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# Current status and related problems of national toponyms standardization in the Republic of Belarus

*Сучасны стан і яго наступствы агульнанароднай стандарызацыі тапанімii ў Рэспубліцы Беларусь*

Standardization of the spelling of individual names of geographical objects by dint of tailored and unified requirements and rules is a priority of contemporary Belarusian onomastic research. The topic acquired special relevance with the dissipation of USSR when Belarus became an independent state, and the urgent need for such names in the field of official usage appeared whereas they play an important role in language practice being used in international treaties and agreements, state borders demarcation and delimitation materials, maps and atlases, Belarusian-language textbooks and handbooks for secondary school and university, statutory acts, state cadasters, in media sources, as part of post office work, in regional studies and while developing tourist routes.

Since 1991 in the Republic of Belarus a large-scale campaign for standardization of national geographical names has been deployed. The program was designed primarily to meet the requirements of the United Nations resolutions in the field of names standardization. The main one of those is to establish officially accepted written forms of national toponyms suitable for use and to provide their usage throughout the world. Implementation of this requirement is directly affected by the status of the official usage of toponyms in each country. In order to develop an unified international approach to different countries' national toponyms standardization as well as to exercise control, supervision and coordination of national authorities responsible for the subject, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names was established.

According to norms of UNO standardization, national geographical names should primarily be focused on keeping the national pronunciation and spelling forms of toponyms. Therefore the situation was complicated by the lack of officially accepted forms of Belarusian geographical names. The toponymic system of the Republic of Belarus, inherited from the BSSR, could be characterized as an irregular, largely variable system

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lacking unified written forms. The reasons for such state of affairs lie in Belarusian history.

It should be noted that spelling inhomogeneity was inherent in toponyms through all the historical periods. Especially high toponymic variability is typical of the 15th – 17th centuries: the period of national language formation in general and the toponymic system as one of its branches in particular. At that time variations of place names became apparent at all levels of the language. And that was a natural process because variations in the written transference of toponyms had been caused by common language processes that had been taking place in the system of vowels and consonants at that time: on the one hand, there was a trend towards phonetization of proper names spelling, and on the other, the Old Russian period spelling traditions were kept. Throughout history the formation of Belarusian toponymic system was also accompanied by renaming: that can be easily seen in monuments of Old Belarusian office and juridical genres. Appearance of toponymic doublets at the lexical level was directly related to the specific conditions of historical period of the 15th – 17th centuries when changes in land ownership and land use took place. Synonymy actively influenced the process of toponyms formation. There was a natural selection of those names that correspond to the reality in a particular period. At the same time the main regulators in this selection were not linguistic but socio-economic laws. The renaming processes during the Old Belarusian language period are characterized by their naturalness and were accompanying the gradual development of toponymic system. Later, after the Old Belarusian language had lost the status of the official language, Belarusian national toponyms fell under the strong foreign-language influence. And in that situation the Polish language had an especially noticeable impact on the Old Belarusian toponymic system. Starting from the second half of the 16th century (after the Warsaw Sejm confirmed Polish as the state language all over the Belarusian lands) the geographical proper names gradually absorbed typical features of Polish phonetics and spelling.

As a result, the traditional ancient Belarusian geographical names were written with the Polish language graphic symbols for nearly a hundred years, which in the end led to form changes in some toponyms. These altered names are reflected on geographical maps as well as in different written juridical and office sources: *Dzieniewszczyzna* (the Old Belarusian language name (OBLN) *Деневщина*), *Jastrzębie* (OBLN *Ястребы*), *Wloki* (OBLN *Волоки*), *Brzeszczie* (OBLN *Берестье*), *Zabłocie* (OBLN *Заболотье*), *Zabłudów* (OBLN *Заблудов*), *Grodna* (OBLN *Городно*), *Szydłowec* (OBLN *Шиловецъ*), *Kożangrodek* (OBLN *Кожангородок*), *Andrzejow* (OBLN *Андреево*), *Mińsk* (OBLN *Меньскъ*), *Rukszenice* (OBLN *Рукшеничи*), *Jakowczycy* (OBLN *Яковчичи*), *Maskalewszczyzna* (OBLN *Москалевщина*), *Lubinszczyzna* (OBLN *Любинщина*) etc. Thus, during the aforecited period two forms of toponyms existed official (Polish-written form) and traditional (national oral form).

At the end of the 18th century (after the Commonwealth of Poland was divided in three parts and Belarusian lands became a part of Russian Empire) conditions for development of national toponyms changed but not for the best. According to Professor

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V. P. Lemtyugova, "within the Russian Empire, neither documentation officers nor historians or cartographers cared about the reliability of Belarusian oikonyms transmission into Russian. They borrowed the already existing set Polish forms and wrote them down using Cyrillic graphic symbols. As a result, a number of Belarusian oikonyms went down to history in a foreign-language or distorted form with phonetic, grammar and word-formation features indistinctive to them".[1] As an example, the researcher gives many Belarusian place names that moved away from their originals under the Russian-language influence: *Чемерисы* (Belarusian form *Чамярыцы*), *Черёмушки* (Belarusian form *Чарэмушнікі*), *Бабёнка* (Belarusian form *Бабінка*), *Голочево* (ancient Belarusian form *Галачэў*), *Хоростово* (ancient Belarusian form *Хорастава*), *Осово* (ancient Belarusian form *Восава*)[2] etc.

No major changes in terms of Belarusian geographical names normalization took place even in the 20th century. The issue of collecting place names, their arrangement and scientific understanding was raised after the foundation of BSSR in 1919. But that work was incomplete. Moreover, after the Treaty of Riga between Poland and Soviet Russia (signed in 1921) a considerable part of Soviet Belarus territory became a part of Poland. Until 1939 western Belarusian lands were a part of Poland and during that period all the paperwork was carried out in the Polish language and therefore proper geographical names were written in Polish. The influence of Polish language on Belarusian toponyms persisted for many years even after western territories were reunited with the rest of Belarus in 1939: *Шаркаўшчызна, Круляўшчызна, Бжэгі, Туржэц, Галяўшчызна, Казімірова, Дамбравова, Заплюшчызна, Канцынова, Свербляўшчызна, Васкаўшчызна* and others.

During the Soviet period of Belarusian history, geographical names were registered in Russian. It may sound paradoxical but at that time there were also no complete official Russian-language lists of settlements names, except a small reference book *Справочник административно-территориального деления Республики Беларусь* (1987), *Справочные алфавитные списки* (existed at district executive committees), *Дежурные списки Белгеодезии* (1980) and *Картотека географических названий Верховного Совета БССР*. Consequently, in official sources Belarusian names were written in Russian and if necessary they were translated into Belarusian. Such approach as well as the lack of stress in the Belarusian toponymic database led to an increased number of erroneous names. For example, the Russian place name *Антоновка* had two variants in Belarusian: *Антонаўка* and *Антаноўка*, *Заболотье – Забалацце, Забалоцце, Дубовые – Дубавыя, Дубовыя, Корсаковичи – Карсакавічы, Карсаковічы, Скуплино – Скупліна, Скупліно, Стрелковцы – Стралкаўцы, Стралкоўцы, Дуброва – Дуброва, Дубрава, Железково – Жалезкава, Жалязкова, Тихоновичи – Ціханавічы, Ціхонавічы* etc.

[1] В. П. Лемцюгова, *Прадмова,* [in:] *Назвы населеных пунктаў Рэспублікі Беларусь. Мінская вобласць,* Мінск, 2003, p. 8.

[2] В. П. Лемцюгова, *op. cit*., p. 9.

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A lot of names were put in the official card index of the Supreme Soviet of BSSR with spelling mistakes: *Лекоревка, Кухоревка, Словенск Альховка, Мачулищи* etc.

The Soviet period in the history of Belarusian toponymy is characterized by a big amount of renaming that is notable for its artificiality and invalidity because those renamings quite often occurred with no account taken of rigorous scientific studies or cultural traditions, and sometimes were accompanied by disregard of address destination as the primary function of the toponym. Ideology of the Soviet system was aimed at turning the transformation of proper names into a political means to influence historical and cultural consciousness of society. Such a kind of policy in the field of renaming led to the impoverishment of the national toponymic landscape, a lot of names lost their national identity, linguistic specificity, and historical, cultural and scientific value: in this way the ancient unique place name *Стары Мар'янфельд* was renamed to *Авангардная, Шляхецкі Камень* to *Акцябр, Каралі* to *Бальшавік, Раманава* to *Барба, Гута* to *Вазраждзенне, Койданава* to *Дзяржынск, Старцавічы* to *Знамя, Карчагоўка* to *Іскра, Задабрасць* to *Калініна, Байдак* to *Камсамольскі, Засценкі* to *Кастрычнік, Глыбокі Брод* to *Кіраўка, Капцюгі* to *Чырвоны Маяк, Макранка* to *Ясная Зара, Хаткі* to *Чырвоны Сцяг, Пагосцішча* to *Чырвоны Пасёлак, Панскі Двор* to *Чырвоная Горка, Княжая Магіла* to *Чапаева* etc.

Thus, as a result of all the above-listed processes Belarusian toponymic system in the Soviet period is characterized by lack of uniformity, common approach and principles for written transference of geographical names, which gave rise to a great number of spelling variants: *Анаполле – Анаполе – Ганнаполле – Ганаполле; Красная Змена – Чырвоная Змена – Красіна; Падсосна – Падсоснае – Падсосны; Красны Дар – Чырвоны Дар – Вядрэцк – Вядрэцкае – Божы Дар; Ляшчынск – Ляшчынскія, Пішчы; Гарані – Гараны – Гаране – Гарань; Знаменская – Знаменка – Знаменскае – Гібайлавічы; Грыцкавічы – Грыцькавічы – Грыцкевічы – Грыцькевічы* etc.

In order to regulate the national toponyms of Belarus a special program for geographical names standardization was developed in the 1990s. It included the following steps: 1) collect the most complete set of toponymic materials (through questionnaire survey, on-site existence, from archival materials, ancient written sources, local history records, topographic maps and atlases, etc.); 2) systematize and create the database of the most demanded categories of toponyms in our society (oikonyms, hydronyms, urbanonyms, names of railway stations and others); 3) restore the original structural and phonetic shape of geographical names through analysis of numerous variants of toponyms and riddance of distorted forms arisen under the influence of Polish and Russian languages at different historical periods; 4) bring the toponyms spelling into accordance with spelling rules of modern Belarusian language; 5) create a normative and legislative basis for standardization of geographical names; 6) make the catalogue of names (State Catalogue of geographical names) in order to ensure their unified and stable usage.

Those who were developing a standard name were guided by established principles, strategies and procedures. Contradictions arise when local residents use different names for the same geographical object, or when local names differ from the ones used

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on maps and in other official documents and records. The factors that may affect strategies and solutions in the field of proper geographical names are:

a) population density and prevalence of local variants of the name;

b) period of time during which the local name has been used.

The situation in the field of geographical names often depends on the influence of social, cultural, ethnical and political factors. In solving problems and considering suggestions related to place names the following factors must be considered:

a) variants of the name, currently used in speech in a particular area, their number and scope of application;

b) usage of current and historical names on maps and in official documents;

c) circumstances of the object designation;

d) doubling of the name within a given area;

e) length of the name;

f) recommendations from local government;

g) social and cultural factors;

h) toponym binding to a geographic area.

Regarding the issues of principles, strategies and procedures the United Nations Conference on Geographical Names recommends :

a) to avoid groundless changes in the place names;

b) to provide the highest possible compliance of writing geographical name with spelling rules of the modern literary language while also taking into account special features of dialect forms;

c) systematic normalization should not distort the significant elements;

d) in cases when names are found in variant forms, the national names authority should consider the issue of giving one of the forms the status of official standard name;

e) system of rules for compound names should be developed in each country.

The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names also recommended to give priority to the names that are invariably used by local residents while preparing official standard names. An effective strategy is to combine official and scientific opinions with the preferences of local residents except when certain names could not be approved because of their conflict with other principles or strategies, or if their conventional local variants are changeable. Besides, the principle of single meaning, according to which each geographical object should have just one standard name at any certain period of time, is an example of an ideal toponymic standardization. Such approach will allow to avoid ambiguity.

Implementation of this program was first of all aimed at the standardization of one of the most required categories of proper names in our society – oikonyms (names of settlements or their parts). The central point of that work was the creation of regulatory guide *Назвы населеных пунктаў Рэспублікі Беларусь* in 6 volumes (according to 6 regions of the country). The handbook includes proper names of all currently available names of settlements within the boundaries of administrative-territorial division of the republic (region, district, the village Soviet). First, there are given the names in the Be-

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larusian language with stress denoted, gender or number (for names in the plural form) indicated and paradigms of declesion adduced. Then, these names are transmitted into the Russian language and written by the means of the Roman graphic symbols. In addition there are current variants of names if any exist and the list of names lost due to various reasons (within each area).

One of the most ancient category of onomastic lexicon – hydronyms – to this day is still not systematized, not standardized and studied insufficiently. There is no need to prove that the linguistic-cultural significance of hydronyms is very high. Unlike other East Slavic territories, hydronyms of Belarus has not been the subject of systematic scientific research for a long time. However, in last decades a number of works devoted to semantic and structural types of hydronyms and their etymology appeared in Belarus. Thus there were prepared scientific studies on the Western Dvina basin hydronyms (research dissertation of A. Katonava *Гідранімія Заходняй Дзвіны на тэрыторыі Беларусі*), Sozh basin (research dissertation of N. Bagaedava *Гідранімія басейна Сожа* (*праславянскі фонд*), the Western Bug basin (research dissertation of N. Smal *Гідранімія і айканімія Пабужжа*), Pripyat basin (monographic study of N. Bagamolnikava *Гідронімы басейна ракі Прыпяць: структурна-семантычныя тыпы матывацыі*), and others. A major contribution to the study of water objects names was made by Professor R. Kazlova, who has prepared and published a set of monographs devoted to the reconstruction of Proto-Slavic hydronymic fund based on areal and etymological criteria (*Беларуская і славянская гідранімія. Праславянскі фонд*, тт. 1, 2; *Славянская гідранімія. Праславянскі фонд*, тт. 3, 4).

Despite significant achievements in the study of hydronyms that were made by Belarusian scientists, the names of water objects of Belarus, unlike the hydronyms of other East Slavic territories (compare, Ukraine – *Dictionary of Ukraine hydronyms*; Russia – *Reverse dictionary of Oka basin hydronyms* of G. Smolitskaya; *Rivers and reservoirs of Volgograd Region: hydronymical dictionary* of V. Suprun and I. Krukova; *Hydronymical dictionary of Seym River basin*" and others), to this day still constitute one of the less systematized and lexicographically processed categories of geographical proper names. Therefore the national hydronyms standardization is a high priority for linguistic researchers today.

The first step of hydronyms standardization should be collecting and systematizing them. Usually, primary registration of the Belarusian hydronyms was realized in Russian without putting a stress mark. The actual Russian-language lexicographical reference books on Belarusian hydronyms were created during the period of Russian Empire (P. Mashtakov *The list of Dneprovskiy basin* (1913); A. Sapunov *Western Dvina River. Historical and geographical overview* (1893)) and Soviet Union (V. Toporov, O. Trubachyov *Linguistic analysis of the Upper Dnieper region hydronyms* (1962), A. Tulpanov *Brief reference book of rivers and reservoirs in BSSR* (1948); O. Yakushko *Lakes of Belarus* (1988)), but they do not reflect the contemporary state of hydronyms system. Different Russian-language reference books were published in the post-Soviet period: Vlasov B. P. *Lakes of Belarus: A Handbook*, M. Kalinin *Reservoirs of Belarus*; *Handbook*.

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The two only Belarusian-language sources on this subject are encyclopedic reference books *Blue Book of Belarus: Encyclopedia* and *Blue Treasure of Belarus: Encyclopedia* which contain almost four thousands articles about rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, large channels, recreation areas of national significance and health resorts of Belarus. At the same time about 26,000 of water objects that have proper names, but don't have officially accepted national spelling forms, were not included in these reference books.

Thus, the main goal of Belarusian hydronyms standardization is to transfer the entire corpus of geographical names into a national database including the restoration of national historic structural and phonetic form and aligning it with the norms of the Belarusian language modern spelling. Before the national hydronyms system is created the regional hydronyms system must be rearranged. In this regard, first of all the task of hydronyms standardization and rating for each region of Belarus should be resolved.

While ordering the spelling of individual names of water objects it is important to be guided by specially designed common requirements and rules which have to take national specificities into account and comply with the principles of international standardization, as well as with the regulatory basis of the Republic of Belarus.

In accordance with all these procedures the *National Corpus of Hydronyms of Belarus*, based on standardized hydronyms from all regions of the country, and on the regulatory reference book *Names of water objects of Belarus* should be created. In future, the electronic corpus and regulatory reference book for Belarusian hydronyms should be included in the State Catalogue of Geographical Names - the electronic database of geographical names that should be constantly reviewed and updated on the basis of official information sources on place names.

Moreover, hard work for the standardization of names of railway stations and train stops is being carried on in the Republic of Belarus nowadays. History of the Belarusian railway starts in 1862. Thus, the history of railway stations names is much younger than the history of the settlements names: it is slightly more than 150 years long. Generally, names of railway stations, local stations, sidings, and track posts correspond to the names of settlements: *Лёзна, Мёры, Мікашэвічы, Матыкалы, Навадруцк, Параф'янава, Калінкавічы, Шаркаўшчына* etc. Therefore, the standardization, carried out in the field of national oikonymy, has largely contributed to the standardization **of station names**. The main problem in spelling of the railway station names is a discrepancy between the Belarusian and Russian forms: *Юшкавічы* (Belarusian form) – *Юшкевичи* (Russian form), *Беняконі* (Belarusian form) – *Беняконе* (Russian form), *Ванелевічы* (Belarusian form) – *Ванилевичи* (Russian form), *Васькаўшчына* (Belarusian form) – *Васьковщизна* (Russian form), *Зазершчына* (Belarusian form) – *Заозёрщина* (Russian form), *Істобкі* (Belarusian form) – *Истопки* (Russian form), *Князікоўцы* (Belarusian form) – *Князюковцы* (Russian form), *Копці* (Belarusian form) – *Копты* (Russian form), *Ліпінкі* (Belarusian form) – *Липенки* (Russian form), *Людзяневічы* (Belarusian form) – *Людиневичи* (Russian form), *Мезенаўка* (Belarusian form) – *Мезиновка* (Russian form), *Мёры* (Belarusian form) – *Миоры* (Russian form), *Дзягцяныя* (Belarusian form) – *Дегтяны* (Russian form), *Скірсціны* (Be-

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larusian form) – *Скрестины* (Russian form), *Ідолта* (Belarusian form) – *Идолты* (Russian form). The normative spelling for such names was originally installed in the Belarusian language, but then these names were transmitted from the Belarusian spelling form to the Russian language: *Юшкавічы* (Belarusian form) – *Юшковичи* (Russian form), *Беняконі* (Belarusian form) – *Бенякони* (Russian form), *Ванелевічы* (Belarusian form) – *Ванелевичи* (Russian form), *Васькаўшчына* (Belarusian form) – *Васьковщина* (Russian form), *Зазершчына* (Belarusian form) – *Зазерщина* (Russian form), *Істобкі* (Belarusian form) – *Истобки* (Russian form) etc. The same methodological approach was applied to the names that formed grammatical variants in the Belarusian and Russian languages: *Крошын* (Belarusian) – *Крошино* (Russian), *Сверкаў* (Belarusian) – *Сверкава* (Russian), *Далёкія* (Belarusian) – *Далёкий* (Russian), *Цвермы* (Belarusian) – *Цверма* (Russian), *Ідолта* (Belarusian) – *Идолты* (Russian) and others. The implementation of the program for standardization of railway station names helped to correct numerous spelling mistakes in the Russian-language forms: for example, *Баравуха* (correct form is *Боровуха), Носилово* (correct form is *Носилово*) etc.

Besides, while ordering names of the railway stations and local train stops, researchers came across other problems connected with transference of some names into the Belarusian language which, according to the regulatory acts of that period, were once given in Russian: *Восток, Крестьянка, Лебяжий, Рассвет, Роща, Строитель, Учитель*. It seems that the most suitable method for these group of geographical names standardization is to translate them into Belarusian and transliterate from Belarusian into Russian: *Усход – Усход, Сялянка – Селянка, Лебядзіны – Лебединый, Гай – Гай, Будаўнік – Будавник, Настаўнік – Наставник* and others. But, due to the strong tradition of Russian-language names forms usage, it was decided to leave translated forms of names as standard ones. However, this solution is valid only in regard of the old names. New names should be given to geographical objects in the Belarusian language and transliterated into Russian.

One of the priority issues for toponyms standardization today is the standardization of street names in cities, towns and villages of our country. Street names are an integral part of the urban landscape, they are monuments of the long human settlements history, a special reflection of their political, social, cultural and economic life in different historical periods. At the present stage special attention should be given to names of objects situated within towns and villages because they are a kind of country visiting card with their distinctive history and national traditions. However, despite of the fact that the Republic of Belarus has been an independent state for more than 20 years for now there are still many unresolved issues in standardization of avenues, streets, lanes and squares names.

In the capital of Belarus, as well as in many settlements throughout the country, street names are in the Belarusian language and this fact contributes greatly to the creation of national identity of urbanonyms. But there are a lot of spelling mistakes and graphical errors in written forms of these names and that does not help to keep the language aes-

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thetics: *вул. (St.) Щорса (*correct form: *вул. Шчорса), вул. (St.) Дэкабрыстаў* (correct form: *вул. Дзекабрыстаў), вул. (St.) Сурганова (*correct form: *вул. Сурганава), вул. (St.) Хмельніцкага (*correct form: *вул. Хмяльніцкага), вул. (St.) Прылукская (*correct form: *вул. Прылуцкая), вул. (St.) Магілеўская (*correct form: *вул. Магілёўская), вул. (St.) Кісялева (*correct form: *вул. Кісялёва), вул. (St.) Новавіленская (*correct form: *вул. Нававіленская)* and others. A solution to this problem lies in establishing special services within city and regional executive committees responsible for the spelling correctness of names given to intracity objects.

One of the main criteria that should guide the Commission for naming and renaming of avenues, streets, squares and other parts of cities is that geographical proper names should organically match the national toponymic system and comply with all the rules of inflection and word formation in the Belarusian language. However, there are certain difficulties in transference of some street names into Belarusian: for instance the Russian-language name of the avenue in Minsk *Вузовский* was formed from the abbreviation *вуз* (высшее учебное заведение - an institute of higher education), which in the Belarusian language corresponds to the abbreviation *ВНУ* (вышэйшая навучальная ўстанова - an institute of higher education). This abbreviation (*ВНУ*) in the Belarusian language, unlike in Russian, is written in capital letters and does not have an adjective form.

The system of street names has examples that do not fit into the lexical system of the Belarusian language. For instance, the street name *Алейная,* which is situated in the capital of our country. In the Belarusian language the meaning of the word *алейны* is not equal to the Russian word *аллея* that means "road lined with trees or bushes on both sides" (in Belarusian - *прысады*). This adjective in the modern Belarusian literary language is related to the word *алей* in the meaning "oil from various vegetable seeds: hemp, poppy, linseed, mustard, sunflower and others".

The principle of translation from Russian into Belarusian has been used for a long time for urbanonyms transference: *ул. (St.) Обойная* (Russian) – *вул. (St.) Шпалерная* (Belarusian), *ул. (St.) Железнодорожная* (Russian) – *вул. (St.) Чыгуначная* (Belarusian), *ул. (St.) Победы* (Russian) – *вул. (St.) Перамогі* (Belarusian), *ул. (St.) Радужная* (Russian) – *вул. (St.) Вясёлкавая* (Belarusian), *ул. (St.) Родниковая* (Russian) – *вул. (St.) Крынічная* (Belarusian), *ул. (St.) Строителей* (Russian) – *вул. (St.) Будаўнікоў* (Belarusian), *ул. (St.) Торговая* (Russian) – *вул. (St.) Гандлёвая* (Belarusian), *ул. (St.) Трудовая* (Russian) – *вул. (St.) Працоўная* (Belarusian), *ул. (St.) Усадебная* (Russian) – *вул. (St.) Сядзібная* (Belarusian), *ул. (St.) Сиреневая* (Russian) – *вул. (St.) Бэзавая* (Belarusian), *ул. (St.) Наклонная* (Russian) – *вул. (St.) Нахільная* (Belarusian), *ул. (St.) Колхозная* (Russian) – *вул. (St.) Калгасная* (Belarusian), *ул. (St.) Красноармейская* (Russian) – *вул. (St.) Чырвонаармейская* (Belarusian), *ул. (St.) Кузнечная* (Russian) – *вул. (St.) Кавальская* (Belarusian), *переул. (lane) Мельничный* (Russian) – *завул. (lane) Млынарны* (Belarusian), *ул. (St.) Октябрьская* (Russian) – *вул. (St.) Кастрычніцкая* (Belarusian), *переул. (lane) Ученический* (Russian) – *завул. (lane) Вучнёўскі* (Belarusian) etc. As a result of this practice proper names cease to ful-

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fill their basic assignment – an address function– and formally they are realized as two different names of geographical objects especially by foreigners. In conditions of state bilingualism transference of geographical names from one official language to the other should take into account international norms and standards, according to which the name of a linear intracity or territorial geographical object is given in the national (in this case – Belarusian) language and transmitted into the second official language (in this case – Russian) by transliteration or practical transcription: *вул. (St.) Нахіленая* (Belarusian) – *ул. (St.) Нахиленая* (Russian), *вул. (St.) Шпалерная* (Belarusian) – *ул. (St.) Шпалерная* (Russian), *вул. (St.) Крынічная* (Belarusian) – *ул. (St.) Крыничная* (Russian), *вул. (St.) Вясёлкавая* (Belarusian) – *ул. (St.) Весёлковая* (Russian). Such approach will allow to eliminate the practice of translating streets names from Russian into Belarusian and to transfer the toponyms of Belarus on a national basis.

Proper place names, including names of intracity objects, should be proved and filled with historical and cultural data. However, it is impossible to define as proved a large number of street names in Minsk and other cities of the country: *вул. (St.) Абрыкосавая, вул. (St.) Авангардная, вул. (St.) Летняя, вул. (St.) Светлая, завул. (lane*) *Цвёрды, вул. (St.) Зімняя, вул. (St.) Ясная* etc.

It is necessary to consider historical and cultural aspect while standardizing intracity names. Thus, according to surveys by sociologists and political scientists there are several facts that most affected the structure of toponymic system in the capital of Belarus. The first position belongs to "World War II" category (15.4%), the second one – to the "Russian history and culture of pre-Soviet period" field (9.0%), the third place is taken by the "Soviet communism" group (6.5%), the fourth – by "Belarusian Soviet history and culture" and the fifth – by "Belarusian history and culture of pre-Soviet period".[3] At the same time in the **urbanonyms** landscape of Minsk, the naming is mostly devoted to Marxism-Leninism leaders, revolutionaries, heroes of the Civil War, leaders of the Party and the Soviet state, Party and state leaders of the BSSR: *вул. (St.) Леніна, вул. (St.) Карла Маркса, вул. (St.) Фрыдрыха Энгельса, вул. (St.) Розы Люксембург, вул. (St.) Клары Цэткін, вул. (St.) Ландэра, вул. (St.) Кнорына, вул. (St.) Мяснікова, вул. (St.) Куйбышава, вул. (St.) Свярдлова, вул. (St.) Кірава, вул. (St.) Арцёма, прасп. (avenue) Дзяржынскага, вул. (St.) Шчорса, вул. (St.) Лазо, вул. (St.) Гікалы, вул. (St.) Прытыцкага* etc. There are also a big number of Russian toponyms in the urbanonymic system of Minsk: *вул. (St.) Алтайская, вул. (St.) Амурская, вул. (St.) Ангарская, вул. (St.) Байкальская, вул. (St.) Іркуцкая, вул. (St.) Пензенская, вул. (St.) Пермская, вул. (St.) Самарская, завул. (lane*) *Табольскі, вул. (St.) Томская, вул. (St.) Тульская, вул. (St.) Уральская, вул. (St.) Хабараўская* and others. Many streets in the capital of Belarus contain names of Russian writers, composers and artists: *вул. (St.) Пушкіна, вул. (St.) Лермантава, вул. (St.) Маякоўскага, вул. (St.) Герцэна, вул. (St.) Чэхава, вул. (St.) Жукоўскага, вул. (St.) Грыбаедава, вул. (St.) Бялінскага, вул. (St.)*

[3] А. Ластоўскі, А. Казакевіч, Р. Балачкайце, *Памяць пра Другую сусветную вайну ў гарадскім ландшафце Усходняй Еўропы*, "Arche" 2010, no. 3, 268, 269, 275.

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*Чарыншэўскага, вул. (St.) Талстога, вул. (St.) Гогалеўская, вул. (St.) Адоеўскага, вул. (St.) Агарова, вул. (St.) Караленкі, вул. (St.) Ясеніна, вул. (St.) Чайкоўскага, завул. (lane*) *Няжданавай, вул. (St.) Собінава, вул. (St.) Айвазоўскага, вул. (St.) Васняцова, вул. (St.) Верашчагіна, вул. (St.) Рэпіна, вул. (St.) Сурыкава* and others.

At the same time names of people who have left an imprint on the history of our country from ancient times to the modern history have not yet taken proper places on the map of the capital of independent Belarus.

There are a lot of our famous compatriots who should be honored by naming the streets of Minsk after them, especially: the most ancient ones (*Ragvalod, Ragneda, Usiaslau Charadzei*), educators (*Nestar Letapisec, Kiryla Turauski*), the first builder of Minsk *Gleb Menski,* outstanding citizens of the biggest European country – Grand Duchy of Lithuania (the founder and the first ruler *Mindoug*, unifiers of the Belarusian lands - dukes *Gedymin* and *Vitaut,* the famous commander and statesman of Grand Duchy of Lithuania *Kanstantsin Astrozhski,* educators and teachers *Laurentsij* and *Stephan Zizanij,* the first rocketeer in the world *Kazimir Semianovich*, educator and printmaker *Spirydon Sobal,* writer, translator, essayist *Simiaon Polatski,* teacher and public figure *Kazimir Lyshchynski,* and also members of dynasties of the *Radzivil, Valovich, Slucki, Tyshkevich, Khraptovich, Khadkevich* who did a lot for the enlightenment of Belarusian nation. The names of our countrymen, world-known people, national heroes of other countries should be immortalized in the names of streets and squares: *Tadeush Kasciushka, Mikhal Aginski, Ihnat Dameika.*

It is worth a note that during last decades numerous streets of Minsk were named in honor of Belarusian writers, ethnographers, folklorists, scientists, artists, theatrical figures: *вул. (St.) Алеся Бачылы, вул. (St.) Францішка Багушэвіча, вул. (St.) Янкі Брыля, вул. (St.) Ігната Буйніцкага, вул. (St.) Уладзіслава Галубка, вул. (St.) Валенція Ваньковіча, вул. (St.) Максіма Гарэцкага, вул. (St.) Яўфіма Карскага, вул. (St.) Івана Шамякіна, вул. (St.) Пімена Панчанкі, вул. (St.) Язэпа Драздовіча, вул. (St.) Дуніна-Марцінкевіча, вул. (St.) Усевалада Ігнатоўскага, вул. (St.) Каруся Каганца, вул. (St.) Кандрата Крапівы, вул. (St.) Янкі Лучыны, вул. (St.) Паўла Шпілеўскага, вул. (St.) Уладзіслава Сыракомлі, вул. (St.) Максіма Танка, вул. (St.) Міхася Чароты* and others. However, a lot of names worthy of perpetuation have not been used yet for naming streets, squares and avenues of the capital of independent Belarus: scientist and educator, the ideologist of the humanist and Reformation movements in Belarus *Symon Budny,* composer, writer, Belarusian folk art collector *Mikhail Elski,* historian, ethnographer *Aliaxandar Elski*, eminent Belarusian scientist, inventor of electrography and magnetism *Jakub Narkevitch-Iodka,* ethnographer *Eudakim Ramanau,* historian *Dounar-Zapolski*, the first editor of the first legal Belarusian newspaper "Наша Ніва" *Aliaxandar Ulasau*, the first rector of Belarusian State University, historian *Uladzimir Picheta*, scientists and public figures *Jazep Lyosik, Vaclau Lastouski, Sciapan Nekrashevich, Ivan* and *Anton Lutskevich, Arkadz Smolich, Branislau Taraszkiewicz*, world known writers *Vasil Bykau, Uladzimir Karatkevich* and many others.

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There is a large reserve for naming and renaming linear objects in Minsk that consists of names associated with the fact of the capital's new microdistricts rapidly developing, and with the existence of similar objects (*вул. (St.) Авангардная* and *зав. (lane) Авангардны, вул. (St.) Аўтазаводская* and *зав. (lane) Аўтазаводскі, вул. (St.) Амурская* and *зав. (lane) Амурскі, вул. (St.) Ангарская* and *зав. (lane) Ангарскі, вул. (St.) Аэрадромная* and *зав. (lane) Аэрадромны, вул. (St.) Аэрафлоцкая* and *зав. (lane) Аэрафлоцкі, вул. (St.) Балотная* and *зав. (lane) Балотны* etc.). In order to solve toponymic disharmony, return historical urbanonyms or to name new streets, historian I. Satsukevich has identified several basic methods based on extensive scientific analysis: *restoration method* (return to the original street name), *reconstruction method* (used when it is impossible to return to the original name), *geographical method* (when streets are named according to names of settlements), *the method of personalization* (when a street is named in honor of certain person), and has developed a project according to which historical names of some streets and squares in Minsk should be returned to.[4] We suppose that the Commission for naming and renaming of avenues, streets, squares and other parts of Minsk within Minsk City Council of Deputies should use these methods in its work, including situations which are described in the Commission Regulations[5] as "renewal of the historical toponyms of Minsk and its further development; gradual transfer of Minsk toponyms on a national basis; gradual establishment of such a toponymic landscape of Minsk as would promote patriotism and aesthetics among Minsk residents and have an important ideological significance".

One of the most complicated problems in the context of the Belarusian-Russian official bilingualism was to establish the unified and exact spelling form for one geographical object in two official languages – Russian and Belarusian. There is a wide range of users concerned with the implementation of this task, mostly those who use both official languages (mostly Russian) in everyday language practice: national and local governments and lower organizations, scientific organizations, the media, cartographic enterprises, publishing houses, post etc. Consequently, the State directory as the ultimate official source of information on geographical names is being created in two official languages. While establishing the standard Belarusian name, the form of writing is taken as a principle and then it is transferred to the second official language – Russian – by means of the method of transliteration. Such approach helps to revive, preserve and standardize national toponyms as an important part of historical and cultural heritage of Belarusian nation. The process of place names normalization is regulated by appropriate legal and regulatory documents. The main legal and regulatory document is the Law of the Republic of Belarus *On the names of geographical*

[4] І. Сацукевіч, *Назвы вуліц і плошчаў Мінска як гісторыка-культурная спадчына*, "Arche" 2010, no. p, 324–341.

[5] Палажэнне аб камісіі па найменаванні праспектаў, вуліц, плошчаў і іншых састаўных частак горада Мінска. Зацверджана рашэннем Мінскага гарадскога Савета дэпутатаў 23.03.2006 № 230.

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*objects*, which defines legal fundamentals of identification, normalization, naming and renaming, state registering and geographical names usage to ensure unified approaches to the fulfillment of these activities, and also preservation of geographical objects of Belarus as an integral part of historical and cultural heritage of the country. Article 17, *The Language of Place Names,* of the aforecited Law sets the requirement for using the Belarusian language for naming geographical objects in the Republic of Belarus and then transferring these names into Russian by means of transliteration. At the same time geographical names are the subject of state registration in Belarusian and Russian languages. In order to implement the clauses of the Law the document called *Technical instruction for transferring of geographial names from the Belarusian language to Russian*[6] was developed by the Republican Toponymy Commission within The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Toponymy Commission within the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus. In this Instruction the main ways of interlingual transference of place names are given (including rules for vowels and consonants transference, endings and suffixes) as well as deviations from basic norms, special features of complex and compound names and adjectives, formed from toponyms. A technical instruction regulates the transfer of names of settlements and their components (streets, squares, alleys, etc.), transport infrastructure (stations, local stations, etc.), water objects, tracts and other physiographic objects from the Belarusian language into Russian.

The basic principles of toponyms transferring from the Belarusian language into Russian are:

1. Place names- from the Belarusian language into Russian - are transferred from national forms of names that are set on the basis of legal regulatory provisions.

2. While being transferred from the Belarusian language to Russian, geographical names acquire their spelling form in accordance with the rules of the modern Russian literary language, except the cases when national language features have to be preserved.

3. The presence of stress mark is a necessary condition for geographical names transference from the Belarusian language into Russian.

4. While transferring names from the Belarusian language into Russian the following are unacceptable: 1) structural transformation of initial national name: *Карню́шкаў Засце́нак – Корню́шкин Засте́нок*; *Цяце́рын – Тете́рино*; 2) transferring place names from the Belarusian language to Russian by means of literal translation: *п. (square) Перамо́га – п. ( square) Побе́да; в. (village) Чырво́ная Зо́рка – д. (village) Кра́сная Зорька́; вул. (St.) Бэ́завая – ул. (St.) Сире́невая; вул. (St.) Кастры́чніцкая – ул. (St.) Октя́брьская; вул. (St.) Чыгу́начная – ул. (St.) Железнодоро́жная; вул. (St.) Яравáя – ул. (St.) Овра́жная.*

[6] Техническая инструкция по передаче географических объектов с белорусского языка на русский. Утверждена постановлением Государственного комитета по имуществу Республики Беларусь № 284 от 07.09.2014.

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A combination of two methods is used for transferring geographical names from the Belarusian language into Russian: 1) transliteration: *в. (village) Жусíны – д. (village) Жуси́ны*; *в. (village) Савíшкі – д. (village) Сави́шки*; *в. (village) Трайгí – д. (village) Трайги́*; 2) transliteration with replacement of certain elements in morphemes: in root of the word (*п. (settlement) Бараўля́ны – п. (settlement) Боровля́ны; в. (village) Гарэ́лкі – д. (village) Горе́лки; г.п. (township) Жалудо́к – г.п. (township) Желудо́к; в. (village) Ся́лец – д. (village) Се́лец*); in affixal part of the word (prefix, suffix, ending, connecting vowel: *в. (village) Аксе́нькавічы – д. (village) Аксе́ньковичи; в. (village) Кру́глае – д. (village) Кру́глое; в. (village) Навабе́лічы – д. (village) Новобе́личи; в. (village) Падлíпкі – д. (village) Подли́пки*; *Игу́менскі тракт – Игу́менский тракт; вул. (St.) Касманáўтаў – ул. (St.) Космона́втов; лес (forest) Булáнскі – лес (forest) Булáнский; ур. Вя́зава – ур. Вя́зово*).

While transferring geographic names from the Belarusian language into Russian we should preserve all dialect features (phonetic, grammatical) fixed in written form: *в. (village) Алёхнавічы – д. (village) Алёховичи; в. (village) Людымы – д. (village) Людымы*.

It is unacceptable to translate names with ideological content. We should transliterate and write them according to the rules of Belarusian orthography: *в. (village) Кастрычнік – д. (village) Кастри́чник; в. (village) Чырво́ная Зо́рка – д. (village) Чирво́ная Зо́рька*.

Belarusian place names that correlate with common words of the same root, individual names, surnames, or nicknames are transferred to the Russian language in accordance with equivalent Russian roots spelling: *в. (village) Аста́шына – д. (village) Оста́шино; в. (village) Ваўчкí – д. (village) Волчки́; в. (village) Крыло́ва – д. (village) Крыло́во; в. (village) Лявóнавічы д. (village) Леóновичи; вул. (St.) Арлóўская – ул. (St.) Орлóвская; вул. (St.) Вясéнняя – ул. (St.) Весéнняя; вул. (St.) Крынíчная – ул. (St.) Кринúчная*.

The Republic of Belarus as an independent state is gradually becoming a part of global informational space where communication is carried out using Roman alphabet. Therefore Belarusian geographical names appear in the texts, written in languages that use Roman alphabet graphics. According to international requirements each country must develop its own version of the Roman alphabet for proper names in order to use them in the field of international relations and communications. Historical precedent of using Roman graphic symbols for Belarusian script has led to the fact that the national version of the Roman alphabet has been adopted for the basis while developing the *Instructions for transliteration of geographical names of the Republic of Belarus by Roman alphabet symbols*[7].

[7] Інструкцыя па транслітарацыі геаграфічных назваў Рэспублікі Беларусь літарамі лацінскага алфавіта. Зарэгістравана ў Нацыянальным рэестры прававых актаў Рэспублікі Беларусь 30.11.2000 г. № 8/4488 у рэдакцыі пастановы Дзяржаўнага камітэта па маёмасці Рэспублікі

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United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names considered the *Instruction for transliteration of geographical names of Belarus by Roman alphabet symbols* and approved it at the 9th UN Conference held in New York in August 2007. At the 10th United Nations Conference on Geographical Names (*http://www.embassybel.ru/news/b804b8e6e1fc.html*), which took place in New York in 2012 and included the delegation from the Republic of Belarus as one of the participants, Belarusian Romanization system of geographical names developed by the State Property Committee of the Republic of Belarus was adopted for international use. It was noted that the system was formed on the basis of historical spelling with the use of Roman alphabet symbols and that it corresponds to international standards. Due to the fact that the system has been adopted by the international community, it should be used while making traveling, cartographical and other documents.

The system proposed in the Instruction fully reflects orthoepic features of the Belarusian language and complies with the principle of reverse spelling, that means restoration of geographical names from the Roman alphabet to Cyrillic without any distortion: *Бешанковічы – Biešankovičy, Гомель – Homieĺ, Гаўя – Najja, Добруш – Dobruš, Ельск – Jeĺsk, Бабаедава – Babajedava, Венцавічы – Viencavičy, Ёды – Jody, Вераб'ёвічы – Vierabjovičy, Мёры – Miory, Жодзішкі – Žodziški, Зэльва – Zeĺva, Іванава – Ivanava, Лагойск – Lahojsk, Круглае – Kruhlaje, Лошыца – Lošyca, Любань – Liubań, Магілёў – Mahilioŭ, Нясвіж – Niasviž, Паставы – Pastavy, Светлагорск – Svietlahorsk, Талачын – Talačyn, Узда – Uzda, Шаркаўшчына – Šarkaŭščyna, Фаніпаль – Fanipaĺ, Хоцімск – Chocimsk, Цёмны Лес – Ciomny Lies, Чавусы – Čavusy, Шуміліна – Šumilina, Чыгірынка – Čyhirynka, Чэрвень – Červień, Чачэрск – Čačersk, Юхнаўка – Juchnaŭka, Гаюціна – Hajucina, Цюрлі – Ciurli, Ямнае – Jamnaje, Баяры – Bajary, Вязынка – Viazynka.*

However this variant of Roman alphabet was taken by Belarusian society in different ways: some approved it, others reacted with incomprehension. The reason for misunderstanding was the fact that majority of citizens did not know about the existence of the national version of the Roman alphabet, and also that many members of the population, especially young people, associated it with the English language. The argument related to the fact that the transliteration should follow English spelling only because English is an international language, is not corroborated enough. The next argument that states that foreigners will not be able to read geographical names if they are written differently from the rules of English spelling also has no reason to be taken into account. The transfer of Belarusian geographical names by means of English graphic symbols is impossible: 1) according to international requirements, national Roman alphabet should not be correlated with a certain language (English in this case); 2) the majority of Roman-language countries retain the original spelling of foreign proper names; 3) English alphabet does not allow to restore correct origi-

Беларусь ад 11.06.2007 № 38, зарэгістраванай у Нацыянальным рэестры прававых актаў Рэспублікі Беларусь 06.07.2007, № 159, 8/16668.

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nal Cyrillic spelling form (eg. *Maryiampal – Мэрыаэмпэл, Kulman – Калмэн* etc.). It is known that pronunciation makes sense only for verbal communication, but for transliteration it is very important to keep clear the original spelling form because it is impossible to achieve correct pronunciation in a foreign language. At the same time it is necessary to take into account the historical aspect: place names are an important part of historical and cultural heritage of nation, there is a certain historical meaning in each geographical name. Toponyms are closely associated with the national culture: they embody typical features of traditional culture, historical facts and events. Keeping in mind that place names are historical and cultural monuments of the country as they reflect its identity and national color, we affirm that they should be transferred by the means of Roman graphic symbols only from the national language. The practice of proper geographical names transferring from national language by graphical means of Roman alphabet as well as transferring from the national language to other languages of the world fully corresponds to international practice and requirements of the United Nations Organization.

The problem of interlingual toponyms transference took a special place in the standardization program. The urgency of this direction is caused by the fact that Republic of Belarus enters the world information space as an independent entity and expands its international contacts helping to create global information space that should provide its member with high-quality, unified and accurate data. In this regard, special attention is paid to regulatory and unification issues of foreign geographical names spelling. Unified transferring of foreign toponyms is one of the necessary conditions for the implementation of international agreements, preparation of legal acts, publication of maps and atlases as well as for sharing the information at online resources. However, in order to serve as a reliable reference point, each place name should have a unified phonetic and graphic form devoid of any variant.

To ensure steady transferring of foreign toponyms in writing the development of scientifically grounded principles and consequent rules of place names transferring from one language to another are required as well as establishment of standardized names forms in regulatory acts. *Manual for the national standardization of geographical name*s[8] developed by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names contains general recommendations for international standardization of toponyms. With regard to international standards and national language specificity, technical codes of established practice, which regulate the rules of official registration of geographical names from different countries in the Belarusian language, were prepared and adopted in the Republic of Belarus at the present stage. First of all the work on standardization

[8] *Manual for the national standardization of geographical names. United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names*, New York 2007.

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of interlingual toponyms transferring in the border countries (Russia[9], Ukraine[10], Latvia[11], Lithuania[12] and Poland[13]) was carried out. These regulatory and legal documents were developed by the Republican Unitary Enterprise "Белкартаграфія" together with the Republican Toponymic Commission within The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus with the participation of experts from the Belarusian State University.

Technical codes have found widespread use in the work of cartographers for preparation of various maps and atlases, documents on delimitation and demarcation of the state border between Belarus and neighboring countries. However, creation of technical codes for standardization of neighboring states toponyms is only one part of general problem of foreign place names transference in the Belarusian language. To establish regulations for transferring of geographical proper names from other languages is still a topical issue for Belarus. First of all it is necessary to solve problems connected with the transferring of English-language toponyms because English is the mediating language used in different spheres of life today and the proficiency level in it is being improved throughout the world. The development of strategies and principles for interlingual transfer of Slavic toponyms to Belarusian language also has a great importance.

Thus, the Belarusian onomastic science at the present stage is characterized by activation of research aimed at standardizing national toponyms. Within a relatively short time of existence of the Republic of Belarus as an independent state, significant work on standardization of various geographical proper names categories was carried out. At the same time there is a constant search for new research aspects. Today onomastic research centers have been created in many educational institutions of the country: P. M. Masherov Vitebsk State University, Francisk Skorina Gomel State University, I. P. Shemyakin Mozyr State Pedagogical University, Maxim Tank Belarusian State Ped-

[9] Техническая инструкция по передаче наименований географических объектов с русского языка на белорусский. Издание официальное. Минск: Научно-исследовательское республиканское унитарное предприятие по землеустройству, геодезии и картографии "БелНИЦзем. – 34 с.

[10] Тэхнічны кодэкс устаноўленай практыкі. Геаграфічныя назвы. Спосабы і правілы перадачы геаграфічных назваў і тэрмінаў Украіны на беларускую мову. Выданне афіцыйнае. Мінск: Дзяржаўны камітэт па маёмасці Рэспублікі Беларусь. – 52 с. (выканаўца – В. П. Лемцюгова).

[11] Тэхнічны кодэкс устаноўленай практыкі. Геаграфічныя назвы. Спосабы і правілы перадачы геаграфічных назваў і тэрмінаў Латвійскай Рэспублікі на беларускую мову. Выданне афіцыйнае. Мінск: Дзяржаўны камітэт па маёмасці Рэспублікі Беларусь. – 52 с. (выканаўца – І. А. Гапоненка).

[12] Тэхнічны кодэкс устаноўленай практыкі. Геаграфічныя назвы. Спосабы і правілы перадачы геаграфічных назваў і тэрмінаў Літоўскай Рэспублікі на беларускую мову. Выданне афіцыйнае. Мінск: Дзяржаўны камітэт па маёмасці Рэспублікі Беларусь. – 52 с. (выканаўца – І. Л. Капылоў).

[13] Тэхнічны кодэкс устаноўленай практыкі. Геаграфічныя назвы. Спосабы і правілы перадачы геаграфічных назваў і тэрмінаў Рэспублікі Польшча на беларускую мову. Выданне афіцыйнае. Мінск: Дзяржаўны камітэт па маёмасці Рэспублікі Беларусь. – 52 с. (выканаўца А. А. Казанцава).

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agogical University, A. S. Pushkin Brest State University, Yanka Kupala Grodno State University, and Arkady Kuleshov Mogilev State University. Nevertheless, the issues of collecting, organzing and preserving microtoponyms which rapidly disappear from the map of Belarus and memory of Belarusian people are still topical, and problems of ordering of national hydronyms, different area descriptions of proper names classes, and the study of unexplored classes of toponyms, and creation of electronic toponymic resources are still urgent and require solution.

**Рэзюмэ**

Прыярытэтным напрамкам сучасных беларускіх анамастычных даследаванняў з'яўляецца ўпарадкаванне напісання індывідуальных найменняў геаграфічных аб'ектаў з прымяненнем спецыяльна распрацаваных адзіных патрабаванняў і адзіных правіл. З мэтай упарадкавання нацыянальнай тапанімії Беларусі ў 90-я гады XX стагоддзя была распрацавана спецыяльная праграма па стандартызацыі ўласных найменняў геаграфічных аб'ектаў. У артыкуле разглядаюцца асноўныя этапы і шляхі фарміравання нацыянальнай тапанімічнай сістэмы Беларусі на працягу XV–XX стагоддзяў і праблемы, якія ўзнікаюць на сучасным этапе стандартызацыі беларускай тапанімії. У першую чаргу, разглядаецца пытанне ўнармавання адной з найбольш сацыяльна запатрабаваных катэгорый онімаў – айконімаў. Значная ўвага аддаецца і праблеме стандартызацыі адной з самых старажытных катэгорый анамастычнай лексікі – гідранімії, якая да сённяшняга дня застаецца несістэматызаванай, нестандартызаваннай і недастаткова даследаванай. Акрамя таго, у артыкуле разглядаюцца праблемы ўпарадкавання напісання назваў населеных пунктаў, назваў вуліц гарадоў і вёсак краіны, а таксама назваў чыгуначных станцый і пунктаў прыпынкаў цягніка. Адной з даволі складаных задач у кантэксце беларуска-рускага дзяржаўнага двухмоўя з'яўляецца ўстанаўлення аднастайнай дакладнай формы напісання аднаго геаграфічнага аб'екта на дзвюх дзяржаўных мовах – беларускай і рускай, таму ў артыкуле разглядаюцца асноўныя прынцыпы і спосабы перадачы тапонімаў з беларускай мовы на рускую. Акрамя гэтага, у артыкуле разглядаецца пытанне распрацоўкі для нашай краіны свайго варыянта лацінскага алфавіта для ўласных імён з мэтай выкарыстання іх у сферы міжнародных зносін і камунікацый. Такім чынам, у дадзеным артыкуле адлюстроўваецца сучасны стан і праблемы стандартызацыі нацыянальнай тапанімії Беларусі.