

Cultural Aspects of Cartographic Creation: Use of Mental Maps in Cross-cultural Research

Abstract:

Diploma thesis deals with study of interdisciplinary issue of cultural aspects of cartographic creation. The first part of the work consists of theoretical introduction dealing with the map content, map stylistics and map language, in which maps show the greatest cultural differences. The map figures here in a role of the image of reality and visual manifestation of culture. The analogy between a map and a classical language (linguistic anthropology) and the analogy between early maps and primitive cultures' maps are described. Beside the language, as determinants of the human spatial perception and other categories related to the map creation could be mentioned the environment, the experiences and the society, in which man lives. Several examples of so-called cultural map styles, especially from Australia and Oceania, are introduced as well. In the methodical part of the work in connection with cultural-anthropological research a method of cognitive maps, respectively mental maps of map users and map makers is discussed in detail. Just these maps are suitable to explore the cultural particularities of cartographic creation. The application part of the work presents the results of field research of mental maps of pupils, those from Czechia, as well as the countries of Western Europe (France, Switzerland etc.) and Papua New Guinea. In conclusion the author of the thesis suggests the further possibilities of study and of other benefits for theory of culture and cartography.

Key words: cross-culture research, mental maps, cartographic creation, map stylistics, cultural specificities of artifacts