Doctoral (PhD) Dissertation Thesis

AN ONOMASTIC STUDY OF
THE FIELD NAMES OF HAJDÚNÁNÁS

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Debrecen, 2013

1. Objectives of the dissertation, delimitation of the subject

Hungarian onomastic scholars have always considered the exploration of place names within given, small geographical units (settlements, districts etc.) as one of their main objectives. Some of the studies within the field made efforts purely to collect the names, thus providing source material for theoretical work, while other researchers also drew more general, theoretical conclusions from the methodological analysis of the collected body of names. These two main directions of research were characteristic to Hungarian onomastics in every era, although the dominance of one or the other approach was constantly changing. Furthermore, it is true that part of the work within this topic focussed on the collection and publication of the names while other studies laid the emphasis on theoretical processing, but the two different directions of research usually appeared intertwined in research programs, complementing each other: conclusions have always been drawn, and the theoretical issues in place name collection have been phrased and replied. All this is based on the assumption that the investigation of a corpus of names that is associable with a well-defined geographical unit and that is complex in its temporality as well can lead the researchers to such conclusions that may have more general theoretical validity and may hold not only for the given area and the given period of time.

In compliance with this idea, I followed a dual guiding principle during the writing of this doctoral dissertation: on the one hand, I made efforts to compile the corpus of field names of a given settlement, Hajdúnánás, from the earliest times to the present, in its historical entirety. The collection of place names coming from almost 200 historical (archival) sources and from field work served as a basis for the discussion of theoretical issues that are included in the first chapters in the form of a synthesis. These issues are connected to methodological problems arising during the compilation of the place name corpus, and to topics that have been little discussed in onomastics up to this point. The paper also aims to highlight that the here addressed issues and the answers given may serve as a starting point to other branches of science (like historical studies or archaeology) through interdisciplinarity.

2. Studies performed, and methods of the investigation

This dissertation contains five main chapters. In the subchapters of the first unit, theoretical issues of field names are discussed. First, the notion of the *field name* is elaborated: the positions of various onomastic researchers and the terms applied in the paper are overviewed. Next, last-century findings of the research on field names, place name collection and processing are enumerated, with reference to the most recent future directions inherent in them. The

second chapter of the paper discusses the usage of names in sources containing field names, together with an assessment of their onomastic source value. The processed sources of the studied settlement, Hajdúnánás, are described here. On the basis of this description, the differences (and sometimes similarities) in the name usage of the two types of historical sources – maps and perambulation documents – are outlined. Also, their usability in onomastic research is considered. Besides the issues of name usage in the historical sources, methodological problems of the field work are also addressed, and general observations in connection with spoken data collection are made. In the third section of the dissertation, *name clustering*, a phenomenon hitherto little studied in Hungary is discussed. The focus of the present overview is on a special group of name clusters: name families having been developed from the names of wasted, disappeared mediaeval settlements. The structural characteristics of this name group are described, and the applicability of name clusters in onomastics and settlement history is calculated. The fourth major chapter covers a micro-study of two place name types: water names and hill names. The two name types raised different kinds of issues: water names (and related names of waterside settlements) were investigated along various dimensions of time and from the respect of name changes, while hill names were put through a structural study. The fifth, closing section of the paper contains a register of the field names of the studied town, including a user guide, the field names in alphabetically ordered entries, and a list of the processed sources.

The framework for the description of the studied phenomena is ISTVÁN HOFFMANN's place name typology, but certain aspects of name sociology were also taken into consideration during the study. The task undertaken here is not complex name typological processing, but the discussion of such problematic, theoretical and methodological issues that may arise during the collection and processing of a rich body of names.

3. Findings of the study

The findings of the dissertation are presented according to their order within the dissertation chapters.

Theoretical issues of field names

Since onomastics has become an independent discipline, Hungarian researchers of names have made repeated efforts to provide a proper definition of its subject matter and terminology. Scholars have used expressions like *names of vineyard slopes, place names, geographical names, field names, periphery names* or *microtoponyms* (which, in fact, are nor "equal"

neither synonymous) for referring to objects to be found on the confines of settlements. Researchers often used these terms unknowingly, that is, they did not try to define the given terms, to mark them off from other expressions, or to place them into a broader theoretical framework; they simply phrased their opinion (that was often instinctive rather than elaborate) with the help of the given term. It is also quite frequent that some authors find it unproblematic to use certain terms as synonyms, while others are expressly against this method. Also, some of the terms have been reappearing repeatedly through the course of the history of the discipline, but with a changed meaning, which has caused several misunderstandings.

The present work — partly in compliance with the preceding literature — applies the *field name* and *place name* terms. The latter is considered as a summative notion, comprising every type of names. This is narrowed down to the studied body of names in this dissertation by referring to the *place names* of the *fields* of Hajdúnánás. The notion of the *field name* is used in a somewhat narrower sense: this expression refers to referents to be found on the fields of a settlement, that is, natural objects outside the inner city, on the periphery. The register of the field names — for an assertion of the name sociological approach — contains all the data mentioned by the local speakers as names for the given objects. For the sake of a more versatile use of the terminology, the term *microtoponym* is used as a synonymous equivalent of the *field name*. Although the use of *microtoponym* and *place name* as synonymous notions has been objected to by some linguists on the grounds of name sociological differences between the two, I find an interchangeability of *microtoponym* with *field name* acceptable (the former being on a lower hierarchical level than the *place name*). This is the more so that the inhabitants of a given settlement do not correspond to a single microcommunity of name users either.

The name usage and onomastic source value of the sources containing field names
The second section of my paper discusses the name usage and onomastic source value of the sources containing field names. The corpus of place names of a given settlement can be complied through the analysis of historical sources combined with field work studying spoken language containing place names. The survival of historical documents is more or less incidental, and this is why only a fragmental corpus can be complied of them, which fragmentality increases as we move away from the present in time. Such a body of data is not applicable in linguistic–onomastic studies without background information on name usage, or only with the utmost caution. This void can be filled with the help of present-day field work, because in addition to the synchronic system of place names, working mechanisms of the real-life usage

and knowledge of place names are also investigated. On the other hand, information already available about old place names and formerly existing places from historical sources can be refined and supported through the collection of spoken data.

Two of the historical source types, maps and perambulation documents, are studied in detail here. These source types are very similar in certain respects, which must come from the fact that they had been influenced by more than one level of name usage at a time. Both maps and perambulation documents were written in the presence of witnesses, thus, most of the place names were put in these official papers in the form they were in fact used. The sphere of use and the value of these place names that were, as a matter of fact, used by the community (as well) can be defined relatively easily. The same is not true to any other formations, since it is often difficult to decide whether they are the products of the engineer's, the writer's peculiar usage (or often of his foreign nationality) or they are traceable back to the way the source text has been taken over from time to time.

After a discussion of the methodological problems of field work and place name collection from spoken language, the methodology of the current collecting process is described. On the basis of this work, it seems that in the case of settlements with a large area of peripheral fields, it is rather the people being in connection with a given area of the fields that can be considered as a single name community, because they use the same place names. (Earlier, the term *name community* was used to refer to the population of a given small settlement.) In the light of all this, the study of a settlement as a system of place names is basically the study of the users' knowledge of these names. At the same time, it follows that none of the users have the whole of this place name system in its full complexity in their mental lexicon, even if theoretical statements can be made about the nature of this system. In so far as this statement is true to most (or all) of the settlements with a large area of peripheral territories, that determines all the methodological issues arising in connection with place name collecting field work in territories like that: the method of collection and the selection of informants as well.

Name clustering

The continuous growth of the modern Hungarian place name system is partly due to the phenomenon of name clustering. Part of the 20th century field names having been developed through this process have retained the names of mediaeval (since wasted) settlements in their phonological form. The study of modern name clusters may render considerable help for the spatial reconstruction of yet not localized former settlements by historians and archaeologists. The precondition for the formation of a name cluster is the disappearance of the settlement

itself, which was a characteristic tendency in the Hungarian settlement network from the 13th century on. However, the microtoponyms that were created from these names are available for study only from documents written after the 17–18th century, as the form of historical sources became more versatile in this period, and several document types appeared (the map, for instance) that are not available from earlier centuries. Owing to the growing popularity of these sources, instances of place names are also to be found more easily in these.

After the disappearance of the former village, its name can appear as a component of other names, referring to the given territory. The synonymous expressions used for the naming of the given area usually assume the 'former settlement name + geographical common name (usually referring to desolation)' structure (e.g. *Vidiföld* = Vid Land, *Vidipuszta* = Vid Wasteland etc.) The name of the settlement often appears with an *-i* suffix in these synonymous expressions, which expresses that the place in question is 'a wasteland, an uninhabited territory (1) called Vid (2)'.

In addition, the former village name can play an active part in the formation of microtoponyms as well: the place names *Tedeji-legelő* (= Tedej Grazing Lands), *Tedeji-kölesföld* (= Tedej Millet Field), *Tedeji templom* (= Tedej Church) etc. contain the name of the former settlement in an *-i*-suffixed form. The structure of these microtoponyms shows us that the former village name most often occurs together with the *-i* suffix. Unlike the *-i* suffix that is included in the synonymous names for the former settlement, here, the suffix does not express that the place in question is referred to in the given manner (which is also implied by synonymity itself), but that the place lies within the boundaries of the former estate. Microtoponyms (secondary names) having been formed like this may also turn into primary names, and new names can be created from them. The former boundaries of the mediaeval settlement itself can be defined by a projection of the synonymous names for the territory on the territorial distribution of the microtoponyms having been formed from the name of the former village.

The localization of a formerly existing settlement in the context of its own time is also aided by another valuable source of place name research: mediaeval charters. Those passages of the charters are the most helpful that give geographical "instructions" in connection with the position of the former settlement: identification of the county, reference to a nearby river or the neighbouring settlements (i.e. basically the context and other names in the text) can help in an exact localization of the village. Furthermore, the reconstruction can also be aided by data about the history of possession, an exploration of the nationality and family relations of the territory.

The reconstructional studies themselves may be useful from some other respects as well: on the one hand, other disciplines (like archaeology and historical studies) can benefit from the data obtained, as such information is not available from other kinds of sources; on the other hand, onomastics may also gain new findings from such reconstructions. General onomastic implications can make the study of certain extralingual factors very beneficial. The study of the effect of certain events in the history of settlements (their devastation or vanishing in our case) on the place name system (i.e. intralingual changes) is a good example for this.

A microstudy of two place name types
The fourth chapter of the dissertation studies two place name types, water names and hill names, from different aspects. Water names (and related names of waterside settlements) were investigated along various dimensions of time and from the respect of name changes. The results of this study show that water names are sometimes come to be used to name other types of places as the outlook of the landscape changes, but this either does not affect their phonological form (*ér* = brook; *Bába-ér* 'water-stream' > *Bába-ér* 'hayfield', *Kígyós-ér* 'water-stream' > *Kígyós-ér* 'hayfield' etc.), it causes only partial modifications in their form (*ér* = brook, *part* = lakeside, *sziget* = island, *lapos* = lowland, plain; *Békás-ér* > *Békás-part, Madarász-sziget* > *Madarász-lapos* etc.), or they just vanish from the language (*sziget* =island, *fenék* = bottom; *Hosszú-sziget* > *Ø, Csíkos-fenék* > *Ø* etc.) These modifications are caused by language external factors for the most part.

Hill names were analyzed from the aspect of the semantic content or function they convey, and the linguistic elements this content is expressed by. On the other hand, the propensity of these elements to change was also studied. The structural characteristics of hill names can be summarized as follows: the constituents of this name type most often assume the S+T structure, that is, they contain an element expressing a specific feature (S) and an element with type marking function (T) (*Vörös-halom* = Red Hill, *Kutya-domb* = Dog Hill etc.) The element expressing a specific feature (S) usually refers to prominence (*Fekete-halom* = Black Hill, *Lyukas-halom* = Holed Hill etc.); relation to some external object or notion (*Király-halom* = King's Hill, *Cseh-domb* = Czecz Hill etc.) and spatial relations (*Süldős-ér laponyaga* = Hummock of Süldős Brook, *Vidi-halom* = Vid Hill etc.) are much rarer functions in these names. The S+N structure is relatively rare (only a quarter of the names are structured like this), and the naming (N) element of the name is a two-part place name in each case (*Kis-Fekete-halom* = Little Black Hill, *Nagy-Szállás-halom* = Big Abode Hill etc.) The N+T structure, that is quite rare anyway, is not characteristic of these hill names at all. I concluded that

this name type — as far as propensity to change is concerned — is characterized by a significant degree of lexical-morphological and functional-semantic stability. This is probably due to the fact that these natural objects have had a very important role in boundary marking for centuries, and this function of them has been preserved for a long period of time. Also, they served as important points of orientation for the users of these place names.

Compared to the stability of hill names in form and meaning, water names have proved to be much more changeable due to changes in the geographical territory itself, in possession and in the legal and administrative position of the estate (i.e. due to extralinguistic factors). This resulted in various changing processes like the disappearance or change of names and also name clustering. The latter had an effect mainly on the names that originally contained one constituent. As opposed to this, hill names — being two-part names from the outset — have a name forming function mainly in the vicinity of prominent natural objects, like in *Szántott-halom rétje* (Meadow of Ploughed Hill) *Test-halom kútja* (Well of Body Hill) *Király-dombi csárda* (Inn of King's Hill), *Kutya-dombi-kút* (Well of Dog Hill) etc. The clusters of water names becomes more and more versatile as we come closer to the present-day, and thus, they also contain more and more elements. This process is less characteristic to hill names, and the original name is usually retained for the designation of the natural object itself, without a change in the type of the place.

A register of the field names of Hajdúnánás

The task of collecting the place name corpus of Hajdúnánás in a structured format, following a unified principle was carried out by me, individually. I started the compilation of the corpus with research in the archives, i.e. with the exploration of the historical sources. For this, I used unpublished manuscript maps, land-register maps, records of general assemblies, land registers and the documents of the town's wastelands – all these being available in various archives. Furthermore, more recently published sources were also processed during the research, e.g. charter and document collections, papers of witch hunts, urbariums, censuses and gazetteers. Data coming from these sources form the basis of the register: more than 200 sources were consulted for it to be completed. The corpus of names thus compiled was the basis for the collecting field work from the spoken language as well. This was realized in the form of interviews with 40 informants (taking into consideration the extension of the peripheral territories of the town). The register containing the field names of the settlement comprises 5475 name variants of 2406 natural objects in a dictionary-entry format (almost half of this, ca. 2800 name variants, come from the spoken data).

4. Publications in the topic of the dissertation

Essays

1. Hajdúnánás határának helyneveiről. In: *Juvenilia I. Debreceni bölcsész diákkörösök antológiája.* Ed. KOVÁCS ZOLTÁN–SZIRÁK PÉTER. Debrecen: Kossuth Egyetemi Kiadó, 2006, 207–217.

2. Határrésszé vált települések névbokrosodásának elméleti kérdései. In: *Juvenilia II. Debreceni bölcsész diákkörösök antológiája.* Ed. PETE LÁSZLÓ. Debrecen: Kossuth Egyetemi Kiadó, 2008, 229–235.

3. Határrésszé vált települések névbokrosodásának elméleti kérdései. In: *Név és valóság. A VI. Magyar Névtudományi Konferencia előadásai.* Ed. BÖLCSKEI ANDREA–N. CSÁSZI ILDIKÓ. Budapest: Károli Gáspár Református Egyetem BTK Magyar Nyelvtudományi Tanszéke, 2008, 217–221.

4. Vizek, vízparti helyek neveinek változása a Hajdúnánáshoz tartozó Tedej területén. *Helynévtörténeti tanulmányok 4 (2009),* 131–142.

5. Elpusztult települések lokalizációjának kérdéséről. Kísérlet a középkori Süldő falu azonosítására. *Helynévtörténeti Tanulmányok 5 (2010),* 169–187.

6. Elpusztult középkori települések lokalizációjának helynévtörténeti kutatásáról. In: *Interdiszciplinaritás a régiókutatásban. Fiatal kutatók nemzetközi konferenciája I.* Ed. BARTHA ÁKOS–SZÁLKAI TAMÁS–SZENDREI ÁKOS. Elektronikus tanulmánykötet. CD. Debrecen: Hajdú–Bihar Megyei Levéltár, 2011, 7–22.

7. A történeti források szocioonomasztikai felhasználhatósága a helynévrendszerek vizsgálatában. *Helynévtörténeti Tanulmányok 6 (2011),* 133–150.

8. Határrésszé vált települések nevei mint névalkotó lexémák. *Helynévtörténeti Tanulmányok 7 (2012),* 77–84.

9. A halmok neveinek szerkezeti felépítéséről és változási hajlandóságáról. *Helynévtörténeti Tanulmányok 8 (2012),* 101–110.

10. A Magyar Digitális Helynévtár. A települések helynévrendszerének megjelenítése, elemzési útjai és lehetőségei. In: *Interdiszciplinaritás a régiókutatásban. Fiatal kutatók nemzetközi konferenciája II.* Elektronikus tanulmánykötet. Ed. BARTHA ÁKOS–SZÁLKAI TAMÁS–SZENDREI ÁKOS. Debrecen: Magyar Nemzeti Levéltár Hajdú–Bihar Megyei Levéltára, 2012, 57–64.

11. Names of settlements that have turned into borderland as name forming lexemes In: A XXIV. Nemzetközi Névtani Kongresszus kötetében. Accepted for publication.

12. Az élőnyelvi helynévgyűjtések módszertani problémáiról. *Helynévtörténeti Tanulmányok*

9. Accepted for publication.