

Geographical common nouns in settlement names referring to the natural environment

My paper examines the relationship between settlement names referring to the natural environment, and geographical common nouns. It provides a comprehensive picture of the role of geographical common nouns in the formation of settlement names describing the natural environment: what form common nouns take in early Old Hungarian settlement names, when and in what proportion they appear in early Old Hungarian sources, and what shifts in their frequency occurred over the centuries. The study also examines the distribution of certain geographical common nouns.

In conclusion it can be stated that in the early Old Hungarian period, the settlement names derived from geographical common nouns were primarily formed without formants (e.g. *Erdő* 'forest', *Halom* 'hill, hillock'). Methonymic naming played a dominant role in the formation of these settlement names. It was also observed that the two-part name structure (e.g. *Hegyfalu* 'mountain + village', *Tófüss* 'lake + settlement name *Füß*') plays a more significant role here than in general early Old Hungarian settlement names or in other groups of settlement names referring to the natural environment. A significant increase in the number of such settlement names can be seen from the beginning of the 13th century, which continued at a steady pace until the end of the early Old Hungarian period. Among the frequently occurring geographical common nouns in settlement names, hydrographical and topographical common nouns are particularly prominent.

Keywords: *settlement names, natural environment, geographical common nouns, structural analysis, chronological structure, frequency distribution, Early Old Hungarian period*

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