

The Place Names of *Ipoly mente*

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Introduction

In this work I am dealing with the functional linguistic analysis of 13 settlements' contemporary and historic names of the *Ipoly mente*. Altogether, I am analysing 754 historic and 692 live geographical names. The choice of this topic was motivated by personal reasons: my parents are from the *Ipoly mente* (*Ipolybél* and *Lontó*), my relatives still live there. I was born in *Ipolyság*, and I spent unforgettable years with my grandparents. Thanks to them I became fond of the countryside, got familiar with the way of farming and folk culture.

Some information about the place names of the examined area have already been published by GYULA JANKUS (JANKUS 1988; 1994), but he has not dealt with their linguistic analysis. With the collection of both historical and live place names I succeeded to create such a database, which has helped not only write my own work, but it may serve as a source in any forthcoming research. Besides the linguistic investigation of place-names, I attempt to give a general idea about the Hungarians living in the Uplands, about the language use of legal regulations followed by the change in power relations, about the history and ethnography of the area examined. I shortly introduce the local dialect, concentrating on phonetic phenomena.

After a brief investigation of place-names from a viewpoint of their origin, typology and construction/formation on the grounds of LAJOS KISS (Etymological Dictionary of Geographical Names. 1997) and MILAN MAJTÁN (1972), I provide data about the place names' etymology, and the first appearance in written records and historical data about the modification of the names. Next the linguistic analysis of the place names of *Ipoly mente* is described.

By the functional-semantic analysis I identify those appellative motives which played an important role in the formation of the name (cf. HOFFMANN 1993, 43). I categorise parts of place-names according to their meaning and function. The linguistic devices composing the structures of names are selected into different groups according to a lexical-morphological investigation. Their special word classes and connotation features are introduced as well.

In the course of the syntagmatic analysis of the two-element place names, the grammatical relation between the components is analysed. Considering the special features of place names, different categories are used to introduce the word compositions.

I have carried out an analysis of the Slovak place-names of the latest maps, comparing the changes between historical and live (Hungarian) names and the Slovak names used and translated by the mapmakers.

Settlement names

As I have already mentioned in the introduction, my aim is not to analyse the names of settlements in a detailed way. After a short original, typological and structural investigation I provide a list of places-names, their etymology, first appearance in a written record and some historical data containing the alterations of place names. The above data are published in entries. The sources used are the Etymological Dictionary of Geographical Names and the work *Názvy obcí na Slovensku...* by MILAN MAJTÁN (1972).

“The comparative study of the 9th, 11th-13th century place-names in the Carpathian Basin clearly proves that the Hungarians who moved into this territory between 895–900 did not adopt earlier names of already existing villages, forts and towns.” (GYÖRFFY 1990, 327). This certainly does not mean that from an etymological viewpoint all the place names arisen from Hungarian appellation can be traced back to a Hungarian common noun or a proper noun (firstly a personal name). There are numerous examples to prove that Turkish and Slavonic borrowings from the Pre-Conquest period and our personal names stemming from these borrowings played an important role in the birth of our place-names arisen from Hungarian appellation (ex. *Szalka* [see below]). Elements from the language/languages of the Slavonic population remained in the Carpathian Basin after the Conquest became basic elements in creating place names (ex. *Ipolypásztó* [see below]).

There preserved only some names to do with water from the Pre-Conquest period place-name system of Slavonic population living in the Carpathian Basin, which might subsequently become names of settlements (see also GYÖRFFY 1990, 327).

The settlement names examined (altogether 13) from this area are all of Hungarian appellation. There is one tribe name derivative (*Ipolykiskeszi*), 2 common noun derivatives (*Ipolyság*, *Lontó*) and 10 personal name derivatives (*Gyerk*, *Helemba*, *Ipolybél*, *Ipolypásztó*, *Ipolyszakállos*, *Ipolyvisk*, *Leléd*, *Pereszlény*, *Szalka*, *Szete*).

Considering their structure, I analysed names consisting of one, two and three items. The local usage mentions only one-component names: *Bél*, *Gyerk*, *Helemba*, *Keszi*, *Leléd*, *Lontó*, *Pásztó*, *Pereszlény*, *Ság*, *Szakállos*, *Szalka*, *Szete*, *Visk*. It is characteristic that half of our place names possess a distinctive prefix that refers to their location near the river *Ipoly*: *Ipolybél* (1907), *Ipoly(kis)keszi* (1497/1773/1907), *Ipolypásztó* (1691), *Ipolyság* (1799), *Ipolyszakállos* (1863), *Ipolyszalka* (1913), *Ipolyvisk* (1907). All the settlements with the exception of *Ipolypásztó* and *Ipolyság* received their names during the 19th and 20th century nationwide settlement-name arrangement (Mező 1982).

In case of *Ipolykiskeszi* I would like to add some explanation about the three data in brackets. Our place name containing a prefix with tribal-name origin can be registered back to 1497 (*Ipolkezew*). 300 years later, it appeared with another prefix, 1773: *Kiss-Keszi*. In 1907 during the nationwide settlement-name arrangement, the form *Ipolykiskeszi* was constructed from two historical entries. This fact can justify the existence of another settlement called *Ipolykeszi* in the County of Hont.

Functional-semantic analysis

This issue of names from the Ipoly mente contains solely one- and two-element names. I have dealt with 754 historical and 692 live geographical names altogether. I only realised during the arrangement of these names that ISTVÁN HOFFMANN'S statement is true: "the analysis of one-element names causes much more difficulties than that of two-element names" (HOFFMANN 1993, 54). After the initial hardship, I decided to carry out the functional-semantic analysis of one-element and two-element names separately. I digressed from the basic model, but I hope that my system is transparent and distinct.

The primary function of the one-element names is appellation. This is valid for those names that, from an etymological viewpoint, were formed from two-element names.

	Estate Map Names		Live Names	
Purely appalling function	52	25%	45	25,28%
Denote the quality of a place	17	8,17%	34	19,10%
Denote the specialities of a place	131	62,98%	93	52,24%
Can be analysed in different ways	8	3,84%	6	3,37%
Total	208	100%	178	100%

Table 1 The functional-semantic features of one-element names

The features of 208 historical and 178 one-element live names can be compared according to Table 1 above. We may establish that names with purely appellative function and names with different ways of analysis can be found in both corpora in a very similar proportion. A great divergence – of approximately 10-10% – appears in the groups of names indicating qualities and specialities. Among the live names – in comparison with historical names – there are more one-element names indicating quality of place, while in case of names indicating specialities the situation is reverse.

The reasons for the difference can be explained by the moments of genesis. It is possible that the rise of names indicating quality was resulted by the completion of historical names, while the decrease of names indicating specialities was resulted by an ellipsis. Of course only a part of cases can be explained by these processes, the extinction and formation of new names should be counted with as well. My argumentation explains the possible reasons of changes only theoretically. For exploring the real reasons, detailed etymological examination is needed, which traces the changes at every single name.

Lexical-morphological analysis

The functional-semantic background was taken into consideration by the lexical-morphological examination of place names. My research of the *Ipoly mente* supports HOFFMANN ISTVÁN's perception, according to which it is the function (the content to be denoted) that determines the term's formal realizations (HOFFMANN 1993, 62).

Here I would like to add some words about the correspondence of the functional-semantic and lexical-morphological analysis and categories. In my analysis I have laid a great emphasis on consistency, i.e. certain lexical-morphological categories had to correspond in contents (concerning classified place-names) with some functional-semantic categories. By way of example a name segment with a denominating function, can always get into the lexical-morphological category of place names or place name derivatives (*Mank/hegy*, *Hosszú/Homok*) because '[t]here is always a real place name in a denominating function' (HOFFMANN 1993, 47). In case of the function of two places' common relation the appearance of another lexical category can be possible if the name parts express a related situation (*Alsó/dűlők*, *Belső/félhold*).

Seemingly I get into a contradiction with HOFFMANN'S classification groundwork. ISTVÁN HOFFMANN takes into consideration those lexical elements - based on semantic aspects and the meaning of common nouns-, which create place-names or functional name parts (HOFFMANN 1993, 57). Alongside the application of the standpoints above my analysis is different, because I do not take the common noun meaning of one-element place names and name elements with denominating function (see examples above) for terminus a quo. Consistently making a rule of functional aspect - in case of one-element names the name itself - I examine them among the place name derivatives.

The exception is made by the one-element place-names of personal name origin (*Ágota*, *Bencék*), because despite their denominating function they got into the lexical-morphological category of personal names. Although the name *Bencék* etymologically is a name, which was probably formed with a place-name suffix and this fact would sooner classify it to the group of one-element place names. But in case of personal names I did not consider expedient the ranking of these names into other lexical-morphological classes.

There appeared such name segments whose name segment function and word class affiliation could not be defined because of the lack of data (e.g. *Farkas/hegy*, *Török/lyuk*). Because of this reason, I pasted the group of diversely analysable names into the lexical-morphological categories as well.

	Estate Map names		Live Names	
Common nouns	303	40,18%	278	40,17%
Place names (derivatives)	322	42,70%	282	40,75%
Personal names	14	1,85%	24	3,46%
Other proper names	2	0,26%	5	0,72%
Words of adjectival character	71	9,41%	88	12,71%
Word structures	39	5,17%	7	1,01%
Diversely analysable name segments	3	0,39%	7	1,01%
Name segments without categorisation	-	-	1	0,14%
Total	754	100%	692	100%

Table 2 The results of lexical-morphological investigation

Comparing the results of lexical-morphological investigation of two-name materials we may establish the fact that the majority of functional name segments are common nouns or place-names. The burden of both categories is of the same character. The high number of common nouns can be explained with the frequency of geographical common nouns (Estate Map: 87,78%, A: 82,37%). The existing names' important role played by the creation of new names can be proved by the fact that approximately 40% of functional name segments are place-names. The only difference between the name groups is that there are five times more word structures in the historical corpus than in the group of live names. In my opinion, this can be explained with the mapmakers' frequent usage of circumscriptions to make the localisation more accurate and with the application of data providers' notes as parts of names (e.g. *Nagyoszlás a szőlők alatt*- *Nagyoszlás under the grapes*). The other reason is the case of pathnames already reviewed, thus the mapmakers named certain paths independently from the folk(original) appellation. The names were given according to the paths' directions, i.e. where do they lead from (*Szete felől*, *Visk felől*) or where do they run to (*Kis-Keszi felé*, *Szalka felé*).

Syntagmatic analysis

In my syntagmatic analysis the grammatical relation is examined between two-element place names. Considering the specialities of place names, I used the categories created for the introduction of common noun compounding.

HOFFMANN confronting the existing systematisations establishes that in spite of using the same concepts the results were different. He rejects the ability of subjective and objective relations of connecting functional name segments, (HOFFMANN 1993: 59, 60).

Accepting HOFFMANN'S argumentation I based my paper on attributive, adverbial and compound relations as well as names with different structures (HOFFMANN 1993: 60) and other basic types. However, the names of *Ipoly mente* consist of only attributive and adverbial structures and that is why I examined these two types in a more detailed way.

	Estate Map names		Live names	
Attributive structures	258	94,50%	253	98,47%
Adverbial (prepositional) structures	15	5,49%	4	1,55%
Total	273	100%	257	100%

Table 3 The results of syntagmatic analysis

The attributive structures dominate in both name materials in almost the same degree. The reason of numerical difference of adverbial structures can be explained by the mapmakers' method of appellation. The Estate Maps, and the Hungarian surveys try to show the names used at that time but unfortunately in numerous cases they differ. I do not expect that such complicated names as *Ipoly-Pásztói hattárra dülő*, *Kis-Keszi határra dülő*, *Öreghegynéli Mogyorós*, *Ótrendes Köpedéktónál* were actively used in everyday speech at that time.

The Slovak varieties of the place-names of *Ipoly mente*

In connection with the newest Slovak maps I examined the changes of Slovak names in comparison with historical and live (Hungarian) names, what and how it was translated by the Slovak mapmakers.

The Slovak maps of the period after Trianon contain 356 different place-names. By paralleling, in the maps with different languages there appeared some typical features of the translation, which helped create two main categories: calque and Slovak names based on a new motivation. Since I examined the operation of calque in a wider sense, I had an opportunity for a more modulated introduction of certain converting operations.

Calque	Calques	136	44,59% (38,20%*)
	Transcriptions	25	8,19% (7%*)
	Form alteration	93	30,49% (26,12%*)
	The change of grammatical structure	32	10,49% (8,98%*)
	Other	19	6,22% (5,33%*)
	Total	305	100% (85,67%*)
New motivation		51	100% (14,32%*)
Total		356	100%

Table 4 *Converting operations*

Note: * Related to all translations

The data of the chart show that the 50% of Slovak names are calques or transcriptions, this way they are in a close connection with the original Hungarian name material. The divergences (e.g. in numbers, or the Hungarian suffixes are replaced by prepositions in the Slovak version) appearing during the converting operations are caused by the differences in the two languages' typology and ways of appellation.

Conclusion

I do not consider the process of data collection finished by the act of writing my study. There are numerous opportunities offered to be done, e.g. the research of name alterations, which may answer many questions in connection with the etymology and physiology of names. I intend to do the examination of certain name types and discover specialities of their appellation. Not a little is interesting the research of geographical common nouns, whose examination may bring many interesting results, connected with words' geography. Lastly I would mention the names of intravillan names which were unjustly left out of the classification and are still to be done.

I made an effort to stay loyal with the rich traditions of onomastics, but I intended to provide some new information, which is closely connected to the facts of modern research in this discipline. I always followed the academic requirements, clarity and distinctness.

Researching place names is not only a task for philologists, but it also provides a great deal of valuable information for other disciplines (ethnography, archaeology, history of settlements). In many cases, the geographical names preserve thousand-year-old memories, and that is why their professional collection and minuting is necessary. This is especially true for Hungarian territories beyond the Hungarian border.

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