

Writing of Ukrainian names in Estonian texts

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Ukrainian-Estonian transcription system 1975

- Article by Harald Rajamets in a journal 1975
- The first case to transcribe names directly, without the mediation of Russian
- Initial aim to keep the system uniform with that of Russian
- Resulted in a complicated system that the Committee sought to simplify
- E. g., **и** = **õ**, but after г, к, х, ж, ш, ч = **i** (Килимник = *Kilõmnõk*)
- **i** and **ï** were not distinguished (Миколаїв = *Mõkolaiv*)
- **г** = **g** (Луганськ = *Lugansk*)
- Attitude at the time: can be used for less important features

Correction in the system 2009

- Initiated by local activists
- The overall aim was to further simplify the system and to bring it into conformity with the spelling
- **и** = in all positions **õ** (Килимник = *Kõlõmnõk*)
- **ий** = **õi** (Вербицький = *Verbõtskõi*)
- **ї** = **ji** (Миколаїв = *Mõkolajiv*)

Correction in the system 2022

- Aim: better harmony with pronunciation and conformity to the international system
- **г = h** (Луганськ = *Luhansk*)
- Cf. Чернігів = et, fi *Tšernihiv*, en *Chernihiv*, fr *Tchernihiv*, de *Tschernihiv*
- Optional: **г = g** (Гоголь = *Gogol*)
- Cf. **г** and **х** (Голодне and Холодне = *Holodne*)

Example

- Чигирин
- (via Russian Tšigirin)
- → 1975 Tšigirõn
- → 2009 Tšõgõrõn
- → 2022 **Tšõhõrõn**
- (national romanization: *Chyhyryn*)

” Controversies

- Zelenskõi or Zelenski?
- Kiiev or Kõjiv?