

2. TERMINOLOGY- B) TRANSCRIPTION

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Transcription is a method of phonetic names conversion between different languages, in which the sounds of a source language are recorded in terms of a specific target language and its particular script, normally without recourse to additional signs called diacritics. Examples:

Turkish *Ankara* → Greek *Αγκαρα*,
Russian *Щукино* → English *Shchukino*.


Although transcription aims at giving the user a "pronounceable" name spelling, it is often only an approximation of the original pronunciation. This is because the sound structure of languages is different, and the sounds of a source language cannot always be recorded in the orthography of a target language. For example, an English speaker would not know how to pronounce certain Arabic sounds, like

غ, ع, ط, ص, ح

that do not have counterparts in English.

This makes transcription linguistically imprecise and dependent on the orthography of a target language. Transcription is not normally a reversible process. If attempting to restore the source spellings of the examples given to the definition, the results could be different:

Greek *Αγκαρα* → Turkish "Agkara",
English *Shchukino* → Russian "Щчукино".

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