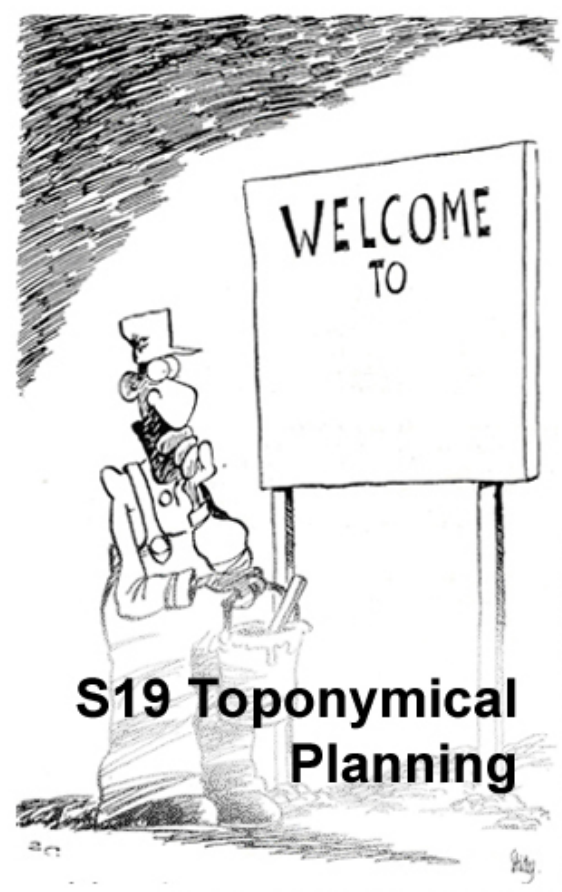


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Cartoon by Anthony Stidolph, from Changing place names,
by E.R.Jenkins, P.E.Raper and L.A.Möller, Durban: Indicator Press 1996.

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This module, about toponymical planning (or "language planning"), is based on teaching materials prepared by Ferjan Ormeling. These teaching materials are made available in the "[documents](#)" section.

The module contains the following chapters:

[Introduction](#)[Chapter 1](#): What is **toponymical planning**?[Chapter 2](#): I. **Name changed** due to?[Chapter 3](#): II. **Ordering geographical space**[Chapter 4](#): III. Changing **orthography**[Chapter 5](#): IV. Necessary **technical assistance**

When reading through the following pages, you will come across some unusual 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 "[Exercises](#)" and/or the "[Documents](#)" section of this module.

The complete module can be downloaded [here](#).



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INTRODUCTION

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This module will answer the following questions:

1. What is language planning?
2. What is the role of language planning of names?
3. What is the role of geographical names in language planning?

What aspects of geographical names or naming of topographic elements/objects can be improved by language planning? In many cases this is related to Name changes, but it also applies to regions devoid of names, or to changes in spelling rules instead of name changes.

I - Name changes due to:

- A) Decolonization (purification of foreign influences)
- B) Restoration of minority names (id)
- C) Mergers of municipalities

II - Ordering geographical space

- D) Ordering geographical space: naming of seas
- E) Giving names to future objects in reclaimed areas (polders, newly opened up areas (Brazil, Indonesia-transmigrasi))
- F) Urban street naming
- G) Commemorative policies. Example: Svalbard: toponymical shrine

III - Changing orthography

- H) Application of new spelling rules
- I) Opting for new attitudes (e.g. endonyms instead of exonyms)

IV - Necessary technical assistance of name changes: concordance of signposts, place name signs and maps

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WHAT IS TOPONYMICAL PLANNING?

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Wiki says:

Language planning is a deliberate effort to influence the function, structure, or acquisition of a language or language variety within a speech community. [1] It is often associated with government planning, but is also used by a variety of non-governmental organizations, such as grass-roots organizations and even individuals. The goals of language planning differ depending on the nation or organization, but generally include making planning decisions and possibly changes for the benefit of communication. Planning or improving effective communication can also lead to other social changes such as language shift or assimilation, thereby providing another motivation to plan the structure, function and acquisition of languages. [2]

Amongst the goals of language planning are:

7) Terminology Unification - development of unified terminologies, primarily in technical domains, and

11) Auxiliary-Code Standardization - standardization of marginal, auxiliary aspects of language such as signs for the deaf, place names, or rules of transliteration and transcription.

Many countries have a **language policy** designed to favour or discourage the use of a particular language or set of languages. Although nations historically have used language policies most often to promote one official language at the expense of others, many countries now have policies designed to protect and promote regional and ethnic languages whose viability is threatened.

Language Policy is what a government does either officially through legislation, court decisions or policy to determine how languages are used, cultivate language skills needed to meet national priorities or to establish the rights of individuals or groups to use and maintain languages.

At various times minority or indigenous languages have either been promoted or banned in schools, as politicians have either sought to promote a minority language with a view to strengthening the cultural identity of its speakers, or banning its use (either for teaching, or on occasion an entire ban on its use), with a view to promoting a national identity based on the majority language.

For our purpose, toponymic planning can be regarded as/defined as the deliberate effort to influence the spelling of place names, primarily in order to improve communication. There can be other aspects, however, for instance shedding of the toponymic influences regarded as foreign.

What is the role of geographical names in language planning? Geographical names are a very visible manifestation of language, as these names are incorporated on signposts, place name signs and in maps. From the names (foreign) people see on these signposts, name signs and maps, they would deduce the language of the local communities. So place names are a way for linguistic communities to manifest themselves, to show themselves to the world. Contrary to this, national authorities may want to mask the existence of linguistic minorities by adapting their names to the majority language, and thus show through the adapted place names that the region is inhabited by majority language speakers.

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2) I - NAME CHANGES CAN BE DUE TO:

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Name changes can be due to:

- A) Decolonization (purification of foreign influences)
- B) Restoration of minority names (id)
- C) Mergers of municipalities

In the following these aspects will be clarified.



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2) I - NAME CHANGES CAN BE DUE TO - A) DECOLONIZATION

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Decolonization of place names is defined as the change of those geographical names that have been imposed by colonial powers into supposedly indigenous names.



Example of decolonized capital names in Africa. (Lilongwe is wrongly linked to Blantyre, as both towns have persisted since their foundation under their own name).

It was one thing to decolonize the place names, another to get them recognised worldwide. In case of Indonesia it took 25 years before school and reference atlases worldwide had recognised the newly changed names as the official ones.

What steps were involved in place name decolonization in Indonesia?

1. the IPA -u- sound was forthwith spelled with -u- instead of -oe- (Madoera > Madura). This was because the u-spelling was thought to be more generally accepted globally than the rendering with -oe-, as this was only customary in the Dutch language area. It was only later, in the 1960s, that - in a failed attempt to merge Bahasa Indonesia (the Indonesian standard language) with Bahasa Malaysia - that -tj- was exchanged for -c- (Tjilatjap > Cilacap) and -dj- for -j- (Djatinegara > Jatinegara) and -j- for -y- (Jogjakarta > Yogyakarta).
2. Vowel combinations were adapted to Bahasa Indonesia (Straat Raas > Selat Raas).
3. Where for Dutch or other foreign names Indonesian equivalents existed, these were used instead (Onrust > P.Kapal; Mauritsbaai > Teluk Pangandaran; Straat Greyhound > Selat Banggai). But: Batavia > Djakarta (instead of Betawi).
4. Dutch generics were changed for generics in Bahasa Indonesia (Tjiasem-baai > Teluk Tjiasem; Balizee > Laut Bali). (the Dutch generic baai = bay in English = teluk in Bahasa Indonesia; Dutch zee = sea in English = laut in Bahasa Indonesia).
5. Incorrect Dutch spellings of locally used place names were corrected to their correct form in local languages (Grissee > Gresik) in line with the proposals in the 1923 gazetteer.
6. Some Dutch names for which no equivalents in indigenous languages existed were translated into Bahasa Indonesia (Drie Gebroeders > Kepulauan Tiga Saudara; Noordkaap > Tanjung Utara).
7. Where the Dutch language used no generics, as for islands or rivers, these were added in Bahasa Indonesia.
8. There were some politically-motivated changes (P.Rozendain > Pulau Hatta).

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One of the map series where these rules were applied was the Peta Ichtisar Jawa Madura at the scale 1:250 000, produced in the early 1950s. In the figure below can be seen how the -oe- sound was turned into -u-, how *Prinsen-eiland*/P.*Panaitan* was changed in just *P.Panaitan*, how *Prinsen-Straat*/*Behouden Passage* ("safe channel") changed into *Selat Panaitan*, how the generic *schiereiland* (peninsula) changed into 'pemandjung', how for the Dutch form *Welkomst-baai* (Welcome-bay) a new Indonesian translation *Teluk Selamat Datang* was coined, and how for the faulty spelling 'kalapa' in Tjiteloekkalapa the corrected form 'kelapa' was mapped(> Tjitelukkkelapa) and the faulty form Djoengkoelon was changed into Ujungkulon.



1952



1928

Numbers 1 - 8 refer to the place name decolonization steps listed above.

For more examples click [i](#)

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1) Name changes due to A: Decolonization

More Indonesian examples

After independence Indonesia decided to spell the oo-sound or IPA (French: ou, Dutch oe, German: u) forthwith with u (1947). All manifest Dutch names had to be replaced by indigenous names, all Dutch generics had to be replaced by generics in the official Indonesian standard language, Bahasa Indonesia. After the 1974 spelling reform, in order to homogenize the Bahasa Malaysia spoken in Malaysia and Bahasa Indonesia, the following orthographic changes were made: tj>c, dj>j, j>y, ch>kh. There was a period therefore when the name of Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, was spelled Djakarta (1947-1974). It started as Yayakarta or Yacatra, was renamed Batavia by the Dutch 1619, named Jakatra by the Japanese in 1942, and Djakarta by the Indonesians at their independence (see figure 1).

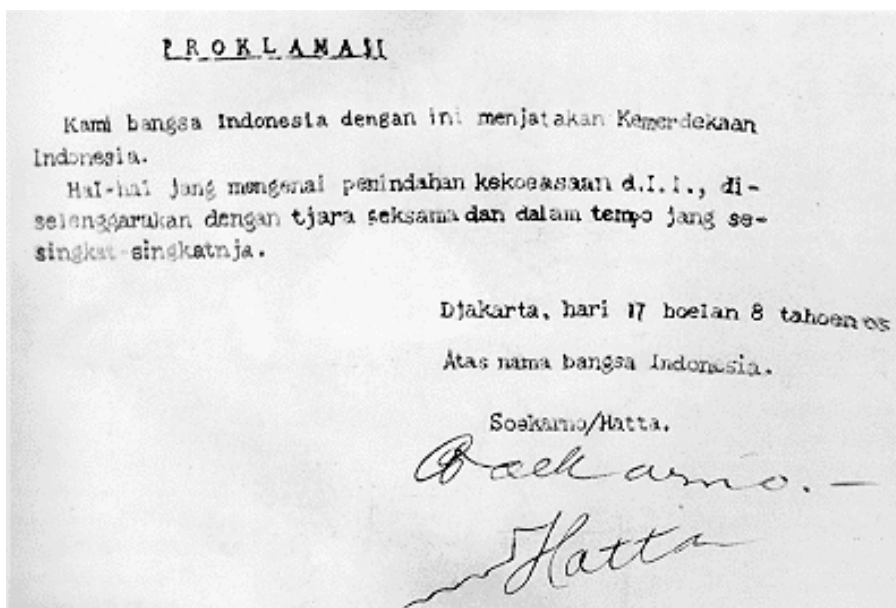


Figure 1: Proclamation of Independence of Indonesia, with the name of the capital as Djakarta.

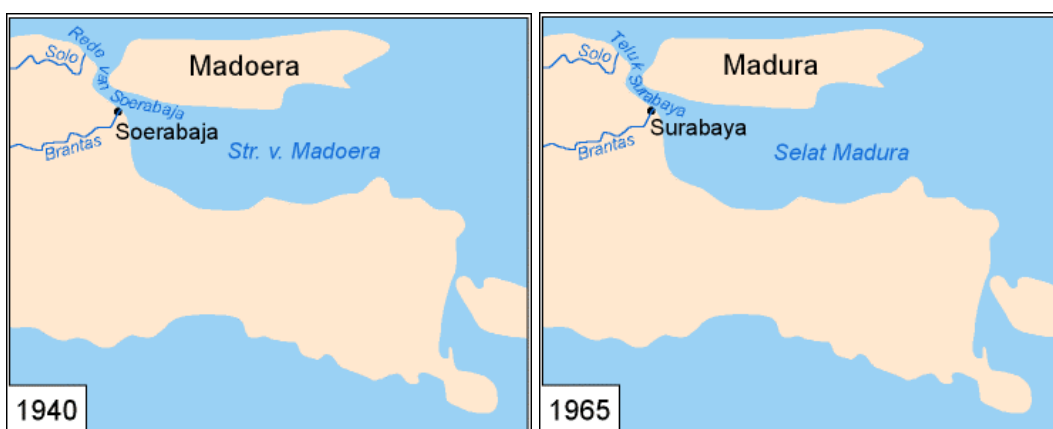


Figure 2: Example of change of Dutch generics into generics in Bahasa Indonesia (straat (=Strait)>Selat, Rede (=Roads)>Teluk), and substitution of Dutch rendering of u-sound (oe) into u, Dutch rendering of j-sound substituted by -y-.

An example of the language planning that went into the decolonisation of Indonesian placenames is the list of Dutch toponyms or toponyms with Dutch generics, that had to be changed (figure 3).

Sp.

- 3 -

H-5	Serang-baai	=	<i>Penaa Tanahane</i>
	Baai van Tapen	=	<i>let Bat. van let ajut Penwa masi in de Pasar</i>
I-2	Westervaarwater	=	<i>rintasan Barat</i>
	Grissee	=	<i>Gresik</i>
I-5	Tambakan-baai	=	<i>Teluk Tambakan</i>
	Lenggoso-baai	=	<i>Teluk Lenggoso</i>

*Tg. batu des met 4
by NW. Dano*

Blad 22 Java, Oostblad; Bali en Lombok

A-2	Ooster vaarwater	=	<i>rintasan Timur</i>
A-3	Tengger-gebergte	=	<i>Pegunungan Tengger</i>
A-4	Semeroe-gebergte	=	<i>Pegunungan Semeru</i>
	Sipelot-baai	=	<i>Teluk Sipelot</i>
B-2	Zwaantjesdroogte	=	<i>Karang Kaka</i>
C-4	Rika-gebergte	=	<i>Pegunungan Rika</i>
	Pisang-baai	=	<i>Teluk Pisang</i>
C-5	Bandi alit-baai	=	<i>Teluk Bandialit</i>
	Meroe-baai	=	<i>Teluk Meroe</i>
	Permisan-baai	=	<i>" Permisan</i>
	Radjagwesi-baai	=	<i>" Radjagwesi</i>
D-2	Straat Sapoedi	=	<i>Selat Sapudi</i>
	Straat Raas	=	<i>Selat Raas</i>
	Straat Madoera	=	<i>Selat Madura</i>
D-3	Baluran-gebergte	=	<i>Peg. Baluran</i>
D-4	Idjen-gebergte	=	<i>" Idjen</i>
	Straat Bali	=	<i>Selat Bali</i>
	Pangpang-baai	=	<i>Teluk Pangpang</i>
D-5	Gradjagan-baai	=	<i>" Gradjagan</i>
	Banjoebiros-baai	=	<i>" Banjubiro</i>
	Schiereiland Blambangan of Poerwo	=	<i>temenandjung Blambangan atau Poer Poerwo</i>
E-4	Tjelukan trima-of St. Nicolaas-baai	=	<i>Teluk Tjelukan Terima</i>
	Pega metan-baai	=	<i>Teluk Pegumetan</i>
F-5	Tafelhoek	=	<i>Bukit Badung</i>
G-1	Anak kangean-eilanden	=	<i>Kepulauan Anak Kangean</i>
G-3	Balizee	=	<i>Laut Bali</i>
H-5	Baai van Ekas	=	<i>Teluk Ekas</i>
I-4	Straat Soengian	=	<i>Selat Sungian</i>
	Rotsige-eilanden	=	<i>Pulau Batu Bujur</i>

Figure 3: List of Dutch names or names with Dutch generics prepared by the Topographical Survey in Djakarta in 1950, to be changed into Indonesian names.

The Dutch toponyms in Indonesia, did not quite change in the way the Dutch had envisaged. Before independence, native editions of school atlases existed, which rendered the capital as Betawi instead of Batavia, an adaptation of the name into Bahasa Indonesia; as most Dutch names already had an Indonesian version as well, Buitenzorg (the residence of the Governor-general) was already known by its Indonesian name Bogor at the time (see figures 4-6).



Figure 4: Dutch school atlas, 1935: Batavia, Buitenzorg/Bogor, Dutch generics.



Figure 5: Indonesian School atlas, 1935 (Betawi for Batavia, Bogor instead of Buitenzorg/Bogor), Indonesian generics.



Figure 6: Dutch school atlas 2010: Jakarta, Bogor, Indonesian generics) G=Gunung = mountain, Selat = Strait.



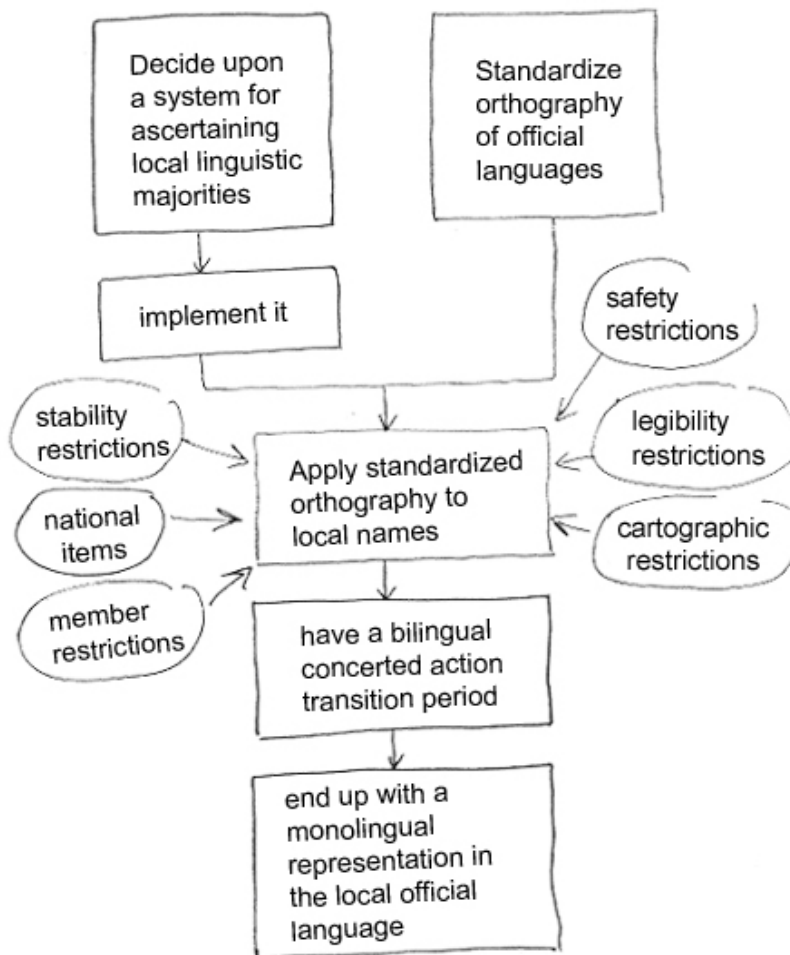
Figures 7 and 8: Changes in street names 1940-2010.

2) I - NAME CHANGES CAN BE DUE TO - B) RESTORATION OF MINORITY NAMES

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Names changes due to restoration of minority names (local majorities).

In many regions, minority language names are being restored to their original spellings. Examples are the province of Frisia in the Netherlands (where the original Frisian names are no longer translated into Dutch), Catalonia where the castilianised names have reverted to their original Catalan form. In the figure below, a model shows the actions needed to achieve such a transition. In this scheme, a minority language community is supposed to form a localised majority, and to be recognised as an official language.



Model for minority toponym restoration

First, the area for which the names have to revert to their minority form has to be defined, and it has to be found out what the official spelling is for the minority language. The next step would be to apply the official minority language spelling to the place names in the demarcated minority language area. In this process a number of restrictions would apply:

From a viewpoint of stability and safety, the former names should not disappear forthright, but there could be a transition period in which both the former majority language version and the new minority language version of the place name are rendered simultaneously. Depending on the scale of the map, not all names in the minority language can be incorporated on the map: because of legibility considerations this number

should be restricted. Then not all name categories would be incorporated on the map, as this would depend on the function of the map. On road maps, for instance, only a few mountains would be rendered, as opposed to on mountaineering maps. Then there would be a number of names that refer to a larger area (national items such as Alps for instance) that would have to retain their names in the majority language. But the end product, after a transition period (of either 2 new editions or 10 years) should be a monolingual map with all local items named only in the official minority language. For examples of such procedures, you are referred to the chapter on minority languages.

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2) I - NAME CHANGES CAN BE DUE TO - C) NEW ADMINISTRATIVE NAMES

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The advisory committee on geographical names in the Netherlands, that operated under the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, employs the following criteria in its judgement or selection of new (municipality) names (when existing municipalities are merged) in the Netherlands:

- New names should preferably be written according to the current orthographic rules
- New names should not have been entered in current lists or indexes of names or brands
- Constructions in which existing names are strung together (with or without hyphens) should be avoided
- New names should reflect the history or historical geography of the region
- Avoid sensibilities by selecting a completely new name instead of promoting existing names for a municipality
- Avoid as a new name for the joined municipalities constructions that link parts of existing names
- It is only feasible to opt for the name of the largest municipality when a number of smaller municipalities have been joined to one larger one
- A new name should not be too similar to an existing geographical name either in the Netherlands or in neighbouring areas
- New names should not bear negative connotations

For all new names it is important that there is a sufficient basis of support. It may be opportune to invite entries for the best name in a contest, as this may deliver suitable new names. Practice proves, however, that most names offered are unsuitable, and the basis for the acceptance of new names may be endangered if parties have identified too much with the names offered for the contest. When selecting and implementing new names it would be wise to test the alternatives by checking them for practical criteria, and subsequently by informing the public regarding the outcome of these tests. This also helps in the argumentation afterwards, if the proposed names are being subjected to a referendum.

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3) II) ORDERING GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE

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In order to be able to refer to areas newly opened up for colonisation, habitation or residential use, names have to be applied to these areas. The same goes for areas that have been recently explored. Arctic and Antarctic exploration show examples of naming the newly discovered seas beneath the land ice, and the mountains and hills beneath the (Ant)Arctic ice caps. We will deal with these examples under the following headings:

- D) Naming of seas
- E) Giving names to future objects in reclaimed areas
- F) Urban street naming
- G) Commemorative policies

In the following these aspects will be clarified.



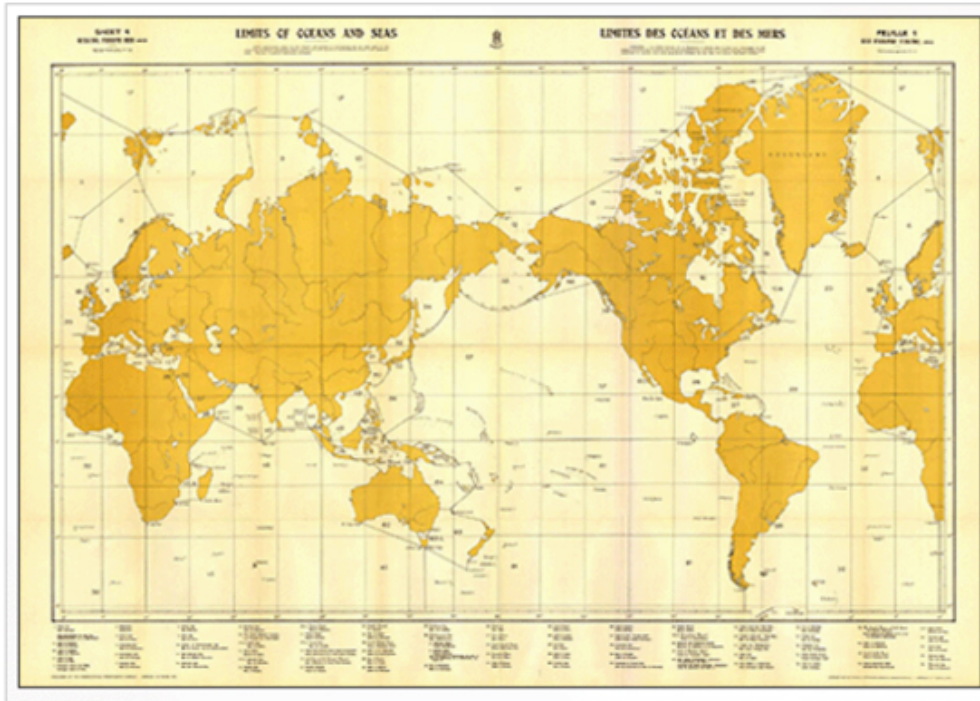
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3) II) ORDERING GEOGR. SPACE - D) NAMING OF SEAS

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In order to be able to refer to all parts of the global ocean, the International Hydrographic Organisation has subdivided this global ocean into a number of named entities. This is indicated in its special publication S-23 "Limits of Oceans and Seas" published by the International Hydrographic Bureau in 1929 to define the names and limits of seas for safe navigation and for hydrographic and oceanographic usage. The publication of S-23 was based on the resolution, adopted in the first International Hydrographic Conference in London, 1919, which mentioned that names and limits of sea and oceans should be defined for safe navigation. At the 11th International Hydrographic Conference, 1977, it was decided that a new edition of S-23 should be produced and the Bureau made a draft 4th edition and circulated the draft to all the member states in 1986. Due to discord about a number of names of seas and gulfs, no new version of S-23 has been produced as yet.



Overview map from S-23, with sea boundaries and names

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3) II) ORDERING GEOGR. SPACE - E) FUTURE OBJECTS IN RECLAIMED AREAS

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Giving names to future objects in reclaimed areas (polders or newly opened up areas such as in the tropical forests of Brazil or Indonesia).

E1. Names in reclaimed polder areas

For new polders, reclaimed from the sea in the Netherlands, names were adapted that referred to former settlements that disappeared into the sea through storms and inundations in the Middle Ages, taking account of changes in spelling that reflect changes in pronunciation of the language and language development since the Middle Ages. In figure below, in the Noordoostpolder area, reclaimed in the 1940s, the name

Emmeloord refers to the village named Emeloirt (lost to the sea in 1650).

Bant refers to a village Bantega, inundated in 1700.

Marknesse has been named after a village Marcnesse or Marenesse, a village that according to the chronicles once was situated between the islands Urk and Schokland.

Creil has either been named after a sand bank in the former Zuiderzee at Staveren, or after the Creiler Woud (forest).

Espel used to be a village name as well, once situated east of Urk. It also occurs under the names Espelbergh and Espelo.

Kraggenburg derived its name from the former port in the mouth of the IJssel river; the lighthouse of this port, formerly situated at the end of a pier, is now part of the new polder.

Luttelgeest was named after a village once situated next to Kuinre.

Nagele refers to the name of a bank on which fishermen tore their nets, as this was the place of the inundated ruins of the village Nagele (on old maps Naghele or Nakala) located once between Urk and Schokland Iag.

Rutten is derived from the name Ruthne, a village located north of Urk in the 14th century.

Tollebeek used to be a village close to Urk, before it disappeared into the sea.

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Names in an area newly reclaimed from the sea
(Noordoostpolder, the Netherlands)

Other examples of language planning

E2) Language planning in transmigrasi projects, Indonesia

In Indonesia, the surplus agrarian population of Java is resettled in less densely inhabited islands, like Sumatra, Borneo, Celebes or New Guinea. This supervised migration process is termed 'transmigrasi' locally. Here is a text that shows some considerations for naming the new settlements: in the Lampung area in Southern Sumatra) that had to be cleared first in the dense tropical forests (Benoit and Pain, 1989) :

"The present-day Kecamatan of Trimurjo bears witness to this heroic past. In 1935, 'Kolonisatie' was implemented; the program was so successful that the Japanese, who were seeking any means of supplying their troops, decided to continue it after the Dutch Indies surrendered on March 9, 1942. Toponymy has provided a grasp of the environment, the difficulties and the hopes of the settlers. *Simbarwaringin* and *Limanbenawi* indicate a heavily forested environment: *simbar* signifies "two" and *waringin* means "banyan"; *liman* "elephant" and *benawi* "swamp". Other toponyms indicate the settlers' desperate hopes: *Depokrejo* means "the agreeable and lively place to live"; *Adipura* can be translated as "the safest place". Finally, some names evoke the difficult installation conditions: *Trimurjo* means "three canals" (located at the junction of three secondary canals); *Purwodadi*, "the village being built".

E3) Language planning at the colonisation frontier in Brazil

Figure below, shows the first subdivision of Brazil in the 16th century, in 15 captaincies, nearly all with religious names, a few only have Tupi names, like Itamaraca, Pernambuco and Ceara. After this first layer of colonist names, on the coast, with mainly Portuguese religious and descriptive names, the exploration of the interior gradually started, by the mixed descendants of the Portuguese and the Tupi Indians, who spoke the Tupi language. In the 18th century the Tupi language was banned, although it kept being spoken unto the middle of the 19th century in some states. By then this second layer of names, generated by these explorers in the native Tupi languages, had crystallized.

The third layer was one of Portuguese names: In the 18th century inland exploration of the present state Minas Gerais started. Here minerals were found and mined, and towns developed, named accordingly: Diamantina, Minas de Rio de Contas, Minas Novas are examples. This urbanised colonisation started in 1711 with Vila Rica de Ouro Preto, followed by São João Del Rei (1713), and São José do Rio das Mortes (1717).

For other inland areas colonists from Europe or from the Azores islands were attracted - especially in the south where these settlements were also set up in order to back Portugal's claim to this area in border disputes with Spain. Apart from the Tupi name Curitiba, most placenames given in this colonisation drive were Portuguese, like Florianópolis (1675), Rio Grande (1736), Porto Alegre (1742) and others, and helped keep Southern Brazil firmly under Portuguese control.





*Portuguese map (1574) by Luís Teixeira,
showing the location of the hereditary captaincies of Brazil.*

Likewise in the second half of the 18th century there was a systematic policy of regional occupation through the constitution of a network of cities or villages named after cities back in Portugal: Chaves, Abrantes, Braganca, Obidos, Belmonte. Jesuit settlements with their indigenous names lost not only the Jesuits when the Societas Jesu was disbanded in Brazil in 1767 but also their names, as they were rebaptised (Nova Almeida, Vila Flor, Trancoso are examples),

Nowadays the occurrence of Tupi toponyms in the various Brazilian states does not necessarily reflect the influence of the indigenous population or of Tupi-speaking explorers in the naming processes. It only shows that these names have Tupi etymology, but in fact they may have been given by non-Tupi speaking officials. Bustamante (2005) has shown that preference for providing administrative territorial units with names of Tupi origin was stimulated in the period 1930-1945 when Getúlio Vargas was president, and a broad toponymic change was promoted due to the so-called Geographical Law of Estado Novo (New State). Aiming at the systemic ordering of the Brazilian administrative and territorial division, the federal government approved this Law in 1938. Besides prohibiting the repetition of names of towns and districts, it recommended "the preference to adopt regional names of the regional native language or related to historical facts of the region in case of replacement of toponyms" (IBGE, 1943, p. 436).

More recently, this tendency is still alive; it is for instance visible in a recommendation included in the laws of the National System of Nature Conservation Unit (Law n. 9.985, dated 18th July 2000 and Decree n. 4.340, dated 22nd August 2002) to give preference to names of Indian ancestors in the choice for the designation of federal conservation units. According to article 3, "the denomination of each conservation unit should be based, preferably, on its most significant natural feature, or on its oldest denomination, giving priority, in this case, to the designations of the Indian ancestors" (2004, p.37).

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3) II) ORDERING GEOGR. SPACE - F) URBAN STREET NAMING

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In the development of street names in towns and cities those in charge of naming try to effectuate the following:

- Optimal differentiation between different names, so that no confusion occurs when someone states his home address. Sunda, Sumba and Sumbawa are three Indonesian toponyms that are often used in the Netherlands (the former colonial power in Indonesia) for street names, but never in the same town, as it would be difficult for Dutch ears to distinguish between them.
For instance: The Fire Brigade logged a fire alarm erroneously as occurring in the Van Durenstreet instead of the Van Burenstreet; by the time they had arrived from the first at the correct second address, the building already was damaged beyond repair.
- Preferably when hearing a street name, the public should be able to write it correctly, so there should not be big discrepancies between spelling and pronunciation.
- Preferably, when hearing a street name the inhabitants of the same town or city should have a general idea of the neighbourhood where that street is located. This can be realised by assigning street names in clusters of the same type: clusters of streets named after different flowers, different tree species, after painters or composers, statesmen or resistance fighters, rivers or world cities, etc. By being familiar with the general location of each of these clusters of streets named after a specific type of object, navigation within a town or city will be improved.



Streets named after composers in Utrecht, the Netherlands

On the above map one may discern clusters of streets named for authors/poets: (Dante, Petracca, Schiller, Byron, Goethe, Racine, La Fontaine, Grimm, Victor Hugo, Dickens), composers (Bela Bartok, Vivaldi, Liszt, Ravel, Verdi, Schonberg, Delius, Mozart, Bach, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Händel, Mahler, Chopin, Von Weber, Joseph Haydn, Palestrina, Johan Winnubst), and with Indonesian toponyms (Malakka, Billiton, Banka) and Dutch empire builders (L.Reaal, Van Diemen, Daendels, Abel Tasman, Van den Bosch)).

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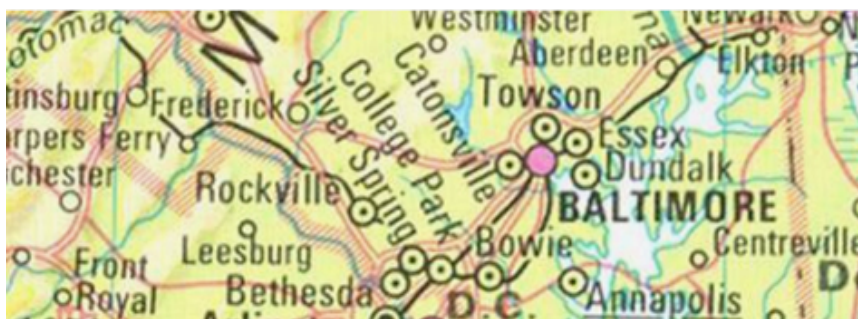
3) II) ORDERING GEOGR. SPACE - G) COMMEMORATIVE POLICIES

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Virginia

In Virginia, the land of Pocahontas, there initially was a good rapport between the English colonists and the local Indians. This is reflected in the early maps of the region drawn by John Smith (1612): apart from two English names all the names are clearly Indian (see map above).

Later on, without any conscious effort to exchange names of Indian derivation for those given by colonists, the namescape of Virginia changed completely (see map below). When we look at a current map introduced by the National Geographic, it is English language names that stand out; the only name category that has preserved its Indian character is that of the river names: e.g. Chesapeake, and Rappahannock. The only native place name still rendered seems to be Tappahannock. So, even if this was not the result of names planning it is a complete change of the namescape.

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It is usual to name objects discovered after the discoverer or after any other name he or she would have bestowed on the discovered object, such as the name of a patron or other worthy person or institution. Even today this practice continues in some areas. But these original names are not always kept. The name Spitsbergen was bestowed on the present Svalbard archipelago by the Dutch explorer Willem Barentsz in 1596, on his way to Novaya Zemlya, when looking for a northern route towards East Asia. In 1925 when the archipelago had been allocated to Norway, the latter opted for the name Svalbard. In a 12th century Icelandic text, this name (meaning cold rim or cold coast) was mentioned, probably however for a part of Greenland (see Politikens Nudansk Ordbog, 1992, under *Svalbard*).

Most languages follow this Norwegian practice and use Svalbard when naming the archipelago and Spitsbergen when referring to its largest island. In the Dutch, German and Russian languages the original meaning is kept; here 'Spitsbergen' refers both to the archipelago and to its largest island.

Svalbard is an example of a largely uninhabited area where, since it has been allocated to Norway, Norwegian officials have bestowed names of worthy countrymen and -women who in their opinion should be honored by naming a mountain, bay or island after them. An occasional Swede or Dane is also included in this toponymic pantheon. By this naming behavior the original names for objects in the Spitsbergen archipelago, given by the English and Dutch in the 16th and 17th century, have been swamped completely by this new influx of names, and the character of the namescape thus changed.





*Dutch names on a 18th century map of Svalbard
(Gerard van Keulen, Nieuwe afteekening van het eyland Spitsbergen, ca 1710)*





Svalbard, map by Trond Haugskott in the book Stedsnavn på Svalbard, by Eli Johanne Ellingsve, Trondheim, Tapir Akademisk Forlag 2005. Names underlined in red have a Dutch specific name part; names underlined in purple have been translated from Dutch into Norwegian.

What is wholly reprehensible is the obliteration of existing place names and their replacement by placenames that suit those in charge. It is the toponymical counterpart of ethnic cleansing, and it happened under nationalist ideologies in both Europe and elsewhere. The United Nations have taken a strong stand against this particular aspect of names planning, in resolution **III-16** and **VI-9** (see UNGEGN webpage "[Resolution on the Standardization of Geographical Names](#)", click here for [pdf](#), resp. pp. 32 and 34 and/or see images below).

III/16 National standardization

The Conference.

Recalling that the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names adopted resolution 4, regarding national standardization,

Considering that many countries have their own national geographical names authorities with status, composition, functions and procedures clearly outlined regarding officially standardized geographical names,

Recognizing that those national geographical names authorities have set up rules pertaining to official standardization procedures,

Also recognizing that according to the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (see Vol. II, 1972, p. 52) a standardized name is a name that has the official sanction of a legally constituted entity,

Recommends that to recommendation A of resolution 4 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names should be added the following:

"It is recommended that any changes made by other authorities in the names standardized by the competent national geographical names authority should not be recognized by the United Nations".

VI/9 Recognition of national standardization

The Conference.

Recognizing the cultural and historical significance of geographical names,

Aware of the sensitivity to deliberate changing of geographical names, which could lead to the loss of cultural and historical heritage,

1. Discourages the unauthorized changing of geographical names that have already been established by a legally constituted entity and are nationally recognized,
2. Endorses and reaffirms resolution 16 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, in which it was emphasized that geographical names given and/or standardized by a body other than that nationally authorized, should not be recognized by the United Nations.

4) III) CHANGING ORTHOGRAPHY

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When spelling rules or orthographic rules change for a language, this can also have consequences for place names in that language, as hundreds of place names might have to be adapted to the new rules. The same might be necessary when attitudes change, or conversion methods between writing systems. We will look at these issues under the following headings:

H) Application of new spelling rules

I) Opting for new attitudes (e.g. endonyms instead of exonyms)

These aspects will be clarified in the following pages.



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4) III) CHANGING ORTHOGRAPHY - H) APPLICATION OF NEW SPELLING RULES

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Application of new spelling rules can make it necessary for toponymic databases to change hundreds or even thousands of names in order to comply with the new orthographic rules. Examples of recent orthographic changes are those in Germany regarding:

ß and ss: In reformed orthography the grapheme ß is considered a separate letter that is to appear only after long vowels and diphthongs. Otherwise it should be written **ss**.

Triple consonants preceding a vowel are no longer reduced (but hyphenation is often used in these instances anyway):

- *Flußschiffahrt* → *Flussschiffahrt*, *Mißstand* → *Misstand*

Several **loan words** now allow spellings that are closer to the German norm. In particular, the affixes *-phon*, *-phot*, and *-graph* can be spelled with **f** for **ph**.

Although the new spelling rules do not apply to geographical names and personal names, they do apply to derived geographical names, for instance when used as adjectives. Application of all the ensuing changes may severely tax the toponymic authorities, and call for some planning measures.

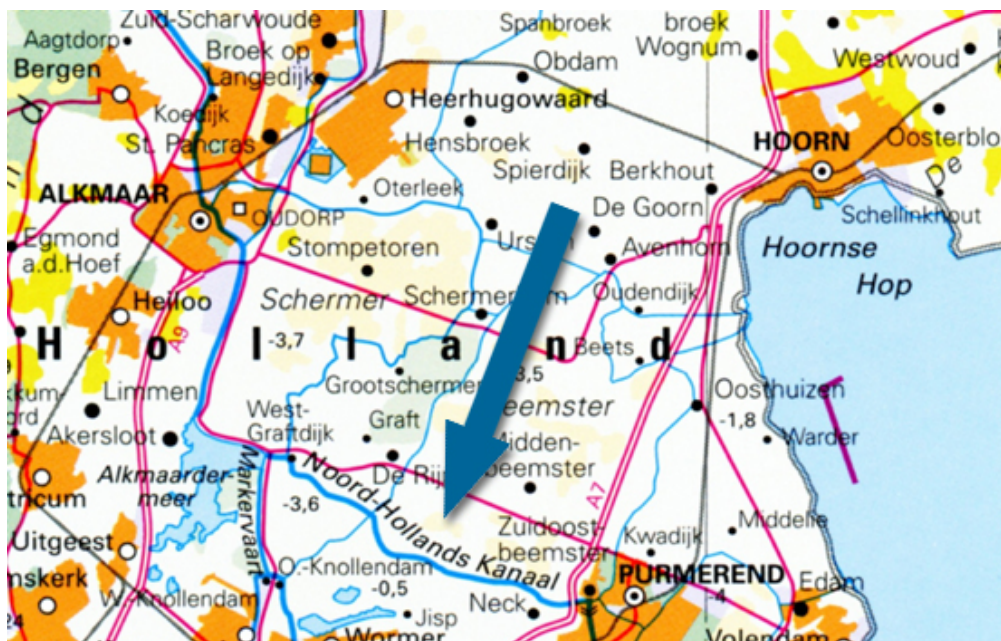
Example: The 1995 amendment to the Dutch spelling law of 1947 called for separating name parts that indicated cardinal directions from the geographical name parts by way of a hyphen, for instance Noordhollands was to be spelled Noord-Hollands forthwith (see images below). That meant that, on the map, the geographical name Noordhollands Kanaal was to be spelled Noord-Hollands Kanaal. In total, for the Bos school atlas in the Netherlands with a names register of some 30 000 names, this entailed changing some 600 geographical names both on the maps and in the register.

Below the Dutch examples (Noordhollands>Noord-Hollands and Zuidchinesezee>Zuid-Chinese Zee) from Bos van Balen Atlas 1960 and Noordhoff Bosatlas 2006.

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(1960)





(2006)





(1960)





(2006)

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4) III) CHANGING ORTHOGRAPHY - I) OPTING FOR NEW ATTITUDES

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When new policies are chosen, for instance the use of endonyms instead of exonyms in school atlases, this calls for measures that help the users in dealing with endonyms from other languages. These measures may consist of the application of the International Phonetic Alphabet (see figure below), or for incorporation of aids to pronunciation...

IPA SYMBOL	EXAMPLES
æ	cat, plaid, calf, laugh
eɪ, e	mate, bait, gaol, gauge, pay, steak, skein, weigh, prey
e, ɛr	dare, fair, prayer, where, bear, their
ɑ	bar, ask, cot (a vowel midway in quality between [æ] and [ɑ], used in some regional American speech)
ɑ	dart, ah, sergeant, heart
b	boy, rubber
tʃ	chip, batch, righteous, bastion, structure
d	day, ladder, called
e	many, aesthete, said, says, bet, steady, heifer, leopard, friend, foetid
i	Caesar, quay, scene, meat, see, seize, people, key, ravine, grief, phoebe, city
f	fake, coffin, cough, half, phase
g	gate, beggar, ghoul, guard, vague
h	hot, whom
hw, ʍ	whale
ɪ	pretty, been, tin, sieve, women, busy, guilt, lynch
aɪ	aisle, aye, sleight, eye, dime, pie, sigh, guile, buy, try, lye
dʒ	edge, soldier, modulate, rage, exaggerate, joy
k	can, accost, saccharine, chord, tack, acquit, king, talk, liquor
l	let, gall
m	drachm, phlegm, palm, make, limb, grammar, condemn
n	gnome, know, mnemonic, note, banner, pneumatic
ŋ	sink, ring, meringue
ɑ, ɒ	watch, pot
ou, o	beau, yeoman, sew, over, soap, roe, oh, brooch, soul, though, grow
ɔ	ball, balk, fault, dawn, cord, broad, ought
ɔɪ	poison, toy
au	out, bough, cow
u	rheum, drew, move, canoe, mood, group, through, fluke, sue, fruit
ʊ	wolf, foot, could, pull
p	map, happen
r	rose, rhubarb, marry, diarrhea, wriggle
s	cite, dice, psyche, saw, scene, schism, mass
ʃ	ocean, chivalry, vicious, pshaw, sure, schist, prescience, nauseous, shall, pension, tissue, fission, potion
t	walked, thought, phthisis, ptarmigan, tone, Thomas, butter
θ	thick
ð	this, bathe
ʌ	some, does, blood, young, sun
ju, iu	beauty, eulogy, queue, pew, ewe, adieu, view, fuse, cue, youth, yule
ɜr, ɝ	yearn, fern, err, girl, worm, journal, burn, guerdon, myrtle
v	of, Stephen, rise, flirter
w	choir, quilt, will
j	onion, hallelujah, yet
z	was, scissors, xylophone, zoo, muzzle
ʒ	rouge, pleasure, incision, seizure, glazier
ə	above, fountain, darken, clarity, parliament, cannon, porpoise, vicious, locus
ər, ɜr	mortar, brother, elixir, donor, glamour, augur, nature, zephyr

International Phonetic Alphabet
(click [here](#), for enlargement)

... in the form of transcriptions (see figure below).

PLACE (Pronunciation)	PAGE	Lat. °	Long. °
Presidente Roosevelt, Estação, trans., Braz.	230d	23.33S	46.36W
Presidio, Tx., U.S. (prě-sĩ'dĩ-ò)	106	29.33N	104.23W
Presidio, Río del, r., Mex. (rě'ò-děi-prě-sě'dyô)	112	23.54N	105.44W



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Presidio of San Francisco, pt. of i., Ca., U.S.	227b	37.48N	122.28W
Prešov, Czech. (prě'shôf)	140	49.00N	21.18 E
Prespa, Lake, I., Eur. (prěs'pă)	154	40.49N	20.50 E
Prespuntal, r., Ven.	125b	9.55N	64.32W
Presque Isle, Me., U.S. (prěsk'el')	86	46.41N	68.03W
Preßbaum, Aus.	139e	48.12N	16.06 E
Prestea, Ghana	208	5.27N	2.08W
Preston, Austl.	195a	37.45S	145.01 E
Preston, Eng., U.K. (prěs'tŭn)	144	53.46N	2.42W
Preston, Id., U.S. (pres'tŭn)	98	42.05N	111.54W
Preston, Mn., U.S. (prěs'tŭn)	96	43.42N	92.06W
Preston, Wa., U.S.	100a	47.31N	121.56W
Prestonburg, Ky., U.S. (prěs'tŭn-bŭrg)	92	37.35N	82.50W
Prestwich, Eng., U.K. (prěst'wĭch)	138a	53.32N	2.17W
Pretoria, S. Afr. (prě-tô'rĭ-ă)	206	25.43S	28.16 E
Pretoria North, S. Afr. (prě-tô'rĭ-ă nōord)	212d	25.41S	28.11 E
Préveza, Grc. (prě'vâ-ză)	154	38.58N	20.44 E
Pribilof Islands, is., Ak., U.S. (prĭ'bĭ-lof)	89	57.00N	169.20W
Priboj, Yugo. (prě'boi)	154	43.33N	19.33 E
Price, Ut., U.S. (prĭs)	102	39.35N	110.50W
Price, Ill., U.S.	102	39.35N	110.50W

Helps to pronunciation of place names: Index in the Goode's atlas

After World War II, in the German Democratic Republic (DDR) hardly any exonyms were used for place names in Eastern Europe, as this was considered to be proof of a revanchionist attitude. After German reunification, this attitude changed and German exonyms for placenames in Eastern Europe are again allowed.

Other changes in attitudes might bring with them changes in spelling because of adaptation or rejection of conversion systems between different writing systems that are politically sensitive.

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5) IV) NECESSARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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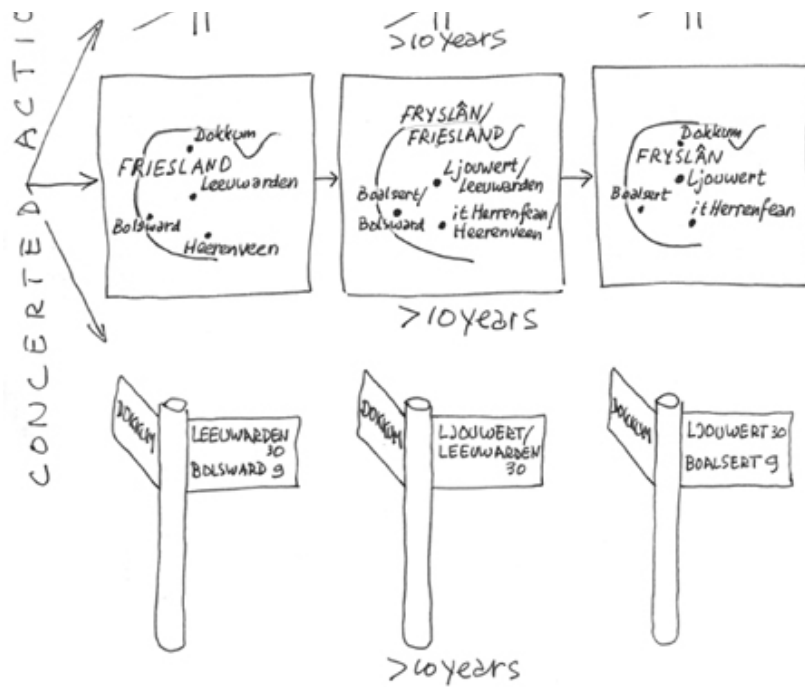
All these planned changes regarding place names have less success when they are not simultaneously applied on both maps, signposts and place name signs. And if names are changed, these signs and maps should reflect the change by showing during a transition period, both versions of the name, so that the public can get used to the new name and see what object it refers to. This may be an expensive way to go about the name changes, but in the end it may pay off by making the local inhabitants more receptive to the proposed changes.



Names on place names signs and on the map should be rendered in the same way

The model in the figure below shows the same for both maps, name signs and signposts.

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Model of the concerted conversion of majority names to minority names
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AVAILABLE EXERCISES

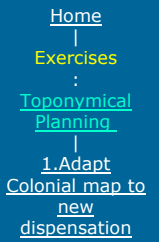
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Exercise 1: Adapt Colonial map to new dispensation (change names into present Bahasa Indonesia spellings)



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Banten

Tji Balioeng (Tji=river)	
Tji Liman	
Pérdana	
Peper-baai ('pepper-bay' in Dutch)	
Tji Boengoer	.....
Mènes	.....
Tjaringin	.....
G.Poelosari	.....
G.Karang	.....
Tendjolahang	.....
Tjiomas	.....
Danoe	.....
Tg.Tjikoneng (Java's 4e punt)	.....
Anjar lor	.....
Tjilëgon	.....
Dwars in den weg (P.Soengian)	.....
P.Mërak	.....
P.Sëbësi	.....
P.Krakatau	.....
Verlateneil.	
Lang-eil.	

EXERCISE 1: ADAPT COLONIAL MAP TO NEW DISPENSATION - ANSWERS

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Correct answer:

P=Pulau = island (eiland in Dutch);

G=Gunung = mountain;

Tg=Tanjung = Cape;

Tji=Ci=river;

Teluk = bay (baai in Dutch).

Name before colonization	Name after decolonization
Bantum	Banten
S. Soenda	Selat Sunda
Prinsen-eiland	Pulau Panaitan
Meeuwen-eiland	P. Peucang
Prinsen straat of behouden Passage	Selat Panaitan
Meeuwen-baai	Teluk Peucang
Tg. Lajar (Java's 1e punt)	Tanjung Layar
Tg. Lësoeng (Java's 3e punt)	Tanjung Lesung
Tg. Alangalang (Java's 2e punt)	Tg. Alangalang
Welkomst-baai	Teluk Selamat Datang (first); Teluk Paraya (later)
G. Pajoeng	Gunung Payung
Tg. Tjangkoewang	Tanjung Cangkuang
Tji Balioeng	Cibaliung
Tji Liman	Ci Liman
Përdana	Perdana
Peper-baai	Teluk Lada
Tji Boengoer	Ci Bungur
Mënes	Menes
Tjaringin	Caringin
G. Poelosari	G. Pulosari
G. Karang	G. Karang
Tendjolahang	Tenjolahang
Tjiomas	Ciomas
Danoë	Danu
Tg. Tjikoneng	Tg. Cikoneng
Anjar lor	Anyer Lor
Tjilëgon	Cilegon
Dwars in de weg (P. Soengian)	P. Sungian
P. Mërak	P. Merak
P. Sëbësi	P. Sebesi
P. Krakatau	Pulau Rakata
Verlateneil.	Pulau Sertung
Lang-eil.	Pulau Rakata kecil

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Online resources:

The United Nations sell the following publications which also can be downloaded from the [UNGEGN](#) website:

- [Glossary](#) of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names (New York 2002) / [pdf](#)
- [Manual](#) for the national standardization of geographical names (UN - Ecosoc, New York, 2006 ST/ESA/STAT/SERM/88 Sales No. E.06.XVII.7 ISBN 92-1-161490-2, available in the 6 UN languages) / [pdf](#)
- [Technical reference manual](#) for the standardization of geographical names (New York, 2007) / [pdf](#)
- [Resolutions](#) adopted at the nine UN Conferences on the standardization of geographical names ([English \(pdf\)](#) / [French \(pdf\)](#))