toponymy course
8. Multilingual areas

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The power of names

- When in control over something, one can name it.
- Naming things gives power over them.
- Reversely, if the names are in your language, the area should be yours – at least such is the reasoning of 19th century nationalism.
South-Tirol: Bozen

HINC CETEROS EXCOLUMNUS LINGUA LEGIBUS ARTIBUS

29/03/2006

8th UN Conf Stand Geographical Names
Vintschgau-Val Venosta
Italian, German and Ladin name versions in Northeastern Italy
Language map of Europe, 1914: language boundaries and state boundaries do not coincide > multilingual areas and minorities
Current linguistic minorities in Western Europe
Linguistic minorities

- Spatially concentrated autochthonous groups within a state, that do not have the same mother tongue as the official state language.
- Linguistic minorities can or cannot have official status in education, law, administration, etc.
Minority name/toponym

- Name locally used to designate a geographical object situated in an area where minority language speakers are concentrated
Linguistic minorities might disappear through assimilation or being swamped
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1930: Language act: Dutch names to be used in Dutch-speaking part
1950: First maps with Dutch names added (in parentheses)
Second version: all names doubled
Second version: all names doubled
Transformation of minority names

1. Adherence to minority language orthography
2. Addition or omission of diacritical marks
3. Addition of articles in majority language
4. Addition of name elements (+generics) in majority language
5. Phonetic rendering in majority language
6. Adaptation of toponym proper to majority language structure
7. Translation into majority language
8. Substitution by new name in majority language
9. Removal of named object
Institutionalised approaches towards geographical names in multilingual situations

- Traditional usage principle
- Juridical principle
- Territorial principle
- Personal principle
TOPOGRAPHER'S BIAS or INFLUENCE of INSTRUCTIONS

available name categories in the field

collected name categories

represented name categories
	names collected in the field

names incorporated in base map

space restrictions

all toponymes
TOPOGRAPHER'S BIAS or INFLUENCE of INSTRUCTIONS

available name categories in the field

collected name categories

represented name categories

LINGUISTIC / POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS

fieldwork

regional language names or minority names collected in the field

bilingual names presented on base maps

official language or majority names presented on derived maps

space restrictions
LINGUISTIC / POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS

fieldwork

regional language names or minority names collected in the field

bilingual names presented on base maps

official language or majority names presented on derived maps

base map

generalisation bias

many names

political bias

majority and minority names or regional language toponyms or bilingual names

derived map

topographical bias

all name categories

selection of name categories
Influences on the rendering of minority toponyms on topographic maps

- Government regulations
- Historical influences
- Geographical influences
- Cartographical influences
Possibilities for study of attitudes towards minority names

- Attitudes of different countries towards the same minorities (Basques, Same, Celts, Catalans, Slavs)
- Attitudes of specific state towards different minorities
- Attitudes of different states regarding the same area (Istria)
- Comparison of attitudes towards internal and external minorities (Austria, Hungary)
- Changes in attitudes over time
Disappearance of minority names because of plebiscites 1918-1920
Verdwijnen minderheidsnamen oiv plebisciten
Jugoslav reaction: only Slav names
Reactions by linguistic minorities

- Difference between linguistic groups becomes marked
- A hierarchy between linguistic groups is established
- A process of awakening of regional consciousness takes place
- Self-recognition
- Experience of discrimination occurs
- Action is undertaken
- This may lead to accommodation of minority language
Options for rendering multilingual situations

1. Adopting minority language names
2. Adapting minority language names to majority language
3. Exchanging minority language names for majority language names
4. Bilingual representation
5. id + Bilingual marginal information and legends
Bilingual presentation
slovenia
Faeroer: minority names subordinated
Ireland: Minority names in serrated typeface

Friarstown

(E D Roxborough)

BAILE NÁ mBRÁTHAR

(T : Baile an Roistigh)
Cadastral map, Netherlands: monolingual Frisian
Incorporation of minority toponyms
Incorporation of minority toponyms
Bilingual catalan/french in spanish map of Southern France
Albanian, Slav and Turkish name versions.

Habsburg maps of Balkan, 1900: placenames rendered according to numerical ratio.
Same (Finland)
Finnish
Same (Norway)
Åland
Åland Isles: bilingual legend and bilingual marginal information on Finnish topographic maps
Map use criteria: When we look for specific spatial information on the area where we live, in order to get the required map that can be read we need:

- Title in our own language
- Legend and marginal information in our own language
- Place names in our own language
- Generics, abbreviations and letter symbols in our own language

The cartographic point of view is that toponyms are only for identification, not for politics
Are these name categories also available in your own Language?
Cultural criteria

- Preservation of the cultural heritage of a people
- Inhabitants also pay taxes
Current trends

- Increased bilingual representation or monolingual minority or regional names presentation.
- Marginal information translation more available
Procedure:

- Delimitation of minority or regional language areas
- Introduction of bilingual transitional periods on the map
- Restoration of minority language names
- Exclusive minority language rendering
- Accompanied with bilingual marginal information rendering

Tools needed: language maps
POPULATION ACCORDING TO NATIONALITY IN 1991
(map taken from “A Concise Atlas of the Republic of Croatia”)

Croatia in 1991
(total number of inhabitants: in percentage)

N.B.
- according to the preliminary results of the census
- the share of Croats in all municipalities: the share of other categories shown if over 5%, otherwise included in the category ‘others and unknown’
- size of circles proportional to number of inhabitants in municipalities
- size of a circle for Croatia is half a size proportional to the number of inhabitants

nationality:
- Croats
- Serbs
- Muslims
- Hungarians
- Italians
- Czechs

nationally not declared
- declaration according to regions
- Yugoslavs
- others and unknown

0 50 100 km
Area statistics/aggregation level
Hungarian-Romanian map war

Slovakian  Hungarian
Uninhabited areas: patches or dots?

^Krallert – Weltkarte
1:1 Mill.
Sonderausgabe
Volkstum, Blatt K34,
Sofia. Wien 1943