

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMING AND ROLE OF GEOINFORMATICS. APPLICATIONS FOR MULTIPLE NAMINGS

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There are too many examples when the same geographical object has many place-names. It is often because objects are named in different languages. Man distinguishes a few approaches in transmission of foreign place-names: when native official form is used (Estado Español, Kongeriket Norge, Republik Österreich, Suomen Tasavalta, or brief form: España [Spain], Norge [Norway], Österreich [Austria], Suomi [Finland]); phonetical – when original pronunciation is simulated; transliteration, when each letter receives its English equivalent; translation (Severnaya Dvina – Northern Dvina, Grønland - Greenland) and, at last, when we name so countries as Deutschland, Ayastan, Sakartvelo, Choson as Germany, Armenia, Georgia, Korea according to tradition. Even on the maps of the same multilingual country, such as Russia, Belgium, Switzerland we can easily find examples when many place-names are used for one geographical object, it maybe even the name of country - Schweiz, Suisse, Svizzera. It is also typical for lingering objects, situated in places where people speaking in different languages live, for example for rivers – Danube, Donau, Dunav, Dunarea and others. Often objects have a few names after discovering by foreign traveler when they receive new names together with original one. At that reverse replacement has been occurred. Man may remember mass renaming after liberation of African countries. International community (in particular official UN bodies) try to regulate this process, but nevertheless many disputable (for different countries) names still exist, for example Persian or Arabic Gulf, Japan or East Sea, Falkland Islands or Islas Malvinas. In this cases the variant of place-name reflects aspiration to denote sovereignty or protection over territory (area of water), that may sometimes cause a military conflicts – such as the war between Argentina and Great Britain. Does civilized decision possible in such cases? Let's consider the last example. Both names Falkland - Malvinas Islands exist simultaneously on maps printed in many countries, sometimes together with special mark (disputable territories).

Such questions need a special decision in times when computer maps have been used more and more. Catalogues of place-names have been created in many countries, so it is possible to store all names which have any geographic object. Than characteristics need which will

describe time period when a place-name was used, description – why a place-name changed (although different opinions are possible) and so on? But nevertheless the reader of computer map will receive much more information to draw his own conclusion. It will be timely to make this work at present time, when creation of national and international regional spatial data infrastructures (SDI) is going on at full steam. After USA projects of SDI becomes incarnates in a number of international and national organizations, such as Global SDI (GSDI), Canadian SDI (CSDI), SDI of Australia and New Zealand (ASDI), Asian-Pacific SDI (APSDI), European national initiatives in frames of Paneuropian (EUROGI). Basic spatial information in SID usually understand as collection of “basic”, “fundamental”, the most needed layers and groups of GIS, with content corresponding with basic map. Moreover, the layer of place-names should be one of it’s main layers, and this layer should be informative enough, permit use plurality of place-names, and inform in details about them.

Moreover, subsystem of place-names sooner or later will contain elements of intellectuality. Let’s, for example, analyze the next series of place-names: Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Gambia, Georgia, Jordan and Nicaragua. Of cause, every geographer can says that this is countries enumeration, but the same enumeration may be transformed in the way when the same place-names will mean:

- a) rivers – Congo, Gambia, Jordan, Danube, Mississippi, Nile;
- b) lakes – Chad, Nicaragua, Victoria, Baikal;
- c) straights – Denmark, Georgia, Gibraltar, Dardanelles, Magellan, Dover, Cook, Davis;
- d) volcanoes – Cameroon, Etna, Popocatepetl;
- e) cities – Djibouti, Moscow, London.

At this time, because of another neighborhood we will give to place-names other meaning, at that this notional branching may be continued. Let’s consider rivers. We will add Albany, Arkansas, Churchill, Colorado, Columbia, Connecticut, Delaware, Humboldt, Illinois, Kabul, Mississippi, Ohio, Orange, Sabine, Salmon, Salt, Steward, Swan, White in addition to earlier mentioned. Among these place-names are: a) cities - Albany, Columbia, Delaware, Kabul, Orange, b) states - Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Mississippi, Ohio, and if we want get out of place-names multitude, than by adding Bismarck, Clinton, Lincoln, Washington to a Churchill river we receive a number of politics. Here we can also find a list of cities (Bismarck, Clinton, Lincoln, Washington). If we group cities in other way (Lincoln, Mercedes, Toyota) together with Ford and Volkswagen anybody says that this is car marks. Cities as Zanzibar, Grenada together with Christmas turn into the islands, but Christmas itself together with Easter и Annunciation are holydays. Cape May together with January, February and so on are months, and city Leon combined with tiger and leopard are predators. If you turn to the list of rivers mentioned in the beginning of this paragraph you can easily find other continuations. Anybody can easily define sense of a list of names, classify them, the same must do heuristical program. In this case a system of place-names will use right notional association, which should be used and taken into account when plurality of place-names occured. A reader can test all existing kinds of place-names translation, search notional associations, select needed material connected with history of place-names. In other words, technological progress lets us describe geographical objects in more ways, using for their description all that humankind collect through the ages.