

Doctoral (PhD) Dissertation Thesis

**THE TIHANY LAND SURVEY
AS AN ONOMASTIC SOURCE**

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1. Delimitation of the subject, objectives of the dissertation

The aim of this dissertation is the historical linguistic and onomastic processing of all the Hungarian elements scattered in the 1211 land survey of the Abbey of Tihany. I intend to join a trend in Hungarian historical linguistic studies by the investigation of this corpus of place names, that makes efforts to gain more precise and a greater amount of information about language users of the decades following the Hungarian conquest of the Carpathian Basin. Detailed and thorough studies of the Hungarian elements contained by certain important written records have already been conducted. The most prominent of these are listed here. The Hungarian elements in the Greek founding charter of the Veszprémvölgy Convent were studied by DEZSŐ PAIS (1939), while the 1111 and 1113 charters of the Abbey of Zobor were analysed by ISTVÁN KNIEZSA (1949). GÉZA BÁRCZI summarized the historical linguistic findings in the deed of foundation of the Abbey of Tihany in full detail and thoroughness (1951). DÉNES SZABÓ examined the deed of gift of the Provostship of Dömös from an orthographic point of view, and he also discussed the topographic and hydrographic issues in it (1937, 1954). These papers from the middle third of the 20th century applied a general historical linguistic approach customary in Hungarian linguistics for the processing of the documents named. Later, the interest in foreign language written records containing Hungarian elements decreased, and continuous Hungarian texts came into the centre of attention. With this loss of interest, a process enriching historical linguistics in the domains of etymology, historical phonetics, orthographic history and historical morphology connected to the earliest periods of the Hungarian language was broken off. In the past decades, onomastic studies produced a considerable amount of new information in the field of historical phonetics and morphology, and these findings can help reevaluate the early foreign sources containing Hungarian elements. Furthermore, the Hungarian place names appearing in these historical sources (mediaeval charters) are not only important for historical linguistics and onomastics (as sole sources of information related to certain historical periods), but can be successfully used for research purposes in other areas of science as well: e.g. historical scholarship (settlement history and ethnohistory especially), historical geography, ethnography etc.

Historians, for instance, considerably rely on the chronological layers of place names in the analysis of ethnic composition of the population in earlier periods of history.

Recently, following the methodological innovations initiated by LORÁND BENKŐ, ISTVÁN HOFFMANN has emphasised that next to the general historical linguistic aspects, the onomastically founded taxonomical approach was also important and necessary. Such an approach was applied successfully in his monograph discussing the Hungarian place names in the 1055 deed of foundation of the Abbey of Tihany (2010). The onomastic approach emphasized by ISTVÁN HOFFMANN is not only helpful in etymological studies (providing more detailed explanations about the origin and history of the given Hungarian elements in the foreign texts), but it is applicable to the whole of the document, thus enabling the researcher to acquire further knowledge about the document itself. The enterprise undertaken in this paper is a similar one: the above described approaches are applied for the study of Hungarian place names in the 1211 land survey of Tihany.

The subject of the present investigation is the 1211 land survey of the Abbey of Tihany that contains perambulations and a listing of the servantry by town and craft. The survey was ordered by Andrew II to renew the boundary descriptions that were put down in the 1055 founding charter, having been outdated by that time. The document contains more than two thousand Hungarian elements — 140–142 place names and about two thousand personal names — from the Zala and Somogy shore of the Balaton, the Tolna–Bodrog region of the Danube, and the Torontál region of the Tisza. The objective of this paper is the processing of all the 125–127 Hungarian place names of the document. The reason for this is the fact that place names lend themselves easier to historical linguistic investigation than personal names. For, in the case of place names, localization helps in the identification of linguistic elements from a spatial aspect, and it connects them to subsequent occurrences of the given place. The other reason why place names can be considered as more reliable source material is that the factors triggering changes in them are more of linguistic nature than in the case of personal names, which are more often changed by language-external (cultural and social) factors. At some points of the paper, however, evidence from personal names is also used in the

discussion of certain issues (but without a detailed analysis of these names).

The historical linguistic and onomastic documentary value of the Tihany land survey is further increased by the possibility of comparison with other written records. The study of the two documents (the 1055 founding charter and the 1211 land survey) issued by the same institution (the Abbey of Tihany) provides an opportunity for the researcher to discuss certain onomastic, philological etc. issues. In this paper, I made efforts to exploit the opportunity of such a comparison in connection with some of the given issues.

2. Studies performed, and methods of the investigation

This dissertation includes five chapters that constitute two main sections: a part discussing theoretical issues and another section made up of the entries describing the place names from the 1211 survey in detail. As an introduction to the subject matter, issues from the history of science and the historical linguistic significance of the land survey are discussed; then the Latin text of the document and its Hungarian translation follow. Finally, as a closing section to the studied theoretical issues, a comprehensive passage discusses some more general aspects of the charter: in what ways the place names are integrated into the Latin text, issues of localization, and name taxonomical characteristics. These chapters discussing theoretical issues frame the central chapter that analyses the empirical linguistic material, the Hungarian place names from the document, in a format including separate entries.

In the central chapter, the 125–127 different Hungarian place names of the text are analysed. This is so, because some of the place names refer to the same place, and in some cases (like in connection with the four different occurrences of *Szölös*), it is not unambiguous how many referents the names denote. During the analysis of the names, the following issues were discussed. 1) Etymologization is traditionally considered as the most important part of place name analysis in historical linguistics; therefore, the historical-etymological study of the data is very emphatic in this paper as well. In connection with the description of the linguistic elements, I referred to general historical phonetic and orthographic factors, and also to more recent historical linguistic findings. 2) Not only the etymology, the

linguistic origin of the words, was examined in the dissertation, but other points of interest of name analysis as well, in accordance with the method called place name reconstruction by ISTVÁN HOFFMANN (2007: 80, 2010: 14, 220). The central aim of this method is localization. 3) In the course of the comparison of the 1211 Tihany land survey with other sources (first and foremost the earliest authentic Hungarian written record, the 1055 founding charter of the Abbey of Tihany), I had the opportunity to explore the differences and similarities in the Hungarian place names in the documents. This comparison was justified by the fact that these documents were both issued by the same institution, the Abbey of Tihany, and their orthography and use of place names show considerable similarities, despite certain differences. 4) Furthermore, the relation of the Hungarian place names to the Latin text is also studied. The traditional methods of analysis hardly ever considered the texts from this respect: the Hungarian elements were usually just taken out of context mechanically. The consideration of this angle, however, enables us to gain more information about the morphological structure of the Hungarian elements from the text, and also about the spoken variants underlying the written forms.

3. Findings of the study

About the linguistic analysis of the Tihany land survey

In the first chapter of the dissertation, the linguistic significance of the 1211 land survey is discussed, alongside with a justification of why it is necessary to process this document. This written record has been treated in two essays from the aspect of its orthography and the personal names in it, and an overview about the history of possession also has been written, but a detailed onomastic and historical linguistic investigation of it has not been carried out in a monographic format, and it has not got much attention from philologists either.

Nevertheless, the land survey of Tihany is significant not only because of the rich corpus of names to be found in it, but also because it provides an opportunity of comparison with documents from about the same period of history, having been written for similar purposes, about partly the same areas of land. Besides its direct relation to the 1055 founding charter of the Abbey of Tihany, there are further important sources connected to the

1211 land survey, which can serve as a basis for comparison during the analysis. The 1193 deed of gift of the Fehérvár Johannite templars and “Gesta Hungarorum” by Anyonymus (from the end of the 1210s), as a matter of fact, constitute a synchronic linguistic environment for the studied document. This dissertation examines the connection of only the 1055 Tihany founding charter to the Tihany land survey in detail. The document also required reevaluation from the respect of the history of orthography, since the development witnessed in this domain in the past fifty years has somewhat changed the view on certain Hungarian elements in the text.

The historical linguistic significance of the land survey of Tihany

After the insertion of a literal copy of the Latin text (PRT. 10: 502–17), and its Hungarian translation (SZENTGYÖRGYI 2009), the philological significance of the charter is discussed in detail, and the Hungarian place names occurring in the draft and the sealed document are described.

Next to its sizable corpus of names, a network of internal and external interrelations also makes this document valuable. It is not only the 1055 founding charter that this land survey can be compared to, but also the other Tihany charters (e.g. the interpolated version of the deed of foundation (1055>1416), the charter falsified to the time of Saint Ladislaus (+1092/+1274/1399), and the papal charter concerning Tihany from 1267/1297)). The philological significance of the inner associations in the document are also important to emphasise, since the fact that both a draft and the authentic charter survived and are available for study provides a special opportunity for investigation. This unique philological situation also enabled me to reveal the similarities and differences between the draft and the authentic charter, thus gaining more general insight to the methods of the charter writing practice of the time. Therefore, this rich network of connections of the Tihany land survey provides opportunity not only for the direct study of the charter itself, but also for getting information about more general issues (like the charter writing practice of the time).

In connection with the philological issues of the land survey, I have found that the orthographical and linguistic phenomena described in the dissertation (notations referring to different states of sounds, differences in

the lexical-morphological structure and in the Latin wording) do not help clarify the long debated question of whether the sealed copy of the Tihany land survey was written at somebody's dictation of the draft or was copied from it. It has become obvious from the study, however, that the spelling practice of the Tihany founding charter influenced the orthography of the draft. Such an influence is not traceable in the orthography of the authentic land survey, since the writer of this text partly modified the spelling of the Hungarian elements in accordance with the orthographic principles of the time.

The integration of the Hungarian elements into the text

In the course of the investigation of the connection between the Latin text and the Hungarian place names scattered in it, I studied the characteristic methods of wording applied in the survey. The results of this inquiry were compared with the word insertion methods observable in the 1055 founding charter and the 1055>1416 interpolated charter. This comparative study has revealed that some typical methods for word insertion had become wide-spread and rather frequent in the charter writing practice of the time by the beginning of the 13th century. Such methods include denominative phrases (e.g. *de lacu, quod vulgo dicitur Bolotun* etc.), the elliptic variants of denominative phrases and the use of geographical common names (e.g. *villa Eurmenes, stagnum Colon* etc.). Primitive methods like the use of expressions lacking structural reference (*idem Mortua*) fell into the background by this time. On the other hand, the Latin preposition + Hungarian element construction (e.g. *iuxta Balatin, ultra Bocon* etc.) that was already in favour in the 11th century, became fairly frequent in this period. A certain kind of unevenness, however, is observable in the text itself as well (similarly to the founding charter), which may be connected to the fact that some of the lands are simply listed, while some of them appear with detailed boundary descriptions.

While studying the context of the Hungarian elements, place names displayed in Latin or in Latinized forms were also investigated. These Latinized forms first of all appear in the last paragraph of the document, next to the names of clergymen and secular dignitaries. The Latinized names occurring in the Tihany land survey are mainly names of counties (e.g. *Bachiensibus, Chenadiensem* etc.), county seats (e.g. *Agriensem,*

Quinqueecclesiensem etc.) and names of major rivers and lakes (e.g. *Danubium*, *Ticiam*), which correspond well to the Latinized forms from other mediaeval sources. The use of Latin and Latinized forms of place names widely known in Europe was not only prescribed by the charter writing practices of the time, but was probably favoured by charter writers also because these forms could be declined in a regular way, thus making it simple to insert them into the Latin sentence structure.

Localization of the place names in the land survey

The association of the Hungarian place name data with the corresponding physical space is of high importance both in the course of name reconstruction (i.e. the historical-etymological analysis) and because of the territorial relations of ethnic reconstruction. Moreover, it is to be considered that natural names and the names of inhabited areas do not bear with the same amount of ethnic identifying power.

The identification of the places denoted by the place names in the Tihany land survey showed that although these lands stretch over a large territory, they are clustered in nine territorial units. The first unit occupies the northern region of the Balaton, and mainly the middle section of its shore (*Tihany*, *Petra*, *Örvényes*, *Udvari*, *Pécsely*, *Kövesd*, *Aszófő*, *Papsoka*, *Kék*, *Arács*, *Füred*, *Dörgicse*, *Szőlős*, *Vászoly*, *Fülöp*, and *Szőlős* on the shore of Balaton); the second, smaller unit is situated by the Somló Hill in Veszprém County (two villages named *Belen*, *Szőlős* beyond the Bakony Hills, and *Csősz*); the third is in the region between the Danube and the Tisza, in the area of present-day Izsák (*Kolon* estate); the fourth is by the Csanád County riverbank of the Tisza (*Morotva* estate and *Bálványos*); the fifth is at the Bodrog County region of the Danube (*Besenyő* estate); the sixth is in Tolna County, around Fadd (*Fadd* and *Martos*); the seventh is in Somogy County, along the upper course of the Füzegy (*Ság* village beyond Gyóta, *Igal* and *Füzegy*); the eighth is on the Somogy County shore of the Balaton, in the area of present-day Siófok and Szántód (*Szántó* and *Türk*); and finally, the ninth unit is situated southwest from the eighth one, in the area of Boglár and Gamás (*Csopak*, *Gamás* and *Teleki*). Thus, the corpus of Hungarian names from the land survey is suitable for the linguistic characterization of the above listed areas (the Zala County shore of the Balaton, and the Danube and Tisza

regions).

Onomastic conclusions

In this subchapter, the linguistic-onomastic features appearing in the place names of the 1211 land survey of Tihany are described. The results are compared to the characteristics found by ISTVÁN HOFFMAN in the place names of the 1055 deed of foundation of the Abbey of Tihany. The study of the Hungarian place names in the charter has been fruitful both from the aspect of the individual linguistic elements and the whole of the place name corpus of the document. It has even provided opportunities for the investigation of more general issues, broader than the scope of the given charter.

The place names of Hungarian origin occurring in the charter can be classified into two clearly separable categories: civilized names and natural names. These two categories of names are more or less balanced in number in the two Tihany charters. From a structural aspect, one-part and two-part place names are equally frequent in both of the documents. Most of the natural names have a one-part structure in the land survey. In both of the charters, a decisive proportion of the one-part toponyms were formed from personal names with metonymical naming (e.g. *Arács*, *Fülöp*, *Pécsely* etc.). The two-part natural names usually contain a geographical common name designating the type of the place (e.g. *Harangod foka*, *Kökény ere*, *Pozsony tava* etc.), and the one-part toponyms are also based on this word group (e.g. *Fok*, *Morotva*, *Örény* etc.). There is a further similarity between the founding charter and the land survey in the grammatical structure of the two-part names, as these typically form a morphologically marked possessive construction. The conclusions of my analysis of the two documents support the observation that the 1211 land survey took into consideration the methods applied for the taking down of place names in the 1055 founding charter.

Through the description of the linguistics-onomastic features appearing in the place names of the Tihany founding charter and the land survey, I had an opportunity to survey the most typical ways of old Hungarian place naming (one-part toponyms formed from personal names, and two-part natural names formed from geographical common names). Through the course of the study, it has been established that 82 Hungarian place names

in the Tihany founding charter and 112 names in the land survey can be associated with Hungarian users. However, it would require the analysis of a considerably larger corpus of place names to establish how the typological differences observable in the place names in these two important written records of the Hungarian language are related to the time (more than 150 years) passed between the dates of their creation.

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