Exonyms and endonyms in country names used in Brazil

Centro de Referência em Nomes Geográficos - IBGE

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Geographical Names - Brazil

National Cartographic System (DL 243 - 1967)

IBGE → Centro de Referência de Nomes Geográficos

Comissão Nacional de Cartografia (CONCAR) ← Comitê de Nomes Geográficos (CNGEO)

Legal → Operational
Brazilian List of Country Names (VI/10)

– First step of the List of Brazilian Exonyms (II/28, IV/20, V/13)

– Use:
  • Immediate use by the IBGE
  • After discussion within the CNGE, by official institutions and society in general

The list contains names of:
  • Countries
  • Constituent Countries
  • Countries not recognized by Brazil and the UN

Objectives:
  • Standardization (one name for each feature)
  • Reduction of Exonyms (II/29)
Methodology

Criteria EXONYM X ENDONYM:

1) requests of countries for the use of the endonym
2) political and/or ethnic conflicts > exonym
3) traditional use
4) semantic aspects
5) phonetic aspects
6) familiarity with Brazilian Portuguese spelling
Methodology

- Creation of a sheet containing:
  - forms of the country names as used by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - short and long forms;
  - information on whether this form is an exonym or not;
  - other forms used in “Brazilian Portuguese” by other institutions, media, forms recommended by grammarians and scholars;
  - endonyms (romanized, when it is the case) in all the official languages of the country - short and long forms, as presented in the last version of the UNGEGN List of Country Names;
  - form proposed for the country name on the new list;
  - observations. Mainly:
    - country requests for the use of the endonyms in all references to them,
    - existence of internal ethnic and political conflicts in the country
    - other particularities which could indicate the most adequate form of a country name to use.
Methodology

-Division of exonyms into categories

- coherent decision making in cases belonging to a similar or equal context

- each name examined individually

traditional exonyms (name length and consistency of use)

toponyms described in resolutions III/19
Some challenges for future adoption of endonyms

- **suffixes** - strong use (no phonetic or spelling difficulty)

"-land" > "-lândia"  Finland > Finlandia (traditional) “Disneylândia”, “Crackolândia”
Ex: Swaziland > Suazilândia > Swazilândia (proximity in spelling, adaptation of suffix)

"-kistan/-kiston" > "-quistão"  Pákistān > Paquistão (traditional)
Ex: O’zbekiston > Uzbequistão

**-m/n in final position after vowel "a"** - nasalization of the vowel, no difference in pronunciation: possible undesired spelling variations
Írán > Irã (traditional)
(Oman > Oman/Omam/Omã; Viet Nam> Vietnam/Vietnan/Vietnã)

- **spelling of the endonym not acceptable in Portuguese for diverse reasons**
> pronunciation closer to the pronunciation of the endonym or to the name in other official UN languages: facilitation of international communication
Ex: Azərbaycan > Azerbaijão > Azerbaidjàno
Kâmpûchéa > Camboja/Cambôdia/Cambódja > Cambodja
18 COUNTRY NAMES (15,5%) USED IN MULTIPLE FORMS WERE STANDARDIZED

REDUCTION OF 5,6% IN EXONYM USE
Thank you for your attention

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