



List of Key Onomastic Terms

Note: This list of terms is a standardized set formulated in English. The terms marked with an asterisk are not recommended. The terminology of literary onomastics will be included in the next phase of development.

allonym – a variant of a name stemming from the same etymological root – e. g. *Joe* for *Joseph*

animal name – see **zoonym**

anthroponomasticon – an anthroponomastic dictionary or its mental or theoretical counterpart

anthroponomastics – branch of onomastics scholarly studying anthroponyms (NOTE: Sometimes also called **anthroponymy** which is not recommended in this sense.)

anthroponym – proper name of a person or a group of persons

anthroponymy – the set of anthroponyms within a specific territory/region, language, period of time etc. (NOTE: Sometimes also used for a branch of onomastics scholarly studying anthroponyms which is not recommended.)

appellativisation – see **deonymisation**

brand name – proper name of a brand, e.g. *Toyota*

by-name – informal, additional name of a person, a place, an object etc. – e.g. John Brown alias *Shorty* in English, Juana Martínez alias *Morena* in Spanish, Staffan Nyström alias *Lane* in Swedish, *Big Apple* for New York, *Big Blue* for IBM

choronym – proper name of a larger geographical or administrative unit of land – e.g. *Africa, Sibir'* (*Siberia*), *Suomi, Dalmacija, Toscana, Bretagne, Steiermark, Castilla, La Mancha*. (NOTE: In some languages the term **macrotoponym** is used for an inhabited large area.)

Christian name – see **first name**

cryptonym – a secret name used for the protection of its bearer

denominatum, – name bearer; a person, an object etc. carrying or addressed by a certain proper name

deonym – common noun derived or originating from a proper name – e.g. *tweed* from the river name *Tweed*, *watt* from the family name *Watt*, Spanish *quevedos* ‘pince-nez, a kind of glasses’ from the surname *Quevedo*, Asturian *xuan* ‘simpleton, dullard, dimwit’ from the personal name *Xuan*. (NOTE: In many languages the term *eponym* is used in this sense.)

deonymisation – loss of the onymic function and/or character of a proper name

endonym – proper name of a geographical feature in an official or well-established language occurring in that area where the feature is situated – e.g. *Venezia* in Italian (not *Venice*), *Praha* in Czech (not *Prague*)

eponym – proper name of a person or group of persons, forming the basis of the name of another person, family, place, object etc. – e.g. personal name *Washington* – toponym *Washington*, personal name *Albert* – toponym *Lake Albert/Lac Albert*

ergonym – name of a product or a brand; NOTE: The term **chrematonym** in some languages is used in this sense, but can also have a broader meaning (i.a. proper names of social events, institutions, organisations...)

ethnonym – proper name of an ethnic group (a tribe, a folk, a clan etc.), or a member of this group, e.g. *Italians, Bavarians, Croat, Frenchman, Zulu*. (NOTE: Ethnonyms are not treated as proper names in some languages and by some scholars, e.g. *ingleses* in Spanish. According to some theories, ethnonyms are proper names both in plural and singular, in other theories, ethnonyms in the plural are proper names, in the singular appellatives.)

exonym – name used in a specific language for a geographical feature situated outside the area where that language is widely spoken, and differing in its form from the name used in the area where the geographical feature is situated – e.g. French *Londres* for *London*, German *Warschau* for

Warszawa, Bangkok for *Krung Thep*, Spanish *Ginebra* for *Genève*

family name – hereditary name of a family or a member of a family with such a name – e.g. *Smith, Farkas, Neumann, Herrera*

first name – name which a person is given at birth, baptism or at some other significant moment in life – e.g. *Charles, Ivan, Giuseppe, Davor, Sophie, Anna, María, Motlalepula* (NOTE: First name does not always have to stand in the first position.)

field name – name of a small piece of rural land

forename – see **first name**

geographical name – see **toponym**

given name – see **first name**

hagionym – name of a saint (NOTE: This term should not be used for a name of sacred objects or places.)

hodonym – route name (i.e. proper name of a street, square, motorway, country road, path, tunnel, ford, bridge, footbridge, railway line etc.) – e.g. *Portobello Road, Eurotunnel, Via Baltica, Marktgasse, D1*

hydronym – name of a body of water (i.e. name of a sea, bay, strait, lake, swamp, fishpond, storage lake, spring, well, river, brook, waterfall etc.) – e.g. *Atlantic Ocean, Ostsee, Golfe du Lion, Lake Superior, Huang He, Niagara Falls*

hypocoristic – unofficial expressive form of a name morphologically derived from the personal name – e.g. *Dick* (for *Richard*) in English, *Iza* (for *Izabela*) in Polish, *Nacho* (for *Ignacio*) in Spanish, *Ivica* (for *Ivan*) in Croatian.

inhabitant name – proper name of an inhabitant of a certain region, country, town, village etc., e.g. *Leipziger* ‘inhabitant of Leipzig’, *Londoner* ‘inhabitant of London’. (NOTE: Inhabitant names are not treated as proper names in some languages or by some scholars, e.g. *madrileño* ‘inhabitant of Madrid’ in Spanish.)

last name – see **family name**

macrotoponym – see **choronym**

metronym – personal name originating from the mother’s name – e.g. *Tilgner* (from the hypocoristic form *Tilg/e/*, derived from the anthroponym *Otilie*) in German, *Haničinec* (from the

anthroponym *Hana*) in Czech (NOTE: The form matronym should not be used.)

microtoponym – name referring to smaller objects like fields, pastures, fences, stones, marshes, bogs, ditches etc., and in general used locally by only a limited group of people – e.g. *Lange Wiese* (meadow), *Further Piece* (field)

minor name – see **microtoponym**

name – see **proper name**

name bearer – see, **denominatum**

namegiver – person, community, authority or institution naming other persons, places, objects etc.

namegiving – process by or event at which a person, a place, an object is given a proper name (e.g. birth of a child, naming a ship etc.)

naming – see **namegiving**

nesonym - proper name of an island

nickname – additional, usually characterising informal proper name of a person – e.g. *The Governor* for Arnold Schwarzenegger in the US. Nicknames are a subcategory of by-names.

***odonym** – see **hodonym**

oikonym – see **settlement name**

onomastician – name researcher, a person who studies proper names in a scholarly way

onomasticon – an onomastic dictionary or its mental or theoretical counterpart

onomastics – the study of proper names in a scholarly way.

onym – see **proper name**

onymisation – transfer of a linguistic unit (including common nouns, adjectives, verbs, interjections, phrases etc.) to the class of proper names

onymy – the set of proper names within a particular region, language, period of time etc.

oronym – proper name of an elevated formation of the terrain (i.e. name of a mountain, mountain range, highland, upland, hill, rock etc.) – e.g. *Aconcagua*, *Elbrus*, *Rocky Mountains*, *die Alpen*. (NOTE: By geographers the term oronym is sometimes used in a broader sense and includes also proper names of valleys, lowlands etc.)

patronym – personal name originating from the father's name – e.g. *Andersson* (in Swedish), *Petrov* (in Russian), *Fernández*, *Mori*, *Olay* (in Spanish), *Berendt*, *Berendts* (in German).

personal name – see **anthroponym**

place name – see **toponym**

product name – proper name of a product (e.g. a chocolate, car, cigarette etc.), e.g. car *Avensis* by Toyota

proper name – linguistic expression that uniquely identifies a person, a group of persons, a place, an animal or an object (ship, train...) – e.g. *Earth, Zambezi, Chile, Beijing, David, Victoria, Miikkulainen, Hyundai, Sony, Das Erzgebirge*.

proprialisation – see **onymisation**

pseudonym – a fictitious name of a person, usually used by artists, politicians etc. as an alternative to their legal name

psychoonomastics – branch of onomastics studying names from a psycholinguistic point of view

settlement name – proper name of all kinds of human settlement (cities, towns, villages, hamlets, farms, ranches, houses, etc.) – e.g. *Paris, Turku, Yokohama, †Troia, Nofim* (a house).

socioonomastics – branch of onomastics studying names from a sociolinguistic point of view

street name – proper name of a thoroughfare in a city, town, or village (street-names are a subcategory of **hodonyms**) – e.g. *Broadway, Baker Street, Unter den Linden*

surname – see **family name**

theonym – proper name of a god, a goddess, or a divinity – e.g. *Zeus, Odin, Diana, Morana*

toponomasticon – a toponomastic dictionary or its mental or theoretical counterpart

toponomastics – branch of onomastics studying toponyms in a scholarly way (NOTE: Sometimes also called **toponymy** which is not recommended in this sense.)

toponym – proper name of a place, both inhabited and uninhabited (e.g. of a mountain, water, island, wood, town, village, field, meadow, street, or route etc.; e.g. *Uppsala, Mare Tranquillitatis, Amazonis Planitia, Mont Blanc, Seine, Sardinia, Auckland*). NOTE: If limited to the planet Earth, toponyms can also be called **geographical names**.

toponymy – the set of toponyms within a specific territory/region, language, period of time etc. (NOTE: Sometimes also used for a branch of onomastics scholarly studying toponyms which is not recommended.)

zoonym – proper name of an animal – e.g. a dog *Fido*, an elephant *Jumbo*

Selective Bibliography:

Alhaug, G. 2002. *Dobbeltnamn og nokre andre termproblem i det terminologiske feltet til dobbeltnamn*. In *Namn och samhälle 13. Nordiskt och ryskt i namnforskningen 2. Utgiven under medverkan av Maria Aljoksjina*, 7-22. Uppsala: Uppsala universitet.

Aljoksjina, M. 2001. Russisk antroponymisk terminologi med utgångspunkt i N. Podol'skajas terminologiske ordbok. In *Namn och samhälle 11. Nordiskt och ryskt i namnforskningen. Rapport från ett symposium om onomastisk terminologi i Uppsala 17 december 1999. Utgiven under medverkan av Maria Aljoksjina*, 23-41. Uppsala: Uppsala universitet.

Aljoksjina, M. 2002. Termenes divergens i norsk og russisk antroponymisk terminologi. In *Namn och samhälle 13. Nordiskt och ryskt i namnforskningen 2. Utgiven under medverkan av Maria Aljoksjina*, 23-55. Uppsala: Uppsala universitet.

Bauer, G. 1985. *Namenkunde des Deutschen*. Bern - Frankfurt am Main - New York: Peter Lang.

Brylla, E. 2001. Terminologiska problem inom nordisk personnamnforskning. In *Namn och samhälle 11. Nordiskt och ryskt i namnforskningen. Rapport från ett symposium om onomastisk terminologi i Uppsala 17 december 1999. Utgiven under medverkan av Maria Aljoksjina*, 64-75. Uppsala: Uppsala universitet.

Čechová, M. 1994. Současné změny ve firemních názvech. *Naše řeč* 77, 169-178.

Dorion, H. - Poirier, J. 1975. *Lexique des termes utiles à l'étude des noms de lieux*. Québec: French and European Publications, Inc.

Frydrich, M. 1966a. Onymie nebo onomastikon? *Zpravodaj Místopisné komise ČSAV* VII, 265-267.

Frydrich, M. 1966b. Využití antických řeckých termínů v onomastické terminologii. *Zpravodaj Místopisné komise ČSAV* VII, 160-162.

Helleland, B. 2001. FNs terminologiliste for geografiske namn jamført med Fagordliste for norsk namnegransking. In *Namn och samhälle 11. Nordiskt och ryskt i namnforskningen. Rapport från ett symposium om onomastisk terminologi i Uppsala 17 december 1999. Utgiven under medverkan av Maria Aljoksjina*, 76-102. Uppsala: Uppsala universitet.

Horecký, J. 1994. Logonomastika ako onomastická disciplína. In E. Krošláková (ed.), *Jazyková a mimojazyková stránka vlastných mien. 11. slovenská onomastická konferencia. Nitra 19.-20. mája 1994. Zborník referátov*, 76-78. Bratislava - Nitra: Vysoká škola pedagogická Nitra, Fakulta humanitných vied.

Kaleta, Z. 1998. Kierunki i metodologia badań. Terminologia. In E. Rzetelska-Feleszko (ed.), *Polskie nazwy własne. Encyklopedia*, 45-81. Warszawa - Kraków: Wydawnictwo Instytutu Języka Polskiego PAN.

Karaš, M. 1968. Sloviańska terminologia w zakresie obiektów zamieszkałych. *Zpravodaj Místopisné komise ČSAV IX*, 133-141.

Karlík, P. - Nekula, M. - Pleskalová, J. (eds.) 2002. *Encyklopedický slovník češtiny*. Praha: Nakladatelství Lidové noviny.

Kiviniemi, E. - Pitkänen, R. L. - Zilliacus, K. 1974. *Nimistöntutkimuksen terminologia. Terminologin inom namnforskningen*. Helsinki: Castrenianumin toimitteita 8.

Knappová, M. - Harvalík, M. - Šrámek, R. 2000. Tschechische Namenforschung in den Jahren 1993-1999. *Onoma* 35, 19-69.

Kuba, L. 1997. Dozná Základní soustava a terminologie slovanské onomastiky brzkých změn? *Acta onomastica XXXVIII*, 13-14.

Majtán, M. 1976. Základná slovenská toponomastická terminológia. In M. Blichá - M. Majtán (eds.), *V. zasadanie Medzinárodnej komisie pre slovanskú onomastiku a V. slovenská onomastická konferencia (Prešov 3.-7. mája 1972). Zborník materiálov*, 113-116. Bratislava: Slovenské pedagogické nakladateľstvo.

Majtán, M. 1979. Onomastické termíny podľa objektov pomenúvaných menami. *Kultúra*

slova 13, 153-159.

Majtán, M. 1989. Klasifikácia chrématonymie. In R. Šrámek - L. Kuba (eds.), *Chrématonyma z hlediska teorie a praxe. Sborník z 3. celostátního semináře „Onomastika a škola“ Ústí nad Labem 21.-22. 6. 1986*, 7-13. Brno: Geografický ústav ČSAV.

Miodunka, W. 1971. Konferencja terminologiczna Komisji onomastycznej Międzynarodowego komitetu slawistów. *Zprawodaj Místopisné komise ČSAV XII*, 791-796.

Nimčuk, V. V. 1966. Ukrajinska onomastična terminolohyja. *Povidomlennja ukrajinskoji onomastyčnoji komisiji*. Vypusk 1.

Olivová-Nezbedová, L. 1998. K hierarchii onomastických termínů podle objektů pojmenovaných vlastními jmény. *Acta onomastica XXXIX*, 46-54.

Osnoven sistem i terminologija na slovenskata onomastika. Osnovnaja sistema i terminologija slavjanskoj onomastiki. Grundsystem und Terminologie der slawischen Onomastik. 1983. Skopje: Makedonska akademija na naukite i umetnoste - Meġunaroden komitet na slavistite - Komisija za slovenska onomastika.

Petr, J. 1969. Lužickosrbská onomastická terminologie. *Zprawodaj Místopisné komise ČSAV X*, 538-552.

Platen, Ch. 1997. *Ökonymie. Zur Produktnamen-Linguistik im Europäischen Binnenmarkt*. Tübingen: Niemeyer.

Pleskalová, J. 2000. K problémům onomastické terminologie. In Z. Hladká - P. Karlík (eds.), *Čeština - univerzália a specifika 2. Sborník konference ve Šlapanicích u Brna 17. - 19. 11. 1999*, 41-46. Brno: Masarykova univerzita.

Podolskaya, N. V. ²1988. *Slovar' russkoj onomastičeskoj terminologii*. Moskva: Nauka.

Room, A. 1996. *An Alphabetical Guide to the Language of Name Studies*. Lanham, MD - London: The Scarecrow Press.

Rzetelska-Feleszko, E. 1993. Polska terminologia onomastyczna. *Problematyka. Zeszyty Naukowe UG, Prace Językoznawcze 17-18*, 217-222.

Schmidt, T. 1981. *Fagordliste for norsk namnegransking*. Oslo: Universitetet i Oslo, Institutt for namnegransking.

Smith, E. C. 1967. *Treasury of Name Lore. Sketches and Observations On the Names We Bear*. New York - Evanston - London: Harper & Row, Publishers.

Sonderegger, S. 1985. Terminologie, Gegenstand und interdisziplinärer Bezug der Namengeschichte. In W. Besch - O. Reichmann - S. Sonderegger (eds.), *Sprachgeschichte. Ein Handbuch zur Geschichte der deutschen Sprache und ihrer Erforschung. Zweiter Halbband, 2067-2087*. Berlin - New York: Walter de Gruyter.

Strandberg, S. 2001. Rysk onomastisk terminologi. Kommentarer från en nordbo. In *Namn och samhälle 11. Nordiskt och ryskt i namnforskningen. Rapport från ett symposium om onomastisk terminologi i Uppsala 17 december 1999. Utgiven under medverkan av Maria Aljoksjina*, 103-109. Uppsala: Uppsala universitet.

Strandberg, S. 2002. Kortformer och smeknamn i Ryssland och Sverige. In *Namn och samhälle 13. Nordiskt och ryskt i namnforskningen 2. Utgiven under medverkan av Maria Aljoksjina*, 57-62. Uppsala: Uppsala universitet.

Svoboda, J. 1961a. K slovanské onomastické terminologii. In *I Międzynarodowa Slawistyczna Konferencja Onomastyczna. Księga referatów*, 127-136. Wrocław - Warszawa - Kraków: Zakład narodowy imienia Ossolińskich. Wydawnictwo Polskiej Akademii Nauk.

Svoboda, J. - Šmilauer, V. - Olivová-Nezbedová, L. - Oliva, K. - Witkowski, T. 1973. Základní soustava a terminologie slovanské onomastiky. Grundsystem und Terminologie der slawischen Onomastik. *Zpravodaj Místopisné komise ČSAV XIV*, 1-280.

Šmilauer, V. 1976. Třídění vlastních jmen (teze). In M. Blichá - M. Majtán (eds.), *V. zasadanie Medzinárodnej komisie pre slovanskú onomastiku a V. slovenská onomastická konferencia (Prešov 3.-7. mája 1972). Zborník materiálov*, 109-111. Bratislava: Slovenské pedagogické nakladateľstvo.

Šmilauer, V. 1991. Úvodem. In F. Kopečný, *Průvodce našimi jmény*, 9-35. Praha:

Academia.

Šrámek, R. 1999. *Úvod do obecné onomastiky*. Brno: Masarykova univerzita.

Šrámek, R. 2000. Zur Frage der namentheoretischen Auffassung der Anonymie (am Beispiel der Oronymie). In L. Olivová-Nezbedová - R. Šrámek - M. Harvalík (eds.), *Onomastické práce. Svazek 4. Sborník rozprav k sedmdesátým narozeninám univ. prof. PhDr. Ivana Lutterera, CSc.*, 449-458. Praha: Ústav pro jazyk český AV ČR.

Vasil'eva, N. 1998. *Onymisch oder propriat? Zu Internationalismen in der onomastischen Terminologie. Namenkundliche Informationen* 74, 53-61.

Walther, H. 1998. *Namenkunde und geschichtliche Landeskunde. Heft 2. Erläuterung namenkundlicher Fachbegriffe*. Leipzig: Institut für Slavistik, Universität Leipzig.

Witkowski, T. 1964. *Grundbegriffe der Namenkunde*. Berlin: Akademie Verlag.

Witkowski, T. 1995. Probleme der Terminologie. In E. Eichler - G. Hilty - H. Löffler - H. Steger - L. Zgusta (eds.), *Namenforschung. Ein internationales Handbuch zur Onomastik I.*, 288-294. Berlin - New York: Walter de Gruyter.

Zgusta, L. 1966. Ještě několik slov k „onymii“. *Zpravodaj Místopisné komise ČSAV VII*, 261-264.

Zgusta, L. 1967. Ještě naposled k „onymii“, s přídavkem o „onomastice“. *Zpravodaj Místopisné komise ČSAV VIII*, 147-151.

Zgusta, L. 1995. Systematická terminologie onomastiky. *Acta onomastica XXXVI*, 262-272.

Zgusta, L. 1996. Names and Their Study. In E. Eichler - G. Hilty - H. Löffler - H. Steger - L. Zgusta (eds.), *Namenforschung. Ein internationales Handbuch zur Onomastik II.*, 1876-1890. Berlin - New York: Walter de Gruyter.

Zgusta, L. 1998. The Terminology of Name Studies (In Margine of Adrian Room's *Guide to the Language of Name Studies*). *Names* 46, 189-203.

Established by the Terminology Group ICOS

The present Terminology Group, since July 2010 (see ICOS Newsletter 19, Sept. 2010, item 11) consists of the following members:

Maria Giovanna Arcamone, Hubert Bergmann, Donatella Bremer, Pierre-Henri Billy, Dunja Brozović Rončević, Enzo Caffarelli, Richard Coates, Doreen Gerritzen, Isolde Hausner, Milan Harvalík, Naftali Kadmon, Adrian Koopman, Dieter Kremer, Julia Kuhn (chair), Staffan Nyström, Mats Wahlberg.