

5. AN EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT / CONCLUSION

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- Standardization is in the blood of the atlas editor. His task is to present the variation that colours our world in a comparable way.
- The needs of an atlas or world map editor exceed the scope of separate national names authorities.
- For the sake of homogeneity, the compiler of an atlas would want to apply similar rules to all names, regardless of the language they belong to.

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For **Noordhoff** the following rules would apply to its Dutch school atlases:

- Within Europe, local names will be given priority, current exonyms being added between brackets.
- If local names use Roman alphabet, all diacritics will be included, with some exceptions. Non-Roman letters will be transliterated.
- Non-Roman alphabets will be systematically transliterated in a way acceptable to the school market.
- Outside Europe, conventional names will be used for well-known objects [e.g. Bangkok]

[ex.: Bangkok].

- Names of open water features are rendered in Dutch.
- Where in a geographical name a generic element is written separately from a specific element, it may be translated. For each language guidelines have been elaborated showing which elements will be translated.
- Names consisting of a generic element and an adjective specifier, are either left in the local language [ex.: Red River, Mont Blanc] or fully translated [ex.: Tuz Gölü = Zoutmeer (=Salt Lake)].
- Names of objects crossing language boundaries are rendered in Dutch.
- In case of international rivers having no Dutch name, different language versions may be applied along their course.
- The number of secondary names (added between brackets to the primary name) should be kept as low as possible, Secondary names may be:
 - Exonyms: names belonging to the Dutch 'cultural-linguistic heritage'.
 - Previous names: in the map only in the 1st edition after their substitution.
- Any redundant generic elements will be omitted [ex.: Columbia instead of Columbia River; Ouessant instead of Île d'Ouessant].
- If a generic element is omitted, the remaining specific element must be in nominative form [e.g. Uudenmaan Lääni becomes Uusimaa].
- Duplication of generics should be at any time avoided [ex: Ysyk-Köl (instead of Lake Ysyk-Köl, Alaköl instead of Lake Alaköl, Mississippi instead of Mississippi River].
- Articles should as much as possible be omitted [ex: Setesdal instead of Setesdalen, Hufuf instead of Al-Hufuf, but: Lofoten, El Paso].
- Wherever available, toponymic guidelines published by UN should be followed. Sometimes this requires knowledge of the language.
- Toponymic guidelines may be augmented for internal use by analyzing existing naming practices (ex.: Turkish).
- Where official guidelines are not (yet) available, and choices must be made between a definite and indefinite/neutral form, the neutral form should be chosen (ex.: Albanian, Romanian).

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