The content of this module is based on teaching materials by Ferjan Ormeling. These teaching materials are made available in the "documents" section.

The module contains the following chapters:

- **Introduction**
- **Chapter 1**: What are *exonyms*?
- **Chapter 2**: *Exonyms vs endonyms*
- **Chapter 3**: *Examples* of exonyms
- **Chapter 4**: Exonyms and *conversion*
- **Chapter 5**: *National standard*
- **Chapter 6**: *Examples*
- **Chapter 7**: Exonyms and *communication*
- **Chapter 8**: *UN Resolutions*
- **Chapter 9**: *Writing systems*
- **Chapter 10**: *Origins* of Exonyms
- **Chapter 11**: *Categories* of exonyms
- **Chapter 12**: The *Role* of the UN
- **Chapter 13**: *Arguments against & for abolition* of exonyms
- **Chapter 14**: *Counter-Argument*
- **Chapter 15**: *Reflections* of these *arguments* on our maps
- **Chapter 16**: *Only* exonyms
- **Chapter 17**: Exonyms with endonyms in *parentheses*
- **Chapter 18**: Endonyms (exonyms) *approach*
- **Chapter 19**: *Only* endonyms
- **Chapter 20**: *Trends* in dealing with exonyms
- **Chapter 21**: *New* trends
- **Chapter 22**: The *emergence* of exonyms is *distance-related*
- **Chapter 23**: *Dutch* exonyms

When reading through the following pages, you will come across some uncommon terms. These terms are hyperlinked to the UNGEGN *Glossary of Terminology* (pdf). Behind each term a number (#) is given that corresponds to the numbering applied in this glossary, e.g. toponymy (#344).

For exercises and documents (and literature) on this topic see respectively the "Excercises" and/or the "Documents" section of this module.

The complete module can be downloaded [here](#).
Aachen is an excellent example of those geographical names that have different forms in different languages.
1. WHAT ARE EXONYMS?

Geographical names used in a certain language for geographical entities situated outside the area where that language has official status and differing in its form from the name used in the official language of the area where the geographical entity is situated. (2nd UNCSGN1972).

What kind of objects generates exonyms?

- Objects in areas close to linguistic borders,
- Important objects further from linguistic border (names of countries, capitals, large rivers).

Have a look at Glossary of Terminology (pdf), too!
2. EXONYMS VS ENDONYMS

Endonyms are geographical names that belong to a language and relate to objects within the area where that language has an official status.

(endonyms = local official names)
### 3. EXAMPLES OF EXONYMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wien (German)</th>
<th>Venezia (Italian)</th>
<th>Norge (Norwegian)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vienna (Eng)</td>
<td>Venice (Eng)</td>
<td>Norway (Eng)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vienne (Fr)</td>
<td>Venise (Fr)</td>
<td>Norvège (Fr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bécs (Hung)</td>
<td>Velence (Hung)</td>
<td>Norvégia (Hung)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viena (Span)</td>
<td>Venecia (Span)</td>
<td>Noruega (Span)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wenen (Dutch)</td>
<td>Venetië (Dutch)</td>
<td>Noorwegen (Dutch)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiedeń (Polish)</td>
<td>Wenecja (Polish)</td>
<td>Norwegia (Polish)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wien (German)</td>
<td>Venedig (German)</td>
<td>Norwegen (German)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Red line = endonyms
4. EXONYMS AND CONVERSION - A) NUMBER 1

Are names converted from one alphabet to another also exonyms?

Not if this conversion has been effectuated according to an UN-recognised system.

ЧЕЛЯБИНСК -Čeljabinsk

(converted according to the UN-recognised system, GOST 83)

is no exonym,

but the following ones are:

Chelyabinsk (Eng)
Tscheljabinsk (Ger)
Tcheliabinsk (Fr)

There is one more example:

Aigaion Pelagos is the Greek name of Aegean Sea (in Roman transcription).

Aigaion Pelagos is an endonym,

Aegean Sea is an exonym.
4. EXONYMS AND CONVERSION - B) NUMBER 2

Are names, where diacritical marks are lacking, exonyms? **No**

Are names, where the articles are lacking, to be considered as exonyms? **No**

Are names, where case endings are lacking or added, exonyms? **No**

Are names, whose generic parts have been translated, to be considered as exonyms? **Not sure.**

For instance *Aigaion Pelagos* → *Aigaion Sea*

**Are exonyms a problem? Definitely!**

Both nationally and internationally.

**Why?**

Because of the confusion they bring.
A national standard of exonyms is needed in every language. Look at some examples of exonyms taken from Dutch atlases, before exonyms were standardized there:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bosatlas ('76)</th>
<th>Oosthoekatlas ('78)</th>
<th>Meulenhoff atlas ('78)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haleb (Aleppo)</td>
<td>Aleppo</td>
<td>Halab (Aleppo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bur Said (Port Said)</td>
<td>Port Said</td>
<td>Boer Sa’id (Port Said)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Suweis (Suez)</td>
<td>Suez</td>
<td>As Soeweess (Suez)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimachq (Damascus)</td>
<td>Damascus</td>
<td>Dimasjq (Damascus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mina Hassan Tani (Kenitra)</td>
<td>Mina Hassan Tani (Kenitra)</td>
<td>Mina Hassan Tani (Kenitra)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarabulus (Tripoli)</td>
<td>Tripoli</td>
<td>Tarablos (Tripoli)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khartum</td>
<td>Khartoum/Khartoem</td>
<td>Al Chartoem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Djezair (Algiers)</td>
<td>Alger/Algiers</td>
<td>Al Djazaair (Algiers)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Blue line = source**
Some English exonyms:

Cologne
Bavaria
Brittany
Berne
Milan
Burgundy
The Hague
Brussels
Munich
Copenhagen

Find them on the map!
Some French exonyms:

Cologne
Bavière
Cornouaille
Berne
Milan
Tamise
La Haie
Îles Frisonnes
Munich
CopenHague
Some German exonyms:

- Luxemburg
- Bayern
- Lothringen
- Genf
- Mailand
- Burgund
- Haag
- Brüssel
- Pennisches Gebirge
- Kopenhagen

Find them on the map!
Some Italian exonyms:

- Colonia
- Baviera
- Britagna
- Berna
- Lione
- Borgogna
- L'Aia
- Bruxelles
- Monaco
- Londra

Find them on the map!
Some Finnish exonyms:

Köln
Baijeri
Bretania
Berne
Mulano
Burgundy
Bryssel
Lontoo
Koopenhamn

Find them on the map!
Exonyms of Genève in Switzerland are: Ginebra, Geneva, Genf
Exonyms of Genova in Italy are: Genoa, Genua, Gènes
Exonyms are a problem: they make communication difficult.

Monaco: Munich or principality on the Riviera?

Question: Which of the names given below refers to Genève in Switzerland and which to Genova in Italy:

Ginebra/Genova/Geneve/Geneva/Gènes/Genf/Genoa/Genova/Genua
Aachen/Aix-la Chapelle/Akwizgranie/Aquisgrana/Aken/Cachy/Aaxen

- - -

For the answer click on the "Answer-button" below.
Local names policy:
The geographical names used should correspond to those officially used in the country where the named objects are situated.

Roman alphabet rule:
If a country has a roman alphabet, other Roman alphabet countries should copy its names integrally, all diacritics included.
The countries with languages without a UNGEGN-accepted conversion system are mainly located in the margin of the former Soviet Union. Although the amended Beirut system for the conversion of Arabic to Roman scripts has been accepted in 1972, due to the fact that the pronunciation of Arab differs from country to country, this system has not been implemented yet in most Arab-speaking countries.
Question: Find out on the web site of the UNGEGN Romanization Working Group for which of the non-roman alphabets official UN conversion systems have been accepted?

For the answer click on the "Answer-button" below.
10. ORIGINS OF EXONYMS

- Separate development of the same name in different language areas
- Use of different letters in different language areas to render the same sounds
- Use of new transcription/transliteration systems parallel with traditional ones
- Spelling reforms
- Adaptation of names to other languages
- Gradual change in pronunciation of letters
11. CATEGORIES OF EXONYMS

**Pronunciation-exonyms vs orthographic exonyms:**

*Pronunciation-exonyms* (pronounced differently): *Paris* (Eng) vs *París* (Fr)

*Orthographic exonyms* (pronounced the same): *Moescroen* (Dutch) vs *Mouscron* (Fr)

**Exonym categories based on their development:**

- Exonyms resulting from transcription (*Constanţa* > *Konstantsa*)
- Exonyms resulting from simple adaptation (*København* > *Kopenhagen*)
- Exonyms due to separate development from common origin (*Colonia* > *Cologne, Köln, Keulen*)
- Exonyms resulting from different origins (*Hellas/Greece/Junani*)
  (*Deutschland/Allemagne/Saksa/Germany/Németország*)
- Exonyms due to translation (*Ecuador* > *l’Equateur; Kaapstad* > *Cape Town*)

**Exonym categories based on object categories:**

- Names for independent countries
- Names of other administrative units
- Names for historical and geographical regions
- Names of hydrographic features
- Names of other physical features
- Names of settlements

**Time aspects of exonyms:**

- Contemporary exonyms (in current use)
- Historical/obsolete exonyms (current in the past)

**Historical exonyms are not the same as Historical names!**
UN policy towards exonyms

- UN recommendation to reduce the use of exonyms (1972, 1977)
- UN recommendation to produce lists of current exonyms

Arguments used within the UN

- Nationalistic approach: maintain all exonyms to preserve national cultural heritage (including history)
- Idealistic approach: use only endonyms for better international communication
- Intermediary approach: as each language’s vocabulary is changing anyway, exonyms are also subject to change, and are due to disappear after a certain lifecycle

(Safety aspects, revanchism, pronunciation difficulties, ever increasing multitude of names mainly in Eastern Europe)
13. ARGUMENTS AGAINST & FOR ABOLITION OF EXONYMS

Arguments against abolition of exonyms:

- Exonyms are part of national culture,
- Exonyms reflect historical relationships,
- Abolition of exonyms would lead to difficulties in pronunciation,
- Abolition of exonyms leads to confusion in international traffic, safety problems.

Arguments for abolition of exonyms:

- Keeping exonyms leads to confusion,
- Use of exonyms delays identification of objects,
- Why use incorrect/distorted names when correct ones are available,
- Keeping to exonyms reflects reactionary, neo-colonialistic ideas,
- Abolishing exonyms improves international communication.
So in order to pronounce a name we need to know in which language it is spelled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Pronunciation of letter &quot;c&quot;</th>
<th>Spelling of sound &quot;sh&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>k or th</td>
<td>ch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>k or ch</td>
<td>sci</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>k or s</td>
<td>ch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech</td>
<td>ts</td>
<td>š</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkish</td>
<td>j or dzj</td>
<td>ş</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>ts, k or s</td>
<td>sch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td>k or s</td>
<td>sj</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We find four different modes regarding exonyms:

1. Exonyms without additional endonyms
2. Exonyms with additional endonyms in brackets
3. Endonyms with exonyms in brackets
4. Endonyms without exonyms

Map 1: only exonyms
Map 2: exonyms (endonyms)
Map 3: endonyms (exonyms)
Map 4: only endonyms
17. EXONYMS WITH ENDO NyMNs IN PARENTHESES

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S13: Exonyms

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These are places well-known from the Middle Ages onwards and physical objects (Mountain chains, lakes, gulfs, historical region).
20. TRENDS IN DEALING WITH EXONYMS

- Country names: exonyms only
- Administrative units: no trend
- Hydrographic features: exonyms only
- Other physical features: exonyms only
- Historical/geographical regions: exonyms only
- Settlement names: no exonyms for newly important places

Gradual reduction of exonyms, starting with settlement names
21. NEW TRENDS

- Differentiate approaches according to user groups (age categories, (non)experts
- Differentiate according to medium (spoken/written language)
- Differentiate according to map types (reference atlases, road maps local names), ergo:

  Selective reduction
22. THE EMERGENCE OF EXONYMS IS DISTANCE-RELATED

- More exonyms for objects close-by
- Only important objects further away have exonyms

Exonyms from the Netherlands for geographic features in Germany
... for Europe:

With the exception of Italy and Greece (because of classical education) the number of exonyms decreases with distance from the Netherlands.

... for the World:
Per name category:

French-speaking Belgium = Wallonia

Subdivisions of Dutch exonyms into different name categories.
Exercise 1: Where is ...?
EXERCISE 1: WHERE IS ...?

Where is Alankomaat? Leghorn? Cornovaglia? Trèves?
Alankomaat = Finnish name for the Netherlands;
Leghorn = English name for Livorno;
Cornovaglia = Italian name for Cornwall;
Trèves = French name for Trier
Available documents:


Literature:


Online resources:


The United Nations sell the following publications which also can be downloaded from the UNGEGN website:

- Resolutions adopted at the nine UN Conferences on the standardization of geographical names (English (pdf) / French (pdf)