Toponymic Training Course, Vienna, 16 March – 4 April 2006

Exonyms

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Austrian Institute of East and Southeast European Studies
DEFINITIONS

Exonym = conventional name = traditional name

Endonym = internal denomination of a geographical feature
Exonym = external denomination of a geographical feature

Endonym = name in the language of the local population
Exonym = name in another language
UNGEGN Glossary

**Endonym** = Name of a geographical feature in one of the languages occurring in the area where the feature is situated

**Exonym** = Name used in a specific language for a geographical feature situated outside the area where that language has official status, and differing in its form from the name used in the official language or languages of the area where the geographical feature is situated
Proposal UNGEGN WG on Exonyms

Endonym = Name of a geographical feature in an official or well-established language occurring in that area where the feature is located.

Exonym = Name used in a specific language for a geographical feature situated outside the area where that language is spoken, and differing in its form from the name used in an official or well-established language of that area where the geographical feature is located.
EXAMPLES FROM PRACTICE.
**S 1a:** Geografski atlas Slovenije [Geographical Atlas of Slovenia], Ljubljana 1998

**S 1b:** National Atlas of Slovenia, Ljubljana 2001

**C 1:** A Concise Atlas of the Republic of Croatia & of the Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina, Zagreb 1993

**C 2:** Veliki atlas Hrvatske [Large Atlas of Croatia], Zagreb 2002

**PL:** Atlas Śląska dolnego i opolskiego [Atlas of Lower and Opole Silesia], Wrocław 1997

Lissabon

rt Roca

O Lizbona
S 1b Ausschnitt Südkärnten (AUSTRIA noch drauf)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SLOVENE</th>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>DEUTSCH</th>
<th>FRANÇAIS</th>
<th>ESPAÑOL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>gorica</td>
<td>hill</td>
<td>Hügel</td>
<td>colline</td>
<td>colina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gorice</td>
<td>hills</td>
<td>Hügelland</td>
<td>collines</td>
<td>colinas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gornji</td>
<td>upper</td>
<td>ober, hoch</td>
<td>supérieur</td>
<td>superior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gorovje</td>
<td>mountain range</td>
<td>Gebirge</td>
<td>montagne</td>
<td>montaña</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gozd</td>
<td>forest</td>
<td>Wald</td>
<td>forêt</td>
<td>bosque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grad</td>
<td>castle</td>
<td>Burg, Schloss</td>
<td>château</td>
<td>castillo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C 1

A Concise Atlas of the Republic of Croatia & of the Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina

Zagreb 1993

monolingual English
Ausschnitt Iberische Halbinsel
C 2

Large Atlas of Croatia

Zagreb 2002

monolingual Croatian
Blattübersicht: Ausschnitt Udine, Görz, Triest

C 2
Atlas of Lower and Opole Silesia

Wrocław 1997

trilingual (Polish, English, German)
Aus einer gegenwartsbezogenen Karte, die auf Schlesien fokussiert ist einen kleinen Auslandsteil
Historical-geographical atlas of Romania

București 1996

quadrilingual (Romanian, French, English, German)
Tafel 2: Ausschnitt Deutschland, Österreich, Schweiz
METHODOLOGICAL REMARKS
Monolingual mapworks are to use
-exonyms corresponding to the editorial language
-exonyms always accompanied by endonyms

Multilingual mapworks are to
-avoid exonyms
or
-use exonyms of all editorial languages simultaneously
SOME METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN GENERAL

How to decide between endonym/exonym?
Assumption:

A widely used exonym exists
(1) Object-related criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endonym</th>
<th>Exonym</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Importance of the object</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inside a community</td>
<td>Across community boundaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object extension related to language communities</td>
<td>Nature object</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture object</td>
<td>Close</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture-dependency of the object</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distant</td>
<td>Historical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spatial distance object-receiver community</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently existing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time-layer of the object</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bold** = Exonym use partly imperative
(2) Endonym (word)-related criteria

Endonym

- Not including a generic term
- Endonym in script of the receiver community

Composition of the endonym

Script

Exonym

- Including a generic term
- Endonym in another script
Importance of the object

Endonym Exonym

Close

Linguistic relation endonym-receiver language

Distant

Low

Difficulty of spelling and pronunciation

High

Distant

Cultural (other than linguistic) relation Endonym-receiver community

Close

High

Prestige, communication value of the endonym language

Low

(3) Criteria referring to the relation endonym-receiver community
(4) Medium-related criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endonym</th>
<th>Exonym</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cartographic</td>
<td>Oral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inside the endonym region</td>
<td>Practical use of the medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Means of communication

Outside the endonym region
(5) Criteria related to the level of communication

Endonym

Official

Offciality of communication

Asking, polite

Intention, atmosphere of communication

Exonym

Inofficial

From a position of strength
(6) Audience-related criteria

Multilingual

Linguistic scope of the audience

Monolingual

Endonym

Exonym

**Bold** = Edonym use imperative
BENEFITS
OF
USING EXONYMS
Exonyms can be pronounced according to the rules of the own language.

From exonyms grammatical derivations according to the own grammar can be formed.

Exonyms are more stable.

Exonyms are anyway needed in historical and ethnographic contexts.
Exonyms indicate the importance of geographical objects and traditional relations in trade, politics and culture.

Exonyms relate geographical objects outside a language community to objects within.

Exonyms frequently replace official names that are in fact rarely used at the spot.
DANGERS
OF
USING EXONYMS
Outlining historical borders or historical ethnic situations

Perpetuating political constructs

Use in a politically and culturally offensive or aggressive way

Re-animation of historical names which are not in current use with a wider stratum of educated people
….since exonyms are a politically sensitive matter!!!!

(They may be regarded as an instrument of cultural imperialism.)
RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

or

How to be on the safe side?
Resolution IV/20

The Conference

Noting that, in accordance with resolutions 18 and 19 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, further progress has been made in the reduction of the number of exonyms used and a number of States have prepared lists of their own exonyms,

Realizing that the reduction of exonyms used has not been carried out with the same intensity by all States,

Realizing further that the methods and principles aimed at a reduction of the number of exonyms used should constantly be reviewed for expeditious implementation of the resolutions and understanding that not all countries can govern the content of maps and atlases published within their countries,

Recommends that exonyms giving rise to international problems should be used very sparingly and published in parenthesis within the nationally accepted standard name.
Thank you!