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**THE PROBLEM OF TRANSLATING BESSARABIAN
TOPONYMS INTO ENGLISH**

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Bessarabia forms the southwestern territory of Ukraine, which lies between the Dniester and Danube rivers, to the north of which stretches Moldova, and to the west – Romania. Bessarabia, originally known as the Izmail region after its largest city, was incorporated into the Odessa region in 1954 and became part of independent Ukraine in 1991. In Bessarabia, no national group forms a majority, and ethnic Ukrainians make up less than half of the total population. A significant ethnic group is made up of Bulgarians, followed by Moldovans. The ethnic mosaic is complemented by smaller groups: Gagauz (Turkic-speaking Orthodox Christians), Old Believers, Romanians, Albanians, Roma, and other nationalities.

Southern Bessarabia, or Budjak, is one of the most distinctive regions in Europe in terms of ethnic structure. This is a region that, in addition to natural features, also has ethno-cultural significance. The territories where different ethnic groups coexist are always distinguished by a special richness and variety of cultural heritage. One of the elements of the cultural heritage of this territory is its toponymy.

Many professionals take interest in toponymical investigations: geographers, historians, linguists and ethno-linguistics, folklorists, all those, who deal with historical and cultural legacy. Scientifically, it combines several disciplines – linguistics, political semiotics, governmentality studies, various theories of social justice. history and geography. It also draws its research methods from various sciences. The understanding of toponymy as a cultural phenomenon has become quite widespread, and in accordance with it, a set of geographical names is already interesting in itself, as an object of research [1, p. 82]. On poly-ethnic territories, the linguistic features of toponyms and the geography of distribution of various toponymical formats are often the reflection of the ethnic processes of the past [2].

From the linguistic point of view, toponyms present the interest in two aspects: in terms of their linguistic design, that is, their structure, and secondly, what role toponyms play in enriching the vocabulary of a language. The structural design of toponyms, in turn, depends on two factors, namely, what place they occupy in the hierarchy of toponyms and in what language system they are considered. The higher the hierarchical level of toponyms, the easier it is to establish correspondence links between them in different languages and, conversely, the lower the hierarchical The higher the level of toponyms, the more they are of an ideosyncretic nature, that is, they reveal a greater dependence on the system of a particular language – the exponent of an ethnic culture [3].

Etymologically, local geographical proper names become accurate indicators of population changes on a particular territory in the absence of historical evidence. Among the local names, large rivers are especially retaining the old proper names, they received from the very old inhabitants of their banks, and during the subsequent population changes.

Newcomers used to name the new settlements, but usually preserved the old proper names for the villages that remained in their places with their inhabitants. For example, the name of *the Danube* remained among a number of peoples in its oldest form, which, probably, belonged to the Celts and Thracians.

The Romans and then the Germanic tribes (the Goths) reflected the name of the river in its Celtic form *Danuvius*, *Danuvis*. The southern Slavs knew it as *Dunav*, (Ukrainian - *Danube*), and in the Romanian language the Thracian name of this river was *Donavis* (*Donave*), which gave birth to the Romanian word *Dunave*¹. The Scythian name of *the Dniester* was preserved among the Slavs, from that point we can see the old Slavic proper name «Дьнѣстр» and the Romanian - *Nistru*.

The proper names of the original inhabitants or owners of a particular settlement in Bessarabia influenced many of them, for example, *Biserikany*, *Mitok*, *Visternicheny*, *Vornicheny*, *Kukoneshty*, *Mirzeshty*, *Sultaneshty*. Some namings indicate nationality or social status of the inhabitants, for example: *Rusesti*, *Nemtseni*, *Serbichany* and, *Tatareshty*, *Ungry* and *Tsyganesti* [2].

Some proper names are associated with animals, such as, *Bakhmut*, *Bursucheny*, *Broska*, *Vulpeshty*, *Dumeny*, *Minzareshty*. Many toponyms have Turkic roots, for example: *Taraclia*, *Kubei*, *Karakurt*. Others, on the contrary, have been renamed in the 20th century: *Burgudzhi* became *Vinogradovka*, *Erdek Burnu* - *Utkonosovka*, *Khadzhi Kurda* - *Kamyshevka*, *Kartal* - *Orlovka*.

The proper name of the Bolgrad city in the western part of the Southern Bessarabia, as well as *Tashlyk* in the east, or *Trayan* in the north are connected with the Bulgarian population. In the cities of *Izmail*, *Kyliya*, *Vylkove*, and in some villages around we may find Russian settlements (including those, who consider themselves *Lypovans*). The Ukrainians mostly prevail in the eastern part, and the Germans inhabit *Tarutyno*.

Toponyms (geographical names), are divided into certain thematic groups. Some of them may come from the Greek language words, meaning a place and its name, others, consequently, indicate the area, region, settlement, landform, and any part of the Earth's surface. Toponyms combine different classes of geographic objects -, rivers, streams (hydronyms), settlements, streets, avenues (urbanonyms) and the like [4, p. 56].

In traditional linguistics, several basic proper names are used in the study of the scientific methods of the named direction of research -

etymological, historical, typological. Two of which – etymological and historical – allow to trace the genesis of toponyms and identify the connection between toponyms and other layers of vocabulary [5, p. 215].

The notion of place names as potential brand names brings together two distinct directions, related to toponymy and branding, and makes it possible to treat them as the means by which a marketing product can be treated and evaluated [6, p. 153]. Ecotourism, entertainment, religious sights, green energetics, gastronomic tourism – all these are combined in the Southern Bessarabia.

More than that, many places are branded and use a toponym as the place brand name, e.g. *Vylkove – a little Venice on the Danube*. There is observed a strong link between toponymic memorability and evocation. This is due to the fact that the names of places can influence our memory, such evocativeness in relation to the brand name of conventional places also affect man's emotional background, e.g. *Izmail – one of the ten most beautiful cities in Ukraine*. Consequently, toponyms, due to their link with man's memory, may evoke emotions, both positive and negative, thus catching the eye.

The problem of toponym translation, including the urban proper names, is one of the debatable issues in both translation theory and practice. Translation of urbanonyms is of great importance due to the need to compile various guidebooks and maps, make road signs in foreign languages and so on. At the same time, in practice, the implementation of such tasks is met by certain difficulties, since there are no clearly established translation rules in this area. There are no universal referential publications to offer unambiguous answers to numerous questions that inevitably arise. The current situation forces translators to choose certain translation strategies of their own, which sometimes leads to the creation of translation options that may not be convenient enough to use for native speakers of a foreign language, or, in some cases, there appear the options that do not even lend themselves to any logical or grammatical explanation [7, p. 246-247].

The solution of this issue could be facilitated by finding general laws for the translation of toponymic units based on their linguo-cultural peculiarities. This may be explained by the fact that toponyms refer to

those lexical units that largely bear the imprint of the cultural background within which they arose. Accordingly, their translation should be carried out not only within the purely linguistic sphere; but also within both the linguistic and cultural spheres. Moreover, it should be noted that in this case inter-lingual and cultural nuances are closely related to the applied nature of the discourse: the accuracy of the transfer of a cultural component should be combined with its convenience in practical use [8].

The translation methods of transcription and transliteration are often combined under a single name of transcoding. Then we may mention calque translation, various mixed types of translation, and descriptive translation when we deal with toponyms [9, p.124].

The advantage of transcription and transliteration is explained by the general preservation of the form of a toponym in the description, and in the case of transcription - it provides the possibility of relatively correct pronunciation of a foreign word, e.g. *Sarata* / *Сарата*, *Lebedivka* / *Лебедівка*, *Karolino-Buhaz* / *Кароліно-Бугаз*.

The popularity of calque translation may be explained by the fact that in many cases it allows to accurately reflect the essence and purpose of an object in the translation, minimizing misunderstanding between the sender – a native speaker of the Russian or Ukrainian language and the addressee – a native speaker of a foreign language. While the meaning of the transliterated / transcribed name of the object may be completely incomprehensible to the addressee, such a problem does not arise with the calque translation. However, such translation can itself become a source of misunderstanding, for example, in case of completely different variants of the same name. Calque translation is often used when translating the names of buildings in which institutions of the same name are located, for example, museums, e.g. *Bilhorod-Dnistrovsky local history museum* / *Білгород-Дністровський краєзнавчий музей*. It should be noted that when it comes to the names of buildings in which institutions are located or the institutions or organizations themselves, calque is more common, for example: *Chornomorsk Court* – *Chornomorsk Court* / *Чорноморський суд* (meaning the name of the institution and the name of the building where it is located). Speaking

about calque translation, it is worth noticing that the tradition plays an important role here, e.g. *The Black Sea*. In this case, the proper name remains unchanged, most likely due to the navigational importance of the object.

The use of the mixed type of translation can be represented as a combination of transcription / transliteration and calque, or a combination of transcription / transliteration and descriptive translation. Mixed translation makes it possible to convey both the essence of the toponym and the cultural context. However, in practice, in many cases it is explained by tradition, which influences the choice of the translation method: *Izmail Airport / Ізмаїльський аеропорт, Tatarbunary Bus Station / автостанція Татарбунари, Kite Club Odesa / Одеський клуб паперового змія, Akkerman fortress / Аккерманська фортеця*. When the names of institutions include proper names, and we see that in most cases a mixed translation type is used.

The descriptive translation is quite justified in many cases, since the speaker of a foreign language simultaneously gets an idea of both the original form of the name, and, accordingly, of the cultural context this proper name is included in. We may also talk about a clarifying translation in examples such as *the Repida – the Repida River / Репіда; Yalrug – Yalrug lake – (озеро) Ялруг*.

Identification of such trends can create preconditions for the formation in the future of a generally accepted system of rules for translating Russian-language toponyms into English.

It should be pointed out that toponyms are heterogeneous and unequal in terms of their geopolitical, economic, and socio-cultural significance. Within the framework of this article, an attempt is made to modify the existing classifications taking into account the above factors, which determine not only the universal availability and significance both in the history of civilization, the terms of their frequency in different situations and the role of generalization of the vocabulary of modern languages.

A huge number of words are formed from toponyms, comprising a rich layer of common noun vocabulary. Especially productive are the designations of people by ethnicity, nationality and place of residence,

formed from toponyms, e.g. *Izmail residents, Broska inhabitants, Gagauz villages, urban Ukrainians, Tarutinski Germans, Moldavian settlement* The word-formation activity of toponyms reveals close connection with the social significance of toponymic denotations. The names of large physical-geographical and political-administrative units are the most productive. Consequently, the study of toponyms during the English classes at schools and universities as a way of forming linguo-cultural competence is very important.

In conclusion, we would like to point out that the advancement of the English language in the second half of the twentieth century and its position of a language of international communication makes it necessary to improve the proficiency of English in a wide variety of areas, such as professional and everyday life, as well as the field of toponymic competence.

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TRANSLATION OF THE VOCABULARY OF RELIGIOUS DISCOURSE OF BUDZHAK REGION

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One of the problem areas of translation studies is rendering nationally marked and religious vocabulary in cross-cultural communication. Linguistic difficulties in translation are inevitable when there is interaction between peoples from different cultural backgrounds. Our investigation focuses on intercultural communication in the religious context on the material of Internet articles describing the Budzhak region and Bessarabia. Budjak (or Budzhak) is a historical region in Ukraine and Moldova. Lying along the Black Sea between the Danube and Dniester rivers, this multi-ethnic 600,000-people region of 13,188 km² is located in the southern part of historical Bessarabia. Nowadays, the larger part of the region is included in Ukraine's Odessa Oblast, while the rest is included in the southern districts of Moldova [1].

The objective of the article is to describe the ways of rendering the