

TOPONYM FORMATION IN HUNGARIAN

The objective of the dissertation is to investigate toponyms with toponym suffixes. Suffixed toponyms can be found in the earliest written records extant of the Hungarian language, for example in different documents, so it is impossible to determine precisely when this name type originated. What can be stated though is that toponym formation was the most widespread in the early old Hungarian era within the period of written Hungarian linguistic records. Although there are examples from later periods as well, the proportion of compound toponyms started to increase in the late old Hungarian period.

In general it is safe to state that Hungarian toponym suffixes were used with different meanings, i.e. they appeared in functions such as proper or collective name suffixes as well as suffixes with the meaning to 'provide'. As these words were particularly suitable for denoting toponyms, the meaning 'place' type was secondarily extracted from them. At this point they were suitable for creating new lexemes (proper names, toponyms) independent of their original function. For this reason, they are usually regarded as markers of parts of speech. It is clear that the toponym status of the base is created with the addition of the suffix.

With regard to their origin, suffixes with one constituent part (*-s*, *-d*, *-gy*, *-i*, *-j*, *-n*, *ó/-ő*) can be traced back to the Uralian (Finno-Ugric) parent language. A small number of suffix clusters: *-sd*, and *-nd* were formed as a result of internal language change through the merger of *-s* and *-d*, and *-n* and *-d*. The suffixes *-ka/-ke*, *-ság/ség* are looked upon as exceptions in many respects as they appeared later than the others, only in the 15–16th centuries. Furthermore, a Slavic influence can be shown is the spread of *-ka/-ke*, while *-ság/-ség* can be primarily observed in the formation of names of regions, which is a special name type.

The suffix *-d* seems to be the most frequently used toponym suffix which can be found not only in settlement names, but in hydronyms and other micro-toponyms as well (similarly to *-gy*, but its productivity disappeared early on). The suffixes *-i* and *-j* were more typical in settlement names, although the productivity of *-j* disappeared early on as well. The suffixes *-s* and *-ó/-ő* are still used today to form toponyms, however, it proves to be difficult to identify their functions to form toponyms as they have other still active functions as well.