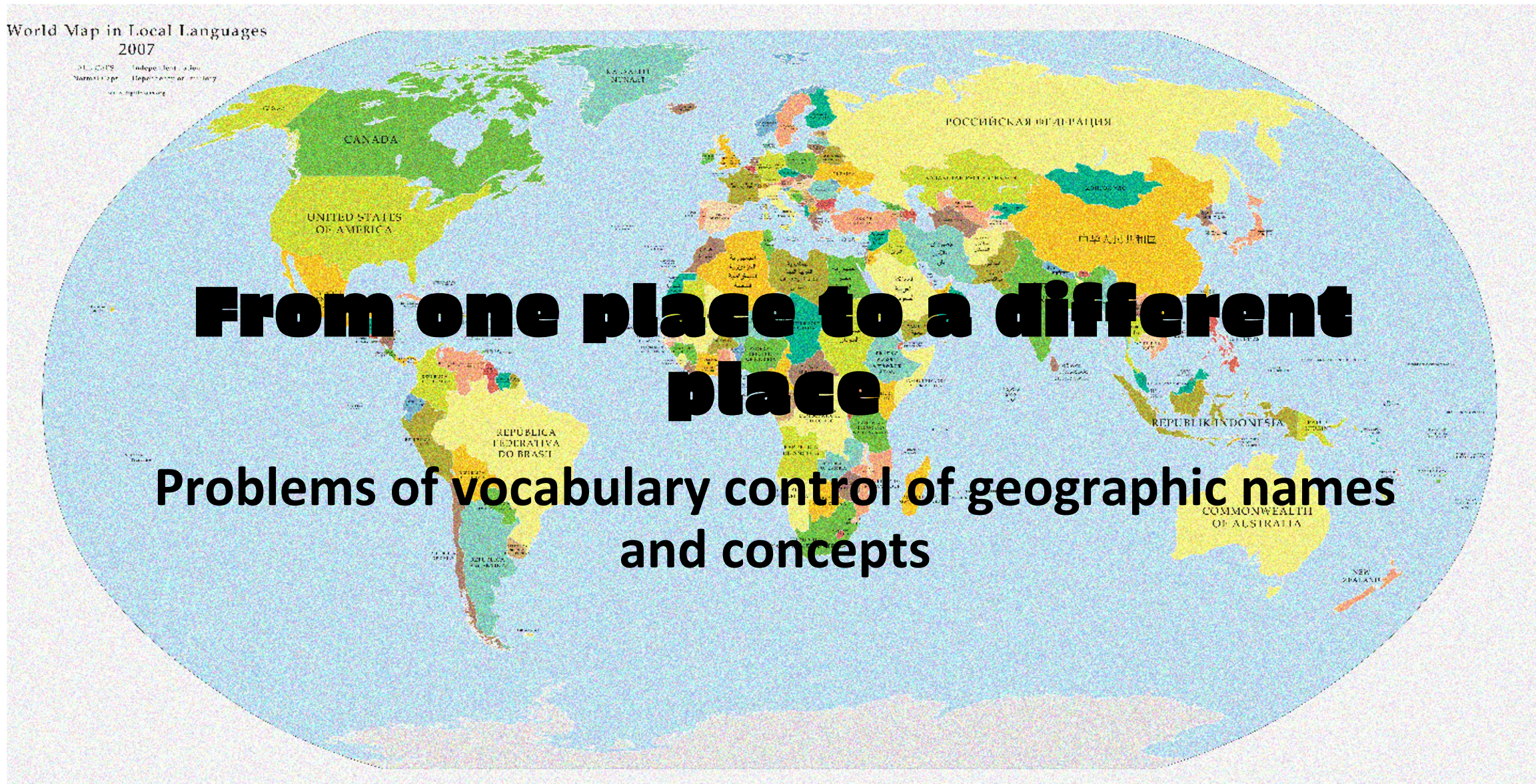


World Map in Local Languages  
2007

UNESCO  
Standardized  
Geographical Names

**From one place to a different  
place**

**Problems of vocabulary control of geographic names  
and concepts**





## Background to the work:

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- collections at the British Museum Anthropology Library
- formed from the BM Ethnography Library and the collections of the Royal Anthropological Institute
- one of the largest and most important anthropological libraries in the world
- 120,000 books, 4,000 journal titles including 1,500 current subscriptions
- rare book collections dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century
- forms the basis of the *Anthropological index online* produced by the RAI

# Organization of the collection:

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- originally classified by the first edition of Bliss's *Bibliographic Classification*
- some years ago a decision was made to alter the citation order, so that primary arrangement was by place
- this was accompanied by an abridgement of the place schedule roughly to the country level
- the result of those decisions has created an unworkable situation, sometimes with thousands of books at the same classmark
- organization by place does not reflect current research practice at the BM

## Re-classification of the collection:

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- in 2014 it was decided to re-classify the collection
- the chosen scheme was the revised edition of the *Bibliographic Classification* as the most appropriate for the field
- the citation order would revert to the 'standard' with place having a subsidiary position
- nevertheless, place is an important aspect for the representation of content in the subject

## Place in the *Bibliographic classification* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (BC2):

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- place is normally represented in BC2 through the use of the Auxiliary Table 2
- it covers places of both the ancient and the modern world
- it also embraces not only political and administrative place, but also
  - place defined by position and orientation
  - place by physiographic, ecological, and climatic features
  - place by characteristics of the population
- it hasn't been updated since the publication of the revised *Introduction* in 1977
- therefore a thorough revision of this substantial schedule has been necessary

# Some problems with the vocabulary of geographic names:

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- geographic names present some general difficulties of vocabulary control
  - which natural language form of the name to use
  - what to do when names change
  - what to do when boundaries change
- a number of name authorities exist to address these problems
  - *U S Board on Geographic Names (BGN)*
  - *Library of Congress Name Authorities*
  - *Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names (TGN)*
  - *United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names (UNGEGN) World Names database*
    - *countries and major cities*
    - *names in the six UN languages*
    - *names in the local language*
    - *multi-script with Romanization*

## Variant forms of names:

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- **Saint Petersburg (Russia)** or Leningrad, Petrograd, etc.
- **Saint Mark's Square** [California] or **Piazza San Marco** [Venice]
- **Gdansk (Poland)** or Danzig
- **Rome** or Roma
- Peking or **Beijing**
- Suomi or **Finland**
- Rhodesia or **Zimbabwe**
- **Oakham (Rutland)** or **Oakham (Leicester)**
- Timbuktu or **Tombouctou** or Timbuctoo or Timbuktoo
- **Macedonia** or Republic of Macedonia or FYROM or Republika Makedonija

# The complex semantic layers of the domain of place:

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- many other problems present in addition to those of vocabulary control
- these can be represented in terms of the number of 'layers' of meaning on a map



<b>Title:</b>	Inuit place-names and main-land relationships, Pelly Bay, Northwest Territories
<b>Author:</b>	Goehring, Brian
<b>Degree</b>	Master of Arts - MA
<b>Program</b>	Geography
<b>Copyright Date:</b>	1990
<b>Subject Keywords</b>	Names, Indian -- Northwest Territories; Pelly Bay (N.W.T.) -- Name
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>The Inuit of Pelly Bay, N.W.T. have been among the last groups of native people in Canada to experience contact, and to settle in a permanent community. In this isolated settlement the Inuit culture, although changing and constantly adapting, remains strong. The traditional economy, based upon the harvesting of land-based resources, continues to be a vital part of the culture. The thesis examines the nature and extent of this man-land relationship, in the present-day context, and follows the on-the-land activities of all members of this community through one harvest year. Particular emphasis is paid to the nature of the location of such activities, and the methods by which Inuit navigate from place to place. The thesis details the location and translated meaning of 307 Inuktitut place names within the Pelly Bay land-use area, and demonstrates that an ordered and logical pattern of organisation of named physical features exists, a perception of landscape unique to the local region. The knowledge of these toponyms, combined with several supplemental techniques, forms a complete and functional system of navigation which continues to be used by the Inuit of Pelly Bay in their yearly cycle of on-the-land activities.</p>
<b>URI:</b>	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/2429/29715">http://hdl.handle.net/2429/29715</a>
<b>Series/Report no.</b>	UBC Retrospective Theses Digitization Project [ <a href="http://www.library.ubc.ca/archives/retro_theses/">http://www.library.ubc.ca/archives/retro_theses/</a> ]
<b>Scholarly Level:</b>	Graduate

- 161) PB101 UJARAJUQ (Rock), "little rock".
- 162) OG110 UJARAQTUUNNUAQ (Island), "a small place where there are many rocks".
- 163) OG111 UJARASUGJUARRAARJUK (Bay), "the small one (bay) where there is a place where there are big rocks".
- 164) HI79 UKPAT (Island), "looks like the two cheeks of a bum (buttocks) sticking out of the bay".
- 165) OG112 ULITUQISALIK (Island), "it is one that has a place that gets submerged by the tide".
- 166) PB105 UMMANARK (Island), "it is shaped like a heart".
- 167) OG113 UNNGILITAITUQ (Inlet), "a deep inlet".  
HI80.

Associative Place Names:

- 1) OG1 AIVRU ITIBLIA (Isthmus), "place where walrus cross the land".
- 2) HI5 AMIKSANGERK (Lake), "the place to fish with *amiksak* (bits of skin from an old kayak cover)".
- 3) HI6 AMIKSANGNIK (Lake), "the little place to fish with *amiksak* (bits of skin from an old kayak cover)".



# Key to English Place-Names

The names of villages and towns frequently refer to particular people(s), social and administrative activities, landscape, birds and animals, crops and vegetation, and most of them are well over a thousand years old. In other words, they can tell us something important about the history of those places, and how they were perceived, which would otherwise be unknown.

## Ramsholt

Refs

'Wild garlic wood' or 'ram wood'.

### Elements and their meanings

- ramm (Old English) A ram.
- hramsa (Old English) Wild garlic.
- holt (Old English) A wood. (Probably of a single species.)

## Mungrisdale

Refs

'Young pig valley'. The first element may be from St. Mungo; the church here is dedicated to St. Kentigern alias Mungo.

### Elements and their meanings

- saint (Modern English) A saint.
- griss (Old Norse) A young pig.
- dalr (Old Norse) A valley.

# Characteristics of place in anthropological literature:

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- administrative or political place is only partially important
- location is more often defined by
  - physiographic features
  - traditional names
  - ethnic or linguistic characteristics
- it's therefore important to represent these attributes

The shape of the dreaming : the cultural significance of Victoria River rock art  
Australia; Northern Territory; Victoria River Region

Mackenzie River tribes  
Canada; Northwest Territories; North American Indians; Mackenzie Yukon Indians; Cultural Anthropology; North America

Facing Kirinyaga : a social history of forest commons in southern Mount Kenya  
Kenya; Kikuyu; Forests and Forestry; Human Ecology; Religion; Applied Anthropology; Africa

Chant the names of god : musical culture in Bhojpuri-speaking India  
India; Bihar; Uttar Pradesh; Bhojpuri Language; Folk Music; Folk Songs; Culture; History; Texts; Asia

The second generation : a study of the family among urbanized Bantu in East London  
South Africa; Xhosa; Acculturation; Economic Conditions

Kitchi-Gami : life among the Lake Superior Ojibway  
Wisconsin; Chippewa Indians; Customs; North America



# BC2: districts? regions? provinces? features? official names?

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XN	Saskatchewan Province
XNE	South East
XNF	Regina
XNG	Other towns, districts, etc., A/Z
XNH	South West
XNJ	Cypress Hills
XNK	Towns, districts, etc., A/Z
XNL	Central region
XNO	Saskatchewan River region
XNP	Saskatoon
XNQ	Other towns, districts, etc., A/Z
XNR	North
XNS	Reindeer Lake region
XNT	Athabaska Lake region
XNV	Towns, districts, etc., A/Z

# How to integrate (or not):

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- administrative names
  - local names
  - 'area' names
  - physiographic features
- 
- it can be difficult to differentiate reliably between these, and in a consistent manner
  - disambiguation will be vital where the same name applies to a political division, a traditional region, or is descriptive of the landscape

# How to determine the optimum order:

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- how do we represent the multi-layered physical map in a terminology?
- in some respects the terminology is analogous to a humanities domain
- there are conceptual classes plus many examples of 'classes-of-one'
- should these be defined in terms of their attributes, or simply listed
- a particular problem for the way in which physical features such as rivers should be treated

## Faceted structures:

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- a faceted structure is the most logical way to represent these different properties
- revision of the existing BC2 structure will build on the underlying rationale of the scheme
- organization of place concepts into arrays can accommodate a variety of characteristics

31	Relative position		(Regions reflecting human action)
51	Orientation	BAJ	(By land and resource use)
66	Longitude and latitude	BC	Urban
AB	(Physiographic place)	BD	Developing countries. Third World
ABF	Lithosphere, land	BFR	Residential areas
ABU	Highlands, mountains	BG	Conservation areas
ADG	Coastal areas		(By social/political factors)
ADS	(By soil and rock formation)	BJ	Administrative units
AE	Hydrosphere, water	BJM	Areas defined by military action
AEG	Oceans, seas	BJT	Demilitarized zones
AP	Freshwaters	BK	Groupings of states
AQ	Rivers		(By demographic characteristics)
ARS	Atmosphere, air	BP	Religious group areas
AS	Regions by climate	BQ	Linguistic group areas
ASV	Regions by latitude	BST	Ethnic group areas
AV	Tropics	BW	Regions special to a subject
AW	Regions by vegetation		
AX	Regions by bounding oceans, seas		
AY	Regions by other physical characteristics		



# Advantages of the faceted structure:

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- includes the whole spectrum of place concepts
- the logic of the analysis ensures that there's no cross classification
- the synthetic facility allows for the combination of any number of place attributes
- offers a consistent way (if not a perfect solution) to represent rivers, mountains, etc.
- has the potential for maximum representation of place
- provides a conceptual map of the domain of place
- classification data supports conversion to a thesaurus/terminology format