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Exonyms (Working Group on Exonyms)

Gazetteer of Finnish exonyms on the Internet

Submitted by Finland**

Summary:

In September 2018, the Institute for the Languages of Finland published on the Internet a gazetteer of Finnish exonyms recommended for use in standard Finnish (newspapers, textbooks, etc.). The list consists of about 2,000 exonyms with corresponding endonyms, in addition to the names in English, French and German and, in some cases, other languages. The online gazetteer (http://kaino.kotus.fi/ eksonyymit/).is an updated version of the printed gazetteer published in 2013. The online version contains a function for searching exonyms, endonyms and other language variants. An advanced search function enables users to search names by language or by feature type or location of named places. Preliminary plans are under way to develop the gazetteer by adding composite names in which only the generic term has been translated and a map showing the location of the named places.

A gazetteer of Finnish exonyms on the internet

In September 2018, the Institute for the Languages of Finland published an online gazetteer of Finnish exonyms recommended for use in standard Finnish (newspapers, textbooks, etc.). The online gazetteer is an updated version of the printed gazetteer published in 2013, and it is available at http://kaino.kotus.fi/eksonyymit/. The online gazetteer has been tailored especially for reporters, translators and cartographers. The authors of both the printed and online gazetteer are geographer Kerkko Hakulinen and onomastician Sirkka Paikkala. The gazetteer has been designed to meet the requirements of resolutions II/28 and III/19 (List of Exonyms) of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

The list contains around 2,000 exonyms with their corresponding endonyms and corresponding names used in other languages. The gazetteer's definition of *exonym* and *endonym* primarily follows the definitions issued by the UN. Foreign endonyms are defined as names of places (geographical features) located in countries other than Finland and spelled according to the orthography of the official or dominant languages of those countries. If these names are spelled differently in standard Finnish, they are called Finnish exonyms.

All name data is included in a large table in the section titled *Nimet* (*Names*). In addition to Finnish-language exonyms, every name record contains information on the feature type (148 in total), location, equivalent name in English, endonym and language code and as well as any corresponding names used in other languages – at least in English, German and French – along with their relevant language codes.

With the basic search function, users can search for the names used in any language by their whole names or first letters. When searching for names, any upper-case letters or diacritics can be ignored. The advanced search function allows users to search for names by 1) name element 2) language 3) main feature category, 4) feature type, and 5) feature location. The search function groups all feature types into eleven main categories, which include for example lakes and rivers, sea areas and populated places. These search conditions can be combined in different ways, meaning that users can, for example, search for all the lakes located in the United States that have a Finnish exonym.

The online gazetteer also includes spelling rules of Finnish exonyms, a list of older spelling guides, a list of languages and romanisation systems used in the names included in the gazetteer, an article about the creation and use of exonyms, and UN's recommendations concerning exonyms. The gazetteer also includes links to the first Finnish-language maps of Europe (1821) and the world (1845).

The gazetteer of exonyms is updated whenever necessary, and plans have been made for its further development. In the future, the gazetteer will include a map of the world that will display the locations of the features to which the Finnish-language exonyms refer to. Currently, the authors of the gazetteer are adding established composite exonyms where only the generic term has been translated. While resolution III/19 does not recommend this, the inclusion of these names is relevant for spelling-related reasons that are related to how Finnish-language words are structured: when the generic term of a name is translated, its specific element is transferred into Finnish either in its nominative or genitive form and the specific element always precedes the generic term. The genitive is typically used for example when the specific element is a proper

noun (a personal name or toponym). The parts of a name can also be written together or separately depending on the type of specific element and generic term used. User feedback has shown that the gazetteer is used to search for these types of names as well.

The gazetteer's user interface is only available in Finnish, but the search function can be used by non-Finnish speakers as well. We are happy to receive any feedback on the gazetteer, for example on the equivalent names used in different languages. Please send your feedback to ulla.onkamo@kotus.fi.

Source:

Hakulinen, Kerkko & Paikkala, Sirkka (upcoming): Finnish exonym gazetteer on the Internet – history, selection of names, content. A script written after the presentation held in the meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group of Exonyms in Riga from 24th to 26th September 2019.

Figure 1: Screenshot of the front page of the Gazetteer of Finnish Exonyms (with explanatory notes).

Finnish exonym	Feature type	Location	Corresponding name in English	Endonym with language code	Corresponding names used in other languages with language codes

oksia: 7

Eksonyymi (suomen-kielinen nimi) ↓	Paikan laji	Paikan sijainti	Nimi englannin kielessä	Endonyymi (paikallinen nimi) ja kielen tunnus	Nimi muussa kielessä ja kielen tunnus
Aasia	maanosa	–	Asia	Ásia *pt*, Asia *en id*, Asya *tr*, Azi *mn*, Azija *ru*, châu Á *vi*, Ya Zhou *zh*	Aasia *et*, Asia *el*, Asie *fr*, Asien *de*
Aasian-puoleinen Venäjä	alue	Venäjä	Asian Russia	aziatskaja tšast Rossii *ru*	Asiatisches Russland *de*, Russie d'Asie *fr*
Aataminhuippu	vuori	Sri Lanka	Adam's Peak	Shrīpāda kanda *si*, Tiruppātakkantam *ta*	pic d'Adam *fr*
Aataminsilta	särkkäjono	Aasia (Intia – Sri Lanka)	Adam's Bridge	Ādam Kāpul *hi*, Adam's Bridge *en*, Āthām Pālam ~ Chetu *ta*	Adamsbrücke *de*, pont d'Adam *fr*

Figure 2: Screenshot of the results of a basic search using the letters "*aa*" (with explanatory notes).

Tarkennettu haku

by name or name element	— nimellä tai nimenosalla	[ ] ?
by language	— nimen kielellä	[⌄] ?
by main feature category	— paikan lajityypillä	[⌄] ?
by feature type	paikan lajilla	[ ] ?
by location	paikan sijainnilla	[ ] ?

Hae   Tyhjennä

Figure 3. Screenshot of the advanced search function (with explanatory notes).