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Namn i skrift. *Names in Writing*

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**INSTITUTIONEN FÖR SPRÅK OCH
LITTERATURER**



Ortnamnssällskapet i Uppsala
MEIJERBERGS INSTITUT

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Ukrainian First and Last Names: the Cruxes of English Transliteration in Official Documents

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The purpose of our presentation is to show the necessity of proper Ukrainian first and last names transliteration (due to the fact that the Cyrillic script is used for the Ukrainian alphabet whereas the English alphabet is Latin-script), demonstrate the main problems occurred during this process and determine the consequences of improper transliteration. Korunets (2003, p. 92) claimed, “Ukrainian proper names of people and family names are mostly conveyed on the basis of their phonemic/orthographic structure”. However, until 1995 there weren’t finally established rules on how Ukrainian proper names should be transliterated (Postanova Kabinetu ministriv Ukrainy, 1995). In addition, during the next 15 years some changes in conveying of separate letters were introduced (which led to differences in last names

transliteration of the members of one family in official documents causing immigration problems). Finally, in 2010 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine issued the Resolution of January 27, 2010 No. 55 on Adjustment of Ukrainian Alphabet Transliteration by means of Latin Script” (Postanova Kabinetu ministriv Ukrainy, 2010). Still, even now there are some challenges in the process of Ukrainian first and last names transliteration which may cause serious problems (e.g., while crossing the border). In order to insure proper conveying of Ukrainian first and last names, future translators should be aware of the issue and well-trained. With object of getting detailed and qualitative data on the level of readiness of future translators to convey Ukrainian first and last names properly, laboratory experiment was conducted (N=20, 10 of which belong control group and 10 to experimental group) and its results will be reported.

References

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