

# THE TOPONYMS IN THE BULGARIAN CARTOGRAPHY

**Penka Kastreva, Ivan Drenovski, Petar Penev**

Assoc. Dr. Penka Kastreva  
South-West University "Neofit Rilsky", Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Department  
of Ecology and Geography  
Bulgaria, Blagoevgrad 2700,66 Ivan Michailov st.  
[penkakastreva@gmail.com](mailto:penkakastreva@gmail.com)

Assoc. Dr. Ivan Drenovski  
South-West University "Neofit Rilsky", Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Department  
of Ecology and Geography  
Bulgaria, Blagoevgrad 2700,66 Ivan Michailov st.  
[idri@abv.bg](mailto:idri@abv.bg)

Prof. Dr. Petar Penev  
University of Architecture, Civil engineering and Geodesy  
Bulgaria, Sofia 1046, 1 Hristo Smirnenski Blvd.  
[ppenev@gmail.com](mailto:ppenev@gmail.com)

## **Abstract**

*Toponymic researches of the map contents are the most important at national and regional level. The names of the geographical objects have not accidentally emerged. Rather, they reflect the culture and history of the people.*

*In this paper the key concepts that connect cartography and toponymy are discussed. A critical analysis of the register of geographical names in Bulgaria that includes toponyms mechanically carried over from the maps of the restored ownership of agricultural land in the country is made. As a result, our cadastral and topographic maps abound with names of geographical sites of Turkish origin. Examples are given of such geographical names and proposal for their change.*

*With this brief overview of toponyms we do not attempt to interpret the problems of their origin, which is a task of the linguists in Bulgaria, but rather to show our national self-confidence to the future generations with the cartographic heritage that has been left.*

**Keywords:** toponyms, register, map, cartography.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The reading of the geographic and especially the topographic maps is the most significant feature that distinguishes them from other images of the Earth's surface such as photogrammetric and space photos. These images do not include names that identify and explain the objects depicted on them. Unlike them the graphic and background elements of the map are indicated with their names. They facilitate the reading and help to identify the objects on the maps. The geographic nomenclature includes names of localities, administrative units and settlements, as well as those of natural objects such as oceans, seas, rivers, lakes, mountains, deserts, woodlands and more. All these names are summarized under the general term toponyms.

The toponymy is a branch of the onomastics dealing with the study of the names of the geographical sites. The Bulgarian onomastics has established itself as an independent linguistic discipline [4]. It is a valuable source of information about the origin and meaning of the proper names in Bulgaria and is associated with other scientific disciplines - cartography, geography, history, archeology, ethnography, folklore, cultural studies, sociology, aesthetics and more.

The toponymy as a scientific direction has formed and established itself for unusually long time, but a quick boost in its development is marked from the middle of the twentieth century onwards. The term "toponymy" derives from two Greek words topos - place and onyma - name. The toponymy deals with the geographical names in both the theoretical and the applied aspect. The geographical names tell a lot about the history and the culture of the area and even about the

people associated with it. The territories are named not only after their topographical features, but also after local historical events, important personalities, ethnic, religious or literary reasons and other events. The most important practical use of a name is its inclusion and placement in the map.

Important scientific task is the analysis of the relationship between the toponymy and the cartography. The cartography is the science of mapping and spatial research, mutual relations of the phenomena in nature and society, as well as their changes with time. Therefore, the toponyms also have spatial distribution.

During all stages of the cartographic work, including the use of the map, the consideration of the geographical names is required. The selection of the toponyms usually is performed by a specialist in the field of the geographical names. Therefore, he or she must be familiar not only with the graphical aspects of the names in a map, but also with their linguistics. When we design maps for the territory of Bulgaria (a country with one official language) specialized linguistic skills are not required from the cartographer.

When designing modern maps (especially tourist maps) for convenience often two languages are used – of the country producer of the map and a foreign language (mostly English). This requirement is also imposed on the presentation of cartographic materials in different European institutions.

## **THEORETICAL NOTIONS**

### **Etymology of the toponyms**

The etymological analysis of the geographical names aims to clarify their origin. In the history of the Bulgarian onomastics the origin of a large number early Slavic, Bulgarian and Turkic toponyms is explained [4]. With the etymology of names in Bulgarian lands deal both Bulgarian and foreign scientists (M. Drinov, K. Irechek, H. Shkorpil A. Salishev, S. Mladenov, etc.).

With the etymological analysis and to the extent it is possible are established the historical prerequisites for the occurrence of the name.. In Bulgaria the ethnic and linguistic boundaries do not always coincide with the political borders. [4] The reason for this is the multiple change of the Bulgarian borders as a result of wars and the migration of the Bulgarians. For the same reason the toponyms in the Bulgarian border areas show the inextricable link of the population on both sides of the state border. For example, in some villages around the Danube River live small sized Vlach population and in the southern regions are found vague traces of Greek influence because in the past these territories were inhabited by Greek population. The southwest areas in Pirin region prove the opposite example. The toponyms here fully possess the traits of Bulgarian speech. A serious scientific analysis (Die Slaven in Griechenland of Vasmer 1941) proves the former presence of a compact Slavic population in Greece and the Aegean Islands. A significant place of the toponyms that are distributed over the entire Bulgarian territory have Early Slavic origin. These geographical names have not changed over the centuries, regardless of the change of ethnic groups and peoples.

The contemporary etymological studies are analyzing not only the initial form of the forename (adjective, verb) but also the word formation affixes (prefixes and suffixes). The phonetic, morphological and the dialect form of the Bulgarian language or foreign languages are also taken into account.

A geographical name can be a simple name (Sofia) or composite name (Stara Planina). In the composite name one part is called a common element of the toponym and describes the geographical character of the place or its location. It can be seen as "family name": harbor, mountain, river or cliff.

The other part is a specific element and forms the "personal" or the given name of the place. In many toponyms both elements, the specific and the common parts are combined into one word, such as Blagoevgrad. Often the common element of the composite toponym does not specify the nature of the place and is called false element. For example, Rio de Janeiro (means January river), but is actually a deep bay.

### **Standardization of the geographical names**

#### ***Definitions and general rules for standardization***

The cartographic symbols in the topographic maps partly look like the geographic objects and can be understood also by the map user even if he or she does not know the language in which the map is published. On the other hand one name is a "foreign" element in mapping because from graphical point of view the names are not symbols - analogues and are not universal, and originate from different languages and writing systems. The differences in the languages

make the communication difficult. This is also applicable for the geographical names. Therefore, to improve communication between cultures, people and countries appeared the need for some standardization.

The first international conference on geographical names, organized by the United Nations (UN) was held in Geneva in 1967 and a resolution that sets the need, goals and objectives of the standardization was adopted. The Conference also recommends that each country has to set up a national institution responsible for the geographical names. The principal task of this institution is the approval and ratification of one name for a certain location. Such name is called standardized name. Thus is avoided the naming of the geographical locations with the same name. With no doubt maps are the best means of disseminating standardized geographical names.

To be effective the standardization takes place in two stages. The first is the national standardization, and the second is the international standardization.

The national standardization is a necessary step towards the international standardization. The main goal of national standardization is to build a system of precisely defined, normatively established national names. National standardization must resolve two problems. The first is the choice of a name; especially if there is more than one for a particular geographic site. The second problem concerns the written form of the name. The spelling of the name includes all special extra characters like hyphen or apostrophe.

The international standardization is applied by the international institutions. These are the conferences of the UN for standardization of the geographical names where groups of experts gather to discuss key issues, which subsequently are offered for discussion and approval by the UN. Discussed topics of recent years cover the development of the national institutions responsible for the creating of databases of geographical names.

Like the national and the international standardization deals with the problems of the selection of standardized names and their written form. It is known that many geographical names cross political boundaries. A good example is the Danube River which has different names in the countries through which it passes. There are names of seas and oceans and coastal sites which are located outside the territorial waters of a country. For such objects it is appropriate to apply one and the same name. Now the efforts to standardize those names are weak, mainly due to political reasons of national pride, feelings and emotions. The example of Denmark, Norway and Sweden agreeing with the only standardized name Skagerrak for the strait between them shows that it is possible.

So far in the practice every important topographic site located entirely in one country is printed in most world atlases and maps with only a basic name (endonym) and its translation in brackets or written in smaller font. The endonym is the local (formal) form of a toponym. The term "endonym" has Greek origin. It consists of two words ἔνδον (éndon) with the meaning "within" and ὄνομα (ónoma) - "name".

If the object passes political boundaries and especially if it has different names in different countries or if it lies outside the territorial waters of any country, the standardization "exonymisation" or translation of language - purpose of the atlas or map are applied. The exonym is an informal name for a topographic object that is given from a linguistic society or group situated outside the state in which falls the site. The term "exonym" derives from the Greek suffix - ὄνομα (ónoma) with the meaning "name" and the prefix ἔξω or (exo) "out."

The reasons for the existence of unofficial names (exonyms) are mainly historical. In many cases, the travelers or conquerors gave names of geographical objects in their own language that already have local names. These names have remained in use in their own countries. One of the most famous names is the Earth's highest mountain Everest, named after the British topographer and the Surveyor, known also as Zhomo Langma in Tibet and as Sagarma in Nepal. Sometimes, as in this example, the foreign name may become the traditional name.

Another reason for the use of unofficial names is associated with difficulties with the pronunciation of foreign names. There may be alternative names (allonyms) for a topographic object. Then you need to decide which of them will be accepted as official.

The second aspect of international standardization affects the written form of a name. It should be noted that the names in the different cultures are written in different writing systems. A large number of the printed world maps and atlases are published using the Latin alphabet (also called Roman alphabet). Every country whose language has other writing system than Latin one, adopts a separate method to transform its own alphabet into Latin. In mapping of foreign territories are used the basic principles of transcription, in rare cases transliteration and translation for the transmission of foreign geographical names by the means of their own writing system.

By definition transcription is simply a phonetic transformation of a name from one language to another or the accurate and complete transmission by letters and characters of the spoken sound form of the foreign names. Additional graphic signs called diacritic marks or special letter combinations are not used.

While the transcription converts one name phonetically from one language to another, the principle of transliteration seeks to exactly deliver the foreign written form, not the spoken one of the names by letters from the native alphabet. In contrast of the transcription, the transliteration is a reversible process. This gives the advantage to stick to the original sounds with diacritic (secondary) marks. This requires a list of rules for transliteration to serve as a guide to pronunciation.

The romanisation represents a special case of conversion of names from local to Latin alphabet and has the advantage of being universal. For example, a tourist country with a Slavic alphabet as is Bulgaria is good to print maps for tourists in Latin.

Another method of transformation of the geographical names is the translation of the names. First, it applies to the general element of the name. It is used partly for topographic objects that transcend national borders and large area objects. One example is the Pacific Ocean, where Pacific means quiet (*pacifico* in Portuguese). In other cases the whole name is translated. For example, *Mer Noire* is the French name for Black Sea in Bulgaria.

### ***Classification of the toponyms***

Unified classification of the geographical names is still no established. Names can be classified by different attributes, but most often by: the type of the geographical object (river, settlement, etc.); language; history; structure (simple, derivatives, complex and composite) and coverage of the territory.

On the problems of the toponym classification in Bulgaria have worked local as well as foreign researchers, for example Gudev, Ishirkov, Zahariev, Mikov, the brothers Shkorpil and others. Their classifications are later part of the studies of the Bulgarian onomasts that expand and diversify the types of toponyms. Their works are of great importance, both from historical and ethnographic perspective, as well as for the establishing of the origin and meaning of a large number of Bulgarian toponyms. The most modern analysis in the field of the etymology, onomastics and sociolinguistics of Slavic and Balkan linguistics belongs to the famous Bulgarian scientist and researcher Liliana Dimitrova - Todorova. In her work [4] are shown the main branches of onomastics. Essential for the cartography is the toponymy. Therefore, here we will point out the different types of toponyms depending on the type of objects examined: Hydronymy - names of bodies of water; Oikonymy - names of settlements; Oronomy - names of mountain sites; Agronymy - names of various plots of land; Dromonymy - Names of forest areas; Urbonymy - names of all types of objects in the human settlements (streets, neighborhoods, etc.).

Very often are found locality (terrain) names used to name the uninhabited stretches of land. The experts in onomastics divide these names into two types: agronymy and dromonymy. The terrain names very often are placed in the group of oronymy and hidronymy [4]. Perhaps for this reason terrain names are not segregated in a separate group.

## **ORIGIN OF THE BULGARIAN TOPONYMS**

Toponymy is a heritage that must be studied. A large number of tribes and nations have passed through the Bulgarian lands from ancient times to the present day. Settlers in the Bulgarian lands (Thracians, Greeks, Romans, Slavs, Bulgars and others.) have left behind some toponyms that have shown exceptional resistance over time. Simultaneously, each new group of settlers changed or modified the local names. Therefore, the specific names of the geographical objects have different origins. From a historical point of view it is good to know about their origin because they hide deep emotion while studying the native land and the history of civilizations that inhabited our land.

Ottoman domination from the 14th to the 19th century has strong influence on the toponymy in Bulgaria. The presence of toponyms with Turkish origin on Bulgarian territory, even in areas where currently there is no Turkish speaking population can be explained as follows. After the liberation purchased properties from emigrants in Turkey are recorded in the new document of ownership with the old names taken directly from the old documents. Thus, today in villages with enritely Bulgarian population remain local names of Turkish origin.

Showing the historical facts about the diverse origin of the toponyms does not mean that the names of the geographical objects which are connected with Bulgaria must remain with foreign names and are not subject to updating.

## **LEGISLATION RELATED TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN BULGARIA**

The status of geographical names is quite different from a legal or normative point of view. Even in countries where there is a national authority on geographical names the legal status of geographical names is not always given. In few countries the geographical names are protected by law. This means that in these countries one name cannot be changed in an official document such as topographic maps or lists of national geographical names and reference books without the intervention of a legal authority. In other countries, one name has legal status if ratified by the State Commission on names and only legitimate court may change that.

Since the beginning of the 20th century in Bulgaria have been published a large number of laws, decrees and ordinances with the naming and renaming of geographical objects such as settlements, streets and sites of national importance and more. Subject of the Bulgarian standardization now is to establish standards for the transmission of the foreign names in Bulgarian language and the Bulgarian names in Latin, as well as their spelling. These rules apply for their given names as a whole, where most of them are geographic names in the maps.

The ordinances for the conversion of foreign geographical names are based on the principles of transcription [7] and in rare cases on transliteration [6] and translation.

Ordinance № 6 of 06.12.1995 [7] sets the mandatory rules for the transcription and spelling of foreign names in Bulgarian language. The rules define how to phonetically convert foreign unusual for Bulgarian literary language sounds and letter combinations in accordance with its rules.

Since 1999 in Bulgaria is widely applied new system of Romanization. It was adopted by Ordinance for transliteration of the Bulgarian geographical names on October 26, 2006 [6] and later extended by the Law on transliteration in 2009 [1]. The law establishes a system of rules to transmit letters of the Bulgarian alphabet by Latin letters. The system of transliteration and the rules adopted in the law aim to facilitate the international electronic exchange of information. The cartographic activities must also comply with the requirements of this law.

The new Romanization system of Bulgaria is presented and adopted as an international system for Romanization of Bulgarian geographical names on the Tenth Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names of UN, held between July 31 to August 9, 2012 in New York, USA.

The names of well-known geographical objects entered gradually into the Bulgarian language from the founding of the Bulgarian State to the present day, are transmitted in the traditionally inherited form. For example, Rim (Roma), Praga (Praha), Parij (Paris).

## **REGISTER OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN BULGARIA**

One of the tasks of the Council on spelling and transcription of the geographical names is to prepare a final list of geographical names in Bulgaria. These names are already entered into database of the toponyms (register). As a basis for its creation are used different sources. The best sources for geographical names are the existing maps. Other sources are different lists of names. Such lists are owned by the administrative authorities, tax authorities, religious councils and others. Particularly good sources of geographical names are the cadastral registers. In the process of repossession of agricultural land in the country a valuable source for the location of the field property proved to be the names of the localities from inventory - declarations of nationalized property in the mid 50s of the 20th century.

As a first attempt to establish a register of geographical names in Bulgaria is considered the scientific development "System to search for geographical names," of the former "Cartography Ltd" back in 2000. In this system the names are arranged in groups. The main groups are: 1) name of the object; 2) type of object (city, village, country, mountain, river, lake, etc); 3) location – in the district, municipality, land of settlements and geographical coordinates. The idea of this work was finally realized when in 2012 with EU funding a register was established. In it the geographical names in the Republic of Bulgaria can be stored and updated. (<http://geonames.cadastre.bg>).

With the help of specialized software accurate and rapid information on geographical names can be extracted, collated and edited from the database. Important is the option for updating and supplementing the information in the database.

To establish a register the following sources are used: digital model of the map of restituted property; topographic maps at a scale of 1: 5000, 1: 10 000, 1: 25 000; data for the geographical names; catalogs, registers and more. At the time of its creation in the register are entered a total of 258 429 geographical names (<http://technologica.com/docs/world-gis-day-presentations/регистър-на-географските-наименования---агенция-по-геодезия-картография-и-кадастър.pdf>). Of these the largest number are the localities - 220 632, followed by peaks - 11826, villages – 4955, rivers – 4832,

neighborhoods - 4316, fountains – 2572, mounds - 2365, springs – 1290, wells -902, a residential districts - 488, hills – 337, protected areas - 330, natural attractions - 264, religious buildings - 254 and others.

The user interface (<http://geonames.cadastr.bg>) offers simple and advanced search of geographical names - simple search by written geographical name and expanded by various parameters: name (official, alternative or old name); code / type of the geographical object; code / name of the populated place; code / name of the orographic object; code / name of the hydrographic object; code / name of the source.

As a search result for the geographical name is displayed the geographical object on the map. As a search result for the name the following information is displayed: name of the geographical name (official, alternative or old names); transliterated name; type of the geographical name; name of the populated place (code); municipality; nomenclature of the map sheet in scale 1: 5000 in a “Coordinate system 1970”; nomenclature of the map sheet in scale 1: 5000 in a “Coordinate system 2005”; source of data; belonging of the object to a geographical area.

The system allows searching by cadastral identifier. Geographical coordinates are displayed for a point in the object.

The types of the geographical names in the register are identified by the code and are classified in groups:

- Administrative division (code NA) - includes geographical names such as: state, district, municipality and others;
- Populated places (code NB) - includes names of capital, regional and municipal center, town hall, village, residential districts and neighborhood;
- Orographic objects (code NC) - includes names of mountains, plains, a mountain peak etc.
- Hydrographic objects (code ND) - includes names of river, lake, fountain and more.
- Administrative, economic, cultural, sports and tourist sites (code NE) - includes names of administrative building, an industrial area, road, airport, tunnel, street, resort and others.
- Protected areas (code NF) - includes names such as national park, reserve and others.

The developed system for the search of the geographical names is a positive step to create a database of toponyms. Of course, this register will be updated and enriched with new names. The main problem is connected with the changing of the official names of the objects from the register because they are carried over to the maps.

## **TOPONYMS IN THE MODERN MAPS AND THE INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

In the last decade of the 20th century in Bulgaria were carried out reforms in various areas related to the regulation of public relations. One of the first normative acts adopted by the National Assembly is the Law of the ownership and the use of the agricultural land which addresses and clarifies the land relations in Bulgaria. This was followed by a number of other related laws. In 2000 is adopted the Law on Cadastre and Property Register. As a result of the multiple changes of the Normative Acts and their application a huge volume of digital data has been generated - the basis of various information systems, including the cadastral. The following were created:

- digital model of the territory of agricultural land;
- digital model of the territory of the land and forests from Forest Fund;
- digital model of the territory of the land according §4 of Law of the ownership and use of agricultural land;
- digital model of urban areas.

In early 2003 started the implementation of the project "Cadastre and property registration", financed by the World Bank. The main task in creating of the cadastral map and the cadastral register is to unite the created digital models of the territory of the land and to subordinate them to the requirements of the Law on Cadastre and Property Register.

In the process of creating maps of the restored ownership of agricultural lands a difference in the names of localities in a given area was confirmed. Following the methodological guidelines the designers chose the most common name for a locality in the relevant territory. In very rare cases as basis were used cartographic materials. (usually a map of water syndicates). So the main source of the names of the localities was the inventory - declarations of the imported lands in co-operative farms and tax returns. In many cases a lot old notarial acts written in Turkish were used. For this reason in the maps of the restituted property a lot of names with Turkish origin especially terrains remained. They are entered in the register with the status of official (traditional) names.

The problem with the locality names is discussed in detail by the Acceptance Commissions but unfortunately it did not find support and resolution by the responsible institutions. The main objective of the report is to provide some recommendations for amendments of the mechanical transmission of archaic names, incomprehensible from the contemporaries.

It is recommended the Agency of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre to review all names of localities, mountain peaks, mounds, hills, rivers, etc. and where possible to make translation or propose another name from the modern Bulgarian language. Further it is recommendable these names to become official, and other names that are known for that object (in documents and old maps) to enter the group of names. Most of the names have wonderful Bulgarian translations, as we will mention later.

We are aware that not all geographical names can be changed. Many famous geographical objects are recognizable from the past with their present name,- suitable example is Musala. Here it comes about changing the names of many unknown and smaller tributaries of the rivers, small mounds and especially localities. We do not believe that such changes will create problems with the notarial acts of the returned lands and forests. Most of the owners have Writs for entry into possession and these documents have the force of notarial acts. If such changes are necessary, then the Offices of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre could certify the identity of different names as is the established practice. A bigger problem will occur if we leave the abundance of Turkish names to be transferred from the maps of the restored ownership on the cadastral maps and especially the topographic maps.

Currently the cadastral maps for the major cities are fully completed. For now the rural areas have maps of restored ownership. It is known that there are ongoing procedures for creating cadastral maps of all lands of settlements by combining the existing digital database for the whole territory of Bulgaria. In this way will be fulfilled the provisions of the Law on Cadastre and Property Register. Now is the time to replace many terrain names with appropriate Bulgarian ones.

Also there is a new ordinance for the creation and maintenance of large-scale topographic map and a digital model of Bulgaria [8] as well as new symbols [9]. Modifying of all topographic maps in accordance with the "Bulgarian Geodetic System 2005" (BGS2005) [2] provides a good opportunity to change some geographical names in all cartographic materials. As a rule, the traditional forms are replaced when the geographical locations have received new names. By editing the register gradually the traditional form of less famous names will be replaced by modern official form. For implementing these changes is necessary a normative document that regulates the terms and procedures for the selection of suitable names.

Partial study has been made to identify terrain names (peaks, localities, rivers, wells, etc.) of Turkish origin that have entered as official names in the register. There are single part and multiple part names. Only some names that have entered in the register and their translation in brackets have been presented [3, 5]. For the spelling of the words is observed the rule for transliteration:

- Gyol and its derivatives (Marsh) - 1711 examples for the names of neighborhood, river, fountain, lake, spring, peak and locality;
- Tepe and its derivatives (hill) - 1663 examples for names of mountain peak and locality.
- Chal (grassed peak) – 1074 examples for names of village, mountain peak, spring, river, and locality;
- Burun (forested peak, large hill) - 566 examples for locality names;
- Kaleto (fortress, stronghold) - 400 examples for names of fountain, mountain peak and locality;
- Kyoy and its derivatives - 394 examples for names of a river, mountain peak, mound and others;
- Bahchata (orchard or vegetable garden) - 224 examples for names of neighborhood, island, mountain peak and locality;
- Azmaka (fen, moor) - 181 examples for names of a river peak, mound and locality;
- Gyurgena and its derivatives (hornbeam) - 148 examples for names of village, river, mountain peak, fountain and locality;
- Alchaka (low spot or low forest) - 114 examples for names of mountain peak and locality;
- Bunar (well) - 122 examples for names of mountain peak, fountain and locality;
- Benta (barrier of river) – 77 examples for names of hill and locality;
- Kavaka (poplar) – 75 examples for names of fountain, mountain peak and locality;

- Kyunka (tube) - 28 examples for names of fountain, spring and locality;
- Karadere (Black coomb) – 27 examples for names of mountain peak and locality;
- Pamukchi (cotton)- 24 examples for adjective names for a neighborhood, village, well and locality;
- Kozludzha (low coomb) - 19 examples for names of a locality;
- Andaka (hole) - 18 examples for names of a locality;
- Dzhumayata (holy Friday) - 13 examples for names of a locality;

The list can be extended further with many names with similar origin (Bashchata, Haydar, Seid, Bitlidzha, Ayvala Tarla, Tursuna, Karadag, Shabana, Kasar, Samura Kaindzha, Syulyuklyu gyol, Karadza dag, Usurganya etc.). Despite the small number these examples show the abundance of names with Turkish origin in the register of geographical names listed as official names. Many of these words have been dropped out from our vocabulary however they continue to persist in our maps.

## CONCLUSION

The Bulgarian language is constantly changing especially in the context of globalization. There are new foreign words, mostly technical terms related to the development of information technology. The replacement of Bulgarian word with foreign ones, the widespread use of Latin by the national TV channels, the advertisement and the commercial outlets does not seem to impress anyone. Even Bulgarian politicians use imported English words that have elegant and fine toned Bulgarian counterparts. The foreign words have entered our daily lives to such an extend that we even forget that there are Bulgarian analogues for them.

The language and culture of a nation are the most valuable wealth. Across Europe, there are tough measures to protect the national language, while in Bulgaria there is not even Protection Act for the language. This is the job of the politicians, but certainly the active participation of citizens and intellectuals is required as well.

With the replacement of the foreign geographical names on the maps with their Bulgarian analogues we will not obliterate the history of Bulgaria. Rather this will show high level of professionalism in the Bulgarian cartography, and this is also associated with the debt to protect the purity of the language. We believe that political measuements are needed in the naming of geographical objects in Bulgaria in order to preserve our national self-confidence. The recommendations given here also express the true opinion of the authors.

## REFERENCES

Act transliteration (SG. 19, March 13, 2009)

Instruction № RD-02-20-12 for conversion of existing geodetic and cartographic materials and data in "Bulgarian Geodetic System 2005" (SG 63, August 17, 2012)

L. Andreichin, L. Georgiev, Ilchev S., Kostov N. Lekov I. Stoykov S., Todorov, T. (1993) Bulgarian interpretative dictionary. Publishing BAS, Sofia

L. Dimitrova - Todorova (2011) Proper names in Bulgaria. Publishing house "EMAS" Sofia

M. Philipova - Bayrova, Boyadzhiev S. Mashalov E., K. Kostov (1993) Dictionary of the foreign words in Bulgarian language. Publishing BAS

Ordinance № 3 for transliteration of Bulgarian names in Latin letters (SG 94 November 21, 2006)

Ordinance № 6 of 12.06.1995 on the transcription and spelling of foreign names in Bulgarian language (SG 60, July 4, 1995)

Ordinance № V-12-1720 for large scale topographic map (SG 48, June 10, 2014).

<http://www.cadastrе.bg/uslovni-znaci-za-edromashtabni-topografski-karti-v-mashtab-15-000-110-000> (System of symbols for large-scale maps at a scale of 1: 5000, 1:10 000)



## BIOGRAPHY



Penka Kastreva graduated the University of Geodesy, Photogrammetry and Cartography – Sofia in 1982 (now University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy). Since 1984 she practices as an engineer of Geodesy. She worked for the government office of cadastre. Since 1995 she works for the South - West University in Blagoevgrad as an assistant of cartography and GIS. Becomes a Doctor of Geodesy in 2001 with dissertation “Improving of existing geodetic nets”. Since 2005 she is a Associate Professor at South - West University. Her interests are in the fields of GIS and theoretical and thematical cartography



Assoc. Prof. Ivan Drenovski, PhD at Department of Geography, Ecology and Environmental Protection, South-West University “Neofit Rilski”

MSc - Sofia University "St. Kliment Okhridski", Faculty of Geology and Geography;

PhD - Institute of Geography – BAS, in the field of Physical Geography and Landscape studies;

Fields of research: Physical geography, landscape knowledge, geography teaching, climate change, theoretical geography, EIA (environmental impact assessment), sustainable development, ecotourism.



Professor, D-r, eng. at University of Architecture, Civil engineering and Geodesy – Sofia (UACEG). Head of seven university research projects and two international projects Leonardo da Vinci. Participant in other international projects.

Lecturer in Cartography, Thematic Mapping, Web Cartography, Map design and production in UACEG. Research interests in the field of cartography and geographic information systems and mapping the cosmic environment, thematic and Internet - mapping.