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***Settlement Names in an Onomatosystematical Context:
Name Typology, Etymology, and Chronology****

1. Objectives and Framework of the Analysis

For centuries, toponyms have played a key role in research on the history of the Hungarian language (what is more, on the history of the Hungarian people) due to unique features of the sources. There are practically no direct, written sources on the early centuries of Hungarian medieval history: Hungarians arrived in the Carpathian Basin at the end of the 9th century (i.e., the Conquest) but information recorded in charters about local circumstances is available only from the early 11th century. Toponyms remain the key to understanding the historical circumstances of the missing two centuries, since the peoples living and encountered here can best be studied with the help of hydronyms and settlement names (oikonyms) deriving from their languages. The etymological analysis of toponyms serves, therefore, as the starting point for such endeavors.

Researchers attempted to reconstruct how and at what pace Hungarians populated the Carpathian Basin and the territory of the Kingdom of Hungary in the centuries following their arrival into the region mostly based on the analysis of settlement names of Hungarian origin. For this purpose, they primarily used the characteristic typological groups of oikonyms.

It is due to such an outstanding source value of toponyms that the study of settlement names has had an especially important role not only in onomastics but also in language history and historical studies in general. In this process, certain toponym types have already been processed by researchers. The analysis from the perspective of linguistic elements was completed by MIKLÓS KÁZMÉR in his *A »falu« a magyar helynevekben, XIII–XIX. század*. [*»falu«* ‘village’ in Hungarian toponyms, 13–19th century] (Budapest, 1970), while studies from the perspective of functions expressed in names were conducted by ANDRÁS MEZŐ in *A templomcím a magyar helységnevekben, 11–15. század*. [Patrocinies in Hungarian settlement names, 11th–15th centuries] (Budapest, 1996). More recent research also approaches settlement names from the perspective of semantic content: ANITA RÁCZ studies denominations containing ethnonyms in

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her work *Ethonimák a régi magyar településnevekben* [Ethnonyms in the old Hungarian settlement names] (Debrecen, 2016), while VALÉRIA TÓTH analyzed settlement names containing anthroponyms in her monograph *Személynévi helynévadás az ómagyar korban* [Toponyms based on anthroponyms in the Old Hungarian Era] (Debrecen, 2017). These studies are considered important, seminal works in Hungarian toponomastics. At the same time, we still have no comprehensive monographic study on all the typical Hungarian types of settlement names from the medieval centuries.

Important onomatosystematical and name typological studies have also been conducted in Hungarian toponomastics not only according to name types but also based on a regional approach. Such works are mostly characterized by an etymological and historical linguistic approach. The following works are relevant here: ÁGNES BÉNYEI–GERGELY PETHŐ *Az Árpád-kori Győr vármegye településneveinek nyelvészeti elemzése* [The linguistic analysis of the settlement names of Győr County in the Árpád Era] (Debrecen, 1998), VALÉRIA TÓTH *Az Árpád-kori Abaúj és Bars vármegye helyneveinek történeti-etimológiai szótára* [The historical-etymological dictionary of the toponyms of Abaúj and Bars counties in the Árpád Era] (Debrecen, 2001), *Névrendszertani vizsgálatok a korai ómagyar korban (Abaúj és Bars vármegye)* [Onomatosystematical analyses in the early Old Hungarian Era (The toponyms of Abaúj and Bars counties)] (Debrecen, 2001), RITA PÓCZOS *Az Árpád-kori Borsod és Bodrog vármegye településneveinek nyelvészeti elemzése* [The linguistic analysis of the settlement names of Borsod and Bodrog counties in the Árpád Era] (Debrecen, 2001), ANITA RÁ CZ *A régi Bihar vármegye településneveinek nyelvészeti vizsgálata* [The linguistic study of the settlement names of historical Bihar County] (Debrecen, 2005), *A régi Bihar vármegye településneveinek történeti-etimológiai szótára* [The historical-etymological dictionary of the settlement names of historical Bihar County] (Debrecen, 2007), and BÉLA KOCÁN *Helynévtörténeti vizsgálatok a régi Ugocsa megyében* [Studies in historical toponomastics in Ugocsa County] (Debrecen, 2017). The typological relationships between settlement names and especially their chronological relations, however, have been studied to a lesser extent so far; these topics were only addressed in passing. Thus, in the following I will focus on this aspect and introduce the settlement name corpus of Bihar County, the largest county in medieval Hungary.

2. Settlement History

At the time of the Conquest, Hungarians arriving in the eastern part of the Carpathian Basin settled down in a diverse natural environment in the area of the future Bihar County where the territory was divided more or less in the same proportion between the mountains in the eastern and southern areas of the county and the plains located in the western and northern parts. The area of the



county was subdivided further by smaller and larger watercourses (e.g., the Berettyó, the Ér, the two northern sections of the Körös: the Sebes-Körös called Váradi-Körös and the Fekete-Körös, the Gyepes, etc., cf. HA 1: 75–80). When the rivers flooded, large swampy areas emerged in the lowlands area, which are permanently present. Partly as a result of this, extensive marshlands appeared in the western part of the county, which at the time was referred to as Sárrettje.

The 11th-century conditions of the population of the Carpathian Basin were studied by ISTVÁN KNIEZSA (1938) who argued that a Hungarian-speaking population inhabited a large part of the county at this time. More specifically, traces of the Székely ethnic group¹ could also be found. Larger groups of Székelys performing a border defense function were relocated here from the western fringes from the beginning of the 12th century (as defensive battles subsided in the west the invasion by pagan peoples intensified in the east). Later they would move from here to the east, the Transylvanian areas, site of their later residence. A significant block of Székelys can be found in Bihar county at the beginning of the 13th century (KRISTÓ 2003: 54–59). Pechenegs joined Hungarians arriving in the Carpathian Basin several times after the conquest (some already during the 11th century, a larger part in the second half of the century) as they were forced to move due to internal conflicts and the movement of nomadic peoples from east to west. Similarly to the Székelys, this group also functioned as border guards. Their settlements seem to cluster around Várad (later Nagyvárad/Oradea). They probably inhabited the peripheral wetland areas, as this was more suitable for their lifestyle centered on large livestock breeding. Their number was probably not significant and this ethnic group was completely assimilated by Hungarians by the 14th–15th centuries (cf. KNIEZSA 1938: 436–439, KRISTÓ 2003: 79). We shall also consider the presence of a Slavic population in the Carpathian Basin, and thus also in Bihar, at this time. According to historian GYULA KRISTÓ, prior to the conquest, the Slavic population had made up the larger proportion of the population and this was characteristic of the early 11th century population as well (2003: 81, 85). They typically settled at the border of the plains area and the mountains, close to rivers. This Slavic group and the Slavic population that was moved here or which settled down later probably assimilated into the Hungarian populace relatively early (Gy. 1: 571, KRISTÓ 2003: 90, JAKÓ 1940: 22–31). The population of Bihar County suffered great losses due to the destruction caused by the Tatar invasion in the mid-13th century. Hungarians could escape into the

¹ The origin of the Székelys (Seklars) is disputed, it is not known if their language was Hungarian originally or if they switched to it only when living together with the Hungarians. Today, there are two theories: according to one, the ethnic group was originally Hungarian, while the other approach considers them to be of Turkic origin but who joined the Hungarians before the Conquest.



wetland and mountain areas and based on the calculations of historian GYÖRGY GYÖRFFY approximately 18% of the county's settlements was destroyed permanently (Gy. 1: 578). The settlement of the Romanian population began at this time. In line with their lifestyle, they appeared in mountain valleys, the valley of the Fekete-Körös, and by the end of the 13th century near the Fenes Castle (SZABÓ 1941/1990: 47–48). Based on research by GYULA KRISTÓ, from the first half of the 14th century they were present in a smaller number in the eastern, mountainous parts of the county, then from the second half of the century, intensive Romanian settlement started. As a result, by the 16th century the population of the Belényes mountain area located in the southeastern part of the county became completely Romanian (2003: 207–209).

Medieval Bihar County was the largest county of the country with an area of 11,000 km². From the Conquest until the 1332–37 papal tithe registers, GYÖRGY GYÖRFFY mentions 455 settlements in his historical geography of the Árpád Era. He argues that if we also consider settlements possibly not included in the sources (there could obviously be such settlements) the number of settlements actually existing in this era could be around 500 (1: 589–692). ZSIGMOND JAKÓ, who wrote his monograph on the medieval history of the county, mentions 754 inhabited places up to 1600 (1940: 5).

3. Settlements and Settlement Names

Historical studies understandably focused more on settlements than settlement names but the naming of settlements may also provide important information for this discipline. Studies in historical linguistics and toponomastics turn to settlement names and this research activity may largely be facilitated by knowledge of settlement history as well. This interdisciplinary connection is based on the organic interconnectedness of the settlements and their denominations. From the perspective of linguistics, this relationship is introduced by toponym etymology and more recently toponym reconstruction² in terms of particular names and the settlements signified by them. When looking at the entire system as a whole, however, it becomes clear that the number of settlement names exceeds the number of settlements. This phenomenon is studied below, searching for the underlying linguistic and extra-linguistic reasons and tracking the temporal development of the linguistic process.

² Name reconstruction means the complex historical-etymological study of a toponym. It explores contemporary forms behind particular historical linguistic data, the denotative meaning of the name, its morphological and semantic structure. At the same time, it also aims to introduce the real linguistic sociological value of the toponyms. In the case of borrowings between languages it pays particular attention to the circumstances under which the linguistic adaptation took place (HOFFMANN 2010, HOFFMANN–TÓTH 2016, HOFFMANN–RÁCZ–TÓTH 2017: 26–28, 2018: 135–148).



The changes in the number of settlements and their names are presented in Figure 1, divided into periods of 25 years. In calculating, I used the first appearance of names in sources and I considered every name form to be existing as long as it appears probable according to other sources. This happens irrespective of whether a name appears in an interim period in sources or not: if it appears later, I consider it existing also in the period without being mentioned in sources.

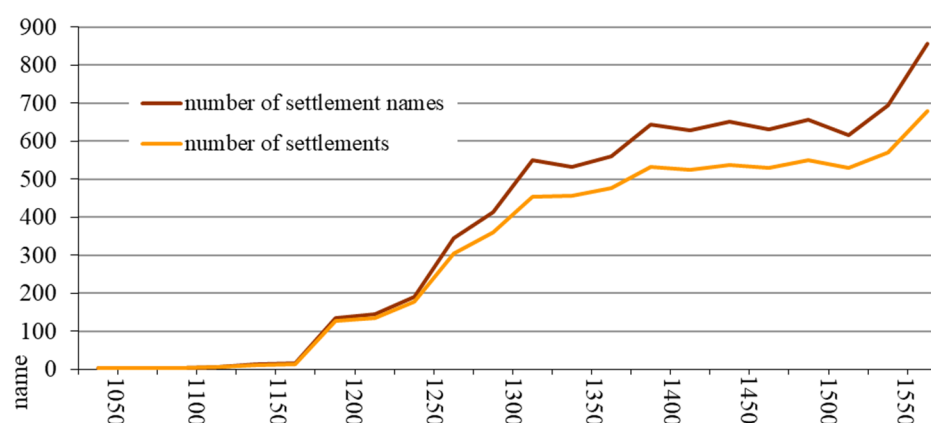


Figure 1. *The number of settlements and settlement names in Bihar County*

The figure shows that settlement names were recorded relatively infrequently until the beginning of the 13th century and thus obviously we have little knowledge of the settlements themselves. As for the 11th century, we are aware of only two inhabited places but even at the end of the 12th century charters indicate only 14 settlements. From this period on, however, we witness a rising trend: both the number of settlements and the number of settlement names denoting them begin to increase, and increase continuously until the early 15th century. For approximately a century from this point on, the number of settlements and their names stagnates, and we witness another intensive increase from the first third of the 16th century. It is also clear, however, that the difference between the number of settlement names and the referents denoted by them increases continuously from the mid-13th until the mid-14th century: from this point forward, the number of settlement names grows faster than that of the referents. The sources that have survived since the 14th century preserved 550 names of 450 settlements, while by the end of the 16th century documents feature 850 name data for approximately 700 settlements.

The difference seen here indicates polynymy, i.e., the appearance of synonyms. Sources record multiple names of a settlement used at the same time. The polynymy of settlements appears at the turn of the 12th and 13th centuries. The number of settlements with multiple names is around 40 at the end of the 13th century, while by the end of the 14th, there are close to 90 such settlements. The



number of synonymous names per settlement during the entire Old Hungarian Era (895–1526) was between 1.1–1.2 throughout, thus every ninth-tenth settlement had two denominations. At the end of the 16th century this ratio was already 1.26; as this time we are aware of 857 names of 680 settlements. The growth in the number of settlement names is due to the interaction of two factors. Besides the already existing names of settlements, there were not only new denominations created, but also some of the early names stopped being used. These two processes of change shaped the name system simultaneously and resulted in the increase in the number of names presented above. Figure 2 presents this two-directional change depicted in different centuries.

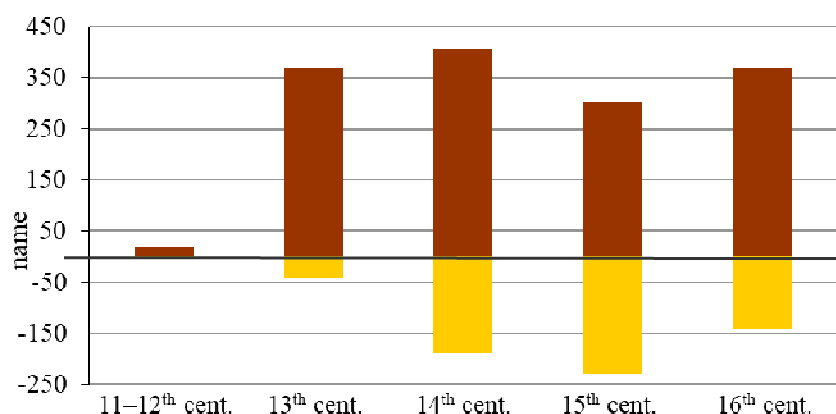


Figure 2. *The birth and disappearance of settlement names*

The disappearance of settlement names may partly be due to the destruction of the settlements. In such cases, however, their name only stops being used as a settlement name but it may live on in the given area, for example, as a micro-toponym. The settlement name may, however, also disappear in a way that its place is taken over by another name, which (after simultaneous use for a certain time) completely replaces the previous denomination.

The expansion of the number of denominations may be approached from two directions from a pragmatic perspective. The creation of new names may be induced by a process referred to as settlement division. In this process the previously unified settlement is divided into two or more parts due to various reasons (most frequently as a result of the division of estates). These newly created parts are then differentiated from one another by a differentiating element attached to the previous base name. This results in name division. A newer name of a settlement may, however, be created without the phenomenon of name division. In this case there may be many reasons for the creation of the new name. One of the most typical motivations includes a change in the landlord of the settlement and the resulting expression of this fact in the name of the place, but the need for changing, replacing the name may also appear due



to many other circumstances. Linguistic reasons may play a role in the changes of the previous name, for example, it is typical that a frequent, fashionable name model of the time affects such processes. Figure 3 shows the changes resulting from these two processes in the number of names created by means of division and synonymy. It should be highlighted that the expansion of the number of names this way is practically independent of the growth of the actual number of settlements. Due to village divisions, the only change was in the legal status of the affected settlements.

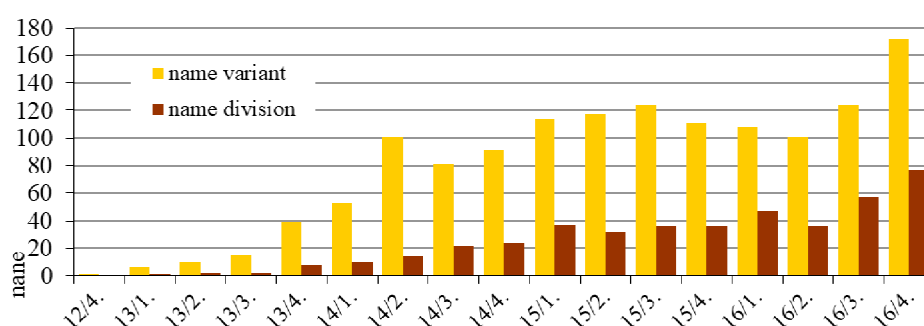


Figure 3. *Changes in the number of names created by division and synonymy*

The diagram shows that the increase in the number of names in these two ways beginning at the end of the 12th century. It is clear that the number of names created as synonyms is well above the denominations created by division throughout the Old Hungarian Era. The increase in the number of synonyms noticeably shoots up in the second quarter of the 14th century, which is clearly due to the rich toponymic corpus of the papal tithe register (1332–1337) compiled at this time. However, in what follows there is a natural, gradual increase visible meanwhile with some decline. From the beginning of the 15th century, the number of synonyms is always above 100, while at the end of the 16th century they are present in the sources in an outstanding number. As we have already indicated, there are numerous reasons for polynymy (both intra- and extra-linguistic). The settlement history factors cannot always be identified in each and every case with targeted studies either.

However, the analysis of changes with a purely linguistic motivation may be informative. Names created by means of division are much rarer; until the first half of the 16th century their number barely reaches 50, although as time passes the number of specimens in this name type clearly increases also. We may witness a more intensive growth in the first quarter of the 15th century, when they make up one third of names created as synonyms. Later (with the exception of a smaller drop in the first half of the 16th century) this name type is characterized by gradual growth. By the middle and end of the 16th century, its proportion reaches almost half of the division names. The number of names



created by division is indicative of the fact of village divisions, thus they primarily have significance in settlement history. The applied linguistic tools may also be studied in connection with this phenomenon.

The types of settlement names created through division may be identified based on the semantic content of the first constituent that was attached to the original settlement name. The largest group is made up by those denominations in which the attributive first constituent is an adjective referring to the size of the settlement. The earliest name pair of this type includes *Kiskágya* ('small/settlement named Kágya') and *Nagykágya* ('large/settlement named Kágya'): 1399: *Kyskagya*, 1400: *Naghkagia* (JAKÓ 1940: 269–270) created due to the division of the village *Kágya* (settlement name of an uncertain origin): 127[8]: *Kaga* (Gy. 1: 629). As well as the division of the settlement of *Bagos* (*Bagos* personal name > *Bagos* settlement name): [1291–94]: *Bogus* (Gy. 1: 597) into *Kisbagos* ('small/settlement named Bagos') and *Nagybagos* ('large/settlement named Bagos'): 1347: *Kysbogus*, *Nogbogus* (Cs. 1: 603).

The number of those denominations that refer to the relative position of the settlement or settlement section is also significant. This differentiating feature first appears in the case of the division of *Kér* (*Kér* tribe's name > *Kér* settlement name) located to the south-east of Várad (later Nagyvárad, today Oradea in Romania): 1249: *Keer* (Gy. 1: 631) in the names of *Alkér* ('lower/settlement named Kér') and *Felkér* ('upper/settlement named Kér'): 1214/1550: *inferioris Quer* (Gy. 1: 631), 1318>1390>1406: *Alsó Ker* (AOkl. 5: 61/129); [1272–90]>1374/1500 k.: *Keer superiore*, 1332–37/PR.: *Felkeer* (Gy. 1: 631). It is not uncommon that the attribute of such name pairs is replaced by another lexeme pair with an antonymous meaning. This phenomenon is visible also when in the middle of the 16th century the *Kiskér* ('small/settlement named Kér') name variant of *Alkér* 1552: *Kys Keer*, and the *Nagykér* ('large/settlement named Kér'): 1552: *Nagy Keer* (JAKÓ 1940: 277) variant of *Felkér* appeared.

The first constituent of some of the names created by means of division refers to an individual or a group of residents. Settlement names received a personal name attribute when they indicated its owner. The earliest example of this type includes the parts created with the division of the settlement *Pályi* (*Paul* anthroponym + *-i* topoformant): 1220/1550: *Pauli* (Gy. 1: 650) into *Majspályija* ('Pályi settlement/owned by a person called Majs') and *Ernefiaistvánpályija* ('Pályi settlement/owned by a person called István the son of Erne'): 1322: *Moyspaulia*, *Ernefyastephanpaulia* (Gy. 1: 650). The denomination could also refer to the social status of the residents of the settlement as in the case of *Gyán* (*Gyán* anthroponym > *Gyán* settlement name): 1214: *Gyan* (JAKÓ 1940: 251) and the first member of the name pair created from it, called *Szabadgyán* ('free/settlement named Gyán'): 1229/1550: *Zobodian* (Gy. 1: 620) and *Kötegyán* ('settlement named Gyán/of a person named Köte'): 1485: *Kethegyan*



(JAKÓ 1940: 251). The first example in Bihar in which the attribute refers to the ethnicity of the population is the name pair of *Magyarderna* ('Hungarian/settlement named Derna'): 1406: *Magyardarna, Oláhderna* ('Romanian/settlement named Derna'): 1406: *Olahdarna* (JAKÓ 1940: 232). Subsequently, there was a change in attributes in the case of these settlements as well: *Magyarderna* was recorded in charters later on as *Alsóderna* ('lower/settlement named Derna'): 1472: *Alsodarna*, while *Oláhderna* as *Felsőderna* ('upper/settlement named Derna'): 1472: *Felsewdarna* (JAKÓ 1940: 232).

In the differentiated name forms created as a result of estate division we may also find first constituents referring to the age of the settlement: the earliest attribute with such a semantic content is the name of *Újmarja* ('new/settlement named Marja') and *Ómarja* ('old/settlement named Marja'): [1291–94]: *Maria noua*, 1332–37/PR.: *Vymaria*; 1322: *Omaria* (Gy. 1: 641) from the settlement *Marja* (*Mária* ~ *Marja* anthroponym > *Mária* ~ *Marja* settlement name): 1277/1282: inter *Mariam* et *Wodosa* (Gy. 1: 641).

Besides these, the semantic content of the first constituent may also indicate, for example, the existence or absence of a church in the settlement: *Pércs*: [1270]/1282: *Peerch* > *Egyházaspércs* ('settlement named Pércs/with a church'): 1347: *Eghazas Perch*, later *Nagypércs* ('large/settlement named Pércs'): 1435: *Naghperch*; and *Egyházatlanpércs* ('settlement named Pércs/without a church'): 1347: *Eghaziatlan Perch*, later *Kispércs* ('small/settlement named Pércs'): 1435: *Kysperch* (RÁCZ 2007: 90, 91, 155, 200, 221). It may also feature the name of a nearby settlement referring to geographical location: *Ősi*: 1359: *Ewsy* > *Sarkadősi* ('settlement named Ősi/located nearby Sarkad settlement'): 1552: *Sarkadewssy* and *Prépostősi* ('settlement named Ősi/owned by the provost'): 1552: *Preposthewssy* (RÁCZ 2007: 214, 228, 240); occupational name: *Peterd*: [1291–94]: *Peturd* > *Fegyvernekpeterd* ('settlement named Peterd/inhabited by squires'): 1382: *Feghuernekpeturd* and *Mezőpeterd* ('settlement named Peterd/situated in a plain area'): 1382: *Mezewpetherd* (RÁCZ 2007: 96, 187, 222), etc.

It is clear from these examples as well that the settlement names created by means of division are all of secondary form; that is, the creators of the name attached a differentiating attributive first constituent to the already existing settlement name for the purposes of clearer designation. As a summary, Figure 4 shows the semantic content of the first constituents of settlement names formed by means of division.



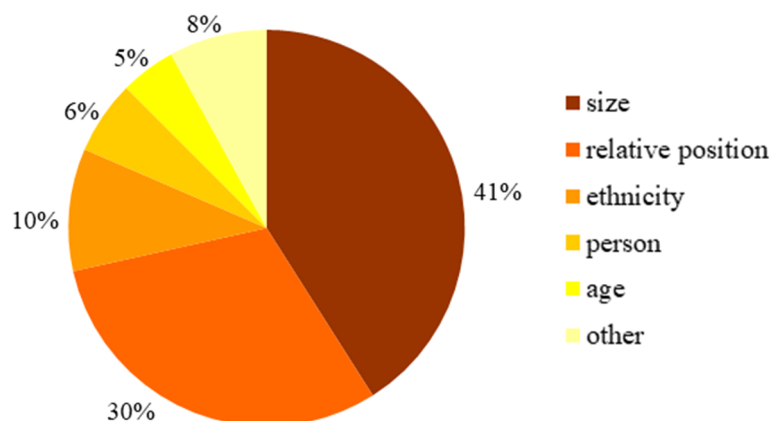


Figure 4. *Semantic types of names created by means of division*

The number of settlement names was also increased by the synonymous names related to the settlement. In this case the old and the newly created denomination signified the same referent. From a lexical perspective, the newly created names could be related to the old one, but it also often happened that they expressed a completely new semantic feature. The typical types of synonymous names may also be described as syntactic changes: the formerly single-component settlement name becomes a two-component name with a settlement name formant and continues to designate the given settlement in the future also. Such name formations are exemplified in Bihar County by the *Ábrány* (*Ábrahám* anthroponym > *Ábrahám* settlement name): 1234/XV.: *Abraham* (Gy. 1: 590) > *Ábrányfalva* ('Abraham's/village'): 1436: *Abranfalva* (JAKÓ 1940: 199) and *Mikola* (*Mikola* anthroponym > *Mikola* settlement name): 1329: *Mykola* (Gy. 1: 645) > *Mikolatelke* ('Mikola's/village'): 1417: *Mykolatheleke* (Cs. 1: 616) settlement names. Synonyms may also be created in the opposite direction, i.e., by means of ellipsis. The geographical common noun disappeared in the following names: *Szitányfalva* ('village of/person called Szitány'): 1508: *Zythaanfálwa* (JAKÓ 1940: 357) > *Szitány*: 1598: *Zytany* (DÁVID 2001: 135). However, very rarely the ellipsis of the main constituent with a settlement name origin may also create a name form, as in the case of *Berekböszörmény* ('settlement named Böszörmény/located on a wooded, wetland area'): 1396: *Berekbezermen* existed temporarily *Berek*: 1552: *Berek* (JAKÓ 1940: 210). The switching of name formants used as name constituents is illustrated by *Illyefalva* ('a person called Illye's/village'): 1411: *Elyefalwa* > *Illyeháza* ('a person called Illye's/village'): 1533: *Ilyehaza* (JAKÓ 1940: 263).

We may also register complementation with an attributive name constituent in the name system of Bihar, including, for example, *Bátor* (*Bátor* anthroponym > *Bátor* settlement name): [1177]/1202–1203/XV.: *Batur* (Gy. 1: 598) *Feketebátor* ('black/settlement named Bátor'): 1470: *Fekyetebetor* (EH 81), and



Nagybátor ('large/settlement named Bátor'): 1473: *Naghbator* (JAKÓ 1940: 207). There are also examples for switching the attributive first constituent: *Atyás*: 1283/1311: *Athas* (Gy. 1: 596) settlement was later known as *Kisatyás* ('small/settlement named Atyás'): 1410: *Kysataz*, *Mezőatyás* ('settlement named Atyás/situated in a plain area'): 1488: *Mezewatyas* (JAKÓ 1940: 197), and then as *Puszystaatyás* ('barren, destroyed/settlement named Atyás'): 1530: *PwzthaAthyas* (EH 66).

An existing settlement name might have also been extended with a name element: *Kávás* ('having a brim, probably a well with a brim'): 1355: *Kawas* > *Kávásd* (*Kávás* settlement name + *-d* topoformant): 1425: *Kavasd* (JAKÓ 1940: 270); *Harang* ('bellflower'): 1342: *Harang* (A. 4: 229) > *Harangmező* ('bellflower + field'): 1552: *Haranghmezeo* (JAKÓ 1940: 254); or by means of a name element reduction, it might as well have disappeared from the name: *Béli* (*Béli* anthroponym > *Béli* settlement name): 1332–35/PR.: *Bely* (Cs. 1: 604) > *Bél* (disappearance of *-i* interpreted as a topoformant): 1389: *Beel* (Zs. 1: 1060); *Örvényesligete* ('turbulent + smaller forest'): 1336: *Wrwenusligethe* > *Örvényes* ('turbulent'): 1360: *Ewrwenes* (JAKÓ 1940: 312).

Those denominations represent one type of settlement name synonyms that are typically attached in Latin sources by the Latin expressions *alias*, *vel*, *aliter*. The creators of such names established these denominations based on different semantic features, thus their lexical structure also differs. *Szentmárton* ('Saint Martin'): 1332: *Sanctus Martinus* (JAKÓ 1940: 245) in the north-eastern part of Bihar County also appears under the name of *Genyéte* (*Gonjata* anthroponym > *Genyéte* settlement name) one and a half centuries later: 1489: *Zenthmarton* aliter *Genyete* (Cs. 1: 608) ~ *Zenthmarton* vel *Genyethe* (JAKÓ 1940: 245), 1569: *Zentmarton* alias *Ghenete* (EH 451).

4. Loan Toponyms

The growth in the number of settlement names is related not only to the Hungarian-speaking population. Ethnic groups of another language moving into the area also give new oikonyms, mostly for the new settlements established for or by them. The newly arrived foreign populace names the settlement using their own language and thus the denomination is created from the elements of the foreign language. These are added to the Hungarian language and toponymic system as loan toponyms and enrich the Hungarian toponymicon.

The first loan names appeared in the county at the beginning of the 13th century. The earliest such names dating from the first third of the century have Slavic origins (for their etymology see RÁCZ 2007) *Bertény*: 1213/1550: *Berceu* [ɔ: *Berten*] (Gy. 1: 599, < Slavic **bьrtьnъ* (*lěsъ*) '[forest] abundant in tree holes suitable for bees'); *Guszár*: 1213/1550: *Guizar* (Gy. 1: 620, < maybe the proto



Slavic **goserь* ‘gander’); *Kenese*: 1219/1550: villani *Kenesy* (Gy. 1: 634, < southern Slavic **Kneža* place name ‘that of the prince, king’); *Terebes*: 1219: *Terebus* (JAKÓ 1940: 366, < **trěběsь* ‘clearings’); *Valkó*: [1291–94]: *Wolkou* (Gy. 1: 681, < Slavic **vьlkь* ‘wolf’) and maybe *Rikács*: 1209: *Richaz* (Gy. 1: 595, < proto Slavic **rěka* ‘river’). From the 13th century the number of loan names shows a gradual increase all the way to the final third of the 16th century. During these 350 years 30 such settlement names appear in sources but their number triples in the next quarter of a century. Figure 5 shows the appearance of loan oikonyms in sources in Bihar County.

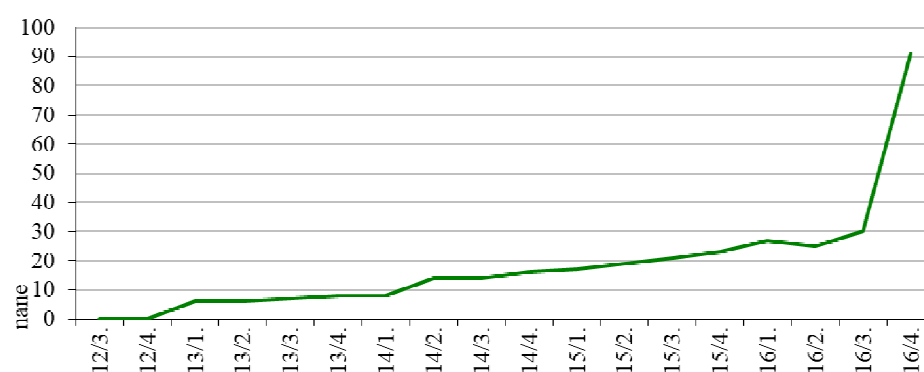


Figure 5. The appearance of loan toponyms in Bihar County

The reason for such a large increase is the spreading of Romanian loan names. The first settlement names of Romanian origin appeared in the 14th century: *Rogoz*: 1332: *Rogos* (JAKÓ 1940: 331, < Romanian *rogoz* ‘sedge, bulrush’); *Kornice(l)*: 1392: *Chormel* (JAKÓ 1940: 282, < Romanian *cornățel* ~ *cornițel* ‘cleavers’, ‘clubmoss’, ‘thistles’), and from this point on their number increases continuously. The major part of the 16th-century layer of settlement names that entered the Hungarian toponymic system by means of borrowing is already made up by names of Romanian origin in Bihar: *Bucson*: 1508: *Bwchon* (JAKÓ 1940: 221, < Romanian *bucium*, folk *bucin* ‘(tree) stump’); *Grós*: 1580: *Grooss* (JAKÓ 1940: 246, < Romanian *gros* ‘tree stump’); *Kalugyer*: 1588: *Kaluger* (JAKÓ 1940: 267, < Romanian *călugăr* ‘monk, friar’), etc.

5. Structural Categories

Toponyms as parts of the vocabulary may best be grasped in a structural sense from a functional perspective, similarly to common nouns. The most important relations of the toponymic system can also be introduced most illustratively based on this. Name constituents represent a basic concept in the functional-semantic analysis of toponyms. Those units of a toponym are considered to be name constituents that express any semantic feature related to the referent at the time of the name genesis or during the functioning of the name. Just as the toponymic systems in general, the settlement name system also has two clearly



separate structural types: single- and two-component names. The study of these name types represents a key aspect in the process of toponym analysis. In what follows, I will introduce the main features of these subsystems, their relations and key connections in the onomastic corpus of Bihar County.

I have already introduced one of the subtypes of single-component settlement names in Bihar County. The above-discussed loan settlement names may be considered single-component names, they entered the Hungarian system of toponyms as settlement names from a foreign language. This phenomenon is called external name formation. As opposed to this, there is also internal name formation when the creators of the name establish new settlement names using the elements of the Hungarian language based on existing patterns. The loan names established by means of external name formation and entering the Hungarian language function the same way in language use as names created by means of internal name formation. The only function of loan names is the denomination of the place. They can, however, ensure the place signifying, identifying basic function the same way as denominations created with internal name formation, as the speakers in the process of name usage do not consider the historical genesis of the name.

Figure 6 introduces changes in the number of single- and two-component settlement names in Bihar County during the Old Hungarian Era. In line with those already mentioned, the single-component names also include loan toponyms.

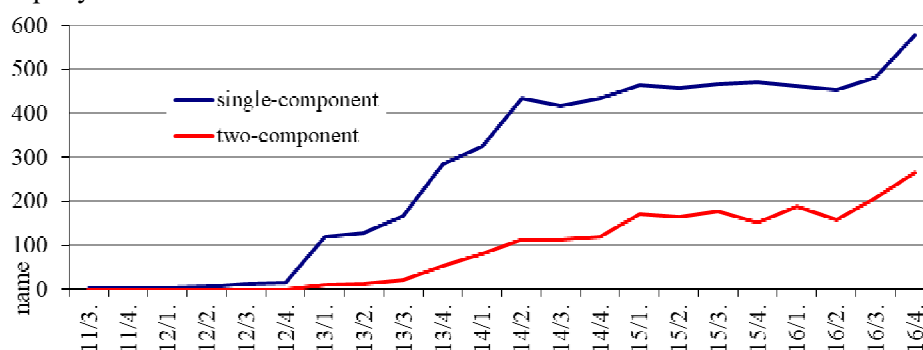


Figure 6. Changes in the number of single-component and two-component names in the Old Hungarian Era

It is clear from the diagram that single-component names are dominant, practically from the beginning, while by the end of the era these settlement names make up 70% of the total number of names. At the beginning, however, single-component denominations are present in an even higher proportion (although in lower number). The earliest two-component names appear in the sources at the beginning of the 13th century but often these appear in a form translated into Latin: *Asszonyvására* ('lady's (i.e., queen's)/settlement with



market rights’): 1203/1342//1477: *de Foro Regine*, later: 1268/1270: *Ahzunwasara* (Gy. 1: 595), *Túrsámsona* (‘settlement named Sámson/owned by a person called Túr’): 1213/1550: *Tumsansuna* [ɔ: *Tursamsuna*] (Gy. 1: 658), *Alsóker* (‘lower/settlement named Kér’): 1214/1550: *inferioris Quer* (Gy. 1: 631), *Ugramonostora* (‘settlement named Monostor/owned by a person called Ugra’): 1214/1550: *mon. de Vgra* (Gy. 1: 679), later: 1325: *Wgramonustra* (Gy. 1: 679), *Nyírpályi* (‘settlement named Pályi/located [nearby] a birch forest’): 1219/1550: *Pauli de Nyr*, later: 1332–37/PR.: *Nirpali* (Gy. 1: 650), etc. The two-component names make up approximately 10% of the total number of denominations until the final quarter of the 13th century, then, however, their number increases more intensively: in the period between the last quarter of the 13th and the final quarter of the 14th century their proportion is around 20%, which by the third quarter of the 16th century slowly reaches 30%. The number of single-component names increases continuously, with a more intensive growth at the beginning of the 13th century (this only indicates, however, an increase in the number of sources), the end of the 13th century, the beginning of the 15th century, and from the second quarter of the 16th century. In the second quarter of the 14th century the names of both name structural types indicate outstanding values, which are mostly related to the large number of settlement name data appearing in the documents of the papal tithe registers of the time (1332–1337/PR.).

5.1. Single-Component Names

Besides the already mentioned loan names, we may distinguish between two larger groups within single-component settlement names. The first one includes those names that appear as settlement names without any settlement name formants, while the second type includes names created using topoformants (e.g., *-i*, *-d*, *-s*, etc.) These also include names of unknown origin, the creation of which can be explained based on our current knowledge only with uncertainty or not at all. Figure 7 shows the internal proportion of single-component settlement names.

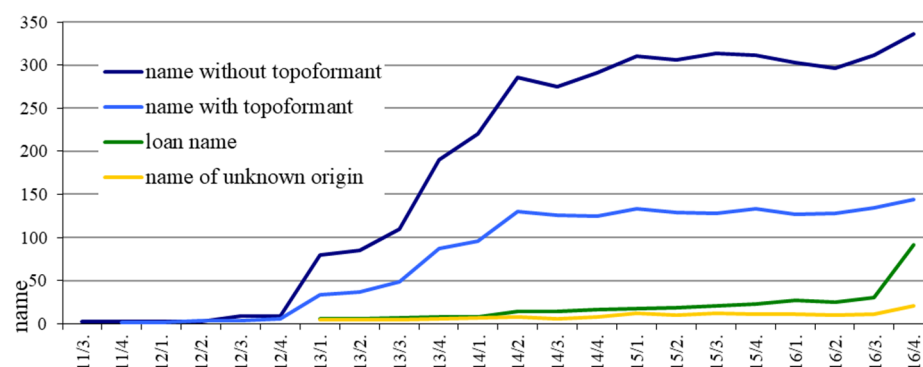


Figure 7. Types of single-component names

The largest group of single-component names is made up of those name forms that were created without a settlement name formant, but a significant number of names can be included also in the group of names formed with topoformants. The two earliest settlement names fall into the first category: *Szalacs* (*Szalacs* anthroponym > *Szalacs* settlement name): 1067/1267: *Zoloch* (Gy. 1: 663) and *Bihar* (*Bihar* anthroponym > *Bihar* settlement name): 1067/1267: *Byhoriensis* (Gy. 1: 601). The first settlement name found in sources that was created with a topoformant was *Várad* ('small fortress, small castle' + *-d* topoformant): 1103>XVIII.: *Varadinus* (Gy. 1: 682).

The number of specimens of the name type used in base form was already higher in the 11–12th centuries that had scarce sources and thus also scarce data. This is typical of the entire Old Hungarian Era. The growth in the number of names in both name clusters begins from the 13th century and already at this early time the names in their base form outnumber others two and a half times in the charters. The increase in the number of elements in the two types of name structures (maintaining the initial difference in frequency) practically goes parallel until the end of the 13th century. There we can witness a rapid increase in the names with a base form, along with the stagnation of formed names. The surge in the second quarter of the 14th century (as indicated before) shows the abundance of data due to the papal tithe registers. From this point on (after a temporary drop lasting for a quarter of a century), the number of names in their base form shows a moderate but continuous increase, what is more, it surges at the end of the 16th century while the number of names with a settlement name topoformant stagnates. During the Old Hungarian Era, among the single-component settlement names the settlement names without a formant represent a definitive majority. The constancy of the proportions between the two main types indicates that in this structural category the internal relations of the name system practically remain unchanged after the first third of the 14th century. This may also be projected back to earlier periods, but it cannot be stated with certainty due to the low number of early toponymic data.

Thus far, I have used linguistic tools to analyze the categories of single-component names, in what follows, I will analyze the semantic content expressed by single component names using a functional approach. Figure 8 shows the division of the semantic types of single-component settlement names.



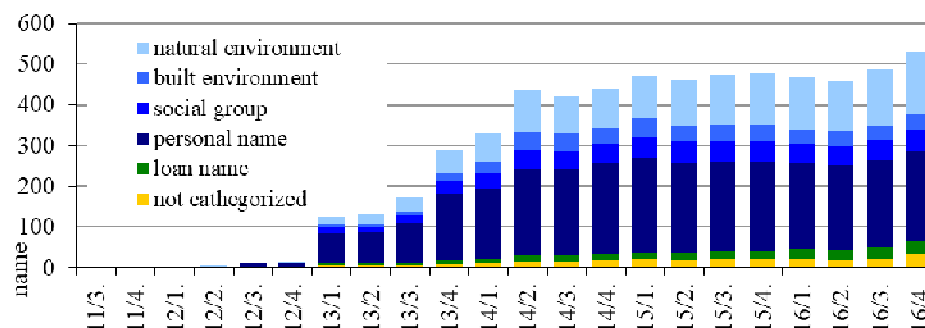


Figure 8. *The semantic types of single-component settlement names*

The largest group of single-component names is made up by settlement names rooted in personal names, which mostly refer to the owner, residents, etc. of the settlement. The presence of these names was dominant throughout the Old Hungarian Era, while at the end of the era, in the 16th century, their proportion was still over 40%, and earlier it had been even higher. Among the single-component names this semantic group may be considered the oldest layer and until the second quarter of the 12th century basically only such names are recorded in sources, but their proportion is at least 60% until the final quarter of the 13th century. From this point on, the name type is characterized mostly by stagnation but this still means a proportion of 50% or higher. Around the end of the 16th century, the corpus of single-component names expands again but this growth is still not followed by the settlement names formed from personal names. Both sets of the oldest name data of single-component names without a settlement name formant (*Szalacs* and *Bihar*) are of an anthroponym origin.

The other larger subgroup of single-component names is represented by settlement names formed from names referring to the natural environment. Their number increases continuously and steadily from the beginning of the 13th century until the final quarter of the 15th century, then in the second half of the 16th century, it surges again especially at the end of the century. The corpus of such names stagnates only at the time when this is characteristic of the other types as well, i.e., the number of single-component settlement names does not change significantly overall. This semantic layer is second not only in terms of its proportion among single-component names but is also the second earliest group in terms of chronology. The earliest dated settlement names included here are the name of *Sarkad* referring to a location nearby a protrusion (*sarok* ‘corner, protrusion’) + *-di* topoformant): 1138/1329: *Surcudi* (Gy. 1: 659) and *Berettyó* village (*Berettyó* hydronym > *Berettyó* settlement name): [1162–1172]/[1326–1729–1741]: *Berekis* [ɔ: *Berekio*] (DHA 1: 303) next to the *Berettyó* river (then *Berek-jó* ‘grove by the river/river’).



Those denominations represent a typical part of the old Hungarian toponymicon that were created from names of social groups. Those name-forming lexemes that designate ethnic groups, tribes, and occupations are referred to as names of social groups as it is a shared feature of these words that they denote groups of people and human communities even in a nominative form. The settlement name layer which refers to the built environment of people with its name formation elements is also noteworthy. The settlement names formed from names of social groups and those referring to the built environment do not show significant changes in terms of proportions in the Old Hungarian Era, their number falls well behind the names in the previous group. The appearance of names of social groups in sources begins more intensively: the number of such names is double that of denominations referring to the built environment in the third quarter of the 13th century, but later these proportions gradually balance. One of the earliest names rooted in names of social groups includes the name of the settlement of *Olaszi* (*olasz* ‘speaking a western neo-Latin language’ + *-i* topoformant): 1184: *Olasz* (EH 700; later *Váradolasz*, FNESz.) located north of *Várad*. *Dusnok* (*dusnok* ‘performing punitive services for the church’): 1215/1550: *Dusunic* (Gy. 1: 614) was created from a name of an occupation with records as early as the 13th century. The *Megyer* settlement name (*Megyer* tribe’s name > *Megyer* settlement name): 1220/1550: *Megyer* (Gy. 1: 642) located in the western part of the county derives from the name of a tribe. The chronology of settlement names referring to the built environment shows a similar trend. For example, *Egyházaskereki* (‘settlement named Kereki/with a church’): 1333: *Eghazaskereki* (Gy. 1: 632) on the shore of the *Ér* brook, and *Biharvár* (‘Bihar personal name/castle’): +1209/+1251//1322: *Byhoruariensi* (Gy. 1: 602) also providing the name for the county itself, and *Baromlak* (*baromlak* ‘a building for cattle, barn’): 1327/1469: *Boromlak* (Gy. 1: 598) on the left shore of the *Berettyó* are such settlement names.

5.2. Two-Component Names

As already noted (especially in Fig. 6) the number of two-component settlement names in Bihar County during the Old Hungarian Era was much lower than that of single-component ones. Figure 9 shows the semantic groups of this structural category.

We differentiate between two large groups of two-component names from a structural perspective: those with a settlement name and a geographical common noun second constituent meaning a settlement (*falu*, *telek*, *lak*, *ház*, *föld*, *vár*, *város*, etc.). These appeared in sources more or less at the same time. Their proportion is balanced within the category of two-component names until the final quarter of the 13th century, although we have only scarce data from the earlier era. At this time, however, the number of names with a geographical common noun second constituent suddenly jumps and is double that of names



with a settlement name second constituent, then during the century a 30%:70% proportion develops. Centuries were needed to develop a balance in the proportion of these two name types: in the last quarter of the 15th century the division is half-and-half. By the end of the examined period, the denominations with a settlement name second constituent become dominant and their proportion reaches 60%. This means that by the end of the Old Hungarian Era (in the first third of the 16th century) the creators of names began to use already existing settlement names when creating new names. This is well-indicated by the fact that the type of two-component settlement names (although much lower numerically than that of single-component ones) is itself old, but within this category denominations with a geographical common noun second constituent had become frequent earlier and compared to this there is a delay in the case of names with a settlement name second constituent.

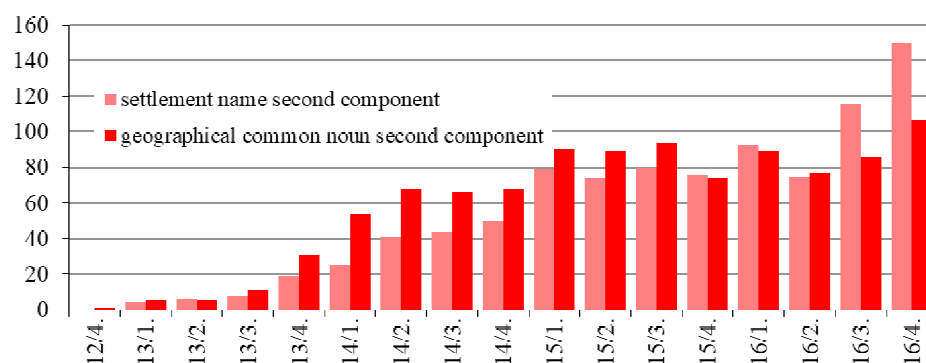


Figure 9. *Semantic types of two-component settlement names*

When studying the internal distribution of the two main types, we may see that in the denominations with a geographical common noun second constituent anthroponyms play a key role. From the middle of the 14th century the proportion of names in this category increases and this does not change until the end of the era. In the subcategory of names with a settlement name second constituent there is no dominant semantic group, while at the end of the era the group of names with a first constituent referring to local circumstances makes up one third of the names in this subgroup.

Changes between the different name types can be traced better in the name corpus overall, if we examine the status of certain types of the name system in different chronological moments. For this purpose, I will compare the final 25 years of the five centuries analyzed. The series of diagrams in Figure 10 illustrate the internal division of the single-component and two-component names.



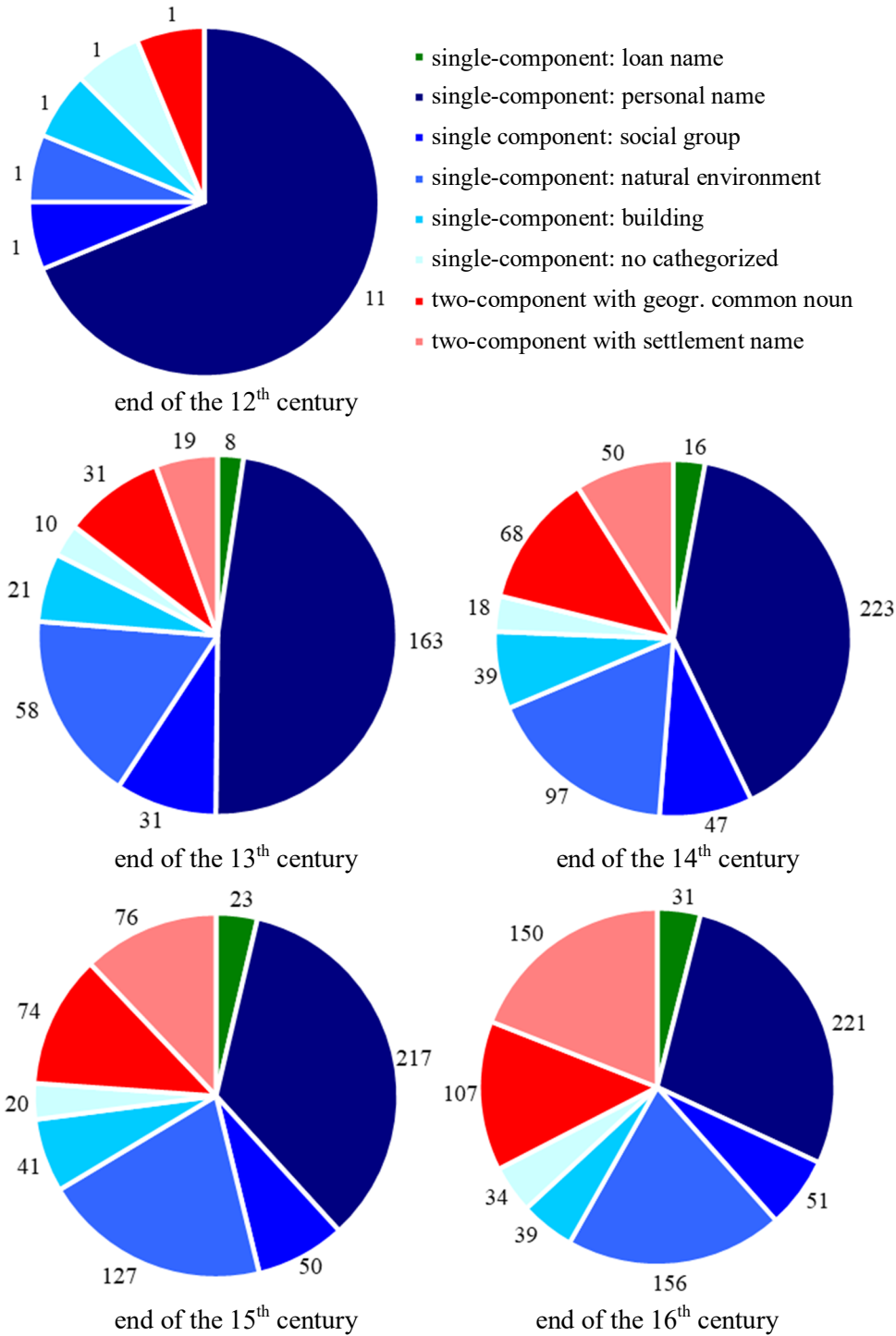


Figure 10. Changes in the frequency of name types



The diagrams shed a somewhat different light on the trends that I have mostly analyzed separately so far concerning the particular name types. Of these, I would like to highlight one issue: the critical role of personal names in settlement names. If we consider only the groups of names distinguished here, both the number and proportion of the single-component names formed from personal names and that of two-component names formed from personal names and lexical settlement name formants appear to be significant in the oikonym system of Bihar County. The two categories together make up three-quarters of all the names at the end of the 12th century but (in the case of a much higher number of name elements) they represent one third of these even at the end of the 16th century. If we also consider that the anthroponym name constituents, name elements appear abundantly in other settlement name types as well (for example, those with a settlement name second constituent are frequent among those referring to the built environment, while patrociny are featured in settlement names practically as personal names), then this name group appears to be even more significant. It is also clear, however, that proportionately personal names were used less and less extensively in naming settlements, which indicates that the representation of ownership in the name became less significant with time.

6. Etymological Analysis

The relationships, internal links between members of the toponymic system may be explored not only by means of the structural analysis of the toponymic corpus, but also valuable information may be gained by examining the etymology of names, paying attention to how the names in the different structural categories are created, including primary and secondary name forms. The latter may be explained based on the already existing members of the name system as a result of some kind of linguistic change. Thus the etymological analysis practically means the tracking of changes between particular names and name types. Figure 11 introduces the etymological types of settlement names in Bihar County during the Old Hungarian Era.

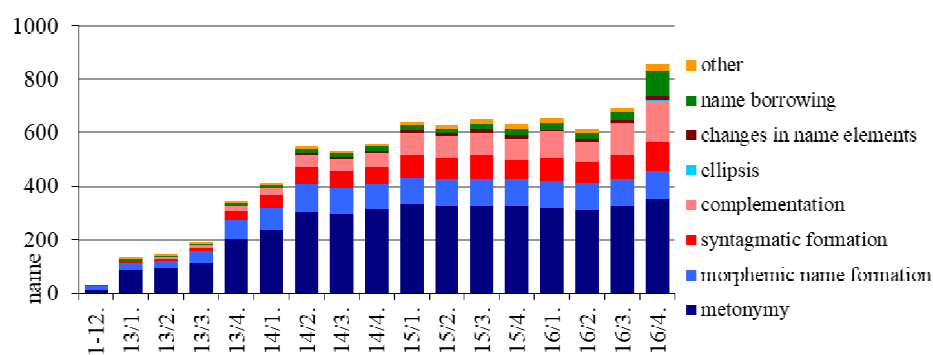


Figure 11. *Distribution of etymological types*

The diagram shows clearly (and this is not surprising after becoming familiar with the name structural types; see Fig. 6) that during the Old Hungarian Era those forms of name genesis were significant that created single-component settlement names: metonymy (name formation without the addition of any formants) and morphemic name formation (with topoformants). Due to their low number of data, we cannot evaluate the earliest time as the number of settlement names that survived in sources begins to rise only from the 13th century.

Metonymy represents the most important name formation method of the time, the proportion of names created this way exceeds 60% at the beginning of the 13th century. Their ratio drops to around 50% only by the 15th century and decreases to under 40% after the mid-16th century. The reason for such a drop is represented by the increase in loan names and two-component names, especially the rise in the number of name forms expanded with an attributive first constituent.

The group of names formed with topoformants also shows a somewhat decreasing trend, representing 15–20% of the Bihar County settlement name corpus.

Names created with syntagmatic formation (in the period with abundant data about the name system, i.e., after the mid-14th century) make up around 10% of the overall onomastic corpus.

All this means that the primary names (i.e., those created by means of metonymy, morphemic name formation, and syntagmatic name formation) make up the majority of the onomastic corpus. Their share was over 80% in the 13th century, but the continuous expansion of secondary names (i.e., those created with the use of already existing toponyms) pushes the layer of primary names back to the two-thirds proportion only.

The majority of secondary names were created with complementation with a name constituent, mostly the complementation of an already existing settlement name with an attribute. This change contributed to the creation of 5% of settlement names in Bihar County at the end of the 13th century, its proportion doubles by the beginning of the 15th century, and in the second half of the 16th century it already exceeds 15%.

Other processes of change affecting the name structure scarcely participated in the modification of the settlement names of contemporary Bihar County.

In Figure 12, I represented this data so that the name corpus of particular eras is indicated as a percentage.



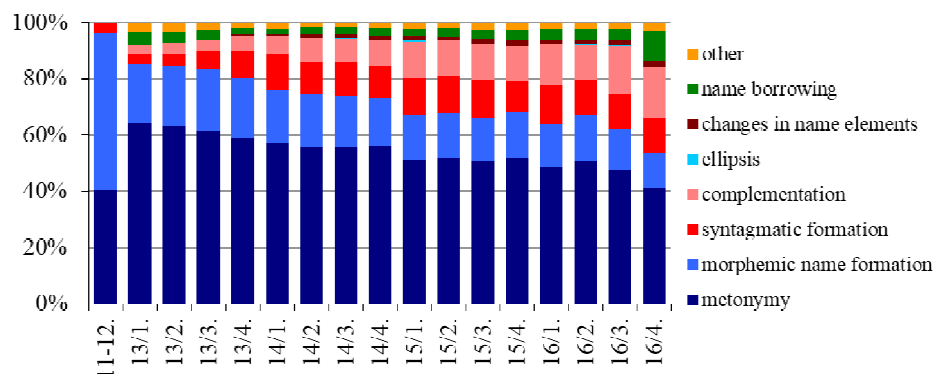


Figure 12. *Percentage distribution of etymological types*

The diagram clearly illustrates the developments in the popularity of name formation methods, the trends that become visible from the chronological modification of the frequency of name-formation models. The most typical change in the name system can thus be identified in the form of syntagmatic formation and the expansion of names created by means of complementation with attributes, which together resulted in the spreading of two-component names. The temporal difference between the two types also becomes clear: complementation with attributes became the most important factor affecting the name system during the last two centuries of the era.

In this paper I analyzed and introduced the system of settlement names in Bihar County, focusing on its internal connections. Such links and relations may be interpreted even more precisely if they are compared with the results of similar analysis from other regions. The revealed similarities and (especially) differences provide us with an opportunity to gain insights into the entire Hungarian language area in all its complexity.

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Abstract

Hungarians arrived in the Carpathian Basin at the end of the 9th century, but information recorded in charters about the local circumstances is available only from the early 11th century. Toponyms have played a major role in understanding the historical circumstances of the missing two centuries. At the beginning of the 20th century, the study of the typological groups of Hungarian settlement names began from an onomastic perspective. Since then, as part of such research activities some toponym types have been processed and onomatosystematical as well as name typological research have been conducted on a regional basis. The typological relationships between settlement names and especially their chronological relations have, however, been studied to a lesser extent so far; these topics were only addressed in passing. Therefore, this paper focuses on this aspect and introduces the oikonym corpus of Bihar County, the largest county in medieval Hungary.

After an outline of the settlement history of the county, the relationships are examined between the number of settlements and settlement names (e.g., the impact of settlement division, the establishment and destruction of settlements, and name trends on denominations). The most important relations of the toponymic system can be introduced clearly based on structural features. While analyzing the name structural types of the onomastic corpus of Bihar County, these issues are discussed in detail. In terms of the internal relations between the members of toponymic systems, valuable information is gained by examining the etymology of names, and also by paying attention to how the names in the different structural categories are created. The final part of the paper includes an etymological analysis of the early toponymicon of Bihar County, which also highlights the changes of the particular names and name types, as well as their interconnectedness.

Keywords: name typology, chronology, etymology, toponym reconstruction



