Towards the Standardization of Geographical Names in Croatian

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Language

- standard variety
- non-standard varieties

Lexicon

- general, non-onymic layer
- onymic layer
Onymic layer of the lexicon

- consists of several different categories

Anthroponymic categories
Zoonymic categories
Toponymic categories
Chrematonymic categories
etc.
Names and their dialectal background

• Names are formed in the user's dialectal variety.
• That is why they contain dialectal features.
• When entering the standard variety, the names were partially adapted to its system, maintaining some dialectal features and eliminating others.
Anthroponymic categories

- official personal names and surnames (i.e. those appearing in documents) automatically enter the standard language
- some features are standardized
  - e.g. flexion of personal names

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Podravina</th>
<th>Istra</th>
<th>Metković</th>
<th>Standard variety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vlado</td>
<td>G Vladija</td>
<td>G Vladeta</td>
<td>G Vlade</td>
<td>G Vlade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vinko</td>
<td>G Vinkija</td>
<td>G Vinketa</td>
<td>G Vinke</td>
<td>G Vinka</td>
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<tr>
<td>Branko</td>
<td>G Brankija</td>
<td>G Branketa</td>
<td>G Branke</td>
<td>G Branka</td>
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<tr>
<td>Đuro</td>
<td>G Đurija</td>
<td>G Đureta</td>
<td>G Đure</td>
<td>G Đure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Anthroponymic categories

• **Current standardization issues**
  • there is still no agreement on the **accentuation** of names
    • Should the standard accent inventory and the rules of the distribution of accents apply to the names?
      • (e.g. personal names Nikôl, Renê;
      • surnames Horvât, Novâk, Mustâč, Markôvčić etc.)
  • the **status of the movable e** (non-constant e) in names
    • (e.g. Maček G Mačeka/Mačka; Vrabec G Vrabeca/Vrapca, Žganec G Žganca/Žganeca etc.)
Toponymic categories

• official toponyms (i.e. those appearing in documents / registered in the lists of geographical objects) also automatically enter the standard language
  • place names (oiconyms)
  • horonyms
  • hodonyms
  • hydronyms
  • oronyms
  • nesonyms etc.
Toponymic categories

• Toponyms are also formed in the user's dialectal variety.

• The most frequent type of adaptation:
  • on the phonological level:
    • Obrankovec ~ local. Brǒjnkovec
    • Hrastovsko ~ local. Xrastọskô
    • Ludbreg ~ local. Lübrek
    • Prelog ~ local. Prőlôk
    • etc.
  • on the morphological level (grammatical number):
    • *Kòrlofcy ~ official: Karlovec Ludbreški
    • *Kòčany ~ official: Kućan Ludbreški
    • *Kòzmîncy ~ official: Kuzminec
    • etc.
Toponymic categories

• 1 official toponym

vs.

various unofficial variants or different names in local speeches

e.g. Bednja:

Bedno (Bednja)

Bedna (Ludbreg, Kućan Ludbreški)

Bedja (Sesvete Ludbreške)

Beja (Hrastovsko)

Drejica (Veliki Bukovec)
Toponymic categories

• Current standardization issues
  • the written level
    • orthography (incongruity between official names and the orthographic rules)
      • **Official:**
        
        Kaštel Kambelovac  
        Varaždin-Breg  
        Noršić Selo  
      
      • According to orthographic rules, these names should be written as hyphenated compounds:
        
        Kaštel-Kambelovac  
        Varaždin-Breg  
        Noršić-Selo
Toponymic categories

• Current standardization issues
  • accentuation

  e.g. local. Vštyšynec ~ HER: Vratišinec; HMR: Vratišinec
  local. Vukòvār ~ HER: Vūkovār (Vukòvār); HMR: Vūkovār
  local. Koprīvnyca, Varàždyn, Vīškòvo etc.
Toponymic categories

• Current standardization issues
  • flexion
e.g.

  Kali, G ? (Kalija, Kali ?)
  Sali, G ? (Salija, Sali ?)
  Bibinje, L? (Bibinju, Bibinjama ?)


In addition to the name itself, it is always necessary to record its grammatical features (gender and number).

• sistematicity
e.g.

  HER: Stòlac m ⟨G Stóca⟩ - oIC > ooC > oC (local phonemic change)

  Čakovec m ⟨G Čakofca ??⟩ - vC > fc (also a local phonemic change)
Toponymic categories

• The standardization of (geographical) names in Croatian is still an issue.

• The standardization of exonyms is very well developed.

• The standardization of microtoponyms (small and rarely known geographical objects) is not developed at all.
Standardization of microtoponyms

• If the object is relevant and known, its name is more constant and closer to the standard; on the other hand, if the geographical object is known only among a very small community, its name is closer to the local dialectal language, and consequently it is less stable, less constant!

• the standard variety should be more flexible toward names than toward other lexical layers (i.e., non-names)

• Practical standardization solutions can be offered only when a full inventory of the corpus (in dialect and with a complete paradigm) has been made and described. It is proposed that the standardization of toponyms should be carried out in several phases.
Standardization of microtoponyms - officialization

• officialization – officialized names should be written using the graphemes of standard Croatian, without accents, to resemble official names

• The officialization can be based on two principles:
  • 1. on the principle of the substitution of graphemes and
  • 2. on the etymological principle.
Standardization of microtoponyms - officialization

- the principle of the substitution of graphemes:
- a certain grapheme of the dialectological transcription would be substituted by a certain grapheme of the standard

- Guidelines:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dialectological transcription graphem</th>
<th>Standard Croatian graphem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oọ</td>
<td>Aa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ćć</td>
<td>Čč</td>
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<td>Žž</td>
<td>Đđ</td>
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<td>Ėē</td>
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<td>Ėē</td>
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<td>Ii</td>
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<td>Ėj</td>
<td>Jj</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ėľ</td>
<td>Ljľ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nń</td>
<td>Nnj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qọ</td>
<td>Oo, Uu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rř</td>
<td>Rr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Standardization of microtoponyms - officialization

- officialized variants reflect autochthonous dialectal features:
  - **Gmojno** [Sveti Đurđ]: ˂φ ˃ φ next to the nasal phonemes registered (dial. Gmȍjno)
  - **Gmajno** [Ludbreg]: ˂φ ˃ φ next to the nasal phonemes NOT registered (dial. Gmȍjno)

- **Melije** [Sesvete Ludbreške]: ń > j registered

- **Slivnjak** [Ludbreg]: ń > j NOT registered
Standardization of microtoponyms - officialization

• The etymological principle:
• used to resolve the confusion that appears because of the historical development

• The non-accented grapheme <Ọọ> could have originated from four different phonemes of the proto-Slavic system (*o, *u, *q or */j*):
  • if it originates from *o, */j* and *q*, it becomes official as <o>;
  • if it originates from *u*, it becomes official as <u>. 
Standardization of microtoponyms - officialization

• Babić (1975) indicates: "In the standard is introduced the basic form of the surname or toponym, which means the nominative of singular or plural (if the word is plurale tantum) with the gender it has in the speech from which it has been taken".

• This means that in the standardization in the rest of the paradigm the grammatical morphemes are added depending on the flexion type to which it belongs.
Standardization of microtoponyms - officialization

- The etymological principle:
  - used as a step previous to the standardization
  - In some speeches sonorant consonants in the final position are replaced by their non-sonorant pair.
    - dial. Brēk (G Brēga), Stōry grōt (G Stōrōga grōda)
    - The grapheme substitution principle only would indicate: Brek (G Brēka), Stari grat (G Staroga grata)
  - The etymological principle resolves the issue.
Standardization of microtoponyms - officialization

• Implementation
  • The official name would meet the needs of many users – the local population, cartographers, officials in administration, etc.
  • Through the systematic application of the principles of officialization, doubts that may arise when recording dialectal place names, errors, a lack of a systematic approach, etc. would be eliminated, while most dialectal characteristics would be preserved.
Vrabičak m. (© Vrabičaka (z ~, od ~, do ~, prek ~). (© Vrabičaka (ity V:vrabičak). ① o Vrabičako (bitv V:vrabičako), ① Vrabičakom (z ~, pred ~, za ~) usp. Vrabičak, Vrbiček

Vrbičak m. (© Vrbičaka (z ~, od ~, do ~, prek ~), (© Vrbičaka (ity V:vrbičak), ① o Vrbičako (bitv V:vrbičako), ① Vrbičakom (z ~, pred ~, za ~) usp. Vrabičak, Vrbiček

oranica i livada [administrativno pripada naselju Hrženica; k. o. Hrženica]
KOORDINATE: 46°17′45″ N 16°34′23″ E
V. zemljovid 1, br. 7.

TVORBA: sufišacija: Vrbiček < vrabic- + - ek
ETIMOLOGIJA: ◆ vržbec/vrabica ‘vрабač, Passer domesticus’ < psl. *vorbē
MOTIVACIJA: prirodno-zemljopisne značajke objekta (naziv životinje)

OFICIJALIZIRANO IME: Vrbičak

Vrbiček m. (© Vrbičeka (z ~, od ~, do ~, prek ~). (© Vrbičeka (ity V:vrbiček), ① o Vrbičeko (bitv V:vrbičeko), ① Vrbičekom (z ~, pred ~, za ~) usp. Vrbičak, Vrabičak
Implementation
Implementation
Since standardization involves incorporating the name into the standard language at various levels, it will require discussion and consensus by linguists.
Thank you for your attention!