Pavel Štěpán

Systematic Relationships Between Toponyms and Anthroponyms in Czech

1. Theoretical background and aims of the paper

Due to the general onomastic theory, proper names form so-called second layer of the lexicon. Its specificity is given especially by the type of meaning of proper names, which is not bound with a certain concept (as in common nouns), but with "individuality". The proper name sphere of the lexicon draws linguistic material from the appellative sphere; it adopts not only the individual lexemes, but also name-formative means used for their formation. The special functions of proper names and the character of the naming act require a specification of the linguistic means occurring in the proper-name sphere of the language (cf. ŠRÁMEK 1999: 12).

Czech onomastics is characterised by a distinct systemic approach, emphasis on the research of the naming system (cf. PLESKALOVÁ 2017). It has been often stressed that proper names should not be analysed as separate entities, but as parts of the onymic system of the given language. Proper names should be captured as a systematically ordered and structured whole (cf. ŠRÁMEK 1972: 304).

Also the systematic relationships among the individual categories of proper names constitute an important issue of both theoretical and practical onomastics. In Czech – as in other Slavic languages – a majority of proper names are formed by derivation (affixation); composition is less frequent.

The term "onymic derivation" is sometimes used especially in Czech onomastics. According to HARVALÍK (2004: 100), the onymic derivation is characterised by a number of typical traits, especially by variable and relatively free possibilities of connecting affixes to the individual bases and the use of peripheral word-formative means and processes without a necessary co-existence of formally identical appellatives.

In Czech onomastics, the approach to the formation of proper names has been strongly influenced also by the "parasystem" theory since the 1990's. "Parasystem" has been introduced by D. ŠLOSAR as a term for a secondary word-formation system, by which special spheres of designations having specific functions in communication, namely proper names, technical terms and expressive denominations, are formed, using means and modes not typical of the core of the appellative lexicon.

The aim of the paper is to provide an overview of the basic systematic relationships between toponyms and anthroponyms in Czech. It will concentrate especially on the derivation and transfer potential of the individual categories of both geographical and personal names, namely on toponyms based on anthroponyms and anthroponyms based on toponyms.

The following basic categories of both anthroponyms and toponyms will be analysed: anthroponyms: given names and surnames; settlement names, hydronyms, oronyms, field names, and street names.

On the Figure 1, the potential of formation of the individual categories of toponyms from anthroponyms is represented. The full line represents a regular, productive, and frequent type of formation, while the dashed line depicts less typical, rather rare or even unique formations.
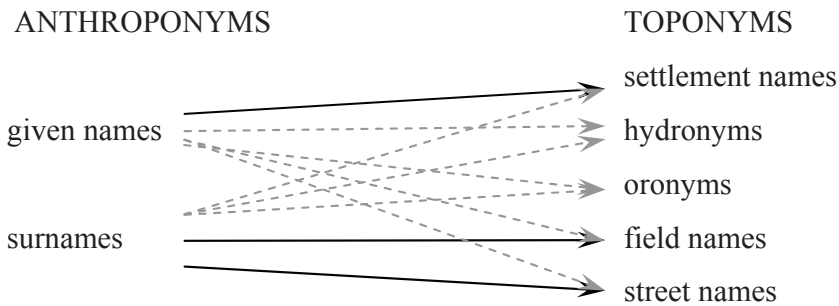

Figure 1

The category of given names includes also personal names in the one-name system in the historical era (cf. PLESKALOVÁ 2013: 36–37). In this era, personal names frequently became a basis for settlement names (oikonyms), less often hydronyms, oronyms, or field names. In the modern era, an individual is usually referred to by a surname in the official context, therefore the formation of toponyms from given names becomes less usual. Surnames became a basis especially for field names and street names, which form the most productive categories of toponyms in the modern period.

Though only these three types of motivation are typical and productive, in fact all these categories of toponyms can be potentially formed from both given names and surnames.

If we focus on the formation of anthroponyms from toponyms (Figure 2), it becomes evident that the potential of formation is more limited here: given names are generally not formed from toponyms in Czech (including the Old Czech). Surnames are typically formed from settlement names, and only exceptionally from hydronyms. Formation of surnames from the other

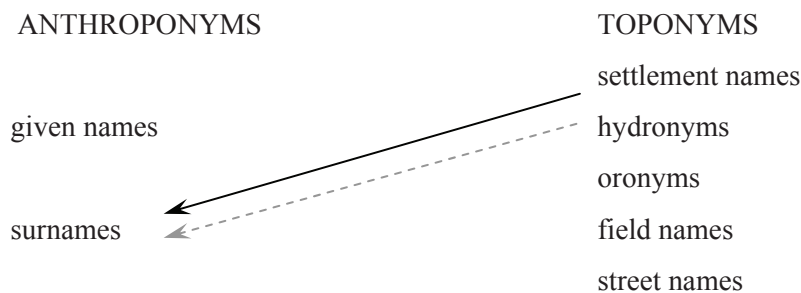categories of toponyms is theoretically possible, but it would be unusual, and it is not reliably attested.

ANTHROPONYMS   TOPONYMS

                                settlement names

given names   hydronyms

                                oronyms

surnames   field names

                                street names

Figure 2

Comparing the both directions of foundation, it becomes obvious that the formation of toponyms from anthroponyms involves more types of foundation than the formation of anthroponyms from toponyms. The following parts of the paper are to provide an analysis of the individual types of foundation of both toponyms from anthroponyms, as presented on the Figure 1 and 2, from the point of view of their formation.

2. Formation of toponyms from anthroponyms

2.1. Settlement names from given names

The naming motive of the settlement names formed from given names was either individual possesivity (settlement names are derived from a personal name of the owner or founder of the settlement), or collective possessivity (settlement names refer to the property of the whole family).

2.1.1. Individual possessivity

Settlement names[1] are formed by the following suffixes from the name of the owner or founder of the settlement (cf. ŠMILAUER 1960: 555):

-jь: This old Slavic possessive suffix, which is extinct in the Old Czech, causes palatalization (softening) of the final consonant or group of consonants of the personal name, for example: personal name *Radomysl* > place name *Radomyšl,* meaning 'Radomyšl's (estate, castle, yard, etc.)'.[2]

---

[1] The instances of oikonyms are based on the toponymic lexicon by A. PROFOUS (1949–1954).

[2] The suffix *-jь* is a masculine form; toponyms formed by this suffix, originally possessive adjectives, were thus complemented by masculine nouns, such as *dvůr* 'yard' or *hrad* 'castle'. Less frequently, feminine names were formed by the feminine form of this suffix

-ov: The suffix had developed from the Old Czech possessive suffix *-óv* (modern Czech *-ův*) used for derivation of possessive adjectives, for example: personal name *Petr* > place name *Petrov,* meaning 'Petr's' (estate, castle, yard, etc.)', personal name *Diviš* > place name *Divišov.*

-ová: This suffix is closely connected with the preceding one. While the suffix *-ov* is a masculine form, the suffix *-ová* is feminine (the regular feminine form of the adjectival possessive suffix is *-ova*). The gender of the suffix depends on the gender of the noun which could be added to the name itself, the original form of which was a possessive adjective. In case of the feminine suffix *-ová,* the noun *ves* 'village' was usually thought. Examples: personal name *Bohusa* > place name *Bohusová* (later changed to *Bohousová*), personal name *Radech* > place name *Radechová.*

-ín: While the adjectival possessive suffix *-óv* (from which the toponymical suffix *-ov* departs) was used added to *o*-stem nouns, possessive adjectives from *a*-stem nouns were formed by the suffix *-in* (its feminine form is *–ina,* see below). In toponyms this suffix was modified to *-ín,* which was added to both feminine and masculine *a*-stem anthroponyms: feminine personal name *Veleslava* > place name *Veleslavín;* masculine personal name *Radota* > place name *Radotín.*

-ka: This suffix is mostly used for creation of names of residences, yards or farms, including vineyards, located mostly at the present-day territory of Prague. For example, the name *Kesnerka,* derived from the personal name *Kesner,* referred to Kesner's farmstead. However, names of this type occasionally belong also to villages, though originally these names probably also referred to farmsteads or inns, cf. the village name *Felbabka* derived from the personal name *Felbáb.*

Sometimes a personal name is transformed to a settlement name without the use of a suffix, for example, the personal name *Myslík* gave rise to the settlement name *Myslík* of the identical form, which refers to 'Myslík's estate'.

2.1.2. Collective possessivity

Another group of settlement names refers to the property of a family. These toponyms are based on patronymic names derived from personal names by the suffix *-(ov)ici:* the patronymic name *Petrovici* refers to 'Petr's people'. As the name was transferred to the settlement of the named people, the original

---

-ja, cf. personal name *Hostivít + -ja > Hostivica,* later changed to *Hostivice;* the name was complemented by the feminine noun *ves* 'village' in this case. In some cases, the generic nouns *ves* and *hrad* became a regular part of the name, which got a compound form, i.e. personal name *Radík + -ja + ves > Radíčěves > Radíčeves.*

animate plural ending *-i* was replaced by the inanimate ending *-e,* e.g. *Petrovici* 'Petr's people' > *Petrovice* 'settlement of Petr's people'.

Some toponyms motivated by the name of the whole family are formed by a simple grammatical plural ending *-y:* personal name *Všemil* > place name *Všemily.*

2.2. Settlement names from surnames

A surname is understood as "a hereditary name of a family or a member of a family with such a name" (List of Key Onomastic Terms, online); such hereditary names were officially codified by an act issued by the emperor Josef II. in 1786 in the territory of the present-day Czech Republic. Oikonyms created after this year are less numerous. The motivation of these place names is usually commemorative; either possessive adjectives are used (as in *Havlíčkův Brod* from the surname of Czech writer *Havlíček*), or the productive suffix *-ov* appears (cf. commemorative place name *Gottwaldov,* derived from the surname of the first communist president of Czechoslovakia *Klement Gottwald;* this place name belonged to the city of Zlín in the years 1948–1980 (for more details concerning Czech commemorative toponyms see DAVID 2011).

Even some modern formation from surnames can occasionally express possessivity, as in the place name *Klánovice,* derived in 19th centruy from the surname of a businessman Klán, on whose estate new settlement was founded; the use of the suffix *-ovice,* which is originally patronymic, is only analogical in this case.

2.3. Hydronyms from anthroponyms

The formation of hydronyms, especially names of running waters, from anthroponyms (both given names and surnames) is rather rare; however, names of ponds or pools are sometimes derived from names of their founders or owners, namely without the use of a suffix (personal name *Vítek* > pond name *Vítek*), or using a suffix (for example -ovec: personal name *Marek* > pond name *Markovec*). Possessive adjectives derived from personal names (personal name *Fiala* > pond name *Fialův rybník* 'Fiala's pond') or name forms referring to the whole family (personal name *Zbudil* > *Zbudilů rybník* 'Zbudils' pond') also occur in pond names (see the alphabetical catalogue of non-settlement names in Bohemia, *Abecední generální katalog pomístních jmen*).

2.4. Oronyms from anthroponyms

Oronyms were occassionally formed by the ancient possesive suffix *-jь,* for example the mountain name *Radhošť* is derived from the anthroponym

Radhost. A number of other suffixes are used for creation of names of hills or valleys, their repertory is similar to the suffixes occurring in field names (see below). Oronyms derived from personal names usually express possessivity, but occasionally their naming motive may be commemorative. For example, the hill *Goethův vrch* 'Goethe's Hill' was named in tribute to the German writer Johann Wolfgang Goethe. The possesive adjective gains another function in this case.

2.5. Field names from anthroponyms

Field names derived from personal names, especially surnames, are very frequent. They are usually based on a possesive naming motive, though possessivity should be understood rather broadly in some cases. Not always is the given object named according to its owner; its name may refer also to a person that had some other relationship to it, for example was a tenant of the given field, lived nearby, planted the named forest, etc.

Field names are formed by a number of suffixes, both nominal and adjectival. These suffixes are analysed by ŠTĚPÁN 2016 in some detail. In this paper, a brief overview of suffixes deriving field names from anthroponyms, complemented by individual examples, is to be given below.[3]

2.5.1. Field names from anthroponyms – nominal suffixes

-da: personal name *Rataj > Ratajda* 'Rataj's field'
-anda: personal name *Polák > Polanda* 'field belonging to Polák's house'
-inda: personal name *Mikulík > Mikulinda* 'Mikulík's field'
-(ov)ka: personal name *Haštaba > Haštabka* 'Haštaba's meadow'
-(ov)ačka: personal name *Hynek > Hynkovačka* 'Hynek's field'
-ička: personal name *Foitl > Foitlička* 'Foitl's meadow'
-anka: personal name *Suchý > Suchanka* 'Suchý's meadow'
-inka: personal name *Toman > Tomaninka* 'Toman's meadow'
-(ov)na: personal name *Čamach > Čamachna* 'Čamach's meadow'
-(ov)ina: personal name *Dvořák > Dvořákovina* 'Dvořák's field'
-árna: personal name *Kabeš > Kabešárna* 'Kabeš's meadow'
-ava: personal name *Váca > Vacava* 'Váca's field'
-(ov)ec: personal name *Prošek > Proškovec* 'Prošek's field'
-inec: personal name *Havlice > Havličinec* 'Havlice's field'
-áč: personal name *Rybka > Rybkáč* 'Rybka's forest'
-(ov)ice (singular): personal name *Linhart > Linhartice* 'Linhart's meadow'

---

[3] The suffixes printed in boldface have not been discovered in the earlier researches oriented on the word formation of non-settlement names.

-ovice (plural): personal name *Hynek* > *Hynkovice* 'Hynek's field'

-oviště: personal name *Šimek* > *Šimkoviště* 'Šimek's field'

-í: personal name *Tomandl* > *Tomandlí* 'Tomandl's grove'

-ovčí: personal name *Ježek* > *Ježkovčí* 'Ježek's forest'

-(ov)ství: personal name *Kapoun* > *Kapounství* 'Kapoun's forest'

-(ov)ák: personal name *Štěrba* > *Štěrbák* 'Štěrba's field'

-ek: personal name *Faltýn* > *Faltýnek* 'Faltýn's field'

-áček: personal name *Komberec* > *Komberáček* 'Komberec's grove'

-aň/áň: personal name *Melich* > *Melicháň* 'Melich's field'

-eň: personal name *Radoch* > *Radocheň* 'Radoch's field'

-(ov)sko: personal name *Bůva* > *Bůvovsko* 'Bůva's field'

-isko: personal name *Rejman* > *Rejmanisko* 'Rejman's field'

-ov: personal name *Machač* > *Machačov* 'Machač's field'

2.5.2. Field names from anthroponyms – adjectival suffixes

-ův: a regular possessive suffix deriving from masculines

-in: a regular possesive suffix deriving from feminines

-í: personal name (hypocoristic form) *Ančička* > *Ančiččí stráň* 'Ančička's slope'

-ní: personal name *Stejskal* > *Stejskalní vobec* 'Stejskal's parish land'

-(ov)ský: personal name *Jeřábek* > *Jeřábkovský* 'Jeřábek's field'

-ný: personal name *Jezbera* > *Jezberná* 'Jezbera's forest'

2.6. Street names from anthroponyms

Street names derived from personal names are usually based on a commemorative motive. They are usually formed from surnames (*Masarykova* 'Masaryk Street', *Hlávkův most* 'Hlávka Bridge'), except for the street names derived from the names of historical, or even pre-historical characters *(Libušina, Kosmova)*. Street-names can also be based on the whole pattern of a given name and surname or by-name *(Václava Havla; Jiřího z Poděbrad)*.

In a minority of cases, street names express possessivity; this is the case of some old streets named according to a person who owned an estate or house in or near the given street. For example, the street *Kaprova* is derived from the name of Pavel *Kapr,* who owned a house in this street in 16th century.

Street names are most often formed using possessive adjectives or possessive genitive of the personal name (e.g. *Naskové, Jana Želivského*). Other suffixes are rare:

-ská: personal name *Anežka* > *Anežská;* personal name *Hermelín* > *Hermelínská*

-ovská: personal name *Šítka* > *Šítkovská*

-ov: personal name *Albert* > *Albertov*

3. Formation of anthroponyms from toponyms

The formation of anthroponyms from toponyms is not rare, but it involves only a few formal groups, therefore they are devoted less attention here. Their motivation is obvious: like in other languages, these surnames are motivated by the origin or place of residence of the given person.

Surnames can be derived by a transformation of toponym without a suffix *(Bechyně),* or from the genitive form without a suffix (*Chaloupek;* a genitive form of the place name *Chaloupky*). Most frequently the suffix *-ský* (or some of its variants) is used (oikonym *Pacov* > surname *Pacovský*). Other suffixes, e.g. *-ka* (oikonym *Bechyně* > surname *Bechyňka*) are rather rare. Many surnames are based on inhabitant names, which are formed by the following suffixes (Beneš 1962: 134–171):

-an: Lipovec > Lipovčan
-ec: Větrov > Větrovec, Palivo > Palivec
-ák: Chlum > Chlumák, Praha > Pražák
-ík: Švábenice > Švábeník

Derivation of surnames from hydronyms is very rare in Czech; it is limited on formations from names of the biggest rivers like *Labe* or *Vltava:* surnames *Labský, Vltavský* referring to people who lived near the rivers of Vltava/Labe.

4. Anthroponym–toponym chains

The productivity of formations of toponyms from anthroponyms, as well as anthroponyms from toponyms, may sometimes lead to creation of anthroponym–toponym chains. For example, the place name *Bechyně* gave rise to the surname *Bechyně;* and this surname was again used as a basis of the field name *Bechyně.* This is the case of a transformation without a suffix. Another case: the personal name *Lobek* was used as a basis of the place name *Lobkovice;* from this toponym a nobility by-name (later used also as a surname) *Lobkovic* was derived and later it was used as a basis of a garden name *Lobkovická zahrada* 'Lobkovic Garden'.

5. Ambiguity

The transformation of toponyms to anthroponyms and vice versa without any formal change naturally results in ambiguity of many forms. In a text, this ambiguity is usually removed by the context, which indicates whether the given form is an anthroponym or a toponym. In some cases, we cannot rely on such a context; for example, if an ambiguous form becomes a part of a commercial company name, we can hardly guess what this form refers to without the factual knowledge of the company. For instance, we can assume that the name of a farm *Farma Křenek* includes a rather frequent surname *Křenek,* because farms

are quite often named according to their owners in Czech and this structure of a farm name is quite usual. However, it is not the case, the farm is named according to the village of *Křenek* in which it is located. If someone is acknowledged with the frequent surname, but does not know the village of *Křenek,* s/he is not aware of the ambiguity and can evaluate the farm name incorrectly.

6. Conclusion

The aim of the paper was to summarise the basic relationships between the individual categories of anthroponyms and toponyms. Not all details could be dealt with and some more aspects of relationships between anthroponyms and toponyms, for example a quantitative approach or a chronological analysis, would deserve autonomous studies. This article is intended as a starting point for comparative studies of systematic relationships between anthroponyms and toponyms. It focuses especially on the formal aspects of derivation of toponyms from anthroponyms, and vice versa, analysing the individual suffixes, and on the individual subcategories of toponyms and anthroponyms involved in the mutual relationships.

Especially the formation of toponyms from anthroponyms is variegated and includes a high number of types and categories, as well as a rich repertory of derivative suffixes. These suffixes can often be characterised as parasystemic (for the definition of parasystem, see the introductory part of this paper). Some of these suffixes do not occur in appellatives at all *(-sko, -ovsko),* others are completely peripheral in common nouns (e.g. the suffix *-ov*), often their use is restricted to expressive formations *(-nda, -anda)* or technical terms *(-inka)* (see also ŠTĚPÁN 2012).

References

Abecední generální katalog pomístních jmen v Čechách. [Alphabetical general gatalogue of anoikonyms in Bohemia.] Archival resources. Praha, Department of Onomastics, Czech Language Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

BENEŠ, JOSEF 1962. *O českých příjmeních.* [On Czech surnames.] Praha, Nakladatelství ČSAV.

DAVID, JAROSLAV 2011. *Smrdov, Brežněves a Rychlonožkova ulice. Kapitoly z moderní české toponymie.* [Smrdov, Brežněves, and Rychlonožka Street. Chapters from the modern Czech toponymy.] Praha, Academia.

HARVALÍK, MILAN 2004. Onymická derivace a její role při vzniku českých anoikonym. [Onymic derivation and its role in the rise of Czech anoikonyms.] In: HARVALÍK, MILAN, *Synchronní a diachronní aspekty české onymie.* Praha, Academia. 97–100.

PLESKALOVÁ, JANA 2009. *Vývoj vlastních jmen osobních v českých zemích v letech 1000–2010.* [The development of personal proper names in the Czech lands in the years 1000–2010.] Brno, Host.

PLESKALOVÁ, JANA 2017. Onymický systém. [Onymic system.] In: KARLÍK, P.–NEKULA, M.–PLESKALOVÁ, J. eds. *CzechEncy – Nový encyklopedický slovník češtiny* [online]. https://www.czechency.org/slovnik/ONYMICKÝ SYSTÉM (Cited 2018-01-10.)

PROFOUS, ANTONÍN 1949–1954. *Místní jména v Čechách I–IV.* [Place names in Bohemia I–IV.] Volume *IV* together with JAN SVOBODA. Praha, ČSAV.

ŠMILAUER, VLADIMÍR 1960. Soustava českých místních jmen. [The systém of Czech place names.] In: SVOBODA, J.–ŠMILAUER, V. eds. *Místní jména v Čechách V*. Praha, ČSAV. 521–670.

ŠRÁMEK, RUDOLF 1972. Toponymické modely a toponymický systém. [Toponymic models and toponymic system.] *Slovo a slovesnost 33:* 304–318.

ŠRÁMEK, RUDOLF 1999. *Úvod do obecné onomastiky*. [Introduction to general onomastics.] Brno, Masarykova univerzita.

ŠTĚPÁN, PAVEL 2012. Ke slovotvorným specifikům anoikonymie Čech. [On the word-formation specificities of the anoikonymy of Bohemia.] In: ČMEJRKOVÁ, S.–HOFFMANNOVÁ, J.–KLÍMOVÁ, J. eds. *Čeština v pohledu synchronním a diachronním. Stoleté kořeny Ústavu pro jazyk český*. Praha, Karolinum. 507–512.

ŠTĚPÁN, PAVEL 2016, *Pomístní jména v Čechách z pohledu slovotvorného*. [Minor place names in Bohemia from the point of view of word formation.] Praha, Academia.

Abstract

The paper provides an overview of the basic systematic relationships between toponyms and anthroponyms in Czech. It concentrates especially on the derivation and transfer potential of the individual categories of both geographical and personal names, namely on toponyms based on anthroponyms and anthroponyms based on toponyms. Especially the formation of toponyms from anthroponyms is variegated and includes a high number of types and categories, as well as a rich repertory of derivative suffixes. These suffixes can often be characterised as parasystemic (parasystem is understood as a secondary word-formation system, by which special spheres of designations having specific functions in communication, namely proper names, technical terms and expressive denominations, are formed).

Keywords: proper names, anthroponyms, toponyms, systematic relationships, parasystem