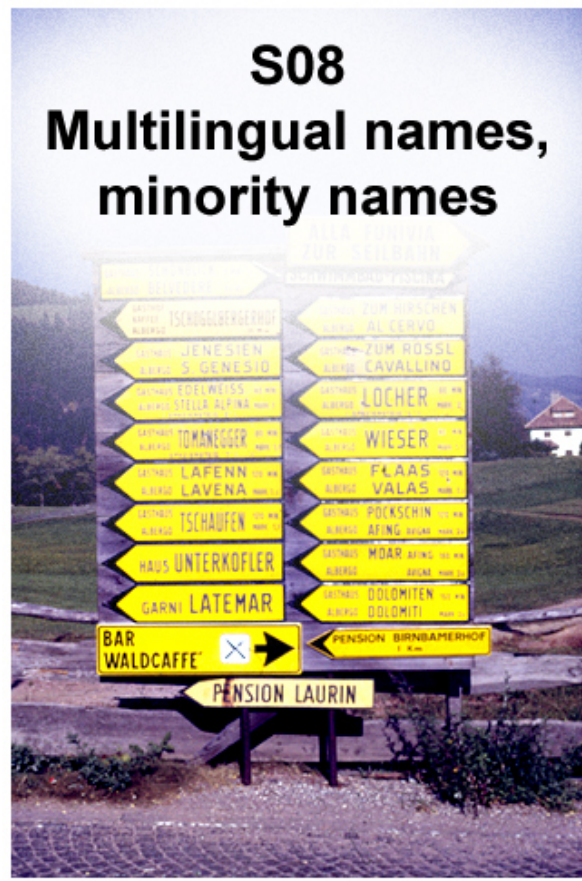


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The content of this module is based on teaching materials by Tjeerd Tichelaar (2003). These teaching materials are made available in the "[documents](#)" section.

The module contains the following chapters:

[Introduction](#)[Chapter 1: \*\*Examples\*\* of \*\*multilingual areas\*\*](#)[Chapter 2: \*\*Language map\*\* of Europe](#)[Chapter 3: Linguistic \*\*minorities\*\*](#)[Chapter 4: \*\*History\*\* of name use](#)[Chapter 5: \*\*Transformation\*\* of minority names](#)[Chapter 6: \*\*Topographer's bias\*\*](#)[Chapter 7: \*\*Influences\*\* on the \*\*rendering\*\* of minority toponyms on topographic maps](#)[Chapter 8: Possibilities for \*\*study of attitudes\*\* towards minority names](#)[Chapter 9: \*\*Disappearance\*\* of minority names because of \*\*plebiscites\*\* 1918-1920](#)[Chapter 10: \*\*Realization\*\* of \*\*discrimination\*\* by linguistic minorities](#)[Chapter 11: Examples on \*\*bilingual presentation\*\*](#)[Chapter 12: \*\*Cadastral map\*\*, Netherlands: \*\*monolingual Frisian\*\* \(minority language\)](#)[Chapter 13: \*\*Incorporation\*\* of minority toponyms \(... examples\)](#)[Chapter 14: \*\*Map use criteria\*\*](#)[Chapter 15: \*\*How\*\* and \*\*why\*\* are bilingual maps produced?](#)[Chapter 16: What is the best way to \*\*render linguistic boundaries\*\* on maps?](#)[Chapter 17: What to do with \*\*generics\*\* in regional languages?](#)

When reading through the following pages, you will come across some uncommon terms. These terms are hyperlinked to the UNGEGN [Glossary of Terminology](#) (pdf). Behind each term a number (#) is given that corresponds to the numbering applied in this glossary, e.g. [toponymy](#) (#344).

For exercises and documents (and literature) on this topic see respectively the "[Exercises](#)" and/or the "[Documents](#)" section of this module.

The complete module can be downloaded [here](#).

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## The power of names

- When one is in control over something, one can name it
- Naming things gives power over them
- Reversely, if the names are in your language, the area should be yours – at least such is the reasoning of 19th century nationalism

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## 1. EXAMPLES OF MULTILINGUAL AREAS

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South-Tirol: Italian triumphal arch in Bozen

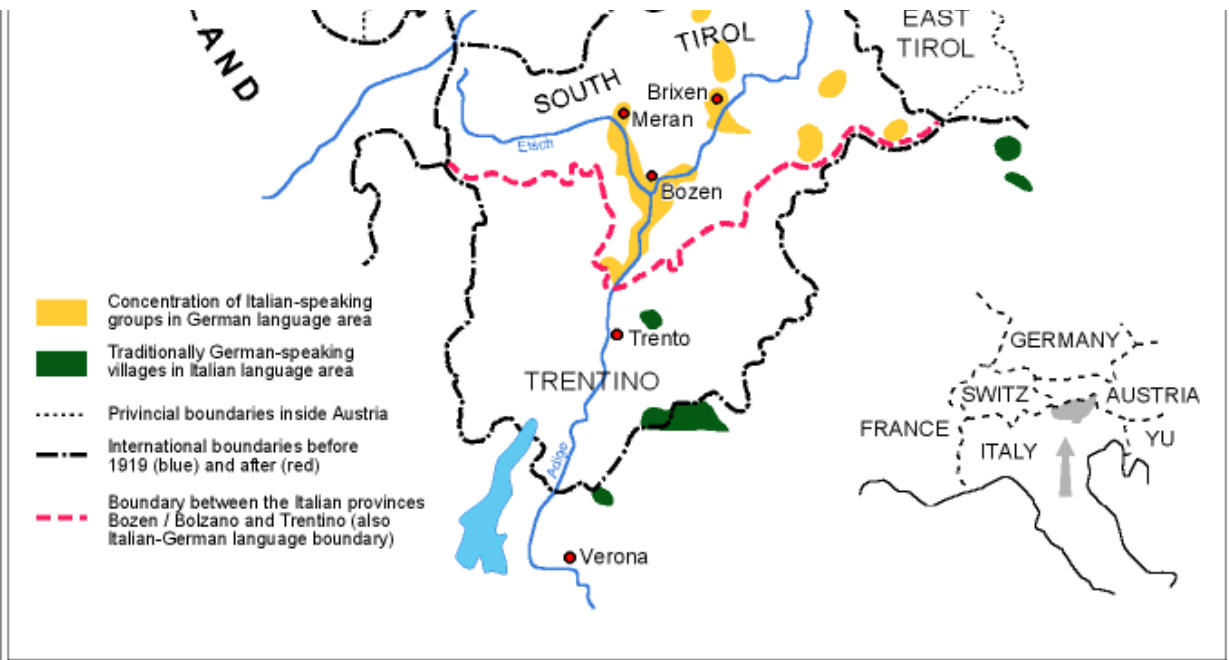


Inscription: *HINC CETEROS EXCOLUMUS LINGUA LEGIBUS ARTIBUS* / *To this frontier we have civilised the others with language, laws and arts*

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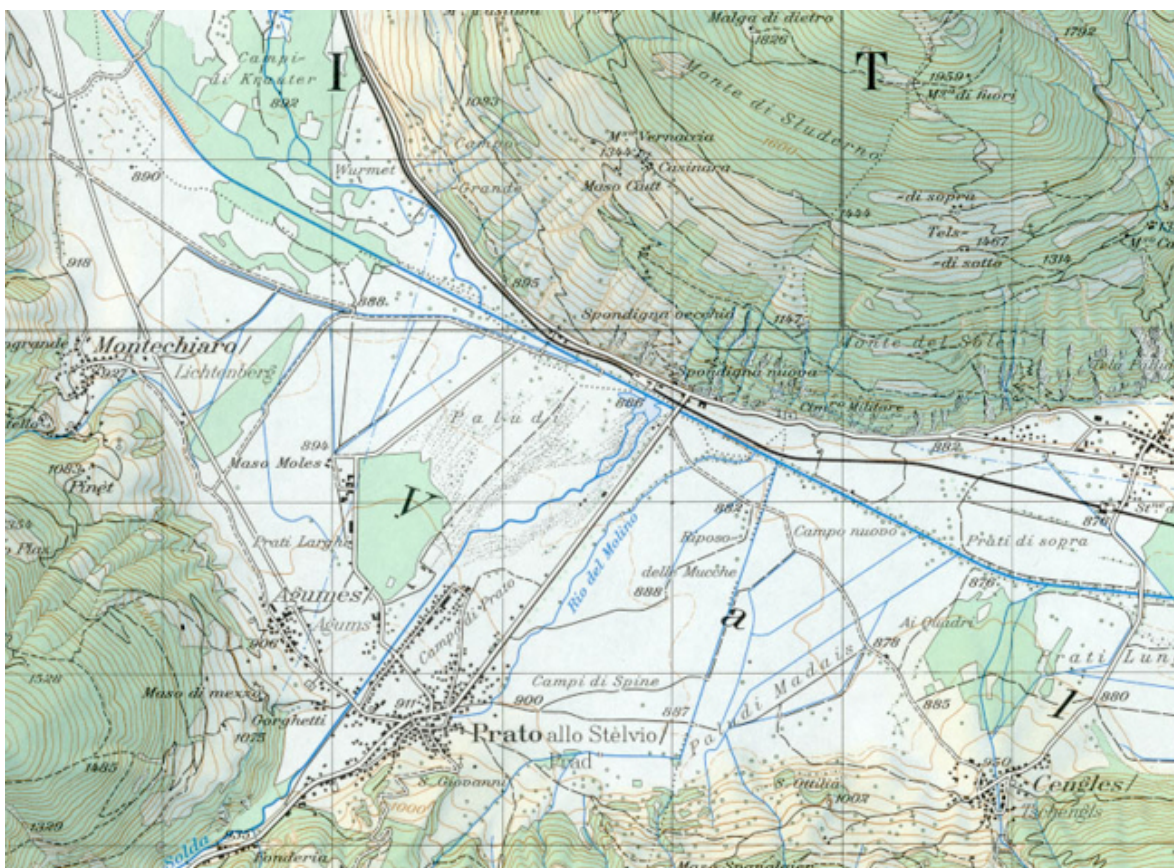
### Vintschgau-Val Venosta

The same area on Italian maps (Carta d'Italia 1:100 000) from 1908 (top) and 1967 (below) with German names (top) and Italianised names (below) respectively.





Italian, German and Ladin name versions in Northeastern Italy



Carta Nazionale della Svizzera 1: 50 000 Glorenza, 259bis. 1981



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## 2. LANGUAGE MAP OF EUROPE, 1914

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Language boundaries and state boundaries do not coincide > multilingual areas and minorities emerge.



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## 3. LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

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### Linguistic minorities:

- Spatially concentrated autochthonous groups within a state, that do not have the same mother tongue as the official state language.
- Linguistic minorities can or cannot have official status in education, law, administration, etc.

**Minority name/toponym:** Name locally used to designate a geographical object situated in an area where minority language speakers are concentrated.

### Current linguistic minorities in Western Europe



Linguistic minorities might disappear through assimilation or being swamped.

Riviera with part of Kingdom of Savoie in 1860 (Italian map)



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1878 Carte de l'Etat Major  
 Only French names: first linguistic manipulation

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## 4. HISTORY OF NAME USE

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### Belgium:

**1898** Law equal rights language communities

**1930** Language act: Dutch names to be used in Dutch-speaking part

**1937** Names of Flanders municipalities defined (in Dutch)

**1950** First maps with Dutch names added (in parentheses)



Belgique/België« 1:25 000. Bruxelles-Zaventem. M834-1, 31/3-4 1959

**1960** Second version: all names doubled > only space enough for half the names



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België-Belgique-Belgium 1:25 000 Brussel-Bruxelles-Zaventem 31/3-4, M834-3, 1982)

**1980** Dutch areas of Brussels: Dutch names, French areas: French names







Bruxelles/Brussel 31. België-Belgique-Belgium 1:50 000 M736-1, 31. 1974

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## 5. TRANSFORMATION OF MINORITY TOPONYMS

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In most European countries, minority names used to be adapted on official maps to the majority languages. These adaptations could consist of (see examples\*):

1. Adherence to minority language orthography
2. Addition or omission of diacritical marks
3. Addition of articles in majority language
4. Addition of name elements (+generics) in majority language
5. Phonetic rendering in majority language
6. Adaptation of toponym proper to majority language structure
7. Translation into majority language
8. Substitution by new name in majority language
9. Removal of named object

Transformation type	Example
1 Unchanged acceptance of the minority name in the usual spelling	Herzeele-Herzeele
2 The addition of diacritical marks for the benefit of pronunciation	Rexpoede-Rexpoëde
3 The addition of articles or case endings	Kastenwald-LeKastenwald
4a The addition of name elements	Vernet-Vernet les Bains
4b The addition of French generic names	Hohwald-Foret de Hohwald
5 Phonetic representation in the French spelling	Strassburg - Strasbourg
6 Adaptation to the structure of the French language	Weissenburg - Wissembourg
7 Translation into the majority language	St. Kreuz-Ste. Croix aux Mines
8 Substitution by a new name in the majority language	Vilar d'Ovança – Montlouis
9 removal of named object	-

\*Examples of adaptation of minority toponyms to the majority language on French topographic maps:

Institutionalised approaches towards geographical names in multilingual situations

- Traditional usage principle
- Juridical principle
- Territorial principle
- Personal principle

For these principles, see Working Paper No. 19, of the Twelfth UNGEGN Session (1986), Minority Toponyms (see [documents](#) or click for [pdf](#) here).

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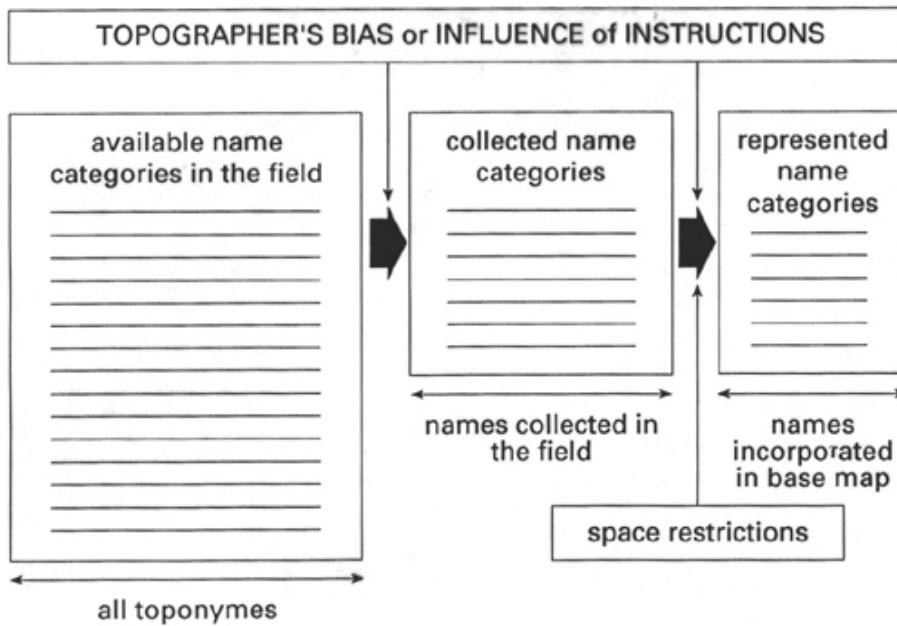
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6. TOPOGRAPHER'S BIAS

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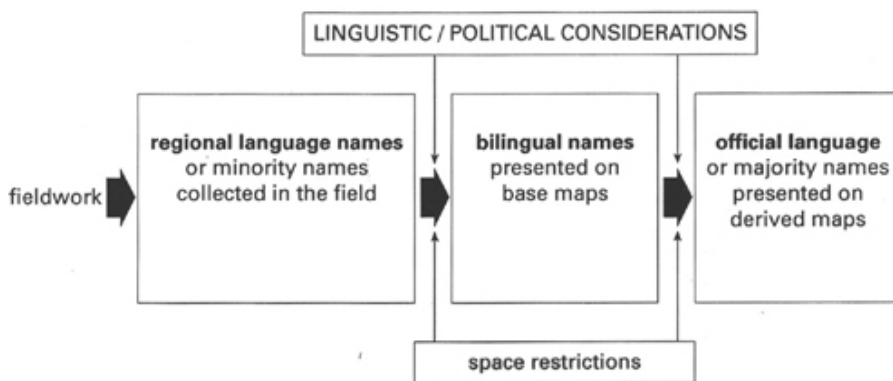


Schema a:



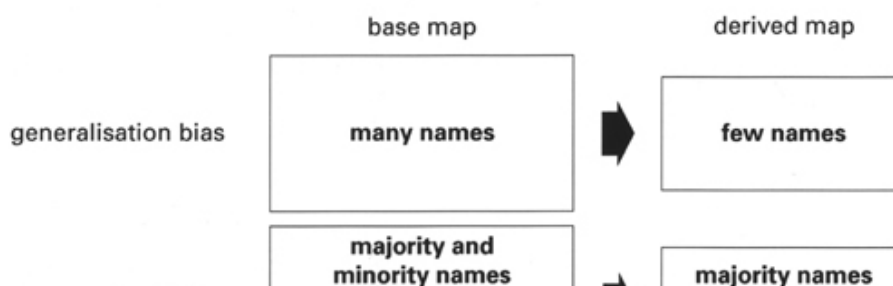
Scheme a) shows that of all name categories that can be found in the landscape (names of road junctions, restaurants, meeting spots, malls, settlements, rivers, mountains), only names from a limited number of name categories are in fact collected by topographers (names of settlements, rivers, mountains). Of these name categories, because of space restrictions, not all names can be inserted on the map.

Scheme b:



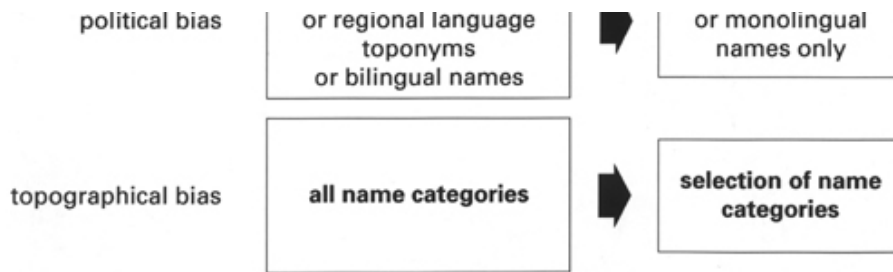
Scheme b) shows that because of linguistic or political considerations, in the past in many countries the regional language name versions collected in the field did not make it to the final printed official topographic maps, but were substituted for versions in the official language instead.

Scheme c:



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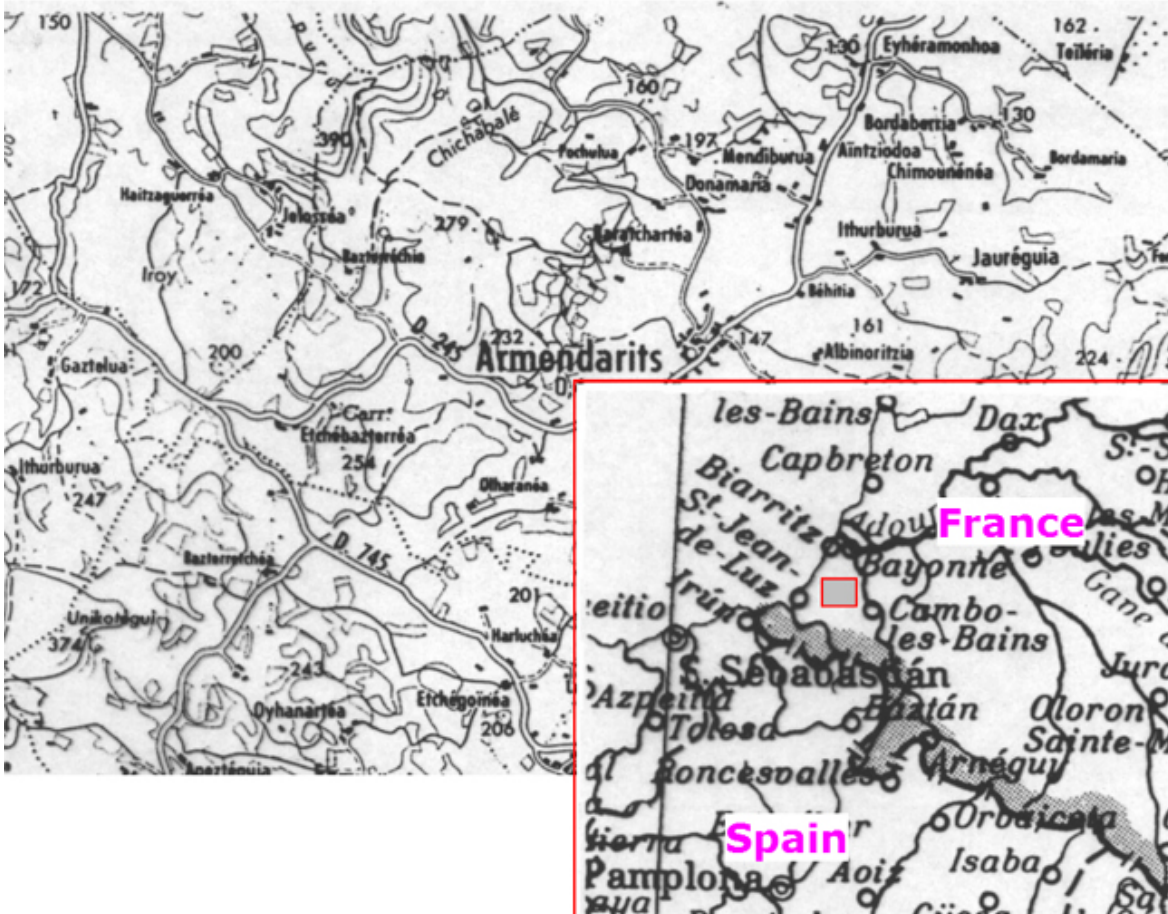
Scheme c) shows that because of generalisation, political bias and a selection of name categories, minority names from areas with dispersed settlements are less likely to make it to smaller scale topographic maps (see [next](#) page, from the Basque/speaking area in the French Pyrenees for an example).

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## 7. INFLUENCES ON THE RENDERING OF MINORITY TOPONYMS

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- Government regulations
- Historical influences
- Geographical influences
- Cartographical influences



On the French topographic map 1:50 000 of the Basque/speaking area in the French Pyrenees, the majority of the names does not look French but is of Basque origin. The larger settlements in this area, however, because of their long association with French governance and commercial contacts, have long ago received french names Bayonne, St.Jean de Luz, Cambo les Bains. On smaller/scale maps such as the map 1:5Million, at the lower right, only the larger settlements will be incorporated and named, and that means that only French names will figure there.

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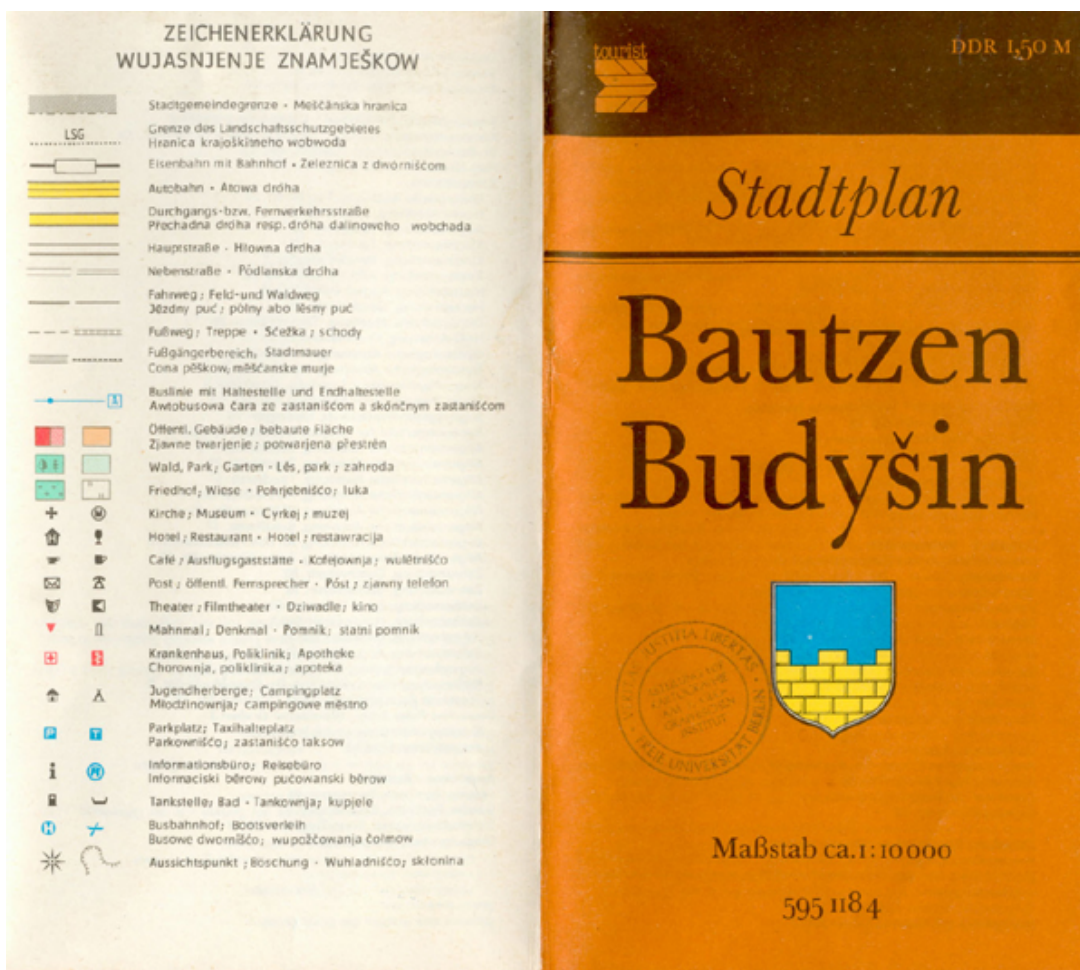
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## 8. POSSIBILITIES FOR STUDY OF ATTITUDES TOWARDS MINORITY NAMES

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- Attitudes of different countries towards the same minorities (Basques, Celts, Catalans, Hungarians, Same, Slavs)
- Attitudes of specific state towards different minorities (Italy)
- Attitudes of different states regarding the same area (Istria)
- Comparison of attitudes towards internal and external minorities (Austria, Hungary)
- Changes in attitudes over time (France)

The Sorbs (a linguistic community from the Slav language group, living in Eastern Germany) were an overprotected minority during the time when the German Democratic Republic was part of the Warsaw pact, which consisted of a vast majority of Slav languages speaking countries. Since the reunification of Germany they have maintained their position. During GDR-times (1948-1990) topographic maps at scales 1:25 000 and larger of areas with linguistic minorities had to be bilingual. See for example the town plan of Bautzen (German) or Budyšin (Sorbian), which also had a bilingual legend.

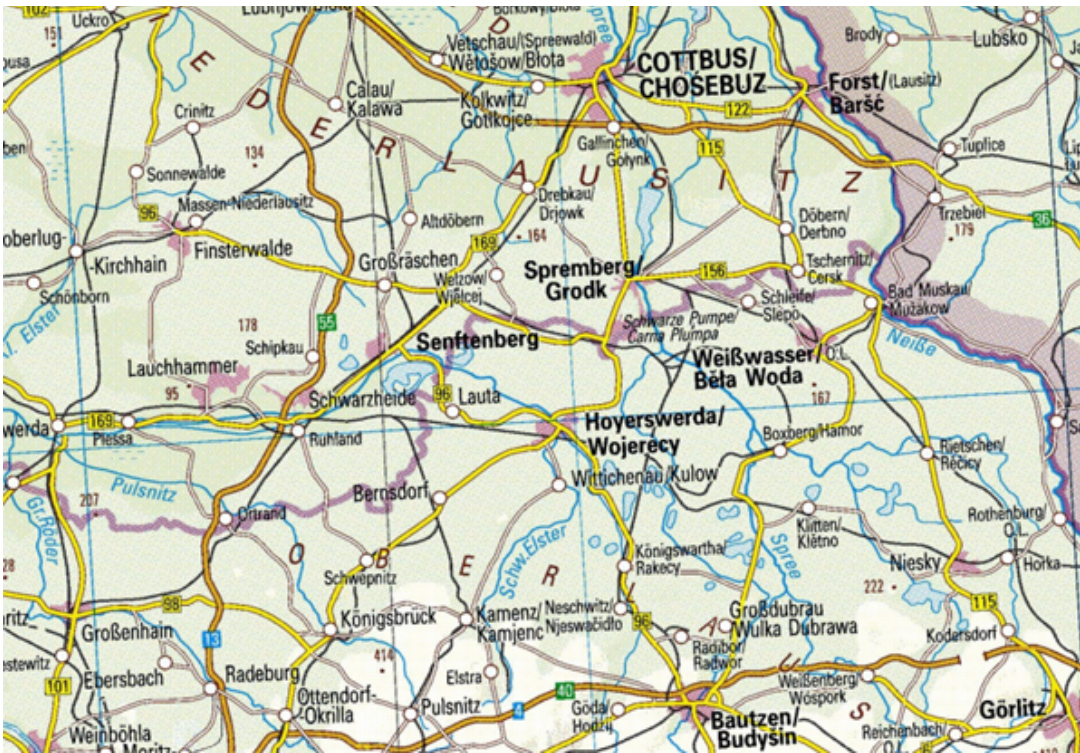


The cover of townplan Bautzen/Budysin, ca 1:10 000. VEB Tourist verlag, Berlin/Leipzig 1983



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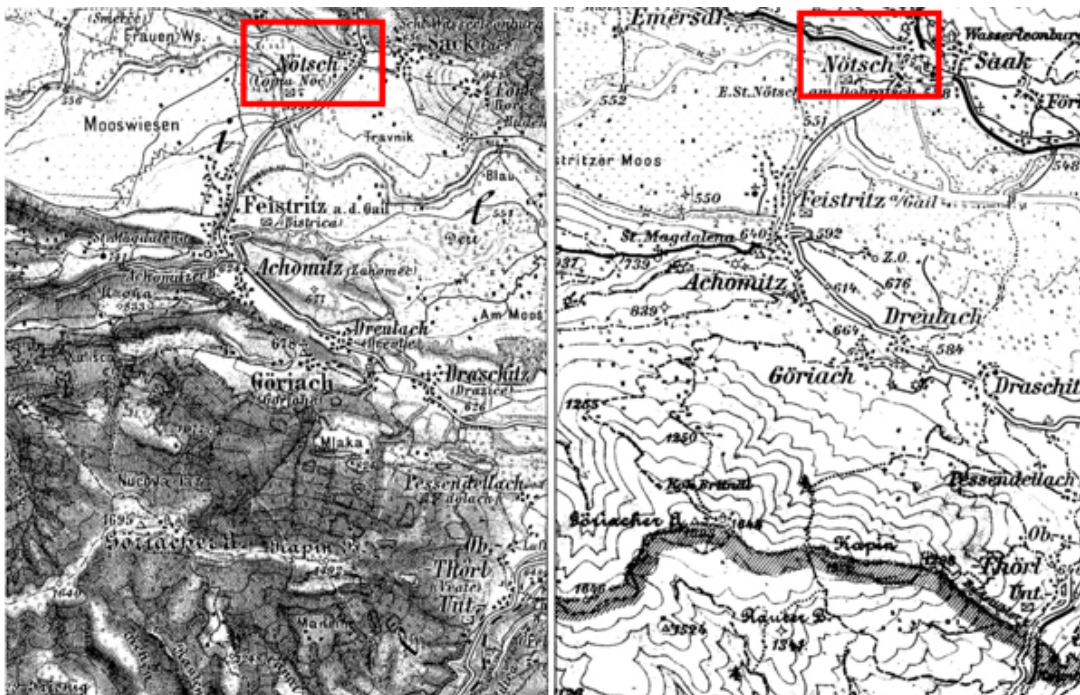


Current German map 1±1 million with bilingual place names for the Sorbian minority area.

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9. DISAPPEARANCE OF MINORITY NAMES BECAUSE OF PLEBISCITES 1918-1920

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Elimination of Slovene toponyms in Austria after the First World War. Details from the Spezialkarte 1:75 000, Tarvis, 1882 (to the left) and 1925 (to the right). From the language map by Dr Martin Wütte (Die sprachlichen Verhältnisse in Kärnten auf Grundlage der Volkszählung von 1900 und ihre Veränderungen im 19. Jahrhundert. Carinthia I 96, 153ff.), it can be seen that in the area depicted on the topographic map (the right-hand red frame on the language map) the village Nötsch (German) or Cojria Nöc (Slovene) was located in a blue area, which denoted a majority of 81-90% Slovene-speaking inhabitants. In 1920 a plebiscite was held in order to determine whether the area should be part of Austria or of Yugoslavia. 59% of the inhabitants voted for Austria, and the Slovene names were dropped from the Austrian topographic maps. They were retained on the Yugoslav maps of the same area, see the G.Dravograd sheet of the series Yugoslavia 1:100 000, 1940. The area depicted on this map can be identified as the left red frame on the language map.

Yugoslav reaction: only Slav names



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Yugoslavia, 1:100 000, G. Dravograd. 1940

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## 10. REALIZATION OF DISCRIMINATION BY LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

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**Reactions by linguistic minorities**

- Difference between linguistic groups becomes marked
- A hierarchy between linguistic groups is established
- A process of awakening of regional consciousness takes place
- Self-recognition
- Experience of discrimination occurs
- Action is undertaken
- This may lead to accommodation of minority language

**Options for rendering multilingual situations**

1. Exchanging minority language names for majority language names
2. Adapting minority language names to majority language
3. Bilingual representation
4. Adopting minority language names
5. id + Bilingual marginal information and legends

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11. EXAMPLES ON BILINGUAL PRESENTATION

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Friesland, the Netherlands



Kaart van Friesland / Kaert fan Fryslan (Falkplan, den Haag 1978). In each name pair the upper name is Dutch and the lower name is Frisian. When single names occur the two versions are identical.

Slovenia



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Drzavna topografska karta Republike Slovenije 1:25 000 (Pitan/Pirano 177. 1995). In the red frames, Italian name versions have been added to the Slovenian names on this sheet of the topographic map 1:25 000 of Slovenia.

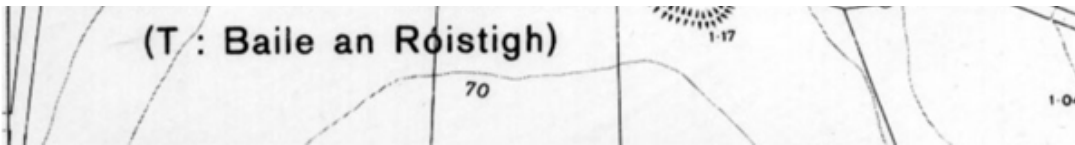
**Faeroer:** minority names subordinated



Danmark Færøerne 1:20 000 (M27 Kollafjord 1979). On this map of the Faeroe Islands from 1979 the Danish name version precedes the Faeroese version.

**Ireland:** Irish minority names are rendered in serrated typeface, while English names are widely spaced.





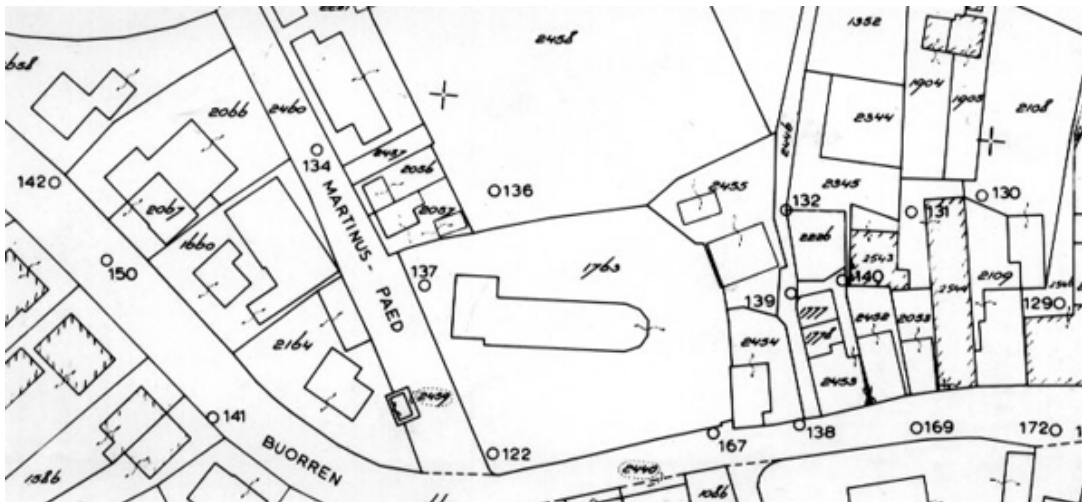
**Catalan map of Southern France (1994):** Both Catalan and French names are used here for the settlement names, while for streams and other physical objects only Catalan names are given.



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## 12. NETHERLANDS: MONOLINGUAL FRISIAN (MINORITY LANGUAGE)

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The street names on this cadastral map of the Frisian minority language area in the Netherlands are given in Frisian instead of in the Dutch (majority) language.

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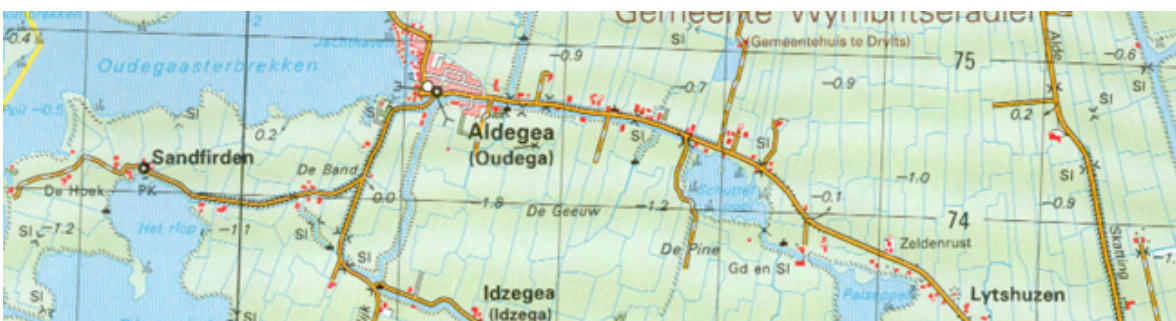


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Topographic map of Frisia, the Netherlands, 1980: only Dutch names



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Topographic map of Frisia, the Netherlands, 2000: only Frisian names or bilingual (Frisian, Dutch) names.

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## 13. INCORPORATION OF MINORITY TOPONYMS -B) HABSBURG MAPS OF BALKAN

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Place names rendered according to numerical ratio. There are Slav, Albanian and Turkish name versions (Debra, Dibra, Siperme)



Austrian Map of Balkan, sheet 1:200 000, 38°42' Prizren (1900)

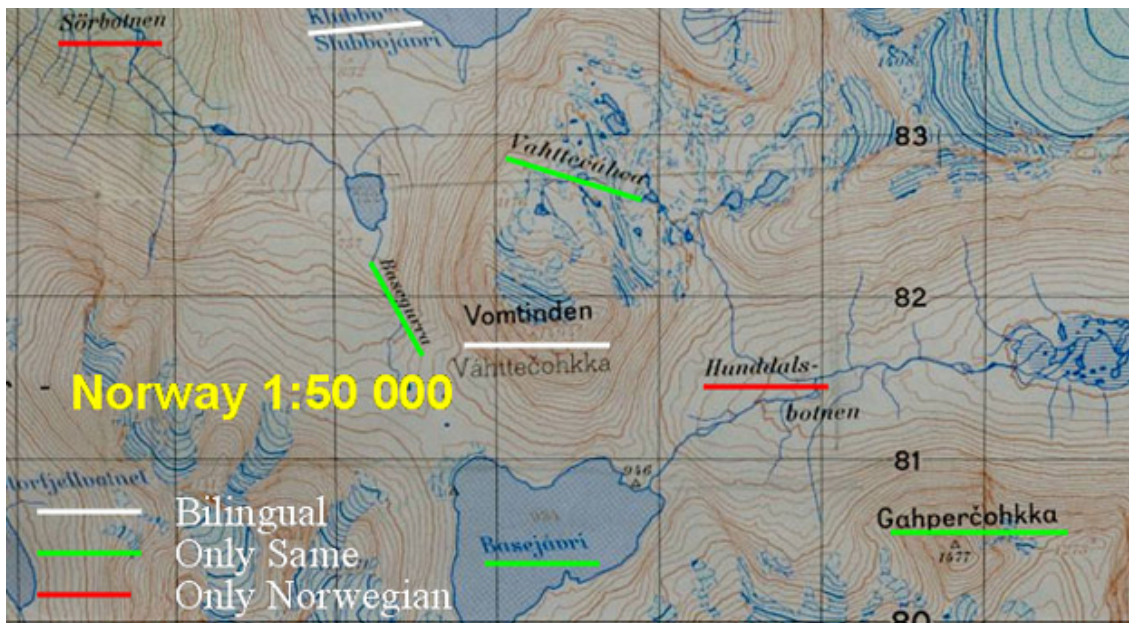
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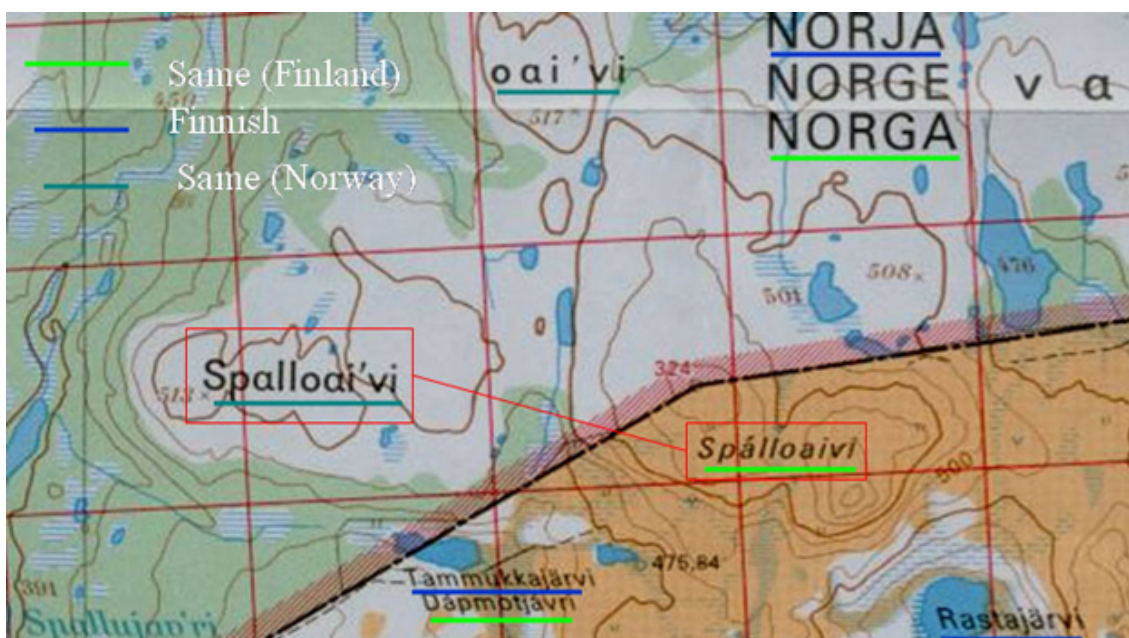






The first map with the newly standardised North Saame orthograh (Norge / Norway 1:50 000 Narvik 1431 IV, serie M71, Utgave 3, NOR Edition. 1981).

**Finnish maps 1:50 000**





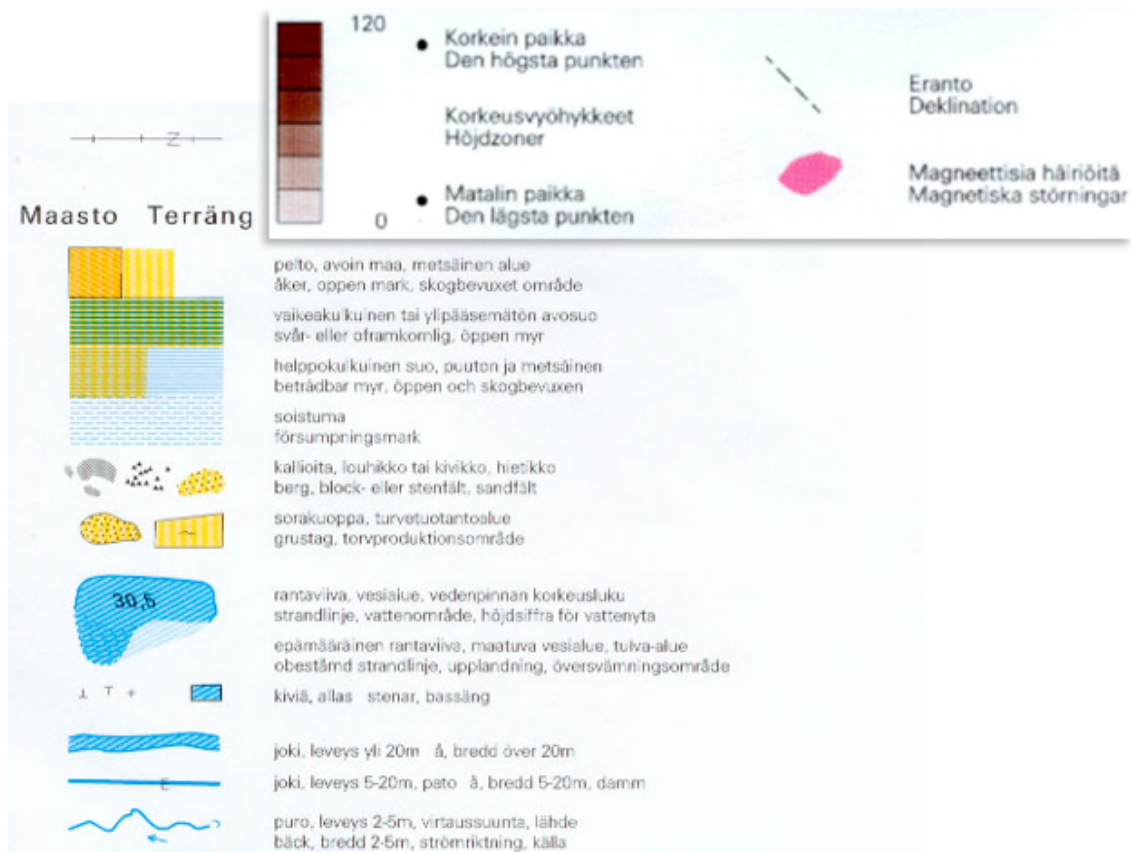
Topografinen Kartta / Topográfalas Kárta 1:50 000 (28141 Palojärvi / Balojávri 1977. Bilingual Saame / Finnish).

**Åland:** Swedish-speaking archipelago within Finland





**Åland Isles:** bilingual legend and bilingual marginal information on Finnish topographic maps



Topografinen Kartta / Topografisk karta 1:50 000 (1012 Mariehamn 1994. Bilingual Swedish / Finnish title, legend, marginal information).



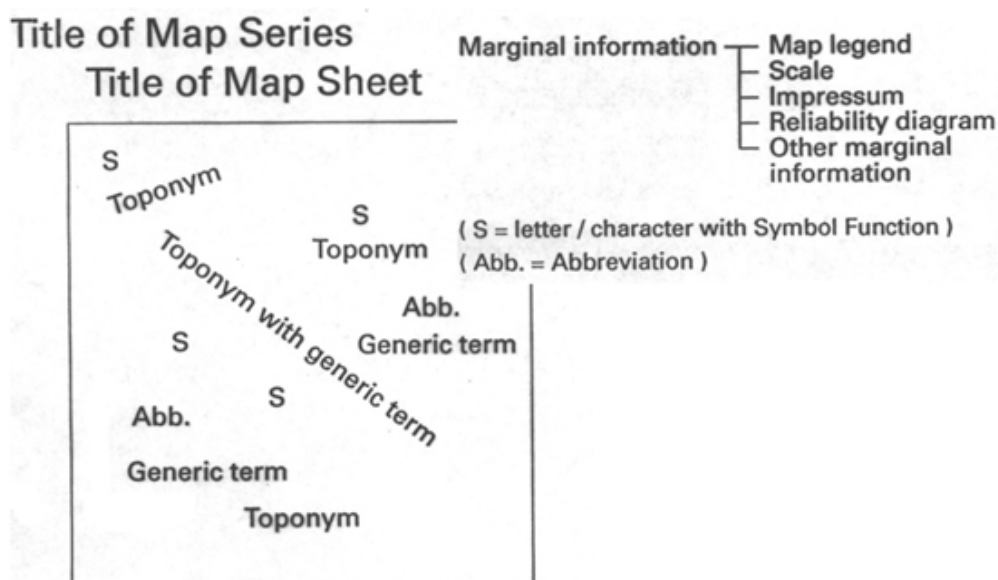
## 14. MAP USE CRITERIA

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When we look for specific spatial information on the area where we live, in order to get the required map that can be read, we need:

- Title in our own language
- Legend and marginal information in our own language
- Place names in our own language
- Generics, abbreviations and letter symbols in our own language
- The cartographic point of view is that toponyms are only for identification, not for politics

## Map scripts



**Are these name categories also available on the topographic maps of your country in your own language?**



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## 15. HOW AND WHY ARE BILINGUAL MAPS PRODUCED?

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Bilingual maps, with toponyms and marginal information in both the majority and the minority language may be produced for the following reasons:

**Cultural criteria**

- Preservation of the cultural heritage of a people
- Inhabitants of minority language areas also pay taxes, so they also have the right to see their own geographical names on the topographic maps.

**Current trends**

- Increased bilingual representation or monolingual minority or regional names presentation.
- Marginal information translation more available

**Procedure**

- Delimitation of minority or regional language areas
- Introduction of bilingual transitional periods on the map
- Restoration of minority language names
- Exclusive minority language rendering
- Accompanied with bilingual marginal information rendering

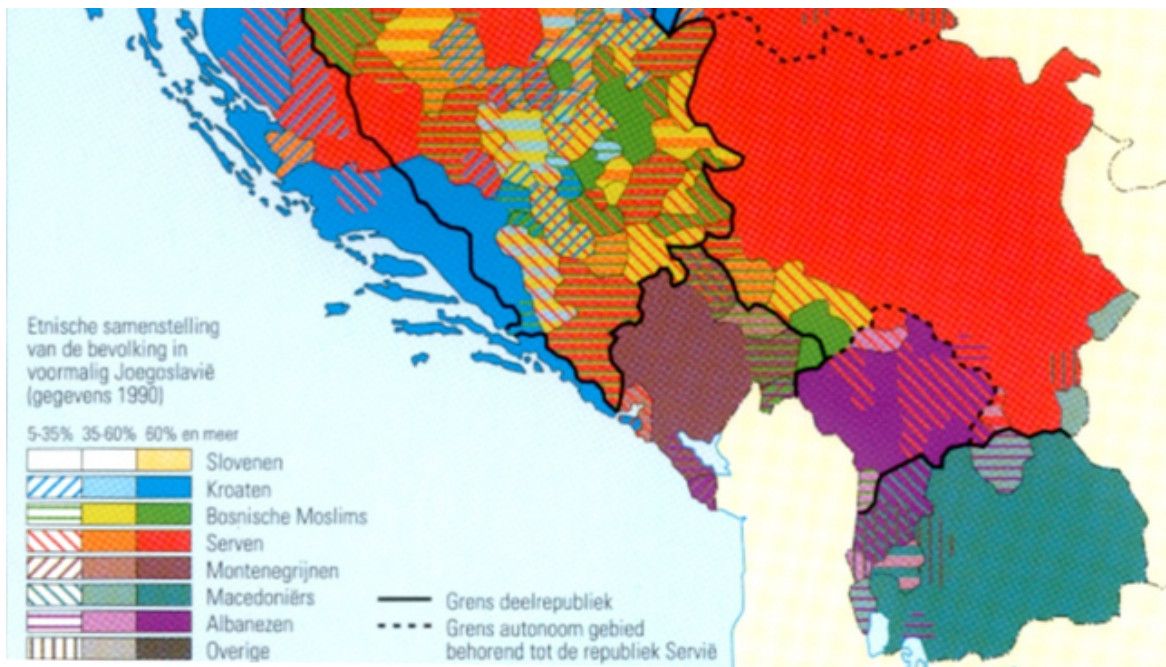
For the demarcation of minority language areas,

**language maps** are needed.

An example from a multilingual country: **Croatia**. Here you can see where the Serbian minority lives.



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Linguistic map of the former Yugoslavia (data from 1990). Source: Bosatlas 52nd edition.

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16. WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO RENDER LINGUISTIC BOUNDARIES ON MAPS?

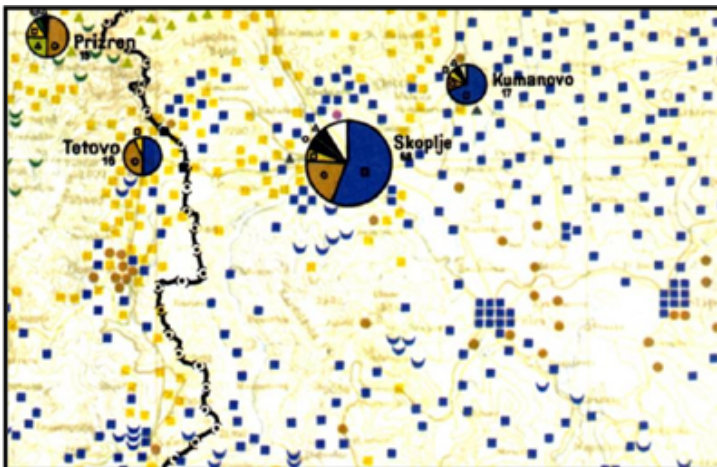
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How to render uninhabited areas? With white?



From Austrian school atlas.

Dot maps give better idea of distribution of various language groups.

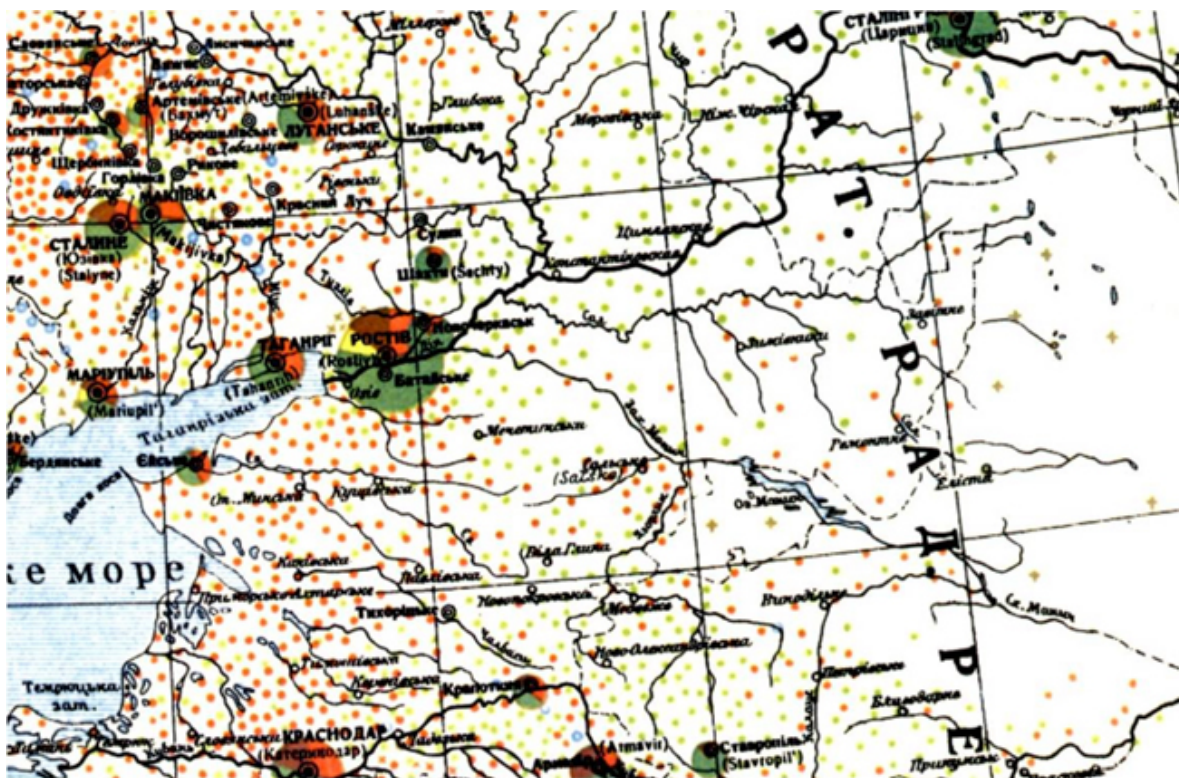
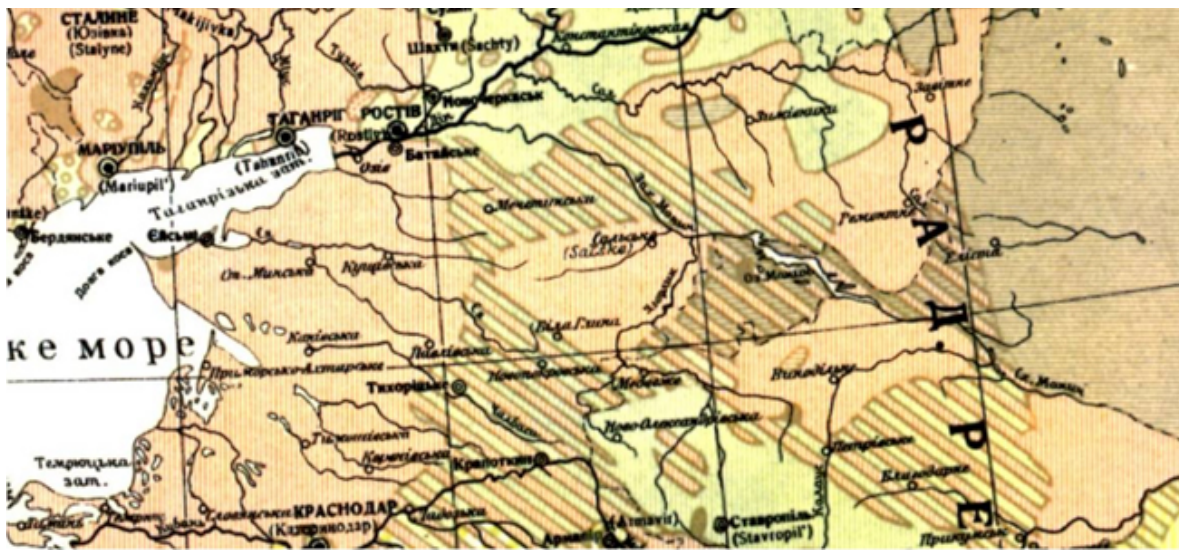


Krallert, A.- Weltkarte 1 : 1 Mill. (Sonderausgabe Volkstum, Blatt K34, Sofia. Wien 1943)



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Comparison of a chorochromatic and a dot map presentation of the same linguistic data.

## 17. WHAT TO DO WITH GENERICS IN REGIONAL LANGUAGES?

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Indonesia has many regional languages and one official national language:

### Bahasa Indonesia

Indonesian regional language	River generic	Regional toponym	Official toponym
Sundanese	Ci	Ciliwung	Sungai Liwung
Javanese	Kali	Kali Brantas	Sungai Brantas
Jambinese	Batang	Batang Hari	Sungai Hari
Coastal Malay	Air	Air Musi	Sungai Musi
Acehnese	Kruëng	Kruëng Tripa	Sungai Tripa

In order to enable everyone in the country to understand the generics, they should be rendered in the official language. However, in order to preserve the cultural heritage of the regional language communities, the generics should be kept in the regional language. These are difficult decisions to make.

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Try to match the map from Google (2009) with the Greek army map of 1927 (sheet 41°41' ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ (Thessaloniki), Γεωγραφική Υπηρεσία Στρατο, 1:200 000, 1927. (On the Greek map the lakes visible on the Google map are indicated as periodically submerged areas), and try to find out what happened to the names of matching places that occur on both maps between 1927 and 2012. In GeoNames you will find also previous name versions.

This part of the Greek province of Macedonia has a sizeable Macedonian (Slav-language speaking) population, and that was reflected in the placenames. In the 1920s and 1930s in the framework of a population exchange between Greece and Turkey many Greeks from Asia Minor were settled in this area, which caused the population balance to be changed, and this was reflected as well in the place names.

Answers

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1. Matching two maps

Google 2012	Greek Army Map 1927 romanized	Greek
Anatolí	Anatolon	Ανατολον
Ano Poróia	Ano Parogia	Ανω Παρογια
Fiska	Fyska ( <b>Planitsa</b> )	Φυσκα (Πλανιτσα)
Iráklia	Kato Joumaya	Κατω Τζουμαγια
Lithótopos	<b>Kayali</b> (source:GeoNames)	Καγιαλη
Kamarotón	Kamaroto	Καμαροτο
Karperí	<b>Elsani</b>	Ελσανι
Káto Poróia	Kat. Porogia	Κατ. Πορογια
Káto Theodorákion	Kato Thodoráki	Κατω Θεοδωρακι
Kendrikón	Kentrikó (Snefcha)	Κεντρικο (Σνεφτοε)
Kerkíni	Kirkini	Κιρκινη
Kokkiniá	Kousovon	Κουσοβον
Makrinita	<b>Matnitsa</b>	Ματνιτσα
Mandrákion	Mandra	Μανδρα
Monokklisia	Ano Kamila	Ανω Καμηλα
Néa Tirolói	Topálovon	Τοπαλοβασι
Platanakia	<b>Shugova</b>	Σουγκοβοι
Pondokeraséa	Pontoukrasiá ( <b>Papрати</b> )	Ποντουκρασια (Παπρατι)
Provatas	<b>Yenikoí</b> , Neochorion	Νεοχωριον
Sérrai	Serrai	ΣΕΡΡΑΙ
Sidhirókastron	<b>Demir-Hissar</b>	ΔΕΜΙΡ ΙΣΣΑΡ
Skotoússa	<b>Prosnik</b> (Skotousa)	Προσνικ (Σκοτουσα)
Triás	Touritsa (source: GeoNames)	Τρουϊτσα
Valterón	<b>Barakli</b>	Μπαρακλη
Vamvakiá	Neoliani (source: GeoNames)	Νεβολιανη
Váthi	Ragian (Vathi) (GeoNames)	Ραγιαν (Βαθη)
Virónia	<b>Haji-Beilik</b>	Χαζη-Μπειλικι
Xirotopos	Mirtati (source: GeoNames)	Μιρτατι
Zevgolatíon	<b>Dragos</b>	Δραγος

It is not easy to base any conclusions on so small a corpus of names, but it is at least clear that if double names were rendered on the 1927 map, these have disappeared now, leaving only the Greek versions. **Turkish names** (Haji-Belik, Elsani, Kayali, Demir-Hissar) have disappeared likewise as did some **Slavish names** (Matnitsa, Planitsa).

## DOCUMENTS AND LITERATURE



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## Documents:

- [D08-01](#): Ormeling, F.J. (1984). *Minority toponyms - the western European experience*. ITC Journal 1984-1, pp 58-63.
- [D08-02](#): Ormeling, F.J. (2003). *Multilingual areas and linguistic minorities*. Pp 85-91 in Ferjan Ormeling, Jörn Sievers and Hans Stabe (eds.), *Training Course on Toponymy*, Enschede, Frankfurt and Berlin 2002. *Mitteilungen des BKG 28*, Frankfurt am Main 2003.

## Literature:

- Ormeling, F.J. (1986). *Minority names*. WP 19, 12th session UNGEGN, Geneva 1986 ([URL](#) / [pdf](#))
- Ormeling, F.J. (1983). *Minority Toponyms on Maps: The Rendering of Linguistic Minority Toponyms on Topographic Maps of Western Europe*. Utrechtse Geografische Studies. Thesis, Utrecht University.
- Gildemacher, K.F., F.J.Ormeling & A.Versloot (2006). *Geonames 2005*. Proceedings of the International conference on Minority Names/Indigenous Names and Multilingual Areas, Ljouwert/Leeuwarden 2005. Utrecht University, Utrecht.
- Kostanski, L. (2007). *Restoration of indigenous toponyms: recognition of attachment, identity and dependance*. E/CONF.98/41/Add.1 WP 41, 9th UNCSGN.
- Watt, W. (2002). *Guidelines for the recording and use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Place names*. E/CONF.94/CRP.22 Eight Conference, Berlin 2002.
- Watt, W. (2002). *Aboriginal place names – the recording process in South Australia*. E/CONF.94/CRP.17 Eighth Conference, Berlin.

## Online resources:

- Watt, W. (2007). [Report of the UNGEGN Working Group on the Promotion of Indigenous and Minority Group Place Names WP 42](#), 9th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, New York 2007.E/CONF.98/42 / [pdf](#)

The United Nations sell the following publications which also can be downloaded from the [UNEGN](#) website:

- [Glossary](#) of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names (New York 2002) / [pdf](#)
- [Manual](#) for the national standardization of geographical names (UN - Ecosoc, New York, 2006 ST/ESA/STAT/SERM/88 Sales No. E.06.XVII.7 ISBN 92-1-161490-2, available in the 6 UN languages) / [pdf](#)
- [Technical reference manual](#) for the standardization of geographical names (New York, 2007) / [pdf](#)
- [Resolutions](#) adopted at the nine UN Conferences on the standardization of geographical names ([English \(pdf\)](#) / [French \(pdf\)](#))