

## Preface

As the director of the Institute for Hungarian Language Strategy I welcome the readers of this volume. It is a pleasure and an honour that the volume has been finished for such an exceptional event as the 26<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, an event held in Hungary for the first time, at the University of Debrecen. The fact that this conference (which is organized every three years) will be held in Hungary this year can be seen as the acknowledgement of the outstanding work Hungarian researchers of onomastics complete in the international scientific sphere. It proves that Hungarian onomastic research is gaining ever more international insight and building newer connections.

The Institute for Hungarian Language Strategy (an office overseen by the Prime Minister's Office) was established by the Government on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014 with the purpose of being a consultant body of the Government in questions of language and language politics, and is tasked with drawing up a Hungarian language strategy for the whole Hungarian language community, holding the unity of the nation in sight. I find the coordination of the planned development of different terminologies, the comparative research of Hungarian terminology in Hungary and abroad, and the creation of dictionaries of comparative terminology a very important part and task of language strategy. Therefore, it was imperative to support the creation of the volume *Magyar és nemzetközi névtani terminológia / Hungarian and International Onomastic Terminology*, which was prepared in the cooperation of onomasticians affiliated with Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest and Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary, Budapest.

Onomastics is one of the most dynamically developing fields of linguistics, and yet – just as any other branch of science – this discipline centred around proper nouns has its own terminological problems. These problems (I hope) will be solved as soon as possible at the professional conferences focusing on the field.

The development of specialised languages and terminology is a field worthy of attention as its achievements are useful for laypersons as well: they provide an easier way of understanding, reduce the chances (and the feeling) of being at the mercy of bureaucracy, increase the confidence of individuals and the community, increase the effectiveness of self-determination, and make the functioning of society more cost-efficient.

The language of our nation is also a tool for identity, communication and cognition. Individuals and the community can only use the language efficiently if the required conditions are met. Such a condition is the existence of a clear, accurate, precise terminology which is coordinated and supervised by experts. It is essential that the so-created terminological databases prove to be extensively useful, that is – if possible – they should be freely accessible in the form of online dictionaries and/or public databases. According

to UNESCO directives terminological planning, the future innovative development of specialised languages is a significant task.

The publication of the Hungarian versions of two international glossaries of onomastic terminology is a crucial step in this research field. These glossaries are included in the present volume and I hold them in high esteem from a strategical point of view. I find both the basic terminology of the field of onomastics (used primarily in the communication between experts) and the glossary of terminology used in geography, in cartography, in documentation and information technology, and in linguistics (linguistic terms used for the standardization of geographical names) to be cardinal, this is a publication that has been long awaited.

Although terminology planning exists within individual and institutional frames too, scientifically coordinated terminology politics and thinking is often not present. It is vital that a functioning institutional system oversees these activities. Such an institutional network may be supervised by Parliament or academic institutions, similarly to other countries. The Terminology Council of the Hungarian Language as a suborganization of UNESCO plays an advisory role in Hungary. Other important workshops of terminology are the Terminological Research Group of Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary and the Termini Research Network. The latter is the collection of the linguistic research institutes of the Carpathian Basin and its researches are, among others, centred around questions of specialised languages and terminology.

The systematic development of specialised languages and terminologies and their harmonization with the terminologies of other languages is a grand, useful, long-desired undertaking. One that can only be completed through the collaboration of professionals and decision-makers. The papers presented in English, German, and French at the 26th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, in addition, the work of experts dealing with onomastic terminology at the International Council of Onomastic Sciences provide excellent intellectual munition for this cause.

TÓTH ATTILA  
Director of the Institute for Hungarian Language Strategy