

**The Unbearable Lightness of Naming – Translating Humour in Percival
Everett’s *The Trees***

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Abstract: *Names and naming are of primordial importance in the African American tradition, in connection with a multitude of implications. It is common knowledge that during the period of slavery, names were imposed by slave-owners. This resulted in the loss of African names and their connection with African identities bespoke an alienation to the master’s power to define. In the literature of African-American authors, and especially in Percival Everett’s, this comes to add more often than not a humorous effect to his fiction. The Trees features another dimension of naming, the imposition of toponyms on the land as a symbol of the colonization of the continent by predominantly white settlers.*

Keywords: *compensation; irony; undertranslation; satire; translation loss.*