

# Two groups of place names preserving Hungarian cultural heritage

**Gábor Mikešy\***

Department of Geoinformatics, Lechner Knowledge Centre, Budapest, Hungary

To cite this article: Mikešy, Gábor. 2023. Two groups of place names preserving Hungarian cultural heritage. *Onoma* 58, 93–103. DOI: 10.34158/ONOMA.58/2023/6

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.34158/ONOMA.58/2023/6>

© *Onoma* and the author.

## Article history

Received on 18 June 2023.

Final form accepted on 20 December 2023.

Published online on 21 December 2023.

## Two groups of place names preserving Hungarian cultural heritage

**Abstract:** The Hungarians migrated to the Pannonian Basin at the end of the first millennium, and their society changed relatively quickly from a pagan nomadic society to a settled Christian and feudal society. The peopling of the new homeland and the settlement resulted in creations of a mass of geographical names. Later transformations coincided with a number of language changes.

Geographical names can perform their primary function – the clear identification of places – with relative formal stability. This property makes them suitable for preserving reminiscences of times long past. It was an important revelation of Hungarian onomastics that chronological layers can be established on the basis of the morphological features of geographical names.

A unique feature of early Hungarian place naming in the region is that elements of certain groups of proper names (for ethnicities, tribes, persons, servants, etc.) could become place names without suffixation or any grammatical transformation. This paper focuses on two groups of names that have a significant cultural heritage: early Hungarian personal names and names of certain occupations. The vast majority of the examples discussed cannot be explained from today's Hungarian language. Both groups also provide significant additions to the interethnic relations and immigrations of the era.

\* Contact: Department of Geoinformatics, Lechner Knowledge Centre, Budafoki út 59 E/3, H-1111 Budapest, Hungary; e-mail: [gabor.mikesy@lechnerkozpont.hu](mailto:gabor.mikesy@lechnerkozpont.hu).

**Keywords:** Hungarian onomastics, early naming practises, extinct names, names of occupations, chronologic layers.

### **Deux groupes de toponymes préservant le patrimoine culturel hongrois**

**Résumé :** Les Hongrois ont migré vers le Bassin de Pannonie à la fin du premier millénaire, et leur société s'est transformée relativement rapidement, passant d'une société nomade païenne à une société chrétienne et féodale sédentaire. Le peuplement de la nouvelle patrie et la sédentarisation ont entraîné la création d'une masse de noms géographiques. Transformations ultérieures ont coïncidé avec un certain nombre de changements langue.

Les noms géographiques peuvent remplir leur fonction première – l'identification claire des lieux – avec une relative stabilité formelle. Cette propriété les rend aptes à préserver les réminiscences d'époques lointaines. L'onomastique hongroise a révélé que les couches chronologiques peuvent être établies sur la base des caractéristiques morphologiques des noms géographiques.

Une caractéristique unique des premiers noms de lieux hongrois dans la région est que les éléments de certains groupes de noms propres (pour ethnies, tribus, personnes, serviteurs, etc.) pouvaient devenir des noms de lieux sans suffixation ou transformation grammaticale. Cet article se concentre sur deux groupes de noms qui ont un héritage culturel important: les premiers noms de personnes hongrois et les noms de certaines professions. La grande majorité des exemples discutés ne peuvent être expliqués à partir de la langue hongroise d'aujourd'hui. Les deux groupes apportent également des compléments significatifs aux relations interethniques et aux immigrations de l'époque.

**Mots-clés :** Onomastique hongroise, premières pratiques de dénomination, noms éteints, noms de métiers, couches chronologique.

### **Zwei Gruppen von Ortsnamen, die das ungarische Kulturerbe bewahren**

**Zusammenfassung:** Die Ungarn wanderten am Ende des ersten Jahrtausends in das Pannonische Becken ein, und ihre Gesellschaft wandelte sich relativ schnell von einer heidnischen Nomadengesellschaft zu einer sesshaften christlichen und feudalen Gesellschaft. Die Bevölkerung der neuen Heimat und die Ansiedlung führten zur Entstehung einer Vielzahl von geographischen Namen. Deren spätere Verwandlungen fielen mit einer Reihe von Sprachänderungen zusammen.

Geographische Namen können ihre Hauptfunktion – die eindeutige Identifizierung von Orten – mit relativer Formstabilität erfüllen. Diese Eigenschaft macht sie geeignet, Erinnerungen an längst vergangene Zeiten zu bewahren. Es war eine wichtige Erkenntnis der ungarischen Onomastik, dass sich auf der Grundlage der morphologischen Merkmale geographischer Namen chronologische Schichten bilden lassen.

Ein einzigartiges Merkmal der frühen ungarischen Ortsnamen in der Region ist, dass Elemente bestimmter Gruppen von Eigennamen (für Ethnien, Stämme, Personen, Dienstboten usw.) ohne Suffixierung oder grammatikalische Umwandlung zu Ortsnamen werden konnten. Dieser Beitrag konzentriert sich auf zwei Gruppen von Namen, die ein bedeutendes kulturelles Erbe darstellen: frühe ungarische Personennamen und Namen bestimmter Berufe. Die überwiegende Mehrheit der besprochenen Beispiele lässt sich nicht aus der heutigen ungarischen Sprache erklären. Beide Gruppen liefern auch wichtige Informationen über die interethnischen Beziehungen und die Wanderungsbewegungen der damaligen Zeit.

**Schlüsselbegriffe:** Ungarische Onomastik, frühe Namensgebungs-praktiken, verklungene Namen, Berufsbezeichnungen, chronologische Schichten.

## 1. Introduction

Hungarian science has a long tradition of place-name research and the use of its results in other fields, mainly in history and language history. This study is essentially based on the monumental etymological dictionary by [Lajos Kiss \(1988\)](#), which provides an explanation of the origin of the Hungarian settlement names of the Pannonian Basin almost in its entirety. All examples are from this work. The important role of geographical names in cultural heritage is organised around two important recognitions in this paper. First, one of the most widespread groups of early Hungarian place names is of personal origin. The second is that the structural features of early settlement names are suitable for drawing chronological conclusions. This statement dates back to the first half of the last century. Many have tweaked the details, but it has become an accepted principle. This paper is also a tribute to the renowned researchers of the last century, especially István Kniezsa, Lajos Kiss and György Györffy.

Place names constitute a category of linguistic elements having a rather complicated semantic structure ([Soltész 1979](#)). On the one hand, they reflect on the attributes of the denoted place, while they refer to the linguistic and social tendencies as well as the naming traditions of the given ethnicity. In order to fulfil the primary function of place names (the identification of given places) stability in form is indispensable. Place names, as (relatively) fixed forms, may be affected by historical changes of the language differently from the rest of vocabulary. Explaining the background of names always carries messages for the people.

We can take as ground truth the statement that the basic meaning of a name is nothing other than the thing it designates. Place names do not necessarily have to be meaningful or motivated to be able to fulfil the function of identifying places. At its inception, all names had a clear naming motive (e.g., the natural environment, characteristic shape, the person of the landowner, the social group of the inhabitants, the patron saint). As a consequence of the fact that the primary function of a name is individual identification, but the preservation of other content is not, the mutation and linguistic development of names has followed its own independent path, including the almost unhindered possibility of migration between languages, depending only on the current conditions of the recipient language. By virtue of this property, names are able to preserve as fossils the images of the world of the time and the state of the language in which they were created, or in which a community began to use them. Not changed, or not necessarily changed, by the fact that the naming motive has lost its relevance (e.g., the natural environment has changed or someone else has taken over the site), and did not, or did not necessarily, follow the further forming of the naming motive in the language. The secondary elements of the semantic structure may have evolved over time (e.g., folk etymology).

## 2. Historical and linguistic background

The significant changes in the history of the Hungarian people in the Pannonian Basin coincided with a number of important linguistic changes, so the information that can be derived from geographical names can in many ways reflect both historical processes and the early condition of the language.

Before moving to our narrower topic, it is necessary to make a few historical and linguistic comments. The Hungarian people and language became one of the dominant factors in the Pannonian Basin during the 10th century (after the conquest of the Hungarian tribes, 895/896 A.D.). Hungarians turned from a people of basically nomadic lifestyle to a settled, complex agricultural people relatively quickly. Thousands of localities were founded. After hundred years, Christianity became dominant, and after another hundred years almost exclusive among them. State and social structure began to follow western feudal patterns. The early Hungarian state was multi-ethnic from the beginning, and it has also received many newcomers and ethnic groups, from both East and West. Place names are recorded from the 11th century. King Béla III (1172–1196) extended literacy, and from then on, the number of place-name data increased remarkably. The Mongol invasion (mid-13th century) and the Ottoman conquests (16th and 17th centuries) caused depopulation and emigration in many regions, and the continuity was broken in many places considering population and language use as well.

From the point of view of historical linguistics, the Hungarian language (as a Finno-Ugric language with strong Turkic influences) arrived in the Pannonian Basin, where radically different, essentially Indo-European languages were dominant. In the so-called old Hungarian period significant transformations took place, some were caused by internal processes, others by environmental influences. Among others, new phonemes have emerged (e.g., [ts], [z], [v]), the vocals at the end of words have disappeared, the article system was formed, diphthongs became simplified. The following characteristics were strong at the beginning of the period, but have gradually lost much of their strength:

- Vowel harmony, the tendency to have only palatal or only velar vowels in a word, e.g., Latin *Martin(us)* > Hungarian (henceforth: Hun) *Marton, Márton*.
- Intolerability of the consonant clusters at the beginning of words; there were several ways to avoid them, e.g., Latin *Blas(ius)* > Hun *Balázs*, Slavic (henceforth: Sl) *škola* > Hun *iskola*.
- Not to have an open syllable (consonant + vowel) after an open syllable in words with three (or more) syllables, e.g., Sl *malina* > Hun *málna, Merenye~Mernye*.<sup>1</sup> In this way, these words are shortened.

---

<sup>1</sup> Only the place names concerned by the explanation are given in italics here.

- The vowel system has shifted towards lower voice-production (e.g., we borrowed the Slavic word *potok* ‘brook’, later it was pronounced in Hungarian *patak*).

Some language changes are perfectly illustrated by the case of a Slovak–Hungarian name pair. *Krupina* is the Slovak form, *Korpona* is the Hungarian. The formation of the pair can only be understood in the light of the Slavic origin of the name and the Hungarian linguistic processes outlined above.

- The consonant cluster had to be resolved: *Krupina* > \**Kurupina*.
- [i] has been changed to [u] for vowel harmony: \**Kurupina* > \**Kurupuna*.
- The vowel of the second syllable has been dropped: \**Kurupuna* > \**Kurpuna*.
- The high [u] has been replaced by the middle [o] because of the lower voice production: \**Kurpuna* > *Korpona*.

The Hungarian form *Korpona* was formed in this way. Naturally, the process may have happened simultaneously, not only step-by-step. It is important to underline that this could not have happened the other way round.

### 3. Personal names in old Hungarian settlement names

In what follows, we will deal with Hungarian place names whose antecedents have died out of the Hungarian language. The two groups are personal names and names of occupations, or human activities. In the former case, we are obviously dealing with early personal names, in the latter with common nouns. Both groups represent types of great importance concerning early Hungarian place names.

Let us look first at the group of personal names. Among the early Hungarian settlement names, the most significant group is the group of names which were derived from a personal name. Scholars agree that the typology of place names forms a reliable chronological order (Kniezsa 1943). A unique feature of early Hungarian toponymy, compared to those of the neighbouring countries, is that elements of certain groups of proper names (for persons, ethnicities, tribes, etc.) became toponyms without any derivation (e.g., suffix or combination of words). This phenomenon is also known as nomadic naming because its parallels are also found among nomadic peoples east of the Pannonian Basin. In the 12th century, this practice gradually lost force, giving way to names reflecting individual land ownership and a settled way of life. The following periods were dominated by names with the *-i* suffix, which originally referred to ownership or tenure (ca. 12–14th century): *Dömötöri*, *Hernádpetri*, *Tamási*, etc., later (ca. 13–15th century) word compounds (someone’s village, house, land, e.g., *Mikófalva*, *Pálháza*) and the names of the patron saints of churches (e.g., *Szentendre*, *Szentlászló*). Our examples focus on the first period.

The first group of personal names preserved in place names are the names of the conquering and early landowning elite, which also give us essential information on the names of the ruling layer, i.e., their origin and actual sound form, as well as provide addition to our knowledge of the division of the country within the ruling layer. *Fajsz, Jutas, Solt, Taksony, Tarhos, Tass, Tevel, Üllő*<sup>2</sup> are settlement names that preserve the names of sons and grandsons of Grand Prince Árpád, who founded the ancestor of the present Hungarian state (Györffy II. 1987: 325). Some of them also became grand princes. Their names appear in foreign language (Greek and Latin) historical sources as well, but in uncertain forms. Place-name data are essential for the linguistic reconstruction of their names. These are now registrable given names again (except *Tevel*), mostly in that form in which they appear as place names.

There are dozens of place names in this group. The naming tradition of the ruling class of the pagan era is reflected in the name of localities *Aba, Abád, Alpár, Arad, Bács, Csaba* (today *Békéscsaba, Piliscsaba, Rákoscsaba*<sup>3</sup>, etc.), *Csanád, Emőd, Gyula, Kaba, Kács, Szabolcs, Tétény*, etc., all over the country. The existence of pagan (unreligious) names does not mean that the settlements themselves pre-date Christianity. In many cases, family and clan naming customs have persisted long into the centuries of Christianity (Fehértói 2004; Slíz 2017). It had become general in Hungary by the 14th century for people to bear the names of saints and biblical figures (Hajdú 2003: 359).

Today's Hungarian cannot interpret these place names as personal names, only those that were revived as first names and widely spread since the era of national romanticism (mid-19th century), or have become part of general historical knowledge, e.g., *Csaba, Csanád, Gyula, Szabolcs*.

Among the Eastern peoples who settled in the Pannonian Basin, place naming based purely on personal names was also common. *Alap, Dormánd, Kajd, Oslí, Tabajd, Vajta* bear the names of the leaders of the Pechenegs (another nomadic people), who joined to Hungarians in the 10th century. In their case, their own customs and the Hungarian influence are inseparable. This tradition was prolonged in the territory of the Cumans, who settled in the 13th century: *Balmaz, Kecel, Kötöny, Szatymaz*, etc.

The names of the foreigners, who became owners or users of land in the early Hungarian state, reflect well the mobility and ethnic relations of the period.

Names of Slavic origin (both northern and southern) constitute the largest subgroup with hundreds of names. Slavic communities dominated large areas of the Pannonian Basin before and after the Hungarian conquest (Kniezsa 1938). The examples illustrate the above-mentioned ways of adaptation: *Bagamér* <

<sup>2</sup> Our examples show the living official forms, or the form which is most accepted in Hungary if the place is located in another country today.

<sup>3</sup> The distinctive elements associated with the name in modern times are given in simple italic letters.

'Bogomir'<sup>4</sup>, *Bodmér* < 'Budimir', *Dunabogdány*, *Nyírbogdány* < 'Bogdan', *Bogyoszló* < 'Budislav', *Bozsok* < 'Božik', *Doroszló* > old Sl 'Drslav', *Győrladamér* < 'Vladimir', *Milej* < old Sl 'Milej', *Rádó* < 'Rado', *Füzérradvány* < 'Radovan', *Rátka* < 'Ratko', *Szoboszló* < 'Soběslav', *Vajszló* < 'Vojislav', *Zsadány*, *Zsidány* < old Sl 'Ždan', etc.

The place names formed from German personal names are a significant, but much smaller set, which clearly shows that the Germans only gained more influence in later times. German knights were typically granted land for their military service. Examples: *Arnót* < 'Arnold', *Balf* < 'Wolf', *Gacsály* < 'Gottschalk', *Gibárt* < 'Gebhard', *Hahót* < old German (henceforth: Ger) 'Chahold', *Gút-Kétegút* < old Ger 'Gut', *Korlát* < Ger 'Konrad', *Lipárt* < 'Liebhard', *Radnót* < 'Reinold', *Rátót* < old Ger 'Ratold', *Romhány* < old Ger 'Ruhmann', *Vilmány* < old Ger 'Willmann'.

Borrowing from other languages is quite sporadic, which does not necessarily show a lack of contacts, but only that the potential transmitters were named essentially from Christian culture. Even so a name of French origin deserves attention. The settlement name *Gyán* [ja:n] – today *Kötegyán* and *Mezőgyán* – comes from *Jean*, and its form points to that time when the initial vowel of the French form had not yet developed into a [ɜ].

It should be emphasized that the etymological origin of the names cannot be linked to the ethnicity of the place, since the naming tradition itself is typically Hungarian (Kiss 1999), or Eastern (nomadic, cp. Cumans above).

The Hungarian place naming of purely personal origin continued with names from the Christian culture. There are cases where the borrowed basic form is preserved on the whole (with minimal phonetic adaptation): *Iván* < 'Ivan', *Izsák* < 'Isaac', *Mátyus* < 'Mattheus', etc., but a larger group is represented by those personal names that are typically Hungarian variants (e.g., derivations with suffixes, abbreviations): *Ádánd* < 'Adam', *Becske*, *Bedő*, *Bene* < 'Benedict', *Deménd* < 'Damian', *Györe*, *Györk*, *Györök* < 'Georg', *Ják*, *Jákó* < 'Jacob', *Jánd*, *Jánk* < 'John', *Pér*, *Pércs*, *Pere* < 'Peter', *Pócs*, *Póka*, *Pósa* < 'Paul', *Semjén*, *Sénye*, *Sényő*, *Sima* < 'Simeon, Simon', etc. The latter are mostly also meaningless, unmotivated sound sequences for today's Hungarians.

In the period under study, the vast majority of Hungarian personal names consisted of one element. This situation has favoured the use of distinctive suffixes. Many word endings can be proved to be in use only in the early centuries, and their role was nothing more than the creation of unique forms (Bényei 2012). While modern Hungarian can detect the frequency of the endings, or recognise the original root, the old way of derivation remains obscure. Some have lived on in other roles (e.g., in nicknames). The historical link between the old naming system and today's language use is mainly

<sup>4</sup> For ease of comparison, recent equivalent is provided as etymon using *NamepediA*. If there is no match in it, we quote the data of Kiss (1988) after "old".

provided by geographical names. You can see the *-cs* [tʃ] suffix in the following place names, e.g., *Bekecs, Bikács, Dancs, Dencs, Kércs, Megyercs, Munkács, Pércs, Pócs*, etc., the *-d* suffix in *Ádánd, Atád, Báránd, Endréd, Fejérd, Fiad, Jánd, Káld, Kéked, Kerecsend, Kézd, Királd, Kölked, Lábod, Legénd, Peterd, Sámód, Szend*, the *-k* in *Bánk, Benk, Györk, Ispánk, Jánk, Mányok*, etc., *-ny* [ɲ] in *Bakony, Bóny, Hangony, Harsány, Petény*, etc. Suffixes can be attached to both common and proper nouns. For example, while the root-words of *Bakony, Báránd, Bikács, Fejérd, Fiad, Királd, Legénd* mean by roster ‘perch, male goat’, ‘lamb’, ‘stag, male bovine’, ‘white’, ‘son’, ‘king’ and ‘lad’, *Endréd, Peterd, Pócs, Sámód* come from the early domestic forms of *Andreas, Peter, Paul* and *Samuel*.

The names of some biblical persons have changed significantly in Hungarian since early Christian times, but there are a lot of settlements that preserve the early Hungarian forms of the names of biblical persons and saints, or to be more exact, the names of persons who were named on religious grounds. In the 16th century, complete translations of the Bible were produced, and the legends of the saints were translated into Hungarian as well. These texts were widely disseminated, highlighting a certain name variant of the religious names, which are fixed in a unique form. Historical changes – migration due to the Ottoman occupation – also favoured linguistic unification.

The modern Hungarian form of the person who led the Jews out of Egypt to the Promised Land is *Mózes*. This name does not appear among early settlement names, but there are names which can be linked to the earlier forms *Mois* or *Moysa*: *Majs, Majos* and *Kiskunmajsza*. Similarly, the names of the villages of *Nova* and *Novaj* cannot be connected with Noah in modern Hungarian, because its only modern form is *Noé*. A dozen of settlements retain the early shortened form of the name *Abraham*: *Ábrány* (*Abranovce*, Slovakia<sup>5</sup>), *Bükkábrány, Érábrány* (*Abram*, Romania), *Nyirábrány, Ábránka* (*Абранка*, Ukraine), etc. This variant ceased to be used as a personal name, but the form *Ábrahám* was constantly present in both personal and geographical names. There are villages whose names are derived from the *Sál* word: *Hegyhátsál, Sal* (today *Šalovci*, Slovenia), *Sály*, etc. The name originates from the early takeover of *Saul*, whose current written form is the same as the English one. The continuation of the name *Paul* in Hungarian is *Pál*, i.e., the two names began to form linguistically alike: *Paul* > *Pál*; *Saul* > *Sál*, but while the name *Paul* was consolidated, the form *Sál* lost its biblical connection (its only current meaning is ‘scarf’). The difference is probably due to the frequency of name use. Of the personal names mentioned here, *Paul* may be the only one that was widely and consistently used.

In many cases, the names of saints – whose respect was stronger in the early times – appear in place names in a way that is difficult to recognise today: *Gelénes* ‘Kilian(us)’, *Dunapentele* ‘Panthaleon’.

The Western orientation brought the knowledge of medieval chivalric

<sup>5</sup> For places outside Hungary, we give the recent official name using [Lelkes \(2011\)](#).



culture to Hungary, e.g., Trojan novel, *The Song of Roland*. Their characters gave a model for some Hungarian personal names, which also appear among the geographical names, in their specific Hungarian versions. *Perjámos* (Ger *Perjamosch*, Romanian *Periam*, Romania; once an important settlement of the Germans of the Banat), *Iktár* (today *Ictar-Budinți*, Romania), *Terestyén* (today part of Magyarszecsőd) and *Alsóelefánt* (today *Dolné Lefantovce*, Slovakia), *Felsőelefánt* (*Horné Lefantovce*, Slovakia) are results of regular linguistic evolution from *Priamos*, *Hector*, *Tristan* and *Olivant*. The literary form of these personal names has been preserved in a form close to the Greek-Latin original, while the place names show the tendencies of the early language changes.

#### 4. Names of occupations in old Hungarian settlement names

The other group discussed is that of the names of occupations and services as source of place names. The two groups cannot be rigidly separated, because in many cases a person was not known by his personal name in his environment, but by his occupation; he could be called *Ács* ‘Carpenter’, *Tárnok* ‘Chamberlain’, *Vadász* ‘Hunter’ and so on, so in many cases the personal name origin can be assumed. This naming practise was widespread as well, e.g.: *Ács* ‘carpenter’, *Gyöngyőshalász* ‘fisher’, *Lovász* (today *Lovas*, Croatia) ‘horse-groom’, *Ór* ‘guard, sentinel’, *Zalaszántó* ‘ploughman’, *Nagyszőlős* ‘grape-grower’, *Tárnok* ‘chamberlain’, *Timár* ‘skinner’, *Zalaudvarnok* ‘guardian of court’, *Varga* ‘shoemaker’, *Felsővadász* ‘hunter’, etc. The name type is explained by the fact that the people of the village or the owner of the land repaid their feudal obligations with a certain service (cp. Györrfy II. 1987: 330).

The examples above are living common words with a clear meaning. In what follows, we will give examples of settlement names as cultural heritage, whose common-noun background has been obscured over the centuries. The names of *Ardó* villages, e.g., *Hidvégardó*, *Szőlőszardó*, *Feketeardó* (today *Chornotysiv*, Ukraine) originate from the old Hungarian *ardó* ‘protector of forest’ word. The name of *Hőgyész* and *Kemeneshőgyész* refers to those who bred ermine or paid taxes with ermine furs. *Hodász*, *Hegyháthodász* and *Városhodász* (today *Markt Neuhodis*, Austria) were inhabited by beaver hunters. The *Fedémes* name can be linked to beekeeping, and in the name of other villages the “mizdó” part (*Nagymizdó*, *Sárfimizdó*) refers to that they serviced honey; the word is a blurred compound, which evolved from “méz+adó” ‘honey+giving’ words. The word-root “páh” remained on the one part in *páhol* ‘bludgeon’, ‘clobber’ verb, and we see the same in village names *Alsópáhok*, *Felsőpáhok*. One of the steps of leather preparation is softening with beating after soaking. An early Latin source mentions that the villages were inhabited by tawers. This information makes it clear that the village names refer to the occupation, with a word that modern Hungarians can no longer associate with leatherwork. Based on this statement, we can also include the *Páhi* name, which is also unmotivated.

Among the words that have disappeared from today's Hungarian and once meant occupation, there are a large number of words of Slavic origin. From the Slavic word *tesár* 'carpenter' – for the sake of vocal harmony – two Hungarian forms evolved, a velar and a palatal one, which are maintained by the following place names: *Taszár*, *Barstaszár* (*Tesáre nad Žitavou*, Slovakia), *Teszér* (*Hontianske Tesáre*, Slovakia), *Ácsteszér*, *Pápateszér*, etc. The name of *Ácsteszér* is a real onomastic speciality because it is one of the few names that are compound words, and both parts mean the same thing in two languages: Hun *ács* ~ Sl *tesár* 'carpenter'. Similarly, two versions have emerged from the Sl *štítar* 'shield maker' word: *Csatár* and *Csitár*, which have given names to more than ten villages, e.g., *Felsőcsatár*, *Alsócsitár* (*Štitáre*, Slovakia). In the same way, the names of the following settlements were formed from Slavic words by a regular linguistic evolution: The *Mecsér* < Sl *mečiar* name meant 'swordsmith', *Szenyér* and *Szinyér* (*Svinice*, Slovakia) originate in Sl *svinjar* 'swineherd', *Peszér* (*Psiare*, Slovakia) and *Kunpeszér* in Sl *pesár* 'kennelman', *Konyár*, *Tizsakanyár* in Sl *konjar* 'horse-groom'. The *Bocsár*, *Bocsárd* names come from Sl *bočiar* 'cooper', 'cup-maker', but this word has also been given the meanings of 'cupbearer', 'cellarman' and 'wine-butler'. In the case of *Vinár*, the old settlement name coincides formally with the present Slovak 'winemaker' word.

The word *daróc* is found in the name of nearly 20 settlements (Hóman 1920). As name of an occupation, it means 'skinner, flayer, who carries out the processing of the hunted animals', which originates in Sl *dravec*, although the word is also known as 'baize', 'frieze', and the modern Hungarian reserved only the latter meaning. Almost all villages named with this word are located in the eastern part of the Pannonian Basin, e.g., *Beregdaróc*, *Daróc* (*Šarišské Dravce*, Slovakia), *Fülpösdaróc*, *Homoróddaróc* (*Drăușeni*, Romania), *Királydaróc* (*Craioroț*, Romania), *Nagydaróc* (*Velké Dravce*, Slovakia), *Tibolddaróc*; only *Várdaróc* (*Vardarac*, Croatia) lies west of the Danube.

Considering the layers, a similar pattern can be seen with the Old Hungarian place names of occupational origin like among ones deriving from personal names: purely personal names, names with the *-i* suffix, and compound words. So, after names like *Halász* 'fisherman', forms of *Halászi* and *Halásztelek* appeared as well, e.g., *Kovácsi* [~smith's], *Molnári* [~miller's], *Szakácsi* [~cook's], *Szűcsi* [~furrier's] and *Jobbágyfalva* [~serf's village], *Kovácsbida* [~smith's bridge], *Mesterháza* [~master's or teacher's house]. This phenomenon either shows the same chronological order or can be explained by the analogy with other name types.

## 5. Closing remarks

Hungarian examples show some ways how geographical names can contribute to the cultural heritage. By the scientific explanation of the names, it is also possible to draw conclusions such as the relative time of naming, ethnicity

of the naming community, interethnic relations in the period of the name giving and that the language of the naming community and the language of the names may differ, etc. The purpose and responsibility of science is to discover and exploit as much as possible the cultural heritage preserved in geographical names.

## References

- Bényei, Ágnes. 2012. *Helynévképzés a magyarban* [Suffixation of place names in Hungarian]. Debrecen: Debreceni Egyetemi Kiadó.
- Fehértói, Katalin. 2004. *Árpád-kori személynévtár (1000–1301)* [Dictionary of personal names of the Árpád era (1000–1301)]. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó.
- Györffy, György. 1963–1998. *Az Árpád-kori Magyarország történeti földrajza I–IV* [Historical geography of Hungary in the Árpád era I–IV]. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó.
- Hajdú, Mihály. 2003. *Általános és magyar névtan* [General and Hungarian onomastics]. Budapest: Osiris Kiadó.
- Hóman, Bálint. 1920. Darócz. *Magyar Nyelv* 16, 116–119.
- Kiss, Lajos. 1988. *Földrajzi nevek etimológiai szótára I–II* [Etymological dictionary of geographical names I–II], fourth edition. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó.
- Kiss, Lajos. 1999. A Kárpát-medence régi helynevei [Old place names of the Carpathian Basin]. In Kiss, Lajos, *Történeti vizsgálatok a földrajzi nevek körében* [Historical researches among geographical names], 104–116. Piliscsaba: Pázmány Péter Katolikus Egyetem.
- Kniezsa, István. 1938. Magyarország népei a XI. században [Peoples of Hungary in the 11th century]. In Serédi, Jusztinián (ed.), *Emlékkönyv Szent István király halálának kilencszázadik évfordulóján* [Commemorative book on the ninth centenary of the death of King Saint Stephen], 365–472. Budapest: Magyar Tudományos Akadémia.
- Kniezsa, István. 1943. Keletmagyarország helynevei [Place names of Eastern Hungary]. In Deér, József & Gáldi, László (eds.), *Magyarok és románok I* [Hungarians and Romanians I], 111–313. Budapest: Magyar Történettudományi Intézet.
- Lelkes, György. 2011. *Magyar helységnév-azonosító szótár* [Dictionary of Hungarian place names], third edition. Budapest: Argumentum – KSH Könyvtár.
- NamepediA*. (<http://www.namepedia.org/en/home/>) (Accessed 2022-02-02.)
- Slíz, Mariann. 2017. *Anjou-kori személynévtár 1343–1359* [Dictionary of personal names from the Angevin Age 1343–1359]. Budapest: Magyar Nyelvtudományi Társaság.
- Soltész, Katalin J. 1979. *A tulajdonnév funkciója és jelentése* [Function and meaning of proper names]. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó.