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# Beyond Coordinates: Exploring Street Naming Practices in Contemporary Ukraine

## Abstract

The paper examines street naming practices in contemporary Ukraine, focusing on the complexity and cultural significance of toponymic changes. In the wake of the Revolution of Dignity and the Russo-Ukrainian War, decommunization gained momentum, changing the names of streets from the Soviet period. The study employs a qualitative approach, is based on document analysis, and presents the case study of historical street names in Lviv as an example. Particular attention is given to Lviv, where a comprehensive dataset of historical street names from the 14th to the 18th centuries has been compiled and presented on an interactive web map. This map not only showcases valuable toponymic data but also contributes to public engagement and promotes the city's heritage. The study highlights the multifaceted consequences of street renaming. By examining theoretical frameworks of onomastics, urban studies, and cultural geography, it contributes to interdisciplinary discourses on naming studies. Ultimately, it advocates for a holistic approach that harmoniously combines modern realities with historical traditions, ensuring the preservation of cultural identity while considering societal transformations.

**Keywords:** urban history, renaming processes in Ukraine, interactive mapping, vernacular street names.

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## Introduction

As Klaas Willems stated, "proper names are complex signs with specific linguistic, pragmatic, logical, philosophical, semiotic, historical, psychological, social, and juridical properties, and hence represent a vast interdisciplinary field of study" (Willems, 2020, p. 86). This thesis underscores the enduring importance of studying names as a rich and interdisciplinary field, adapting to contemporary contexts and methodologies.

In the face of societal shifts and legislative actions in Ukraine following historical events such as the Revolution of Dignity and the Russo-Ukrainian War, studying street naming practices becomes crucial in understanding cultural changes and navigating historical legacies. This article aims to explore the complexities and significance of street naming in contemporary Ukraine, particularly in light of the ongoing decommunization efforts. Specifically, it seeks to understand how the renaming of streets reflects evolving societal values, shapes cultural identities within Ukrainian cities, and how historical street names can be explored and revitalized using digital tools.

The study employs a qualitative approach, drawing on documentary analysis of legislative texts, scholarly literature, and media reports regarding toponymic changes in Ukraine. Additionally, the methodology involves archival research, cartographic analysis, and digital mapping techniques to compile and visualize a dataset of historical street names in the city of Lviv.

## Theoretical Framework

Street names have long served as more than mere geographical markers; they hold deep cultural, political, and historical significance. The study of street names and their changes over time is grounded in various theoretical perspectives from multiple disciplines.

Scholars like Maoz Azaryahu and Mihai Rusu have explored how street names have been utilized as political tools and ideological symbols, reflecting the values and narratives of governing authorities. Azaryahu's work highlights how the French Revolution pioneered the use of street names as political symbols, a practice that rapidly spread across European cities (Dems'ka, 2019, pp. 5–6).

Rusu further notes that by the end of the 19th century, street names honoring individuals embodying specific values and commemorating

historical dates or events had become a fundamental aspect of political culture (Rusu, 2020, pp. 153–154). This aligns with the concept of "official names" established by governing powers to transmit particular narratives and ideological agendas.

In contrast, vernacular (or traditional) street names evolved organically, reflecting the perceptions and experiences of urban dwellers. As Kwiryna Handke's research suggests, the development of nomenclature systems in European cities during the medieval period resulted in the emergence of similar types of street names, such as directional names, names derived from ethnic or professional groups, and names derived from nearby religious sites or buildings (Handke, 2004, 2011). These vernacular names served practical purposes and fostered a sense of cultural universalism among urban populations.

Additionally, critical urban theory and cultural geography offer insights into the relationship between spatial practices, such as street naming, and the production of urban spaces and identities (Cresswell, 2004, p. 51; Lefebvre, 1991, pp. 26–53). Street names can be viewed as spatial texts that shape the lived experiences and imaginations of urban inhabitants, contributing to the continuous (re)construction of urban landscapes and collective memories.

By drawing upon these theoretical perspectives from various disciplines, including onomastics, urban studies and cultural geography, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of street naming practices in contemporary Ukraine and their role in navigating historical legacies.

## Methodological Approach

To address the research aims, this study employs a multifaceted methodological approach. Documentary analysis of legislative texts, scholarly literature, and media reports was conducted to understand the legal and societal contexts surrounding toponymic changes in Ukraine.

Additionally, archival research involving tax records, city council records, and historical documents was undertaken to compile a chronological dataset of street names in Lviv from the 14th to the 18th centuries. This dataset, comprising nearly 5,000 records, facilitated the observation of transformations in nomenclature over time.

Cartographic analysis and digital mapping techniques were employed to integrate the compiled dataset with a historical map attributed to Friedrich von Mieg (1779–1782). By overlaying the street names onto this map using

QGIS, an interactive web-based map was created, allowing users to explore the historical, vernacular street names of Lviv.

## Legislative Changes and Decommunization Initiatives in Ukraine

As mentioned, Ukrainian society underwent a significant reevaluation of Soviet heritage and its remnants on Ukrainian territory. This shift was solidified with the passage of the Law "On Condemning the Communist and National-Socialist (Nazi) Totalitarian Regimes in Ukraine and Prohibiting Propaganda of Their Symbols," enacted on April 9, 2015. The law stipulates that certain symbols, emblems, names, and references associated with the communist and national-socialist (Nazi) totalitarian regimes should be changed, removed, or dismantled.

The specific details of what should be changed or removed cover a few groups, for example, symbols of the communist totalitarian regime (i.e. state flags, emblems and symbols of the Soviet Union, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and other Soviet republics; images featuring any combination of the sickle, hammer, plow, and five-pointed star symbols) and symbols associated with the Communist Party or its elements (for example, monuments, memorials, inscriptions dedicated to individuals holding leadership positions in the Communist Party or Soviet authorities). Another group are names and references (i.e. names of regions, districts, localities, squares, boulevards, streets, alleys, ramps, driveways, avenues, squares, embankments, bridges, and other toponymic objects associated with individuals from the Communist Party or Soviet authorities) and names associated with the Communist Party and its activities (*Zakon Ukraïny "Pro zasudzhennia komunistychnoho ta natsional-sotsialistychnoho (natsysts'koho) totalitarnykh rezhymiv v Ukraïni ta zaboronu propahandy ïkhn'oï symvoliky"*, 2015–2023, article 1).

After the law was enacted, many names were changed, and communist monuments were taken down. The most active period of this removal was during the Euromaidan protests in 2013–2014, especially the demolition of Vladimir Lenin statues, known as "Leninopad" ("Leninfall"). Currently, attempts made by the occupying authorities in temporarily held territories to erect monuments in honor of their leaders have largely failed, thanks to efforts by Ukrainian activists (Lutsenko, 2023). The return of Lenin statues highlights that these monuments have long served as symbols for Russia, signifying its persistent influence from the Soviet era.

Subsequently, entire towns and even regional centers underwent renaming. For instance, on May 19, 2016, the parliament of Ukraine (Verkhovna Rada) renamed the city of Dnipropetrovsk as Dnipro. The second part of the city's name was dedicated to Grygoryi Petrovsky, a leader of the Communist Party and an active participant in organizations involved in repressions against the Ukrainian population and associated with the Holodomor.

On July 14 of the same year, the Ukrainian parliament adopted a resolution renaming the city of Kirovohrad as Kropyvnytskyi. Sergiy Kirov was a Bolshevik and Soviet figure, and his name was also associated with the repression of the Ukrainian population. Local residents, in interviews, shared that there were seven proposed options for renaming the city. "Active discussions began, there were public hearings with conflicts, and a large scientific-historical conference was held" (Mori, 2020). As no unanimous decision was reached, all seven options were brought to a committee in the parliament of Ukraine, where the name Kropyvnytskyi was officially approved in honor of 19th-century Ukrainian writer and playwright Marko Kropyvnytskyi, whose name is linked to the establishment of Ukrainian professional theater.

Nevertheless, numerous public discussions and bureaucratic procedures significantly prolonged the process of decommunization. These crucial initiatives encountered various perspectives and societal disputes, necessitating careful consideration of historical contexts and the determination of optimal ways to implement decommunization policies.

The second active phase of renaming and dismantling monuments occurred after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and continues to the present day. Alongside initiatives existing since 2015, new civic initiatives and activists have emerged, appealing to local authorities and persuading them that the issues of renaming and dismantling monuments remain highly relevant for society. As an example, it is worth pointing to the *Decolonization. Ukraine* project (*Dekolonizatsiia. Ukraïna: Perelik ob'iektiv, iaki pidliahaiut' demontazhu*, n.d.), which compiles information about objects that, in accordance with the law in question, are to be renamed or dismantled. Volunteers share daily updates on social media regarding objects that have undergone the process of decommunization.

In addition to creating new names, as mentioned above, the exploration and uncovering of old names were outlined in the first version, published in 2005, of the Ukrainian Law "On Geographical Names," in the 5th

article. The first three paragraphs of the 5th article establish the process of geographical naming, encompassing the identification of existing or historically known names. It declares research on and uncovering of old geographical names through various sources, including official documents, cartographic materials and toponymic research (*Law of Ukraine "On geographical names"*, 2005–2023, article 5).

Nevertheless, such toponymic research was not precisely emphasized between 2005 and the enactment of the decommunization law in 2015; it gained increased significance after 2015 when the issue of renaming became more prominent. The exploration of these names reflects the history and cultural heritage of a given locality, not only within a specific city or Ukraine as such, but also within a broader pan-European context. The connection between Ukraine and pan-European cultural universalism through vernacular street names is supported by historical evidence. As noted by Polish onomastics researcher Kwiryna Handke, the development of the nomenclature system of European cities occurred during the medieval period (Handke, 2011, pp. 22–23). This process resulted in the emergence of similar types of street names, such as directional names, names derived from ethnic or professional groups, and names derived from nearby religious sites or buildings. For example, streets like Baker Street, Narrow Street, and Gate Street can be found in various European cities. These similarities in naming conventions point to a certain cultural universalism in the nomenclature of European cities (Handke, 2004, p. 125).

## Street Renaming Processes in Contemporary Ukraine

Many communities independently conduct public discussions, and based on these deliberations, local authorities make decisions to change specific names. In addition to removing Soviet monuments, reliefs, and decorative elements containing symbols of totalitarian regimes, which are becoming increasingly scarce, efforts also include, of course, changing the names of settlements. An excellent example is the renaming of the village of Pershotravneve in the Kherson region to Vilne ["Free"]. Then there are the names of public buildings: for instance, a library in Kyiv was recently renamed from Oleg Koshovyi Library, after a participant of the Komsomol organization, to Kateryna Bilokur Library, honoring an outstanding Ukrainian artist who worked in the genre of "naive art" (Kyïvs'ka mis'ka rada, 2023). These changes also necessarily include the names of streets in cities and villages throughout Ukraine, causing some debate and reflection.

The question of whether to rename streets or not is no longer a topic of debate in most communities, and there is an understanding among the majority of the population that residing on a street named after an 18th-century Russian imperial military commander like Suvorov does not reflect modern Ukrainian realities and values. However, determining a new name for a particular street, alley, avenue, park, etc., often becomes a subject of debate within the community. Therefore, the choice sometimes falls on names such as Sadova [Garden], Kvitkova [Flower], Luhova [Meadow], Sonyachna [Sunny] streets, and so on, which are sometimes considered "neutral" names. While these names may seem somewhat generic, the very act of their change represents a crucial step in altering the toponymic structure of a locality, signifying a deliberate shift in that structure. By choosing these seemingly generic names, communities actively participate in redefining the cultural identity of their surroundings. This neutral nomenclature serves as a symbolic departure from historical associations tied to imperial or controversial figures, fostering a sense of inclusivity and unity among residents. The act of embracing neutral names represents a conscious effort to create a shared cultural narrative that transcends divisive historical legacies, ultimately contributing to the formation of a more cohesive and harmonious community identity.

Another scenario is when the community opts to rename a street in honor of a fallen soldier who died in the current war and resided on that particular street. Such renaming reflects deep reverence for those who sacrifice their lives for Ukraine's independence and security. The selection of such names is entirely justified, because military professions are celebrated after major conflicts and decline during periods of peace (Bancilhon et al., 2021, p. 14). Given Ukraine's current state of war, street names honoring military people constitute an essential aspect of contemporary society.

City names have always been important to locals, traders, and travelers, even before street signs existed. They acted as universal markers for spaces. Some old names still serve this purpose, connecting cities to their past. Exploring historical names and using them again helps maintain this link and attracts both locals and tourists.

Here it is worth noting that all street names in the city can be divided into two chronological categories: 1) vernacular names, late medieval and early modern, which evolved over time and conveyed the urban dwellers' perceptions of the designated space, having a practical purpose; 2) official names (modern and contemporary) established in official city documents (Dolynska, 2020, p. 147).

Official names that emerged in the modern era served as ideological markers and a crucial component of the governing authority in a given city. This is evident in the example of Lviv, which was under the rule of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Polish state, the German occupation forces, and later the Soviet Union. Each regime altered the city's names to suit its needs, transmitting (or recreating) its own history to the population, honoring its own figures, poets, events, and more.

The main street of Lviv, a city situated in western Ukraine, serves as a compelling example of how street names have evolved over time under the influence of various powers and rulers. During the era of Austrian rule, the street was known as *Karl Ludwig Strasse*, named after Archduke Karl Ludwig Josef Maria of Austria, governor of the Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria. This name reflected the administrative authority of the Austrian Empire in the region. Subsequently, during the Polish era, the street was referred to as *Wały Hetmańskie* [Hetman's Ramparts], a name that commemorated a monument to Hetman Stanisław Jabłonowski, symbolizing the historical ties and cultural heritage of the Polish era in Lviv.

With the onset of the German occupation, the street's name changed to *Adolf Hitler Strasse*, reflecting the political and ideological influence of Nazi Germany during World War II. Following the end of the war, the street was renamed *Lenin Street* during the Soviet era, symbolizing the dominance of communist ideology and the influence of the Soviet Union in the region.

Even before Ukraine gained independence in 1990, at the initiative of Lviv residents the street was named *Prospekt Svobody* [Freedom Avenue] (*Project "Lviv Streets"*, 2004–2024), a choice that held great importance for the city's inhabitants during the confines of the Soviet Union. In the contemporary war, the symbolism of Prospekt Svobody remains deeply meaningful.

Each name change in Lviv's main street not only mirrors the city's evolving political landscape but also underscores the enduring significance of street names as tangible markers in urban history. These changes, along with many others, are meticulously cataloged in the *Lviv Streets* project, an online repository dedicated to documenting the city's evolving street names. However, a notable gap exists in the research, as contributors primarily focus on modern names sourced from lore guidebooks rather than archival materials or scientific literature, highlighting the need for more comprehensive investigation in this area.

Examining the historical context, official names historically served as reflections of political climates and values, emphasizing authority and societal norms. In contrast, vernacular names, rooted in earlier epochs,

offered essential spatial and community identity markers, devoid of overt political associations. These names resonate more deeply with residents, preserving a sense of continuity across generations.

## Exploring Historical Street Names: Case Study of Lviv

As urban research progresses, revitalizing and incorporating vernacular street names becomes vital in safeguarding cultural heritage and restoring historical connections. This approach is particularly relevant in Lviv, a city rich in history dating back to medieval times. However, challenges arise after some archival losses in the city's past.

To overcome these challenges, a combination of traditional toponymic analysis and innovative digital tools, including interactive mapping, can unveil the intricate layers of urban nomenclature. Integrating historical street names into interactive maps not only benefits researchers but also makes this valuable historical information accessible to the public, bridging the gap between scholarly inquiry and community engagement, and taking into account vernacular street naming in the renaming processes in Ukraine.

The research comprised several stages. The first step involved carefully examining and studying specific sources. The most detailed list of street names was found in tax records, which documented taxes collected from each street annually, starting from 1535. These records were initially written in Latin but had switched to Polish by the late 16th century. Additionally, earlier sources like city council records and old books detailing the city's finances from 1382 to 1461 were reviewed. These documents contained decisions and laws passed by the council, which had legislative and administrative powers. They also included materials received from various government and church authorities. Alongside official documents, private records such as agreements, debts, wills, and property-related documents were kept in council books. It is important to note that these sources were written in German and Latin. Despite their diverse nature, these documents collectively provide valuable information about street names. For example, property sales records often included detailed descriptions of the property's location, including the street name.

The second step involved compiling a chronological dataset where street names were recorded nearly every year. As a result, a substantial dataset of street names in Lviv during the 14th to 18th centuries was created, comprising almost 5,000 records of street names. The collected material facilitated the observation of transformations in nomenclature. In most

cases, these were more accurately described as "transformations" rather than outright "changes," as street names in the city were intricately linked to the residents' perception of the urban space.

The third stage involved utilizing a crucial cartographic source, namely a map attributed to Friedrich von Mieg, which was created at the end of the 18th century. The map derives its name from the overseer of a comprehensive project, an engineer and *oberleutnant* in the Austrian General Staff. This map constitutes an integral component of the broader cartographic collection initiated during the reign of Emperor Joseph II. Crafted between 1779–1782, the maps of Galicia, encompassing Lviv, precisely coincide with the period when this region fell under the dominion of the Austrian Empire (Petryshyn, 2006, p. 10). Consequently, these maps offer a meticulous portrayal of the city's condition preceding the "Austrian redevelopment," a transformative phase marked by events such as the dissolution of monasteries and their assets, the deconstruction of walls, and the modernization of the city center. Therefore, the "von Mieg" map stands as an exceptional archival source, capturing Lviv's state in the concluding years of the Magdeburg period (14th-18th centuries). Significantly, this map serves as the foundational cornerstone for the subsequent phase: the representation of a speculative arrangement of streets upon its surface.

Building upon the research conducted by Maryana Dolynska, Myron Kapral, Andriy Felonyuk, Ivan Krypyakevych and other researchers dedicated to the localization of specific streets or notable landmarks such as churches, monasteries and mills, it was possible to hypothetically depict the locations of streets on the aforementioned map from von Mieg's background, overlaid onto the current map in the QGIS application, which was the third stage. Each depicted object (street) on this interactive map is accompanied by information about its name through four centuries.

This project has been successfully published as the web page "Interactive Mapping of Lviv" (https://map.humaniora.ucu.edu.ua/en/; *Interactive cartography of Lviv*, n.d.), which is accessible to a broad audience of researchers and readers. The webpage provides a user-friendly interface for exploring the historical, vernacular street names of Lviv. The detailed information about each street includes the translation of the original name into English, the year of documentation, the name in the original language (Latin, German, or Polish), and the source. Moreover, a search window is available, enhancing the user's ability to navigate and explore the historical and linguistic context of each street comprehensively.

In summary, this research on old street naming in Lviv serves as a vital contribution to the broader scholarly exploration of historical toponymy in cities. Through the meticulous examination of diverse sources and interactive cartography, this study not only traces the transformations in street names but also sheds light on the city's historical landscape between the 14th and 18th centuries. The findings emphasize the importance of investigating vernacular street names, not merely as labels for geographic locations but as integral components of a city's cultural heritage.

In addition to its scholarly significance, this research holds practical implications for urban planning and cultural preservation. As research into the historical intricacies of street naming, the study contributes valuable insights for contemporary urban development and heritage conservation efforts. The revitalization of vernacular street names offers a tangible link to a city's past, fostering a sense of continuity and identity for its residents.

Moreover, the integration of digital tools, including the development of interactive cartography, enhances the accessibility and dynamic representation of historical street naming in urban contexts. This dynamic representation bridges the gap between academic research and community engagement, fostering a more inclusive approach to urban history.

The exploration of old street names is highly relevant in the context of contemporary Ukraine, which is undergoing a process of decommunization and reevaluation of its cultural heritage. Therefore, when renaming, it is essential to adopt a comprehensive approach, considering both modern realities and traditions, ensuring a harmonious synthesis that resonates with the essence of historical and cultural identity.

The project presented here illustrates how digital technologies can be employed to preserve and study a city's history through the analysis and visualization of old street names.

## Discussion

The findings of this study underscore the multifaceted nature of street naming practices and their profound implications for urban planning, cultural preservation, and community engagement in contemporary Ukraine. Through the analysis of legislative initiatives, renaming practices, and the exploration of historical street names in Lviv, several key insights emerge.

Firstly, the decommunization efforts and the subsequent renaming of streets highlight the symbolic significance of these practices in reshaping

the cultural and political landscapes of Ukrainian cities. The removal of street names associated with the communist regime or the Russian Empire period and the selection of new names reflect a deliberate attempt to distance oneself from historical legacies and align with evolving societal values. However, the process is not without its complexities, as evidenced by the debates and discussions surrounding the choice of appropriate replacement names.

Furthermore, the exploration of historical, vernacular street names in Lviv underscores the importance of preserving and revitalizing these cultural artifacts. Vernacular names, rooted in the experiences and perceptions of urban dwellers, offer a tangible link to a city's past and contribute to the formation of a cohesive community identity. The interactive mapping project showcased in this study not only serves as a valuable resource for researchers but also facilitates public engagement and fosters a deeper appreciation for the city's rich heritage.

The implications of these findings extend beyond the realm of toponymic studies. Urban planners and policymakers can leverage the insights gained from this research to inform decision-making processes related to the renaming of streets and the preservation of cultural heritage. By considering both modern realities and historical traditions, cities can strike a balance between acknowledging societal shifts and maintaining a sense of continuity and identity.

Moreover, the methodological approach employed in the case of Lviv, which combines archival research, cartographic analysis, and digital mapping techniques, offers a replicable framework for investigating street naming practices in other Ukrainian cities. This interdisciplinary approach not only contributes to the advancement of onomastic studies but also holds potential for broader applications in urban planning, heritage management, and community-driven initiatives.

Future research could explore the long-term impact of street renaming on community identity, examine the role of public participation in the decision-making process, and investigate the potential for integrating vernacular street names into contemporary urban planning strategies. Additionally, comparative studies across different regions of Ukraine or even across international contexts could provide valuable insights into the diverse cultural and historical factors influencing street naming practices.

By fostering a deeper understanding of street naming practices and their multifaceted implications, this study paves the way for more informed

and inclusive approaches to urban development and cultural preservation in Ukraine and beyond.

## Conclusion

This study's exploration of street renaming practices in contemporary Ukraine underscores the profound cultural, historical, and political significance of these spatial markers. Through an interdisciplinary approach, the complexities and nuances of street renaming processes are illuminated.

The decommunization and decolonization initiatives and subsequent renaming efforts represent a deliberate attempt to distance oneself from divisive pasts and align with contemporary realities, while the revitalization of historical, vernacular street names offers a tangible link to a city's rich cultural heritage.

The interactive mapping project centered on Lviv's historical street names exemplifies the potential of digital tools in preserving and disseminating valuable toponymic data, fostering public engagement and a deeper appreciation for urban histories.

By examining street naming practices through the lenses of various theoretical frameworks, including onomastics, semiotics, urban studies, and cultural geography, this study contributes to the broader scholarly discourse on the interdisciplinary nature of name studies.

Ultimately, this research underscores the importance of adopting a holistic and inclusive approach to street renaming processes, one that harmoniously synthesizes modern realities with historical traditions, ensuring the preservation of cultural identities while embracing societal transformations.

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## За межами координат: дослідження практик найменування вулиць у сучасній Україні

У статті розглядається практика найменування вулиць у сучасній Україні, зосереджуючись на складнощах та культурному значенні топонімічних змін. Після Революції Гідності та російсько-української війни, процес декомунізації прискорився, що призвело до масових змін радянських назв вулиць. Дослідження застосовує якісний підхід, ґрунтується на аналізі законодавчих документів та представляє вивчення історичних назв вулиць у Львові як приклад.Особливу увагу приділено Львову, де було зібрано та оприлюднено на інтерактивній карті вичерпні дані про назви вулиць із XIV по XVIII століття. Ця карта не лише демонструє цінні топонімічні дані, але й сприяє залученню громадськості та популяризації спадщини міста. У дослідженні також висвітлюються багатовимірні наслідки перейменувань вулиць. Вивчаючи ономастику, урбаністичні студії та культурну географію, стаття робить внесок у міждисциплінарні дискусії щодо вивчення назв. Зрештою, авторка виступає за цілісний підхід, який передбачає гармонійне поєднання сучасних реалій з історичними традиціями, забезпечивши збереження культурної ідентичності та враховуючи суспільні трансформації.

**Ключові слова:** історія міста, процеси перейменування в Україні, інтерактивне картографування, традиційні назви вулиць.

# Poza współrzędnymi: badanie praktyk nadawania nazw ulic we współczesnej Ukrainie

W niniejszym artykule skupiam się na złożoności i kulturowym znaczeniu zmian toponimicznych, analizując praktyki nazywania ulic we współczesnej Ukrainie. W związku z Rewolucją Godności i wojną rosyjsko-ukraińską dekomunizacja nabrała tempa i zmieniano nazwy ulic z czasów sowieckich. W artykule stosuję podejście jakościowe, które opiera się na analizie dokumentów legislacyjnych i prezentacji studium przypadku dotyczącego historycznych nazw ulic we Lwowie. Szczególną uwagę poświęcam więc miastu Lwów, z którego pochodzi wyczerpujący zbiór danych dotyczących historycznych nazw ulic od XIV do XVIII wieku, zaprezentowany na interaktywnej mapie internetowej. Mapa nie tylko prezentuje cenne dane toponimiczne, lecz również przyczynia się do promocji dziedzictwa miasta i wzrostu zaangażowania społecznego. Badanie podkreśla wieloaspektowe konsekwencje zmian nazw ulic. W badaniu analizuje się teoretyczne ramy onomastyki, studiów miejskich i geografii kulturowej, co jest wkładem do międzydyscyplinarnych dyskursów na temat studiów nad nazwami. Ostatecznie autorzy badania opowiadają się za podejściem holistycznym, które harmonijnie łączy realia współczesne z tradycjami historycznymi, zapewniając zachowanie tożsamości kulturowej przy jednoczesnym uwzględnieniu transformacji społecznych.

**Słowa kluczowe:** historia miejska, zmiany nazw na Ukrainie, interaktywne mapowanie, historyczne nazwy ulic.

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