

к труду, чувство гордости за народ, создавший великолепные архитектурные сооружения. Кроме того, посещение культовых сооружений обогащает духовный мир экскурсантов, способствуют расширению знаний о специфических особенностях архитектуры белорусского края, величайших достижениях белорусских мастеров, развивают художественный вкус.

HOME NAMES IN LATVIAN CULTURAL HISTORY

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People are worried about Latvian place names, especially about the potential risk of home names. These are words showing our Latvian history over the centuries. Other local place names (except for the great lake and river names) have already disappeared being replaced by more modern names. Due to this reason empty, with the Latvian history unconnected place names appear. There are no more ancient place names left — they did not seem nice enough and were replaced by impersonal names that could be found almost in every village.

In relation with the population census of 2011, the country decided to go even further. The names of homes since 2009 were adapted to the addressing requirements. The regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 1269 provided that a unit of land or a building need to be attracted to the streets and the street numbers, because the home name could not serve as the address. Understanding that in future our beautiful home names can be replaced just by impersonal numbers, like in forests which include blocks and compartments, Latvian people showed dissatisfaction, arguing that the new arrangement will create time and financial losses. Furthermore, house names serve as an identification mark as well as a living tradition.

In turn, the professionals are of a different opinion. «Adjustment of the system is important not only for the town or the village people, but also for people who are not enough familiar with the local territory, for example, operational services, communication holders, tourists and cartographers. Databases do not distinguish between the property

names on the house, so there is a need for numbering and street names which are understood by the computer system. The new system will significantly improve the population census work to find objects in cities and villages» [1].

Most of the work in replacing home names with numbers was left in the hands of the local governments. Each region was able to act according to their own understanding. In *www.delfi.lv* a message can be found that, for instance, Bauska region decided to start with a change of addresses in Code village. The citizens and special services believe that it is unnecessary and a waste of money, at least at the beginning it will make only chaos. «How people in Code are living in 2012?».

In the first paragraph of the National Law on Language it is provided that: «the aim of this law is to ensure the Latvian folk cultural heritage». Various place names are often very old, being created in ancient times several centuries or even millennium ago. For this reason, they are exceptionally valuable materials for the history of the language and hence a part of the public history research. Especially, for languages such as the Latvian language, which is without ancient monuments of letters, place name materials can replace the archive documents» [2].

The authors of the article decided to go deeper into in this matter and express their opinion to let other people know that the house names are in danger. A part of this information was published in social networks and gained many followers. This work is a justification for the rights of home names, to save for them a place on the map and in history!

References

- 1 Liepa M. Māju vārdu vietā būs skaitļi un burtu virknes/ Neatkarīgā Rīta Avīze. Ceturtdiena, 17.februāris (2011)
- 2 Dambe V. Vietvārdu vākšana un pētīšana Latvijas PSR" – Valodas un literatūras institūta raksti. 1954, III, 175.lpp.