

## The Origin of the ethnic name “Angles”

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### Abstract

All existing theories on the origin of the ethnic name “Angles” represent the examples of unsuccessful guess-trials, lacking in their firm connection with the ancient Aryan and Indo-European tradition of branding the ethnic groups with distinctive names. This paper is based on the most reliable source of ancient knowledge, viz. the Rig-Veda in searching for the authentic source of this specific subject.

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### Introduction

The terms *Angli* (people) and *Anglia* (land, country inhabited by them) are actually Latin forms of their ethnic name. According to the most widely accepted theory it is derived from the method of fishing used by that particular Germanic tribe, called *angling*, derived from the word *angul* meaning “fish-hook”.

They were settled in the area called *Angeln* in Germany, a small peninsula in Southern Schleswig (viz. Northern part of the German federal state Schleswig-Holstein), a region having a “narrow” inlet of the Baltic Sea (some relate the term to that “narrowness”) separating the Angeln peninsula to the north from the Schwansen peninsula to the south.

However, considering traditional ethnic designations known to us since Vedic Times, all those and similar proposals (e.g. another theory relates the term to the Latin *angulus*) seem hardly convincing.

For this reason the investigation undertaken in this paper is grounded on the well-attested authentic ancient Aryan tradition.

### Searching the ancient tradition

In the Rig-Veda, there is a clear and strict distinction between the Aryan speakers and the non-Aryan speaking tribes, the latter being called *anāsas*. The term is derived from Sanskrit *ās* (akin to Latin *os*, and Slavic *usta* “mouth”) with negative prefix *an-*, meaning “voiceless, speechless, dumbs”.

(see Note 1) . The famous seers Atri and Vasistha (Rig-Veda V 29.10 and VII 6.3) particularly emphasized the Pani-tribe as “crudely-speaking” (*mr̥dhavācas*) “dumbs” (*anāsas*).

The *Panīs* were an ancient Iranian tribe known to the Greek historian and geographer Strabo as *Parnoi* (cf. Geographica XI 7.1 and XI 9.2).

Note that the Vedic retroflex “n” in *Panīs* is pronounced as “rn” in English words burn, turn, learn, which gave the analogous plural form *Parnoi* in Greek.

In the Vedic auxiliary texts (see Note 2) there are some more elaborated comments on *Panīs* as barbarians, e.g. “Pani calls himself *pumān* (viz. a man)”. But *Panī* is not a man, because he does not speak like a man.

Analogously, Germans call themselves *Deutsch* viz. “people” (derived from Gothic *thiudisk* “belonging to the people” from

*theod* “people, race, nation”) and is further related to the Hittite *tuzzi* “army”, Slavic *tudji(n)* meaning “foreign(er)” (depending on different dialect it is pronounced either *tuyi* or *tudži*). But as Hillebrandt correctly noticed, all Slavic nations to this day use the term “Dumbs” or *Němci* in Slavic to denote ethnic Germans, the term being derived from Old Slavic *němu* “speechless, mute, dumb” semantically identical with Vedic *anāsas*.

Thus, from the previous exposition it is absolutely clear that both Iranians and Germans were considered by ancient Vedans and Slavs as “dumbs” and not Aryans at all. This is another

proof that Germans and Iranians have never belonged to the Aryan family proper.

Whatsmore, this ancient terminology has been applied not only to Germans proper, but also to the ethnic name “Anglians or Angles” (viz. Englishmen) which is of the same semantic origin, being derived from *\*ŋ-gels* or *\*ŋ-gols* (from Slavic *\*ne-gols* via metathesis *\*ne-glas*) meaning “no-voice, no-speech, speech-less”, hence “dumbs or mutes”.

There is still an ancient district in the German province Schleswig called “Angeln”. In medieval times 9 – 12 c. CE. the province and the whole northern part of the present-day Germany was populated by the Slavic people wherefrom came the name “Angeln” viz., “Dumbs” (see Note 3).

The word “dumb” itself is Slavic in origin meaning “oak-tree” and is connected with the ancient Slavic saying “He keeps silent like the tree” (said of somebody who is unskilled in conversation). Such person knowing not what appropriately to say, usually just swallows his saliva and keeps silent, and that swallowing, viz. the act of gulping, and the word *gulp* itself in Slavic (via metathesis viz. *glup*) came to denote “a stupid person”!

The opposite Vedic term of the *anāsas* is *vyāsas* (derived from *vi-ās*) literally “dia-lectician, viz.

skilled in debate or conversation, hence eloquent one”! In this connection the legendary compiler of the Vedic texts called *Veda Vyāsa* (to whom is ascribed the authorship of Mahabharata Epic, Bhagavat Gita, and also Bhagavata Purana, the texts composed within the span of time of at least two thousand years) actually does not represent one particular person but rather authentically denoted “a whole class of

ancient eloquent individuals who had Sanskrit language under their complete command“ comparable to the ancient Greek *Homer* who was just one in the long lineage of blind poets (Homer is supposedly author of Iliad and Odyssey, delineating the Trojan war which happened 5 centuries before his birth). Analogously, it is absolutely impossible for one man to be the author of the texts composed within the span of 2000 years as credited to Veda Vyasa.

In Slavic tradition the same distinction is made the same way as the Vedans did, though the ancient Slavs did not simply borrow or plagiarize Vedic terms *Vyāsas* and *Anāsas*, but they used their own creativity and inventiveness and created the ethnic name *Slověni* to designate themselves meaning “those who have *slovo*, viz. word“ in contrast to the Germans who did not know how to speak properly, hence being designated *Němci* viz. “Dumbs“!

However, the distinction between *Vyāsas* vs. *Anāsas* does not cover all distinctive differences between languages, e.g. Iranian and Germanic languages differ distinctly by their habits of pronunciation especially of authentic Aryan Voiced consonants, viz. with respect of Voicing and de-Voicing of consonants. Therefore additional distinctive classifications are needed to cover all such varieties among various groups of languages for which refer to.

### Conclusion

It becomes perfectly clear from Vedic textual evidence and pan-Slavic long tradition of using analogous terms since antiquity to the present days that the term *Angles* < \**un-gels* semantically matches the Vedic *an-āsas* viz. “speech-less or dumbs“.

### Notes

1. The term *anāsas* was erroneously and nonsensically taken by Griffith, Walker, Eliade, and most of Sanskrit scholars to mean “noseless”, despite the fact known to everyone that there have never existed either humans or even *pithecanthropi* without noses.
2. Collected and analyzed by Alfred Hillebrandt, cf. Vedic Mythology, Appendix II, and The Panis in the Rigveda.
3. cf. Helmoldi *Chronica Slavorum*, 1167, on Northern Slavs, called collectively the *Sorabes* viz. the Serbs, settled in this area.

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