

The argument of the doctoral dissertation

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**Onomatosystematical Examination of the Settlement Names of Bihar
Comitat in the Middle Ages**

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The matter and the objectives of the dissertation

Only a few works have been concerned with the systematic linguistic examination of the onomastic corpus of the Old Hungarian age up to these days. Although personal names and especially toponyms play a very significant role in our knowledge about the history of Hungarian language since as being remnants they may provide a picture of the earliest conditions of Hungarian and their changes may cast light upon the change of the language as a whole. That's why the systematic examination of the onomastic corpus would make it possible to draw larger conclusions.

The work entitled „A magyar nyelv történeti nyelvtana” ([Historical Grammar of Hungarian] Vol. I: 1991; Vol. II, Part 1: 1992; Vol. II, Part 2: 01995) aimed at creating a great synthesis in the field of historical linguistics recently but the lack of the systematic examination of the above mentioned remnants is observable in it, too. Thus it is necessary in any case to submit this layer of the language to a profound analysis. At the level of grammar, these examinations may have results mainly in the field of phonetics and dialect studies but these are the groundings for the examination of the system of the language.

With these problems in mind and with the aim of processing the whole onomastic material of the charters of the Early Old Hungarian age, the Department of Hungarian Linguistics of the University of Debrecen started to create a computer database under the title Magyar Névarchívum [Hungarian Archives of Names] some years ago. The two volumes of the series „Helynévtörténeti adatok a korai ómagyar korból” ([Historical Data of Toponyms from the Early Old Hungarian Age] abbr. as HA.) published so far are the results of this processing work since they examine the layer of microtoponyms of the large onomastic material of the Early Old Hungarian age arranged first by comitats, then in alphabetic order. I have been a member of the research group preparing this work since the beginnings and the examination of the onomastic material of Bihar comitat was almost evident for me.

Beyond parochialism in the good sense, some more reasons also supported the monographic processing of the onomastic material of this area. The selection of this comitat was reasoned by its various geographic

conditions resulting from its large territory and also by its extremely rich onomastic material and by the fact that its population is not homogeneously Hungarian. Because of the large territory of the comitat, I am concerned only with a part of the onomastic corpus, that is, the group of settlement names. I started to examine settlement names based on György GYÖRFFY's „Az Árpád-kori Magyarország történeti földrajza” ([Historical Geography of Hungary in the Árpadian Era] Vol. I: Budapest, 1963), which ends its processing works at the papal talliage list of 1332–1337 (I prepared my thesis based on this material) and later I supplemented this material from various sources and extended the examination to the end of the Old Hungarian age instead of the Early Old Hungarian age and I publish the relevant data beyond that, that is, until the end of the XVIth century. As a first step, I prepared a historical-etymological dictionary based on the collected onomastic corpus and this is the foundation of my doctoral dissertation. In my thesis, I wished to explore the onomatosystematical and grammatical relations of the names already explored in historical-etymological respects. In the future, I would like to publish both works.

My dissertation consists of six larger units. In the first chapter, I outline the settlement history of Bihar comitat, including the situation of the foreign population, too. In the second chapter, I am concerned with the onomastic continuity of the Carpathian basin and, in the third one, I provide a sketch on the research history of onomastics. Since the examination of the early onomastic material may help a lot in completing the picture about the phonetic and dialectal history of Hungarian, in the next chapter I analyse the onomastic corpus from such aspect. But here I do not outline the general phonetic history of the era but my examination focuses on those characteristics that are observable in the given corpus. The onomatosystematical examination of settlement names is presented in the fifth and sixth chapters and the descriptive analysis is followed by an examination concerning the history of name formation. The dissertation includes some maps, too; there is a summarizing one with all settlement names that can be localized but I also publish maps that present the name types of the comitat. These maps well show the territorial characteristics and the rates of each name type.

I. Settlement history of Bihar comitat

In the Middle Ages, Bihar comitat was the largest comitat of the Tiszántúl region so it was often called “Biharország” [Bihar Country]. The geographical image of the comitat is variegated. Its basic feature is that about half of the territory is occupied by mountains and the other half is plain but extensive marshes were also characteristic due to the large number of rivers and their swellings.

The historical importance of the comitat comes from the fact that it was the so-called *ducatus*, that is, the possession of the prince who was heir to the throne in Hungary in its earliest times. On the strength of archeological findings, the area most densely populated by Hungarians was the territory between the rivers Berettyó and Sebes-Körös after the conquest of Hungary.

The territory of the large comitat was inhabited by other peoples besides Hungarians, too. I will touch upon Székelys, Turkic peoples, the Slav population as well as the significant Rumanian population in separate chapters. The presence of the first two peoples is indicated by only few settlement names. But the latter two peoples can be traced by layers of Slavic (19) and Rumanian (53) settlement names, besides those Hungarian names that refer to their presence.

II. Anonymity and naming. Name continuity

The period preceding the Hungarian conquest was a really hectic era in the life of the Asian and East-European peoples. It was the era of the great migration when huge masses started from the East to the West. As part of it, the Hungarians who were engaged in shepherding and animal husbandry, occupied their dwellings area in the Carpathian basin. It must have been emerged as a natural need to denote certain parts, places, rivers and the gradually established settlements with proper names.

According to the traditional onomastic interpretation, names originate from early, primary denotations of places with common words and their way goes to the subsequent, secondary, real proper names. But this idea has to be rejected in this form; the secondariness of the category of proper names may be accepted only in that respect that in every case of naming,

only such a referent may get a proper name which can also be denoted by an appellative but these common and proper names may be completely independent of each other linguistically.

When a people settles at a new place, it is natural, as orientation seems necessary, that the process of name giving starts. In case they arrive at an already occupied or inhabited territory, they might „inherit” the toponymicon or at least part of it. The remaining population will keep and pass on the onomastic material and the new inhabitants will take it over, adding new names to it as well.

Researches justified that the most persistent layer of names is that of the hydronyms, especially those river names that are abounding and are of considerable length. Hydronyms may carry important pieces of information for settlement history, too, since as it is a general argument in toponymy that the most ancient people of an area with mixed population is that one which had given the hydronyms of the place.

The poorness of Xth century written records hinders the examination of the toponyms after the conquest of Hungary. From this period, only few records are available for the researchers from abroad and even the data of the XI–XIIth centuries are poorish since Hungarian scribal culture was characterized by backwardness that time. The sudden rise in the number of written records can be dated back to the XIIIth century when the level of the scribal culture first met the needs of the public administration and the charters recorded bulks of toponyms as a result of describings of estate boundaries, registrations of possessions, donations, and possessory actions.

The onomastic material of Bihar comitat examined by us can be referred to only after the conquest of Hungary. Not a single settlement name of the comitat can be proved to have been existing before the conquest but there is one among the largest rivers the origin of the name of which can be dated back to an earlier time. The name of the river *Körös*, which takes its source from three branches in the Bihar mountain, belongs to the ancient Indo-European onomastic layer and probably came through some Slavic intermediary language into Hungarian.

III. Research history of Hungarian onomastics

The XVIIIth century brought a basic turn as compared to the general human interest towards geographical names since this was the time the significance of their place in the vocabulary and their being an organic part of the vocabulary of Hungarian was recognized. The XIXth century saw the emergence of larger-scale collections of geographical names, although these works had not been prepared for linguistic procession but rather for historical and geographical statistics. All the period was characterized by an attitude sensitive to peculiarities and at the same time by a historical orientation as regarding the collections. From this time on, the interest was mainly focused on hydronyms and settlement names and, in the last quarter of the century, research became divided into three branches, these being the historical-geographical, the linguistic and the ethnographic ones. The end of the XIXth century meant the large-scale widening of collecting work and the „classical” era of many monographs. Following the turn of the centuries, the above-mentioned three branches became more and more intertwined and the relative multitude of approaches was replaced by the monopoly of the historical one. The research of place names became more and more the auxiliary science of historical disciplines (historical geography, settlement history, economic history, social history) and, as a consequence, the linguistic examination of names was not really able to develop.

The 1920s–1930s saw the emergence of a generation of linguists referred to as the Budapest school by the literature, and the roots of which can be dated back to the beginning of the century. The works of its representatives were basically permeated by the historical approach either in partial problems or in general questions of linguistics. The skeleton of this research programme was an examination from the viewpoint of historical phonetics and morphology. Besides the influence of the school was very significant even as regarding historical lexicology, etymology and onomastics.

Hungarian typology of place names was actually born in the 1930s–1940s. As Gyula KRISTÓ states, two kinds of typologies of Hungarian place names were created this time. One of these is the onomatopysiological typology, having the name as such in the centre of its

examination, and the other is historical typology which is interested in the oldest types of settlement names, that is, place names formed from mere tribe's names, anthroponyms, ethnonyms, names with *-i*, *-d* derivatives as well as compound names with *-falva*, *-háza*, *-laka* posterior constituents.

In the middle of the XXth century, a new significant change can be traced in the examination of place names. The viewpoint of linguistics was stronger and stronger, and, on the other hand, in connection with it, the research of names began to extricate itself from its auxiliary role and the idea of its independence was also articulated. The first onomastic conference was held in 1958, being the very first such event of Hungarian scientific life. Although not starting a really significant onomastic programme, it called attention to the scientific importance of names, at the same time increasing the inclination to research, too. In the 1970s–1980s, the way of onomastic examinations turned into such a direction which was made possible by the recognition the systematic nature of place names.

IV. Analysis of settlement names from the viewpoint of historical phonetics

For a long time, Hungarian philologists thought that Hungarian conquerors came into the Carpathian basin speaking a uniform language which was later territorially divided as a consequence of the melting of foreign populations and the final settlement. As opposed to this, according to a common scientific standpoint, the dialects of Hungarian may have become distinct well before the conquest, although rather as connected to the tribal organization in the migration age. For its reasoning, we may rely on that fact of experience that in the language of a larger area the emergence of dialects is always inevitable. These exceptions may be explained with dialectal differences in certain cases.

According to a more and more frequent theory of onomastic research, the examination of an adequately large onomastic material, which originates from a well-confinable area, makes it possible to draw conclusions in the fields of historical onomastics, dialectology and linguistic geography. Both the richness and the territorial extent of the onomastic corpus of Bihar comitat allows us this kind of examination, too. Examinations in linguistic

geography may be realized on different levels of the language, that is, we may outline the phonetic, morphologic and lexical features of the dialect of an area and, what's more, we may analyse this way the structure of place names, too. These examinations can be grounded by the fact that the onomastic corpus of an area is always specific as it constitutes a distinct and independent subsystem, created according to the rules of the given area, within the system of names formed in compliance with the general name forming rules of the language.

The exploration of the dialectal features of Old Hungarian is also made possible by the examination of written remnants. The first approach level of the examination of dialectal features is the examination of the phonetic situation. The differences between dialects are traditionally analysed by dialectologists first from the aspects of phonetics. As there are territorial differences today in the phonetic system of Hungarian, they must have existed in the territory of Hungary in the Old Hungarian age, too.

In my dissertation, I overviewed the phonetic situation of Old Hungarian as well as the changes in phonetic history, following the order and categories of the literature on historical phonetics. From the literature, I focused on such notes which concern territorial features and differences of the phenomena. I tried to relate the features of Bihar comitat's place names in the field of historical phonetics to these. I examined labial–illabial correspondences which show a basic difference in frequency between dialects (*i* ~ *ü*, *ö* ~ *ë*), as well as correspondences according to the degree of closedness of vowels (*é* ~ *í*, *o* ~ *u*, *ő* ~ *ű*). The presence or lack of vowels show in most cases the realization of the tendency of two open syllables (*Kisbaromó* > *Kisbarmó*, *Sólyomos* > *Solymos*) or the appearance of breaking sounds (*Drug* > *Dorog*, *Gabrián* > *Gáborján*). Following the problem of vowel harmony (*Terján* > *Terjén* ~ *Tarján*), I examined the specific diphthongs of the comitat (̣, ̤). Besides vowels, the situation of consonants can be well examined, too, that is, the presence of *l* in a checked syllable, the situation of *β*, tendencies in consonantal changes: see depalatalization (*Gyióstelek* > *Dióstelek*), affrication (*Begés* > *Begécs*), and sporadic consonantal changes *n* > *m* (*Bajon* > *Bajom*), *m* > *n*(*y*) (*Ábrám* > *Ábrány*), *l* > *n* (*Ladány* > *Nadány*), *r* > *l* (*Serénd* > *Selénd*), *t* > *k* (*Csitmő* > *Csökmő*), *kj* > *ty* (*Berekjó* > *Berettyó*), *ht* > *jt* (*Bohtu* > *Bojt*). From the

changes of consonant connections, assimilation (*Cétka* > *Cécke*), dissimilation (*Vassán(y)* > *Varsány*), and metathesis (*Kisbátord* > *Kisbártod*) can be observed in the names of Bihar. It is observable, just like in the case of vowels, that consonants are either present or lacking: see consonantal elision (**Henchida* > *Hencida*), and epenthesis by an opposite direction in etymological sound (*Verned* > *Verneld*). Phonetic changes concerning syllables are represented by haplology (*Vojvoda* > *Vajda*), and contraction (*Tavárnok* > *Tárnok*) in the corpus of the settlement names of Bihar comitat.

V. Onomatosystematical examinations

1. Theoretical foundations

In one of the central chapters of the dissertation, I attempted to perform the descriptive analysis of the historical onomastic corpus of Bihar comitat. It may seem a controversial issue to do a descriptive analysis on an onomastic corpus referred to from the conquest to the end of the XVIth century, but the linguistic examination of the old age of history, in particular due to the lack of data, is often to be found in such a controversial situation.

In the case of place names, this procedure is justified even with the circumstance that the system of place names seems relatively stable regarding certain linguistic levels. Place names, as part of the vocabulary, and similarly to common names, can be best caught in their structural aspect from the descriptive approach. During an analysis of this kind, name constituents can be examined from two aspects, that is, functional-semantic and lexical-morphologic. These two levels of analysis are certainly closely interconnected, and their correlations are the more clear if we will not separate them rigidly, so I tried to stress on their organic integrity by discussing them together.

The basis for my analysis was that every name-giving is a semantically conscious activity. In the so-called natural name-giving, mostly the characteristics of the referents are expressed. When coming into being, every name is of a descriptive character, and the motives which serve as a basis for the name giving appear either indirectly or directly in it. But it

happens in every case that the giver of the name creates such kind of a name an example of which he had known formerly so the new name will be an integral part of a system of names which is familiar for the giver of the name. All this means that the ways for name formation and the lexical means are evident for the giver of the name with the help of which he/she may create a new element of the system, that is, each and every act of name formation takes place as a result of the operation of model influence. So if the creation of a new name becomes necessary, our name models induce the creation of the new name taking the actual characteristics into account. Consequently, the examination of individual names makes it possible to recognize larger connections and the examination of an onomastic material with an adequate number of elements will offer a basis for outlining the onomastic models of the given language, too.

2. Theoretical framework of the analysis

The theoretical framework of my analysis of place names is provided by István HOFFMANN's model for onomastic analysis (Helynevek nyelvi elemzése [Linguistic analysis of place names]. Debrecen, 1993) which was written with the intention of the creation of such a uniform model of description which can be used for modern onomastic examinations. Its peculiarity is that it approaches the elements, that is, individual names, from the system's side. Principally it attempts to provide a framework for the functional-structural description of microtoponyms but it does not exclude the system's being applicable in the scope of macrotoponyms with success. In the model of analysis, the examination of names takes place on two basic levels; the structural (descriptive) analysis means the functional-semantic, lexical-morphological and syntagmatic analysis. The other great level is the examination of the history of name formation within which we may separate geographical names formed with syntagmatic construction, morphematic construction, semantic name formation, structural change as well as transonymization. Establishing these unambiguous main categories, the author's aim was to grasp the most important types of name formation by a system of categories being on the same level.

When examining the onomastic corpus of Bihar comitat (1,466 different

name forms, with much more occurrences in charters), I relied on the viewpoints of this system, aligning its categories to the characteristic features of the onomastic corpus of the comitat. I assume that this, on one hand, makes it possible to examine the given onomastic material on more than one levels and from more than one directions, and, on the other, it may prove that this onomastic model is useful for the surveying analysis of a large, heterogeneous and relatively closed onomastic material.

a) Structural analysis

Since the two levels of functional-semantic and lexical-morphologic analysis are closely intertwined, I did not separate them stiffly into two and, discussing them together, I attempted to show their integrity. The basic point of my analysis was the consideration of functional-semantic features and, together with this, I examined the lexical elements corresponding to the relevant semantic types. One- and two-part settlement names were overviewed one by one, following each other. Structurally different name types may have very different background and characteristics as regarding the history of name formation, thus, as a secondary viewpoint, I also considered ways of name formation and structural changes of names.

This mode of discussion would probably be the best to survey the very rich literature of settlement names in a uniform framework, which is often very differing and many-coloured in its approach. A further advantage of this way of construction is that this way the traditional and the new onomastic set of terms can be successfully brought together.

According to the above-said, in the first functional category I surveyed those names which can be connected to the inhabitants and possessors of the given settlement, that is persons associable with the settlement. These might denote groups (like *tribe's names*, and *trade names*) as well as individuals (like *personal names*) alike. In a certain respect, *patrocinny names* are similar to the group of personal names, but these, on the other hand, might be connected to the names of buildings. *Names of buildings* are represented by a separate group, too, and *names referring to market holdings* express a social function similar to the previous ones. But the further categories are less determined socially. The environment of the settlements is

characterized by *names referring to the flora and fauna*. Settlement names *expressing local situation* may equally refer to natural and settlement environment. Mainly a direct attitude gives the basis for settlement names *expressing attributes* referring to size and form, which present situations in settlement history with the determination of age. As a consequence of the specific functional-semantic way of discussion, although individual names appear in each former type, too, it seemed practical to survey the role of *name constituents expressing the type of the place* in settlement names as well as, although briefly, the group of *name constituents with denoting function* in a separate chapter. I discussed the question of the complements of two-constituent names, that is, the so-called *differentiated names* in a separate chapter.

The structural feature of names accompanies their functional discussion throughout each semantic group. Among the medieval settlement names of Bihar comitat, there are 844 (60.45%) simplex and 552 (39.54%) compound settlement names, so the proportion of simplex names is one and a half times as great.

Most of the medieval settlement names of Bihar is first referred to from the period between the beginnings of the XIIIth century and the middle of the XVth century, but the first data of many names originates from the second half of the XVIth century. If we examine the two groups of settlement names separately, we will see, that most of the simplex settlement names originates from the period between 1200 and 1300, while there is a kind of equilibrium between 1351 and 1400, and the striking rise in the number of two-constituent names, which can be reasoned mainly by the frequency of the division of possessions, is observable from 1401 on.

b) Analysis according to the history of name formation

The aim of the historical analysis of place names is to state the roles of the creation of new names and to draw the directions of their changes. In the creation of new names, the already existing toponyms play a determining role, either as individual names as such or through their model influence. But names are not eternal in their original form, as lexical-morphological change is often accompanied with the restructuring of the already existing

names.

Thus names are always categorized in the historical typology according to the last name forming event. We assign them to types of formation by the examination of that onomatophysiological moment in which the given sequence of sounds becomes an element of the Hungarian system of place names in a specific meaning. But the historical analysis of the Old Hungarian onomastic corpus will cause serious problems many times since these names constitute a synchronic system so their history of formation cannot be proven beyond any doubt. But the analysis of the history of formation may provide us with convincing results only if the examined name is referred to frequently enough in the period examined. But lacking data, we often have to confine ourselves to the evident analogies of the Old Hungarian system of names and as well as to the analysis of its systemacity.

1. The borrowing of names

Borrowing of names may play a role in the system of settlement names of any language and such is the case regarding Hungarian stock of names, too. We may consider borrowed names only those which were borrowed as geographical names. Borrowed names must be assigned to a separate category, since, being of foreign origin in the Hungarian system of place names, it is not necessary to examine their full history of formation and it is not possible, either, as they have neither functional nor lexical appellative meaning for the Hungarian name users.

Medieval "Biharország" was our largest comitat in territory the population of which, as we have already seen it in the relevant chapter, was not homogeneously Hungarian. Of course, the majority of the names is of Hungarian origin, but the number of Rumanian names (53) cannot be disregarded due to the significant Rumanian population, and settlement names of Slavic origin own the third place regarding their frequency (19). The presence of foreign names is referred to only as of the beginning of the XIIIth century, and they occur in a significant number in the XVIth century.

2. Semantic name formation

Among the ways of formation of endogeneous settlement names, semantic name formation seemed the favourite procedure of naming which

means that certain elements of the already existing set of linguistic elements will take up a new, toponymic meaning and this change will not concern the morphologic structure. This way of formation appears almost exclusively in the form of metonymic naming in Bihar, and 510 names were created this way, that is, 37% of all the onomastic data. Settlement names created this way were divided into six subgroups: (1) the localization of the settlement > settlement (*Láz, Sziget*), (2) person > place which is his/her possession or inhabitation (*Bátor, Fancsal*), (3) population > the place where they live (*Besenyő, Orosz*), (4) building > the place where it is to be found (*Monostor, Palota*), (5) spring, brooke or lake > the place where it is to be found (*Almás, Hosszúaszó*), (6) plant or animal > their living place (*Barmó*).

Another type of semantic name formation is the moving of names into the stock of Hungarian settlement names. There is a mere settlement, *Velence*, in Bihar comitat whose name we can assign into this category, and this was brought by Italian settlers.

3. Morphematic construction

The way of formation third in frequency in medieval Bihar was morphematic name giving. The literature means more than one phenomena by the derivation of names. I myself consider derived names only those which became geographical names through affixation with a derivative, the role of the derivative being the creation of the place name. Derivation in this concept is that way of name formation during the course of which the toponymic status of a sequence of signs is born by the stem's being affixed with a toponymic derivative by the giver of the name.

This way of name formation always results in a simplex name. But here we have to call attention to the fact that we may come across derivative elements in certain two-constituent names, too. They certainly can appear there, too, but these settlement names owe their creation not only to the appearance of derivatives.

An onomastic formant may be affixed either to an appellative or to a proper name (anthroponym and toponym). An appellative, on the lexical level, may be either a simple geographical common word (*Láz, Telkesd*), a rank name or a trade name (*Báród, Vadászó*), less commonly an ethnonym

(*Csehi, Olaszi*), a plant name (*Halyagd*), a word referring to an animal (*Ártánd, Hodosd*), a name of a building (*Várad*), a simplex toponym (*Éri, Homorogd*). But the most significant group is that of those settlement names in which an anthroponym serves as the basis of the name (*Jánosd, Ősi*). Names created with derivation refer to some feature of the settlement on the functional-semantic level, that is, they are simplex names. So the derivative means 'place' in a sense, thus these place names are close to two-constituent names in this respect.

A really colourful range of derivatives can be observed in the onomastic material of Bihar comitat in this age. Besides their reckoning and the observation of their chronological features, I also examined what alternants of derived names have been born for years. One of the groups is characterised by that derived forms alternate with forms without derivatives (*Bölcs ~ Bölcsi, Tárnok ~ Tárnoki*). The question often put by the literature whether which is the first chronologically in the case of these pairs of names is not answered unambiguously by this corpus, too, and we may state that both the underived → derived and the derived → underived direction of typological shift had existed in the Old Hungarian age. The number of such morphological pairs is very significant where, keeping the original derivative, a derived name appears in an other form, too, this being supplemented with a new, differentiating name element (*Kovácsi ~ Apakovácsi, Püspöki ~ Piski ~ Egyházaspüspöki*). It is ordinary to say that the linguistic process of moving from the simple towards the more complex is a general tendency of linguistic development. This tendency is even true for the system of settlement names as derived names are often replaced by compound, two-constituent names. The ways of the general extension of the vocabulary are more and more characterised by the fact that compounding replaces and pushes into the background derivation which was relatively frequent in the Old Hungarian age. It also appears in place names in such a way that the derivative is replaced by some name constituent, originally a geographical common name (*Bálinti ~ Bálinttelke ~ Bálintülése, Csősz ~ Csősztelek*).

4. Settlement names formed by syntagmatic construction

Those names are considered as the results of syntagmatic construction which are created as such structures already in the moment of their origin. As a syntagmatic structure, no settlement name can be other than a two-constituent name as both of its constituents convey some information on the referent.

The relevant part of our onomastic material is formed exclusively on the basis of *a d j e c t i v a l c o m p o u n d s*. The relation of the elements of the structures in our corpus is either qualificative (*Kisfalud, Nagymacs, Ócsalános, Újsemjén*), or possessive. This latter structure may appear in a marked (*Martontelke, Pósalaka*) or unmarked (*Derzsbócs, Tóttelek*) form. The proportion of qualificative compounds is far greater than that of possessive ones.

Lexically, any of the name constituents can be an appellative or a proper name, and a one- or two-constituent microname itself. It seems that although possessive lexemes (anthroponyms, trade names) were favoured as first, distinctive adjectival name constituents when creating two-constituent names, the representation of some characteristic feature of the place meant a stronger onomastic motivation for contemporary people. The first appearance of settlement names with syntagmatic structure can be observed in the XIIth century, the rise of their numbers took place between the beginning of the XIVth century and the middle of the XVth century, and an outstanding rise in the proportion of the type can be observed in the second half of the XVIth century. From among settlement names created with the two types of syntagmatic structure, it seems that the qualificative ones are earlier.

5. Settlement names formed by structural change

As I have already pointed it out, place names and settlement names are linguistic signs on their own and as such they may come into being, change and disappear. In case their morphologic structure changes, we call it a structural change. So the starting point of the change is always an already existing name form in this kind of name formation. These name forms either extend or lessen during their development. Changes into both direction might have occur on the level of name elements and name

constituents, too. Lessening by a name element is called *r e d u c t i o n* (*Csáklyás* > *Csáklya*, *Papmezeje* > *Papmező*, *Bánkegyház* > *Bánk*, *Cigánymiklósfalva* > *Cigányfalva*), lessening by a name constituent is called *e l l i p s i s* (*Dobracsenyháza* > *Dobracseny*, *Kávástelek* > *Kávás*, *Berekböszörmény* > *Berek*, *Mezőpankóta* > *Pankóta*). Changes into the opposite direction on the level of name elements are called *e x t e n s i o n* (*Ér* > *Éri*, *Derzsbócs* > *Derzsbócsa*, *Poklostelek* > *Poklostelke*, *Almás* > *Almásmonostora*), and on the level of name constituents they are called *c o m p l e t i o n* (*Ábrány* > *Ábrányfalva*, *Besenyő* > *Besenyőtelek*).

6. Names formed by folk etymology

The range of the phenomenon of folk etymology concerns not only common words but it appears among the possible ways of development of settlement names, too, as from the earliest times. This change is the consequence of that linguistic fact that a place name may lose its etymological transparency after a time. When the etymological origin of a settlement name is not clear for the user of the language or the user of the name, that is, the name becomes unmotivated, the user's command of names often tries to render it again motivated and to provide it with etymological transparency. Such lexeme is understood in the settlement name which has originally nothing to do with that place name. In settlement names, each time it may happen that it will result in such morphological changes in settlement names which lack regularity.

In our comitat, the number of settlement names formed by folk etymology is not really significant (*Szentelek*, *Nyüved*, *Amberus*, *Kisháza*, *Vércsorog*), and I assigned them into the relevant historical categories of name formations according to the original name forming motive.

VI. Conclusions of the dissertation

Examination of early settlement names is really important for outlining Hungarian phonetical and dialectal history; many settlement names of the most extensive comitat of the Middle Ages gave me a possibility to examine the dialect of a relatively closed and, at the same time, rather large area of the Hungarian-speaking area and to show its contemporary features. This

principally means the observation of phonetic features, and the results of this may contribute to drawing a more clear-cut image on the history of Hungarian and its dialects.

Settlement names as remnants from earlier times help us in the question of the characteristics of the Hungarian system of names in the era of its coming into being. Having it as a starting point, I showed what lexical and, according to periods, grammatical means were applied by the name giver if a new name had to be created in Bihar. Hungarian system of names has patterns in every age, but it is not sure at all that the application of these patterns happens in equal proportion on the whole Hungarian-speaking territory within the same period as we may find specific onomastic dialects in the cases of certain areas. So by presenting the name types, I actually outlined the system of names of the area of Bihar. In a sense, the maps of names are destined to show the results of the above examinations in a pictorial way. The huge onomastic corpus also made it possible to examine the directions and types of change of individual settlement name forms; as a result of broad temporary limits, several cases of typological shift might be well traced, too.

The results of my examinations concern the eastern part of the Hungarian-speaking territory and I plan to process the accessible microtoponyms of Bihar according to similar principles and methods.

List of publications concerning the topic of the dissertation

Monographic works:

RÁCZ Anita—(HOFFMANN István—TÓTH Valéria): Ómagyar kori helynévfeldolgozások [Processing of Place Names from the Old Hungarian Age]. A Debreceni Kossuth Lajos Tudományegyetem Magyar Nyelvtudományi Tanszékének Kiadványai, Vol 64. Debrecen, 1996. 28 pages.

RÁCZ Anita—(HOFFMANN István—TÓTH Valéria): Helynévtörténeti adatok a korai ómagyar korból [Historical Data of Toponyms from the Early Old Hungarian Age], Vol. I: Abaúj–Csongrád vármegye [Abaúj–Csongrád Comitatus]. (A Magyar Névtörténeti Kiadványai, Vol. 1) Debrecen, 1997. 156 pages, 33 maps.

RÁCZ Anita—(HOFFMANN István—TÓTH Valéria): Helynévtörténeti adatok a korai ómagyar korból [Historical Data of Toponyms from the Early Old Hungarian Age], Vol. II: Doboka–Győr vármegye [Doboka–Győr Comitatus]. (A Magyar Névtörténeti Kiadványai, Vol. 3) Debrecen, 1999. 123 pages, 16 maps.

Papers:

RÁCZ Anita—(HOFFMANN István—TÓTH Valéria): Helynévtörténeti adatok a korai ómagyar korból [Historical Data of Toponyms from the Early Old Hungarian Age]. In: *Magyar Nyelvjárások*, Issue 33 (1996): pp. 43–52. This latter paper has been published as a monograph under the title Ómagyar kori helynévfeldolgozások (see above).

Az ómagyar kori településnevek differenciálódásáról [On the Differentiation of Old Hungarian Settlement Names]. In: *Magyar Nyelvjárások*, Issue 34 (1997): pp. 125–46.

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Mássalhangzó-torlódások ómagyar kori helyneveinkben [Consonant Clusters in our Settlement Names in the Old Hungarian Age]. Under press for the volume of papers in honour of Piroska B. GERGELY.

Conference lecture:

Névtani vizsgálódások az Árpád-kori Bihar megye területéről [Onomastic

Examinations in the Area of Bihar Comitatus in the Árpadian Age]. Lecture delivered at the 5th Hungarian Onomastic Conference (Miskolc, 1995). In: *MNyTK*. Vol. 209: pp. 259–62.

Reviews:

- RÁCZ Anita(—TÓTH Valéria): PÜSPÖKI NAGY Péter: A Csallóköz neveiről. Ismertetés [Review on Péter PÜSPÖKI NAGY's On the Names of Csallóköz.]. In: *Magyar Nyelvjárások*, Issue 31 (1993): pp. 138–143.
- K. Fábíán Ilona: A Váradi Regestrum helynevei. Szegedi Középkortörténeti Könyvtár 13. Szeged, 1997. (165 oldal + 2 térképmelléklet). Ismertetés [Review on Ilona K. FÁBIÁN's Place Names of the Váradi Regestrum]. In: *Magyar Nyelvjárások*, Issue 36 (1998): pp. 159–166.