

The doctoral dissertation's (PhD) abstract of thesis

Language borders and contact zones in North-East
Hungary between 1773 and 1910

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I. Motivation of the chosen matter, antecedents of research, objectives

In Hungary the dynamics of ethnic structure of the last ages, the migration, the denominational distribution and the employment structure of the population stood always in the researchers' interest. All these questions became even more important in connection with the dual period, when the question of modernisation and embourgeoisement laced every day of economy and society, up to nowadays influenced their structure. However, thanks to the development of statistics, we have the first opportunity to make examines, which are suitable for present scientific demand and methodological funds.

The transformation of Hungarian society during the 19th century is the most important event of the Hungarian history. The assimilation was the part of this process. All these topics were investigated at the scale of country many times from different views (Péter Hanák, Ferenc Glatz, László Katus etc.) which examinations are at makro-, or country scale,, but the regional (mezo scale) works are rare. The reason of this could be the administrative borders are not equivalent with physical geographical borders, or with influence of economic processes, and it makes drawing the conclusion and extension of validity difficult.

Our primary aim was to examine all these questions on a bigger region (on North-East Hungary, on Zemplén, Ung and Bereg County) to find regional symptoms, which are similar or opposite with national

situations. New, until this time with never used sources like this, we can make more exact view.

Our aim based on data was to determine that contact zones, where our sources contradict each other so separation of different ethnic groups seems to be problematic. Our aim was to determine the reasons of formation of these territories, and also the role of geographical features, the transport conditions and other social and economic conditions.

Other object was to examine the effect of urbanisation to different ethnic groups, and in general the hungarisation effect of the towns to theirs surroundings.

We had also the programme to estimate the volume of assimilation as exact as we can. We needed detailed demographic, migration and language knowledge data for this examination. We used the data of the census of the year 1900 and 1910, also in county and settlement scale.

Our aim was that to complete our work with local sources to examine our regional results validity in a settlement. We examined the society of Sátoraljaújhely based on the data (from archives about individual) of the census of 1869, and the state registers of 1896 and 1906, especially for migration. We examined the society of Sátoraljaújhely using the dates of births, occupations and places of births from the results of the census of 31st Dec 1869. The town had a bit less than 10000 inhabitants at that time. We determined a general migration

condition using the birth and mortal state registers of 1896 and 1906, and a more detailed one with using the marriage state registers.

II. Sources, applied methods

The beginning year is 1773, the royal court in Vienna made in short so called Lexicon locorum document constructed, which named first time in Hungarian history the language used by the majority in the given settlement. The closing date in our research is 1910, which was the year of the last census in Hungary in dual period.

The first fundamentals of our database were Lexicon locorum, *Magyarországnak 's a' hozzákapcsolt tartományoknak mostani állapota statisztikai és geographiai tekintetben* a book published by Elek Fényes from 1836 (in six volumes), and the census of 1880 and 1910. We used partly the work of András Vályi and Ludovicus Nagy, a tax-register from 1715 (Conscriptiones), the results of a survey about the social status of the Hungarian villeinage decreed by Marie Theresie, és and data of census of 1869 and 1900, not only in county and district scale, but also in settlement scale.

Comparative and quantitative methods are also used in the dissertation, because of the different data of sources. Elek Fényes summarized the language data only in district-scale that is why we had to count, sometimes to estimate, the per cent of different ethnic - actually language - groups in every settlement. We compared Fényes' data with the results of census of 1880 and 1910.

We applied methods from other sciences. We examined with geographical methods the connection of the different ethnic groups with geographical features, height above sea-level and the direction of transport-system. We used also geographical methods to determine the direction, the balance, and quantity of migration.

We examined with demographic methods births, mortality and natural reproduction.

Examination of mixed marriages based on mother language and denomination, language knowledge in different ages, difference in per cent in Hungarian language-knowledge and per cent of Hungarian people are connected with sociology. All these show also the willingness to assimilation and the identification of population.

We had an special aim to make own thematic maps to emphasis and demonstrate our results. All these maps are formatted during our research, on the basis of our decision to show as much as we can. We drew them with different methods using the basic data and with individual interpretation. 26 single maps and other 17 pages in the appendix with maps are in this dissertation, which are single work.

III. The new results of the searching

The new result of our work is that we could determined the ethnic groups at mainly regional level, and also the fluctuation of the language borders between 1773 and 1910. (The model-area had around 900 settlements.) About this fact the summarising works at country

level (i.e. History of Hungary between 1890 and 1918) is saying only that language borders hardly changed. To contradict it we managed to determine six problematic areas in the examined three counties, where there were changes.

In North-East Hungary two county seats: Sátoraljaújhely and Ungvár, and connected with them Munkács; the villages south to Ungvár; the all District of Szobránc; the villages, where Slovakian people lived with Reformed Religion; the Slovakian-Rusin language border in North Zemplén and the villages north to Sátoraljaújhely meant the problematic areas.

We verified the three towns were the places of hungarisation similar to the Hungarian tendencies in dual period. They doubled their number of inhabitants (i.e. Munkács had 8602 inhabitants in 1869, but 16518 inhabitants in 1910). They increased their populations with significant immigration above the natural reproduction. There were not only Hungarians, but also other nations among the immigrants, who went through a hungarisation process compared with the first half of the 19th century. Jewish, Greek Catholic Rusins, less Germanic people took part in this process.

Villages south to Ung and the villages north to Sátoraljaújhely went through a significant hungarisation process between 1880 and 1910. The bilingual people in everyday life must have classified their mother language as Hungarian. We proved that stages of assimilation are determinable in the case of "know Hungarian language" column of 1900 and 1910 censuses.

District of Szobránc was the meeting point of the three - Slovakian, Hungarian and Rusin - settling-areas; as a result of this the biggest difference was here in classifying of mother languages. According to Elek Fényes, all the Greek Catholic people in District of Szobránc were Rusins, other sources query it. It seems on grounds of data, Slovakian Greek Catholic people were imaginable for him, but we determined they were existed.

Scarcely known fact, the censuses proved 10-12 thousands Calvinist people, who had Slovakian mother language. This population lived in an easily bounded territory in Ung County, at the edge of the Slovakian settle-area. Sources (Lexicon and censuses) prove this fact, but Elek Fényes does not, who mainly thought about them they were Hungarians.

So it is not a question they existed, but a question is when they became Calvinists. Pál Balogh thought Hungarian people became Slovaks in early 19th century. Some documents contradict him, which originated from the early 17th century, they know about Slovakian Calvinists. Lacking enough Slovakian pastors was a problem at that time. Mihály Péter, the author of some article dealing with Calvinist Slovaks at the beginning of the 20th century thought they had become Protestants in the Reformation period owing to their Perényi's landowner (principle "cuius regio, eius religio"). Hardly knows anybody, that a hymn-book was published in Slovakian language in 1752, which was published other two times (in 1824 and 1864) after going out of print. Beyond that, several religious small books were pub-

lished, the first one in 1758 in Debrecen. They could never read The Holy Bible in Slovakian language (it did not exist) instead of this they read a Czech translation (The British Holy Bible Society gave them).

The Rusin-Slovakian language border proved rather stable in North Zemplén, only a few villages changed the 'official' language along the language border. We determined that the geographical conditions were standing behind this fact because these villages had the most disadvantageous conditions in every case in their nearest surroundings.

It is an accepted fact at country level (i.e. László Katus) that the bigger increase of number of Hungarian people was resulted by higher natural reproduction, lower ratio in emigration and assimilation. Examination of demographic data highlighted that natural reproduction of Hungarian people was not higher than other ethnic groups between 1900 and 1910 in the three counties. We proved with examination of migration of population in the three counties that emigration played the most important role (which was the most significant among Slovakian people). Number of Hungarian people increased because of this. Finally we made an attempt to determine the possible amount of assimilation. Our counting and the results can not be exact only because of missing one type of data: the censuses did not publish the number of migrants from the counties detailed in mother language in dual period. (This kind of calculation was never published earlier in the case of the three counties.) Hungarian benefit from assimilation in country level is true in the three counties.

Following the assimilation is possible in statistics only in case of mother language and other spoken languages. Examination of spoken languages in different ages proved that German, Rusin and Slovakian people spoken Hungarian language at younger than 20 years old, people getting older and older spoke smaller and smaller ratio Hungarian language. (Hungarian people showed opposite tendency: speaking other languages was typical of people above 10 years old, and among young adults this ratio became higher.) We might as well examine assimilation with mixed marriages, but their ratio reached only 3-6 per cent among all new marriages in the three counties in the given year, so their effect could not be significant.

We research society of Sátoraljaújhely with the census of 1869, and the state registers of 1896 and 1906 (maternity, mortality, marriages). It is declarable that the society of Sátoraljaújhely was a receive-society, because almost half of the population was born outside the town. The intellectual jobs for example were occupied by immigrants. The rate of the immigrants was also high among coachmen, babysitters and day-workers, who moved mainly from North Zemplénian villages to Sátoraljaújhely.

The three sources are correspond with each other the attraction zone of Sátoraljaújhely based on birth places was not similar to the geographical shape of Zemplén. Attraction zone of the county seat was concentrated to the middle of Zemplén.

The most efficient research was allowed by the marriage state registers, because they report the most detailed data about the popula-

tion, for example with registration of the names, addresses, places of births, occupations, date of births, denominations, and also the parents' names, addresses and occupations.

At the turn of the century only two denominations got married inside their religion: the Jews and the Baptists. The Jewish, and Calvinist fiancés proved the most migrant groups. Among the Roman Catholics there were more migrant fiancées than fiancés in 1896.

It is declarable about the Greek Catholics by reason of their marriage-custom: they were the 'closest' group after the Jewish, they got married with Roman or Greek Catholics until the circumstances allowed. Fiancés could keep this probably unspeakable rule in every case. Among the fiancées there were some exceptions in both years. All of these exceptions got married with a Calvinist husband in the case of huge individual problem: being orphaned, being half-orphaned or being older than the usual age of getting married. In these cases the husband could be younger than his wife.

IV. Publications in the topic of thesis:

Single articles:

1. **Bagdi Róbert:** Református és görög katolikus szlovákok az Ung megyei Szobránci járásban 1773 és 1910 között. In: Állam és nemzet a XIX-XX. században (Szerk.: Bodnár Erzsébet - Demeter Gábor) Debrecen, 2006. 228-237. pp.
2. **Bagdi Róbert:** Együttélés a statisztika alapján: Az Ausztria és Magyarország közötti népmozgás az 1880-1910-es évek alapján. In: A határok és a határon átnyúló (CBC) kapcsolatok szerepe a kibővült Európai Unió keleti periferiáján (Szerk.: Prof. Dr. Süli Zakar István) Debrecen, 2007. 215-226. pp.
3. **Bagdi Róbert:** Sátoraljaújhely vonzáskörzetének meghatározása az 1896. évi anyakönyvek alapján. In: Tradíció és modernizáció a XVIII-XX. században (Szerk.: Bodnár Erzsébet - Demeter Gábor) Hungarovox Kiadó, Budapest, 2008. 147-158. pp.
4. **Bagdi Róbert:** Bereg és Ung vármegye migrációtörténeti összehasonlítása az 1899-1913 közötti évek alapján. In: Tisicum – A Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok megyei Múzeumok Évkönyve XVII., Szolnok, 2008., 297-314. pp.
5. **Bagdi Róbert:** Bereg és Ung vármegye migrációtörténeti összehasonlítása az 1899-1913 közötti évek alapján. In: Történeti Tanulmányok XVI. A Debreceni Egyetem Történelmi Intézetének kiadványa. [Acta Univ. ... LX.] Szerk.: Velkey Ferenc. Debrecen, 2008. (2009.) 253-283. pp.

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1. **Bagdi Róbert** - Demeter Gábor: Nyelvhatárváltozás, asszimilációs helyzetek és a statisztika megbízhatósága Zemplén megye példáján. In: Tisicum XIV. – A Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok Megyei Múzeumok Évkönyve, 2005. 359-383. pp.
2. Demeter Gábor - **Bagdi Róbert**: A nyelvhatárváltozás természeti és gazdasági háttere Bihar megye példáján (1770-1992). In: „Tájak – Régiók – Települések...” Tisztelegés a 75 éves Enyedi György akadémikus előtt, Debrecen. 2005. 279-286. pp.
3. **Bagdi Róbert** - Demeter Gábor: A földrajzi adottságok szerepe a közösségek közötti kapcsolattartásban és a peremvidékek asszimilációjában Sáros megye példáján. In: Tisicum XV. – A Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok Megyei Múzeumok Évkönyve, 2006. 207-223. pp.
4. Gábor Demeter - **Róbert Bagdi**: The effects of migration and settlking policy on the ethnical and demographic structure of Szatmár/Satu Mare County (1715-1992) In: Regional Development in the Romanian-Hungarian Cross-Border Space – From National to European perspective, Debrecen, 2006. 277-286. pp.
5. Demeter Gábor - **Bagdi Róbert**: Migráció és asszimiláció a Partiumban 1715 - 1910. In: Tanár Úrnak tisztelettel! 56 tanulmány Dr. Korompai Gábor 70. születésnapjára. Debrecen, 2007. 299 –306. pp.

Conference-lectures:

1. Református és görög katolikus szlovákok az Ung megyei Szobránci járásban 1773 és 1910 között. *Állam és nemzet a XIX-XX. században*, Debrecen, 2006. április 1.
2. A migráció és a telepítéspolitika hatása Szatmár/Satu Mare megye etnikai viszonyainak alakulására. *Regional development in the Romanian-Hungarian Cross-Border Space*, Debrecen, 2006. június 9.

3. Szilágy vármegye vizsgálata etnikai és migrációs szempontból (1715-1910). *Magyar Tudomány ünnepe: A határok által szétszabdalt régiók újraegyesítése Kelet-Közép-Európában*, Debrecen, 2006. november 20.
4. Sátoraljaújhely vonzáskörzetének megállapítása az 1896. évi anyakönyvek alapján. *Tradíció és modernizáció a XVIII-XX. században*, Debrecen, 2007. november 15.
5. Cooperation among regions with different geographical conditions: the role of the marketline in the development of the society and trade in NE-Hungary in the XVIII century. *9th International Conference on Urban History*, Lyon, 27th - 30th August 2008.