

SETTLEMENT NAMES REFERRING TO EASTERN SLAVIC SETTLERS IN MEDIEVAL HUNGARY*

Hungarians arrived at the Carpathian Basin at around 895–900 and after a long journey from the east they occupied the interior plains, mostly the river valleys (in Hungarian history, this event is referred to as the Conquest). The previous tribal alliance had slowly disintegrated by the time of king Stephen I (1001–1038) when pagan beliefs were replaced by Christianity. The peripheral areas of the Kingdom of Hungary, however, were typically uninhabited until the 12th century when the ethnic landscape started changing with the arrival of Saxon settlers, Slavs, Romanians, and Pechenegs. We have no Hungarian written sources from the time preceding the Conquest. The early Latin (less frequently Greek) written sources contain Hungarian words and expressions only sporadically and they are mostly proper names designating places. However, due to their early appearance and low number, these have proved to be truly valuable for linguistics and historical studies exploring the early history of Hungarians and the ethnic and population history of the contemporary Carpathian Basin. In this respect, the settlement names rooted in ethnonyms have a key role as they also shed light on relations between Hungarians and other peoples. This paper studies settlement names that may refer to Eastern Slavic settlers designated by the ethnonym *orosz* in the medieval Hungarian language. The ethnic groups designated by this name were first registered in the 11th–12th century, however, groups of Slavs could have joined the Hungarian populace before the Conquest. The study shows that the highest proportion of settlement names derived from this ethnonym are found in the northeastern, northern, as well as eastern regions of early medieval Hungary, mostly along the border of the country. The author

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describes the most frequent name formation patterns that can also be used for relative dating of oikonyms, and discusses the extension to which these data may be useful for the reconstruction of the ethnic landscape of medieval Hungary.

K e y w o r d s: Old Hungarian language; Carpathian Basin; toponyms; settlement names; ethnonyms; ethnic history

1. Ethnonyms as sources in historical toponomastics and ethnic history

After a long migration from the east, Hungarians arrived in the Carpathian Basin through the passes of the Carpathian Mountains and completed their conquest by 896. This is referred to in Hungarian history as the Hungarian *Conquest*. However, some aspects of the history of this era (including the linguistic and ethnic features of the Carpathian Basin at the time) are still not fully clarified despite the decades-long research into available sources. We have no Hungarian written sources from the time preceding the Conquest. Latin-language written culture in Hungary emerged with the establishment of the Kingdom of Hungary in the Carpathian Basin (in 1000 with the coronation of St Stephen) and the conversion to Christianity. The early Latin (less frequently Greek) written sources created at this time (charters, chronicles, etc.) contain Hungarian words and expressions only sporadically and most of them are proper names designating places. These, however, due to their early appearance and low number, have proved to be of extreme value for historical linguistics. Historians also use them as evidence when exploring the early history of Hungarians. Apart from that, they attempt to describe the ethnic and population history of the contemporary Carpathian Basin based on the results of historical linguistics related to the semantic and etymological features of names and their origin. In this respect, the settlement names derived from ethnonyms have a key role as they also shed light on relations between Hungarians and other peoples. In this paper, I study those settlement names that may refer to Eastern Slavic settlers designated by the ethnonym *orosz* in the medieval Hungarian language.

The most important question in connection with early toponymic records is how and to what extent these names may be used for the identification of the linguistic (or near that) and ethnic characteristics of a given region. Earlier, it seemed clear that scholars may gain insights into this issue by studying one of the earliest toponym types of the Hungarian name system, particularly settlement names containing ethnonyms. At that time, the majority of Hungarian publications in the fields of history and archaeology derived all settlement names whose form corresponded to an ethnonym directly from that ethnonym suggesting that the relevant ethnic group was inherently present in the area of distribution of the settlement names of this type. Today, however, it is widely accepted that not every such settlement name may be interpreted this way as the ethnonyms appearing in the settlement names do not necessarily indicate the presence of the given people in the area. In the Hungarian language, the transformation

of an ethnonym into a personal name has been a rather frequent name formation process from the beginning, and from the anthroponyms created this way (usually to express ownership) toponyms emerged in multiple linguistic forms. The early personal names and the family names that had emerged until the 14th–15th centuries (when they became hereditary) were motivated by different features of their bearers. The layer of personal names of ethnonymic origin, with only a few exceptions, could refer to the ethnic identity of the name bearer or at least to some kind of a relevant circumstance. Thus, we may also conclude on the history of ethnonyms indirectly, from their double occurrence as toponyms and anthroponyms: the more frequently an ethnonym was used in an era, the more certain its presence is in those two layers of the Hungarian proper name system. Based on these premises, it does not have conclusive significance whether a given settlement name had an ethnonym as its direct antecedent or the following derivational pattern included a personal name as an interim step: ethnonym → personal name → settlement name. Settlement names of ethnonymic origin may thus be considered reliable sources of studies in ethnic history.

At the same time, we also know that the meaning of particular ethnonyms might have changed over the history of the language. In the sources, we may see that the same people or ethnic group could be referred to by different names both simultaneously and in different eras. It also happened that the same denomination used to designate several different groups. The meaning of ethnonyms might be expanded, narrowed, or even changed completely.

Using their own methodology, historical studies have also attempted to find out whether we can really assume the actual presence of the people in question in the given settlement based on the specific settlement name derived from the ethnonym. Therefore, besides the study of toponyms, I also take into consideration the relevant results of historical studies. I believe that we may formulate a well-founded opinion on the actual presence of an ethnic group by comparing and juxtaposing the research results independently obtained by linguists (namely those working in historical onomastics) and historians.

2. The *orosz* lexeme

Orosz [oros]¹ is one of the early Turkic loan words in the Hungarian language of the pre-Conquest era (cf. Ottoman, Turkish *urus*, Tatar *urıs* ‘Russian person’). It entered Turkic through the borrowing of the Slavic *rus* ‘Northern Germanic, Scandinavian’ → ‘Russian,’ while its ultimate source is North Germanic through Finnish [TESz.; EWUng.]. In terms of its entry into the Hungarian language, Lajos Ligeti [1986, 270] supposes Khazar intermediation, the time of borrowing, however, is uncertain and may be dated to the 9th century [see also WOT.: *orosz*]. The early Hungarian form

¹ The pronunciation of Hungarian language units is henceforth provided with their IPA transcription.

of the ethnonym could be *urusz* [urus], however, at the time its meaning differed from that of today's 'Russian.' For a long time, the lexeme was used as an umbrella term for Eastern Slavic peoples, in the early medieval Hungarian language, it could probably refer to the residents of the Kievan Rus' neighboring the Kingdom of Hungary and the people arriving from there [Benkő, 1998, 60–62]. This interpretation is confirmed by the fact that for long centuries this was the only lexeme used in Hungarian to refer to the Eastern Slavs. (I discuss the Hungarian designations of specific Eastern Slavic groups later.)

The word *orosz* is first attested as a common noun (thus not in personal names and toponyms) in old Hungarian glossaries and dictionaries at the beginning of the 15th century, around 1405: *oroz* [TESz.]. Its precise meaning at that time, however, cannot be established as the most significant old dictionaries provided definitions of ethnonyms — even centuries later — in concise Latin. The definition 'Ruthenus,' typical of the Middle Ages, appears, for example, in the dictionaries of Albert Szenczi Molnár [1611], Ferenc Pápai Páriz [1708], and Ferenc Kresznerics [1831]. Besides this, the 1801 edition of the dictionary of Pápai Páriz also includes the 'Russus, Moscus,' indicating the word was already used similarly as in the later Hungarian language. The dictionary by Czuczor and Fogarasi [1862–1874] defines it in broader terms, as residents of the Russian Empire, and more narrowly, as people of a Slavic origin and language living mostly in the northeastern part of Europe.

The *orosz* ethnonym was used as an anthroponym quite early on in Hungarian. The dictionary of medieval Hungarian anthroponyms cites relevant data under the *Uruz*, *Oruz*, *Huroz* entry, first quoting a forged charter (+1092/+1274: *Huroz* [ÁSz.])². The first authentic charter mentioning this name dates back to the first half of the 13th century (1214/1550: *Wrusz*). It is also attested with a specific anthroponymic formant: 1086: *vruzdi* <'Russian' + *-di* diminutive formant> [WOT.: *orosz*; see also ÁSz.; EWUng.]. Its earliest occurrence as a family name dates to the 14th century (1332: *Oroz* [RMCsSz.]) and after this time numerous occurrences have been registered. Today, out of nearly ten million Hungarian citizens, 16,259 bear the *Orosz* family name and its variants [CsnE., 356], which makes it quite frequent as compared to other ethnonym-based family names.

3. *Orosz* in Hungarian Settlement Names

3.1. Structural Name Types

Based on historical research, Hungarians arriving in the Carpathian Basin at the time of the Conquest encountered a significant Slavic population in the area. Slavic groups

²In brackets, the sign + means that the charter is a forged one; the sign / means that the charter is a copy of the original charter (multiple slashes would mean that the charter was copied more than once); the sign > refers to the fact that the copy is based on a content restored from the original charter; the letter [indicates that the charter is dated incorrectly (it is then emended in the square brackets).

arrived in the country during the early Middle Ages due to the family relations with Hungarian monarchs, the Slavic lineages among the higher levels of society, as well as in the course of migration. According to historical studies, the ethnic groups designated by the *orosz* name were first registered in the 11th–12th century, however, groups of Slavs could have joined the Hungarian populace before the Conquest at the end of the 10th century since according to the 996 report of the early Russian chronicle, there was a good relationship between the Prince of Rus' and King Stephen [Györffy, 1958/1990, 61]. The large-scale settlement of Eastern Slavic groups living close to the border could start at around 1320 according to sources. Thus, medieval Hungarians used the *orosz* ethnonym referring to this ethnic group and every other Eastern Slavic population designating themselves with the ethnonym created from the *rus-* [rus] stem.

The villages of settlers were often named by the Hungarian-language population living in the surrounding areas with reference to the ethnicity of the settlers, using the *orosz* 'Eastern Slavic (person)' lexeme. In line with this semantic content, particular settlement names could also use different linguistic forms, following the linguistic and name-giving patterns existing in Hungarian. The ethnonym often became a settlement name in itself, through metonymic semantic change, this is how the *Orosz* [oros] toponyms were created, while in other cases, the *-i* toponymic formant was added to the ethnonym lexeme: *Oroszi* [orosi]. The name-formation process in which an appellative formant meaning 'settlement' was added to the ethnonym became more frequent somewhat later: *falu* ~ *falva* [fɒlu ~ fɒlvɒ] 'village' ~ 'his village,' *telek* [tɛlɛk] 'plot,' *földe* [fɒldɛ] 'his land,' *vár* [va:r] 'castle,' *város* [va:roj] 'town,' as well as *vég* [ve:g] meaning 'end' all might be used as a settlement name formant. Another widespread name formation method was the *orosz* attribute getting attached to the name of the settlement where the migrants arrived. The Hungarian names of these settlements (similarly to many other settlement name types), however, are found in Latin charters sometimes in a form translated into Latin (*Villa Ruthenorum*). These structural name forms are also typical of other Hungarian settlement names derived from ethnyms.

3.2. Geographical Distribution

The *orosz* ethnonym is present in more than 350 name records of more than 50 settlements of medieval Hungary. Among the old Hungarian toponyms, the *orosz* lexeme may first be found in a 1359 copied version of a charter from 1208, more specifically, in the name of *Oroszvár* (*Wruswar*³) <*orosz* + *vár* 'castle'>, a village located in Moson County in the western part of the country. In the early 13th century *gesta* of an unknown author (referred to as Anonymous), describing the history of Hungarians at the age of the Conquest (9th century) (*Gesta Hungarorum*), there is even a Latin reference to the settlement called *castrum constituere Ruthenis*. Not much later, the ethnonym

³ I do not indicate the sources of certain data as these can be found in my work introducing ethnonym-based settlement names in dictionary form [Rácz, 2011, 126–133].

also appears in a key linguistic record, the Várad Regestrum: the earliest record of *Orosz* settlement in Bihar County is also from the early 13th century (1220/1550: *Vruz*). Thus, the emergence of the ethnonym *orosz* in Hungarian settlement names may be observed relatively early, already at the beginning of the 13th century, but it appears in sources in a higher number in the 14th century. The first written record, however, does not inform us about the time of the establishment of the settlements, which could take place much earlier.

The settlement names containing the *orosz* ethnonym do not really form any areal cluster within medieval Hungary. Settlement names formed from this ethnonym may be found in numerous counties across the country, thus it is better to study the distribution of these names within larger regions. The regions mentioned below in this study do not refer to the natural regions of the country but rather to the geographical and historical development of contacts with Eastern Slavic peoples and are outlined in consideration of their trace in the settlement name corpus.

The first, and in this respect, the most important regional unit is the northeastern part of medieval Hungary (17 settlements) where we may assume the direct and natural settlement of this ethnic group from the territory of Kievan Rus', the later Halych. Another significant region is made up of the northern, mountain region of medieval Hungary (10 settlements), edged by the country's border to the north and the Tisza and the upper Danube to the south. Here, besides the arrival of Eastern Slavs and due to the direct connection with the Kingdom of Poland, there was a strong relationship with Western Slavic people during the Middle Ages. The third larger unit from our perspective is made up of the counties of Transylvania (12 settlements) in the eastern part of the country that would, later on, constitute an independent territorial and administrative unit within the country. Due to its geographical location, the Eastern Slavic settlers could still easily reach it. Another (also natural) region is the area west of the Danube and called Transdanubia (11 settlements). Finally, the central, Great Plain region of the country may also be seen as a newer region with fewer and sporadic settlement names of this category (6 settlements).

3.2.1. Northeastern Hungary

As already noted, the northeastern area of the country was in direct contact with the regions inhabited by Eastern Slavic people. This is the reason why it was in this area that the highest number of such settlements appeared whose name also featured the *orosz* ethnonym. Of the eastern counties of medieval Hungary, I mention Bihar first, which is a bit further away from the region populated by Eastern Slavs, but the first settlement name may be found here, as already noted. *Orosz* (1220/1550: *Vruz*) village of Bihar County mentioned in the source may also be found in other records of the end of the 13th century as *Oroszi* <'Russian' + -i> (1282: *Vrusi*), i.e. in a form using the -i formant. We have data about the settlement even from the end of the 15th century, however, the village does not exist today. The two settlements named *Orosztelek* <'Russian' +

‘plot’> on the right bank of the Sebes-Körös had a similar fate. The first of these was first mentioned in a charter at the beginning of the 13th century, (1291–1294: *Vruzte-luk*), while the earliest records of the other can be found in a 15th-century source (1421: *Oroztelek*). Structurally, the names of these villages are made up of two parts — they represent a newer name type that typically appeared in Hungarian from the 13th century. The second name constituting lexeme (*telek*) in their name is a geographical common noun denoting a type of settlement. It is a question, whether the name of the *Oros* (1279: *Vrws*), later *Orosi* (1284: *Vrusi*) settlement in the middle of the county derives from the *orosz* ethnonym or not. According to Zsigmond Jakó, the village was founded by Eastern Slavic prisoners of war or settlers brought in during the 13th century by Hungarian kings, and its name supposedly appeared by distortion of another name form (i.e. *Oros* [oros] instead of *Orosz* [oroʃ]). This hypothesis doesn’t prove very convincing due to the fact that the settlers assimilated into the Hungarian population surrounding them rather soon [Jakó, 1940, 119, 310]. The orthography of the name forms, however, makes their anthroponymic (1222/1344: *Oros* [ÁSz., 605]) origin more likely: the [s] consonant of the *orosz* ethnonym was most frequently marked with the letter *z* at the time, while in the records of this settlement name, with only one exception, we rather find the letter *s* with the sound value [ʃ].

In the Ung County located at the northeastern border of medieval Hungary, there were three settlements named *Oroszfalv* <‘Russian’ + ‘village’> at the beginning of the 15th century. The identification and localization of the first settlement that has only one record in medieval sources (1423: *Oroszfalw*) are uncertain and it is also possible that the name record designated one of the two settlements from the county, the other settlement that is recorded under the same name (*Oroszfalw*) in a charter dated 1427 was located in the western part of the county. Sources also recorded the earlier name *Oroszka* (1358: *Orozka*) for this settlement and in connection with it. It may be supposed that it represents a combination of the ethnonym *orosz* and the formant *-ka*. On the other hand, this idea is quite doubtful, since the structural model <ethnonym + *-ka/-ke* morpheme> is atypical of the old Hungarian settlement name system. Although the *-ka/-ke* formant appears in medieval settlement names, it is attached to other types of stems [cf. Bényei, 2012, 112–115]. This could also result from the assimilation effect of the nearby settlement names of the *Ruszka* type with a Slavic origin. The village was later known under the name of Ordasfalva and it is identified as today’s Slovakian Oreské. The third *Oroszfalv* (1400: *Oroszfalv*), the identification of which is uncertain, was located next to the Ung River and does not exist today as an independent settlement.

The *orosz* ethnonym appears in the name of four villages of Bereg County, neighboring Ung County. Of these, *Oroszi* (1260: *Vruzy*) has been registered in sources since the mid-13th century and preserved the ethnonym component also in the later Sárosoroszi name form. By today it has become part of the Ukrainian Orosijevo settlement. A century later, there are already three *Oroszfalv* villages in charters. The first

of these was located near Munkács, one of the significant settlements of the county, and mentioned in sources since 1360 (*Oroszfalva*), but in the same year its name variants *Oroszváros* <'Russian' + 'town'> (1360: *Oroszváros*) and *Oroszvég* <'Russian' + 'end'> (1360: *Orozvig*) were also mentioned in charters. For a long time, the settlement was known under the latter name and today it exists as the Ukrainian Roszvihove, a part of Munkács. The second village bearing this name (14th century: *Oroszfalva*) was also located close to Munkács, it was mentioned at the end of the 15th century as *Ruszkóc* (1484: *Ruszkolcz*) and may be identified as the later Orosztelek and today's Ukrainian Ruszke settlement. The third *Oroszfalva* (1398: *Oroszfalva*) already existing in the Middle Ages, as opposed to those above, did not preserve the ethnonym in its later name variants, as later it was known as *Kissarkad* and today as the Ukrainian *Horbok*.

In Szatmár County neighboring Bereg, we are aware of four settlements from the early 14th century that included the *orosz* ethnonym. The first one is *Oroszi* (*Vruzy*) in the northern part of the county with its first records found in a charter from 1324. This name form exists today in a somewhat modified *Vámosoroszi* form with an attributive first constituent and it is still an independent settlement. In the names of the three other villages, *orosz* appears in an attributive role. *Oroszpályi* [*orospa:ji*] <'Russian' + *Pályi* (settlement name)> (1336: *Orozpauli*) located in the northwestern part of the county appears in sources at the beginning of the 14th century, with its first constituent distinguishing it from another *Pályi* settlement nearby. The 1336 charter clearly writes about a village inhabited by Eastern Slavic people in the northwestern part of the county [Németh, 2008, 215]. Close to a century later, two *Oroszfalva* <'Russian' + 'village'> settlements appear in historical sources. One of them, a village located in the middle part of the county (1411: *Orozfalva*), was later known as *Oroszfalva* and corresponds to the present Romanian Ruși settlement. The other *Oroszfalva* (1411: *Orozfalwa*) can now be found in the eastern part of the county. Its later name form *Kékesoroszfalva* still preserves the ethnonym, as does today's Romanian name *Rus*.

In the northern part of Ugocsa County, from a settlement previously referred to as *Komját(i)* [*komja:ti*] (1339: *Komyati*), *Oroszkomját* <'Russian' + *Komját* (settlement name)> (1405: *Orosz-Komját*) and its twin settlement, *Magyarkomját* <*magyar* 'Hungarian' + *Komját* (settlement name)> (1405: *Magyar-Komját*) were created at the beginning of the 15th century. Today, the village is known as *Magyarkomját* (*Veliki Komjati* in Ukrainian).

In the southwestern part of Máramaros County, neighboring Ugocsa, Szatmár, and Bereg from the east, we may find *Oroszvíz* <'Russian' + *víz* 'water'> (1373: *Orozviz*) settlement, the name of which refers to its location next to a watercourse and its earliest trace may be found in charters in the final third of the 14th century. At this time, the *Oroszfalva* (1390: *Orozfalva*) name variant also appears, but only two decades later, its *Ruszka* (1411: *Rwzko*) and *Ruszkova* (1411: *Ruzkowa*) names are also recorded in sources. Later it is known as *Visóoroszi* (*Ruscova* in Romanian).

3.2.2. Northern Hungary

Bars County was located to the north of the Danube in early medieval Hungary and had two settlements whose names included the *orosz* lexeme. One of these is located in the southern part of the county. Its first name record comes from the middle of the 13th century in *Orosz* form (1269/1387: *Wrusz*), but in the first third of the 14th century, a charter also included the *Oroszi* (1336: *Vruzy* ~ *Wruzy*) name variant with the *-i* formant. Today, the settlement is known by the name of Oroszka (in Slovakian Pohronský Ruskov). Another village named *Oroszi* is located in the southwestern part of Bars County with its first record found with a structure designating a person (1293: Iwan de *Vruzy*), but at the beginning of the 14th century its name form recorded in Latin and with a formant attached may also be found in charters: the probably *Alsóoroszi* <*alsó* ‘lower’ + *Oroszi*> name used in actual spoken language was recorded by the scribe in *inferiori Urusi* ~ *inferiori Urussi* ~ *inferiori Urussy* form (1307/XVIII). Later it is known as *Nemesoroszi* (today’s Slovakian Kukučínov).

Of the northern counties, we should look at *Oroszfaľu* (1414–1416: *Orozfaľw*) settlement in Sáros County next to the border, first mentioned at the beginning of the 15th century in charters. It was probably located near the Ondava River and no longer exists today.

In the middle part of Zemplén County reaching all the way to the northern border of the country, *Oroszfaľu* (1390: *Orozfaľu*) settlement appeared at the end of the 14th century. Its origin is obscure, but the historians assume this may be the village also registered as *Oroszkékszeg* <‘Russian’ + *Kékszeg* (settlement name)> (1392: *Orozkekzeg*) and *Kékszeg* (1424/1426: *Kekzegh*) with records from the same period [see Heller, 1981, 139].

Another *Orosz* (1280>1358: *Vrs*) settlement with records from the end of the 13th century can be found in the middle part of Abaúj County, and from the first half of the 14th century, we are also aware of its *Oroszi* (1324: *Vrsi*) name form. The settlement is next to *Ruszka* (1220/1550: *Vruzca*), whose name also refers to Eastern Slavs though it actually has a Slavic origin. The later (and today’s) Göncruszka could probably be created through the merger of these two settlements [Gy., 1, 126].

One more *Orosz* (1333: *Oroz*) settlement was located in the southern part of Borsod County, to the southeast of Mezőkövesd, a significant settlement of the county, with records from the first third of the 14th century. The identification of another settlement named *Oroszi* (1370: *Orozy*), with the *-i* topoformant and appearing in the final third of the 14th century, is uncertain.

There is also an *Orosz* village located in the northwestern part of Heves County, to the northwest of Gyöngyös settlement. Its first record comes from the late 13th century (+1275/[XIV c.]: *vrus*), and after half a century its *Oroszi* (1332–1333: *Paul de Huruzi*) name form with the *-i* formant is also recorded in sources. The settlement still exists today as *Gyöngyösoroszi*.

According to historical sources, the first residents of *Oroszi* (1219/1550: *Orsci*) settlement in Nógrád County were Russians moving in from Galicia and Lodomeria

[Gy., 4, 282]. Later we are also aware of other name variants, including one featuring the *-d* topoformant as in *Oroszd* <‘Russian’ + *-d*> (1346: *Vruzd*), as well as *Oroszfalu* <‘Russian’ + ‘village’> (1401: *Orosfalu*), *Oroszfalva* <‘Russian’ + ‘village’ + *-a* (possessive suffix)> (1401[*f*]141)///1688: *Oroszffalva*). Later the settlement appears as *Nagyoroszi* and it still exists today.

3.2.3. Eastern Hungary, Transylvania

Belső-Szolnok County was located in the Transylvanian region of medieval Hungary. *Oroszfalu* was situated in the southeastern part of the county and its name record from the early 15th century may also be found in Latin sources (1410: *villa Ruthenorum*, 1414: *Orozfalw*). Known later as *Oroszfalva* <‘Russian’ + *falu* ‘village’ + *-a* (possessive suffix)> (1447: *duae possessiones Orozfalua*), the village was then divided into two parts. Today these are *Alsóoroszfalu* and *Felsőoroszfalu* (*Rusu de Jos* and *Rusu de Sus* in Romanian).

Semesnye [ʃemɛjɲɛ] (1325: *Symisne*) settlement in the western part of Belső-Szolnok County appeared under this name in the first third of the 14th century and by the end of the century it was mentioned in charters as *Oroszmező* [oroszmezø:] (1366: *Symisne alio nomine Wruzmezeu*) <‘Russian’ + ‘field’>. The village is still known under this name (*Rus* in Romanian).

Besides the Hungarian name forms of *Oroszfalu* <‘Russian’ + ‘village’> and *Oroszfalva* <‘Russian’ + ‘village’ + *-ja* (possessive suffix)> (1421: *Orozfalw* ~ *Oruzfalwa*) located in the middle part of Doboka County, we are also aware of the *Rewsyndorff* (1412) name forms indicating German language users. These, however, could probably be only temporary names because the village had appeared under the name *Szeret* [seret] (1235–1270: *Zereth*) much earlier in sources and today it is called *Szeretfalva* (Romanian *Sărățel*).

Oroszfája <‘Russian’ + *fa* ‘tree’ + *-ja* (possessive suffix)> is located in the eastern part of Kolozs County, bordering Doboka from the south, and it was first mentioned by sources in the 13th century (1297: *Vruzfaya*). One charter also uses the *Oroszi* <‘Russian’ + *-i*> (1429: *Orozy*) name form with the *-i* formant a century later. This, however, could be a name existing for a short time as today the settlement is known as *Oroszfája* (Romanian *Orosfaia*). The identification and localization of another settlement called *Oroszfalu* (1422: *Orozfalu*), with records from the same era, is uncertain. The charters’ data, as well as the historical context both suggest that this village is probably identical to the settlement mentioned above.

Torda County is located to the south of Kolozs, in the eastern part of medieval Hungary. Close to the Maros River, there were two settlements named *Oroszfalu* with their first written records in 1319. Of these, one of the *Oroszfalu* (1319: *Vruzfolu*) settlements was also known as *Felsőoroszfalu* <*felső* ‘upper’ + *Oroszfalu*>, and this form of its name is first recorded in sources with the attribute translated to Latin (1319: *Vruzfolu superior*). It is still an independent settlement today that was later known

as *Oroszidecs* (Romanian *Deleni*). The other *Oroszfalú* (1319: *Vruzfolu*) also emerged nearby at the beginning of the 14th century, with its name appearing in a charter by the end of the century in Latin translation (1393: *villa ruthenorum*). At the same time, the only record of its *Felsőoroszfalu* <‘upper’ + *Oroszfalu*> (1393: *villa rutinorum superior*) name variant with the *felső* ‘upper’ attribute also appears in Latin. A third name was also used for the village. The *Nagyoroszfalu* <*nagy* ‘big’ + *Oroszfalu*> name was first recorded in sources at the beginning of the 16th century (1509: *Nagh Orozfalw*). Similar to the previous example, this settlement also exists today, in later centuries it was called *Marosoroszfalu* and is known today in Romanian as *Rușii Munți*. *Felsőoroszi* <‘upper’ + *Oroszi*> (1393: *villa Ruthenorum superiori*) in the eastern part of Torda County appeared in sources at the end of the 14th century, while *Alsóoroszi* <*alsó* ‘lower’ + *Oroszi*> (1453: *Alsoorozi*) was recorded in the middle of the 15th century. These were probably created by the division of a settlement named **Oroszi* (without direct records). They appear under the same names later on also: *Felsőoroszi*, today’s Romanian *Urisiu de Sus*, and *Alsóoroszi*, today *Urisiu de Jos* in Romanian.

In Hunyad County bordering Torda County from the south, we are aware of two settlement names containing the *orosz* ethnonym. One of them, located in the heart of the county, was already known by two names in the middle of the 14th century when it was first recorded. The names of *Apáti*, with the *apát* [ɔpa:t] ‘abbot’ lexeme referring to the lord of the settlement and forming the *-i* topoformant, and *Oroszfalú* <‘Russian’ + ‘village’> (1367: *Apaty alimine Vruzfolu*) were used in parallel. Besides these, at the beginning of the 16th century, the *Orosz* and *Rusz* name forms also appeared in sources, again in the form of *alio nomine* name variants (1520–1521: *Oroz alio nomine Rws*). We are not familiar with the later fate of the settlement. The other village is located in the eastern part of the county and was known under several names in the 15th century. Besides the Hungarian *Oroszfalú* (1453: *Orozfalw*) and *Oroszfalva* <‘Russian’ + ‘village’ + *-ja*> (1499: *Orozfalwa*), it also appears in the *Rusz* (1470: *Rws*) form given by the Slavic population. Today the settlement lives on under the name of *Russ* (Romanian *Ruși*).

Orosztelek <‘Russian’ + ‘plot’> (1300: *Wruzthelek*) appearing in the northern part of Transylvanian Fehér County at the turn of the 13th and 14th centuries is also recorded in sources under the name of *Oroszi* (1300: *Vrusci*). Today it is known as *Marosoroszi* (*Orosia* in Romanian).

3.2.4. The Transdanubia Region

Moson County is located in the northwestern part of the Transdanubia Region at the border of the German language area. *Oroszvár* settlement in the northern part of the country was built for border protection in the first part of the 10th century by Slavs arriving in the Carpathian Basin along with the conquering Hungarians according to the Anonymous’ gesta. According to historians, however, fort-building Slavs settled down here at the time when the borders were reinforced after 995 [Gy., 4, 169].

Its name already appears in a charter from the same time as the above-mentioned gesta (1208/1359: *Wruswar*). From the final third of the 15th century, the synonymous name of *Oroszfalu* (1474: *Oroszfalw*) is also recorded. Today the settlement is known as *Oroszvár* (Slovakian *Rusovce*).

The settlement which was simultaneously referred to by the name forms of *Orosz* (1403: *Oroz*) and *Oroszi* <'Russian' + -i> (1403: *Orozy*) could be located in the western part of Hungary, in Somogy County to the south of Balaton, somewhere close to Kaposvár, its first records dating back to the beginning of the 15th century. The localization of another village named *Oroszi* (1478: *Orozy*) that appears in charters in the second half of the 15th century is uncertain. All these settlements have ceased to exist.

The exact location of the *Orosz* settlement in Zala County with a single record from 1304 is also unknown (*Vrus*).

Oroszi (1288: *Orozi*) settlement, whose name variant without the -i formant was preserved in sources from the early 15th century in the *Orosz* (1408: *Orooz*) form, is located in the western part of Veszprém County. The settlement today is called Oroszi. The settlement status of *Oroszfölde* <'Russian' + *föld* 'land' + -e (possessive suffix)>, located either in Veszprém or Fejér counties, is uncertain also. Its only record is from 1326 (*Vroz-földe*), and we are not familiar with its later history.

One of the two relevant settlements in Fejér County is located in the northwestern part of the county. It is first mentioned by a charter from the early 13th century under the name of *Oroszi* (1232: *Vruscy*) and a few decades later sources recorded its *Orosz* (1269/1275: *Vrus*) name form. The other village of the county could be located close to the Danube with both its *Orosz* (*Oroz*) and *Oroszi* (*Orozy*) name forms known from 1431. None of these exist anymore today as independent settlements.

Pilis County was located in the central part of medieval Hungary, in the bend of the Danube. *Orosz* (1394: *Oroz*) settlement first appearing in sources at the end of the 14th century is located in its northern part, close to the town of Visegrád. Today it is known as *Kisoroszi*.

Oroszi, in the southern part of Transdanubia, in Valkó County at the border of the country, was first recorded at the end of the 13th century (1295: *Wruzy*). The settlement does not exist today.

We are also aware of a village called *Oroszi* (1353: *Oruzy*) in the southern part of Baranya County but its later history after the 15th century is unknown.

3.2.5. Central Hungary, Great Plain Region

Settlement names of this category may only be found in the southernmost part of the region. *Orosztelek* (1360: *Wruszthelek*) settlement in the southwestern part of Csanád County is mentioned in the middle of the 14th century but we are not aware of any later records of it from historical sources.

The first and only record of *Orosz* in Bodrog County (*Oroz*) is from 1520–1521. The settlement is not mentioned later.

Oroszi (1332–1337: *Huruzi* ~ *Holasi*) settlement in Torontál County is mentioned in the papal survey from the first third of the 14th century and today it lives on under the name of *Torontáloroszi* (Serbian *Rusko Selo*).

A settlement known as *Oroszi* (1332–1337: *Huruzi* ~ *Vruzi*) then as *Orosz* (1388: *Oroz*) after dropping the *-i* topoformant, is located to the southwest of Temesvár, in the western part of Temes County. According to historical research, the *Füzesoroszi* <*fűzes* ‘willow’ + *Oroszi*> (1401: *Fyzesorozy*), and *Egyházasoroszi* <*egyház* ‘having a church’ + *Oroszi*> (1456: *Eghazasorozy*) names [Milleker, 1915, 219] could refer to two parts of the settlement that possibly became independent. The settlement does not exist today.

One of the settlements in the central part of Krassó County, at the southern border of the country, was mentioned by charters under the name of *Oroszi* (1312>1360: *Orozy*), at the beginning of the 14th century, while at the beginning of the 15th century it is recorded as *Ruszó*c (1421: *Rusolch*). Today the name of the settlement is *Óruszóc* and *Újruszóc* (*Rusova Veche* and *Rusova Nouă* in Romanian). The name of a settlement in Krassó County was created by adding the *orosz* attribute to the **Apáti* name having no previous records and its more precise location is unknown: *Oroszapáti* <‘Russian’ + *Apáti*> (1364: *Vruzapati*).

4. Settlement Names Recorded in Latin and German

As we have already seen, sometimes the settlement names including the *orosz* lexeme in Hungarian and referring to a population speaking Slavic appeared in Latin translation in medieval charters (e.g. *Villa Ruthenorum* ~ *Villa Ruthenica*). This seems to be a common case with other toponym types, however, it only applies to the written language use. In speech, Hungarian language name forms prevailed and, later on, were fixed in writing.

This is different in the case of settlement names recorded in German and referring to Eastern Slavs. These could reflect real spoken language forms that could be used by German-speaking settlers living in the area when talking about the villages of Eastern Slavs settling down there. German-speaking settlers arrived in the territory of Hungary during the Árpád Era in several waves and as a result of a conscious settlement policy. These people mostly lived in larger populations (e.g. in the eastern, southeastern, as well as northern and northeastern parts of the Carpathian Basin) and preserved (in many cases, until modern times) their first language for centuries. This is also reflected by the linguistic features of the toponyms given and used by them.


To the west, northwest of the town of Nagyszeben, one of the significant settlements of Szeben County in the eastern part of medieval Hungary, in the Transylvanian region, there was a settlement whose name was preserved by early medieval historical sources only in Latin and German. The earliest occurrence of the name in Latin and German comes from the end of the 14th century (1380: *villa Ruthenica* ~ *Ruszschalk*) and may reflect the contemporary *Rußschalk* form. In later sources, from the beginning

of the 15th century, the settlement was mentioned only in the German *Russdorf* (1409: *Ruesdarf*, 1468: *Rwschdorffchÿn* ~ *Rewsdeorffchÿn*) form. The name also reflects that the village was located in an area populated by a Saxon group speaking German, in Saxony. The Hungarian name of the settlement also appears later, with its attributive first constituent referring to the Eastern Slavic inhabitants. Today it is known as *Oroszcsűr* (Romanian *Ruscior*).

Besides the Hungarian name of *Oroszfalu*, a settlement in the middle of Doboka County already discussed, the German *Russindorf* (1412: *Rewsyndorff*) name form also indicates the presence of German speakers.

5. Settlements named *Rusz* and *Ruszka*

The high number of Hungarian and the few German settlement names presented so far indicate that the villages of Eastern Slavs (similarly to other ethnic groups settling down) were named by the people living in the area and speaking the majority language. Less frequently, however, it is also possible that the settlers named their new residence themselves, using their own language, with a lexeme indicating their ethnicity. The basis of the names was the *rus* 'self-denomination of the Eastern Slavic people' [TESz.; EWUng.: *orosz*]. Often, these names were used simultaneously with the names given by Hungarians. There are also examples when the name given by the Slavic population became the only name form.

The previously mentioned *Oroszfalu* settlement in the eastern part of Hunyad County and the other *Oroszfalu* ~ *Orosz* settlement in the central part of the county bore the name of *Rusz* [rus] (1470: *Rws*) and *Rusz* (1520–1521: *Oroz alio*  *ine Rws*), which means that both the Hungarian and the Slavic names were used. The first village has preserved this Slavic name form in its current name *Russ* (Romanian *Ruși*), while the second settlement does not exist anymore.

The above-mentioned *Ruszka* [ruskɔ] settlement names may also be associated with the *rusz* ethnonym, which according to the traditional etymological approach derive from the Slavic **Rusьka* (*vъsbъ*) 'Russian (village)' toponym [FNESz.: *Göncruszka*]. However, their derivation may not necessarily be explained through the attributive structures but may also be seen as the form of the *rus* 'rusь' ethnonym with the *-bka* topoformant [Šmilauer, 1970, 28–32].

The settlement mentioned before with the name of *Oroszvíz* and *Oroszfalu* in Máramaros County at the end of the 14th century had both a Hungarian and a Slavic name. At the beginning of the 15th century, its Slavic *Ruszka* (1411: *Rwzko*), and *Ruszkova* [ruskovɔ] (1411: *Ruzkowa*) names were also included in sources (the latter formed with the *-bkova* topoformant [Šmilauer, 1970, 29]). The latter name form is preserved today by the Romanian *Ruscove* name of the settlement (while in Hungarian it is known as *Visóoroszi*).

In Abaúj County we are aware of two settlements named *Ruszka*. One of them is a village first mentioned in sources at the beginning of the 13th century (1220/1550:

Vruzca), which is today called Göncruszka after merging with the neighboring *Orosz ~ Oroszi* settlement. The first name record of the other *Ruszka* (1303/1329: *Rupka* [ɔ: Ruzka]) settlement in the eastern-northeastern part of the county was preserved by sources at the beginning of the 14th century. We are not aware of its Hungarian designation. This name form has been preserved by the *Regeteruszka* name of the still independent settlement (Slovakian *Ruskov*).

At the beginning of the 13th century, *Ruszka* (1217: *Ruzka*) settlement in Zemplén County also appears in charters. It is located in the central part of the county, nearby the Tapoly River. In the middle of the 15th century, it is mentioned in the *Nagyruszka* [nɔjruskɔ] <nagy ‘big’ + *Ruszka*> (1468: *Nagh Rwzka*) name form. The purpose of its first constituent is to distinguish it from *Kisruszka* [kiʃruskɔ] <kis ‘small’ + *Ruszka*> (1371: *Kysruszka*) settlement located to the southwest of it. The attributive forms of these names indicate that the names of a Slavic origin were also taken over by the Hungarians living nearby. The two villages were united in the middle of the 20th century and today it is an independent settlement called *Újruszka* (Slovakian *Nový Ruskov*).

In the southern part of Ung County, another settlement named *Ruszka* (1332–1337: *Ruska*) appears in charters, which remains as a village today under the name of *Dobóruszka* (Slovakian *Ruská*).

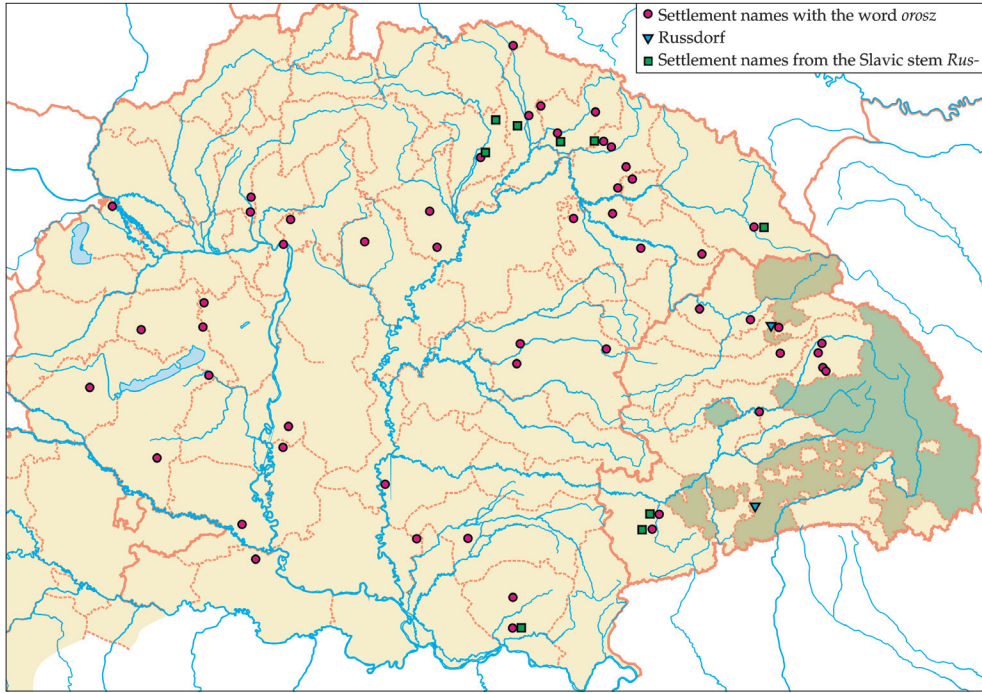
We may also identify the *rus* stem in the *Ruszóc* [ruso:tʃ] (1421: *Rusolch*) name of *Oroszi* settlement in Krassó County with the *-ovъць* topoformant attached to it [Šmilauer, 1970, 29]. This name ending assumed the form in *-óc ~ -olc* in Hungarian [cf. Kenyhercz, 2014]. Today this name form is preserved by the name of the settlement as *Óruszolc* and *Újruszolc* (*Rusova Veche* and *Rusova Nouă* in Romanian).

These settlement names mostly appear in the northern and northeastern parts of the Carpathian Basin, in Abaúj, Zemplén, Ung, and Máramaros counties, in the regions that have direct contact with the residence of Eastern Slavs.

6. Summary

The highest proportion of settlement names derived from the *orosz* ethnonym is seen in the northeastern, northern, as well as eastern, Transylvanian regions of early medieval Hungary (see the map below). Besides these, settlements with such a name also sporadically appear in other parts of the country, except for the central territories. It is visible that most of the villages in question are situated along the border of the country and in the adjacent counties. Historically, this might be explained by the role of the *orosz* ethnic group in border protection in early medieval Hungary. A few decades ago, it was hypothesized that the residents of some of the above-mentioned villages were royal guards, which led to the suggestion that the lexeme *orosz* could bear the meaning of ‘guard, doorkeeper’ in the early Middle Ages [Györffy, 1958, 574–577], however, there is no convincing proof of that in historical research so far [see Kristó, 1980]. At the same time, in the great majority of villages with a name referring to the Eastern

Slavic ethnic group, it was rather a population involved in agriculture and not military services that probably settled down. According to some historical studies, these people mostly settled down in royal estates [Maksai, 1940, 185–186].



Geographical distribution of the *orosz*-type settlement names in Hungary

Chronologically, the earliest occurrences of the settlement names discussed here were recorded in sources at the beginning of the 13th century while the most part comes from the 14th–15th centuries. The highest number of 13th-century occurrences were recorded in historical sources in the Transdanubia region, which, however, may also be due to the greater number sources in the area and does not necessarily testify to earlier immigration than in other regions. It should be noted that the appearance of these names is, of course, contingent on sources, while it is also clear that the establishment of the settlements always precedes the time of their first recording, maybe even by a century. The above trend, however, still allows us to conclude that the larger scale and typical settlement of a population designated by the *orosz* ethnonym could take place only in the second half of the Árpád Era (995–1301) and the following centuries.

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**СЛЕДЫ ВОСТОЧНОСЛАВЯНСКИХ ПЕРЕСЕЛЕНЦЕВ
В ОЙКОНИМИИ СРЕДНЕВЕКОВОЙ ВЕНГРИИ***

Венгры пришли в Среднедунайскую низменность около 895–900 гг., после чего расселились по внутренним равнинам, главным образом по берегам рек. Ко времени правления короля Стефана I, когда языческая религия уступила место христианству, предыдущие племенные союзы распались. Окраинные области Венгрии были по большей части не заселены до XII в., затем этнический ландшафт начал меняться — вместе с приходом саксов, славян, валахов и печенегов. Венгерских письменных источников, созданных до колонизации Среднедунайской низменности, не существует. Наиболее ранние памятники письменности на латинском (реже — греческом) языке содержат лишь редкие вкрапления венгерских слов и выражений, и большую часть таких вкраплений составляют топонимы. Благодаря раннему времени фиксации этот немногочисленный топонимический материал оказался чрезвычайно ценным для лингвистики и исследований по ранней истории Венгрии и этнической истории Карпатского бассейна. Особую значимость имеют зафиксированные в средневековых источниках ойконимы, образованные от этнонимов, — они позволяют пролить свет на отношения между венграми и другими народами в Средневековье. Данная статья посвящена ойконимам, содержащим в себе этнонимический компонент *orosz*, который в средневековом венгерском языке обозначал восточнославянских переселенцев. Этот этноним впервые отмечен в источниках XI–XII вв., хотя отдельные группы славян могли присоединиться к венграм еще до их

* Данная публикация является частью исследовательского проекта, реализуемого Научной группой по изучению истории и топонимии венгерского языка (Дебреценский университет, Венгерская академия наук).

прихода в Среднедунайскую низменность. В исследовании показано, что наибольшее число ойконимов, восходящих к этнониму *orosz*, сгруппированы в северных, восточных и северо-восточных областях средневековой Венгрии, по большей части вдоль границ страны. Автор описывает наиболее частотные словообразовательные модели, характерные для этой группы топонимов, а также обсуждает, в какой мере эти данные могут быть полезны при решении задач реконструкции этнического состава средневековой Венгрии.

К л ю ч е в ы е с л о в а: древневенгерский язык; Среднедунайская низменность; топонимы; ойконимы; этнонимы; этническая история

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