

## Criteria for the use of exonyms – the Polish perspective

### 1. Introduction

Exonyms are geographical names closely related to the language in which they are used. As they differ from the names used in the place where a given geographical feature is located, exonyms have generally a rather narrow range. For most languages, this range is limited to a particular linguistic community solely, and only for the languages used internationally ('world languages' or, according to the "Glossary of Terms" (UNGEGN 2002), 'vehicular languages'), such as English nowadays, and for example, French, Latin, or Greek in the past (wide range of names of historical places are known only in the form of their Greek or Latin exonyms), knowledge of exonyms from such a language can be quite common.

Therefore, a consideration on the use of exonyms should mainly occur at the place where the language community applies these exonyms. The use of exonyms in the international forum, although equally important, is a separate issue.

The UNGEGN resolutions have called for as far as possible limitation on the use of exonyms, and in cases of leaving them, to place them only after endonyms (resolution V/13). However, such a recommendation is in direct contradiction with the fact that numerous names are given as exonyms in international communication. For example, during the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names, names of countries are given in their English forms, rather than national ones, e.g. *Albania, Bhutan, China, Egypt, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea, or Morocco*, and not *Shqipëria, Druk Yul, Zhongguo, Miṣr, Sakartvelo, Deutschland, Nippon, Daehan Minguk, or Al-Maghrib* – the use of original names (endonyms) would introduce confusion and decrease the effectiveness of communication at this international level. The use of English exonyms is common, apart from international organizations or international conferences, also in the case of flight schedules. The use of English names for the most important features (e.g. countries, great cities, oceans, major rivers, or great natural regions) is simpler in international communication conducted in this language than the use of endonyms which are often widely unknown, e.g.: *Red Sea* instead of *Al-Baḥr Al-Aḥmar*, *Bangkok* instead of *Krung Thep*, *Nile* instead of *An-Nīl*, *Inner Mongolia* instead of *Nèi Měnggǔ / Övör Mongol*, *Anatolian Plateau* instead of *Anadolu Yaylası*, *Mekong Delta Region* instead of *vùng đồng bằng sông Cửu Long*, and so on. Furthermore, attempts to use endonyms instead of exonyms for continents, oceans, or large regions could even prevent communication – e.g. using, at the conference in Tokyo with English as working language, a name *Taihei-yō* (the Japanese endonym for the Pacific Ocean), or during similar conference in Helsinki, a name *Pohjois-Eurooppa* (the Finnish endonym for Northern Europe) would definitely negatively reflected on the effectiveness of communication. In addition, it should be noted that in some cases the use of an endonym instead of an exonym may entail significant political impact, e.g. the use during a conference in Beijing instead of rather neutral English exonym *Tibet* the Tibetan endonym *Bod* would probably not be welcomed (and vice versa the use of the Chinese endonym *Zàngqū* could be seen as supporting of Chinese sinicization policy in the region); similarly, it would not be politically neutral if during a conference held in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem the endonym *Al-Quds* was used instead of the exonym *Jerusalem*. Therefore, in some cases, the

use of exonyms is much more favorable in international communication than the use of endonyms.

However, the use of exonyms is most important within the given linguistic community. Therefore, the criteria for the use of exonyms, which are related to the community and communication within this community, are most important. From the standpoint of the standardization of geographical names such criteria should, however, be limited only to the ones related to the use of exonyms in writing – it is the written language that is a subject of more strict standardization and on which ground the practical rules can be determined. While the spoken language, having a lot of variants (both territorial dialects as well as social variants, like the official language, colloquial language, the language of young people, etc.), is less susceptible to any kinds of regulations. In addition, it is often difficult to determine whether we use of an endonym or an exonym in pronunciation (many exonyms have a similar pronunciation to endonyms while they are different in a notation). There is also the issue of exophons, i.e. names written in the given language in the same way as in the original language of a geographical feature, but pronounced differently (e.g. *Liberia* – the original English pronunciation is /laɪ'berɪə/, and the Polish pronunciation is /li'beria/). There might be mentioned here also a completely impractical use of double names (endonym-exonym) in the spoken language, which is recommended in UNGEGN resolutions during the use of exonyms (it is rather difficult to imagine that in ordinary speech such forms as *București-Bucharest*, *Wien-Vienna*, *Lisboa-Lisbon* would be used).

The Polish language has its history reflecting the nation's past, and its rich vocabulary, including geographical names, forms its integral part, an element of its intangible cultural heritage. The geographical names in the Polish language, referring to many different parts of the world, provide a testimony of the historical connections with particular areas. This nomenclature, which has been developing for hundreds of years up to the present, forms part of the Polish culture. Limitation, or even elimination of exonyms would impoverish the Polish language and would be contrary to the principles of the language policy.

Polish exonyms evidence of former and current Polish interests in different countries, of staying of Poles in other countries, of the Polish history. Foreign names that were often assimilated in the distorted form which, however, was easy to pronounce and remember, have gradually become exonyms. Frequency of exonyms is also an evidence of the old contacts and their intensity. Much more exonyms are located on the surrounding areas, which frequent contacts were maintained with, while much less number is located on distant territories, although there are some exceptions, because a lot of Polish exonyms can be found on Svalbard archipelago in the Arctic Ocean and on King George Island in the Antarctic region. Exonyms often refer to large objects of high importance rather than to small objects of minor importance. They function in the consciousness of society, in this language, that is why any attempts to replace exonyms by official names will encounter a barrier of living language and human habits.

One could agree to limit or even to discontinue the use of exonyms in international publications especially in official ones, as requested by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. However, in publications intended exclusively for the domestic market, such restrictions should not be applied. The wide riches of exonyms should especially be used in school publications. Exonyms should also be applied in scientific for the general public publication and fiction. Also in cartographic publications intended for wide use, such as desk atlases and maps, as well as road and tourist maps and atlases, exonyms should not be omitted, though official names will be more important there.

Jerzy Kondracki (1990) discussing the 14th Session of UNGEGN in 1989 cited, among others, prof. Ernst Speiss view (at that time the chair of the Dutch- and German-speaking Division) that it was necessary to distinguish the legitimacy of using exonyms within the linguistic community from the need of using official names in international relations. Kondracki also then cited H.A. Lewis statement (at that time the chairman of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names), in which he was drew attention to the fact that exonyms could not be treated equally, regardless of the kind of publication – Lewis noted that there were three levels of exonyms use: their widespread use in primary and secondary education and the media, their limited use in higher education, and avoiding them in international relations. Also at the next, 15th Session of UNGEGN in 1991 there were voices calling for distinguishing the use of exonyms in national and international level (following opinions quoted after Jerzy Kondracki (1992)): Peter Raper (at that time the chairperson of UNGEGN) expressed the view that every nation wants to preserve exonyms which have been established in traditions, and exonyms had only be eliminated in international circulation; Roger Payne (from the US Board of Geographic Names) also stated that exonyms were needed for internal use. The wider use of exonyms in publications intended for domestic customers was also motivated by the Dutch- and German-speaking Division (1991), which concluded that there was a clear distinction between the use of exonyms for internal and international use. Also Peter Jordan (2000) listed numerous benefits of exonyms use in the context of communication within the linguistic community.

It should be emphasized that the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland recommends the use of all standardized Polish exonyms in publications in the Polish language – every exonym listed in the Commission’s list of exonyms (the “Official list of Polish geographical names of the world” [“Urzędowy wykaz polskich nazw geograficznych świata”] from 2013) is recommended to use.

Given into consideration the above issues, preparation of the general rules for exonyms use could be pondered. Due to the multiplicity of various kinds of publications, and also because of the different approaches to be taken in relation to different types of geographic features, such rules for exonyms use will have rather a framework character, and will not be exactly pointed out how to act in a particular case.

## **2. Peter Jordan’s proposition of criteria**

Peter Jordan (2011) in his paper listed four groups of criteria: audience-related criteria, medium-related criteria, feature-related criteria, and language-related criteria. However, these criteria are rather related to creation of exonyms, when there is no fixed list of exonyms (there is no standardized exonyms). Therefore from the standpoint of the use of exonyms in the Polish language these criteria have proved not to be very useful, for the following reasons:

### **1) Audience-related criteria**

**1.1.** Exonym use is rather acceptable, if the audience is monolingual and using the exonym language – Polish exonyms are used within the one language, so there is no such diversity.

**1.2.** Exonym use is rather acceptable, if the audience is addressed in an unofficial or informal way – criteria for the use of exonyms within the Polish language rather not vary because of official or unofficial communication, but due to the type of publication, in which these exonyms are used.

### **2) Medium-related criteria**

**2.1.** Exonym use is rather acceptable in the context of spoken words or in texts composed of complete sentences compared to more technical means of communication – in

the case of written texts in Polish, where a geographical name is used in a sentence, the name has to be suitably modified through the use of appropriate grammatical form (for geographical names, apart nominative, genitive and locative are the most common), and sometimes an adjective form should be created. Obviously, it is much easier to decline a name assimilated into Polish, or create derivative forms. However, in the Polish language, it is also rather easy to decline and derive foreign proper names – even for the names that are heard for the first time it is often easy to create such forms. For example, when the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names was working out a new edition of the list of Polish country names in 2007 the new capital of Palau called *Melekeok* was added (the former capital was Koror). Although the most members of the Commission heard for the first time the name of this small village, no one had any doubt with a finding that the genitive form of this name should be *Melekeoku*, locative – *Melekeoku*, a adjective – *melekeokański* (nominative singular masculine), *melekeokańska* (nominative singular feminine), *melekeokańskie* (nominative singular neuter), *melekeokańscy* (nominative plural masculine), and the names of the inhabitants – *melekeokańczyk* (nominative singular masculine), *melekeokanka* (nominative singular feminine), *melekeokańczycy* (nominative plural masculine), *melekeokanki* (nominative plural feminine). In the Polish language it can similarly be proceed with a significant number of foreign geographical names. In addition, there are a lot of names which, from the viewpoint of the Polish user, are complex, or which could not be fitted to the declension pattern used in Polish (like *Punxsutawney*, *Woolloomooloo*, *Nezahualcōyotl*, *Fontainebleau*, *Schiermonnikoog*, *Bolungarvíkurkaupstaður*, *Aberystwyth*) – a creating exonyms for them just because of these difficulties is quite pointless.

**2.2.** Exonym use is rather acceptable with means of communication used exclusively outside the area of the endonym language – a purpose of publication for using on the area where endonyms are used is an important premise, however, it is concerned rather types of publications (e.g. travel guide v. school textbook), which will be discussed later in the paper.

### **3) Feature-related criteria**

**3.1.** Exonym use is rather acceptable, if the geographical feature to be marked is important for the community of the exonym language – as it was already mentioned, all exonyms the Commission recommends have been considered as a valuable component of the Polish language and, according to the Commission, they should be widely used, regardless of the importance of these names.

**3.2.** Exonym use is rather acceptable, if the geographical feature to be marked extends across language boundaries – there are a number of transboundary features for which no exonyms exist, and the fact that given feature crosses language boundaries is irrelevant for creation Polish exonym for it. On the other hand, there are cases when only one from endonyms of such feature is used in the Polish language for a whole transboundary feature, for example *Duero* (the Spanish name for the river in Spain and Portugal), *Altai* (the Russian name for the mountains in China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Russia), *Istria* (the Italian name for the peninsula in Croatia, Slovenia and Italy), *La Manche* (the French name for the strait in France, United Kingdom, Guernsey and Jersey).

**3.3.** Exonym use is rather acceptable, if the geographical feature to be marked is exclusively historical and does not correspond to a current feature – this criterion relates to historical names, the use of which is governed by different rules than the use of modern names. Polish exonyms can be divided, based on the criterion of its use, into three groups (Lankamer 1996). The first consists of exonyms used today, e.g. *Francja* [*France*], *Rzym* [*Rome*], *Nowa Gwinea* [*New Guinea*]. The second group consists of obsolescent exonyms, which are now used rarely and have mostly been replaced by endonyms (e.g. *Celowiec* has been replaced by *Klagenfurt*) or another new exonyms (e.g. *Sztrasburg* has been replaced by *Strasbourg*, while the official name is *Strasbourg*). Finally, the third group consists of

exonyms, which have fallen into disuse, for example *Tyflis* for *Tbilisi* or *Piszpek* for *Biszkek* [*Bishkek*]. As a subgroup of the latter, the Polish names used to refer to former names of objects (existing nowadays or not) but different from the former endonyms of these objects can be distinguished, e.g. *Konstantynopol* [*Constantinople*], *Ziemia Van Diemena* [*Van Diemen's Land*], *Austro-Węgry* [*Austria-Hungary*] – they can be called historical exonyms (however, there is no uniform terminology – according to the “Glossary of Terms” (UNGEGN 2002) this type of names, regardless of the language, is called ‘historical names’, while Ferjan Ormeling (2003) is using the term ‘historic exonym’ for names from the second group mentioned here and refers to cases where an exonym has been changed or replaced by endonym). Because this type of historical names is used in a different context and in a different way than the modern name, it should not be taken into account in determining the criteria for the use of exonyms.

#### **4) Language-related criteria**

**4.1.** Exonym use is rather acceptable, if the endonym is composed of a specific and a semantically transparent generic part – there are many objects that generic terms could be translated, but no exonyms exist for them, and on the other hand, there are many objects without a generic term for which Polish exonyms exist.

**4.2.** Exonym use is rather acceptable, if the endonym is especially difficult to be pronounced and spelled by users of the exonym language – for a user of the Polish language vast number of endonyms may cause problems in pronunciation (e.g. only a few people are able to correctly pronounce the names in Albanian, Basque, Icelandic, or Vietnamese, moreover even the correct pronunciation of French or English names may be difficult too), however, it does not mean that exonyms should be created for them.

**4.3.** Exonym use is rather acceptable, if the endonym language is not a frequent educational or trade language with users of the exonym language – the popularity of a language has rather no impact for creation of exonyms. In the case of the Polish language rather the opposite can be seen, since many exonyms have been created just as a simplification of the names from widely known in Poland (in a given period) foreign language (e.g. Latin, French, German).

### **3. The Polish perspective**

The criteria proposed by Peter Jordan apply when there is no set list of recommended exonyms in the language. In the case that such a list exists, as it is in Poland, there is no point considering whether an exonym is needed for a given geographical feature or not, because it has already been formally decided – either an exonym for the object has been standardized and listed in the Commission’s “Urzędowy wykaz polskich nazw geograficznych świata” [“Official list of Polish geographical names of the world”] (2013) meaning that an exonym is recommended, or an exonym has been omitted in this publication, which means that the Commission does not recommend such a Polish name, even if it can be found in some publications.

For this reason, from the viewpoint of the Polish language, it is important to determine how to apply these recommended exonyms. From this point of view two groups of criteria are essential:

1. related to a type of publication in which exonyms would occur;
2. related to a type of geographical object for which an exonym was set.

#### **3.1. Cartographic publications**

It is worth to divide publications into cartographic ones and others. In the case of cartographic publications the names of geographical objects occur in isolated form and are located on a map as far as possible at the site of the named object. Due to a purpose of a map (its type) as well as its scale different ways of names notation of objects with exonyms can be chosen. However, the general principle can be determined that exonyms are more important on maps in small scales than on maps in large scales – as Peter Jordan (2000) noted, maps in small scales are rather used in an educational context, so that their content should be easy to remember.

In **school atlases for lower grades** (in Poland they are atlases for subject called “environment” for 4-6 grades of elementary (primary) school, i.e. for children 10-12 years old) it is sufficient to provide exonyms only – at this stage of teaching pupils do not need to know original names of objects (e.g. that *Wiedeń* [*Vienna*] is Polish equivalent for *Wien*, *Kopenhaga* [*Copenhagen*] for *København*, and *Sardynia* [*Sardinia*] for *Sardegna*), while atlases consist small scale maps showing the various continents or the entire world (with exception for maps of Poland). An attempt of introducing of dual naming (exonym-endonym) on these maps would be pointless and it would significantly deteriorate the maps readability. Moreover, in atlases for this stage of teaching foreign generic terms are translated (in names of object with no exonym, for example *Nullarbor Plain* → *Nizina Nullarbor*), and sometimes generic terms that do not appear in Polish exonym are also added (e.g. *Fidzi* [*Fiji Islands*] → *Wyspy Fidzi*). Such approach should be regarded as acceptable, because it allows children to explore the world on maps by themselves, which would be more difficult if formally correct naming was applied (child might not know that *Nullarbor Plain* is a plain, and *Fiji* are an islands). It worth emphasizing here that in Poland in elementary school geography is not a separate subject but only part of general subject of environment. Consequently, there are no geographical atlases for elementary school only atlases to environment, in which maps constitute about half of the content (in such atlases also various types of environmental chart, schemas of human anatomy, etc. are placed).

In the case of **middle school atlases** (for pupils aged 13-15 years) original names (endonyms) should be already used apart from exonyms. They should be included on maps at larger scales, and placed under a Polish exonym (if such exists). However, in the case of maps in smaller scales, covering the whole world or continents, only Polish exonyms can be used. Similarly, solely exonyms may be applied for natural objects, especially transboundary ones, which, because of its importance, should be considered but due to space limitations putting all endonyms for them might significantly deteriorate the maps readability.

**High (secondary) school atlases** correspond to a certain extent, in its contents, to general atlases, however, they are richer by a whole series of thematic maps (environmental maps, economic maps, population maps, etc.). In the case of review maps of individual countries and regions contained in these atlases, original names should be given in the first place, and then exonyms in parentheses (if such exists). For endonyms with generic terms, these terms should be given in the original form (e.g. *Isle of Wight*, *Cordillera del Paine* [mountains], *Beyşehir Gölü* [lake], *Nōbi Heiya* [plain]). Just as in the case of middle school atlases, solely exonyms may be used on maps at smaller scales (world, continents) and on thematic maps.

**General atlases** are rather not too large in terms of size publications containing mainly reference maps. These atlases are usually treated as a kind of brief lexicon of the world, which is used in houses, companies, libraries, etc. Rules of exonym use should be here similar as in the case of high school atlases – endonyms in the first place, and below, in parentheses, Polish exonyms. However, in some atlases, especially in those with a smaller size, exonyms without endonyms are provided and generic terms are translated. Such naming method is rather similar to school atlases for lower grades. Such a procedure is quite

debatable, however, it should be taken into account that people with different education background also use the atlases of this type – polonized forms of names will facilitate the use of atlas for them.

**Great geographical atlases** are cartographic counterparts for large, multi-volume encyclopedias. Both their size and number of pages cause that they comprise numerous maps in large scales. The best-known contemporary great geographical atlases of the world are: *The Times Atlas of the World* (14 editions since 1895), Italian *Atlante Internazionale del Touring Club Italiano* (8 editions in the years 1917/27-77), Russian *Atlas Mira* (3 editions in the years 1937-99), Spanish *Gran Atlas Aguilar* (6 editions in the years 1954-68), *Atlas świata* (one Polish edition 1962/68 and one English in 1968 as *Pergamon World Atlas*), German *Haack Großer Weltatlas* (1965). In these atlases endonyms should be taken into account at the first place, and exonyms listed below them in brackets. Also in the case of transboundary features endonyms should be given in each country (and exonyms if exist). Unfortunately, these atlases are not often prepared. In Poland since *Atlas świata* of 1962/68 was released only one the great geographical atlas prepared entirely in Poland was published – *Wielki atlas świata* [*Great World Atlas*] of 2006. Others great geographical atlases available in Poland are adaptations of foreign publications (e.g. Reise- und Verkhersverlag, Instituto Geografico De Agostini, Wissen Media Verlag, Cartographia Budapest), which has important consequences for the Polish naming considered in them – it is usually not numerous. This arises from the fact that adapting foreign atlas for Polish users a publisher usually has very limited possibilities to change names in it, and in practice names of important objects can only be changed. In extreme cases, Polish names are at all not given on maps – maps are prepared by the original publisher in “international form”, i.e. with endonyms only which include also names of countries and large regional objects; in such cases only accompanying texts and small-scale maps of continents and the world are translated into Polish.

**General maps of the world and continents**, which also includes wall maps, are used to show the given area on reference or political map. Solely the names of the major geographic features are usually given on these maps, so it is possible to use only Polish exonyms. However, it would be advisable to include also endonyms at least for cities on these maps.

**Tourist maps** are nowadays one of the most popular types of maps. They may cover an area of entire state (or group of countries), as well as its individual regions or specific places (e.g. city plans). In the case of tourist maps of areas beyond the boundaries of Poland, it is very important to provide endonyms on them – there are endonyms what can be seen in a given area on road signs, plans, tourist information, or can be heard during communicating with the local population. Moreover, in the case of tourist maps of areas where non-Roman writing systems are used, it is worth placing endonyms not only in a romanized form, but also in the original script – it may allow to compare (read) a name from a map with one visible in a place (in these countries, especially in the less tourist areas, only names in original script are often given, without their romanized forms), as well as it may be helpful in communication with the local population (e.g. showing them a name on the map). However, Polish exonyms are also important for Polish users, because they indicate which geographic objects have a traditional Polish name. That is why Polish exonyms should also be given on such maps, but placed under endonyms. Nevertheless, adding exonyms which are not standardized should be avoided on these maps – unfortunately, on some tourist maps a large part of names, especially the ones with generic terms, is translated into Polish. Adaptations of maps of foreign publishers are available in Poland, on which only a cover is translated. Such maps without Polish names, and sometimes even with foreign exonyms (mostly English) are definitely less useful for Polish users than maps prepared from the very beginning for Polish users. However, due to the costs (and general bad condition of cartographic market in Poland) for

many less popular regions Polish maps will rather not be prepared, so in the case of many destinations Polish users have to use foreign maps.

**Road maps** are, with tourist maps, one of the most popular types of maps. Similarly to tourist maps, they are assigned, by definition, to be used in an area they shown – that means the use outside boundaries of Poland. Names shown on these maps should primarily correspond with naming meet in a place, i.e. on road signs. For this reason, with no doubt endonyms must be used on these maps, moreover, in the case of countries where non-Roman writing systems are used, endonyms should also be given in the original, non-romanized form. What is more, these romanized forms should rather be given in accordance with romanization rules applicable on the road signs of the country, and not in accordance with romanization rules recommended by the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names (as it should take place e.g. in geographical atlases). It is worth to include also Polish exonyms on these maps – they should be placed in parentheses below endonyms. Like in the case of tourist maps, there is a limited number of road maps prepared in Poland – most of available maps are both adaptations of foreign publications (the Polish publishers have little influence in names used on it) or original foreign maps.

**Civil topographic maps** are published in Poland for the area of the country. Only small fragments of territories of neighboring countries are shown on border sheets (until recently, areas outside the country were not presented – the map content had finished on boundary). In addition, foreign areas are presented only in small scope – they are not included on maps at a scale 1:10,000 (with content exclusively to boundary), and they appear only on maps at a scale 1:50,000 (there are plans to prepare new topographic maps at scales of 1:25,000, 1:50,000, 1:100,000, and 1:250,000, but they are unlikely to be realized quickly). For foreign areas presented on these maps, endonyms are treated as primary names in its original notation (for Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Lithuania) or in a romanized form (for Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia). In the case of objects with exonyms, these Polish names should be given in parentheses under endonyms. In Poland there are also **military topographic maps**, in the case of which there are separate rules for their preparation, including rules for geographical names, which have been generally drawn up for NATO countries. However, these maps are not widely available to the public in Poland (they can be found only in a few libraries), and they are intended for internal use in the military.

**Attachment maps** to any kind of texts are group of maps that can be met very often. These maps are illustrations for all kinds of texts, like articles in magazines, books or its chapters, texts on websites, texts on information boards (e.g. with tourist information about given place). These maps may be included inside a text, like any other illustrations (photos, graphs), as well as they may be given at the end of the publication as an appendix. Their size is diverse (from small illustration of a matchbox-sized to large maps attached as folding sheets), and content is varied (from the schematic map of a small amount of content and names, which is characterized for press map, up to very detailed maps). Because of the great diversity of these maps, no common rules for the use of exonyms on them could be adopted – it is important, however, that names of these maps were used in similarly as in the text, to which they are attached.

It should also be noted that there are numerous maps of specialized, narrow use, such as the aforementioned military maps, aeronautical charts, navigation charts, various thematic maps (e.g. hydrographic, geological, geomorphological, soil, forest, climate) and others, which often apply different rules of exonyms use. However, due to their limited access and specialized apply, there is no need to determine general rules of exonyms use for them. Similarly, in the case of historical maps, in which historical names are mainly used, including historical exonyms, there is no need to lay down criteria of the use of exonyms – the use of historical names is governed by different rules than the use of modern names.



### 3.2. Non-cartographic publications

In the case of texts names are usually used in sentences, which often requires modification of these names resulting from the need of proper grammatical form. In the texts the use of exonyms seems more natural, but in many cases the use of endonyms does not cause any difficulties in the Polish language – this applies not only to widely known and used endonyms as *Berlin*, *Amsterdam*, *Oslo*, *Alaska*, or *Australia*, but also to the names in practice unknown, as *Thamaga* (in Botswana), *Balapulang* (in Indonesia), *Laurenzana* (in Italy), *Sunchales* (in Argentina), or *Pingelap* (in Federated States of Micronesia).

**Schoolbooks (textbooks)** – exonyms should be always given. For lower grades to provide only exonyms is sufficient, while in the case of textbooks for higher classes (including academic textbooks), an endonym should be given with the first occurrence, especially for cities.

**Encyclopedias and lexicons** are a specific type of publication in which the principal name of geographical feature is given as headword. If an exonym exists than it should be given as title of an entry (headword). After this exonym all endonyms of the object should always be given, even in situations where the object is located in the areas of several countries (such as the Alps, the Bay of Bengal, or East European Plain).

**Scientific studies (publications)** – if they relate to geographical issues, an endonym should be given after an exonym, but if a map containing all included in the publication names with their original forms (endonyms) is attached to the publication, then endonyms may be excluded from the text. In justified cases it is acceptable to use endonyms only (e.g. in a detailed monographs of given areas), but even then a Polish exonym is worth mentioning at the first occurrence of a name. It should be noted, however, that in Poland more and more scientific publications are published in English only in order to enable their wider international impact.

**Scientific for the general public publications** – exonyms should be generally used, and an endonym on the first occurrence of a given name.

**Popular publications** – it is possible to use exonyms only, and the use of endonyms may be limited to situations that might cause doubt only (e.g. for less known objects).

**Travel guides** are publications in which, on the one hand, it is essential for the Polish reader how geographical objects are called in Polish. On the other hand, original names are very important here, thanks to endonyms the names from a guidebook can be compared with names visible in place on road signs, plans, and tourist information. Therefore, an exonym (if exists) and an endonym should be listed for each object – even if this geographic name is mentioned in the title of a chapter or section. Moreover, in guide for areas where non-Roman writing systems are used, it is worth providing endonyms not only in the romanized form, but also in the original script – it will be useful for comparing name with that one placed on the ground (in these countries, especially in the less tourist areas, only names in original script are often given, without their romanized forms), as well as it may be helpful in communication with the local population (e.g. showing them a name in the guide). It also may worth to include foreign exonyms in guides (e.g. English, or French) – in some cases, providing such foreign exonym could be even more useful than giving an endonym. The tourist guides published in Polish may be mentioned as an example: using endonyms in Hindi or Arabic, recorded in Polish phonetic transcription (in accordance with established principles), causes a decrease in usefulness of such a guide. Pronunciation of such transcribed endonyms by the Polish guide user is usually as so far from its correct pronunciation that may be incomprehensible for the local person (e.g. when asking for directions to a place); also showing this local person notation of the name will not be successful, because this name is

written down in Polish transcription. In contrast, the use English exonyms in such cases (or French for some countries like Morocco, or Lebanon) generally makes communication easier with people who know this language even in minimal level. For this reason, providing in some guidebooks foreign exonyms would be a more practical solution than providing endonyms in romanized form.

The use of geographical names in the **press** (and written media in general) is a separate wide issue. Unfortunately, the editorial offices have usually not established consistent and logical naming rules – names are use from case to case. In the case of the lesser-known geographical objects, its names are often mindlessly copied from texts provided by global news agencies, which is usually in the anglicized form, ignoring both endonyms as well as Polish exonyms. In the case of the press, it would be a good solution if Polish exonyms were provided whenever it exists and is recommended by the Commission, and also endonyms in the case of the lesser-known objects.

It should not be forgotten that exonyms are also used on road signs, bus and train schedules (and on information tables on trains and buses), in air transport. However, the use of exonyms is governed here by separate rules, often according to regulations. In the case of road signs in Poland, it is accepted that only endonyms are used. Thus, on road signs there is seen only the name *Praha* (without the exonym *Praga* [*Prague*]), *Dresden* (without the exonym *Drezno*), or *Bohumín* (without the exonym *Bogumin*). But even here there can be found some inconsistencies, e.g. providing the English exonym *Copenhagen* at the road sign on the way to the ferry in Świnoujście. In the case of rail only endonyms are used in schedules, as well as on tables in trains. Currently, the railway plans to use Polish exonyms in the case of voice announcements in Polish. In the air transport mainly English exonyms are used. However, on the boards of arrivals and departures at airports dual names – English and Polish – are provided.

### 3.3. Type of feature

A type of geographical object also has a significant influence on manner of exonyms using, as has already pointed out for example Ferjan Ormeling (2003). Therefore, an exception resulting from the specific use of names for different types of geographic features should be also added to the general principles of the exonyms use in particular types of publications.

In the case of **country names** (and names of dependent territories) solely Polish exonyms are used in practice (unless of course they exist). Regardless of using on maps or in publications the Polish name should always be given. Moreover, in most cases it is unnecessary to provide an endonym – the original names of countries should be actually taken into account only in encyclopedias, lexicons, and other specialized publications (e.g. lists of country names). In addition, there are also long (official) names of countries. However, the use of such names is strongly limited in practice to encyclopedias, lexicons, legislation, and official government correspondence. In most of these cases exclusively Polish equivalent of the official names are used and endonyms should be listed in practice in encyclopedias and lexicons only (as well as in such publications as lists of country names).

The **names of administrative units** (especially for the most important ones), if an exonym exists for them, are often given in Polish form only. This applies especially to the names with a generic term (e.g. *oblast*, *province*). Peter Jordan (2000) paid attention that a more complex original names of administrative units should not be replaced by exonyms – he has given the example of the Croatian name of *Primorsko-goranska županija*, which should not be replaced, in his opinion, by the German exonym *Küstenländisch-bergländische*

*Gespanschaft*. However, just the opposite results from Polish observation – it is for such a complex names exonyms are created because their original forms are very difficult to use in the Polish language. This is particularly the case of names in other Slavic languages, which forms apparently similar to those used in Polish might be particularly problematic, e.g. in a declension (adjectival forms in these languages have often a different grammatical gender and different ending than in Polish adjectives, so an attempts to use for them the Polish declension have often a quite bizarre result). Often such names are polonized ad hoc, thus their different more or less linguistically correct Polish version appear in various publications. Therefore, for the example given by Peter Jordan for the Croatian name of *Primorsko-goranska županija* the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names has established the exonym of *żupania primorsko-gorska*, which has replaced different, often completely incorrect, Polish forms appeared in texts. Endonyms for these administrative units should be given, in particular, in the case of great geographical atlases, encyclopedias and lexicons, although their using in other publications, in parentheses after an exonym, would be favorable. Some of administrative units have also long (official) names for which exonyms have been established (e.g. *Republika Buriacji* [*Republic of Buryatia*], *Region Autonomiczny Madery* [*Autonomous Region of Madeira*]) – these names are mentioned, however, in a few publications, and providing their endonyms is required only occasionally (e.g. in encyclopedias).

The issue of the creation of new exonyms for administrative units is also worth mentioning – Ferjan Ormeling (2003) states that such exonyms should never be added because the existing set of exonyms does not require any enlargement. However, this position stands in contradiction to the quite common practice (that is used not only in the Polish language) of placing exonyms for newly established administrative units, whose names are derived from the objects with established exonyms (or name has been created by adding a adjective to the former name). Also in the case of administrative unit names changing, when its new name derives from the names of objects with exonyms, an exonym is often introduced. For examples: after the German reunification and creation new federal states in 1990, exonyms have been adopted for them – *Brandenburgia* [*Brandenburg*], *Meklemburgia-Pomorze Przednie* [*Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania*], *Saksonia* [*Saxony*], *Saksonia-Anhalt* [*Saxony-Anhalt*], *Turyngia* [*Thuringia*] (only the name *Berlin* has been preserved as endonym); after splitting in Iran in 2004 *Khorāsān* province, for which the Persian name in the Polish transcription of *Chorasan* has been used, into provinces of *Khorāsān-e Janūbī*, *Khorāsān-e Shemālī*, and *Khorāsān-e Reżavī* exonyms for the first two have been introduced: *Chorasan Południowy* and *Chorasan Północny* being the translation of original names (analogous names have been created in other languages, e.g. in English: *South Khorasan* and *North Khorasan*); while in Canada the province of *Newfoundland* was renamed in 2001 to *Newfoundland and Labrador* the appropriate Polish exonym was changed from *Nowa Fundlandia* to *Nowa Fundlandia i Labrador*; on 1 January 2016 the administrative division of France will change – seven new regions grouping two or three existing regions will be created, and their names will initially be just combination of the names of the existing regions – similarly Polish exonyms for them will be created (Polish names have been established for the majority of existing regions), for example *Alzacja-Szampania-Ardeny-Lotaryngia* [*Alsace-Champagne-Ardenne-Lorraine*].

The **names of continents** are described on the maps rather only in maps titles (occasionally continents are described in small-scale maps of the world), and their names are often mentioned in texts. Only exonyms are applied in practice for them – endonyms are not provided even in encyclopedias. Some even believe that there are no endonyms exist for continents (see e.g. “Guidelines for the Preparation of Lists of Exonyms” prepared by the Dutch and German-speaking Division in 1991), but continents should be rather classified as transboundary features, as it has been done in the “Urzędowy wykaz polskich nazw

geograficznych świata” [“Official list of Polish geographical names of the world”] (2013), where for example for the exonym *Afryka* [*Africa*] endonyms in 23 languages have been given).

For **names of great regions and lands** (historical and geographical) it is usually enough to provide an exonym only, similarly as in the case of continents. This group includes such names as *Arktyka* [*Arctic*], *Europa Zachodnia* [*Western Europe*], *Skandynawia* [*Scandinavia*], *Azja Południowo-Wschodnia* [*Southeast Asia*], *Bliski Wschód* [*Middle East*], *Maghreb*, *Gwinea* [*Guinea*], *Ameryka Łacińska* [*Latin America*], *Indie Zachodnie* [*West Indies*], and *Oceania*. Endonyms for them are usually not taken into account also in encyclopedias or lexicons, and such endonyms may be only find in some specialized publications (such as the “Official list of Polish geographical names of the world”).

In the case of **names of great landforms** (e.g. *Alpy* [*Alps*], *Andy* [*Andes*], *Wyżyna Tybetańska* [*Tibetan Plateau*], *Nizina Zachodniosyberyjska* [*West Siberian Plain*]), one can follow similarly as with names of great regions and lands – the use of an exonym is just enough. These objects, which are often located in several countries, are commonly known by their Polish names. Endonyms for them should be taken into consideration in great geographical atlases, encyclopedias, and lexicons. In the case of maps, however, these objects are usually described on maps of entire continents or its parts, and they are usually omitted on detailed maps where rather its subdivision units are considered.

The **names of oceans**, similar to the names of continents, are considered almost exclusively in Polish form (as exonyms), without providing endonyms for them. Moreover, in the case of oceans it is disputable whether even exonyms and endonyms exist (cf. Philip Matthews’ article of 2012 elaborating, among others, discussions on this subject) – the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland, however, considers as endonyms names in the languages of countries lying on coasts of particular oceans and as exonyms – Polish names for these oceans.

In the case of **sea names**, providing Polish exonyms only is enough in most cases, and endonyms may be in principle limited only to great geographical atlases, encyclopedias, lexicons, and specialized publications, in which may appear justification of providing these endonyms. It is important to note that, as in the case of the oceans, it is disputable whether exonyms and endonyms exist. Above principles can also be applied to the names of great gulfs and bays de facto being of seas (e.g. *Zatoka Meksykańska* [*Gulf of Mexico*], *Zatoka Bengalska* [*Bay of Bengal*], *Zatoka Gwinejska* [*Gulf of Guinea*]).

In the case of names for other types of objects, whether to provide an exonym only or an exonym with an endonym depends on a type of a publication. However, in the case of populated place names, endonyms should be considered far more frequently than for names of natural objects.

From the viewpoint of the Polish user it is also important to draw up rules relating to the use of the entire geographical names, not just to exonyms. In addition to determining when and how exonyms should be used, and when endonyms, it ought to be determined: when and how to translate generic terms in endonyms; how to use a romanization (when the Polish simplified phonetic transcription is preferable, and when transliteration or international romanization), how to provide names from multilingual areas (whether to give endonyms in all languages, or just only “main” forms). In addition, it is worth determining how to decline endonyms and how to pronounce them (whether it should be always strive for pronounce close to the original one, even in the case of names from rather unknown languages). Therefore, it can be recommended to develop for domestic users a kind of a toponymic guide for foreign geographical names use.

Furthermore, it is also worth giving in the list of exonyms, like in dictionaries of Polish usage, more common non-recommended or incorrect forms by providing for them appropriate note (i.e. wrong, outdated, not recommended) – this applies to names often used, even in dictionaries and encyclopedias, such as: *Istambuł* (instead of *Stambuł* [*Istanbul*]), *Erewań* (instead of *Erywań* [*Yerevan*]), *Górny Karabach* (instead of *Górski Karabach* [*Nagorno-Karabakh*]).

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