

## CREATION OF A MULTILINGUAL ELECTRONIC DICTIONARY OF GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS FOR STANDARDIZATION OF TOPONYMIC NAMES OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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### ABSTRACT

*The article discusses that from an economic point of view, it is advisable to standardize most toponyms in accordance with the approved principles, strategies and procedures. Field research on place names involves collecting toponymic information through interviews with selected informants who regularly use local names in their daily speech. The creation of archive files and the registration of toponyms are becoming an important resource of the national culture. Collecting place names is valuable not only for standardization and cartography purposes, but also for toponymy students and academics specializing in social linguistics and history. To store toponymic records, simple word processing software, spreadsheets, or databases can be used.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Geographical Objects, Toponymy, Standardization, Names, Cartography, Electronic Dictionary, Archival Materials.*

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### INTRODUCTION

Geographic names mean a lot to many! They are imprinted in our minds as everyday landmarks, as integral parts of local or national history, or, perhaps, as places with which something special is connected or about which something interesting can be told. For a cartographer or geographic information systems (GIS) specialist, they serve as an important element in georeferencing. For all people, place names can be either an accurate communication tool or a source of confusion and misunderstanding.

In order to avoid confusion, it is necessary to carry out some standardization of geographical names and their use. Although standardization has probably been thought about for a long time, it was not until the Fifth International Geographic Congress, held in 1891 in Bern, Switzerland, that the German geographer Albrecht Penck first proposed to apply this concept on a worldwide scale. He put forward the idea of creating a map of the world at a scale of 1: 1,000,000 (1 to 1 million), not only taking over cartographic projection, symbolization and design, but also proposing a standardized spelling of geographical names [1].

Systematic communication of the terminology used in the standardization of geographical names is an important basis for mutual understanding. In 1984, the United Nations published a publication entitled Glossary No. 330: Technical Terminology Used in the Standardization of Geographical Names [2]. Subsequently, the working group on toponymic terminology made

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some clarifications and added definitions. Experts from various language groups translated the new English text; some language versions have been published (eg Chinese, German), others can be found on the Internet (eg French).

A new multilingual "Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names" was published by the United Nations in 2002 and is available in a six-language format. The Working Group will continue to monitor the use of terms and prepare updated and revised versions of the Glossary. Also in Uzbekistan, a group of scientists within the framework of the AL-412104512 project "Creation of a multilingual electronic dictionary for geographical objects of Uzbekistan" are working on the creation of this dictionary.

The use and meaning of place names, as well as their written forms, require careful study, especially when more than one language is involved. The research work includes: evaluation of field and other reports related to toponyms; examination of reports on research work carried out by regional and local committees; verification of the information received by informants from the local population; preparation of a comprehensive report for submission to the national geographical names authority for further decision-making.

The identification of place names in the field provides a basis for decisions on authorizing the use of place names in cartography and documentation. In addition, due to the identification of local names (possibly, before that existed only in oral tradition), a significant amount of knowledge accumulated by the local population and part of the historical heritage of the region are preserved.

Field research on place names involves collecting toponymic information through interviews with selected informants who regularly use local names in their daily speech. In addition, it includes field studies of the written forms of names found, in particular, on signposts or in local documents. Field research by highly trained experts is an ideal method of obtaining information on the local use of place names and their applications. Moreover, some toponymic information can only be obtained through field research, especially when it comes to linguistic data. It is also important to note that fieldwork is the best way to distinguish between the established official name and that used by the local population.

Local toponymic research is carried out in order to find out how the local people use place names in relation to the elements of their environment. This process includes clarifying and applying names that already exist on the map, and collecting local names that do not appear on maps. A stay in an area or settlement can be short (part of the day) or longer (several days). The length of stay in a given area depends on the assignment or assignments received. If there are two or more linguistic communities in an area, the names used by each community should be recorded. As far as possible, the researcher should be familiar with the languages used in the area or be able to seek appropriate assistance.

If toponymic research is limited in time or is carried out in sparsely populated areas, then the volume of work on interviewing residents is small. Only a few people will need to be interviewed, and in most cases the researcher interviews anyone they can find.

National standardization is an interoperability program, as noted in resolutions adopted by the United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names (for example, 1967 Conference resolution I / 4A). It said that the Conference recommends that national geographical names authorities make full use of the services of surveyors, cartographers, geographers,

linguists and other specialists to effectively carry out their tasks. You can use the help of not only surveyors and cartographers, but also local and regional offices for place names, which may have already collected information on local names.

Linguists, geographers and geologists working at universities and in the public service who periodically conduct field research can also provide assistance. In some countries where fieldwork is part of the curriculum, trained student volunteers can be successfully recruited into field research.

From an economic point of view, it is advisable to standardize most place names in accordance with the approved principles, strategies and procedures. However, in cases where there are specific problems regarding the choice and use of a toponym, research is often required. It is important to have a clear understanding of these issues and related factors. An essential element of the standardization process is staff assessment and the normalization and processing of geographic names. Employees are responsible for performing a range of possible procedures, including:

- ✓ collection of information about toponyms;
- ✓ research and study of toponyms and their application;
- ✓ maintaining an official file of standard names and their variants;
- ✓ Dissemination of information on standard names to a wide range of users;
- ✓ providing direct support to National Geographic Names Committees through the preparation of toponym reports and other information material necessary for the implementation of the decision-making process;
- ✓ preparation of working materials and instructions for subsequent field studies and analysis of information provided after the completion of field work [3].

Systematized information about toponyms can be stored in computer files and / or in hard copy. Regardless of the technique (or techniques) used, a significant portion of the work time will be spent processing and organizing these records. Careful consideration should be given to what information and to what extent needs to be collected in order to achieve the objectives of standardization. Overly ambitious plans can lead to the failure of what was intended as a viable program designed solely for the purpose of standardizing the written forms of toponyms and their application.

The minimum or most necessary amount of information that is required for a toponym is its writing, the identification of the geographic object to which the name belongs, and the location of the object. However, experience has shown that more information should be provided for the registration of each place name. Users need a sufficient amount of information to easily locate the object they are looking for, avoid misunderstandings associated with the intended use of its name, and be aware of the existence of other names that relate (or have been) to this object.

Optimal information required to record an official name includes:

- ✓ written form of the official name;
- ✓ all other known variants of the name, which at the present time or in the historical past were correlated with the same object, place, area;

- ✓ location and identification of the geographical feature to which the given name belongs, through the use of a number of parameters, including:
- ✓ location of the object in the administrative district;
- ✓ geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude) and / or topographic (flat rectangular) coordinates;
- ✓ standard edition of the geographical map (maps) on which the given object appears;
- ✓ a standard explanatory term (sometimes referred to as an index, class, type or category of an object) that clearly indicates the type of object being named (eg lake, river, hill, mountain, bay) [1].

When registering toponyms in each case, special attention should be paid to the generic term (for example, "Kurgan" in "Katta Kurgan"; "Tepa" in "Kichik tepa") used locally for each toponym, unless in local variants the toponym does not exist without generic element. A generic term, often a separate word, is an integral part of most place names and should be included in the official name as part of it. Of course, in some written languages, the generic term is contained in the name itself, forming a single word form. To avoid misunderstandings, if necessary, this can be explained to persons unfamiliar with the written language. Both the meanings of generic terms used locally and any meanings that deviate from the standard use of the toponym should be recorded.

Determining the written form of the name is only part of the standardization process. It is equally important to establish a link between names and the geographical features they represent. In other words, you need to answer the question: To which object does this name refer? This requires the following information:

- ✓ identification and determination of the location of the place, object or area to which the given name belongs;
- ✓ a description of the size of each named object;
- ✓ if necessary, clarification of the hierarchical relationships between associated named objects (for example, between a peak and the mountain on which it is located).

The creation of archive files and the registration of toponyms are becoming an important resource of the national culture. Collecting place names is valuable not only for standardization and cartography purposes, but also for toponymy students and academics specializing in social linguistics and history. To ensure that records are retained in the future, planning and archiving of materials is necessary.

To store toponymic records, simple word processing software, spreadsheets, or databases can be used. Before starting work, you should thoroughly check the relevant data fields, the convenience of their download and update programs, and the ability to obtain the necessary output. This will help ensure that effective software is selected to handle all the necessary diacritics and create an adequate storage system. It is recommended that the software chosen be compatible with digital mapping systems (eg national mapping authority systems) for which it should provide data entry.

The Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names recognized the potential of the Internet to meet the goals of national and international

standardization of geographical names. It also recognized the importance of countries preserving their unique toponymic heritage and promoting the international use of their nationally standardized names by all means, including the Internet. In its resolution VII / 93, the Conference recommended the establishment of national toponymic websites and their use for a variety of purposes, including:

- ✓ information on the standardization of geographical names;
- ✓ toponymic directories;
- ✓ information on training courses in toponymy;
- ✓ databases of names, standardized at the national level (in other words, making them widely available);
- ✓ interactive tools for processing geographical names requests;
- ✓ a way to simplify the exchange of toponymic data at the international level [2].

Computer databases and online training courses are part of the United Nations training programs. The necessary details and examples in the field of toponymic data storage can be found in the technical papers presented at the United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names and in the proceedings of the meetings of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. In addition, the website of the Group of Experts and the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy of the Group of Experts contains links for additional material.

In cartography, the use of the name is of great importance. The field researcher should define and clearly identify the local use of names and, equally important, report when the local use of a name is not clearly defined. This information is important to the office staff and the geographical names authority when deciding whether to apply the approved name. The authority may use this information to determine in a logical (sometimes arbitrary) way the specific limits of a given object. Such decisions are important for specifying where to place the name on maps, and for other cases where it is necessary to clearly define the size of named objects. In such cases, logical boundaries usually do not conflict with local use and, if clearly defined, are accepted by the local population.

Determining the exact limits of an object has always been of great importance. This has now become even more important for toponymists, as the geographic names database software allows the geometry of objects to be stored and displayed, that is, their digital boundaries.

Based on the foregoing, it can be concluded that all information should be presented impartially. It is not the task of researchers to make decisions about the choice of an official name. Nevertheless, this does not deprive them of the right to make comments or recommendations, since, due to their presence in a particular area, researchers may possess special information regarding toponyms and specific problems associated with them.

It is known that in areas where residents are nomadic or make seasonal movements on land or along the coast, not one but several names may be used for different objects. For example, different groups of nomads may have different names for the objects they pass by. It is also important to take into account the fact that hierarchical relationships between speech terms are revealed in the process of using names in everyday speech. Situations in different languages

differ and depend on how the elements of the surrounding landscape are perceived in terms of their connection with the name.

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