

On Transliteration of Chinese Anthroponyms and Toponyms Into Azerbaijani and Establishment of Guidelines

Siyuan Wang^{1,2}

¹ *Khazar University*

41 Mahsati Street, AZ 1096, Baku, Azerbaijan

² *Beijing Foreign Studies University*

2 Xisanhuan North Road, Haidian District, Beijing, China

DOI: 10.22178/pos.101-1

LCC Subject Category: PE1001-1693

Received 30.11.2023

Accepted 28.01.2024

Published online 28.02.2024

Corresponding Author:

siyuanw53@gmail.com

© 2024 The Author. This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License



Abstract. Accurate translation facilitates seamless communication. Personal and geographical names are frequently used in communication, necessitating a uniform standard for transliterating anthroponyms and toponyms from the source to the target language. The Republic of Azerbaijan achieved independence nearly three decades ago. Despite extensive efforts in various fields throughout time, problems with transliteration persist. In 2013, a state program on using Azerbaijani was launched, including a clause on formulating guidelines for mutual transliteration between Azerbaijani and other languages. Over the last decade, transliteration tables for toponyms in Azerbaijani-Russian and Azerbaijani-English languages have been compiled, and publications utilising materials in both languages have been released. However, the absence of research concerning the Chinese language has led to considerable problems in the translation process and daily interaction. Currently, there are no established criteria for transliterating Chinese anthroponyms and toponyms into Azerbaijani, and some transliterations have phonetic inaccuracies. In this article, transliterations of certain Chinese anthroponyms and toponyms found on the AZERTAC (The Azerbaijan State News Agency) portal were examined and criticised, and guidelines for transliterating Chinese anthroponyms and toponyms into Azerbaijani were also proposed. Translating Chinese characters into other languages is not undemanding, and finding a comprehensive solution within the confines of a single article poses a challenging endeavour. This article laid the initial scientific foundation for creating Chinese-Azerbaijani transliteration tables.

Keywords: anthroponym; toponym; Chinese; Azerbaijani; transliteration.

INTRODUCTION

The implementation and advancement of the Belt and Road initiative have contributed to an acceleration in the interchange and collaboration between China and Azerbaijan in politics, business, and culture. Language serves as an essential bridge that connects Azerbaijan and fosters effective communication between both sides, playing a significant role in the collaboration and exchange efforts of the Belt and Road initiative. Successful intercultural communication calls for mutual respect and the accurate transliteration of anthroponyms and toponyms in the target

country's language. This is a fundamental aspect of diplomatic etiquette.

Proper names are an essential component of a language's linguistic structure. Each location, whether a country, city, or street, possesses its distinct appellation, and it is inconceivable to imagine a world devoid of these names. Linguistics consistently concentrates on the research of personal and geographical names. According to [1]:

"The conversion of geographical names and toponyms that include significant historical, geographical, linguistic, and linguacultural information has long been a subject of interest for experts and

translators. *Translators must accurately and correctly translate both proper names and geographical names from the source language to the target language*".

Situation in China. In 2008, the national standard document [2] was issued. The [3] was published in 2018. Subsequently, the problem of transliterating English anthroponyms and toponyms into Chinese has been completely solved. The Chinese media and publishing industry follows a uniform set of transliteration rules. Each English anthroponym and toponym adheres to a standardised transliteration method, thus minimising the ambiguity in prior Chinese transliterations of English personal and geographical names. This, in turn, has significantly improved communication efficiency. The author [4] mentioned:

"In general, transliteration is of great scientific and practical importance. International socio-political and economic relations are expanding in the era of globalisation, and their differential and addressee functions require accurate usage of language units in official documents, maps, and other publications. The importance of the transliteration of Azerbaijani geographic names lies exactly here".

Situation in Azerbaijan. Similarly, Azerbaijan also has [5, p. 13–21]. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan approved this on April 16, 2019, per decision No. 174; on November 3, 2020, specific modifications were implemented per decision No. 438. The contemporary Azerbaijani language contains several loanwords due to historical factors. After undergoing localisation, most of these expressions have become vital to Azerbaijanis' everyday interactions. Accordingly, all these words adhere to the orthographic norms indicated above. The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, issued an action plan on April 9, 2013, regarding implementing "The State Program on the usage of Azerbaijani by the demands of our time and on the domestic development of linguistics". The document touched upon the development of national transliteration standards in § 6.1.4. Paragraph 6.3.9 discussed establishing standards and transliteration systems, according to which Azerbaijani text should be converted to other alphabets [6].

Concerning this matter, the research carried out in this field has widened considerably in recent years. The books [1, 4] were both published in 2022. The two works were compiled to comply with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan decree issued on December 16, 2020.

It ought to be noted, however, that these writings have only addressed these two languages thus far. Therefore, establishing normative guidelines for transliterating Chinese anthroponyms and toponyms into Azerbaijani assumes the utmost significance. These guidelines should aim to not only indicate the phonetic characteristics of such names in Chinese but also take into account the phonological features of Azerbaijani. The purpose of this article is to propose standardised guidelines for transliterating Chinese anthroponyms and toponyms into Azerbaijani.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Chinese characters and Hanyu Pinyin. The Azerbaijani writing system uses Latin letters and is categorised as phonogramic. However, Chinese is distinct due to the absence of an alphabet. The author [7, p. 482] argued that "around the world, some ethnic groups write with pictorial scripts (Nakhi), some with hieroglyphs (Chinese, Japanese), and yet others with letters (Arabic, English, German)". The Chinese script comprises many Chinese characters and is classified as a logographic writing system. Generally speaking, each Chinese character represents a morpheme. For example, the character "冰" denotes ice, "箱" signifies a box, and "冰箱" refers to a refrigerator. A distinguishing characteristic of logograms, instead of phonograms, is their tendency not directly to indicate pronunciation. Once primary school pupils in Azerbaijan have mastered the 32 letters in the alphabet, they can pronounce words, even when encountering unfamiliar vocabulary they do not understand. Nevertheless, Chinese students cannot instantly articulate a newly discovered Chinese character. Certain Chinese characters also remain unknown to most adults regarding meaning and pronunciation.

However, how do the Chinese determine the pronunciation of Chinese characters? The answer is *Hanyu Pinyin* (or simply *Pinyin*). Pinyin utilises Latin letters, their combinations, and some additional symbols to denote the pronunciation of Chinese characters. For example, the character "冰" pronunciation is transcribed as "bīng" in Pinyin. With this knowledge, logograms may be comprehended deeper: the logogram "冰" representing ice is pronounced as "bīng". In other words, every Chinese character possesses not only a sound but also a meaning. Therefore, logograms offer a unique advantage: their users may convey messages without uttering any sound. To

provide a more concrete illustration, suppose the symbol "&" is used to signify "girl" and is pronounced as "qız" in Azerbaijani, "kız" in Turkish, and "girl" by English speakers. However, people from all three nations will likely realise this symbol refers to "girl" when they see it. The pronunciation of each Chinese character may differ among various Chinese dialects. In ancient times, people from different dialect areas faced obstacles to communicating via speech. However, by writing characters, they could communicate without any hindrances.

When it comes to the phonological system of a language, the subject of conversation naturally revolves around vowels and consonants. For example, nine vowel phonemes in the Azerbaijani language are represented by nine vowel letters [8, p. 195]. How many vowels and consonants are there in Chinese? The terminologies *initials* and *finals* are used more frequently in Chinese teaching. Once again, I shall take the character "冰" as an example. It is pronounced "bīng" with the initial being "b" and the final being "ing". The final "ing" here is not a vowel. The *Scheme for the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet* (Scheme) [9, p. 1797–1799] was promulgated at the Fifth Session of the First National People's Congress on February 11, 1958 [10, p. 22]. Table 1 presents specific components of the scheme.

Table 1 – Scheme for the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet – Initials and Finals

Initials				Finals			
b	p	m	f	er	i, i ₂ , i ₃	u	ü
d	t	n	l	a	ia	ua	
g	k	h		o	io	uo	
j	q	x		e, ê	ie		üe
zh	ch	sh	r	ai		uai	
z	c	s		ei		uei	
				ao	iao		
				ou	iou		
				an	ian	uan	üan
				en	in	uen	ün
				ang	iang	uang	
				eng	ing	ueng	
				ong	iong		

Notes: Table 1 is compiled from the appendix [9, p. 1797–1798].

Typically, the pronunciation of a Chinese character is determined by its initial and final. For example, the character "冰": b+ing→bing. However, it is worth noting that certain characters lack an initial. The notion of *zero initial* has been introduced into Chinese teaching [10, p. 31]. For example, the character "乙" is pronounced as "i", possessing a final but lacking an initial. This kind of character is called a *zero initial character*. Therefore, the scheme included provisions because of such exceptional circumstances.

1. When finals from the row of "i" do not require an initial to form a syllable (in other words, when a syllable begins in a final), they are written as yi, ya, ye, yao, you, yan, yin, yang, ying, and yong [9, p. 1799].
2. Under similar circumstances, finals in the row of "u" are written as wu, wa, wo, wai, wei, wan, wen, wang, weng, and finals in the row of "ü" as yu, yue, yuan, yun (umlaut removed) [9, p. 1799].
3. When the three finals, "iou, uei, uen", combine with initials to form syllables, they are abbreviated to "iu, ui, un" [9, p. 1799].
4. Letter e in finals "ie, üe" represents final "ê", which is different from final "e". The form "ê" only occurs when this final is used alone as an exclamation [9, p. 1798].
5. Letter i indicates three separate finals. "i₂" appears only in its combination with initials "zh, ch, sh, r", "i₃" with initials "z, c, s". In other cases, the letter i does the final "i" [8, p. 1798].

As shown in Table 1, there are 22 initials (including zero initials) and 40 finals in Chinese. In theory, generating 880 syllables by combining all initials and finals is feasible, resulting from a combination of 22 multiplied by 40 (22×40=880). Yet, only around 400 syllables exist, as not all initials match all finals.

Table 2 displays the combinations of initials and finals – all available syllables – in Chinese.

After the emergence of the scheme. To address this topic, it is necessary to trace back to the era preceding the creation of Pinyin and thoroughly examine the historical context in which Pinyin originated.

Before the founding of the People's Republic of China (the PRC), there was a vox populi for Latinizing Chinese characters.

Table 2 – Combinations of Initials and Finals (Existing Syllables) in Chinese

	0	b	p	m	f	d	t	n	l	g	k	h	j	q	x	zh	ch	sh	r	z	c	s
i	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+				+	+	+							
ia	+					+			+				+	+	+							
ie	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+				+	+	+							
iao	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+				+	+	+							
io	+																					
iou	+			+		+		+	+				+	+	+							
ian	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+				+	+	+							
in	+	+	+	+				+	+				+	+	+							
iang	+							+	+				+	+	+							
ing	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+				+	+	+							
u	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	+	+	+	+	+	+
ua	+									+	+	+				+	+	+	+			
uo	+					+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	+	+	+	+	+	+
uai	+									+	+	+				+	+	+				
uei	+					+	+			+	+	+				+	+	+	+	+	+	+
uan	+					+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	+	+	+	+	+	+
uen	+					+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	+	+	+	+	+	+
uang	+									+	+	+				+	+	+				
ueng	+																					
ong						+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	+			+	+	+
ü	+							+	+				+	+	+							
üe	+							+	+				+	+	+							
üan	+												+	+	+							
ün	+												+	+	+							
iong	+												+	+	+							
i ₂																+	+	+	+			
i ₃																				+	+	+
a	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	+	+		+	+	+
o	+	+	+	+	+																	
e	+			+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	+	+	+	+	+	+
ê	+																					
er	+																					
ai	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	+	+		+	+	+
ei	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+						+		+		
ao	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	+	+	+	+	+	+
ou	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	+	+	+	+	+	+
an	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	+	+	+	+	+	+
en	+	+	+	+	+	+		+		+	+	+				+	+	+	+	+	+	+
ang	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	+	+	+	+	+	+
eng	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	+	+	+	+	+	+

Notes: Special notations in Table 2 are as follows: "0" represents the zero initial, a cell with "+" indicates a syllable existing in Chinese, and a blank signifies that the initial and final cannot be combined herein.

During that period, most intellectuals advocated for eliminating Chinese characters, citing their complexity in learning and writing, and instead

promoted the use of Latin letters, which were considered significantly more straightforward and more transparent. The Chinese Language

Reform Committee was established in 1954, after the founding of the PRC.

Simultaneously, the campaign to simplify Chinese characters also gained momentum. The authorities first intended to undertake both the simplification and Latinization of Chinese characters [11]. However, altering deeply ingrained writing habits that have existed for thousands of years within a limited timeframe is challenging. The author [12, p. 192] wrote:

"Instead of reforming the difficult Chinese script, cannot we replace it with a phonographic writing system? It is possible to switch to such a writing system... However, there are objective and subjective reasons that prevent this. Above all, ancient Chinese culture is deeply intertwined with Chinese writing. One cannot abruptly sever the connection between them. At the same time, it is necessary to create a new, perfect orthography, for which great work must be done... Undoubtedly, after a certain time, Chinese people can also use an easy writing form".

Until 1958, the urge to "simplify Chinese characters" progressively overpowered the appeal to "abolish Chinese characters". Meanwhile, the Latinization of the Chinese language slowed down, too [13, p. 172]. The *Scheme for the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet* (Scheme) was promulgated at the Fifth Session of the First National People's Congress on February 11. The verdict favoured simplifying Chinese characters and determined that the scheme would be a helpful tool for learning Chinese characters and advancing the modern common Chinese language [13, p. 175].

In simple terms, Pinyin is a compromise that reconciles the simplification and Latinization of Chinese characters. Initially, it was expected that Pinyin would supplant Chinese characters and promote literacy. As a result, the scheme incorporates several specific provisions – for handwriting, ease of learning, and simplicity. For example, the final "ao" is phonetically closer to "au". But, according to the scheme, it is written as "ao" to avoid confusion between the letters u and n in handwriting [6, p. 49]. Provision 4 mentioned the abbreviation issue, which aimed to enhance handwriting speed. Another example is Provisions 1 and 2, which emphasise the necessity of "y" and "w" under certain circumstances. For example, "xian yan (colourful)" can be misunderstood as "xia nian (the next year)", likewise "jin yu (goldfish)" and "ji nü (prostitute)". Thus, it could be said that Pinyin indeed possesses a few

problems and deficiencies. However, in general, this scheme's advantages cannot be overlooked.

Furthermore, due to its utilisation of the Latin alphabet, Pinyin swiftly acquired global recognition. Since June 15, 1979, the Secretariat of the United Nations has adopted Pinyin as the official methodology for transcribing the names of Chinese persons, places, and geographical features in languages that employ Latin characters. From that moment onwards, any documents created, translated, or released by the Secretariat should utilise the Pinyin version of Chinese names [14, p. 351]. In 1982, the International Organization for Standardization issued the ISO 7098 document (Romanization of Chinese) using the scheme [10, p. 22].

Guidelines for transliterating Chinese anthroponyms and toponyms into Azerbaijani. The presence of Pinyin might potentially benefit the issue of transliterating Chinese personal names and placing names in Azerbaijani. Employing English as a case study, the current appellation for the capital of China in English is "Beijing", which aligns with the Pinyin transliteration of Chinese characters. Nevertheless, this city bore the name "Pekin" for a considerable duration. It is evident that English transliteration was based on Pinyin, but Azerbaijani transliteration overlooked this [15]. What is the current regulatory framework for transliterating into Azerbaijani?

The can's research basis comprises articles on AZERTAC (The Azerbaijan State News Agency) portal regarding the People's Republic of China from 2022–2023. Anthroponyms and toponyms were identified as the primary focus of the article's analysis by examining the news here. Table 3 displays the anthroponyms and toponyms that have been gathered.

Among the 76 transliterations, only 11 are deemed accurate and proper, as shown by being marked in bold. The remaining transliterations exhibit various phonetic inaccuracies.

My suggestions for transliterating anthroponyms and toponyms in Chinese are outlined below, focusing attention on the following: 1) compiling by Pinyin; 2) adjusting to the phonetic characteristics of Azerbaijani; 3) adopting a perspective based on the concepts of initials and finals instead of merely transliterating letters; 4) restoring Pinyin abbreviations and the original spellings; 5) remedying the shortcomings of Pinyin.

First, I have transliterated all the initials and finals in Chinese (see Table 4).

Table 3 – China-related Anthroponyms and Toponyms on AZERTAC Portal and Their Original Pinyins

Transliteration	Pinyin	Transliterasiyası	Pinyin	Transliterasiyası	Pinyin
Heyluntszyan [16]	Heilongjiang	Siçuan	Sichuan	Si Cinpin [21]	Xi Jiping
Mohe [16]	Mohe	Çendu [18]	Chengdu	Qo Min	Guo Min
Cilin [17]	Jilin	Çonçin [18]	Chongqing	Mao Cedon	Mao Zedong
Çançun [17]	Changchun	Henan	He' nan	Li Keçyan	Li Keqiang
Hebey [18]	Hebei	Cencou [18]	Zhengzhou	Cian Cemin [21]	Jiang Zemin
Şiciacuan [18]	Shijiazhuang	Anyan	Anyang	Van İ	Wang Yi
Pekin [16]	Beijing	Uhan [18]	Wuhan	Van Yan	Wang Yang
Dasin [19]	Daxing	Sian	Xi' an	Han Cen	Han Zheng
Çaoyan [20]	Chaoyang	Ciuçüən	Jiuquan	Liu He	Liu He
Babaosan [21]	Babaoshan	Sincian	Xinjiang	Sun Çunlan [18]	Sun Chunlan
Tienanmen	Tian' anmen	Haynan	Hainan	Fey Cunlon	Fei Junlong
Ciansu	Jiangsu	Vençan	Wenchang	Den Çinmin	Deng Qingming
Nankin	Nanjing	Fucien	Fujian	Can Lu	Zhang Lu
Şanxay [18]	Shanghai	Fucou	Fuzhou	Sun Licün	Sun Lijun
Pudon	Pudong	Honkonq [21]	Hong Kong	Fu Cenhu	Fu Zhenhua
Honçiao	Hongqiao	Tayvan	Taiwan	Van Liki	Wang Like
Şencen	Shenzhen	Taybey	Taipei	Li Şaosien	Li Shaoxian
Quancou [18]	Guangzhou	Hualien	Hualian	Niu Sinçun	Niu Xinchun
Çonhua [18]	Chonghua	Bayyun	Baiyun	Şencou	Shenzhou

Notes: A total of 76 anthroponyms and toponyms, encompassing individual names, geographical names, and terminologies, were gathered by keyword search from news articles spanning 2020–2023. Due to spatial constraints, the sources of six examples were denoted.

Table 4 – Suggestions for the Transliteration of Initials and Finals in Chinese

Pinyin	Transliteration	Pinyin	Transliteration	Pinyin	Transliteration
Initials					
b	b	l	l	zh	c
p	p	g	q	ch	ç
m	m	k	k	sh	ş
f	f	h	x	r	j
d	d	j	c	z	z
t	t	q	ç	c	ts
n	n	x	s	s	s
Finals					
a	a	an	ən	ê	e
ia/ya	ia/ya	ian/yan	iən/yən	en	en
ua/wa	ua/va	uan/wan	uən/vən	uen (un)/wen	uen/ven
ao	au	üan/yuan	üən/yüən	ei	ey
iao/yao	iau/yau	e	ı	uei (ui)/wei	uey/vey
ang	an	eng	ın	i/yi	i/yi
iang/yang	ian/yan	ueng (weng)	vın	in/yin	in/yin
uang/wang	uan/van	er	ır/ğır	ing/ying	inq/yinq
ai	ay	ie/ye	ie/ye	ı ₂	ı
uai/wai	uay/vay	üe/yue	ö/yö	ı ₃	ı
o	o	ou	ou	u/wu	u/vu
uo/wo	uo/vo	iou (iu) /you	iou/you	ong	un
ü/yu	ü/yü	ün/yun	ün/yün	iong/yong	iun/yun

Note. Only a couple of exclamations, such as "哟", "唷", etc., are pronounced as "yo". Final "io" has not been included in Table 4. Final "ueng" is never preceded by an initial, so it is always found in the form "weng" according to which I transliterated it as "vın".

The suggested guidelines are fully elucidated in Table 4:

1. *Compiling by Pinyin*. The suggestions presented are based on the Pinyin of their corresponding initials and finals. For example: b ↔ b, n ↔ n, a ↔ a, en ↔ en, etc.

2. *Adjusting to the phonetic characteristics of Azerbaijani*.

a) Finals "ai, ei, etc." are written according to the scheme; however, my guidelines dictated that their Azerbaijani transliterations should be "ay, ey, etc.". In Azerbaijani, loanwords from Arabic and Persian often finish with the letters "ai, ei". Besides, the pronunciation of "ai" in loanwords like "Xətai [xətayi]" is "a-yi". However, the final "ai" in Chinese is a diphthong that cannot be separated.

b) If the final "üe" is calqued to "üe", the pronunciation will not align with the phonetic characteristics of contemporary Azerbaijani. I selected the vowel "ö", close to the final "üe" in Azerbaijani.

c) Historical Chinese phonology subdivides a final into three components at most: the medial, nucleus, and coda. For example, in the final "iao", the medial is "i", while the nucleus and coda are "a" and "u" [10, p. 53]. It is relatively easy to come across several finals that end with "n" and "ng" (with "n" and "ng" as their codas), which are referred to as *nasal finals*. For instance, "in" and "ing". There are Azerbaijani words that finish in [ŋ] as well, such as "min", "əmin", "din", etc. The digraph "ng" denotes the consonant [ŋ]. Finals that finish in "ng" are referred to as *back nasal finals*, whereas those that end in "n" are defined as *front nasal finals*. The distinction between these two types of finals is of such significance that they should be regarded as two separate phonemes. As an illustration, the word "bing" corresponds to "ice", whereas "bin" means "guest". Therefore, I deemed it necessary to emphasise this distinction in transliterating them. As seen in Table 4, I substituted the final "in" with "in" and the final "ing" with "inq".

d) When discussing nasal finals other than "ing", it is notable that there are distinctions in not only the coda but also the nucleus. For instance, even though the nuclei of the finals "an, ang" are graphically represented by the same letter (a), their actual sounds differ. The "a" in the final "an" is pronounced as a front vowel sound, while the "a" in the final "ang" is a back vowel sound.

To be more precise, the former is articulated by raising the tongue at the front of the mouth, while the latter is made by lifting the tongue at the back of the mouth [10, p. 96]. Consequently, when transliterating these nasal finals, I focused on their nuclei and favoured the corresponding Azerbaijani vowels. For example: an ↔ ən, ang ↔ an; en ↔ en, eng ↔ in, etc. I believe that the distinctions between the codas of these finals are not essential for differentiating them but rather that their nuclei play a more significant function.

e) Under the scheme's provisions, the letters y and w should be added before the Pinyin of zero initial characters. Unfortunately, there is no letter w in the Azerbaijani alphabet. That is why I replaced the letter w with v. For example, wa ↔ va, wo ↔ vo, wu ↔ vu, etc.

f) The final "er" in Chinese is a peculiar vowel that poses challenges in transliteration. This final, transcribed as [ɤ] according to the IPA, is a retroflex single vowel [10, p. 28]. The syllable "ır" in Azerbaijani, which consists of the vowel "ı" and the consonant "r", is phonetically closest to [ɤ]. Because of this, I utilised "ır" to approach the final "er". It is important to note that, unlike Azerbaijani, liaisons in Chinese speech are rare. Consider the word "qaldırılıq" as an example: The word follows a morphological structure of "qal-dır-ıl-ır-ıq"; however, in speech flow, it is divided into syllables as "qal-dı-rı-lı-rıq". But in the case of Chinese, the word "dan an" is not articulated as "da-nan". Nonetheless, the final "er" is occasionally subject to liaison. For instance, by my guidelines, the personal name "Bao Beier" should be transliterated as "Bau Beyır". When Azerbaijanis encounter the word "Beyır" they are prone to saying it as "be-yır" instinctively; yet, the accurate pronunciation should be "bey-ır (bei er)". I implemented the letter ğ from the Azerbaijani alphabet as a syllabic delimiter to prevent such scenarios. By employing this strategy, I can ensure the accuracy of my transliterations (Bao Beier ↔ Bau Beyğır).

g) I aim to represent each initial with only a single letter. However, the phonetic characteristics of the Chinese and Azerbaijani languages prevent a comprehensive implementation. Considering that "ç" was previously employed to transliterate initials "q, ch", I did not support the ongoing usage of "ç" for initial "c". The IPA transcription of the initial "c" is [tʂʰ] [10, p. 28]. It is equivalent to the voiceless alveolar affricate /ts/ in English words, such as cats, tsunami, etc. Thus, I have

employed the digraph "ts" to transliterate the initial "c". Furthermore, the scheme includes three initials denoted by digraphs "zh, ch, sh", too. The initial "z" has some characteristics. This initial is transcribed as [ts] in IPA, the unaspirated equivalent of the initial "c [tʰ]" [10, p. 28]. It is different from the z in Azerbaijani. Therefore, I chose the digraph "dz" in my earlier transliterations. From a phonological perspective, the phonemes "dz" and "ts" exhibit unambiguous opposition, aligning with their respective sound values. However, if I used "dz", the letter z would remain completely unused. The optimal choice would be to use the z, also included in the Azerbaijani alphabet. This method prevents the need to introduce a new digraph.

3. *Adopting a perspective based on the concepts of initials and finals instead of merely transliterating letters.* I have already addressed the fact that the phonetic realisation of the "ɑ" in the finals "ɑn, ɑng" is not identical. Furthermore, it should be noted that the letters i and e in Pinyin have different phonetic values. Specifically, there are four distinct pronunciations of the letter e in the finals "e, ie, en, ei" [10, p. 100]. Despite the noteworthy variations among finals "i, i₂, i₃", they are designated by one single letter i in the scheme. Because of this, I adhered to the principle of faithfully retaining phonetic features during the transliteration process. Consequently, I utilised multiple letters to signify different pronunciations. For example, e ↔ i, ie ↔ ie, üe ↔ ö; i ↔ i, i₂ ↔ i, etc.

4. *Restoring Pinyin abbreviations and the original spellings.* As stated in the 3rd provision of the scheme, finals "uei, uen, iou" that come after an initial to form syllables shall be abbreviated as "ui, un, iu" [12, p. 1799]. From my viewpoint, it is advisable to restore these three finals during the transliteration process into Azerbaijani. Pinyin is straightforward for those familiar with Chinese, but it can be perplexing and result in erroneous pronunciations for people lacking language

knowledge. For example, one of the mascots of the Beijing Winter Olympics is referred to as "Bing Dundun" in Pinyin, while its official English name is *Bing Dwendwen*. The reason for this is that the pronunciation of the letter combination "un" in English is significantly different from the final "un (uən)" sound in Chinese, therefore necessitating the restoration of the letter e. Similarly, I advocate restoring the umlaut (two dots above the letter u) in the final "ü" when it combines with the initials "j, q, x" to form syllables. As a case study, my name is written as "Siyuan Wang" in Pinyin. So, the transliteration of "yuan" into Azerbaijani should be "yüən". Furthermore, as previously stated, the final "ɑo, iɑo" should be transliterated as "au, iau".

5. *Remedying the shortcomings of Pinyin.* The findings of experimental linguistics indicate that the final "ong, iong" should be rendered as "ung, üng" [6, p. 53]. Since the scheme's launch, the ongoing discussion on this matter has never waned. "Ung, üng" are considered more scientifically accurate and linguistically proper orthographies. Consequently, I have converted the final "ong" sound into "un" via transliteration. Considering the final "ün" has already been transliterated as "ün", I have transliterated the final "iong" using the Azerbaijani syllable "yun".

CONCLUSIONS

To better meet the demand for transliterating Chinese anthroponyms and toponyms into Azerbaijani, I established five guidelines and devised a transliteration table for initials and finals in Chinese. I believe this set of guidelines considers the features of the Chinese and Azerbaijani languages. It is precise, easily understandable, and facilitates reading, writing, and learning. Following these guidelines, I retransliterated the samples in Table 3, as shown in Table 5.

Table 5 – New Guideline-based Transliteration of Anthroponyms and Toponyms in Table 3

New transliteration	Pinyin	New transliteration	Pinyin	New transliteration	Pinyin
Xeyluncian	Heilongjiang	Şıçuən	Sichuan	Şi Cınpinq	Xi Jiping
Moxı	Mohe	Çındu	Chengdu	Quo Min	Guo Min
Cilin	Jilin	Çunçinq	Chongqing	Mau Zıdun	Mao Zedong
Çançuen	Changchun	Xınən	He'nan	Li Kıçian	Li Keqiang
Xıbey	Hebei	Cıncou	Zhengzhou	Cian Zımin	Jiang Zemin
Şiciacuan	Shijiazhuang	Ənyan	Anyang	Van Yi	Wang Yi
Pekin, Beycinq	Beijing	Vuxən	Wuhan	Van Yan	Wang Yang

New transliteration	Pinyin	New transliteration	Pinyin	New transliteration	Pinyin
Dasiŋq	Daxing	Siən	Xi'an	Xən Cın	Han Zheng
Çauyan	Chaoyang	Ciouçüən	Jiuquan	Liou Xı	Liu He
Babauşən	Babaoshan	Sincian	Xinjiang	Suen Çuenlən	Sun Chunlan
Tiəŋgənmen	Tian'anmen	Xaynən	Hainan	Fey Cünlun	Fei Junlong
Ciansu	Jiangsu	Vençan	Wenchang	Dın Çinqminq	Deng Qingming
Nankin, Nəncinq	Nanjing	Fuciən	Fujian	Can Lu	Zhang Lu
Şanxay	Shanghai	Fucou	Fuzhou	Suen Licün	Sun Lijun
Pudun	Pudong	Honqkonq	Hong Kong	Fu Cenxua	Fu Zhenhua
Xunçiau	Hongqiao	Tayvən	Taiwan	Van Liki	Wang Like
Şencen	Shenzhen	Taybey	Taipei	Li Şausiən	Li Shaoxian
Quancou	Guangzhou	Xualien	Hualian	Niou Sinçuen	Niu Xinchun
Çunxua	Chonghua	Bayyün	Baiyun	Şencou	Shenzhou

Notes: The transliterations I considered accurate in Table 3 are preserved in Table 5 and marked in bold.

The guidelines I established for transliterating Chinese anthroponyms and toponyms into Azerbaijani have the potential to be of considerable

help to the Azerbaijani press and mass media, and I am hopeful about the possibility.

REFERENCES

1. Tahirov, I. (2022). *Azərbaycan Respublikasının ərazi vahidlərinin adları ingilis dilində* [Names of territorial units of the Republic of Azerbaijan in English]. Baku: Zərdabi Nəşr (in Azerbaijani).
2. Standardization Administration of the P.R.C. (2008). *Transformation guidelines of geographical names from foreign languages into Chinese – English*. Retrieved from <http://c.gb688.cn/bzgk/gb/showGb?type=online&hcno=2CB556608008A9A9A07FC96952187E92> (in Chinese).
3. Li, X. (2018). *The Handbook of English Names Translation* (5th ed.). Beijing: Commercial Press (in Chinese).
4. Akhundova, Ğ. (2022). *Azərbaycan Respublikasının ərazi vahidlərinin adları rus dilində* [Names of Territorial Units of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Russian]. Baku: Zərdabi Nəşr (in Azerbaijani).
5. Azərbaycan Milli Elmlər Akademiyası Nəsimi adına Dilçilik İnstitutu. (2021). *Azərbaycan dilinin orfografiya lüğəti* [Orthography dictionary of Azerbaijani] (7th ed.). Baku: Elm (in Azerbaijani).
6. Azərbaycan Respublikasının Prezidenti İlham Əliyev. (2013, April 09). *Azərbaycan dilinin globallashma şəraitində zamanın tələblərinə uyğun istifadəsinə və ölkədə dilçiliyin inkişafına dair Dövlət Programı* [The State Program on the usage of Azerbaijani in accordance with the demands of our time and on the domestic development of linguistics]. Retrieved from <https://president.az/az/articles/view/7744> (in Azerbaijani).
7. Gurbanov, A. (2019). *Ümumi Dilçilik* [General Linguistics] (Vol. 3). Baku: Azərbaycan Milli Elmlər Akademiyası (in Azerbaijani).
8. Gurbanov, A. (2019). *Ümumi Dilçilik* [General Linguistics] (Vol. 1). Baku: Azərbaycan Milli Elmlər Akademiyası (in Azerbaijani).
9. Lü, S. (2016). *Xiàndài Hànyǔ Cídiǎn* [Modern Chinese Dictionary] (7th ed.). Beijing: Commercial Press (in Chinese).
10. Huang, B., & Liao, X. (2017). *Xiàndài Hànyǔ* [Modern Chinese] (6th ed.). Beijing: Higher Education Press (in Chinese).
11. Wikipedia. (2024, February 16). *Pinyin*. Retrieved from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinyin>

12. Gurbanov, A. (2019). *Ümumi Dilçilik* [General Linguistics] (Vol. 2). Baku: Azərbaycan Milli Elmlər Akademiyası (in Azerbaijani).
13. Zhou, Y. (1958). Hànyǔ Pīnyīn Fāng'àn De Zhēnglùn Wèntí Jí Qí Yuánmǎn Jiějué [The controversial Issue of the Scheme for the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet and Its Perfect Solution]. *Zhōngguó Yǔwén*, 4, 172–178 (in Chinese).
14. United Nation. (1983). *United Nations Editorial Manual*. New York: United Nations (in English).
15. Wikipedia. (2024, January 16). *Beijing*. Retrieved from <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Beijing&oldid=1206916275>
16. AZERTAC. (2023, January 25). *Pekindä son 45 ilin ən güjlü shakhtaları geydä alınıb* [The strongest frosts in the last 45 years were recorded in Beijing]. Retrieved from <https://azertag.az/xeber/2459030> (in Azerbaijani).
17. Shahin, J. (2022, September 28). *Chindä restorandakı yanghında 17 nəfər ölüb* [17 people died in a fire in a restaurant in China]. Retrieved from <https://azertag.az/xeber/2311040> (in Azerbaijani).
18. Shahin, J. (2022, December 1). *Chindä karantin tədbirləri bir gädär yumshaldılıb* [Quarantine measures in China have been relaxed a little]. Retrieved from <https://azertag.az/xeber/2393009> (in Azerbaijani).
19. AZERTAC. (2021, July 18). *Güjlü yağışlar səbəbindən Pekindä 370-dən chokh aviareys ləghv edilib* [More than 370 flights were canceled in Beijing due to heavy rains]. Retrieved from <https://azertag.az/xeber/1834129> (in Azerbaijani).
20. Shahin, J. (2022, November 20). *Chindä may ayından bəri COVID-19 virusu ilə bağlı ilk ölüm halı geydä alınıb* [China has reported its first death from the COVID-19 virus since May]. Retrieved from <https://azertag.az/xeber/2380685> (in Azerbaijani).
21. Shahin, J. (2022, December 5). *Chinin sabig lideri Jian Jemin dəfn edilib* [Former Chinese leader Jiang Zemin has been buried]. Retrieved from <https://azertag.az/xeber/2397554> (in Azerbaijani).