



APRIL 2013

◆ THE NAME GAME AT TRANSLATION ACES! ◆

What's in a Suriname?

Surinamese society is one of the most multilingual in the world. The smallest sovereign state in South America and sometimes considered a Caribbean country that's not an island, Suriname was colonized by the English and the Dutch; in 1667 the Dutch captured and called it Dutch Guiana (vs. French Guiana, French Guinea and "regular" Guyana, also in South America), until 1954 when it became part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (a/k/a Holland, or one of the Low Countries). BTW adding the adjective "French" in English comes from colonial times when 5 colonies, called The Guianas, existed: Spanish Guiana (now a region in Venezuela), British Guiana (now Guyana), Dutch Guiana (now Suriname), French Guiana, and Portuguese Guiana (now Amapá, in Brazil).

Still with us?

So its official language is Dutch, but a local Creole language called Sranan Tongo is most widely used by everyone, and Surinamese Hindi or Sarnami, a dialect of Bhojpuri, is the third-most used language, spoken by descendants of contract workers from what used to be British India. We linguists love that one could also hear Javanese as well as the Maroon languages, including Saramaka, Paramakan, Ndyuka (a/k/a Aukan), Kwinti and Matawai spoken as well as Amerindian languages, including Carib and Arawak. Some Chinese immigrants brought Hakka, Cantonese, Mandarin to Suriname and English, Spanish and Portuguese are of course also spoken by many from elsewhere in Latin America and Europe.



Suriname's Coat-of-Arms

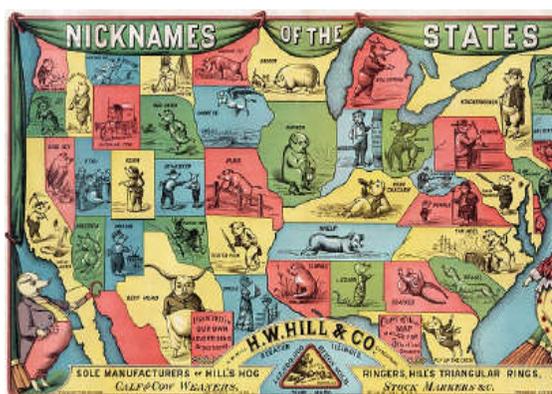
◆ THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHT ◆

One of our projects this month was the translation of a complex distributorship agreement into Russian:
«Данное соглашение заключено между ...»

◆ FEATURE ◆ Lingua Quiz!

1. MIX & MATCH DEFINITIONS

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (a) Bin or Ben | (1) Father's/paternal ancestor's name |
| (b) Nicknames | (2) Writer's pseudonyms |
| (c) Patronymic | (3) Son of in Hebrew & Arabic |
| (d) Baptismal | (4) Assumed or additional name |
| (e) Maiden name | (5) Usually endearing nickname |
| (f) Alias | (6) Name given at christening |
| (g) Pseudonym | (7) Entertainer's pseudonym |
| (h) Stage name | (8) Name assumed as a disguise |
| (i) Pen name | (9) Short, usually endearing |
| (j) Nom de plume | (10) Descriptive name or nickname |
| (k) Nom de guerre | (11) Nickname |
| (l) Moniker | (12) Name or nickname |
| (m) Pet name | (13) Woman's surname before marriage |
| (n) Cognomen | (14) Name or nickname |
| (o) Handle | (15) Fictitious name |
| (p) Sobriquet | (16) Pen name |



2. TEST YOUR GEO / LINGUISTIC IQ:

- What's the only other non-Romance-language-speaking country in South America (other than Suriname)?
- Is Bratislava in Slovakia or Slovenia?
- Where do they speak Slavonic?
- Name 3 locations in North America where French is the official language.
- Where can you find an ATM with instructions in Latin?
- Which country has the most official languages?

ANSWERS:

- (a) = (3); (b) = (9); (c) = (1); (d) = (6); (e) = (13); (f) = (4); (g) = (8); (h) = (7); (i) = (2); (j) = (16); (k) = (15); (l) = (14); (m) = (5); (n) = (12); (o) = (11); (p) = (10).
- (a) Guyana, where they speak English; (b) Slovakia; (c) Nowhere, it's dead language; (d) Quebec (Canada), Saint-Pierre and Miquelon (part of France); (e) At the Vatican; (f) South Africa, with 11.