

EXONYMS IN CROATIAN LEXICOGRAPHICAL EDITIONS: SOME DILEMMAS ABOUT THEIR UNEVEN AND INCONSISTENT USE

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Abstract. *Exonyms in Croatian Lexicographical Editions: Some Dilemmas about their Uneven and Inconsistent Use.* The aim of this paper is to indicate some problems regarding exonyms and their writing in Croatian lexicons, encyclopedias, atlases and other lexicographical publications, and to corroborate those issues with numerous examples. Problems mostly refer to the dilemmas of uneven and inconsistent use of exonyms, which appears to be the outcome of the absence of unique criteria for writing the names of foreign geographical objects. The main purpose of the paper is to emphasize the urgent need to create a standardized system of writing exonyms so that their usage will be apparent and consistent, as well as to refer to the responsibility of lexicographers in the process of standardization and maintenance of domesticated forms of toponyms.

Rezumat. *Exonime în Edițiile Lexicografice Croate: câteva dileme în legătură cu utilizarea lor neregulată și nepotrivită.* Scopul acestei lucrări este acela de a indica unele probleme legate de exonime și de scrierea lor în lexicul Croat, în enciclopedii, atlase și alte publicații lexicografice, și de a întări aceste aspecte prin numeroase exemple. Cel mai adesea, problemele se referă la dilemele utilizării neregulate și nepotrivite a exonimelor, ceea ce pare să fie rezultatul absenței unui criteriu unic pentru a scrie numele obiectelor geografice străine. Scopul principal al lucrării este de a sublinia nevoia urgentă de a crea un sistem standardizat al scrierii exonimelor, astfel încât utilizarea lor la nivel mondial să fie evidentă și consecventă, dar să se refere și la responsabilitatea lexicografilor în procesul standardizării și menținerii formelor cunoscute ale toponimelor.

Key-words: *exonyms; endonyms; Croatian lexicons.*

Cuvinte cheie: *Exonime; endonime; lexicul Croat.*



1. EXONYMS VS. ENDONYMS

The status of the exonyms and their importance in the national communication is evident in the way they have been treated in public and official use, most notably by their usage in some of the most representative cartographical and lexicographical publications. Such treatment of exonyms is in accordance with the rules of “Croatian Orthography” (*Hrvatski pravopis; Babić, Finka, Moguš 1995, 2004*), which states: “In public media (newspapers, television) and for internal purposes one can use traditional ways of writing the names that are adjusted according to foreign patterns (i.e. Ganges, Delhi, Ceylon, Casablanca), while on other occasions (international correspondence, diplomacy, maps, etc.) one has to use the original manner of spelling, i.e. in the way which is used in a language the name originates from... (while) on the maps all foreign proper names must be written with the original spelling. Exceptionally, one can write geographical names in the maps in the forms used in Croatian language also (by writing them in parentheses), but this variant must be accompanied by the original form of the name.” Notwithstanding this rule, there are some maps that contain toponyms written only in their exonymic form (for example in some school atlases), as well as those that comprise only endonymic forms of toponyms. But the most common type of maps are those that adhere to the recommendations of the UNGEGN, according to which the representation of the endonyms is not questioned, and their exonymic forms occur only with the most prominent toponyms of foreign geographical objects. In that case, they should be written in parenthesis under the official endonym (Gostl 1985).

According to “The Orthography of Croatian Language” (*Pravopis hrvatskoga jezika; Anić, Silić 2001*), the way in which one has to write geographical names is as follows: “Names of the continents, states and countries, islands, peninsulas and other geographical names are basically written in their adopted and transcribed way: *Europa, Azija, Sjeverna Amerika, Južna Amerika, Afrika, Australija, Francuska, Italija, Grenland, Sinaj, Himalaja*.” The same is true for the oikonyms whose names are accepted in their exonymic forms, like *Atena, Beč, Budimpešta, Bukurešt, Havana, Kairo, Krakov, Pariz, Prag, Rim, Solun, Varšava, Venecija*. On the other hand, foreign oikonyms are recorded in the way they are written in their languages of origin, with respect to the transliteration and transcription rules. Some instances for that are: Amsterdam, Liverpool, Newcastle, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, La Paz (*Hrvatski pravopis; Badurina, Marković, Mićanović 2007*).

In accordance with the previously mentioned rules, lexicographical articles follow the norm of “writing original forms of geographical names in the Latin alphabet together with the correct foreign pronunciation in detailed phonetic transcription. Names written in other, non-Latin, alphabets (Cyrillic, Greek and Arabic, etc.) are presented in their common Croatian form, with precise transcription in Latin alphabet, and with already mentioned phonetic transcription.” Examples of this rule are: *Beč* (Germ. Wien, Cz. Vídeň, Hung. Bécs, Slov. Dunaj) or *Moskva* [Rus. pronun. maskva'] (Rus. Москва). Likewise, this principle of writing exonyms is applied in some other foreign encyclopedias (Leira 2006).

2. DIFFICULTIES WITH UNEVEN AND INCONSISTENT USAGE OF EXONYMS

The variety of the ways in which one can write different Croatian exonyms derived from diverse languages and alphabets assume the existence of frequent discrepancies that, accidentally or on purpose, can be found in numerous scientific and professional books, school atlases, textbooks and newspapers. Such an inconsistency calls for the urgent need for standardization of toponyms. The same problem occurs even in Croatian lexicographical publications (lexicons, encyclopedias and atlases), that have been rightfully accepted in the collective consciousness as a source of the most standardized criteria in Croatian written culture, and have therefore been considered as one of the most authoritative editions for recording exonyms. That is because those publications have for decades promoted scientifically established forms of exonyms, with the goal of their acceptance in the general public communication in such a standardized form. Besides that, one has to bear in mind that encyclopedias and lexicons are very often the media of the first contact with the toponyms in one's life. For that reason, the awareness of the existing problem of inconsistency and a search for its acceptable solution has become even more important.

The problem of the discrepancy in writing exonyms is mostly due to the lack of a single standardized database which composed of the most used, as well as the most disputable exonyms. The existence of such a scientifically established list (database) of toponyms would greatly help the lexicographers and cartographers in their work and, furthermore, it would consequently ensure the promotion and the acceptance of unique, systematized, coherent and unequivocal forms of exonyms through atlases and other types of lexicographical editions in general public usage. Additional problems lie partly in the proliferation of various orthographic handbooks in Croatia, as could have been already noticed, which simply the possibilities of using different, but officially accepted, rules for writing exonyms (for example, the rules concerning writing capital letters).

In order to corroborate the above mentioned problems, in this research we have used some of the most obvious examples taken from thirteen lexicographical and cartographical publications (few editions of "General Encyclopedia", "Croatian Encyclopedia", "World Atlas", "Croatian Family Lexicon", "Croatian Encyclopedic Dictionary"), in addition to the official list of country names produced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, and "The Alphabetical List of Countries and their Abbreviations" published in the "Official Journal" of the Republic of Croatia.

3. NAMES OF COUNTRIES, REGIONS, COUNTIES

3.1. Country names

The highest degree of consistency in recording geographical names in Croatian language has been obtained in the case of the country names. The majority of those names has domiciled, traditional, adjusted and mostly unequivocal Croatian form of exonyms, such as *Italija, Francuska, Njemačka, Belgija, Kanada* etc. According to the “Croatian Orthography”: “We traditionally speak and write the names of countries and states like: *Albanija, Austrija, Bavarska... Mađarska/Madžarska, Nizozemska, Paragvaj...*” The word formation of the country names is in accordance with the rules concerning the way of writing foreign names. Hence, “the names of countries must be written according to their pronunciation: *Alžir, Ekvador, Fidži, Katar, Lihtenštajn, Mauricijus, Sejšeli...*” Similarly, “The Handbook of Current Croatian Usage” (*Hrvatski jezični savjetnik; Barić... (et al.) 1999*) explains the word formation of Croatian country names: “The names of foreign countries must be phonetized in Croatian, for instance *Jamajka*, not Jamaica, *Šri Lanka* instead of Sri Lanka etc.” Despite the general rule of recording country names, there are a certain number of instances that still seem to be controversial, because their form has not been accepted in a standardized, unique manner. Table 1 lists examples of the most inconsistent country names found in the titles of the analyzed articles.

Table 1: Some examples of different forms of country names in Croatian language

FORMS OF COUNTRY NAMES	
The Bahamas BAHAMA BAHAMI	Mauritania MAURETANIJA MAURITANIJA
Bahrain BAHREIN BAHRAJN BAHREIN (BAHRAIN)	Myanmar MIANMAR MIJANMAR MJANMA
Equatorial Guinea EKVATORSKA GVINEJA EKVATORIJALNA GVINEJA	BURMA (MJANMA, MYANMA, MYANMAR) MIJANMAR (MIANMAR)
Guinea-Bissau GVINEJA BISAU GVINEJA BISAO	Moldova MOLDAVIJA (MOLDOVSKA, MOLDOVA) MOLDAVIJA (MOLDOVA) MOLDAVIJA

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GVINEJA BISAO (BISAU)	MOLDOVA
Cape Verde KAPVERDSKI OTOCI ZELENORTSKA REPUBLIKA (KAPVERDSKI OTOCI) ZELENORTSKI OTOCI (KAPVERDSKI OTOCI) ZELENORTSKA REPUBLIKA KABO VERDE	Cote d'Ivoire OBALA BJELOKOSTI OBALA BJELOKOSTI (OBALA SLONOVE KOSTI) BJELOKOSNA OBALA COTE D'IVOIRE
Korea, DPRK KOREJA, DNR SJEVERNA KOREJA KOREJA, SJEVERNA (DNR/NR)	Sao Tome and Principe SAN TOME I PRINSIPE SVETI TOMA I PRINSIPE SVETI TOMA I PRINCIP
Korea, ROK KOREJA, REPUBLIKA JUŽNA KOREJA KOREJA, JUŽNA (R)	Solomon Islands SOLOMONSKI OTOCI SALAMUNOVI OTOCI SALOMONSKI OTOCI SALAMUNSKI OTOCI (SOLOMONSKI OTOCI) SOLOMONOVI OTOCI
Latvia LETONIJA (LATVIJA) LATVIJA LETONIJA	Saint Kitts and Nevis SVETI KRISTOFOR I NEVIS SVETI KITS I NEVIS SVETI KITTS I NEVIS (SVETI KRISTOFOR I NEVIS) SVETI KRISTOFER I NEVIS
Hungary MADŽARSKA MAĐARSKA MAĐARSKA (MADŽARSKA)	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland VELIKA BRITANIJA I SJEVERNA IRSKA VELIKA BRITANIJA UJEDINJENA KRALJEVINA VELIKE BRITANIJE I SJEVERNE IRSKE UJEDINJENO KRALJEVSTVO
Maldives MALEDIVI (MALDIVI) MALDIVI MALEDIVI	

3.2. Names of subnational territorial units

Unlike country names which have Croatian exonymic forms, and therefore one should use these Croatian forms of the names, there are certain types of toponyms with which one can not be sure if the domesticated (Croatian) version should be applied, or the foreign (usually Anglicized) form is a better solution. Neither Croatian orthographic nor language handbooks offer a concrete solution in this regard. According to "The Handbook of Current Croatian

Usage”, the names of the subnational territorial units (states, provinces, counties, regions) are mostly written in their original form, such as Utah, Minnesota, Idaho or New York. The exception to this rule are the names of those territorial units which have the phonetized Croatian form due to their specific historical identity, like *Havaji*, *Aljaska*, *Šleska*, *Lorena*. According to the “Croatian Orthography”, the proper way of writing the names of regions, provinces and settlements is that: “Subunits of the countries as well as the place names have to be written in the original form, unless they have obtained Croatian forms due to historic links: Ardennes (French department), Hessen (German federal *Land*), Minnesota (US state)... In that way, one can distinguish *Alžir* (country) from Alger (department and city), or *Meksiko* (country) from Ciudad de México (city), or *Gvatemala* (country) from Guatemala (city).“

Despite these prescribed rules, the question still remains which toponyms have acquired a domesticated exonymic form and which exist as Croatian exonyms due to long established relationships, and which do not. Should one use a Croatian, mainly (but not always) unequivocal form of a certain region in the title of the lexicographical article (for instance, *Zapadna Australija*, *Aljaska*, *Južna Dakota*, *Kalifornija*, *Britanska Kolumbija*), or should one write their endonymic forms only (like New South Wales, Western Australia, Alaska, South Dakota, California, British Columbia), or should one make a compromise and use both forms, for example: New South Wales (*Novi Južni Wales*), Alaska (*Aljaska*), South Dakota (*Južna Dakota*), California (*Kalifornija*), British Columbia (*Britanska Kolumbija*)? Examples of such names are abundant worldwide, but it appears that this problem is especially pronounced in the case of some US and Australian federal states as well as Canadian provinces, which have (or have not?) been domesticated under the influence of the generally increased level of the knowledge of the English language in comparison to other languages (for example, *Havaji*, *Sjeverna Karolina*, *Sjeverni Teritorij*, *Južna Australija*, *Tasmanija*, *Teksas*, *Viktorija*, *Zapadna Virdžinija* etc).

4. THE PROBLEMS OF ADJECTIVAL FORMS

When using exonyms, one encounters further dilemmas, particularly when recording adjectival forms of toponyms (with suffixes -ski, -ški, -čki, -ov, -in). A good way to illustrate this problem is to analyze names of islands, mountains, inland waters or seas. That is because those types of toponyms are most often (whenever it has been adjusted to the rules for the Croatian word formation) written in an adjectival form (for instance, *Aljaski zaljev* instead of *zaljev Aljaska*; *Hudsonov zaljev* instead of *zaljev Hudson*; *Torresov prolaz*, not *prolaz Torres*). But if an adjectival form significantly differs from the Croatian linguistic system and its usual ways of spelling toponyms so that it would have become unrecognizable or even awkward to use, one is encouraged to use toponyms in their endonymic form (for instance, *zavala Sierra Leone*, *zaljev Carpentaria*, *prolaz Kadavu*, *laguna Tamiahua*). The same applies to those cases where Croatian exonyms have not yet been domesticated, and also for autochthonous, endonymic forms that have gradually been accepted into the Croatian language. The solutions

to these problems often lead to repeating appellatives (for example, *jezero Lago di Garda*, *rijeka Rio Negro*, *planina/gorje Blue Mountains*, *rt Cabo da Roca*).

Table 2 refers to the differences in writing of the names of islands, bays, lakes and mountains in the analyzed lexicographical publications. In some instances they have been written in their accepted adjectival forms although those forms have not been identically used due to different rules of transcription and transliteration (like *Balkaško*, *Balhaško* ili *Balqaško jezero*). In other cases foreign forms of geographical names have been used (such as Baffin Island, Virgin Islands).

Table 2: Examples of adjectival and other forms of nesonyms, names of bays, lakes and mountains in analyzed editions

TYPE OF TOPONYMS	ADJECTIVE FORMS	OTHER FORMS
NESONYMS	Baffinov O/otok, Baffinova Z/zemlja	Baffin Island
	Bermudski otoci	Bermuda, Bermudi, Bermudas
	Cookovi otoci, Cookovo otočje	Cook Islands, otočje Cook, Kukovi otoci*
	Djevičanski otoci, Djevičansko otočje	Virgin Islands, Virgin
	Ferojski otoci, Farski otoci, Farerski otoci, Ovčji otoci	Faerøerne, Føroyar,
	Kajmanski otoci, Caymansko otočje	Cayman Islands, Caymans, otočje Cayman
	Kokosovi otoci, Cocosko otočje	Cocos Islands, otočje Cocos
	Marshallski otoci,** Marshallovi otoci	otočje Maršal, otoci Marshall
NAMES OF BAYS	Akabski zaljev, Akapski zaljev	zaljev Aqaba
	Foxeov zaljev	zaljev Foxe
	Mannarski zaljev	zaljev Mannar
	Šelihov zaljev, zaljev Šelehova, zaljev Šelihova	-
	Tonkinški zaljev, Tonkinski zaljev,	zaljev Tonkin
HYDRONYMS	Balhaško jezero, Balkaško jezero, Balqaško jezero	-
	Ladoško jezero	jezero Ladoga
	Oneško jezero	jezero Onega
ORONYMS	Apalačko gorje	Appalachian Mountains, Appalachians, gorje Appalachian
	Kaskadno gorje, Kaskadsko gorje, Kaskadne planine	Cascade Range, gorje Cascade
	Primorsko gorje, Obalno gorje	Coast Ranges

When analyzing oronyms, hydronyms and sea names it has been noticed that geographical objects which transcend country and linguistic borders, as is the case with long international rivers, divided mountain ranges, larger seas etc., are written with different names depending on the local form used in a country in which the object is situated. As an example one can use the article about Danube from the "Croatian Encyclopedia" in which all forms of its name are mentioned (*Dunav*, *Donau*, *Dunaj*, *Duna*, Дунав, *Dunărea*, *Donava*, Дунай). The same is true for *Amu-Darja* river (Dar'yo'i Amu, Amyderya, Amudaryó, Amudar'ja, Ёayhun), as well as for the Alps (*Alpen*, *Alpe*, *Alpi*). This kind of practice is also common with inscription names on maps.

5. VARIETY OF SOURCES

The great diversity of forms of toponyms that can be found in different Croatian lexicographical editions can be attributed to the fact that lexicographers and cartographers consult not only national, Croatian sources, but also foreign publications (atlases, maps, encyclopedias, lexicons, expert publications and reliable Internet web pages). In those publications a large number of geographical names from non-Latin alphabets has already been transliterated in Latin alphabet, but with English, not Croatian graphemes. For that reason, one can find a great diversity in recording toponyms in various lexicographical publications. A significantly greater proportion of those discrepancies concerns writing place names, especially those transliterated from non-Latin letters, like Arabic, Hebrew, Chinese, Greek, Persian and Russian etc.

To corroborate this claim one can consider the rules of the "Croatian Orthography", which state: "To avoid inconsistencies as much as possible and to abandon the practice which differs from the present time, when using proper names from languages that do not use either Latin or Cyrillic alphabets, one should use their original form transcribed into Latin. If transcriptions containing Latinized forms, which have been retained from the times of foreign domination, are nowadays replaced with transcriptions adjusted to the national languages, or if entirely new names are accepted, one must respect the forms used in those countries today. According to this rule one has to write: Ganga (for Ganges), Dili (for Delhi), Kalikata (for Kalkutta or Calcutta), Lanka (for Ceylon), Cape Abiad (for Cape Bon), El Qahira (for Kairo), Ed Dar el Beida (for Casablanca) etc."

The examples in table 3 indicate a great difference in writing names of deserts, mountains, rivers and settlements, which is partly due to variety of analyzed sources and partly due to the implementation of various rules for transcription and transliteration. As is evident, some toponyms, especially Arabic ones, can be found in five or more different forms, depending on the publications analyzed. The most notorious examples are Rub al-Hali desert, and the cities of Alexandria, Mogadishu and Cairo. In some instances the differences have been

exacerbated by renaming old name forms that have been introduced in Croatian language from old Russian forms (Kijev, Lavov) into the new Ukrainian forms (Київ i.e. Kyiv, or Львів i.e. L'viv).

Table 3: Examples of inconsistent writing of some toponyms.

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES OF		
DESERTS, MOUNTAINS, RIVERS	SETTLEMENTS	
Dašt-e Kavir	Aleksandrija	Kijev
Dasht-i-Kavir	Al-Iskandariyat	Kyiv
Dasht-e Kavir	Al-Iskandariya	Kyjiv
Rub al-Khali	Al Iskandariyah	Kiev
Rub' al Khali	al-Iskandariya	Kiiv
Rub al-Hali	El Iskandariya	Lavov
Ar Rab' al Khali	Alžir	Lvov
Ar Rub al Hali	Alger	L'viv
al-Rub' al Hali	Al-Gaza'ir	L'vov
ar-Rub' al-Hali	El-Gaza'ir	L'wow
Takla Makan	el-Jaza'ir	Lwiw
Taklimakan	El Djeza'ir	Mogadishu
Hindukuš	El Jezair	Mogadisho
Hindu Kush	Ašgabat	Muqdisho
Karakorum	Ašhabad	Muqdišo
Karakoram	Ašhabat	Mogadiš
Tien Shan	Asgabat	Maqdišu
Tian Shan	Ashabad	Maqdishu
Huang Ho	Beirut	Mugdiisho
Huangho	Bejrut	Mogadiscio
Huang He	Bairut	Navplion
Hwang	Bayrut	Nafplio
Hwang Ho	Beyrouth	Nižni Novgorod
Is'kr	Iraklion	Nižnij Novgorod
Iskar	Iraklij	Nižnji Novgorod
Jenisej	Herakleion	Tokyo
Enisej	Erakleio	Tokio

Sir-Darja	Irakleion	Taškent
Syr Darja	Iraklio	Toškent
Syr-Da'rja	Jekaterinburg	Toshkent
Sir Darija	Ekaterinburg	Tel Aviv-Yafo
Yangtze	Kairo	Tel Aviv-Jaffa
Jangce	Al-Qahira	Vicebsk
Yangzijiang	Al Qahirah	Vitebsk
Yang-tse-kiang	al-Qahira	Vilnius
Chang Jiang	al-Kahira	Vil'njus
Chang Chiang	El Qahira	Vilna

6. CONCLUSIONS

This paper addresses only certain dilemmas and issues that accompany the usage of toponyms for foreign geographical objects, which most creators of Croatian atlases and other lexicographical publications, such as cartographers, i.e. map editors, article authors and editor-in-chiefs, probably encounter. Solutions to these problems can be achieved only by dedicated, collaborative work of the group comprising notable experts and scientists from the areas of linguistics (toponomastics), geography, cartography, history, lexicography etc. One of the main aims of such a group of experts should be to make a comprehensive database of Croatian as well as the most frequently used, or at least the most debatable foreign geographical names, according to the recommendations of the UNGEGN.

If we assume that lexicographers are truly aware of the educational, cultural and informative role of lexicography in the process of development of human society, as well as their first-class role in maintaining the identity of a specific community, then their work should, among other things, comprise systematic monitoring of changes in rules for writing geographical names, just as they should apply the existent set of rules in a consistent and systematic manner. By continually recording inevitable discrepancies, lexicographers should do a thorough work of removing or significantly reducing these irregularities. They should also constantly bear in mind the great importance of safeguarding geographical names as elements of cultural heritage, and should be aware of the positive/negative consequences of promoting (in)accurate toponyms among general public as well as in professional and scientific community.

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