

BRITISH CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS IN AUSTRALIA: THEIR TRANSFORMATION AND ADAPTATION

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Abstract

This article is aimed at studying of cultural and linguistic connections between Australia and Great Britain in modern and historical aspects. There is much in common in the culture and the history of these countries: in the sphere of the state symbols, traditions, customs, architecture, toponymy and others. The paper presents the research on the impact of the UK on different areas of life in Australia and, of course, the interaction of these two cultures. Influence of English culture has been dominating for a long time, and the national identity of the Australians developed in juxtaposition of European and Colonial ways of living. In every cultural aspect one can easily notice lots of analogies to traditional British cultural values which have passed a fascinating way from adoption through transformation to adaptation and creation of Australian national culture.

Key words: *Australian customs, Australian traditions, transformation, adaptation, Australian flag, Australian anthem, Australian coat of arms, national symbols of Australia, Australian Christmas, Australian Easter, the Queen of Australia, colonial Metropolis, Australian architecture, Sydney Opera House, Australian toponymy, Australian borrowings*

For a long period of time an opinion prevailed that Australian history is completely defined by British colonial policy, and such approach detained the development of Australian historiography. British culture dominated in the country, and as a result social, political and economy system of the parent state was idealized.

The first Europeans coming to Australia had POM (prisoner of her majesty) inscribed on their jackets, which sounds like "pommy", a popular nickname for the Englishmen.

Nowadays Britain is being considered a light-headed mother who pushed her own nestling from the nest. For two hundred years Australia had been living under Mother-Britain's wing until the most-favoured nation regime ended with the UK joining EU. European solidarity proved to be stronger than blood relationship.

After acquiring economy independence the Australians, on the one hand, are trying to maintain the lifestyle they used to have while living "in the nest", but on the other hand consider Britain a small overpopulated island which could 56 times fit the vast Australian continent.

This research is aimed at studying of cultural and linguistic connections between Australia and Great Britain in modern and historical aspects. There is much in common in the culture and the history of these countries: Australia developed as a migratory colony of Great Britain, therefore Anglo-Saxon people there were initially in majority and as a result Australia became an English-speaking country. Influence of English culture has been dominating for a long time, and the national identity of the Australians developed in juxtaposition of European and Colonial ways of living. Original national culture of Australia revealed mainly when the Australians faced the amazing and frightening, still unexplored nature. These peculiarities have left their marks on the whole history and cultural development of the far away continent. In every cultural aspect one can easily notice lots of analogies to traditional British cultural values which have passed a fascinating way from adoption through transformation to adaptation and creation of Australian national culture.

*Moving across the ocean English colonists brought there their culture with their religious, political, juridical and social institutions - from temperance society to parliament. Stones from ancient English ruins were symbolically put into Anglican churches. Eucalyptus trees were cut down in the cities and oaks, elms and currants were planted instead. European birds and animals were introduced. Even nowadays Great Britain remains a source of new ideas, technical innovations and aesthetical influences. "But the grain, put into strange soil, germinating, appeared to become something different from the original."*¹ As an example, the word "hotel" can be introduced: in Britain it is an inn and in Australia - a pub.

The movement for the support of the national culture in Australia has a long history. Its main point was aimed at colonial mentality - a habit to align themselves on the parent country. Nowadays the Australians have no need to prove their individuality - it is organic.

*As it is known, the images brought about by the same word are not always the same in different cultures, which can be explained by difference in previous experience, cultural and historical heritage, divergence of notions etc. The verbal expression of any image is stipulated by the nomination laws of a language. Its origin and nature is defined by the internal form of the word and its external associative relations.*² Often people suffer from culture shock in foreign countries, which is the result of breaking of the usual associative relations, the destruction of the typified image. And this shock becomes stronger, when we get from the Northern hemisphere to the Southern one and vice-versa. How can the perplexity of the Europeans be explained, when they hear about "long winter droughts", about the "tropical Northern Australia" and that "July is the middle of winter"? Any Australian in turn can be shocked by phrases like "the cold wind blows and it is going to snow", "birds fly to the south in winter"³ etc.

Nature has an enormous influence on forming national world-outlook. Obviously, much is written about "island self-consciousness" of Englishmen, and the expression "tyranny of distance"⁴, "cultural cringe", associated with it, as well as "colonial complex" for many decades have characterized Australian consciousness.⁵ Now the situation has changed. Australia is physically detached from the world and it is not easy to find a thing that could influence an Australian's outlook. Nature is tough and it does not allow to make any mistakes. The severe facts of life are behind the door of any country house.

Would you care about British stiff traditions and laws when the nature itself threatens you? For example, the kids from Alice-Springs would rather not go to school when the flood has blocked the roads. And no one would go to work wearing a suit and a tie when it is 40 degrees hot in the shade.

Flexibility is a lifestyle and an everyday practice of an Australian. One cannot survive without it. The settlements of convicts have formed a neglectful outlook on the society among the Australians, and the nature required a non-standard life approach.

Discussing the national images of the world, researchers usually say that *modern nations are close to each other because of civilization, but culturally they are different. On the one hand it is an*

¹ Petrikovskaya A.S. Afterword to the culture-oriented linguistic dictionary **Australia and New Zealand** M. Russian Language, 1998

² Oshepkova V.V. . Introduction to the culture-oriented linguistic dictionary **Australia and New Zealand** M. Russian Language, 1998

³ Oshepkova V.V. . Introduction to the culture-oriented linguistic dictionary **Australia and New Zealand** M. Russian Language, 1998 p.21

⁴ Geoffrey Blainey **The Tyranny of Distance**, Melbourne, 1982

⁵ Oshepkova V.V. **Culturological, ethnographical and typological aspects of culture-oriented linguistics**, diss. d.f.n. MPU, 1995

*opportunity of mutual understanding, and on the other hand - the beauty of diversity.*⁶ National singularity appears during transformation of the environment, then it is gradually "polishing", while it is having contacts and comparisons with other cultures, which results in cultural interaction as well as cultural conflicts.

SUCCESSION OF BRITISH NATIONAL SYMBOLS IN AUSTRALIA

The tendency of adoption, transformation and adaptation was popular not only in the sphere of literature. It has affected almost every aspect of life in Australia. But this part of the article is about so called inalienable symbols of the state, without which it cannot be considered an independent power. They are the national flag, the national anthem and the national coat of arms.

Looking at Australian flag one can easily recognize the Union Jack. The Southern Cross, *the subject of inspiration for poets and sailors*⁷, has shifted to the national flag of Australia. Nowadays it is a mixture of British and Australian traditions. Union Jack as an element of British flag symbolizes the past of the country, and the brightest constellation of the Southern hemisphere - the Southern Cross - is a symbol of bright future for Australia as a leading nation. Yet there is another explanation of the origin of the Southern Cross on the flag. According to Dante, an Australian poet, its four stars symbolize the four virtues - justice, prudence, moderation and courage - which are the principles for every Australian to follow. This introduces another important meaning in interpretation of the Southern Cross on the Australian flag. Six points of each star represent six states of the country united into Federation in 1901, which has served a strong impulse for creation of the national flag. (Before its appearing the Australians stood still with servility at the sight of Union Jack) After 7 years the seventh point has been added to each star to symbolize the two territories - Northern territory and Australian Capital territory, as well as Cocos Islands and Antarctic Territory.

It is interesting fact that the author of the national flag was a 14-year-old boy called Ivor Ivans. He believed in importance of presence of the British flag on the Australian national flag, because it represented historical ties between British Isles and Australian Continent. As it is widely known, Australia was colonized in 1788 and the first thing to do there was to raise the Union Jack. Since that it has become a part of Australian history. Ivar Ivans explained that presence of the British flag on the new version of Australian one admits the fact that the new nation keeps being devoted to its roots. According to Robert Northover the design of the flag is interpreted in the following way: "*We have the stars to show where we are going to and the old flag to show where we have been*".

Some similarities to British elements can also be found on the Australian coat of arms. But in this case it is not just a blind copy of British heraldry, but the transfer of the method itself to create the national coat of arms. It is the conception that has been adopted. Let us discuss it in more detail.

*The coat of arms of Great Britain is a shield with 4 emblems which represent four states, the UK consists of. The coat is supported by a lion and a unicorn. Lion is the King of the Beasts and it is considered to be brave and warlike. Lion thus symbolizes the nation, the monarchy and the empire itself for centuries to come. The biblical version of the Lion's origin says that when a lion will lie peacefully next to a lamb this would embody peace and happiness. A unicorn symbolizes purity. A crown is placed atop of the coat of arms.*⁸

⁶ Petrikovskaya A.S. Afterword to the culture-oriented linguistic dictionary **Australia and New Zealand M.** Russian Language, 1998

⁷ Oshepkova V.V. **Australia and New Zealand in Brief, M.**, 1998

⁸ culture-oriented linguistic dictionary **The countries of the United Kingdom M.** Prosvesheniye, 2001

And now let us refer to the Australian coat of arms which in many aspects copies the conceptual design of the British one. It is also a shield containing emblems, but there are six of them instead of four, which also coincides with the number of states in Australian Commonwealth. Just like on its British analog the shield is supported by two animals. They are kangaroo and emu, national animals of Australia. Why were they chosen instead of fluffy funny koala or, for example, wild dingo dog? The answer is simple - both kangaroo and emu cannot move backwards, they always move forward. This quality expressively symbolizes the Australian idea of constant advance.

And the last detail borrowed from British heraldry that can be seen on Australian coat of arms is the crown. Unlike the British variant it is placed not atop of the shield but on some of the states' emblems. The lions which have been transported without any changes to the Australian coat of arms are the example of simple adoption with no adaptation to the new conditions.

The history of Australian national anthem is also peculiar. The anthem is a remake of a song "Advance, Australia fair!" by Peter Dodds McCormic (1878). After an opinion poll that took place in 1977 some words have been changed (e.g. from "Australia's sons, let us rejoice" to "Australia's all, let us rejoice"). On April, 19, 1984 the national colours of Australia were introduced. They are green and golden. Green symbolizes the evergreen Australian continent and golden - the golden wattle branches - the national tree of Australia - which can be seen on the coat of arms behind the shield.

The national anthem of Great Britain "God, Save the Queen" was also the anthem of Australia until the end of the 20th century despite the consolidation of the colonies into states inside the country. Cultural dominance of Britain and idolization of the Great Mother Country is obvious (only in 1984 Australia has begun acquiring some features of an independent state with its own anthem). But still in presence of the Queen or even a member of the Royal family "God, save the Queen" is performed.

When in 1984 "Advance, Australia fair!" became the national anthem many Australians felt like being betrayed. For many years they had drilled "God, save the Queen" at school and now all efforts appeared to be in vain. Nowadays most the Australians even do not know the lyrics of the new anthem except for a few lines. At informal parties if someone would start singing the anthem, the majority would miss the words and sing "Waltzing Matilda".⁹

Thanks to these bright examples we can see that Australia has moved from cultural dependence from Great Britain to its own individual national cultural independence. The Australian flag has acquired its individuality in 1901, the coat of arms - in 1912, and the anthem, which was for a long time a subject of discussion - in 1984.

So, having analyzed the heraldic examples of both countries one can confidently state that with the development of Australia's own national self-consciousness the influence of British cultural habits has become less powerful, but at the same time British traditions remained, as well as reluctance to lose British origin.

BRITISH HOLIDAYS AND TRADITIONS IN AUSTRALIA AND THEIR ADAPTATION

There is a popular opinion that national customs and traditions make up a nation, therefore it is very important to subject them to juxtaposition.

British influence on Australia can be observed in the first place using the examples of Australian holidays. With particular splendor is the Queen's Birthday celebrated in Australia as well as in Britain.

⁹ Matilda - a little bundle; to waltz - to wander

Celebration of Christmas is also common for both countries with the only difference that the Australians have adapted this winter tradition of the Northern hemisphere to their climate, adding some unique features. Christmas is celebrated in the middle of summer in Australia, therefore many people there do not cook hot meals. Most families pack beverages, fruit and vegetables and go on a picnic. If they stay at home, there can be salads of cold meat on the Christmas menu. But hot puddings with custard are still "alive". This adopted tradition the Australians do not tend to abandon. The traditional Christmas meal has revived in regional variations. Now it includes:

- Billy Can Pudding (canned pudding for picnics)
- Christmas Damper (a pan cake baked in cinder)
- Colonial Goose (made from lamb...)
- Drover's Plum Pudding
- Christmas Salad
- White Christmas (white candies)

Just not so long ago a new Australian phenomena has appeared - Christmas in July - with all traditions of the Northern Hemisphere for the people who miss "cold Christmas" and winter frost.

Using the advantage of warm evenings the Australians perform open-air concerts in parks and on stadiums across the country, which attract lots of people who not only watch them but also participate. The Australians with great inspiration sing such songs as "Six White Boomers"¹⁰ or "Aussie Jingle Bell"¹¹ in chorus.

Just like in England the Australians celebrate Boxing Day the next day after Christmas. This custom leads its history to the old times of English Squires. Traditionally household servants were given "Christmas Boxes" with gifts on Boxing Day. As usual the Australians have altered this tradition. Declaring everywhere their love for sport they find any reason to organize a sport event. Cricket fans rush to Melbourne to watch the grand opening of the Boxing Day ceremony. And in Sydney the harbour is crowded with people who hurry to watch the beginning of Sydney-Hobart regatta, which is broadcast throughout the country.

Nevertheless there is no such notion as "typical Australian Christmas". Australian society is multinational and diverse, and their Christmas is just a part of a chain of cultural and spiritual self-expression that can be found on this continent. These chains tear Australian people away from the aboriginal legends and lead them forward through Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism, slightly transforming these religions and adapting them. Christian festive traditions in Australia have numerous various forms, old and new as well as mixtures of traditions.

Approximately 70 percent of the Australians declare themselves Christians nowadays. But those who belong to a different religion would not neglect an opportunity to experience some elements of Australian Easter.

It is widely known that in Great Britain Easter eggs are carried by the Easter Rabbit. One part of this tradition the Australians have adopted and accepted it, and the other part they had to transform according to their cultural and historical peculiarities.

An Egg is a symbol of birth and the continuation of life. Therefore Easter is celebrated in Spring, when nature arises after its long winter sleep and begins to blossom again.

¹⁰ Deers in Australia would look awkward and inappropriate, so kangaroos were adopted for present-delivery

¹¹ Australians adopted an English song and to make it fit their reality changed it a bit, including the additional word "Aussie"

For obvious reasons a rabbit is also a symbol of fertility therefore it has acquired the association with this holiday. By a preposterous accident rabbit is a pest animal in Australia. Praising it in any form denies the reality of that plague and harm, which Australian rabbits do to the environment. The Australians cannot put up with it as due to them the damage to the economy is almost 600 million of Australian dollars annually. As a result they had to replace rabbit with a small Australian animal called bilby - a nice little animal with big eyes, long pointy ears and long tail. It has soft grey hair on its back and head and white hair on its belly.

So, Easter eggs, which used to be delivered by the Easter Rabbit are now delivered by the Bilby, which can be found in enormous numbers in Australian shops these days.

We see how the Australians missed Great Britain, felt nostalgia for the homeland that rejected them from its snobbish society. They imitated each English tradition, each ceremony, and transformed it just a little bit to adapt to their Australian reality not because they intended to do so, but because they had to do it due to difference in climate conditions. Anguish for the lost homeland echoed with pain in their hearts.

With years grew the feeling of contradiction, rebelliousness and pursuit for new solutions, creation of their own traditions. They felt humiliating worshipping Britain and strived to create something authentic, something typically Australian, something opposite to habits and traditions of their parent state. But despite the Australians' hostility towards the monarchy and reluctance to live in its image and likeness they still love their motherland that transformed into their "stepmotherland" and worship the Queen. The middle age Australians have grown up in the years of the monarchy, some of them still remember a couple of lines from "God, save the Queen" and many of them sing this song with more confidence than "Advance Australia fair"!

The Australians have always strived for the Royal symbolism, blindly worshiped the monarchy and erected it on a pedestal. Never had the world seen more favour than during the Royal visit to Australia in 1954 (more than 3/4 of the Australians tried to see the Queen and her husband Duke Phillip).

In 1954 the Royal Couple arrived in Australia on board of their own ship called "The SS Gothic". Further visits were conducted by airplane. The Queen was a Chairman at the bicentennial anniversary of Australia's discovery by James Cook (1770), at the opening ceremony of the Sydney Opera House in 1973 and the new building of the Parliament in Canberra in 1988.

British newspapers widely discussed the event, connected with the Queen's arrival using headlines such as "Graceful Australian Greeting". Even the "Times" lost its moderation and wrote: *"Everything was tremendously joyful and the Queen was given an unforgettable welcome. Decorations, official and private, were on the highest level, and the style has excelled everything ever seen."*¹²

We see that freedom-loving generation of the 20th century, oppressed by the feeling of dependence from the colonial Metropolis, by the shame for their colonial past, to which they were exposed by Great Britain, seeking national identity, keeps loving its Queen though, and with Her the country, that has expelled them. Even republicans in their hearts stay monarchists and arrange a warm welcome to the Queen. A question might arise - what way do the Royal visits affect cultural interactions? The visit of the Head of the State is purely political case, isn't it? That is right, but this axiom cannot be applied to the British Queen. *Monarchy is the most important part of British cultural tradition. Being just a decoration it is nevertheless extremely important for Englishmen and mainly for consolidation of their national spirit. Is it possible to unite people around Tony Blair! There are kings and queens in other*

¹² The Times, 4 February 1954, p.8

*countries - Sweden, Norway, Denmark or Spain - but there they are just loved and nowhere else like in Great Britain they cause so much anxiety complex.*¹³

That is why when the rare opportunity to become closer to the origins of English national traditions - the Queen - has come to the Australians, they have forgotten about their independence and fawned upon Her with servility to draw Her their attention. In fact the Royal voyage was intended mostly to show the Queen to Australia, not Australia to the Queen. The Australians love the Queen subconsciously and have their pride in the fact that she is the Head of their State.

So, the Australians have always longed for the Royal symbolism and worshiped it blindfold and adopted not only the British attributes such as the anthem, the flag, or the coats of arms, but also festivals and traditions in their unmodified state sometimes transforming them according to the Australian climate, lifestyle and character.

AUSTRALIAN ARCHITECTURE AS THE HISTORICAL HERITAGE OF GREAT BRITAIN

Discussing the adoption of British architectural elements, styles and construction principles one must note that Australian cities have always grown generally in width. Single-stored houses made of wood or bricks, terrace houses descending to sea bays like in England. But at the same time Victorian architecture was dominant, mainly in Melbourne (state Victoria). There were two general styles - gothic renaissance for schools and churches and neoclassic for government buildings. Lots of houses with iron laces of balconies and arcades, reminding of the distant colonial Metropolis can still be found in Melbourne, the most "Victorian" of Australian cities. But in these ornaments one can find aboriginal themes: national emblems, masks, birds and boomerangs.

The 19th century's architecture had a propensity for pomposity, providing external signs of prosperity. Massive walls, stone masonry, antique columns, towers, domes and mouldings - all these elements were combined in vulgar richly decorated houses nicknamed "wedding cakes". But with years this eclecticism has gained the spirit of antiquity and now is seen as a peculiar style.

Nowadays Australia is one of the highest developed urban countries in the world, but its national mythology is based on rural traditions. The Australians are citizens of huge cities. New cities grow vertically while the old ones develop horizontally. Australian cities, where the majority of the population lives, have spread on vast territories. Melbourne could easily devour Paris, Florence would fit a small bit of Adelaide. Australian principle is widening instead of compaction. Australian cities, with the exception of Sydney, do not impose their "characters" on the people. The Australians live in huge suburbs which differ more in income and prosperity, than in manners and values.

Sydney Opera House (which is in fact the whole complex with several halls, restaurants, a library etc.) is a symbol of the national culture. Its building with white roof consisting of ten shell-like arches is a unique architectural masterpiece, resembling an armada of ships under swelled out sails. Now it has become a subject of national pride, but it did not use to be during the construction period, as long as it required an enormous overdraft of money and time. It used to be reasonably called a bottomless pit then. Huge investments came from national lotteries, which were played with enthusiasm. Having bought a ticket one could proudly call himself a "donator".

Tracing back Australian architecture, we can say that in spite of developing individual national style (e.g. Opera House), the Australians still keep some elements borrowed from Great Britain.

¹³ Pavlovskaya V.A. **peculiarities of the national character or why Englishmen love queueing.** journal Vokrug Sveta №6 2003

Everywhere from construction to decoration the spirit of the Old World can be found, its ancient customs, the reminiscent of historic homeland.

Gothic and neoclassic styles have remained in their pure forms, mixtures of English and Australian styles in so called "wedding cakes" have appeared. At the same time particular Australian style with its aboriginal symbols and emblems is developing. We should give the Australians their due - not only they copy or imitate, but create something individual reflecting their freedom-loving nature. Saving British traditions in architecture, they in the same time develop their own national architecture.

With the growth of Australia's own national self-consciousness the influence of British cultural habits has become less powerful, but at the same time British traditions remained, as well as reluctance to lose British origin.

Moreover, people representing a particular nation have a culture which is composed of their national customs, cultural traditions, life conditions and natural conditions. Adopted British traditions and festivals have revived in Australia in new variations, as they better fit social requests.

THE METHODS OF ADOPTION OF BRITISH TOPONYMICAL SYSTEM IN AUSTRALIA

Many English adoptions can be found on the map of Australia. Among them there are so called "namesakes" of English towns and districts. "Native" names are found in the names of some streets of Sydney and Melbourne: King's Cross, Kensington Road, Canterbury Road. Obviously, the old London quarter names were still in the memory of the people who named these streets.

*Renaming of Australian cities caused protests among the residents. It is notable that not only the Australians did not object to existence of the city-names homonymous to British ones, but were proud of this fact, and after the Second World War Australian cities used to send provisions to their namesake-towns.*¹⁴

The majority of the toponyms which have appeared during the first years of British colonization are the names of towns and districts, lakes and uplands named after some outstanding Englishmen.

Darwin (town) - named after Charles Darwin

King George III (mountain top) - named after George III, during his reign America obtained independence.

Sir Henry Ayers (lake) - called after Henry Ayers, a British philosopher

Phillip Island (island) - named after Phillip Arthur who was the first captain to bring prisoners to Australia.

Elisabeth Town (town) - named after Elisabeth I, the "Virgin Queen", during her reign Britain was a powerful State.

Queensland (state) - named after Queen Victoria, during her reign Britain was the most powerful and rich country in the world. Her reign is associated with strict moral code, when marriages were unbreakable.

Cook (railway station) - named after James Cook, the discoverer of Australia.

¹⁴ Oshepkova V.V. **Culturological, ethnographical and typological aspects of culture-oriented linguistics**, diss. d.f.n. MPU, 1995

The Australians sometimes complain that many toponyms in their country are devoted to people who had never seen Australia by themselves.

According to V.D. Belenkaya, a well-known toponymic researcher of English-speaking countries, *Australian toponymic system, being comparatively young, has its own features such as: Transparent internal form of the toponyms, huge number of British names borrowed from the former colony... This subsystem is also characterized by a well-developed system of toponyms-homonyms and toponyms-synonyms inside the subsystems as well as in the system in general.*¹⁵

A new area in toponymy appeared, they are so-called australisms. Therefore many australisms have a transparent internal form, as professor Belenkaya has observed. For example:

Brown Range

Great Island

Bald Rock

Blue Mud Bay and others...

The system of toponymic nicknames is very popular in English-speaking toponymy. Englishmen call Britain Merrie¹⁶ (Merry), the Mistress of the Seas, the Mother of the Parliaments¹⁷. *The Australians, following the historically formed principle of adoption, use toponymic nicknames of countries, states, territories and provinces instead of their official names. Most of the major objects have more than one figurative name, and these names differ in style and connotations.*¹⁸ Each Australian State has such a nickname. It reflects its best-known features or emphasizes its cultural significance, for example:

Westralia (Western Australia) or **Groperland**, or **Sand-grop**. The nicknames of its residents - **Sand-gropers** or **Groperlanders** - reflect that Western Australia has plenty of deserts, lots of sand. They are also called **West Australians** and they call the others **Easterners**.

the Ma State, Ma (New South Wales) - this State is the first populated area, the progenitor and the "Mother" of Australia.

The Premier State (the first State) - the first State to acquire constitutional rights in 1823.

the Top End (Northern Territory) - has got its name due to its border position on the North of Australia. Also called **N.T.**

Raspberryland or **Apple Island** (Tasmania) Tasmania has got its nickname because of the trees that grow there and look like apple trees. Residents of Tasmania are called **Islanders**, **Taswegians** or **Vandemonians**¹⁹, while they call the other Australians **Mainlanders**.

Bananaland (Queensland) - due to the plenty of bananas growing there.

Cabbage Garden (Victoria) - because of its residents' love for vegetable growing. Or **Cabbage Patch** - due to the small size of the state.

¹⁵ V.B. Belenkaya. **The essays of English-speaking toponymy**. Tutorial, the High School, 1997

¹⁶ Merrie - shortened from Merry Old England. In the times of industrial growth life in England seemed to be happy and joyful

¹⁷ Popular name for Britain not only among Englishmen, but also among other nations.

¹⁸ Oshepkova V.V. **Culturological, ethnographical and typological aspects of culture-oriented linguistics**, diss. d.f.n. MPU, 1995

¹⁹ Formed from **Van Diemen's Land** - the initial name of Tasmania.

Naturally the humorous nicknames of these states' capitals are also quite popular.

Swan City (Pert) - the river Avon, on which the city stands, has plenty of black swans.

Holy City or **Church City** - Adelaide. There are many churches there.

Banana City (Brisbane)

Coat Hanger City (Sydney) - called so after the famous Sydney Bridge, which resembles a coat hanger.

Chess Board City (Melbourne) - the city is divided into squares according to the European model. Or

To mark the interior droughty regions some synonymous names are used:

the Outback (remote desert area)

Bush (large spaces of uncultivated land overgrown with bushes and low trees)

Dead Heart (the name of the inner arid districts)

the Centre (central or the inner part of the continent, i.e. desert)

the Red Centre (fiery-red central part of the mainland)

Centralia (the name of internal areas of continental Australia)

Bullamakanka (a fictional city, the symbol of remote areas of the provinces and backwardness)

Never-Never²⁰ - (the name became especially popular after publication of Aeneas' Gunn's autobiographical novel "We of the Never-Never", 1908. The people who had traveled there swore never-never to enter them again).

The Continent itself has several nicknames such as:

Terra Australis – (South Land), this name appeared during the Age of Discovery.

New Holland – appeared after the expedition of Dutch explorers.

Down-Under – when you look in the direction of Australia from the historical motherland of most Australians, foggy Albion.

Botany Bay - the name was given by Banx, the botanist at Cook's journey. Later it was subjected to secondary nomination and called **Botany Dozen**²¹. It became a convict settlement. Now Botany Bay is used as one of the nicknames for the Continent. It means "very far".

Ous - the magic land, short from **Aussieland**, **Aussie**. It also matches with the name of the book "The Wizard of Oz", which is a pleasant accident for the Australians.

Kangarooland - there are approximately 70 species of Kangaroo in Australia.

the Land of Wattle - reflects the peculiarity of Australian flora (500 species of Wattle), moreover, a wattle branch can be seen on Australian Coat of Arms.

the Lucky Country – this name appeared from the book written by Donald Horne, "The Lucky Country".

²⁰ L. Volyanovsky **The post to Never-Never**, the name of the area was adopted for the book.

²¹ Botany Dozen - 25 scourge hits. Botanize - send to Australia as a convict

the Land of Promise - the name is connected with the discovery of huge amounts of Gold and the following Gold Rush in Australia.²²

During different historical periods of Australia these nicknames were perceived as praising or as ironic. *Toponyms as a lexical linguistic layer contains the information about the country, which can be found in the semantic structure of the toponym. It is not limited to reflection of the area, and the knowledge of the connected associations, stereotypic connotations, national images that form the base of them stimulates adequate perception of national context of artistic, publicist and other types of texts, facilitates the perception of the mood, of the implicit information in the text.*²³

Juxtaposition of British toponymy with the toponymic system of Australia are particularly interesting, as *the geographical names exported from Great Britain and the names that has appeared on the continent are involved in new relations and form the new system of names.*²⁴ For example:

- a) adoption of toponyms from the Metropolis (**King's Cross, Canterbury Road**)
- b) replenishment of the Australian map with the names of famous Englishmen (**King George III, Elisabethtown, Darwin**)
- c) transparency of the interior form of the toponyms (**Swan Hill, Snowy River, White Cliffs**)
- d) adoption of the formation methods for the toponymic nicknames. (**The Ma State, Dead Heart, Kangarooland, Coat Hanger City**)

The Australians adopt not the vocabulary itself, but the ways of producing such toponymic words, adjusting them to Australian reality and Australian life.

*Australian colonies have inherited British Juridical and Parliamentary system (bicameralism, the Cabinet Council, etc.), the prevailing ideas in economy, politics, education and culture. Almost every institution was duplicated - labor unions, provident banks and many others.*²⁵

In general, the colonies were a part of the British Empire. Colonists created "New Britain" emulating the old one.

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