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## ***Systemic Relations between Anthroponyms and Toponyms in Old Hungarian\****

1. The relationships between anthroponyms and toponyms can be discussed from either the point of view of anthroponyms, or from that of toponyms. Keeping this duality in mind, while also considering the importance of picking issues related to the peculiarities of the Hungarian anthroponym and toponym system that presumably either have general (universal) onomatosystematical tendencies behind them, or to the very contrary; appear to be language-specific phenomena, provides a good opportunity to compare languages and perform contrastive analyses. Such an approach emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in scholarship and research down to the very selection of which topic to discuss.

Medieval toponyms (mostly settlement names) formed from anthroponyms and the frequency of a particular anthroponym could influence the selection of a specific toponym structure from the morphological structures regularly applied when forming settlement names. Underlying this phenomenon there are name-giving tendencies which may characterize the onomastic systems of a wider set of languages.

Of the varied issues surrounding anthroponyms originating from toponyms (mostly settlement names), the question this essay focuses on is whether or not the lexical-morphological structure of a given toponym determines if it can be used as an anthroponym at all. Underlying this phenomenon are language-specific factors rather than universal principles.

2. Based on their morphological structures and name-giving methods, Hungarian settlement names (and, more generally, Hungarian toponyms) based on anthroponyms can be grouped into the following characteristic types.

1. Names can be formed from anthroponyms without the addition of any formant, in a metonymic name-giving process (e.g. *Péter* anthroponym > *Péter* settlement name). 2. Some morphological means, in most cases, a toponym formant (a derivational suffix) can also have a role in the formation of such a name (e.g. *Péter* anthroponym > *Péter-i*, *Péter-d* settlement name, where *-i* and

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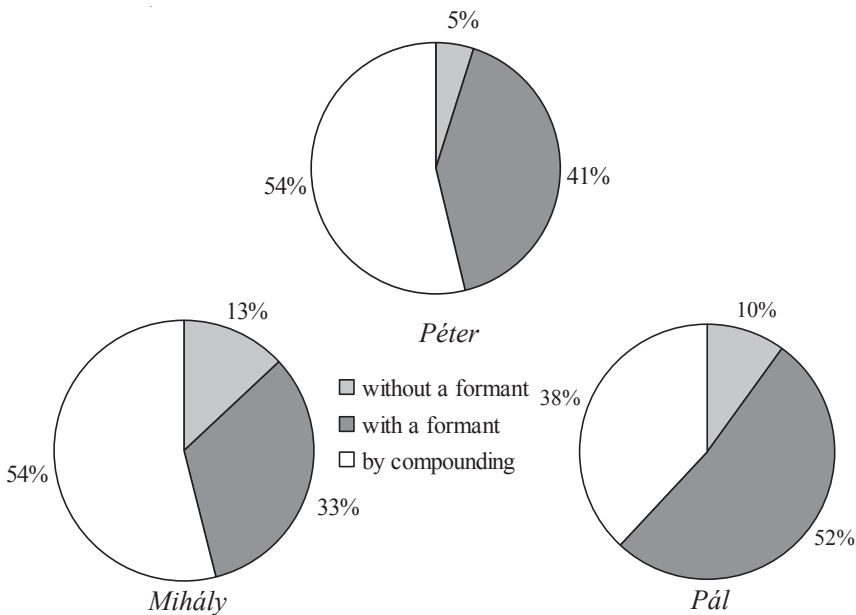
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-d are typical derivational suffixes). 3. Finally, compound settlement names can also be formed from anthroponyms – there are two subtypes within this type: 3.1. primary denominations include geographical common words as their second constituents (*Péter* anthroponym > *Péter/falva*, *Péter/laka* ‘*Péter*’s/village’ settlement name); 3.2. while in the case of secondary settlement names, the second constituent is an already existing settlement name (e.g. *Bocsárd* settlement name > *Péter/bocsárd* settlement name ‘*Péter*’s/settlement named Bocsárd’).

**2.1.** The issue whether there is a connection between the frequency of a given anthroponym and the selected toponym structure can be evaluated by examining the structural characteristics of settlement names based on frequently used anthroponyms. (The source of the data for this analysis was LAJOS KISS’s *Földrajzi nevek etimológiai szótára* [Etymological Dictionary of Toponyms], Budapest, 1988, hereafter: FNESz.)

The structural types of toponyms, including the personal names *Péter*, *Mihály*, and *Pál*, indicate that these anthroponyms are less well suited to become settlement names in themselves, i.e. without the addition of any formant, due to the very fact of their frequent usage as anthroponyms. The only aspect in which there may be (even significant) differences between them is whether, for any one of them, name formation with derivational suffixes or by compounding is more dominant. (For further details see TÓTH 2017: 53–54.)

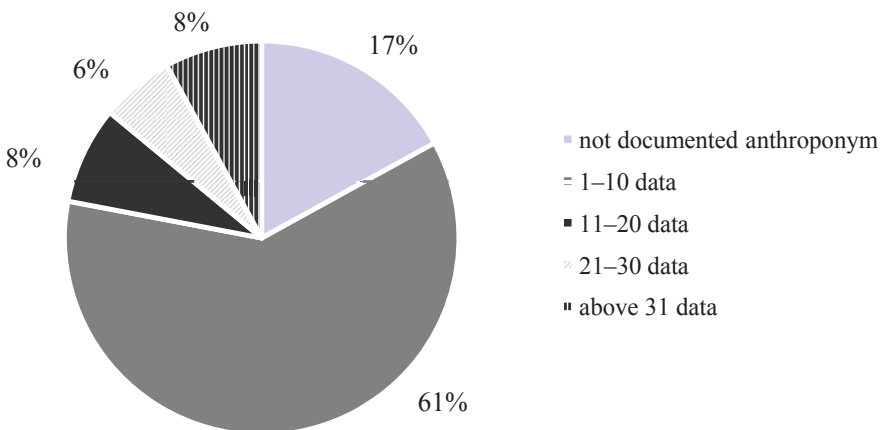


**Figure 1:** Structural Types of Settlement Names Formed from the Anthroponyms *Péter*, *Mihály*, and *Pál*

Since this assumption has general onomastic consequences, further studies aimed in this direction need to be carried out.

**2.2.** Another analysis reveals that the relationship just examined will manifest itself not only from the aspect of anthroponyms, but also from the aspect of toponyms; as, for example, within the corpus of settlement names with anthroponymic origins of a particular county. From the county of Abaúj, located in the Northern part of the Carpathian Basin, from the era lasting from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, we have data on 145 settlement names formed from anthroponyms. Amongst them, the dominance of settlement names without any formants is striking: 86% of the toponyms with anthroponymic origins have been created in this manner. The proportion of toponyms formed from anthroponyms by compounding is 12%. The proportion of names formed with a derivational suffix as a toponym is rather insignificant (2%) and, therefore, I will not evaluate them in the following discussion. In other words, I will try to demonstrate the linguistic relationship between the frequency of individual anthroponyms and their usage to form toponyms by comparing to one another the settlement names of anthroponymic origins without a formant and the compounded settlement names of anthroponymic origins from the region.

Figure 2 shows the proportion of settlement names formed without formants from anthroponyms of various frequencies is. I determined the frequencies of the given anthroponyms based on KATALIN FEHÉRTÓI's *Árpád-kori személynévtár (1000–1301)* (Dictionary of Anthroponyms of the Árpád Era, Budapest, 2004, hereafter: *ÁSz.*). (The diagram is meant to be interpreted with the category of settlement names of anthroponymic origin without a formant considered to correspond to 100%.)

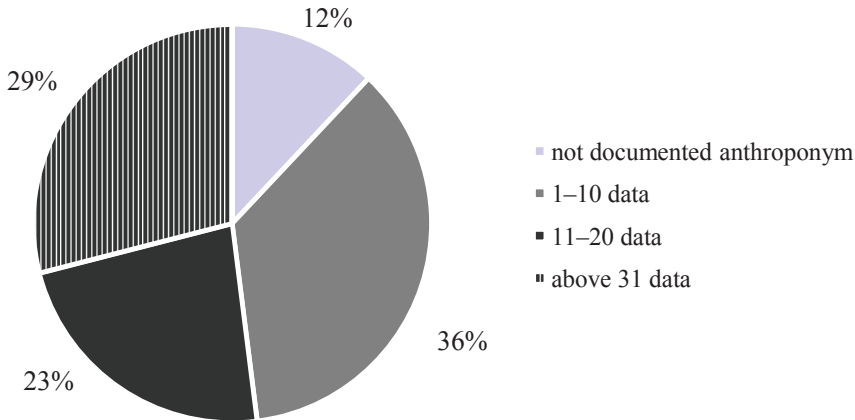


**Figure 2:** The Relationship between the Frequency of Individual anthroponyms and the Number of Settlement Names of Anthroponymic Origin without a Formant in the Abaúj County in the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Centuries



The 61% of settlement names formed from anthroponyms without any formant is based on anthroponyms with the number of data between 1 and 10. A mere 6% to 8% of the settlement names of the county was formed using more frequent anthroponyms. For 17% of the names, the anthroponymic base word is uncertain, as no data can be found for the presumed anthroponym in any charter from Hungary, but can only be found in the anthroponymic corpora of other languages (e.g. German, Slavic). Such names could obviously also be treated as anthroponyms rarely used at the time. On the whole, this means that 78% of all the toponyms without a formant were formed from relatively rare anthroponyms.

On the other hand, the distribution of anthroponyms occurring as first constituents of compounded settlement names – as shown in Figure 3 – is completely different. (In this case, the category of compounded settlement names of anthroponymic origins is the one that corresponds to 100%.)



**Figure 3:** The Relationship between the Frequency of Individual Anthroponyms and the Number of Compounded Settlement Names of Anthroponymic Origins in the Abaúj County in the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Centuries

While within the previous category of name structures, only 8% belongs to the category of settlement names formed from anthroponyms which are documented by more than 31 data, yet, in the latter structural type, such names add up to 29%; furthermore, names formed from anthroponyms with a data frequency between 11 and 20 add up to 8% of names formed from anthroponyms without any formant, but 23% in this category of structures. In contrast, the proportion of settlement names originating from rare anthroponymic base words (i.e. those with 1 to 10 data) is far smaller (36%) amongst compound name structures than the proportion seen in the case of names formed from anthroponyms without any formants (61%). (For further details see TÓTH 2017: 55–57.)

These comparisons unequivocally show the frequency (popularity) of each anthroponym determining to some extent the structure of the settlement name created with it. It would be worthwhile to examine this relationship in other languages, so that an estimate could be formed of its universality.

**3.** Looking at the typological relationships between anthroponyms and toponyms from the other aspect, one of the main questions becomes what kind of typological characteristics those anthroponyms which are based on toponyms (mostly settlement names) have in the Hungarian language. Within the functionality-based typology of anthroponyms, these names belong to the category of descriptive names, and express a relationship of a local nature, i.e. the fact that the name-bearer ‘belongs to, is from the given place (settlement)’, or perhaps ‘is a land owner there’. From a morphological aspect, a toponymic lexeme can appear in an anthroponymic role in two ways: firstly, a toponym can be an anthroponym in itself, i.e. without a name formant (e.g. *Nógrád* settlement name > *Nógrád* anthroponym), and secondly, to a toponym can be added the *-i* anthroponymic formant (e.g. *Nógrád* settlement name > *Nógrád-i* anthroponym). The two forms of anthroponyms are also different with respect to their name-giving methods: the former type was created by metonymy, while the latter by morphemic construction. Within the system of Hungarian anthroponyms, there are significant differences between the frequencies of the two types.

When discussing anthroponyms based on toponyms – as already mentioned in the introduction – one of the important questions is whether or not the structure of a given toponym determines if it can become an anthroponym at all. To answer this question, I carried out an empirical analysis starting with the data of a county with a large area, i.e. the settlement name data of the Old Bihar county. My source on settlement name data was ANITA RÁCZ’s *A régi Bihar vármegye településneveinek történeti-etimológiai szótára* (A Historical-Etymological Dictionary of the Settlement Names of the Old Bihar County, Debrecen, 2007), while for anthroponymic data, I used as reference MIKLÓS KÁZMÉR’s *Régi magyar családnevek szótára (14–17<sup>th</sup> c.)* (A Dictionary of Old Hungarian Family Names, Budapest, 1993).

**3.1.** From a total of 711 settlement names of county Bihar of the Old Hungarian period (896–1526), 65% were used in the formation of anthroponyms with a descriptive function (i.e. anthroponyms referring to the place of residence, the place of origin or to estates). More than one third of the settlement names (35%), however, never served as bases for anthroponyms (or at least, there are no such documented occurrences). Obviously, historical and social developments are also amongst the factors determining which settlement names become anthroponyms and which ones do not. Besides the population of the settlement

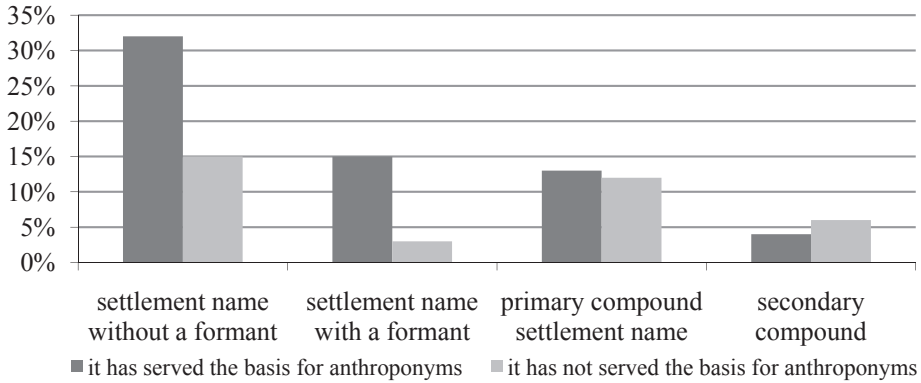


in question, factors such as its category (a nobleman's village or a village of serfs), and with that, the legal status of the inhabitants may be important. Therefore, non-linguistic circumstances, and in particular, social circumstances cannot be disregarded when looking for answers to the questions discussed here, yet, for this essay, I will focus only on the study of linguistic conditions.

From the linguistic aspect, the relevant question – as anticipated by the above discussion – is probably whether or not the structure of a given toponym determines if anthroponyms are formed based on it or not. Approaching the problem from a different point of view, the question could also be phrased thus: Are there toponym structures which one way or another hinder the usage of the given settlement name in the formation of anthroponyms? As a working hypothesis, the structural characteristics of a given settlement name may be presumed to have a significant effect on the possibilities of it being used in an anthroponym. In addition, the morphological structure can be presumed to play the primary role in such a hindering factor, while the lexical characteristics of toponyms have only a secondary, limited effect on whether or not they can be used in anthroponyms. I intend to confirm, discard or perhaps modify this initial presumption by applying empirical examinations.

As mentioned earlier, typically there are three morphological structures in the Hungarian language playing important roles in the formation of settlement names: metonymic name-giving, i.e. name-formation without a formant (e.g. *Péter*, *Alma* < *alma* 'apple'); morphematic name-giving, i.e. name-giving with a topoformant, a derivational suffix (e.g. *Péter-i*, *Almá-d*); and syntagmatic formation of names by compounding (within which category two subcategories can be distinguished, the first being that of primary names with geographical common words added as second constituents: e.g. *Péter/falva* 'Péter's village', *Alma/patak* 'apple brook' and the second being that of secondary names with a toponym as a second constituent: e.g. *Hernád/petri* 'settlement named Petri on the bank of the river Hernád', *Kis/almás* 'little brook named Almás').

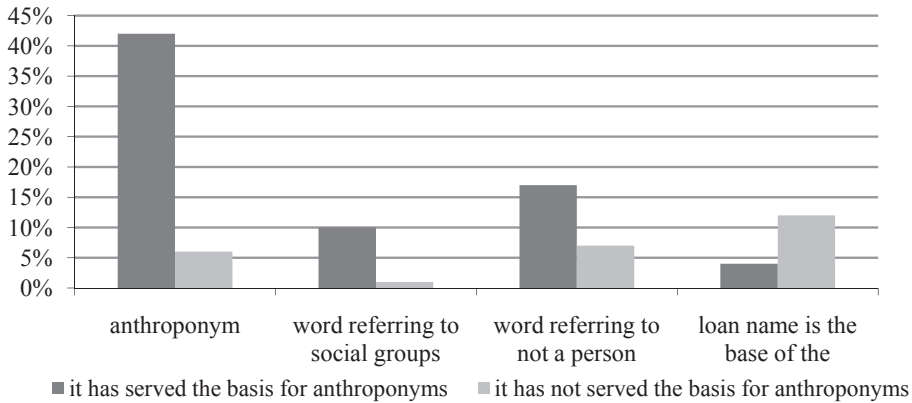
Figure 4 illustrates the proportions in which denominations belonging to each morphological category appear in the settlement names of the Bihar county in the Old Hungarian period. (In this case, the 100% value is considered to correspond to the total number of all settlement names from which anthroponyms were formed.)



**Figure 4:** The Morphological Types of Settlement Names of Bihar County, Based on Their Usage in Anthroponyms

Of the conclusions which can be drawn from the diagram, I will raise but one: it is quite conspicuous that, single-constituent settlement name structures were the bases of anthroponyms on far more frequent occasions, since 47% of them have been used to form anthroponyms, while only 18% of them have not; yet, amongst two-constituent name-structures the proportion of settlement names which have not been used to form anthroponyms is very high: the numbers corresponding to the previous two figures in this case are 17% and 18%. In other words, while in the case of two-constituent names, the proportion of settlement names used to form anthroponyms vs. those which have not been used for such a purpose is nearly 50 : 50, in the case of single-constituent names, the relative proportion of the two categories compared to each other is nearly one to three. This indicates that due to the structural characteristics single constituent toponyms to be more suitable for anthroponymic roles.

It would be useful to supplement this observation with the lexical characteristics of toponyms, although this latter aspect seems to have less relevance to the issue. Therefore, the pattern shown in Figure 4 will be further refined by reviewing the lexical-structural characteristics of those single constituent toponyms which are used in great proportions to form anthroponyms, in order to answer the question whether they include lexical toponym-structures which, for whatever reason, are preferred in the formation of anthroponyms.



**Figure 5:** The Lexical Types of the Single Constituent Settlement Names of Bihar County, Based on Their Usage in Anthroponyms

Based on the linguistic elements contained in them and relevant to their toponymic nature, I grouped the single-constituent settlement names of county Bihar into four lexical categories: besides the category of names containing anthroponymic lexemes, I have also set up categories for toponyms formed from words denoting persons or social groups (i.e. from ethnonyms, tribes' names, names of occupations and positions of dignitaries), and for names formed from other lexemes not denoting persons. I also considered loan toponyms, that is, lexically non-transparent denominations, as a separate category, independent from the previous categories (within the territory of the county, loan toponyms are names of Slavic and Romanian origins).

The most important conclusion to be drawn from Figure 5 is that within the category of toponyms containing anthroponyms, those containing lexemes denoting persons or social groups, and those containing lexemes denoting entities other than persons have been formed into anthroponyms in a higher proportion (with this proportion being particularly high in the first two categories). In this respect, the category of loan toponyms is an exception; within this category, there is only a small proportion of names used to form anthroponyms.

To summarize, there are two important observations that can be made on the usage of settlement names in the formation of anthroponyms: firstly, single constituent settlement names are structurally more suitable for fulfilling the role of anthroponyms; secondly, within single constituent settlement names, those formed internally appear in the formation of anthroponyms proportionally more often than loan toponyms – internally formed toponyms are involved in a proportion of 5 : 1, while for loan toponyms, the same proportion is 1 : 3.



4. Toponym systems – as indicated at the beginning of this paper – have both universal and language-specific characteristics. While at the functional-semantic level of name formation, universal principles appear to be more prominent (as this aspect of name-giving is closely tied to extralinguistic factors and circumstances), at the level of lexical-morphological structures, the observable features are primarily language-specific. Contrastive onomastic analysis aimed at comparing the toponym systems of different languages, however, could further refine this general idea in both respects, and such studies might also lead to general conclusions on onomastic theory. Such research programs could be particularly fruitful if the languages whose onomastic systems are put in focus include languages related to each other (e.g. Hungarian and Finnish), and languages genetically not related to each other, but having close territorial-ethnic ties (e.g. Hungarian and the Slavic languages). These proposed studies aimed at such languages might very well uncover both the universal and the language-specific characteristics of onomastic systems.

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### Abstract

Systematic relations between anthroponyms and toponyms in Old Hungarian can be described from two different aspects: first by putting anthroponyms containing toponyms into the focus of the study presentation and second by displaying toponyms deriving from anthroponyms. In Old Hungarian, anthroponym forms containing toponyms can be found among descriptive



names and nexus names. Therefore, these anthroponym types are presented in detail. In the anthroponym > toponym model three toponym structures have to be taken into account: toponyms without any formants (e.g. *Péter*), those with a derivational suffix (*Péter-i*), and compounded types (*Péter/falva*). Types of toponyms containing anthroponyms show significant differences with regard to their productivity, chronological features as well as the nature of anthroponym types in them. These differences can be pointed out in the most effective way if they are jointly analysed. The systematic relations between anthroponyms and toponyms are discussed within a theoretical framework determined by functional linguistics.

**Keywords:** toponyms, anthroponyms, old Hungarian, functional linguistics