

I. Summary of 1-2 pages

Language contacts and interaction between toponyms

According to what we know today, we cannot generally rely on direct evidence when investigating ethnic relations in periods with no or not enough sources, since there is no written (or other) material that would directly inform us about the population situation in the Carpathian basin. This circumstance does not only refer to the period prior to Hungarian written records, i.e. to the period before the Hungarian Conquest and the age immediately following it, but also to the centuries when thousands of documents were created. Namely, in the early documents, the data referring to the ethnic affiliation of residents was not recorded.

In my thesis, I aim at presenting an onomastic analysis which would offer new aspects of ethnic conclusions derived from an ancient toponymicon, through a study of a multilingual stock of names and the contact between the name users. In the study, I investigate a modern toponymic system, the bilingual stock of toponyms of the Sásdi district, containing more than 13000 data, from the *Baranya megye földrajzi nevei* (Geographical names of Baranya county) toponymicon. The primary objective of the thesis therefore is the discovery of systematic connections characterising onomatosystems of Hungarian-German bilingual region. I also hope that the analytic model I have applied can lead to more general observations and tendencies, can be of help in describing bilingual toponymicons' relations in general or in the population history analysis of less attested toponymicons from earlier periods.

My thesis consists of four main units. In the first chapter, I review the literature on relationships between toponyms and population studies, and then I present the theoretical and methodological background of the studies. In the next chapter I analyse the chosen stock of data and finally I reveal the connection between results of the study and ethnic relations.

The main results of a functional-semantic and etymological study are the following:

1. From the analysis of certain name types it can be clearly seen that the ethnic denoting value of different denotata types' names can vary: among the name types present in the ancient times, settlement names are the least suitable for conclusions about the population. At the same time, name types more susceptible to social changes and less "preserved" by admin-

istrative means (hydronyms and names of borders) have a much more reliable ethnic denoting value.

2. During the analysis of ancient toponyms one needs to keep in mind that in the case of bilingualism the remnants get into the document after two confirmations (one from the “informant” acquainted with the border and the other from the charter writer). This double filter, largely influenced by prestige relations in the early old period, cannot be ignored when evaluating the ancient toponyms.

3. Toponyms of foreign origin and denominating function do not directly refer to the ethnic group, not even in the case of micronames: if in population studies we derive conclusions regarding ethnic affiliation solely based on the origin of the names, we can easily slip on a side-track. In the Sásdi district, for example, the presence of both the Hungarian and the German populations is clearly shown in the toponymicon, but there are also traces of Slavic, although at the record of data Slavic people lived only in one settlement. This phenomenon calls attention to the dangers of merging name giving and name using communities.

4. The analysis of modern onomatosystems indicates that the social prestige relations also influence the proportion of borrowings: a socially prestigious community ranks high in name giving, while name users with lower social prestige are more susceptible to borrowing already existing place names.

5. Results of the analyses of internal relations between name pairs and name groups referring to the same denotatum imply that in bilingual systems there is a semantic overlap between names with the identical meaning: most commonly, total accord. This phenomena leads to the conclusion that monolingual onomatosystems from bilingual regions are not independent from one another even if during communication name users apply their elements separately, always linking it only to one of the languages. Namely, according to our data, besides numerous features of the denotatum, the genesis of new names can be motivated by its name in the other language.

In the last chapter of the thesis, based on the experience from the investigation of a modern toponymicon, I analyse the toponymic system of Borsod comitat from the early old Hungarian period. In this unit, I am partially searching the answer to what population can be found in

this are based on the name data. Furthermore, I am interested in what changes can be found in the analysed toponymicon from the early old Hungarian period, if we further segment it along the lines of chronological borders

II. Abstract

In my thesis, I aim at presenting an onomastic analysis which would offer new aspects of ethnic conclusions derived from the ancient toponymicon, through a study of a multilingual stock of names and the contact between the name users. The primary objective of the thesis therefore is the discovery of systematic connections characterising onomatosystems of Hungarian-German bilingual region. I also hope that the analytic model I have applied can lead to more general observations and tendencies, can be of help in describing bilingual toponymicons' relations in general or in the population history analysis of less attested toponymicons from earlier periods.

III. Keywords

system of toponyms, language contact, ethnic relations in the Árpád age