POKOLY, Béla & BÖLCSKEI, Andrea & MIKESY, Gábor (Hungary)[*]

The *exonym/endonym* divide: Examples highlighting different aspects for defining the terms

1 Changes in defining the terms *exonym* and *endonym* by UNGEGN

One of the major questions of the standardization activities under the aegis of United Nations has been how to treat names of geographical features appearing in different forms in languages not used at the location of the feature. The 1st UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Geneva 1967) touched upon the problem when it reaffirmed a resolution of the International Geographical Union that "international usage [of geographical names] should be based on national standardization" (UNCSG 1967: 7). Since the 2nd Conference (London 1972) the UN has brought several resolutions concerning such names. It also defined the term *exonym* on this conference, adjusting to its needs the term that had already been used for foreign names.

1972 (through 2002):
Exonym: "A geographical name used in a *certain* (2002: specific) language for a geographical *entity* (2002: feature) situated outside the area where that language has official status and differing in its form from the name used in the official language or languages of the area where the geographical *entity* (2002: feature) is situated" (UNCSG 1972: 1; UNGEGN 2002: 10).

In 1972 recognized and officially accepted minority names were already not regarded as exonyms. The German name "Bozen" is not an exonym for (Italian) "Bolzano" as the German name was also official besides the Italian one (UNCSG 1972: 2). However, many other sizeable minorities in Central Europe did not have for their languages nationally or regionally accepted official status. A locally widely used minority name obviously could not be classified otherwise as endonym.

Over the following decades the definition of *endonym* evolved from a basic consideration of the "official language" (1972) through the term "principal language" (1992) to the "languages occurring in the area" (2002). As a result the definition of *endonym* was fixed as follows:

2002:
Endonym: "Name of a geographical feature in one of the languages occurring in that area where the feature is situated" (UNGEGN 2002: 10).

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[*]Béla POKOLY PhD, Senior Adviser, Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names, Ministry of Agriculture, H-1860 Budapest, Hungary; email: *bela.pokoly1@gmail.com;* Andrea BÖLCSKEI PhD, Associate Professor, Institute of Hungarian Linguistic, Literary and Cultural Studies, Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary, Dózsa György út 25-27, H-1146 Budapest; email: *bolcskei.andrea@kre.hu;* Gábor MIKESY, Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing, Bosnyák tér 5, H-1149 Budapest; email: *mikesy.gabor@fomi.hu*

Since this general definition of endonym allowed a wide overlap with exonyms with a definition valid at that time, the newly established Working Group on Exonyms had to come up with a new definition of the exonym. Minority names such as Polish *Wilno* (official *Vilnius*, Lithuania), Hungarian *Ungvár* (official *Uzhhorod*, Ukraine), Turkish *Filibe* (official *Plovdiv*, Bulgaria) could both be classed as endonyms or exonyms.

In turn the 9th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (New York 2007) accepted the following definitions:

2007:
Endonym: "Name of a geographical feature in an official or well-established language occurring in that area where the feature is situated" (UNGEGN 2007: 2).

Exonym: "Name used in a specific language for a geographical feature situated outside the area where that language is widely spoken, and differing in its form from the respective endonym(s) in the area where the geographical feature is situated" (UNGEGN 2007: 2).

Although the definitions above are certainly better than those in 2002, questions arose whether "language" and "officiality" should be part of the definitions.

It is felt that "language" should remain part of the definition as the written forms of names are the most important pieces of information dealt with in standardizing geographical names. Distinct sets of graphic symbols correspond to each language. When a feature is presented in a different form from the original, even only in diacritic, the result is considered an exonym. E.g. *Visegrád* (originally a Slavic name) is now the Hungarian name of a small town. Its Slovak equivalent as *Vyšehrad.* In Croatian and Slovenian the name *Višegrad* is used. These Slavic forms are now exonyms. In the example of the River *Mureş* (Romania), locally used German *Mieresch* should be regarded as endonym, but not standard German *Marosch*, the latter being the local Hungarian name (spelt as *Maros*) for the river (JORDAN 2014: 25).

The word "official" may be omitted and the expression "locally accepted name" applied in the definition, as it may both imply the use of names of the resident community and of the standardized official names by the local and wider community. Although they are often the same (e.g. *Wien*) they may differ in the case of longer words (e.g. *Tiszaföldvár* /official/ – *Földvár* /local/) and minority names (e.g. *Novi Sad* /official Serbian/ – *Újvidék* /Hungarian/). Variants like *Blava* for *Bratislava* (Slovakia) or similarly affectionately shortened *Bolka* for *Mladá Boleslav*, *Valmez* for *Valašské Meziříčí* (both in the Czech Republic) are non-standardized endonyms (JORDAN 2014: 25).

2012–14:
Endonym (NYSTRÖM's Alternative 1): "Locally accepted name of a geographical feature used in a language that is well-established in the area where the feature is situated" (NYSTRÖM 2014: 36).

Exonym: "the name applied by a community for a geographical feature outside the area, where this community lives and differing in its written form from the respective endonym (JORDAN 2012: 2).

This definition of exonym dating from 2012 has been a counterpart of another definition of endonym. Provided there is general agreement, it may serve as an alternative to the 2007

definition. Although "language" is not explicitly part of this definition, there is indirect allusion to it with the word *endonym* included in the phrase.

Compared to the first definitions of *endonym/exonym* we have thus witnessed a favourable process in the past decade. Recognizing on the one hand the cultural value of geographical names for a larger community (country, nation, linguistic community), and the important role of such names in the identity of human communities and in the relationship to the given region, the new definitions and proposals bring the use of names closer to the practice of the local living population.

The new definitions of *endonyms* stress the local acceptance and use of geographical names, by using such expressions as "languages occurring in that area" (UNGEGN 2002: 10), "well-established language" (UNGEGN 2007: 2), "name […] used by the population autochthonous in the feature's location" (JORDAN 2014: 27), "locally accepted" (WOODMAN 2014: 13, 14, NYSTRÖM 2014: 36).

All wordings support the local bindings of geographical names offering less chance of misuse (of UN recommendations) by national authorities. Usefulness and practical advantage of definitions depend on how they relate to the concept of standardization. If we agree that standardization should be based on the name forms classed by the definitions of *endonym/exonym* and on their maximum consideration, that's fine. To think, however, that locally used names in their non-standard forms provide geographical names ready for inclusion in gazetteers, would create more problems than solutions.

2 Distinctive additions in Hungarian settlement names: past and present

Locally accepted names may cover a wide range of acceptance: they may either be names used and reflected in recordings of electronic media, press, living speech etc., or those defined through a process of standardization and recorded in gazetteers. Local residents of small villages are not expected to be fully aware of all rules of naming and orthography of the given language (as e.g. the general rule of writing Hungarian names of human settlements in one word); they do not produce registers of place names. Occurrence of names is almost exclusively limited to spoken language. One does especially not expect here a need of distinction from settlements with similar names. This demand always arises from the wider community.

In the Hungarian language, differentiation of identical settlement names by way of attaching distinctive additions to them is a process that was adopted by speech communities at very early times. In fact, from the Arpadian era on a coherent system of distinctive additions had begun to evolve at local levels and had reached a relatively developed stage by the beginning of the 19th century. This progression can easily be discovered and described by observing toponymic data presented in historical documents (e.g. in charters, historical geographies, gazetteers; the actual sources used for the purposes of the present short survey are listed in References). In general, it can be stated that in the course of time more and more identical settlement names had become differentiated by distinctive additions in the country (see Table 1).

Table 1: Changes in time in the number and proportion of settlement names including distinctive additions

Number and proportion of settlement names including distinctive additions in the sources	13th–14th c.: Gy.	15th–16th c.: Cs.	1773: LexLoc.	1808: Lip.
(Estimated) total number of settlement names in the source	app. 7200	app. 18000	8742	15062
Total number of settlement names including distinctive additions in the source	669	2648	1639	3834
Proportion of settlement names including distinctive additions in the source	9,29%	14,71%	18,75%	25,45%

The coherence of the system of distinctive additions presented itself in the constant semantic fields to which the relevant distinctive additions belonged in each period (see the categories as well as the examples below); and also in spatiality within which identical settlement names could acquire distinctive additions to be differentiated. As in the past many identical settlement names were born as a result of a formerly integral settlement splitting into two (sometimes more) habitations because of overpopulation or a change in ownership, lots of settlement names with distinctive additions identified neighbouring or nearby villages.

At the same time, settlements could get identical names as a result of displaying similar observable characteristics (the same flora, fauna, or owner; similar geographical surroundings, location, buildings, or inhabitants; etc.). These settlements were typically situated at a considerable distance from each other. However, in accordance with the improvements in means of transportation, the members of a speech community gradually became familiar with more and more distant places. As a result, they started to attach distinctive additions to identical settlement names indicating habitations found relatively far from each other.

Identical settlement names acquiring distinctive additions in the 13th and 14th centuries usually designated habitations situated 15-20 km from each other, this distance expanded to 30-35 km in the 15th and 16th centuries, and to 50-60 km in the 18th and 19th centuries. These typical distances, however, in all three periods were 20-30 km less than the longest distance identifiable between habitations bearing the differentiated forms of the same primary name: 13th–14th c.: *Krassópeterd : Szekcsőpeterd:* 42 km (Baranya County); 15th–16th c.: *Mező-* and *Barátnyárád : Nyárád:* 54 km (Borsod County); 18th–19th c.: *Érkenéz : Taktakenéz:* 90 km (Szabolcs County) (for details see BÖLCSKEI 2010).

The peculiarities of the system of distinctive additions developed in the period of non-official place-naming practices (e.g. the semantic contents, the historical authenticity, the geographical adequacy of the distinctive additions) were thoroughly examined and respected by the National Settlement Registering Board, which was set up in 1898, after Act 4, 1898 ordaining the (re)arrangement of settlement names in the Kingdom of Hungary on "one settlement : one name" basis (i.e. each settlement bears only one name and one name identifies only a single settlement in the country) was passed. Whenever they promoted to change the old name of a settlement into a new, unique one by adding or changing a distinctive addition, the Board proposed a distinctive addition fitting into the system of distinctive additions developed naturally in historical times, when practices of naming settlements had not been under central control. The list below illustrates the similarities in the

semantic types of the distinctive additions adopted before (b.) and after (a.) 1898 (for the sources see References).

Distinctive additions might refer to the following characteristic features of settlements:

1. a central feature

1.1. size, b.: e.g. *Kismuzsaj* 'little Muzsaj' (Gy. 1: 546), *Nagysasd* 'great Sasd' (Cs. 2: 61), *Kisizmény* 'little Izmény' (Lip. 1: 266); a.: e.g. *Nagyponor* 'great Ponor' (M. 307);

1.2. age, b.: e.g. *Újmarja* 'new Marja' (Gy. 1: 641), *Ótopolya* 'old Topolya' (Cs. 1: 364), *Újszivác* 'new Szivác' (Lip. 1: 649); a.: e.g. *Ószombat* 'old Szombat' (M. 371);

1.3. shape, b.: e.g. *Kerekgede* 'round Gede' (Gy. 2: 498), *Hosszúpereszleg* 'long Pereszleg' (Cs. 2: 784), *Kurtakeszi* 'short Keszi' (Lip. 1: 304); a.: e.g. *Hosszúremete* 'long Remete' (M. 321);

1.4. state, b.: e.g. *Pusztamálas* 'desolate Málas' (Gy. 1: 460–1), *Pusztacsepcs* 'desolate Csepcs' (Cs. 2: 196), *Pusztaeszény* 'desolate Eszény' (Lip. 1: 168); a.: e.g. *Pusztahollód* 'desolate Hollód' (M. 146);

2. a peripheral feature

2.1. natural surroundings

2.1.1. soil, b.: e.g. *Homokterenye* 'sandy Terenye' (Gy. 4: 307), *Sárosdencs* 'muddy Dencs' (Cs. 2: 600), *Fertősalmás* 'marshy Almás' (Lip. 1: 6); a.: e.g. *Homokbálványos* 'sandy Bálványos' (M. 44);

2.1.2. terrain, b.: e.g. *Szurdokbénye* 'Bénye next to a ravine' (Gy. 1: 149–50), *Völgyung* 'Ung next to a valley' (Cs. 3: 120), *Nyergesújfalu* 'Újfalu next to a mountain saddle' (Lip. 1: 702–4); a.: e.g. *Havasasszonyfalva* 'Asszonyfalva next to high mountains' (M. 32);

2.1.3. flora or fauna, b.: e.g. *Szilbács* 'Bács having elms' (Gy. 1: 235), *Varjaskér* 'Kér having crows' (Cs. 2: 619), *Csikóstöttös* 'Töttös having loaches' (Lip. 1: 692); a.: e.g. *Erdőmocsolya* 'Mocsolya having forests' (M. 251);

2.2. building, b.: e.g. *Egyházasszomolya* 'Szomolya having a church' (Gy. 1: 809), *Monostorsáp* 'Sáp having a monastery' (Cs. 1: 31), *Kápolnabölzse* 'Bölzse having a chapel' (Lip. 1: 75); a.: e.g. *Várjeszenő* 'Jeszenő having a castle' (M. 165);

2.3. proprietor or patron saint

2.3.1. individual owner, b.: e.g. *Tamásjecskéje* 'Thomas's Jecske' (Gy. 2: 512), *Gálszécs* 'Gál's Szécs' (Cs. 1: 338), *Zayugróc* 'Ugróc of the Zays' (Lip. 1: 701); a.: e.g. *Gyulafirátót* 'Rátót of the Gyulafis' (M. 319);

2.3.2. institutional owner, b.: e.g. *Királyludas* 'king's Ludas' (Gy. 2: 172), *Püspökszékely* 'bishop's Székely' (Cs. 3: 450), *Jolsvatapolca* 'Tapolca of Jolsva estate' (Lip. 1: 670–1); a.: e.g. *Érsekkéty* 'archbishop's Kéty' (M. 179);

2.3.3. patron saint, b.: e.g. *Szentgyörgyszuha* 'Szuha patronized by Saint George' (Gy. 2: 553–5), *Szentmiklóscsánya* 'Csány patronized by Saint Nicholas' (Cs. 1: 59), *Szentlőrinckáta* 'Káta patronized by Saint Lawrence' (Lip. 1: 294); a.: e.g. *Szentmihálykörtvélyes* 'Körtvélyes having a monastery dedicated to Saint Michael' (M. 205);

2.4. inhabitants

2.4.1. nationality, b.: e.g. *Szászszilvás* 'Szilvás inhabited by Transylvanian Saxons' (Gy. 2: 91), *Oláhbedecs* 'Bedecs inhabited by Wallachians' (Cs. 5: 333), *Németkeresztúr* 'Keresztúr inhabited by Germans' (Lip. 1: 302); a.: e.g. *Magyarszombatfa* 'Szombatfa inhabited by Hungarians' (M. 373);

2.4.2. occupation, b.: e.g. *Tímárfancsal* 'Fancsal inhabited by tanners' (Gy. 3: 91–2), *Lovászpatona* 'Patona inhabited by stud-grooms' (Cs. 3: 214–5), *Fazekasdencs* 'Dencs inhabited by potters' (Lip. 1: 130); a.: e.g. *Fazekastarnó* 'Tarnó inhabited by potters' (M. 387);

2.4.3. social status, b.: e.g. *Szabadcsát* 'Csát inhabited by freemen' (Gy. 1: 765), *Nemesandocs* 'Andocs inhabited by lower noblemen' (Cs. 2: 586), *Pórládony* 'Ládony inhabited by the poor' (Lip. 1: 366); a.: e.g. *Nemesbőd* 'Bőd inhabited by lower noblemen' (M. 63);

2.5. economic life

2.5.1. produce, b.: e.g. *Borosjenő* 'Jenő producing wine' (Gy. 4: 640–1), *Borosmegyer* 'Megyer producing wine' (Cs. 1: 740), *Búzásbocsárd* 'Bocsárd producing wheat' (Lip. 2: 19); a.: e.g. *Almásmálom* 'Málom producing apples' (M. 236);

2.5.2. mine, mining, b.: e.g. *Kőbányalehota* 'Lehota having a stone quarry' (Cs. 1: 140), *Sóvárad* 'Várad having a salt mine' (Lip. 2: 158); a.: e.g. *Bányapeterd* 'Peterd having a mine' (M. 299–300);

2.5.3. trade, b.: e.g. *Vásárosférged* 'Férged having markets' (Gy. 1: 856–7), *Vámoscenk* 'Cenk having customs' (Cs. 3: 604), *Vámosgyörk* 'Györk having customs' (Lip. 1: 225); a.: e.g. *Vámosderecske* 'Derecske having customs' (M. 89);

2.5.4. communications, b.: e.g. *Révkanizsa* 'Kanizsa having a ferry' (Gy. 1: 868), *Révkomárom* 'Komárom having a ferry' (Cs. 3: 511), *Révkörtvélyes* 'Körtvélyes having a ferry' (Lip. 2: 78); a.: e.g. *Révleányvár* 'Leányvár having a ferry' (M. 218);

2.6. other features, b.: e.g. *Királyfiapáh* 'king's son Páh' (Cs. 3: 90–1), *Bősárkány* 'rich Sárkány' (Lip. 1: 580); a.: e.g. *Végrosztoka* 'Rosztoka at the frontier of the country' (M. 326);

3. a positional feature

3.1. precise position

3.1.1. river or other bodies of water, b.: e.g. *Drávabozsoka* 'Bozsoka on the bank of the river Dráva' (Gy. 1: 290), *Hernádnémeti* 'Németi on the bank of the river Hernád' (Cs. 1: 349), *Maroskeresztúr* 'Keresztúr on the bank of the river Maros' (Lip. 2: 69); a.: e.g. *Kaposgyarmat* 'Gyarmat on the bank of the river Kapos' (M. 130);

3.1.2. neighbouring settlement, b.: e.g. *Harsánykér* 'Kér next to Harsány' (Gy. 1: 223–4), *Göncruszka* 'Ruszka next to Gönc' (Cs. 1: 216), *Losonctugár* 'Tugár next to Losonc' (Lip. 1: 696); a.: e.g. *Tahitótfalu* 'Tótfalu next to Tahipuszta' (M. 392);

3.1.3. geographical region, b.: e.g. *Vérteskeresztúr* 'Keresztúr in the mountain called Vértes' (Gy. 2: 415–6), *Nyírábrány* 'Ábrány in the region called Nyírség' (Cs. 1: 509), *Jászladány* 'Ladány in the region called Jászság' (Lip. 1: 365); a.: e.g. *Bakonycsernye* 'Csernye in the mountain called Bakony' (M. 81);

3.1.4. administrative unit, b.: e.g. *Uzdiszentpéter* 'Szentpéter in Uzd castle district' (Gy. 3: 373), *Baranyaviszló* 'Viszló in Baranya county' (Cs. 2: 536), *Fülekkovácsi* 'Kovácsi in Fülek district' (Lip. 1: 341–2); a.: e.g. *Temeskövesd* 'Kövesd in Temes county' (M. 276);

3.2. relative position, b.: e.g. *Alméra* 'lower Méra' (Gy. 1: 118–9), *Felsőtuzsa* 'higher Tuzsa' (Cs. 1: 219), *Középborsa* 'middle Borsa' (Lip. 1: 71); a.: e.g. *Alsóhunkóc* 'lower Hunkóc' (M. 153);

4. obscure or unknown reference, b.: e.g. *Likiboda* (Gy. 1: 285–6), *Tikeresnyék* (Cs. 1: 502); a.: e.g. *Várfancsika* (M. 105).

Special distinctive additions include

1. consecutive distinctive additions, b.: e.g. *Nagyborsosgyőr* 'great Borsos's Győr' (Cs. 3: 224), *Ipolykiskér* 'little Kér on the bank of the river Ipoly' (Lip. 1: 299); a.: e.g. *Pilisborosjenő* 'Jenő producing wine in the mountain called Pilis' (M. 60);

2. comprehensive distinctive additions, b.: e.g. *Háromilya* 'three Ilyas' (Gy. 1: 720), *Kétpordány* 'two Pordánys' (Cs. 2: 54), *Kétsurány* 'two Suránys' (Lip. 1: 614); a.: e.g. *Kétkeresztúr* 'two Keresztúrs' (M. 186).

To be able to meet the requirements of the law under the guidance of which they were to act, the Board effectuated two slight changes regarding distinctive additions. Firstly, though they used distinctive additions of basically the same semantic types as local speech communities had done in the past, the Board altered the frequency of distinctive additions belonging to certain semantic types. The Board, for instance, consciously reduced the number of distinctive additions referring to the ethnicity or social status of the inhabitants, but highly appreciated distinctive additions providing information on the geographical location of the indicated settlements (1912 data are based on MEZŐ 1982: 218–234; data from previous time periods are based on BÖLCSKEI 2010: 172–173).

Fig 1: Semantic types of distinctive additions in differentiated settlement names in different time periods
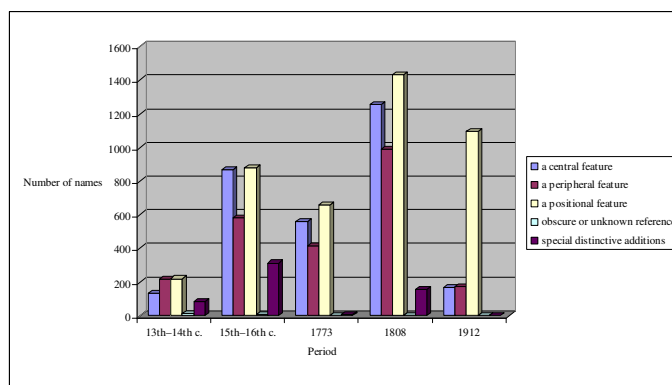
Secondly, the Board awarded semantically related distinctive additions to identical settlement names indicating habitations in distant parts of the country, falling outside the interests of a single speech community, e.g. *Kisbábony* 'little Bábony' (Ugocsa County, north-eastern part of the Kingdom of Hungary) : *Nagybábony* 'great Bábony' (Somogy County, Transdanubian region).

Thus, we could observe that the National Settlement Registering Board, to establish unique name forms for settlements in the country, among some other procedures, adapted the practice of attaching distinctive additions to identical primary names as it had been developed at local levels, well before naming settlements came under centralised official control. As a result, settlement name changes initiated by the Board did not violate the integrity of the system of the relevant Hungarian settlement names; thus, the Hungarian language community could easily accept these modifications.

Moreover, we can also say that the National Settlement Registering Board carried out truly "national" standardization with respect to settlement names during its existence (especially in the initial phase of its work between 1898 and 1912), paying attention to the entire language area where Hungarian was spoken. This may be the reason why authoritative works printed in Hungary even today give preference to settlement name forms including distinctive additions over the "locally accepted" name forms lacking such epithets, regardless of the fact whether the indicated settlements can be found inside or outside the borders of present-day Hungary.

The focus of "national standardization" is to unify the written forms of place names used by the "language community". However, the use of names by a "language community" (i.e. people sharing the same mother tongue) can differ in several aspects from the use of names by a "speech community" (i.e. people communicating with each other on a daily basis) of that language community. With respect to settlement names including distinctive additions, local speech communities usually prefer the primary forms of the settlement names, i.e. the ones lacking distinctive additions. For their purposes, to identify among themselves a habitation in the vicinity of their home, the primary name is quite an adequate form to use. For instance, people living in the neighbourhoods of Székesfehérvár (a historical coronation town in Central Hungary) will say that they are going to "travel to *Fehérvár* by bus tomorrow". *Fehérvár* is undoubtedly the most commonly used name form locally. This, however, does not mean that the form *Székesfehérvár* is not a "locally accepted name". After all, local people are exposed to this name form in official documents, on maps and road signs, etc., so they can and will learn it after a while. At the same time, they can also deduce the rules of how to use the longer name from the contexts in which they regularly encounter the form. In general, local people consider the form with a distinctive addition a formal (official)

name, worth using only when talking to members of "other" speech communities, who, of course, still belong to the same "language community", but whose knowledge about the local geographical surroundings can only be recalled if sufficient amount of refinements are given.

What name forms are used in discourse locally depends not only on the regular practice of the speech community to which we belong, but also on our judgements about the depth of information we need to provide for our interlocutors to ensure the best possible understanding.

In most of the languages, adding a distinctive addition to a name form does not change the primary name significantly (*Frankfurt am Main ~ Frankfurt an der Oder, La Guerche-de-Bretagne ~ La Guerche-sur-l'Aubois, San Casciano in Val di Pesa ~ San Casciano dei Bagni,* etc.). In Hungarian, however, the same process influences the written form and the recognizability of the basic name constituent considerably. In today's Hungary, for instance, 7 settlements bear the name *Szentlászló*; 6 of them are differentiated with distinctive additions in official use: *Bakonyszentlászló, Jászszentlászló, Pilisszentlászló,* etc. Other name types might also behave in the same way. In Hungary, there are 9 rivers known as *Rinya*, flowing relatively close to one another, and crossing 58 settlements. In all places, their name is simply *Rinya.* For cartographical and administrative purposes, 8 of the river names are differentiated: *Segesdi-Rinya, Lábodi-Rinya, Taranyi-Rinya*, etc. It is no doubt that each such name constitutes a part of the same "well-established" language – in this case a part of the Hungarian language. It is also indisputable that the standardized name forms are derived from the local names; as a result, the differentiated forms are undoubtedly accepted locally, even if their consistent use can only be detected at official level (in registrations, on road signs, in names for institutions, etc.). Hungarian experiences show that the short and the long varieties of the same name can live side by side peacefully (the local journal in the settlement Nagyigmánd is entitled *Igmándi Hírnök* ['Igmánd Herald']).

Fig 2: Heading of Nagyigmánd's local journal

An optimum process of an endonym to be entered into a national gazetteer may be illustrated by the example of this Hungarian village: *Pilisjászfalu*, when it became an independent settlement, got its official name after close consultation with the local residents. The name form requested by the local community and the version that could be supported by the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names coincided in the element *Jászfalu*, which, however, has already been adopted as a name for a settlement in the Hungarian language area.

Local inhabitants admitted the need for specification, and accepted the distinctive addition *Pilis-* to be added to the name of their settlement.

3 Minority settlement names

In case of minority settlement names, there is a strong need for cooperation among the National Committees on Geographical Names in neighbouring countries to avoid the standardization of distinct name forms in a single language. For instance, in official gazetteers the settlement name *Szentes* indicates a town in Hungary as well as a village in Slovakia (the latter is also known by its official Slovak name as *Svätuše*), but contemporary texts usually use the differentiated form *Bodrogszentes* for the Slovakian village to distinguish it from the Hungarian town. Changes in orthography may also create name variants in the long run, e.g. the Hungarian minority endonym *Székelyhodos* (~ Romanian *Hodosa*) reflects the old rules of spelling the name, which, according to present-day norms, should be spelt as *Székelyhódos*. The use of name variants for a single settlement, however, might easily lead to confusions.

Furthermore, in Central Europe official names of settlements are often given in the majority state language even for communes where this language is in minority. It does not mean, however, that this state language is not well-established in the commune. This is the case with the 78% Hungarian (Census of 2011) ethnic village of *Tešedíkovo* (Hungarian *Pered*), whose Slovak official name was created in 1948. Though Mr. S. Theschedik (Hung.: *Tessedik*, Slovak: *Tešedík*), an 18th century clergyman and pioneer of farming education is well-respected both in Hungary and Slovakia, he had never had any links to the village. Residents would much prefer to have their old village name, dating back to the 13th century, restored to official status.

Sometimes the official settlement name in the majority state language and the Hungarian minority endonym are etymologically related forms (e.g. Romanian *Sacadat* ~ Hungarian *Szakadát*), so the local acceptance of the state language variant is unproblematic. In some occasions, however, the relationship of the two name variants is more complex, e.g. the Hungarian settlement name *Harasztkerék* consists of the two elements *haraszt* 'oak' and *kerék* 'forest of a circular shape'. In the meanwhile, the word *kerék* has developed a second sense, i.e. 'wheel', in the standard Hungarian language. *Roteni*, the official Romanian name for the settlement is a derivation reflecting this second sense of the Hungarian word (FNESz. 1: 568). Broadly speaking, the Romanian name is the result of a misinterpretation of the relevant Hungarian word, which undermines unanimous local acceptance.

4 Conclusion

As a conclusion, it might be worth describing – not necessarily in the definition, but in an added explanation – what "local acceptance" means with respect to endonyms. Does it refer to the level closest to local inhabitants, or to municipality rights? Can regional practices be also considered local? In the case of minorities living in diaspora, can we say that the name use of the surrounding majority community establishes endonyms with respect to the relevant microregion? Whenever a language is spoken in several neighbouring countries, the national Committees on Geographical Names in the given region should cooperate with one another in order to reduce the number of toponymic variants in the language concerned.

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