Summary

The aim of this doctoral dissertation is a historical linguistic and onomastic investigation of place names in the Founding Charter of the Abbey of Garamszentbenedek. The historical linguistic analysis of the proper names and their Latin context in the document is somewhat hindered by the fact that the authentic charter from the 11th century did not survive. Only a document from the 13th century is available for linguistic examination, which is based on the authentic, 11th century founding charter, but in addition to the original text, it contains extraneous material.

Relying on the proper names of the Garamszentbenedek Founding Charter, the main objective of this paper is to lay the foundation of a novel methodology that is specialised in helping the processing of written records of doubtful authenticity. In accordance with the objective of the dissertation, it is only a certain proportion of the Hungarian proper names scattered in the text that are discussed in detail. Of the approximately 250 Hungarian elements, only those names and text passages were chosen for investigation, the analysis of which would not only provide facts about the 11th and 13th century status of the Hungarian language, but would also aid a better understanding of the characteristics of interpolated charters.

The first chapter of the dissertation describes the most important characteristics of Hungarian charter writing, the status of linguistic processing of the surviving charters, and the main characteristic features of interpolated documents, being special within the family of charters. In the second chapter, the circumstances of creation of the Garamszentbenedek Charter are discussed and the philological assessment of the document is described. The third, greater unit of the dissertation considered the issues of historical linguistic documentary value of the interpolated charter. As the charter only survived in a transcribed format, I saw it necessary to take a closer look at the critical editions: it is crucial from the aspect of the linguistic inquiry as well, why the authors of these editions considered one or another passage to have been written in the 13th century. The original parts and the interpolated passages in interpolated texts do not bear with equal documentary value; this is why the proper names from the original and interpolated sections of the charter are analysed under a separate subheading. The first section of the fourth chapter contains the analysis of two boundary descriptions of great significance. One of these describes the immediate neighbourhood of the abbey, while the other description is one that was preserved in a further charter besides this founding document. Moreover, the 1338 charter in question was, in all probability, based on
the 11th century, authentic document and not on the 13th century, interpolated one. The comparison of these two passages provided a suitable base for the study of interpolation and modifications implemented during charter transcription. Furthermore, this chapter also intends to provide some information for the historical linguistic investigation of two place names the etymology of which is very much uncertain: Huger and Susolgi. In the fourth section of the chapter, I examined how the Hungarian place names, especially the ones translated into Latin or appearing in a Latinized form, fit into the Latin text of the charter. For a detailed investigation of the issue, the context of the study was expanded to the place names of other documents as well. The last section of the chapter was written about the history of changes in the names of the Garamszentbenedek abbey-lands. A special viewpoint was applied in this investigation, because only the names originating from the noun apát (=abbot) were studied.