



58. Linguistisches Kolloquium

Linguistics Colloquium 58

58e Colloque international de linguistique

Sprachenvielfalt in der Welt und für die Welt

Linguistic Diversity in the World and for the World

La diversité linguistique dans le monde et pour le monde

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ABSTRACTS

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Zusammengestellt von / Editors / Éditeurs

Skaistė Volungevičienė, Jolanta Šinkūnienė, Vita Valiukienė

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Lina Bikeliene

Vilnius University

A corpus study of Ukrainian geographical names in English-language media

In 2012, X/9 Resolution of the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (E/CONF.101/144, 2012: 27) recommended “that the system, as set out in the document entitled “Romanization system in Ukraine”, be adopted as the international system for the romanization of Ukrainian geographical names.” Six years later, in 2019, however, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine had to issue an open letter requesting to change “the usage of outdated, Soviet-era placenames when referring to Ukraine“ (Embassy of Ukraine in Japan, 17 July 2019) and provided a list of most misspelled place names. “[T]he choice of a particular toponym reflects a certain power relationship that is maintained through the use of this toponym“ (Giraut & Houssay-Holzschuch, 2016: 5), thus the choices made by media have a strong impact on shaping people’s world views (McCombs & Reynolds, 2008; Mulligan & Habel, 2013). The present study aims to analyse the politically conditioned shift from Russian to Ukrainian toponyms in English-language media. The results obtained employing corpus linguistics methods highlight the role played by time and space in making the toponymic choices.

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