

## **The use of exonyms in Slovene language with special attention on the sea names**

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*In Slovenia, as in many countries of the world, we are faced with mixed national structure; it should be carefully studied and elaborated. On the other hand Slovenes live also outside of the mother country in neighboring countries. Geographical names must be carefully treated and the principle of reciprocity is expected. Exchange of experiences and cooperation of experts on all levels would be of great benefit to all.*

Slovenia is the country in Central Europe which until 1918 was not on maps, was not an administrative entity, and was not in history. Terminologically Slovenia means the “Land of Slavs,” and it borders the non-Slavic world. Slovenes are the most western Slavs in Europe – they border Roman, German and Hungarian neighbors. Slovenia is a state of Slovenes along with two minorities, Italian and Hungarian; while Slovenes also live as indigenous inhabitants of Italy, Austria, and Hungary. Many Slovenes live as immigrants in foreign countries, and Cleveland Ohio, USA, was until recently known as one of the cities with the largest number of Slovenian inhabitants. The most cohesive and nationally conscious group lives in Argentina. This group of Slovenes is those who fled their homes out of fear of communism after the Second World War.

Slovenia came into being with the disintegration of Yugoslavia in 1991, as Yugoslavia was a multinational entity from its birth in 1918. A Yugoslavian nationality never existed, and there was never a Yugoslavian language, nor a Yugoslavian culture. The fact that Slovenia became an independent state is not the result of an egotistical splitting off of the economically more developed part of the former Yugoslavia, but rather a result of the political development of an autonomous nation with its own language and culture, which through hundreds of years of exceptionally persistent aspiration for its own cultural development arrived at its own statehood. Slovenes have had their own language for centuries and their own literature in the Slovene language since 1550. A command of our language does not mean an automatic understanding of other Slavic languages, neither neighboring Croatian nor other languages of the former multinational Yugoslavia. Regarding their culture, Slovenes were always connected to the west and the Catholic Church. We have never had an indigenous Orthodox religion or Cyrillic alphabet. As to Protestants, they have lived in Prekmurje from the reformation on, the area on the other side of the Mura River which was under the control of the Hungarian part of the former Austro-Hungarian Monarchy until 1918.

For an understanding of the cultural development of the Slovenian territory it is important to keep in mind the fact that it belongs to two basic cultures: the Mediterranean as to a land of rock and an interior where there is a preponderance of timber. Their durability is different and for an understanding of cultural development this is exceptionally important.

Because of its exceptionally important strategic position, and regarding the fact the main roads for commerce from middle and southeastern Europe and from the Italian area to the Balkans and the Pannonian lowland coursed across the Slovenian territory, it is understandable that this region was populated very early. Regarding material traces the most precious find up to now from the pre-metal age is a Neanderthal tibia; this find completely shook previous beliefs about the intellectual capacity of Neanderthals. As to written sources the earliest mention of our territory is connected with the tale of Argonauts searching for links to the northern Adriatic through rivers which are in present-day Slovenia (Granda, 1992).

Countries of the world – entities of all types, like Slovenia are constantly faced with many problems and with complex political situations. All this is somehow reflected in the application use of geographical names. For contemporary world it is very much in front, though not completely realized, effort of creation of so-called national states. In fact this is an effort of realization of the idea: one nation, one state. This is also strongly underlined with the need for the respect of human right. However this is a very complex and time-consuming process and unfortunately in many countries of the world, it is far away to be realized. However, life is going on and geographical names are extensively used.

Each entity in the world is faced with the following groups of geographical names:

1. Names within the state borders, most often used in the predominant official language,
2. Geographical names within the state borders, in one or several other than official predominant nation language/s,
3. Geographical names of one or many entities, in the border area or language islands within the neighboring country (outside the mother country),
4. "Pure" exonyms, this are usually names in more distant geographical parts of the world and
5. Foreign geographical names.

Geographical names listed under number 1 and 2 are with no doubt pure endonyms and the others are exonyms. Some experts mean that names listed under number 3 are endonyms too. Technically speaking, these names are with no doubt exonyms, because they are geographically located outside the territory of the mother country. These names could be handled as endonyms, but they are, however exonyms with a special status. It must be also underlined that they could be denoted as "soft" geographical names. These geographical names are often not well enough documented, and this should be improved in future. Almost each country can find all of these types of geographical names outside and inside its territory. It would be of great benefit for all entities and good for coexistence of neighboring countries, if experts on geographical names would elaborate these problems carefully. Specialized gazetteers would be of great help. With the exchange of information's among neighboring countries, experts can step by step, come closer to the standardization of these "soft" geographical names.

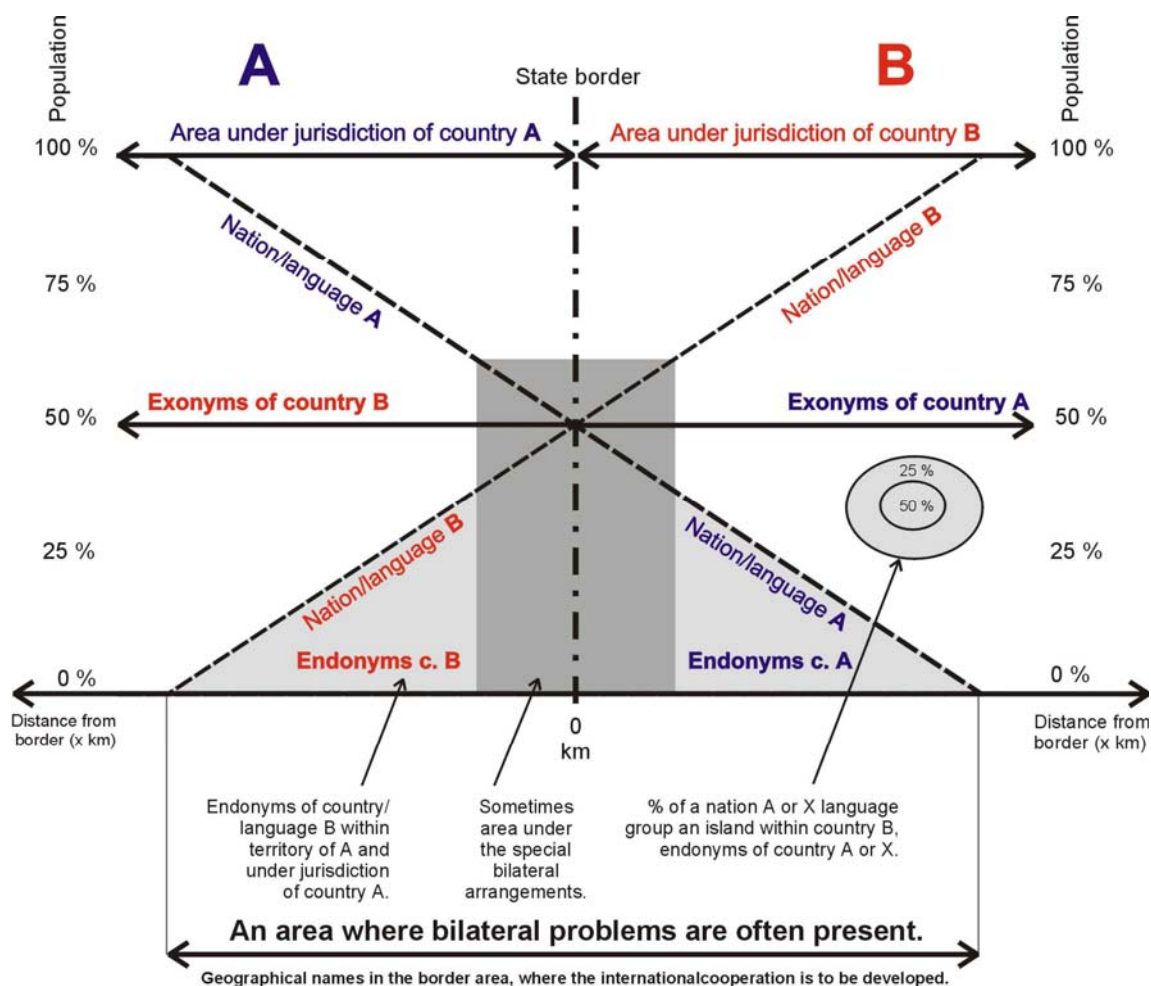


Figure 1: Model of the relation: endonyms – exonym in border area.

Sooner or later, each country is somehow forced to do something and somehow solve these problems. It is not an easy task, firstly because of its complex nature, but it is challenging. It is also always a question of reciprocity among neighboring countries. Geographical names are only one of the many aspects in bilateral relation. Unfortunately it is often a critical question, because almost every one can be faced with it in his everyday life. So, one of the key tasks for national bodies for standardization is to help in the creation and decision-making process of the treatment of geographical names. Many of East Europe's formerly almost hermetically closed borders, are now gone and with a more and more overwhelming process of globalization these problems are changing rapidly too.

Geographical names are very much interlaced with population and historical facts. So geographical names depend greatly on the natural and social conditions of a certain region, and therefore it is the fact that population features can change quickly. However this is not at the first glance the fact with sea names.

After the World War II, a many new political facts changed the World dramatically.

### Treatment of Slovene geographical names in neighboring countries

Geographical names - the regional, water, relief, local site, administrative, and place names - are unique spiritual, cultural, social, historical, linguistic, and political indicators. From them it is possible to recognize many of natural, social, and character features of the past and present of particular inhabited or uninhabited areas on our planet. One of their essential characteristics is linguistic variations, which are often not limited just to the variety of words used but are also written in different scripts. Therefore a mute and silent landscape opens itself in many respects better to the person who can comprehend not only the language of natural characteristics but also penetrate the depths of original nomenclature. The issue of exonyms also reflects the relationship of a particular nation to world events, and language development aspects (Kladnik, 1999).

On one hand, the use of exonyms (and Slovene endonyms in bordering countries) became increasingly common due to the unimagined expansion of information technology, while on the other, a trend toward consistently writing such names in their original form or at best in a transliterated form is becoming stronger. With this the long heritage of the Slovene language, which has a rich tradition in the use of numerous names, would be neglected.

In Slovenia we use according to last elaborations some 2,300 Slovene variations of foreign geographical names (Preliminary Gazetteer of Slovene Exonyms, 2000). Among the Slovene public a relatively lively discussion was developed on this topic. On the one side is the group, which believes that the number of "translated" names should be higher. On the other side was the conception of a relatively small but ever-increasing group, mostly of experts (geographers, geodesists) who are persistently striving for the reverse principle of only a modest amount of translations or Solemnization of geographical names. The Slovene version of a geographical name if exist must be written in a way that is clearly understandable. The Slovene form of the name must be in brackets or written in smaller, different typography. Because of that we now work on an extensive gazetteer of Slovene foreign geographical names.

### **Developmental aspects of exonym usage**

In spite of relatively long and numerous traditions which is much more than hundred years old, the Slovenian corps of exonyms is not coordinated. Their usage is not uniformed, with quite a lot of distinctions. It is strongly influenced by different "experts" who do not have enough knowledge about these topics. They don't know the meaning of exonyms, neither the tradition of their use neither the grammatical rules. Among different types of exonyms only state names are officially standardized (Perko, 1996). The nomenclature of world maps and atlases is also directed by their adaptors to commercial use which are gathered within bigger publishing houses. Their efforts are usually limited by expectation of market success of the project. Principles of naturalizing geographical names are more than by different approaches defined by different kinds of atlases (general atlases, school atlases, road atlases, navigable atlases). Naturalizing of exonyms is much more widespread in everyday usage where the role of literature and journalism is of special importance. In last decade with globalization, computerization, and spreading of modern information technology tendencies for use of endonyms are getting stronger what influence on reach tradition of Slovene language.

In naturalizing foreign geographical names there are some significant phases depend upon different relations of Slovene language to political, economical and cultural reality in the world. From the beginning pan Slavonic tendencies are clearly visible. In that period (second half of 19th century) numerous geographical names on ethnic mixed territories and their

vicinity as a rule were written in one of Slavic languages; among them special important was a role of Czech, Slovak and Polish language. Later the influence of germanisation became more important and after World war I. the role of Serbian language and through it indirectly Russian language gained importance. Before the World war II. and during the war influence of Italian language increased. After the war the influence of English language became predominant, which is specially emphasized in the period of information globalization?

As a consequence there are some exonyms whose usage in past was widespread, but nowadays they are almost totally forgotten and they remain as a part of historical linguistic heritage (for instance Inomost for Innsbruck, Solnograd for Salzburg, Monakovo for München, Turin for Torino, Novi York for New York). On the other hand there are exonyms which in practice are not used any more but they are still stated as examples in Slovenian orthography (for instance Čigago for Chicago, Filadelfija for Philadelphia, Sisek for Sisak). Here there are also exonyms with two different naturalizing forms where older forms from 19th and first decades of 20th century were almost totally changed by newer forms (for instance Rona instead of older Rodan for Rhône, Firenze instead of older Florenca for Firenze). Interesting is the case of Danish capital København which now it is mainly written in original form, but not a long time ago exonym Kopenhagen was commonly in use, which was brought forward as a German exonym. Here there are also geographical names from non Slavic states on the territory of former Soviet Union which as a Slavic nation Slovenes still use in Russian or russified form (for instance Taškent for Toškent, Ašhabad for Ašgabat, Kišinjev for Chişinău, Kijev for Kyjiv).

In analysis only exonyms written in different scripts are elaborated, but differences can be also observed in the pronunciation. There are pretty numerous groups of foreign geographical names which are written wholly in the original form; however there are differences in Slovene pronunciation. This difference can be perceived in nominative and is still more emphasized in declension.

### **List of exonyms in Slovene language on the Internet**

From an elaboration of *Imenik tujih zemljepisnih imen v slovenskem jeziku* (List of Foreign Geographical Names in Slovene Language, 1999), in which complete list of foreign geographical names (with about 5000 names, including variants) is gathered on the basis of indexes in six recent world atlases (Orožen Adamič, 1997), of which particularly three are of great importance (1, 1997; 2, 1991; 11, 1992), on the Internet (<http://www.sigov.si/kszi/ang/exonyms.pdf>) only shortened and cleaned version (with about 3000 names) is available. It contains only those exonyms and some endonyms from neighboring countries, whose usage is obligatory or at least recommended. In the list there is on the left Slovene form of exonym, followed by original name, original language, and name class and name type.

The results of this elaboration must be treated as a working version therefore additional appreciation needs to be done, first of all an exhaustive grammatical survey. For better results the origin of numerous geographical names should be studied thoroughly, especially those with unclear meanings.

In transcribing the original geographical names, different transcriptions of original names may be encountered. Most differences appear among Arabic, Iranian, and Greek names, as well as among names from the territory of the former Soviet Union, where the transcription of names

in the official languages of newly-created countries is still rare or imprecise. In unclear cases, both versions of a name are given since one who is not an expert can not easily say which is more appropriate. Also in cases where the historical names of settlements have changed in the course of time there are several different names given; the naturalized form is usually derived from one of these forms.

The list of languages in which the original forms of geographical names are written has been composed on the basis of knowledge of the characteristics of individual languages and relative to the official languages of individual countries. Only where possible are the multilingual forms of names written in different languages. This applies to countries with various ethnic groups, to larger regions, to larger mountain groups and rivers that cross several countries, and of course to seas. The names of oceans are not entered multilingual but only in English and French; this also applies to the names of continents and larger regional units, which by exception are also written in the language form dominant there.

For appropriate identification, the original name has been added to every naturalized exonym along with the language of the original name and its content-related class. The name class defines the class of exonym relative to its descriptive significant feature. Included in the simplified version are:

- continents,
- regions,
- historical regions,
- administrative units,
- historical administrative units,
- settlements,
- historical settlements,
- parts of settlements,
- oronyms,
- continental hydronyms,
- **maritime hydronyms**,
- coastal relief forms,
- island relief forms,
- submarine relief forms,
- passages,
- inclusive category other (i. e. karst caves, deltas, reservoirs, traffic arteries, etc.).

Finally, an estimate of the suitability of use for the name is offered (in the elaboration List of Foreign Geographical Names in Slovene language there is a five class division, of which on the Internet version only types A and B are available):

- **A** - the use of those names is obligatory (for instance Belgija for Belgium, Havana for La Habana, Nil for Nile),
- **B** - the use of those names is recommended (for instance Caprivijev pas for Caprivi Belt, Črna Volta for Black Volta, Viktorijina dežela for Victoria Land, Galapaški prag for Galapagos Rise),
- **C** - the use of those names is less recommended (for instance Nanking for Nanjing, Prydzov zaliv for Prydz Bay, Velika ribja reka for Great Fish River, Diamantna puščava for Diamond Desert),
- **D** - the use of those names is not recommended or not necessary (for instance Doverska vrata for Dover Strait, Indijska puščava for Indian Desert, Krimskie gore for Krim'ske

- hori, Natronsko jezero for Lake Natron),
- **E - the use of those names is inappropriate** (for instance Aleksandrova zemlja for Zemlja Aleksandry, Velika ravnina for Great Plains, Češki zaliv for Čěškaja guba, Lyonski zaliv for Golfe du Lion, reka Snake for Snake River).

### Sea names or maritime hydronyms

These names are the part of the exonym list. There are only two names which are “domestic”: Jadransko morje (Adriatic Sea) and Sredozemsko morje (Mediterranean Sea). All other names are of this kind were first used in the first edition of world atlas which was published in separate maps in period from 1869 to 1877. We are just now working on the first facsimile reprint. In total only 471 sea hydronyms (2,118 %), out of all in total 22,223 different geographical names are used in this atlas. In the enclosed table there are listed only the names used two or more times. It was understandable that at that period Slovene language was strongly influenced by German cartography. The territory of Slovenia was a part of Habsburg predominantly German speaking country.

The word "Slovenia" first appeared in 1816 in an unpublished poem, and in 1844 it first appeared in print. Among Slovenes at that time, arose the strong cultural and political Iliric movement which advocated stronger cultural and even linguistic ties with the Southern Slavs. National movements reached their peak in the revolutionary year of 1848, when not only feudalism was abolished, but also the basic political principles were established upon which the independent Slovene state was in fact born in 1991. So in this historical context and the period it is understandable that the name Sea of Japan was used.

Table 1: Frequencies of the use of sea names more than only one time in the first world atlas in Slovene language (1869-1877).

No.	Geographical name in Slovene language	Type of the name (sea hydronyms)	Freq.
1.	Severno morje ( <i>North Sea</i> )	morski hidronim	9
2.	Severno ledeno morje	morski hidronim	6
3.	Atlantsko morje ( <i>Atlantic Sea</i> )	morski hidronim	5
4.	Srednje morje ( <i>Mediterranean Sea</i> )	morski hidronim	5
5.	Biskajski zaliv	morski hidronim	4
6.	Jonsko morje	morski hidronim	4
7.	Belo morje	morski hidronim	3
8.	Bengalski zaliv	morski hidronim	3
9.	Beringov preliv	morski hidronim	3
10.	Botniški zaliv	morski hidronim	3
11.	črno morje	morski hidronim	3
12.	Egejsko morje	morski hidronim	3
13.	Faxa Fjord	morski hidronim	3
14.	Genovski zaliv	morski hidronim	3
15.	Indijsko morje	morski hidronim	3
16.	Jadransko morje	morski hidronim	3
17.	Južno ledeno morje	morski hidronim	3
18.	Karantarijski zaliv	morski hidronim	3
19.	Obski zaliv	morski hidronim	3

20.	Ožina Svetega Bonifacija	morski hidronim	3
21.	Persijski zaliv	morski hidronim	3
22.	Siamski zaliv	morski hidronim	3
23.	Tarantski zaliv	morski hidronim	3
24.	Tirensko morje	morski hidronim	3
25.	Vlie Strom	morski hidronim	3
26.	Anadyrski zaliv	morski hidronim	2
27.	Angleški preliv (La Manche)	morski hidronim	2
28.	Arabsko morje	morski hidronim	2
29.	Atlansko Morje	morski hidronim	2
30.	Atlansko morje	morski hidronim	2
31.	Axar Fjord	morski hidronim	2
32.	Bafinov zaliv	morski hidronim	2
33.	Baltiško morje	morski hidronim	2
34.	Bandsko morje	morski hidronim	2
35.	Belo morje (Marmara)	morski hidronim	2
36.	Beneški zaliv	morski hidronim	2
37.	čauński zaliv	morski hidronim	2
38.	česki zaliv	morski hidronim	2
39.	čuhonski zaliv	morski hidronim	2
40.	Davisov preliv	morski hidronim	2
41.	Dollart	morski hidronim	2
42.	Dvinski zaliv	morski hidronim	2
43.	Egejsko Morje	morski hidronim	2
44.	Finski zaliv	morski hidronim	2
45.	Gdanski zaliv	morski hidronim	2
46.	Harafursko morje	morski hidronim	2
47.	Hondurski zaliv	morski hidronim	2
48.	Indijsko Morje	morski hidronim	2
49.	Ise Fjord	morski hidronim	2
50.	Jadransko morje (Adrijatsko morje)	morski hidronim	2
51.	<b>Japonsko morje (Sea of Japan)</b>	morski hidronim	<b>2</b>
52.	Jugorski preliv	morski hidronim	2
53.	Karaibsko ali Antiljsko Morje	morski hidronim	2
54.	Karski preliv	morski hidronim	2
55.	Karski zaliv	morski hidronim	2
56.	Kategat	morski hidronim	2
57.	Koralno morje	morski hidronim	2
58.	Kvarnerski zaliv	morski hidronim	2
59.	Lijonski zaliv	morski hidronim	2
60.	Magelhanova ožina	morski hidronim	2
61.	Malaška ožina	morski hidronim	2
62.	Mali Belt	morski hidronim	2
63.	Mali Kvarner	morski hidronim	2
64.	Mindorsko morje	morski hidronim	2
65.	Mozambiški preliv	morski hidronim	2
66.	Oneški zaliv	morski hidronim	2
67.	Ormuška ožina	morski hidronim	2
68.	Pečeli zaliv	morski hidronim	2
69.	Porsanger Fjord	morski hidronim	2
70.	Riški zaliv	morski hidronim	2
71.	Rumeno morje	morski hidronim	2
72.	Salernski zaliv	morski hidronim	2
73.	Severni preliv	morski hidronim	2
74.	Skaga Fjord	morski hidronim	2



75.	Solo morje	morski hidronim	2
76.	Sortski zaliv	morski hidronim	2
77.	Srednje Morje	morski hidronim	2
78.	Sundsko morje	morski hidronim	2
79.	Tomini zaliv	morski hidronim	2
80.	Tongkingski zaliv	morski hidronim	2
81.	Ungava zaliv	morski hidronim	2
82.	Varanger Fjord	morski hidronim	2
83.	Veliki Belt	morski hidronim	2
84.	Veliko ali Tiho morje	morski hidronim	2
85.	Venezuelski zaliv	morski hidronim	2
86.	Vzhodno ali Baltiško morje	morski hidronim	2
87.	Zuider Zee	morski hidronim	2
	<b>Subtotal number of sea names used two and more times</b>		<b>214</b>
	<b>Subtotal number of the sea names used only one time</b>		<b>257</b>
	<b>Total of all geographical names</b>		<b>471</b>



Figure 2: The use of sea name in the first atlas of the World in Slovene language (this map was created in 1869).



Figure 3: The use of sea name in the National Geographic World map (2004).



Figure 4: The use of sea name in the National Geographic World map (2004) is shown, Slovene language version of the map. It is there an important difference that backslash is used instead of brackets to inform user that both names are used and there is no discrimination among it.

## Conclusion

However, especially after 1990 several atlases of the world and different kind of maps have been published in Slovene language. It is understandable that in a small country with the population of around 2 mil. only. In most cases foreign publisher's maps are "translated". There are many countries and cases like this in the world. It is the case in figures 3 and 4 where a National Geographic World map variation in English and Slovene language is shown. The last one is to be published at the end of this year. It is no doubt that it was influenced by your efforts that in Slovene language variation new practice used. **East Sea – Vzhodno morje** was introduces in use beside old and before this time used predominantly used name Japonsko morje. The names are separated with backslash. It is to be understood that two names are/were used there. This is an important step forwarded because in original English version it stands **Sea of Japan** and **(East Sea)** in brackets, subordinated. We do in Slovenia, because of the history explained, believe that this form with backslash is much more reflecting contemporary facts.

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