

FRANK NUESSEL

TOPONYMS IN A CORPUS OF THE PROVERBS OF SPAIN

In his comprehensive bibliography of explanatory essays on proverbs and proverbial expressions containing names, Mieder lists approximately 1500 such notes and articles on both anthroponyms and toponyms. In that bibliography, Mieder (1976: 254) states that with regard to proverbial expressions with names, "... a considerable amount of scholarly investigation has in fact been undertaken. And yet, the surface has hardly been scratched and much remains to be done." To that monumental proverbial onomastic bibliography (Mieder 1976), one may add selected sections of Mieder's (1977, 1978, 1982, 1993, 2001) later bibliographies as well as his annual enumerative listings in *Proverbiium*, the yearbook that he edits, for additional paremiological name research. The present essay constitutes a small contribution to the study of place names in the proverbial language of Spain.

This paper will examine the use of toponyms, or place names, in a selected group of proverbs in Spanish. At this point, a definition of toponym is in order. Baker and Carmony (1975: vii) offer the following one: "[a] place name is the name of any geographic feature, natural or artificial." A toponym is a proper name. With respect to proper names, Algeo (1973: 7; see also Pulgram 1954: 42-43; Bloomfield 1933: 205) cites Bertrand Russell who states that proper names are "really abbreviations for descriptions." Thus, place names, which are proper names, constitute descriptions of a place. In this sense, Madrid, the capital of Spain, is a legal construct that refers to a locale with specific boundaries and political powers accorded to its representatives by the citizens who populate this area.

Place names often refer to official toponyms, i.e., names that appear on sanctioned maps and which may be authorized by official government organizations such as the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. The literature on place names is abundant (Sealock, Sealock and Powell 1982; see also Algeo 1973: 78-80;

Nuessel 1992: 45-73). Place name studies for Spain abound. Lapesa (1986: 14-16, 18-19, 31-35, 56-57, 116-118, 122, 140-141, 178-179), for example, offers a discussion with numerous footnoted references of studies of pre-Roman (Celtic, Greek, Basque), Roman, and post-Roman (Germanic and Arabic invasions, French pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela, and so forth) times. More recently, Everett-Heath (2000: 297-311) provides an informative selected introductory overview of the selected place names of Spain together with brief etymologies to explain their historical significance.

Methodology

The corpus for this study is Juana G. Campos and Ana Barella's *Diccionario de refranes* (1993). This volume contains 3497 proverbs and their variants assiduously gleaned and documented from previous important collections and from significant literary works of Spain. The alphabetic index of words (Campos and Barella 1993: 361-399) consists of a complete list of all of the key words including proper names (anthroponyms and toponyms) in that volume.

In this study, Appendix A has a master list of the proverbs with place names indicated in boldface type and a parenthetical indication of the proverb number in the Campos and Barella (1993) collection together with an English translation. Appendix B features the toponyms only in an alphabetic list together with a parenthetical indication of their frequency of occurrence. They are categorized by toponymic type (city, province, country, river, street and plaza).

The proverbs in this collection include some variants (word order, minor lexical differences) from an exemplary norm. Campos and Barella (1993: xiii-xiv) discuss this aspect of their anthology when they note that certain proverbial variants contain inversions of word order considered as mere divergences from a prototypical exemplar. To avoid duplication, the citation form (= the first proverb listed) is the one normally chosen. In certain cases, however, the citation form does not feature a toponym. In these instances, the variant form is cited if it possesses a toponym (see Appendix A: #s 10-12, 29, 47).

Discussion

There is a total of 55 proverbs in the data base. These proverbial sayings contain a total of 70 place names. The toponyms consist of the following categories in descending order of frequency. In some instances, a place name occurs more than once, e.g., Roma (11), Castilla (4), and Portugal (2). Implicit in the designations for cities in Spain is the province in which they are situated. When the proverb contains the name of a city, its province is indicated in brackets in Appendix B. The enumeration of provinces in number 2 below refers only to those proverbs where a province is the obvious reference as opposed to the provincial capital which may bear the same name.

1. Cities (52).
2. Provinces (11).
3. Countries (4).
4. River (1).
5. Street (1),
6. Plaza (1).

With the exception of a single reference to an inhabitant (*perusino*) of Perusa (Italy) and eleven allusions to Rome, all of the cities in this study are in Spain. The 31 Spanish cities are located in 20 different provinces. It should be noted, however, that one city (Mazariegos) may allude to a city in either of two provinces (Palencia or Burgos). Moreover, in the category "provinces," there are references to five different Spanish provinces. Three of these (Aragón, Castilla, León) are not among those provinces listed for the cities (see Appendix B). Finally, three countries (Italy, Portugal, and Spain) appear in these proverbs. The proximity to Spain of Italy (Lapesa 1986: 265-280, 291-296, 299-315) and Portugal (Lapesa 1986: 273-274, 285-286, 297-299), and their historical and cultural influences, no doubt, account for these allusions.

The capitals of many of the provinces of Spain have the same names as the provinces themselves. The reference to either the city or the province is generally clear, e.g., in the proverb, *Mi hija hermosa, el lunes a Toro y el martes a Zamora* (1803), there is a clear contrast between the city (Zamora) and the province (Zamora).

The proverbs in this study follow the traditional format described by Norrick (1985) who provides two definitions of a proverb, one ethnographic, the other supercultural. In the former case, a proverb is "... a traditional, conversational, didactic genre with general meaning, a potential free conversational turn, preferably with figurative meaning" (Norrick 1985: 78). In the latter instance, a proverb is "a typically spoken, conversational form with didactic function and not with any particular source" (Norrick 1985: 79).

The purpose of this study is to examine place names in a selected enumeration of the proverbs of Spain. Nevertheless, a few of these proverbs merit brief commentary. At least three proverbs have an obvious and identifiable historical reference and these are worth noting beyond their usual usage as a means of applying didactic commentary to a particular situation. These proverbial expressions merit commentary because it is often difficult to associate proverbs with specific historical events because of their anonymous nature. Thus, the proverb *Año de veintisiete, deja **Roma** y vete* (Campos and Barella 1993: # 243) alludes to the sack of Rome by the troops of Charles the Fifth (1500-1558, reign 1516-1550) in 1527. Another proverb, *Camino de **Santiago**, tanto anda el cojo como el sano* (Campos and Barella 1993: # 656), refers to the pilgrimages by people from Spain and France to Santiago de Compostela that occurred in the eleventh century (Lapesa 1986:168-170). Yet another, *Soplará el odrero, y levantárase **Toledo*** (Campos and Barella 1993: # 2526), refers to a historic event in which Don Alvaro de la Luna (ca. 1390-1453) in 1449 ordered that taxes be levied in the city of Toledo which resulted in a riot fomented by a wine-skin maker.

As noted above, the two countries (Italy and Portugal) that appear in the proverbs collected in this study are an integral part of the cultural and historical provenance of Spain and this explains these allusions. In general, however, most proverbial references to toponyms are to those in Spain.

The city of Rome appears in eleven proverbs. One reason for this frequent allusion derives from the fact that already existing proverbs have been absorbed into the Spanish language through literary convention and tradition. Furthermore, the close political and cultural ties that the Iberian peninsula had with the Italian

peninsula, especially during the Renaissance, facilitated these proverbial allusions (Lapesa 1986: 265-280, 291-296, 299-315). One proverb features a specific *piazza* there, *Quien come la romaracha, y va en Nagona, torna otra vez a Roma* (Campos and Barella 1993: # 3043). Another proverb, *Perusino en Italia, y trujillano en España, a todas naciones engaña* (Campos and Barella 1993: # 2806), uses the adjective *perusino* to refer to an inhabitant of the Italian city of Perusa. In this case, the proverb compares the negative qualities of people from Perusa with those from Trujillo in the province of Cáceres in Spain.

Concluding Remarks

This study surveyed an important collection of the proverbs of Spain (Campos and Barella 1993) and it selected all those that contained place names. It then categorized those toponyms according to the following divisions: (1) cities, (2) provinces, (3) countries, (4) river, (5) street, and (6) plaza. The present study provides a format and a procedure for examining place names in the proverbs of other national languages to compare and contrast usage of toponyms in those tongues.

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*Appendix A***Toponyms Listed in Order of Appearance in
Diccionario de refranes (Campos and Barella 1993)**

The following list of proverbs contains a parenthetical indication of their numerical citation in the Campos and Barella (1993) volume. Variants are indicated in parentheses. All toponyms appear in boldface type. An English gloss appears after each citation.

1. *Abad de **Zarzueta**, comisteis la olla, pedís la cazuela.* (2)
'Abbot of Zarzueta, you ate the pot and you ask for the saucepan.'
2. *El abad de **Bamba**, lo que no puede comer, dalo por su alma.* (5)
'The abbot of Bamba, what he cannot eat, he gives for his soul.'
3. *Adivino de **Marchena**, que puesto el sol, el asno a la sombra queda.* (46)
'Prophet of Marchena, the sun having set, the ass remains in shade.'
4. *Adivino de **Salamanca**, que no tiene dinero quien no tiene blanca.* (47).
'Prophet of Salamanca, he who has no money, has not a cent.'
5. *Adivino de **Valderas**, cuando corren las canales, que se mojan las carreras.* (48)
'Prophet of Valderas, when the canals run, the streets get soaked.'
6. *Amigo de **León**, tuyo seja, que mío non.* (165)
'Friend of León, let it be yours, and not mine.'
7. *El ánsar de **Cantimpalos**, que salió al lobo al camino.* (222)
'The goose that went to the wolf on the road.'

8. *Año de veintisiete, deja **Roma** y vete.* (243)
'In the year '27, leave Rome and go away.'
9. *Negar que negarás, que en **Aragón** estás.* (276)
'Deny what you will, you are in Aragón.'
10. *Arreboles de **Aragón**, a la noche con agua son.* (297, variant)
'Red glowing clouds of Aragón, in the evening, they are full of water.'
11. *Arreboles, de **Portugal**, a la mañana sol serán.* (297, variant)
'Red glowing clouds of Portugal, in the morning it will be sunny.'
12. *Arreboles en **Castilla**, viejas a la cocina.* (297, variant)
'Red glowing clouds in Castilla, old women in the kitchen.'
13. *En la calle de **Meca**, quien no entra no peca.* (631)
'In Meca Street, he who does not enter does not sin.'
14. *Camino de **Roma**, ni mula coja ni bolsa floja.* (655)
'On the road to Rome, neither lame mule nor loose purse.'
15. *Camino de **Santiago**, tanto anda el cojo como el sano.* (656)
'On the road to Santiago, both the lame and the healthy travel.'
16. *En el campo de **Barahona**, más vale mala capa que buena azcona.* (678)
'In the field of Barahona, a bad cape is worth more than a good arrow.'
17. *En **Castilla**, el caballo lleva la silla.* (890)
'In Castilla, the horse wears the saddle.'
18. *Buen castillo es el de **Peñafiel**, si no tuviese a ojo el de **Curiel**.* (891)
'A good castle is the one in Peñafiel, if it were not in sight of the one in Curiel.'
19. *Colorada, mas no de suyo, que de **La Costanilla** lo trujo.* (1097)
'Red, but not on its own, rather it came from La Costanilla.'

20. *Enero y febrero comen más que **Madrid** y **Toledo**.* (1465)
'January and February eat more than Madrid and Toledo.'
21. *El estiércol de **Castilla**, es ámbar en **Aragón**.* (1531)
'The manure of Castilla is perfume in Aragón.'
22. *El gaitero de **Bujalance**, un maravedí porque empiece, y diez porque acabe.* (1600)
'The bagpiper of Bujalance, a penny so that he will start and ten to get him to stop.'
23. *Aldeana es la gallina, y cómela el de **Sevilla**.* (1609)
'Rustic is the hen, and the person from Sevilla eats it.'
24. *El habar de **Cabra** se secó lloviendo.* (1707)
'The bean field of Cabra withered even though it was raining.'
25. *Como el herrero de **Mazariegos**, que machacando olvidó el oficio.* (1778)
'Like the blacksmith of Mazariegos, who, while pounding, forgot the trade.'
26. *El herrero de **Arganda**, él se lo fuella y él se lo macha, y él se lo lleva a vender a la plaza.* (1780)
'The blacksmith of Arganda, he folds it into leaves, he pounds it, he brings it to be sold in the plaza.'
27. *El hidalgo de **Guadalajara**, lo que dice a la noche, no cumple a la mañana.* (1782)
'The noble man of Guadalajara, what he says at night, he does not do in the morning.'
28. *Mi hija hermosa, el lunes a **Toro** y el martes a **Zamora**.* (1803)
'My beautiful daughter, on Monday in Toro, and on Tuesday in Zamora.'
29. *Cuando a **Roma** fueres, haz como vieres.* (1957, variant)
'When in Rome, do as the Romans do.'
30. *Quien lengua ha, a **Roma** va.* (2017)
'He who has a language, go to Rome.'

31. *Así es redonda y así es blanca la luna de Salamanca.* (2064)
'Thus, the moon of Salamanca is white and round.'
32. *En Malagón, en cada casa un ladrón, y en la del alcalde, hijo y padre.* (2139)
'In Malagón, in every house, a thief, and in the mayor's house, father and son.'
33. *Ser como el mayo de Portugal, que lo cargaron de joyas y se alzó con todas.* (2240)
'To be like May in Portugal, they loaded it with jewels and they made off with every one of them.'
34. *Moza para Roma, y vieja a Benavente.* (2338)
'Young woman to Rome and an old one to Benavente.'
35. *Soplará el odrero, y levantárase Toledo.* (2526)
'The wineskin maker will blow up and all of Toledo will lift up.'
36. *Por todas partes, se va a Roma.* (2711)
'All roads lead to Rome.'
37. *Bien está San Pedro en Roma.* (2744)
'Saint Peter is well in Roma.'
38. *Los perros de Zurita, no teniendo a morder, uno a uno se mordían.* (2796)
'The dogs of Zurita, not having anyone to bite, bit each other.'
39. *Perusino en Italia, y trujillano en España, a todas naciones engaña.* (2806)
'A person from Perusa in Italy and a person from Trujillo in Spain deceives all nations.'
40. *Puentes y fuentes, zamorra y campanas; Estella la bella, Pamplona la bona, Olite y Tafalla, la flor de Navarra y, sobre todo, puentes y aguas.* (2919)
'Bridges and fountains, sheepskin jackets and bells, Estella the beautiful, Pamplona the good, Olite and Tafalla, the flower of Navarra, and above all, bridges and waters.'

41. *Putra de **Toro** y trucha de **Duero**.* (2943)
'Whore from Toro and trout from the Duero River.'
42. *Cuando a **Roma** fueres, haz como vieres.* (3041)
'When in Rome, do as the Romans do.'
43. ***Roma**, la que los locos doma.* (3042)
'Rome, the one that tames the crazy ones.'
44. *Quien come la romaracha, y va en **Nagona**, torna otra vez a **Roma**.* (3043)
'He who eats the wild roots, and goes to Navona, returns again to Rome.'
45. *En nombrando al ruin de **Roma**, luego asoma.* (3065)
'In naming the miserable lout of Rome, he then arrives.'
46. *Ruin con ruin, que así casan en **Dueñas**.* (3067)
'Despicable person with despicable person, that's they way they marry in Dueñas.'
47. *Como el sastre del campillo y la costurera de **Miera**, que el uno ponía a manos y hilo, y la otra trabajo y seda.* (3119, variant)
'Like the tailor in the country, and the seamstress in Miera, the one used thread, and the other hard work and silk.'
48. *Quien fue a **Sevilla** perdió su silla.* (3165)
'He who went to Sevilla, lost his seat.'
49. *Salga el sol por **Antequera** y póngase por donde quiera.* (3173)
'Let the sun rise in Antequera, and let it set wherever it wishes.'
50. *En **Toledo**, el abad a huevo, y en **Salamanca**, a blanca.* (3274)
'In Toledo, the abbot common as an egg, and in Salamanca, the abbot common as a penny.'
51. *En **Toledo**, no te cases, compañero.* (3275)
'In Toledo, don't get married, friend.'

52. *A uso de Aragón, a buen servicio, mal galardón.* (3311)
'In the tradition of Aragón, for good service, a bad reward.'
53. *Quien necio es en su villa, también lo será en Castilla.* (3439)
'He who is foolish in his village will be the same in Castilla.'
54. *Quien ruin es en su villa, ruin será en Sevilla.* (3440)
'He who is petty in his village will be the same in Sevilla.'
55. *No se ganó Zamora en una hora.* (3486)
'Rome wasn't built in a day.'

Appendix B

The following is a categorical list (city, province, country, river, street, plaza) of the toponyms in the Campos and Barella (1993) volume. In the category "city," the name of the province appears in brackets. For all categories, the number of occurrences of a toponym is in parentheses.

Alphabetical and Frequency List of Toponyms by Category	
Category	Toponym
City [Province]	Antequera [Málaga] (1) Arganda [Madrid] (1) Bamba [Valladolid] (1) Barahona [Segovia] (1) Benavente [Zamora] (1) Bujalance[Córdoba] (1) Cabra [Córdoba] (1) Cantimpalos [Segovia] (1) Curiel [Valladolid] (1) Dueñas [Palencia] (1) Estella [Navarra] (1) La Costanilla [Sevilla] (1) Madrid [Madrid] (1) Malagón [Ciudad Real] (1) Marchena [Sevilla] (1) Mazariegos [Palencia or Burgos] (1) Miera [Santander] (1) Olite [Navarra] (1) Pamplona [Navarra] (1) Peñafiel [Valladolid] (1) Perusa (perusino) [Italy] (1) Roma [Italy] (11) Salamanca [Salamanca] (3) Santiago [Galicia] (1) Sevilla (Andalucía) (3) Tafalla [Navarra] (1) Toledo [Toledo] (4) Toro [Zamora] (2)

	Trujillo (trujillano) [Cáceres] (1) Valderas [León] (1) Zamora [Zamora] (2) Zarzuela [Cuenca] (1) Zurita [Guadalajara] (1)
Province	Aragón (4) Castilla (4) Guadalajara (1) León (1) Navarra (1)
Country	España (1) Italia (1) Portugal (2)
River	Duero (1)
Street	Meca [Zaragoza] (1)
Plaza	Nagona (variant of Navona) [Rome, Italy] (1)

Frank Nuessel
 Classical and Modern Languages
 Division of Humanities
 University of Louisville
 Louisville, Kentucky 40292-0001
 USA
 E-mail: fhnues01@athena.louisville.edu