M. Paszko
Uniwersytet w Białymstoku
e-mail: m.paszko@tomasconsulting.com

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Названия улиц Белостока – эволюция, историческое и онимическое значение

Ключевые слова: *названия улиц Белостока, историческая перспектива, город-палимпсест, урбанонимия.*

Цель статьи – представить названия улиц Белостока, который за свою историю был под правлением разных стран. Это имело большое значение для формирующейся и меняющейся онимической системы агломерации, в которой переплелись влияния русского, немецкого, еврейского, белорусского и украинского этносов. В случае со многими названиями речь не идет об официальной номинации в виде постановлений городского совета. Однако они свидетельствуют об исторической языковой интерференции и могут считаться интересными онимическими памятниками.

M. Paszko
University of Bialystok

Street names of Białystok – evolution, historical and onimic significance

Key words: *street names of Białystok, historical perspective, city-palimpsest, urbanonymy.*

The aim of the article is to present the names of the streets of Białystok, which in its history experienced the governments of different countries. It was of great importance for the emergingand the changing onimic system of the agglomeration in which the influences of Russian, German, Jewish, Belarusian and Ukrainian ethnos intertwined. In the case of many names, we are not dealing with an official nomination in the form of city council resolutions. However, they are evidence of historical linguistic interference and can be considered interesting onimic monuments.

The aim of the article is to present the names of the streets of Białystok in general in a diachronic and synchronous approach, taking into account foreign patterns and linguistic influences. Białystok is the largest city in northeastern Poland and the capital of the Podlaskie Voivodeship. It is the tenth-largest city in Poland, second in terms of population density, and thirteenth in area. Białystok has historically attracted migrants from elsewhere in Poland and beyond, particularly from Central and Eastern Europe. Influences of Polish, German, Lithuanian, Ukrainian, Jewish and Belarusian ethnos were mixed in the city. Apart from native urbanonimy, there were also East Slavic names and hybrid formations. They influenced each other and interacted with each other over the centuries, creating a cultural and linguistic mosaic. Topographic names in Białystok have become a reflection of the history of settlement and sociopolitical situation of the city and region.

For the purposes of this article, it was necessary to analyze the system of nomenclature of Białystok streets, because mainly plateonyms are subject to legal processes, thanks to which it is possible to recreate the nomination act. Research on the urbanonymy of Białystok takes into account available historical sources as well as archival data, including topographic data. As noted by M. Dolistowska, many works on the history of the city are based on poor source material due to its dispersion and lack of access to historical documents [5, 12].

The town archive was burnt down during World War II, and many materials, mainly concerning the 19th century, found their way to the eastern border, incl. in the National Historical Archives in Grodno, as well as in Saint Petersburg, Moscow and Vilnius. At that time, almost 80% of the city was destroyed and many streets ceased to exist [4, 355]. The lack of sufficient source material influences research difficulties, which become a challenge for the linguist. For this reason, no monograph on the city of Białystok has been prepared so far.

The system of urban nomenclature has been shaped over the centuries and has influenced the linguistic creation of space, while the onimic layer is constantly expanding and transforming. The literature on the subject also uses the following terms to denote the onimic system in toponomics: city / city toponymy, plateonymy, hodonymy, urbanonymy. Proper names of objects appearing in urban space, e.g. streets, squares, parks, buildings, are subject to dynamic changes. Urbanonymy is a separate naming system, centered around the city's community and culture. Before the lexeme street appeared in the topography of the city, the Latin term *platea* functioned, and in some cities the German term *Gasse*, which meant 'entrance' or 'narrow road'.

The research conducted so far and the excerpt of the material allowed for the observation that the main urban axis of the city are streets and squares. They function in an orderly manner, set directions and the way of moving. Three basic functions of communication routes can be distinguished [2, 283]:

1. Orientation function – related to the city's topography, which was dominant at the time of establishing the cities, until the middle of the eighteenth century and disappeared with the incorporation of the surrounding suburbs, suburban settlements and villages by the founding cities.

2. Location (identification) function – distinguishing individual communication routes and indicating a specific place in the city.

3. Symbolic function – promoting binding and accepted social values in a given urban environment, commemorating characters, events, etc.

Białystok as an example of a city-palimpsest

Białystok is an urban organism made up of various social, ethnic and professional groups. Cultural communities were connected and united by the awareness of their own distinctness, as well as of the language. Nowadays, it is difficult to notice a clear ethnic differentiation. The processes of unification are characteristic of almost all contemporary Polish metropolises, and foreign elements in the onimic space constitute a cultural monument. The same is true of Białystok onimic resource. Hidden in the documents of bygone eras and in memories, names create a rewriteable space [5, 4].

Białystok is a palimpsest city, a multicultural mixture of traces, fragments of history and culture of various nations. In the nineteenth century, the definition of palimpsest narrowed. It is now referring to a manuscript in which a later handwriting was superimposed on an earlier (obliterated) handwriting. Since it was officially granted city rights, Białystok was under the rule of the following countries:

1. 1749 – 1795: Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Podlaskie Voivodeship
2. 1795 – 1807: Kingdom of Prussia, Province of New East Prussia
3. 1807 – 1842: Russian Empire, Białystok Oblast
4. 1842 – 1915: Russian Empire, Grodno District
5. 1915 – 1919: German Reich, Kingdom of Prussia (war occupation)
6. 1919 – 1939: The Republic of Poland, Białystok Province
7. 1939 – 1941: USSR, Byelorussian SSR, Belastok Region (war occupation)
8. 1941 – 1944: Greater Germany Reich, Bezirk Bialystok (war occupation)
9. 1944 – 1945: USSR, Belarusian SSR, Białystok region (war occupation)
10. 1945 – 1952: The Republic of Poland, Białystok Province
11. 1952 – 1989: Polish People's Republic, Białystok Province

12. 1989 – 1998: Poland, Białystok Province
13. since 1999: Poland, Podlaskie Voivodeship.

Such frequent changes of the language used in the city resulted in the overlapping of naming layers, blurring and restoration of old traces. The basic historical sources for researching urban nomenclature are cartographic materials, mainly maps and city plans. The oldest preserved map of Białystok is the so-called "Moscow plan", also referred to as the tsarist plan – "Plan du chateau de la ville de Bialystok" by Jan Kamsetzer from 1771 or 1774, based on the plan from 1757. It was published in 1992 after it was found in Moscow. Another cartographic source is the Białystok Plan from 1799, reconstructed by Jan Glinka based on the Plan by G. Becker, which was commissioned by the Prussian authorities. A photocopy of the original is in *Teki Glinki* (File 120 – State Archives in Białystok). The document shows that there were twenty streets at the end of the 18th century. The next plan is from 1807 or 1808 (no date) and shows the introduction of the Russian administration. Many subsequent maps and plans of Białystok served as a source of knowledge about street names and their evolution.

The chronological evolution and general creation of street names in Białystok is presented below. Due to the limitation of the size of the text, only representative examples are given, which are the subject of a larger onomastic study. Examples of street names are provided in the original wording as they appeared in the source documents.

Names of Białystok streets in the 18th century

The first street names in Białystok referred to the topography, characteristics, settlement, ethnic and professional groups, e. g. *ulica Podrzeczna, ulica Zagumienna, ulica Bojarska.* The street names marked the gates leading to the surrounding towns: *Choroska, Suraska, Wasilkowska*. The first marked roads usually led from the entrance gates to the main square. In the 18th century, it was located in Białystok leading Branicki Palace, i.e. the route leading to the building known in the city.

Street names in the years 1807–1918

In the years 1807–1915, the streets in Białystok officially bore Russian names, because the city was part of the Russian Empire. Moreover, the advertisements and subtitles could only appear in that language. On the map from 1810 there are Russian street names, incl. *Улица Нова Липа, Улица Суражская, Улица Костельная, Улица Васильковская, Улица Зеленая.* At that time, there were just over twenty streets with names and they were translations of Polish names. They had an orientation and information function.

In 1864, by a resolution of the Board of Grodno Governorate, 29 street names appearing in the city were replaced with new Russian ones, e.g. *Улица Васильковская* to *Николаевская Улица*, *Замковая* to *Немецкая улица*, *Млыновая* to *Институтская улица,* etc. As you can see, in the 19th century, the potential of street names was noticed as it could help to preserve the memory of important people and events. In the second half of the 19th century in order to commemorate Tsar Nicholas I, *Wasilkowska* (street) was changed into *ulica Mikołajewska* (commemorative, symbolic). Giving the street such a name emphasized the importance of the road, and there was indeed a clear construction movement in the main part of the city. Up to these days, Słonimska Street commemorates the fact that Białystok belonged to Słonim Governorate, i.e. the governorate of the Russian Empire, created as a result of Poland Third Partition and existing for several months in 1796.

Street names of Białystok in the years 1919–1939

On April 17, 1919, the Provisional City Committee decided to change street names from Russian to Polish, incl. *ulica Mieszczańska* changed to *ulica Elektryczna* (previously also *Kleindorf*), *ulicę Niemiecką* to *ulica Kilińskiego*, *ulica Moesowska* to *ulica Krakowska*, *ulica Nowo Niemiecka* to *ulica Legionowa*, *ulica Brzeska i ulica Puszkina* to *ulica Adama Mickiewicza*, *ulica Policyjna* to *ulica Ogrodowa*, *ulica Aleksandrowska* to *ulica Warszawska*, *ulica Flakierska* to *ulica Wesoła*. The list of squares and streets in the city of Białystok in 1919

(*Wykaz placów i ulic miasta Białegostoku z 1919 r.*) was the first official document to organize the plateonyms of Białystok in an official manner.

Street names in 1941–1944

During the occupation, attempts were made to Germanize urbanonyms of Białystok by replacing Russian and Polish onymas with German, written Gothic. Translations of Polish names and new names appeared in the space, informing about German national heroes. Below are examples of just a few representative plateonyms that had a Polish name in 1938 and the German name in 1942: *Aleja 11 listopada>Richthofen Strasse, ulica Artyleryjska>Artillerie Strasse, ulica Branickiego>Goethe Strasse, ulica Częstochowska>Leipziger Strasse, ulica Kraszewskiego>Frankfurter Strasse, ulica Kilińskiego>Deutsche Strasse, ulica Mickiewicza>Reichsmarachall Strasse, ulica Orlicz-Dreszera>Kleindorf, ulica Orzeszkowej>Gärtner Strasse, ulica Św. Rocha>Roch Strasse.*

German street names were removed after the city was liberated.

Street names after World War II. 1945–1989

In the post-war period, with the advent of communism, there were further changes in the urbanization of Białystok. This was reflected in the available resolutions of the city authorities of Białystok. A significant ideological metamorphosis covered the streets of Białystok in 1949. At that time, one of the most representative streets was changed from *ulica Lipowa* to *ulica Józefa Stalina*, *ulica Świętego Rocha* was renamed into *ulica Manifestu Lipcowego*, *ulica Branickiego* became *ulica Włodzimierza Lenina*. Renaming the streets was one of the most visible metamorphoses. The ideologization of space coincided with the reconstruction and expansion of the city. They were often accompanied by the marking out of new communication routes which completely destroyed the pre-war street network. Kwiryna Handke called the plans of the totalitarian authorities "naming baptisms", which pursued political goals, introducing many communist patrons [8, 41]. At that time, names were borrowed from city to city to make it easier to unify the system.

The effects of the political change after 1989

The decommunization of public space in Poland began in 1989 after the political transformation. Many names of streets and squares in cities were modified mainly for the sake of the patron, who was perceived negatively, the location of the route in the center, as well as the desire to restore pre-war nominations that aroused the sentiment of the local community. After the decommunization in 1989, the streets began to serve as a commemoration of the achievements of famous and distinguished figures in Poland and region. In addition, women began to apply for honoring writers and activists.

In this way, since 1990, there were, inter alia, streets and squares: *ulica dr Ireny Białówny, ulica Hanki Ordonówny, ulica Berty Szaykowskiej, ulica Simony Kossak, ulica Łucji Prus, ulica Anny Jagiellonki, ulica Nory Ney, ulica Praw Kobiet, ulica Wisławy Szymborskiej, ulica Agnieszki Osieckiej, Bulwary Ireny Sendlerowej.*

Since 1990, there is also the emergence of church saints as patrons and patrons of the streets: St. Andrzej Bobola, St. Wojciech, St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe, St. Joseph, St. John the Baptist, Saint Pio, Saint Prophet Elijah, St. Gregory Peraga, St. George, St. Luke.

The presented examples show that the street names given today often have a symbolic meaning. They are one of the simplest, but also visible in the city's onimic space, way of commemorating famous people. In addition, the repertoire of indicative and informative names in the city was exhausted, and in 2021 there were almost 1,200 plateonyms in Białystok.

Names of Białystok streets as onimic monuments

Understanding the historical and cultural processes that have taken place over the centuries in the city of Białystok is a prerequisite for the analysis of urban nomenclature, its geographical and ethnic specificity. The research difficulty is the lack of archival sources, which were largely destroyed during the war and the rest are scattered. Nevertheless, it is reasonable

to trace the names of Białystok from the earliest times, as they allow for the interpretation of urbanonyms and show the history of the city [3, 98].

The analysis of the cartographic and source materials showed that the streets do not coincide with their historical divisions and trend, which was influenced by enormous war damage, name changes and the dynamic development of the agglomeration. However, in the city's nomenclature of Białystok, the influences of various cultures are noticeable, as well as the blurring of their traces. Many names serve as unofficial act of nomination. City names are an important testimony to historical linguistic interference and can be considered interesting onimic monuments.

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С.А. Попов
Воронежский государственный университет
e-mail: spo@bk.ru

УДК 81.373.21+070

О роли средств массовой коммуникации
в региональных топонимических исследованиях

Ключевые слова: *ономастика, топонимика, топонимия, ойконимия, лингвокраеведение, журналистика, регионалистика.*

Статья посвящена роли средств массовой коммуникации в региональных топонимических исследованиях. Автор приходит к выводу, что районные и областные газеты и информационные интернет-порталы являются полноценным источником для научного изучения региональной топонимии – ойконимов, урбанонимов и микротопонимов.