Another set of names stemmed from Anglo-Saxon (Old English) origins such as (a) -ham 'home, town, village (hamlet)' as in Birmingham, Buckingham, Durham, Nottingham and (b) -tun 'enclosure, village, farmstead' as in Arlington, Kensington, Southampton.

That is not all, of course. There are other common such place name suffixes, including, for example, those in Oxford, Edinburgh, Chesterfield, Cambridgeshire, Loughborough, and so on.

All those names have true, identical Arabic cognates as will be shown below. In Jassem (2014f, 2014d), I tried to trace back the Arabic origins of 190 proper names in English and Indo-European languages, which included personal and some place names. This paper extends that work further by showing the Arabic origins and/or cognates of place names in English and Indo-European languages. It is organized into four sections: (i) introduction, (ii) research methods, (iii) results and discussion, and (iv) conclusion.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

2.1 The Data

The data consists of 60 English key place names such as Birmingham, Blackpool, Brighton, Cambridge, New Castle, Chester, Derby, Edinburgh, Essex, Exeter, Glasgow, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Oxford, Queensville, York, and so on. Their selection has been based on their importance as large English cities in the main and their pivotal role in world affairs of all sorts. To facilitate reference, they will be arranged alphabetically but rootwise, together with brief linguistic comments in (3.) below.

The etymological data for English and Indo-European languages is based on Harper (2012-18) and his sources. For Arabic, the meanings are taken from Ibn Manzoor (2018) in the main and related e-dictionaries like Albaheth Alarabi (2018) and Almaany.com (2918) in addition to my own knowledge of Arabic as a native speaker. The Arabic cognates of English and Indo-European place names are exclusively mine, though.

In transcribing the data, normal spelling is used for practical purposes. However, certain symbols were used for unique Arabic sounds, including /2 خ & 3 غ/ for the voiceless and voiced pharyngeal fricatives respectively, /kh خ & gh غ/ for the voiceless and voiced velar fricatives each, capital letters for the emphatic counterparts of plain consonants /T (t) ط (ت) ص (ص), D (d) ط (ت) ص (ص), Dh (dh) ط (ت) ص (ص), & S (س)/, and /' / for the glottal stop (Jassem 2013c).
2.2 Data Analysis

2.2.1 Theoretical Framework: Consonantal Radical/Lexical Root Theory
As a theoretical framework, the analysis of the data utilizes the consonantal radical theory, which is a more precise version of the lexical root or radical linguistic theory (Jassem 2012a-14e). It is so called because of employing the consonantal radical or, more generally, lexical root in examining genetic relationships between words such as the derivation of observation from serve (or simply srv). The major reason stems from the fact that the consonantal root carries and determines the basic meaning of the word irrespective of its affixation such as observation. Vowels are thus neglected because they show mainly phonetic and grammatical relationships and functions as in sing, sang, sung.

A full exposition of the lexical root theory and procedures can be found in Jassem (2018b) which will be skipped over here to save time, effort, and space. However, the main procedures of analysis in relating words to each other genetically can be summed up in five steps as follows.

(i) Select any word, starting with consonantal roots and overlooking vowels, e.g., the, that, sea/see, Derby, London.
(ii) Identify the source, daughter, or sister language meaning (e.g., English, Latin) on the basis of especially word history or etymology. It is essential to start with word root meanings, not sounds as the former are more stable and change a lot less than the latter which do so extensively and drastically. For example, all the sounds of a given word might change beyond recognition while meanings in a rather limited way. The meaning first will often lead one to the correct cognate naturally whereas the sounds first will lead them nowhere definitely.
(iii) Search for the word with the equivalent meaning and form in the target, parent, or reference language (e.g., Arabic), looking for cognates: i.e., sister words with the same or similar forms and meanings.
(iv) Explain the differences, if any, in both form and meaning between the cognates lexicologically, phonetically, morphologically, and semantically as indicated. As a matter of fact, finding the right cognate on the basis of its meaning first often leads one to the resultant changes automatically.
(v) Finally, formulate phonological, morphological, grammatical, and semantic rules after sufficient data has been amassed and analyzed.

That is the whole story simply and briefly. For example, consider any word in Section 3 below.

2.2.2 Statistical Analysis
The percentage formula is used for calculating the ratio of cognate words or shared vocabulary, which is obtained by dividing the number of cognates over the total number of investigated words multiplied by 100. For example, suppose the total number of investigated words is 100, of which 90 are true cognates. The percentage of cognates is calculated thus: 90/100 = 9 X 100 = 90%.

Finally, the results are checked against Cowley’s (1997: 173, 182) formula to determine whether such words belong to the same language or family (for a survey, see Jassem 2012a-b).

3. RESULTS

The main focus of the results will be on the Arabic consonantal radicals or lexical roots of English, German, French, Latin, and Greek words and affixes like prefixes, infixes, and suffixes; vowels will be generally overlooked whose main function is phonetic-grammatical rather than semantic as has been stated above.

3.1 The Arabic Cognates/Origins of Latin and Greek Place Names
Numerous English place names have Latin (and Greek) origins, all of which can be ultimately traced back to Arabic origins or source cognates. These combine with English words in different ways as suffixes, prefixes, or independent words. Some of the most common ones are listed below.

-caster and its variants cester and –chester is one of the most productive place name suffixes, which stemmed from Latin castra ‘camp; originally ‘military posts’, and which was borrowed into Old English as cester, from Proto-Italic *kastro- ‘share, part’; it is cognate with Old Irish cather, Welsh caer ‘town (probably related to causdare ‘cut off’, from PIE root *kes- ‘cut’.

In light of its sound and meaning, its immediate Arabic parent cognate is qašr ‘castle, palace; fortified, enclosed place’; القصر, turning /q/ into /k (ch)/ and splitting /Ś/ into /st/. Many Arabic cities, towns, and villages have this name or are derived from this root like (Al-)quSair ‘the little castle’ in Homs, Syria and ‘um QaSr (Qasrāin) ‘the mother of the (two) castles’ أم القصر (in Iraq and (Tunisia).
It is worth noting here that the Irish and Welsh cognates might not be its true cognates at all for they directly
derive from Arabic qaSR (pl.) ‘village, town’، قرية، قرى، which, passing /q/ into /k/. Nor can the above Proto-Italic one which
comes from Arabic qist ‘part, share’، قِسْط in which /q/ became /k/ and /T/ split into /tr/; similarly, the same applies to the PIE
root which comes from Arabic qaSS ‘to cut’، قَصُ، which where /q & S/ became /k & s/. As can be clearly see, Arabic provides cognates
for all, from which they must have ultimately descended.

Amongst the many English place names of Latin origins, stemming from that suffix, the following can be mentioned:

Castle (New Castle) came from Old English castel ‘village; large building, fortress, stronghold’, from Old North French castel, Modern
French château، from Latin castellum ‘castle, fort, citadel, fortified village’, diminutive of castrum ‘fort’, from Proto-Italic
*kastr- ‘share, part’ above.

Like –caster above, its immediate Arabic parent cognate is qaSr ‘castle, palace, fortified, enclosed place’، قَصْر turning
/q/ into /k/ and splitting /S/ into /st/. Furthermore, all the suffixes have true Arabic cognates. That is,

i) The suffix –le/-el derives directly from the Arabic definite article –al ‘the’ via morphological shift (see Jassem 2016d)

ii) The suffix –um, which is cognate with –on in Greek, is from either Arabic –oom or –an via morphological shift (see Jassem
2016a & d).

As to new, it came from Old English neowe, niowe, niwe ‘new, fresh, untried, inexperienced, unheard-of’, Germanic neu, Danish and
Swedish ny, from Proto-Germanic *newjaiz, from PIE *newo- ‘new’, leading to Sanskrit newah, Persian nau, Latin novus, Greek neos,
ultimately from Arabic nai ‘fresh, raw, uncooked’، نَفَه via sense shift; or Jan ‘new’، جن via /j/-loss.

Chester arose from Old English Legacætir ‘City of the Legions’, from Old English ceaster ‘Roman town or city’, from Latin castrum
‘fortified place’, directly from Arabic qaSr (al-qaSr) ‘castle, palace, fortified, enclosed place’، قَصْر above, passing /q/ into /k (ch)/
and splitting /S/ into /st/.

Chester combines with many other words as the second part in major English place names, including:

Cheshire (shire) developed from Cestre Scire, from (i) Chester above and (ii) scir ‘district, administrative office,
jurisdiction, authority’, Old High German scira ‘care, official charge’, from Proto-Germanic *skizo-, ultimately from Arabic shar3, shar3a(t), share3a(t) ‘jurisdiction, authority, water area’، شرطة، شريعة via /3/-loss. The ultimate whole Arabic
source is share3a(t) (al-)qaSr ‘castle jurisdiction, authority, water area’، شريعة القصر.

As can be seen, the Proto-Germanic source is definitely false, which again comes from Arabic qaSS, qaSqaS ‘to cut’
via reordering and turning /q & S/ into /k & s/ or sqaS ‘cut’، قَصُ via /q & S/ into /k & s/. Thus, its real full Arabic name is qaSr (al-)qaS(qaS)
‘water (the-) castle = castle water’، قَصْر.

Exeter came from Old English Exarceaster, Escanceaster, from (i) Exe ‘the water’, from Latin Isca, from Celtic river
name Exe ‘the water’ and (ii) Old English ceaster ‘Roman town’ above. The Arabic parent cognate of the first element is siqqa
and/or its related derivatives suqia, saqi, isqa, saqa(q), saqa(t), qaS (v) ‘water, rain, a drink, watercourse’. سَاء، سَو، سَبأة، سَبأة
via reordering and turning /q/ into /k/. Thus Exeter’s real, full Arabic name is saqqa (al-)jaqS(qa) ‘water (the-) castle = castle water’، سَٰيَة القصر.

Gloucester means ‘bright place’, which came from Old English Glewceaster, from Latin Coloniae Glev, from (i)
Glevo, a Celtic name meaning ‘bright place’, (perhaps influenced by Old English gleow ‘wise, prudent’, and (ii) and Old English
ceaster above. The first part ultimately came from either Arabic (a) jalee ‘clear, bright’، جَلِٰل where /j/ became /g/, or (b) 3aaqil
‘wise, prudent’، عَقَال via /3/-loss and passing /q/ into /g/. In other words, its real, full Arabic name is qaS(qa) (al-)jaala/(al-)3aq(2q)
‘الحالة، الظل’.

Manchester (Mancunian) evolved from Mameceastre, from (i) Mamucio, the original Celtic name, perhaps from
*mammm ‘breast, breast-like hill’ and (ii) and Old English ceaster above. The first element is from Arabic mama/unm ‘mother,
home’، مَاما or mina ‘holy place name near Mecca; aim, destination, side’, mana ‘beside, opposite (the castle)’، مَى. Thus, the
whole name means ‘beside the castle’ or ‘the Mother of the Castle’ in Arabic which is what it is in English.

Leicester is ‘a tribal name, perhaps dwellers of the River Ligor’, from Middle English, earlier Ligraseaster, Ligera
ceaster, ‘Roman town of the people called Ligore, ‘a tribal name, perhaps dwellers of the River Ligor’. As the meaning of the
river is not known for sure, its Arabic origin can’t be ascertained.

Winchester developed from Old English Unhtaastir, from Ouentra, from Venta, a pre-Celtic name perhaps
meaning ‘favoured or chief place’ and (ii) and Old English ceaster above. The first part came from Arabic muniat, umniat,
muna (pl.) 'desire, wish, something desired or wished' whence /m/ turned into /w/, or Zinniat, Zanaan 'longing, kindness, desire, wish, something desired or wished' whence /2/ became /w/. That is, the ultimate Arabic source cognate is qaṣr (at-)muna 'Castle of Desire'.

Worcester (Wirceasteastre) arose from Old English Wilhelm, Weorgarne civitate, from Weorgar, a tribal name whose meaning is not given and so its Arabic cognate cannot be verified.

Port, New (deport, porter, report; purport) is a common place name affix, which came from Old English port 'harbour, haven', from Old French, from Latin portus 'port, harbour; lit., entrance, passage', porta 'gate, door', Greek poros 'passage, journey, way', from PIE *ptro- 'a going, a passage', suffixed form of root *per- (2) 'to pass over, lead'.

Based on its sense and sound, its Arabic source cognate is one of the following:

a) bu'ra(t) 'opening'

b) boor(at) 'uncultivated, grassy land'

c) barria(t), barr, barr(at) 'outside; the wild, prairie as opposed to sea'

d) bawba(t), from baab 'gate, door'

e) rabwa(rabat) 'water-surrounded, raised ground'

f) rabD 'to stay, park, station'

g) darb 'mountain' passage, large road'

-Ville (Charlottesville, Nashville) is a place name suffix, meaning 'town, village', lit., 'farming', which came from Old French ville 'town', from Italian villa 'country house, villa, farm', from Latin villa 'farmstead, country house, farm', related to victus 'village, group of houses', from PIE *weik-sla-, suffixed form of root *weik- 'clan, social unit of the household', (also source of Sanskrit visah 'house', viik 'dwelling, house, settlement', Greek oikos 'house', Latin villa; Lithuanian viëspats 'master of the house', Old Church Slavonic visi 'village', Gothic weiks 'village').

Its direct Arabic cognate is fila2a(t) 'farming', fala2 (v) 'to farm' whence /v/ -loss and lexical shift. The same applies to all related derivatives villa, villain, villagery, village, field, falow, all coming from the same Arabic cognate.

The Sanskrit and Greek words are not cognates, it can be clearly seen. For example, Sanskrit vis is from Arabic bait 'house' whence /b/ became /v/. The same applies to the other words.

It occurs in countless place names like:

Queensville has three parts, the first of which came from Old English cwen 'queen, female ruler, woman, wife', Greek gynē 'woman, wife', Sanskrit janis 'woman', gna 'wife of a god, a goddess'; Old Church Slavonic zina, ultimately from Arabic qaiyen 'beautiful girl, female singer, woman' whence /k/ became /s/ (Ø). The full Arabic name is qaṣir fīl2 = fil2 alqaiyen. فَلَحُ قَيِن 

The possessive suffix -s is cognate with Arabic -t' inflectional and derivational affix' with which it varies in English, German, French, etc. (Jassem 2012f, 2016a)

Paris, the French capital, came from Celtic par 'boat' and Greek baris 'barge', directly from Arabic baarjiya(t) 'barge' whence /j/ became /s/ (Ø). Furthermore, Paris is said to mean (a) 'swamp' which comes from Arabic barka(t) 'brook, pool' (cf. Brooke, brook) where /k/ became /s/ or barea5a(t) 'swamp' whence /k/ turning /S/ into /s/; and it also means (b) 'dirt' as called by the English, which obtains from Arabic burazz 'stool, urine' whence /k/ turning /S/ into /s/.

Notwithstanding all the above cognates, it seems to me that it is named after barza(t) whence /k/ became /s/ (Ø), a Syrian hilly town and suburb in Damascus, meaning 'prominence', which is a highly likely cognate. Another likely cognate is Syria's Buṣra or Iraq's Basra 'white-stoned, soft earth' whence via reordering:

Metropolis (mother, maternal; police, politics, political, politicking, polity, polis, metropolitian, cosmopolitan, Tripoli) is the capital city or mother town, which came from Latin metropolis 'mother city, capital city' consisting of two parts:

(i) meter 'mother', directly from Arabic mar'at (mara) 'woman' whence /r/ into /t/ via reordering and lexical shift;

(ii) polis (police, politics, political, politicking, polity, metropolis, cosmopolitan, Tripoli), from Old French policière, from Latin politia, from Greek politeia 'the state, civil administration', from polites 'city, citizen', from polis 'city, the state, citizens', directly from Arabic balad, balada(t) 'village, city, town' whence /d/ (t) turned or merged into /s/ (Jassem 2015e-f).

-wick, -wich (Norwich, Sandwich, Warwick) are place name suffix variants, meaning 'house, abode', which came from Latin vicus 'place, office, stead; group of houses, village', straight from either Arabic:

(i) waq3 and related derivatives wiaqqa3a(t), waqqa3a(t), mawq3a 'high or solid, inhabitable place' whence /w/ became /v/ while /q & 3/ passed into /k (ch) & Ø/ or waqa3a (v) whence /w/ became /v/ while /q & 3/ passed into /k (ch) & Ø/ or waqa3a (v) whence /w/ became /v/ while /q & 3/ passed into /k (ch) & Ø/ or

(ii) fa2S, fa2Siya(t) 'any inhabitable place, abode; (Western) place name' whence /2 & S/ merged into /k (ch)h/.

As can be clearly seen, Latin vicus, -wick (-wich), and villa cannot be cognates at all.
Warwick came from Old English wyrra, erre, Old High German wirran, French guerre, from Arabic wagh'a 'war' and its derivatives. Thus, the PIE root is certa, 'it came'.

3.2. The Arabic Cognates of Scandinavian Place Name Roots

Scandinavian place name affixes abound in English. Perhaps the three most common ones are (i) -by 'settlement, village, town, habitation, homestead', which occurs in many English place names like Busby, Derby, Grimsby, Kirby, Rugby; (ii) -waite and its variant -thwaite 'clearing'; and (iii) -thorp/thurp 'village'. They combine in different ways in English place names, all of which can be traced back in the end to Arabic parent cognates as follows.

**Derby** came from Old English Deorby 'deer village', consisting of two parts:

(i) deor 'deer, animal, beast', Old Norse dyr, Dutch dier, Old High German tior, German Tier 'animal', Gothic dius 'wild animal', Latin taurus, Spanish torro, from PIE root *dheusom 'creature that breathes', from root *dheu- (1) 'cloud, breath', directly from Arabic thaur 'animal'.

(ii) -by descended from Old Norse or Old Danish -by, from -byr 'place where people dwell, village, town', from bua 'to dwell' (from PIE root *bheue- 'to be, exist, grow', straight from Arabic bee'a(t), abba'a(t) 'place, home often opposite a valley or mountain, residence, habitat', from *beyin, *baya(t) 'to live in a place, to dwell' 

Thus, the full Arabic name is bee'a(t) thaur 'habitat animal = animal's habitat'

**Gunthorpe** consists of (i) gun and (ii) -thorpe. As to gun and its derivatives (gunnery, machine gun, gun powder), it came from Middle English gunne 'an engine of war for throwing rocks and arrows, a cannon', from Old Norse gunnilde 'a woman's name', probably a shortening of woman's name Gunilda, from Old Norse gunnhildr 'a woman's name', form (i) gunnr + (ii) hildr 'both battle, war', directly from Arabic (a) qana 'arrows, missiles; arrow sticks' لف, (b) jawn, jinan(at) 'armour, shield' جون, or (c) sain 'arrow heads' سان to which lexical shift and turning /q (j. & s)/ into /g/ applied.

As for -thorpe (-thrup), it came from Old English thorp 'village, hamlet, estate, farm', from Old Norse -thorpe 'village', from Proto-Germanic *thurpa- (also source of Middle Dutch and Dutch thorpe, German Dorf 'village', Gothic thaurp 'estate, land, field'), probably from PIE root *treh- 'dwelling', ultimately from Arabic:

(a) tharb 'earth with white stones; fertile land' ثرب and related yathrib 'old name of Madina, the second holiest and first capital city in Islam' َ، ثرب and atarib 'a northern Syrian city near Idlib and Aleppo' تاريب، this is the likeliest;

(b) turba(t), tara(t), turab (pl.) 'lit., dust, earth; village; graveyard', تيرب; ترا، تراب turning /t/ into /d/; or

c) darb, duroob (pl.) 'large, wide gate or door' درب, دروب via sense shift and turning /d/ into /th/.

It combines with many other words like Winthorpe.

**Seathwaite** is a compound of (i) sea (German See) and (ii) -thwaite, the first of which is straight from Arabic sai2/sai3 'running water' سا, via lexical shift and /2 (3)/-loss.

As for -thwaite (-waite), which combines with many other words as in Curthwaite, Linthwaite, Mickletonwaite, it descended from Old Norse thveit 'clearing', ultimately from Arabic:

(a) wadi 'valley' وادي via lexical shift and passing /d/ into /t/;

(b) waDee3a(t), waDa'i3 (pl.) 'people moved by ancient Persia's Cheshroe to another area; sour plant or herb; tax' وَدِيْ، وَدِيْ which combines with many other words as in Waddington and Waithwaite, it descended from Old Norse thveit 'clearing', ultimately from Arabic:

As to the second part **land**, it came from Old English land, land 'ground, soil, territory, home region', from Proto-Germanic...
coast tower’
sطﺢ
(v) ‘pull, tighten’
consists of three parts, the first of which came from
So Petersburg’s full Arabic name is
‘log, beam, hence wooden causeway’ (source of
Old English
’a dwelling with a fortified enclosure’ and German
or
- ﺑﺮﺟ burj
descending
Cent, Cent lond, Centrice,
laTa(at)
qa'im
burj (Brücke,
‘enclosure, church’, Middle French
, derived from Old English
e.g.,
Canticum
nd; white
najd/najwa(t)
Norman influence. In my view, these are
- (pl.) ‘region, country, village’ via reordering and passing /b/ into /n/.
burj batra
structure’
’an open space’, Welsh
Ilan
and later
(v) ‘pull, tighten’
‘open land by the River Sheaf’, an Old English river name.
saT2ia(t)
‘flat, level site; roof’
Land
ﻗﺮن، أﻗﺮن
Ilan
(Kent)
Brücke
‘tower; a high structure’
‘Bridge on the River Cam, a
fro
‘enclosure, church’, Middle French
, via sense shift
in English place names
لدﻳد، ﻟدﻳدان
Ilan
(cent)
Cantware
which is the likeliest
See
- (v) ‘pull, tighten’
‘place, spot, site, locality’, from Proto
came
‘land, open land, heath’ (source also of Old Irish
land, Middle Welsh Ilan ‘an open space’, Welsh Ilan ‘enclosure, church’, Middle English lande, Czech lada ‘fallow land’). In light of this, its ultimate Arabic cognate may be:
i) laTa(at) ‘land, earth; stick (lie low) to earth’ where /T & t/ became /n & d/;
ii) nad2 ‘vast land’ via /2/-loss and /l/-split from /n/;
iii) naj/na(j)u(t) ‘high land’ via /j & d/-merger and /l/-split from /n/;
iv) ladeed, ladeedaan (pl.) ‘river sides’ البرج via reordering; or
v) balad, buldaan (pl.) ‘region, country, village’ via reordering and passing /b/ into /n/.
-bridge (Cambridge) stemmed from Old English bryce ‘causeway over a river’ and German Brücke, from Proto-Germanic *brugio-
(source of Old Saxon bruggia, Old High German brucca), from PIE root *brhu- ‘log, beam, hence wooden causeway’ (source of Gaulish briva ‘bridge’, direct from Arabic barzakh ‘(water) barrier’ where /z & kh/ became /d & ge/; or, less likely, form
Arabic buri ‘tower; a high fortified enclosure or structure’ برج via sense shift.

It occurs in many words, e.g.,
Cambridge is a major English city best known for its University, derived from Old English Grontabricc ‘Bridge on the River Cam, a
Celtic river name, meaning ‘crooked’, which changed to Cante- and later Cam under Norman influence. In my view, these are
different words which developed immediately from Arabic:
i) qarr, quroon (pl.), aqran (adj.) ‘horn, horn-shaped’, فرن, أقرن via lexical shift and turning /q/ into /g/;
ii) qa’irn ‘straight’, قيرلم فرق via lexical shift and passing /q/ into /k/; or
iii) kham3 ‘bent, not straight, twisted, turn around’ دوغم via /3/-loss and passing /kh/ into /k/.
Bristol is a well-known city in Western England, descending from Middle English Bridgestow, from Old English Brycgstow ‘lit.,
assembly place by a bridge’, with inserted /l/, from (i) bridge above and (ii) stow ‘place, spot, site, locality’, from Proto-Germanic *stowo-
(source also of Old High German stouwen ‘to stop, check’, German stauen ‘to stow, pack, bring to a halt’), from PIE root *sta- ‘to stand, make or be firm’, directly from either Arabic:
(i) shadeed ‘strong’, شديد shadda (v) ‘pull, tighten’ شديد دوغم passing /sh & d/ into /s & t/; or
ii) soT2ia(t) ‘flat level ground’ سطحة, from soT2 ‘flat, level site; roof’ سطحت passing /T & 2/ into /s & O/.
-Burg and its variants -burgh, borough, -bury came from Old English burg, burh ‘a dwelling with a fortified enclosure’ and German
Burg ‘castle’, directly from Arabic برج ‘tower; a high fortified enclosure or structure’ برج where /j/ became /g, gh, y (O)/. See
Bridge.

It combines with other words such as Edinburgh, Hamburg, Loughborough
Edinburgh has two parts, the first of which came from Celtic Din Eidyn ‘lit., perhaps fort on a slope’, from Arabic 3eeadaan ‘coast’
برج إدنان via /3/-loss and lexical shift. Thus, Edinburgh’s full Arabic name is burj 3eeadaan ‘coast tower’ برج إدنان via reordering. See
burg.
Petersburg is a Russian city, which consists of three parts, the first of which came from Latin/Greek Petr(u)/os ‘lit., stone, rock’,
French Pierre, Italian Petro, Spanish/Portuguese Pedro, from Arabic batra, batar ‘soft, loose land; white-stoned earth, a
Jordanian city’. So Petersburg’s full Arabic name is burj batra ‘soft earth tower’ برج بترا via reordering
-Bury and its variants burg -burgh; borough came from Old English burg, burh ‘a dwelling with a fortified enclosure’ and German
Burg ‘castle’, from Arabic burj ‘tower; a high structure’ برج where /j/ became /y (O)/. (Note Kuwaiti Arabic has buri for burj).
Many Arabic place names are called thus.
It combines with other words in English place names such as:
Canterbury (Kent) came from Old English Cantware-buruh ‘fortified town of the Kentish people’, from (i) Cant-ware ‘the people of
Kent’, from Old English Cent, Cent lond, Centrice, from Latin Canticum, from Greek Kantion, from an ancient British Celtic
name meaning ‘coastal district’, or ‘corner-land, land on the edge’, but possibly ‘land of the host or armies’. It derives
ultimately from Arabic:
i) qunyat ‘top of everything; plantless earth; a small, flat, smooth mountain’ قمة, passing /q/ into /k/, which is the likeliest; or
ii) kunnat ‘a top door shelter; an Arab tribe’ كننة and related kinnat ‘home’ and kinaanat ‘bag of arrows; an Arab tribe’ via sense
shift.
As to -ware ‘people’ in Cant-ware, it comes straight from Arabic wara ‘people’ وارة.
Field is a common place name suffix, whose Arabic cognate has already been mentioned in Chesterfield above. It occurs in
many other words, including:
Sheffield comes from late Old English Scaefeld ‘open land by the River Sheaf’, an Old English river name. Sheaf (shave) is from Old
English sceaf , Old Saxon scof ‘large bundle of corn, later two dozen arrows in Middle English’, from Dutch schoof, Old High
German scoub 'sheaf, bundle', German Schaub 'sheaf', Gothic skuf 'hair on the head', from PIE root *(s)keup- 'cluster, tuft, hair of the head', directly from either Arabic:

i) sa3f 'palm tree leaves or branches' سطف via lexical shift and merging /s & 3/ into /sh/;
ii) saif 'sword; horse tail hair' سيف and/or related seef 'fibre lining palm leaves; coast, pure water location' via lexical shift and turning /s/ into /sh/;
iii) sha3f 'a bundle of hair; top of everything; a kind of tree peel' شفي via /3/-loss; or
iv) shaab 'white hair' شيب via lexical shift and turning /b/ into /f/;
v) jubb 'of vegetation, a bundle' حب where /j & b/ became /sh & f/.

Ford came from Old English ford 'shallow place where water can be crossed', from Proto-Germanic *furdu- (source of Old High German furt, German Furt 'ford'), from PIE *ptru- 'a going, a passage', (source of Latin portus 'harbour', from root *per- 'to lead, pass over', directly from Arabic farDa(t) 'river crossing' فرصة in which /D/ became /d/. Notice how Arabic provides a true identical cognate compared to PIE (see Jassem 2013d).

It occurs in many English place names, including:

Bradford has two parts, the first of which is from Old English brad 'broad, wide, not narrow, flat, open, extended', from Proto-Germanic *braithaz- (source of Dutch breed, German breit, Gothic braithaz), of unknown origin. However, it came directly from Arabic ba3eed 'a bundle of hair; top of eve to stay' باند. This is either:

i) wa2sh 'a wild animal', 2eeshan (pl.) via lexical shift and passing /2 & sh/ into /k & s/;
ii) 2aash 'young camel' حاشي via lexical shift and turning /2 & sh/ into /k & s/;
iii) 3ais 'camel' عيس via lexical shift and turning /3/ into /k/; or
iv) 2I3San 'male horse, stallion' عيسان via lexical shift and merging /2 & S/ into /ks/.

-ham (home, homing, hamlet) is a very common place suffix as in Birmingham, Buckingham, Durham, Nottingham, Hamburg, meaning 'home, town, village (hamlet)'. It came from Old English ham 'dwelling place, house, estate, village; region, country', leading to Modern English home, from Proto-Germanic *haimaz 'home' (source also of German Heim), from PIE root *(t)koimo-, suffixed form of root *tkei- 'to settle, dwell, be home' (source also of Greek κοιμέμαι). However, it came directly from Arabic:

i) 'amm 'home, residence; country, road; origin; mother' or, passing / / into /h/;
ii) 2ima 'protected (land); property' (cf. 2awm 'flying around' حوام), turning /2/ into /h (k)/; or
iii) khum 'petty house' هام, turning /kh/ into /h (k)/.

In addition, the Greek word might also be cognate with Arabic aqaam 'to stay' أقام, maqaam/imaqaam(t) (n) هقام/اقامة, passing /q/ into /k/.

Many place names combine with it, including:

Birmingham is the second largest industrial city in central England, which developed from Bervingeheame 'lit., homestead of the place (or people)', named for Beorma, probably a shortening of Beornmund, a forgotten Anglo-Saxon person. Although no meaning is given to this name, I think it might come from Arabic barm 'rounding; twisting, turning around' (cf. tal al barm 'hill-the-round =the round hill بل الارم, a place name in the Syrian Golan Heights); or it might be a shortened form of Ibrahim, Barhooma (dim.) 'Abraham' أبraham via /h/-loss.

-pool is a 'small body of water; deep, still place in a river', from West Germanic *pol- (source also of Old High German Pfuo!, German Pfuhl), directly from Arabic baalo03 'water spring' بالو4, baalo03a 'cesspit', from bala3 (v) 'to swallow, suck in' بلغ via /3/-loss.

It occurs in many English place names such as:

Blackpool (blacken) is an English city, the first part of which descended from Old English blæc 'black, ink, the colour of soot or coal' and/or blæc 'bright, shining, glittering, pale', from Proto-Germanic *bla4az 'burned' (source also of Old High German blah 'black', Dutch blaken 'to burn'), from PIE root *bhleg- 'to burn, to shine', from root *bhel- 'to burn, shine' (source also of
Greeks phlegin ‘burn, scorch’, Latin flagare ‘to blaze, to burn’. Thus, based on its sound and sense, it came from either Arabic:

(i) balaq, ablaq, balqa ‘a white in black or vice versa’ بَلْقاَ، أَباَلْقاً, passing /q/ into /k/;
(ii) baraq/abraq ‘light, shine; a white against black or vice versa’ بَرْقُ، أَبْرَقُ، turning /r & q/ into /l & k/; or
(iii) qa’l ‘(heart) blackness’ قَلْبُ via reversal and replacing /q/ by /k/.

Many Arabic place names are called ablaq, balqa’ بَلْقاً. بَلْقاً, بَلْقًا.

In Old English, swart ‘black’ and German Schwartz ‘black, a proper name’ derive straight from Arabic aswad, sawaad (n) أسود، سواد, which is rejected anyway.

Liverpool is an English city on the River Mersey, from Old English liuerpul ‘Pool with Muddy Water’; the first part comes from Old English lier ‘thick, clotted water’, (Modern English liver ‘body organ; seat of love and passion’), from Proto-Germanic *libnā ‘liver’, (source also of Dutch lever, Old High German lebara, German Leber ‘liver’), perhaps from PIE root *leip- ‘to stick, adhere’, also to form words for ‘fat’, ultimately from Arabic lubb ‘inner; heart’ لَب and related laba, laba’a ‘of chewing gum, to stick; of milk, first after birth’ لَبَا where /b/ became /v/ and /r/ was inserted. The full Arabic name is baloo3 lubb = lubb (al-)baaloo3 the inside/heart of the pool البَلُود لَبَع = بَلُود البَلَوْد.

London, the capital city of the UK, came from Latin Londinium, which is of unexplained, unknown origin; however, it is often controversially said to be a place belonging to a man called Londino meaning ‘the wild one’, which is rejected anyway. It seems to me that it is a related land-derivative (see above).

In light of the above uncertainty, it comes from either Arabic:

(i) laddoo ‘hostile’ لَدَوْ, where /d/ became /n/;
(ii) ladeed, ladedaan (pl.) لَدِيدٍ لَدَاذَاان the inside of water, which is what London is in straddling the river Thames; or
(iii) (at-)lud ‘a Palestinian city; side’ اللَّدَ the اللَّدَ where /b/ became /v/ and /r/ was inserted. This entails that London might have actually been named after that city, which is the likeliest.

-shire came from Old English scir ‘administrative office, jurisdiction, authority, country, province’, straight from either Arabic:

i) soor/Soor ‘wall; in old times towns were walled in’ سور, سَور ‘in a wall; in old towns’;
ii) sharee3a(t) ‘a water-bound area; a jurisdiction’ شرِئة, شِريعة via /s/-insertion and turning /s & n/ into /sh & k/.

It occurs in countless English place names such as Cambridgeshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire. E.g.,

Hampshire is reduced from Old English Hamtunsicr, named for the city of Southampton, which was originally Hamtun. As such, it consists of three parts: Ham, tun, and shire, all of which have been traced back to Arabic and below and below.

-Sex (Saxon) developed from Saxon, one of the three German tribes that invaded Britain in the 8th century, which came from Old English sexə ‘knife’, whose direct Arabic parent cognate is sikkeen, sakkeen (pl.) ‘knife’ سَكَّين, سَكَّاَكْن, or seekhan, seekhan (pl.) ‘stake, knife’ سَكِين, سَكٍّاَكْن‏ صَيْح, سَيْحَان where /kh/ split into /ks/. See Anglia.

It has to be noted that -sex here is not cognate with Latin sexus, secar (-v) ‘a cut, division’, which derives straight from Arabic sharq ‘cut, division’ شَرْق, turning /sh & q/ into /s & k/ (see Jassem 2013m & q).

Many English place names have this suffix, including:

**Essex** ‘litt., the East Saxons’ is a compound name from Old English East-Seeaxe ‘East Saxons’. East came from Old English east, eastan (adj., adv.) ‘east, easterly’, easte (n), from Proto-Germanic *aust- ‘east; lit., towards the sunrise’, (source of German Ost, Old High German ostan), from PIE root *aus- ‘to shine, especially of the dawn’, directly from either Arabic:

(i) sha33 ‘to shine’ شَشَن via reversal and turning /s/ into /w/ and /sh/ into /s/;
(ii) saTa3 ‘to shine’ سَتَلُ via reordering, /s/-loss and changing /t/ into /l/.

Middlesex means ‘litt., land of the Middle Saxons between Essex and Wessex’ where middle (mid, medial, mediate, mediater, intermediate, intermediary) came from Old English middel, Old English mid ‘with, together with, among’, German mittel, Gothic midjis ‘middle’, Latin medius ‘in the middle’, from PIE *medhypo ‘middle’, direct from Arabic mata ‘mid’ مَدَى passing /t/ into /d/ and inserting /l/.

**Sussex** ‘litt., land of the South Saxons’ is a compound name, coming from Old English Suth Seeaxe ‘land of the South Saxons’, from Proto-Germanic *sunthaz-, perhaps literally ‘sun-side’ (also source of Middle Dutch zunt, Dutch zuid and German Süden), related to *sunnon ‘sun’, from PIE root *sawel- ‘the sun’, (Old French and Spanish sur, sud are Germanic loans), from either Arabic:

(i) zawa’ ‘noon, shadow’ زَوْان via lexical shift and passing /z & l/ into /s & n/;
(ii) shams ‘sun’ شَمْس where /sh/ became /s/ while /m & s/ merged into /th/; or
(iii) sana ‘light’ سَانَا, mutating /n/ into /s/.
Surrey is a London suburb, which literally means 'a two-seated, four-wheeled pleasure carriage'; it is short for Surrey cart, from Old English Suthrige 'Southerly District', composed of two parts, the first of which suther, suth 'south' has already been tackled in Sussex above; the second part developed from Old English -ge 'district', directly from either Arabic:

i) qiy, qiwa, qawa 'unpopulated land', passing /q/ into /g/;
ii) qa3a3, qee3a 'ground' via /3/-loss and passing /q/ into /g/; or
iii) jiwa 'flat land' via final syllable loss.

Wessex 'lit, land of the West Saxons' arose from Old English west (adv.) 'in or toward the west', from Proto-Germanic *west- (Dutch and German west, Old High German -west), from PIE root *west-, reduced form of *wes-pero- 'evening, night' (Greek hesperos, Latin vesper 'evening'), respectively:

i) masa'a, masiat 'evening' صُمَّاءُ صُمَيْةُ, turning /m/ into /w/; or
ii) wasaT 'middle' وسطَ via lexical shift and passing /T/ into /T/.

-tun/-ton (town, down) is a very common place name suffix as in Ashton, Aston, Arlington, Brighton, Kensington, Northampton, Southampton, coming from Old English tun 'enclosure, garden, field, yard, farm, manor; homestead, dwelling house, mansion; later group of houses, village, farm', from Proto-Germanic *tunaz, *tunan 'fortified place', (source of Old Saxon, Norse, and Frisian tun 'fence, hedge', Dutch tun 'garden', Old High German zun, German Zaun), borrowed from Celtic *dunon 'hill, hillfort' (source of Old Irish dun, Welsh din 'fortress, camp', dinas 'city', Gaulish-Latin –dunum in place names), from PIE root *duh-no- 'enclosed, fortified place; hill-fort'; from root *dheue- 'to close, finish, come full circle'.

Based on sound and sense, its Arabic source cognate is one of the following:

i) waTan 'settlement, home, country' وَطَنَ via reordering and passing /T/ into /T/;
ii) Teen, aTyTan (pl) 'wet soil or earth; farm, village' تَنْ، أَتِنْ, أَتَنْ, turning /T/ into /T/;
iii) dán 'animal enclosure; low home' دَنَّ, from adanna 'to stay' أَدَنَ via lexical shift and passing /d/ into /t/;
iv) danan, dannon 'a place name in all of northern Syria' دَانَنَ, دَانُونَ;
v) 'atana, 'atn (n) 'stay' أَتَنَ 'to shine; bright, white', straight from Arabic durr 'precious stone; jewel, gold, silver' دُرْرَ.

It occurs in many place names, all of which have Arabic cognates. For example,:

Brighton came from Old English bryht, beorht 'bright, beautiful, divine', from Proto-Germanic *berhtaz (source also of Old Saxon berht, Old High German beraha), from PIE root *bhereg- 'to shine; bright, white', straight from Arabic barq 'lightening, shining, white' بَرْقُ in which /q/ became /h (g)/. Many Arab cities and villages are derived from this root all over the Arab world like burqa(t) بَرْقُ, burqa(t) بِرْقُ in Syria.

It is also worth noting that many proper names are taken from this root such as 'Robert, Albert, Bertha, Egbert, Gilbert, Herbert, Hubert, Lambert, Albrecht, Ruprecht' (see Jassem 2014d, f).

Darlington is a city in northern England, from Old English deorling 'darling, favourite minion', double diminutive of deor(e) 'dear, precious, costly, loved, beloved', from Proto-Germanic *deorjaz- (source also of Middle Dutch dure, Dutch duur, Old High German tiuri, German teuer), of unknown etymology. It evolved directly from Arabic:

i) durr 'precious stone; jewel, gold, silver; shining' دُرْرَ;
ii) daara 'to take care of, be gentle to' دَارِ;
iii) dalaal 'endearment' دَلَالَ, passing /l/ into /r/; or
iv) dalah 'to go mad in love' دَلَاحَ, turning /l/ into /r/ and deleting /h/.

Waterloo is 'originally a village near Brussels, the site of the great battle on June 18, 1815', comprised of two parts, the first of which came from Old English water, from Proto-Germanic *watar (Dutch water, Old High German wazzer, German Wasser, and Gothic wato 'water'), from PIE *wod-or, suffixed form of *wed- (1) 'water, wet', (Hittite watar, Sanskrit udrha, Greek hydor, Russian vodah, Gaelic uisge 'water', Latin unda 'wave'). It descended from either Arabic:

i) wira 'water; a daily portion or part of the Holy Quran read by someone' وَدْرُ أَوْدَرَ via reordering and turning /d/ into /t/;
ii) maTar 'rain' مَتَارَ, changing /m/ into /w/; or
iii) qaTr 'water, rain' قَتَرْ, turning /q/ into /w/ (cf. write from Arabic qira'at 'reading' through lexical shift and changing /q/ to /w/ also).

Note that PIE *wed- is from Arabic woda, wadi 'of water, to flow' وَدَأْ, وَادِيَ. As to loo (Lee, Leigh), it came from Old English lea 'open field, meadow, piece of untilled grassy land'; earlier læch, from Flemish loo 'sacred wood', from Proto-Germanic *lauhaz (source also of Old High German loh 'clearing' and probably Flemish loo), from PIE *louko- 'light place' (also source of Sanskrit lokah 'open or free space, world', Latin lucus 'grove, sacred grove, wood', Lithuanian laukas 'open field, land'), from root leuk- 'to shine, be bright'.

Its Arabic source cognate is one of:
York (New York) is a city in northern England, from Old English *Eoforwic, earlier *Eborakon, an ancient Celtic name meaning ‘Yew-Tree Estate’ although *Euros might also be a personal name; it consists of (i) *yew, an evergreen, poisonous, long-lived tree of temperate Europe and Asia which symbolizes death and immortality, from Old English *iwe, eow ‘yew’, from Proto-Germanic *iwe- (source also of Middle Dutch *iwe, Dutch *ijf, Old High German *iwa, German *Eibe), from PIE *ei-wo- (also source of Old Irish *iwe, Welsh *ywen ‘yew’, Middle Latin *ivus), eventually from Arabic َٰاَّرَلْ ‘alive, live’ via /2/-loss.

As to -rk, it comes from Arabic *3irq ‘tree branch, plant, shrub’ where /j/ became /ea (oo)/, eventually from Arabic َٰاَّرَاَّرَأَيْ ‘tree’ or *araak ‘a kind of prickly shrub’ whose bristly roots are used as toothbrushes; a piece of land ‘أَرَأَلْ’ via sense shift.

Many Arabic place names are called thus like *Iraq, َٰاَّرَاَّرَأَيْ ‘ancient, great; rock; herb, root, tree branch’. So it seems highly likely that York is a distortion of Arabic *Iraq after which it was named.

3.4. The Arabic Cognates of Slavic Place Name Roots

-gart & -grad are variants, meaning ‘town, city, village’ and occurring in especially Slavic and German place names like *Leningrad, Stuttgart; they stemmed from Russian gorod- -grad ‘town, city’, from Old Church Slavonic gradu ‘town, city’, from PIE *ghor-dho-, from root *gher- ‘to grasp, enclose’, (also source of Sanskrit ghra- ‘house’, Greek khoros ‘pasture’, Latin hortus ‘garden’, German Garten ‘garden’), directly from Arabic qariat ‘village, town’ (spoken gariat, jariat in my accent and many others (Jassem 1987)) where /q/ & /t/ became /g/ & /d/.

As can be seen, the Arabic cognate is the correct one while the PIE and its derivatives are not.

3.5. The Arabic Cognates of Celtic Place Name Roots

Aberdeen is a city in eastern Scotland, from Gaelic *aber ‘(river) mouth’, from Celtic *ad-ber-o, from (i) ad- ‘to’, from Arabic َٰاَّرَاَّرَأَيْ ‘to carry’, from Arabic bara’a ‘carry’ or bit ‘a well’ via sense shift; and (ii) –deen, from Don, from tun (town, down) above.

Glasgow is the second major city in western Scotland, from Gaelic, meaning literally ‘green hollow’, from Gaelic (i) *glas ‘green’, verdant’, from Arabic qilz ‘dark’ via lexical shift; and changing /q & z/ into /g & s/, and (ii) can ‘hollow; lowland, valley, basin’, from Arabic (a) *qana ‘a well with running water; tube; tunnel, water stream’ via lexical shift; or (b) *quruna(t) ‘a small mountain or flat, extended mountain’ above; or (c) kinn ‘home; mountain home’ (كَنْ, أَكَنَ) in my accent.

To sum up, the total number of place names investigated here amounted to 60, all of which (100%) have true Arabic cognates. That is, all belong to the same language.

4. CONCLUSION

In summary, the main findings of this paper were as follows:

a) Notwithstanding the seemingly different origins of English place names, depending on the people colonizing the country-Celtic, Roman, Scandinavian, Anglo-Saxon, all have true Arabic cognates, whose differences are due to natural and plausible causes and different routes of language change in each language.

b) English place name-related derivatives like -ville (villa, villain, villainy, villainous, field, fallow) can all be traced back successfully and easily to Arabic morpheme by morpheme as has been shown in due course above.

c) The results support the adequacy of the lexical root or, more precisely, consonantal radical theory in relating English and Indo-European place names to Arabic from which they arose for sharing cognates with them all.

d) English lexicography is replete with severe etymological drawbacks and implausibilities, e.g.,

i) Not all English and European place names are cognates such as English ville (villa, villain, field, fallow) and vicus (vicinity, -wick, -wich), which are actually different words that can be traced back to Arabic cognates.

ii) Postulating Proto-Indo-European and Proto-Germanic roots as well as uncertain or unknown ones turns out to be a myth since Arabic can provide really living and true cognates for all place names in those languages. For example, PIE *uks- and *ngw-, Latin castrum, castrare and PIE *kes-, English shire and PIE *skezo- can’t be cognates whose Arabic sources are more pertinent (for further details, see Jassem 2017a-b).

iii) The multiple meanings of English place names coupled with the uncertainty of their origin such as London, Birmingham,
Manchester, Gloucester, Chesterfield is most likely the result of the lexical merger of two or more Arabic cognates which are similar in both form and meaning.

iv) Some words are given no meanings such as the first elements of Leicester, Worcester.

e) Place names are lexico-cultural universals in the sense that the same name might be found in more than one language and culture (Jassem 2014e-f) such as New York in the US named after York in England, perhaps after Iraq in the end. The same applies to London, Paris, and Rome (Jassem 2014f). So knowing their meanings certainly helps trace their names back to their origins.

REFERENCE


