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A report on the compilation of an English–Hungarian glossary of onomastic terms*

1. Bi- and multilingual glossaries including Hungarian onomastic terms

Following the increasing popularity of terminological research in general, works on onomastic terminology are enjoying a revival. A recent report on the history of international and Hungarian studies on onomastic terminology, drawn up by TAMÁS FARKAS (2017), offers readers an overview of earlier achievements as well as current trends and initiatives in the field. The author concludes that the multilingual harmonization of onomastic terms is important because it facilitates international professional communication by connecting communities of scholars whose native language is different.

Two bilingual glossaries were published in the early 2000s containing the most important general onomastic terms in the Hungarian language. JUDIT SZILVIA VÁRNAI (n.d.) edited a list of 172 English and Hungarian term equivalents with the intention of later expanding the list into a terminological database or a printed dictionary, containing encyclopaedic as well as linguistic information connected to each term. This glossary of term equivalents was published on the internet under the title *English–Hungarian glossary of linguistic terms*. In the short introduction preceding the actual term list, its editor emphasizes the incompleteness, the changeability and the “descriptive character” of the glossary, and identifies its main aim as “matching the corresponding English and Hungarian terms”.

ZSUZSANNA FÁBIÁN (2001) compiled an 89-entry glossary of Italian and Hungarian onomastic term equivalents, entitled *Glossario dei termini più importanti dell’Onomastica*. Entries consist of the Italian term as a headword, a short definition of the term in Italian, and the Hungarian term equivalent(s). In most cases, one to six characteristic illustrative examples are also provided in both languages. Main entries and cross-references are also present in the glossary.

English–Hungarian bilingual glossaries of specific onomastic terms were first prepared in the last decades of the 20th century, by geographers and

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cartographers. In 1979, proper names for undersea features in the Hungarian language were standardized at the request of the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names by a working group. As a first step, 42 Hungarian equivalents for 65 English terms appearing in undersea feature names were identified based on the definitions of an UNGEGN (United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names) source document. In the second phase, using the standardized Hungarian undersea feature terms as toponymic generics, the relevant Hungarian name forms were elaborated to be adopted in Hungarian world atlases. Both the Hungarian–English glossary of undersea feature terms and the principles governing the creation of Hungarian name forms for undersea features were published in a report by ERVIN FÖLDI (1979).

The glossary was revised and updated into a list of 94 Hungarian undersea feature terms and their English equivalents by MÁTYÁS MÁRTON (1991, reprinted in 2012: 190–192), fostering the idea that undersea feature terms adopted in specialized literature on geography and undersea feature generics appearing in toponyms on maps should coincide in the Hungarian language. A version of MÁRTON's glossary was also published in the onomastic journal *Névtani Értesítő* (1992). This version consists of 106 entries (including main entries and cross-references). Each entry begins with an English undersea feature term as a headword, followed by a Hungarian definition and the Hungarian term equivalents that occur in sources used by the author. In the entries, suggested Hungarian terms are in bold.

As a further step, the English–Hungarian bilingual version of the IHO (International Hydrographic Organization) – IOC (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) document entitled *Standardization of Undersea Feature Names* was edited by MÁTYÁS MÁRTON and ANDRÁS ÁKOS DUTKÓ (2003). This document includes guidelines for the standardization of undersea feature names, the proposal form for new undersea feature names, and a glossary of undersea feature terms. The bilingual version of the glossary identifies 86 Hungarian term equivalents for 53 English undersea feature terms. The English and Hungarian entries of the glossary are built up in a similar way. The undersea feature term headword is followed by a short, general definition, restricted to the “geomorphological description” of the feature concerned. In many cases, illustrative examples and references of term use are also given. Although the Hungarian definitions are direct translations of the English ones, illustrative examples and references cited were not transferred from the English text, but were substituted with corresponding Hungarian name forms and suitable references. Both main entries and cross-references can be found in the glossary, which ends with a Hungarian–English alphabetical index of the terms.

A Hungarian–English bilingual glossary concerning specific onomastic terms was also compiled regarding geographical names standardization by ERVIN FÖLDI (1992), based on the 1987 UNGEGN document entitled *Technical Terminology Employed in the Standardization of Geographical Names* (Glossary No. 330/Rev²). The Hungarian translation of the English term list consists of 111 main entries and 45 cross-references. Main entries begin with the Hungarian term, followed by the English (rarely also the French, Spanish and/or Russian) term equivalent(s) in parentheses and the short Hungarian definition of the term, based primarily on the English texts in the original glossary.

The most recent achievement in the field is the publication of the Hungarian versions of two important international glossaries (BÖLCSKEI–FARKAS–SLÍZ 2017): the *ICOS List of Key Onomastic Terms* and the *UNGEGN Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names (Revised)*. Together the two lists contain almost 400 English–Hungarian term equivalents. The entries in the Hungarian versions begin with the English term, followed by its Hungarian equivalent(s) and a Hungarian definition, based on the texts in the original documents. Illustrative examples (transferred or substituted with suitable Hungarian ones) as well as notes on meaning or on term use are also provided. The English–Hungarian equivalencies as well as the definitions in the Hungarian versions of the ICOS and UNGEGN glossaries were reconciled and made consistent. Hungarian–English term indices help the retrieval of the Hungarian terms; and, in the case of the ICOS list, an index of the English–Hungarian–German–French term equivalents deduced from the English, German and French versions of the term list found online (<https://icosweb.net/drupal/terminology>) is also offered to enhance usability (for other principles adopted when preparing the adaptations see BÖLCSKEI 2017).

In addition, attempts are being made to include Hungarian terms in a Slovak onomastic term database involving multilingual term equivalents, currently being built by the Slovak Onomastic Commission (BAUKO 2015: 73, HARVALÍK–VALENTOVÁ 2017).

2. A draft of an English–Hungarian glossary of onomastic terms

In my work as the translator of Hungarian abstracts into English for the onomastic journal *Névtani Értesítő* and a few other onomastic volumes since 2005 (e.g. BÖLCSKEI–N. CSÁSZI eds. 2008, FARKAS–KOZMA eds. 2009, FARKAS–SLÍZ eds. 2015), I myself have repeatedly dealt with terminological issues, as the conceptual relations in the systems of the Hungarian and English onomastic terms are significantly different at several points. To achieve the maximum level of intelligibility as well as a considerable degree of consistency in term use, I realised that it was advisable to collect English onomastic terms



as they appear in English specialised literature, identify the corresponding Hungarian terms and use the term equivalents accordingly in translation. This realization happens to coincide with the generally accepted principle adopted in present day terminology, claiming that the identification of cross-language term equivalents instead of direct translation should be based on actual term use in specialised discourse by field experts. As a result, I decided to prepare an English–Hungarian bilingual glossary of onomastic terms, in which, at least in its final version, terminological units are described from cognitive, linguistic and socio-communicative points of view (cf. CABRÉ CASTELLVÍ 2003: 183).

From year to year, based on my experiences with English onomastic texts, I was able to identify the Hungarian–English term equivalents needed for the translation of the abstracts. All the English abstracts were proofread by a native speaker. After 12 years, in possession of ample material, MA students of terminology extracted the English terms manually from the abstracts, identified the Hungarian term equivalents using the source language versions of the abstracts, and recoded the data into an excel file. Because of its unique theoretical approach, terms from the English summary of ISTVÁN HOFFMANN's book (1993/2007) on the linguistic analysis of place names were also included in the list.

Then, again with the help of MA students of terminology, I started to complete the glossary with terms taken directly from English onomastic textbooks and journals, a work still in progress. English terms have already been extracted from the relevant chapters of a series of representative handbooks (CLARK 1992a, 1992b; COATES 1998), and from the last issues of the journal *Nomina*. I am planning to check and extract English terms from recent handbooks (CARROLL–PARSONS 2013; HOUGH 2016), from introductions to place name dictionaries (DEPN, CDEPN, DBPN), and from some well-known English volumes on onomastic issues (REANEY 1960; MATTHEWS 1972; STEWART 1975; CAMERON 1969/1996; QUINTON 2009; GELLING 1978/2010). The source documents sometimes provide definitions for the adopted terms as well, in which cases the definitions themselves are recorded in the file. Hungarian equivalents of the English onomastic terms are continuously being recorded in regular supervision phases.

The present glossary includes more than 1000 English–Hungarian term equivalents. With respect to scope, the list obviously contains strictly onomastic terms, such as terms for distinct name types, e.g. E. *hydronym* = H. *víznév*; E. *pharmacy name* = H. *patikanév*; E. *names of settlements developed from tribal names* = H. *törzsnévi településnevek*; E. *names of wells in the field* = H. *külterületi kutak nevei*; E. *family names derived from pseudotoponyms* = H. *álhelynévi alapú családnevek*. General linguistic terms are included only

if they are relevant, e.g. E. *context* = H. *szövegkörnyezet, kontextus*; E. *clipped form* = H. *szócsonkítással keletkezett forma*; E. *metathesised* = H. *hangátvetéssel keletkezett*; or have a restricted meaning in onomastics, e.g. E. *borrowings* = H. *jövevénynevek, kölcsönnevek, névátvételek* (cf. E. *borrowings* = H. *jövevénytiszavak, kölcsönszavak, szóátvételek*); E. *entry* = H. *névcikk* (cf. E. *entry* = H. *szócikk*).

Because of the interdisciplinary nature of onomastics, term equivalents associated with other disciplines are also involved. Thus, the list contains geographic terms for objects that are regularly named, e.g. E. *stream* = H. *patak, vízfolyás*; E. *grove* = H. *liget, berek*; E. *hamlet* = H. *falucska*; E. *fenland* = H. *mocsár, láp*; cartographic terms, such as types of maps, e.g. E. *cartogram* = H. *kartogram*; E. *choropleth map* = H. *koropletikus térkép, felületkartogram*; E. *distribution map* = H. *névföldrajzi térkép*; statistic terms of data evaluation, e.g. E. *frequency* = H. *megterheltség*; E. *occurrence* = H. *előfordulás*; E. *frequency distribution* = H. *gyakorisági megoszlás*; and philological terms for indicating types of source documents, e.g. E. *parish register* = H. *egyházi anyakönyv*; E. *patent roll* = H. *szabadalmi lajstrom*; E. *cartulary* = H. *okmánytár, okiratgyűjtemény*.

As the glossary in its present form is partially a by-product of my translation practice, the terms occurring in it are strongly determined by the contents of the texts I have had to translate and the subject matter of the English onomastic literature I have happened to read thus far. This means that there is some degree of accidentality in the terms incorporated into the list, see equivalents such as E. *names of cyclones* = H. *ciklonnevek*; E. *names for galleries* = H. *(bánya)tárnák nevei, tárónevek*; E. *names for routes of rock-climbing* = H. *sziklamászóutak nevei*; E. *shield names* = H. *fűrőpajzsok nevei, fűrőpajzsnév*; E. *names of Masonic Lodges* = H. *szabadkőművesi páholynevek*.

Another consequence of the fact that the initial aim of the term list was to aid translation can be observed in the wide range of identifiable domains. The list contains terms from onomastic theory, e.g. E. *onymic* = H. *névszerű*; E. *name bearer* = H. *névviselő*; E. *act of name changing* = H. *névváltoztatási aktus*; E. *denotative meaning* = H. *denotatív jelentés*; E. *name consciousness* = H. *névtudat*; of place name studies, e.g. E. *derivate suffixes producing settlement names* = H. *helységnévképzők*; E. *gazetteer* = H. *helységnévtár*; E. *incident name* = H. *esemény nyomán keletkezett (hely)név*; E. *numerical naming* = H. *számozással történő megnevezés*; of personal name studies, e.g. E. *accessories occurring in name forms referring to married women* = H. *névkiegészítőkkal bővített asszonynévformák*; E. *familial by-name* = H. *családban öröklődő informális név*; E. *matrimonial by-naming* = H. *házassággal szerzett informális név adása*; of literary name studies, e.g. E. *nickname-in-tale* = H.

mesei ragadványnév; E. *invented (fictive) place names* = H. *kitalált (fiktív) helynevek*; and of studies of other types of names, e.g. E. *names of astronomical phenomena* = H. *csillagászati nevek*; E. *goat names* = H. *kecskenevek*; E. *ship names* = H. *hajónevek*.

Furthermore, titles of relevant books, e.g. E. *Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum* = H. *Az angol nép egyháztörténete* (by the Venerable Bede); H. *Árpád-kori személynévtár* = E. *Onomasticon of Personal Names of the Age of the Arpads* (by Katalin Fehértói); H. *Szabó T. Attila Erdélyi Történeti Helynévgyűjtése* = E. *Attila Szabó T.'s Gazetteer of Transylvanian Historical Place Names*; H. *Régi magyar családnevek szótára* = E. *Dictionary of Old Hungarian Family Names* (by Miklós Kázmér); references to linguistic records, e.g. H. *A tihanyi apátság alapítólevele* = E. *The Deed of Foundation of Tihany Abbey*; H. *Tihanyi Alapítólevél* = E. *Foundation Deed of Tihany Abbey*; the names of committees, e.g. E. *International Council of Onomastic Sciences* = H. *Nemzetközi Névtudományi Társaság*; E. *Board on Geographical Names* = H. *az Egyesült Államok földrajzinév-bizottsága*; E. *English Place-Name Society* = H. *az angol helynévtudományi társaság*; H. *Magyar Nyelvtudományi Társaság Névtani Tagozata* = E. *Onomastic Section of the Society of Hungarian Linguistics*; references to onomastic projects and conferences, e.g. E. *Survey of English Place-Names* = H. *az angol földrajzinév-gyűjtés*; H. *Magyar Névtudományi Konferencia* = E. *Conference on Hungarian Onomastics*; H. *Névtan és terminológia műhelytalálkozók* = E. *Onomastics and Terminology workshops* are also included in the list to provide lasting consistency in term use.

Based on my previous experiences with bilingual onomastic term lists, I have paid considerable attention to meeting certain requirements in the identification of the English–Hungarian term equivalents. Attempts are made to maintain the balance between terms of national language origin and internationally recognized terms, when providing the Hungarian equivalents for the English terms, e.g. E. *anthroponomastics* = H. *személynévkutatás, személynévtan, antroponomasztika*; E. *ethnopsychology* = H. *néplélektan, etnopszichológia*; E. *urbanonym* = H. *városi név, urbanonima*; E. *onomasociological factor* = H. *névszociológiai tényező*.

The process of term harmonisation is considered a high priority. The equivalence of several English and Hungarian onomastic terms is not necessarily obvious at first sight, but can be deduced from specialised discourse, e.g. E. *simplex name* = H. *egytagú név, egyrészes név*; E. *generic* = H. *alaptag, általános jellegzetességet megadó helynévi alaprész*; E. *county survey* = H. *megyei földrajzinév-gyűjtés*; E. *charter bound* = H. *határleírás*; E. *onomasticised* = H. *tulajdonnévvé vált*; E. *name stock* = *névkészlet*.

The creation of new term equivalents proves to be necessary if the source language term is an ad hoc invention, e.g. E. *naminess* = H. *névszerűség, tulajdonnévi jelleg*. Term gaps must be eliminated when culture-specific phenomena are identified, e.g. E. *hybrid compounds* = H. *hibrid összetételek, különböző nyelvi eredetű összetevőkből felépülő kétrészes helynevek*; E. *inversion compounds* = *inverziós összetételek, helynévi összetételek, melyekben az általános jellegzetességet megadó alaprész megelőzi a sajátos jellegzetességet megadó bővítményrészt*; H. *toponímia-költészet, helynevek átértelmezésén alapuló versek írása* = E. *toponymy poetry*.

The proper treatment of term variations used in specialised discourse requires the registration of synonymous terms, e.g. E. *place name, toponym* = H. *helynév, toponima*; E. *estate surveys, extents, terriers* = H. *birtokösszeírás* (cf. “[t]he main sources for medieval field names are estate surveys [...], variously called ‘extents’ and ‘terriers’”; CLARK 1992b: 596). Recent changes in terms can also be regarded as an important requirement of such a list, e.g. E. *onomatodialectological factor* = H. *onomatodialektológiai tényező* (cf. the earlier Hungarian notion of *névjárás*, i.e. an area where names are somewhat different from the names of the same language in the surrounding areas); E. *minor place name* = H. *mikrotoponima*, recently also *mikronév*; E. *major place name* = H. *makrotoponima*, recently also *makronév*.

Recreating the contents of a source text in a foreign language often brings challenges that word for word translation cannot solve. In some cases, relatively common Hungarian linguistic terms lack short English equivalents, thus must be explained, e.g. H. [...] *oklevél helynévi szórványai* = E. *Hungarian place names in the Latin charter of [...]*; H. *aszó* = E. *dried-up river-bed*; H. *névmagyarosítás* = E. *adoption of Hungarian family names*. What is more, instead of translating the title of the charter used as a source document, clarifying its relevance in Hungarian cultural and language history in the English text is at times more efficient, e.g. H. *A tihanyi apátság alapítólevelének néhány szóránya* = E. *some Hungarian words of the oldest authentic linguistic record of Hungarian (1055)*. The translation of terms sometimes requires encyclopaedic knowledge, e.g. E. *Grimston-hybrids*¹ = H. *Grimston-hibridek* (sajátos angol helynévtípus, amelyben egy óangol alaptag, leggyakrabban a *-tūn* alaprész egy skandináv, személynévi eredetű bővítményrésszel kapcsolódik össze); H. *szónevek* = E. *so-called “word names” (i.e. names having appellative meanings)*; H. *jelnevek* = E. *so-called “sign names” (i.e. names having no appellative meanings)*. These translation operations, of course, influence the term equivalents listed.

¹ Cf. „an OE generic, *-tūn* especially, might take a Scandinavian specific of either sort, most often a personal name” (CLARK 1992a: 484).

The logical relations between terms can easily be recognised and interpreted, e.g. the terms *habitative generic* (= H. *lakott helyre utaló alaptag*) and *topographical generic* (= H. *természeti környezetre utaló alaptag*) are co-hyponyms of *place name generic* (= H. *alaptag, általános jellegzetességet megadó helynévi alaprész*); the umbrella term *hydronym* (= H. *víznév*) is a hyperonym of *river name* (= H. *folyónév*), *stream name* (= H. *pataknév*), *creek name* (= H. *csermelynév*), *names of still waters* (= H. *állóvizek nevei*); the terms *inversion compounds* (= H. *inverziós összetételek, helynévi összetételek, melyekben az általános jellegzetességet megadó alaprész megelőzi a sajátos jellegzetességet megadó bővítményrészt*) and *generic-first constructions* (= H. *alaptaggal kezdődő szerkezetek*) are practically synonyms; *genericless place name* (= H. *alaptag nélküli helynév*) is a meronym of *simplex name* (= H. *egytágú név, egyrészes név*).

In some cases, integrating the non-obvious linguistic features of terms into the list, for instance, irregular plurals (e.g. *denotatum*, pl. *denotata*; *corpus*, pl. *corpora*), references to word classes (e.g. *generic*, noun; *specific*, noun), constraints of use in scope, time and space (e.g. E. law, GB, hist. *extent* = H. *földbirtok felbecsülése*; E. archaic *assart* = H. *irtványföld*; E. US *bayou* = H. *folyó mocsaras ága*) improves usability. Incorporating certain collocations frequently used in onomastic literature may also prove useful, e.g. E. *names referring to sg* = H. *vmire utaló nevek*; E. *names derived from sg* = H. *vmiből származó nevek*; E. *adopt a name* = H. *nevet felvesz, átvesz, alkalmaz*; E. *gain currency* = H. *elterjed*; E. *coin a new name* = H. *új nevet alkot*.

Another factor to be taken into consideration when deciding on a term is its applicability in certain contexts. The theoretical background of the text can trigger the choice of certain terms, such as E. *proprial lemma* = H. *tulajdonnévi lemma* (cf. LANGENDONCK 2007) in name theory; H. *névrész* = E. *name component* (cf. HOFFMANN 1993/2007); E. *classify* = H. *osztályoz* (cf. formal semantics); E. *categorise* = H. *kategorizál* (cf. cognitive linguistics) in name semantics. The frequency of terms in native specialised discourse can also be a determining factor in drawing equivalencies, e.g. H. *patrocíniumi helységnevek* = E. *settlement names derived from the name of the patron saint*, more rarely, *patrociny settlement names*.

3. Conclusion

Several improvements are needed to turn the present bilingual glossary into a proper term database. First, a higher degree of systematicity should be introduced into the ongoing collection of terms. Exact guidelines for term selection should be drawn up to allow the involvement of more participants in the building of the database. All attributes of each term should be recorded in the database,

based on the applicable source documents. Domain identifications, definitions, logical relations, relevant linguistic information, source documents, examples for contextual use, and, if necessary, notes on applicability, and on frequency in use, as well as illustrative name forms should also be provided alongside the term equivalents.

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Abstract

It is a generally accepted principle in terminology that the identification of cross language term equivalents should be based on actual term use in the specialised discourse of experts in the field. Bearing this in mind, the author presents the ongoing process of the compilation of a new English–Hungarian glossary of onomastic terms. The paper lists the kinds of source texts being examined in the project, how the relevant terms are extracted and paired, and why the compilation of such a glossary is felt necessary. The author describes the equivalent terms identified so far with respect to domains, scope, logical relations, linguistic features, applicability, frequency in use and quantity. Terminological units are examined from cognitive, linguistic and socio-communicative points of view. Problematic issues such as maintaining a balance between terms of national language origin and internationally recognized terms; the establishment of new term equivalencies; term harmonisation; the proper treatment of term variations; the elimination of term gaps; and the registration of recent term changes are also discussed. The primary purpose of the paper is to demonstrate how the latest ideas and trends in terminology can be adopted in practical terminological work on onomastic terms.

Keywords: onomastic terms, Hungarian, English, terminological units, term equivalents