English lesson #38 (13/12/2022)

【article】  
Title:” Baby names: How popular is your name?”

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-51673123>

【summary】

Popular names given to babies have changed enormously since 1970s.

Back in 1974, David was by far the most popular name for newborns, kept its place at number one until 1992.

But after that the decline was swift and now it is much less popular than before.

On the other hand, Jack became the most popular name in Scotland in 1999.

Although Jack was a popular nickname of John, it rose over John.

And now, Noah and Olivia have become the popular name in England and Wales in 2021.

【my comments】

Popular names have a fashion among the long history.

When people hear someone’s name, they can imagine his generation easily.

But it is difficult for me to estimate a someone’s age from its English name.

It is interesting that native speakers naturally have a sense of whether a name is old or new.

(Of course, I can guess from Japanese names.)

In Japan, there is a strange trend of names in recent decades.

It is called ‘Kira Kira Name’ which is kind of names that are very characteristic.

‘Kira Kira’ means brightness and standing out.

For example, some parents gave their baby the name of “光宙(pikachu)”, which is the most famous Pokemon’s name.

The reason why they gave such a name for their baby is that they wanted to give the only name in the world.

But there are some problems of ‘Kira Kira Name’.

Some names are very difficult to read and people who have a ‘Kira Kira Name’ have disadvantages for employment.

Recently, I’m deciding my daughter’s name and I have two candidates.

One is “柚香(Yuzuka)”, which means aroma of Yuzu; Japanese small citrus fruit.

Yuzu is fruit of winter and it is also the name from the character from my wife’s favorite novel.

Other one is “紗良(Sarah)”.

This sounds honest and integrity in Japanese.

I think it is easy to pronounce for English speakers.

Both names are not only classic but also modern.

I will let my wife make the final decision.

【unknown words：Japanese translation】

* collate：照合する
* out of fashion：時代遅れ
* swift：速い、迅速な
* fare：物事が～の状態でやっていく、　fare well, fare worse
* illustrate：（例示や比較などで）説明する、いい例になる
* tipping point：転機
* emergence：出現、発生、参入

【Questions】

Does the trend of popular names in the UK have features?

For example, popular nicknames become popular given names.