

Territorial differences in toponym systems, that can be identified mainly in the structure of microtoponyms, have not been considered as a primary concern by onomastics so far. My dissertation aims at filling this gap in certain respects. My main objective was to answer the question often raised in onomastic literature whether there exist boundaries for phenomena in toponym systems or perhaps onomastic dialects.

My dissertation consists of three larger units. The first chapter focusses on the question of the systemic character of and the ways of creating models from toponyms and then, in connection to this, sums up issues concerning boundaries of phenomena and onomastic dialects that can be identified in toponym systems. In the second part of this chapter details regarding the method I consider appropriate to study this question are described.

In the second chapter of my work, I first compare toponym-giving patterns of three areas which are not linked territorially, and thus I prove that geographical distance may result in differences in name taxonomy. I then use a comparative study for the set of toponyms of Vas county by municipalities to try to prove that the diffusion of certain phenomena and toponym structures is highly influenced by certain geographical factors.

In the next subchapter, I study the influence exerted by migration on toponym systems. My work hypothesis in this regard was that migration of people results also in the migration of toponym-giving patterns, thus a cross-influence of name-patterns may result in their separation. In this chapter, I compare toponym-giving habits of Székely and Transdanubian people, based on the toponyms of three villages in Tolna county. The Tolna villages I researched saw the settlement of Székely people following the boundary rearrangements. The toponyms of villages selected for the study thus seemed appropriate to cast a light on the differences in onomastic systems.

The next subchapter of the second chapter is based on a presumption very similar to the previous one. In this part of the dissertation, I examine the influence on onomastic systems exerted by a foreign language environment. My basic hypothesis is that toponym-giving patterns of different languages may influence each other. I wish to present this using the Hungarian/German/Slovenian toponyms of the Vend region in Vas county. This was the corpus based on which I examined toponym systems belonging to each ethnic group, as well as their differences and similarities.

A model based study of toponym systems

A statistical approach to the comparative analysis of toponym patterns

Eszter Ditrői

In the third and final chapter of my dissertation a mathematical statistics model is applied to define onomastic dialect areas. I chose the BRAY–CURTIS matrix based comparative model which is suitable for comparing different systems according to several features. For this study, I used the toponym systems of Vas county.

During my research, I uploaded more than 2,300 micronyms from Felcsík, three municipalities of the Fehérgyarmat and three ones of the Veszprém microregion (CSOMORTÁNI 1997, 2005, VeMFN 2000, KÁLNÁSI 1984). In addition, I also used the toponyms of three Tolna municipalities—Izmény, Kakasd and Bonyhád—based on “Tolna megye földrajzi nevei” (Geographical names of Tolna county; TMFN 1981). In my entire dissertation, I have use as basis the bulk of the toponym corpus from “Vas megye földrajzi nevei” (Geographical names of Vas county; VMFN 1982). I examined the toponyms of 135 municipalities with the aim of proving the territorial differentiation of toponym systems. In order to have all the examination aspects described above covered, my toponym corpus for the analysis contains approx. 12,000 contemporary toponyms.