

Editors' Foreword

Adequate scientific terminology is in close and reciprocal relation to its subject. Uncertainties, inconsistencies in terminology make it difficult to overview and comprehend a field or topic; to provide answers, to give further thought to arising questions; to carry out scientific discussions, to adjust different research projects and to maximize practical applicability; i.e. to develop and exploit a branch of science, at both a national and international level. However, experience shows that pieces of specialized literature in different languages and cultures, in special languages or even in a given field display considerable differences in their adopted terminology. For these reasons, it is important to explore the differences, together with the concepts of the field under observation as a system and its characteristics. To ensure unambiguous professional communication, an attempt should be made to reach a consensus concerning the forms, meanings, logical connections, stocks and rules for the use of terms.

The theoretical and practical applications of onomastic knowledge are undoubtedly connected to several disciplines and professional fields. Linguistics, translation studies, literary studies, history, law, transport sciences, geography, cartography, library and information science, communication sciences, public administration sciences – to mention only the most obvious examples – are extensively affected by the problems posed by the different types or uses of proper names. Thus, the national and international standardization and harmonization of onomastic terminology, out of the disciplines of linguistics, should be considered necessary and timely.

In recent years, an increased interest in terminology in general, can be observed, not only in Hungary, but also on an international scale. This trend is also apparent in onomastics, the field of the current volume. Simultaneously, in Hungary, the noticeable lack of up-to-date terminological dictionaries and/or databases in the humanities and particularly in the field of linguistics is obvious. In several languages, comprehensive linguistic or onomastic terminological dictionaries of lesser or greater extent are available, while only more focused works can be reported from Hungary.

The most important achievements in the works of international onomastic terminology are two multilingual term lists. One of them is a glossary by the Terminology Group of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS), a list of key onomastic terms in English, German, and French. The other is the glossary of terms used in the process of the standardization of geographical names, compiled by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN).

The current volume presents the Hungarian versions of these two current international glossaries of onomastic terms, accompanied by relevant multilingual term indices. The glossaries and the indices were prepared in work projects, involving a few people. They

are supplemented by two studies, published in Hungarian and English. The paper by TAMÁS FARKAS outlines the history, most important trends and fields as well as the results of international and Hungarian onomastic terminological works; while the article by ANDREA BÖLCSKEI discusses the history, contents and structure of the original as well as the Hungarian versions of the two glossaries, paying attention to the unique problems of their compilation.

This volume is the result of the activity of the Hungarian Subgroup of the ICOS Terminology Group, established after the 2011 ICOS Congress in Barcelona, in cooperation with the Hungarian research group in applied onomastics, its associate working group. Works were done at the Department of Hungarian Linguistics of Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary and at the Department of Hungarian Historical Linguistics, Sociolinguistics and Dialectology of Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. Professional credibility of the volume is ensured through the work of peer-reviewers from several disciplines. The volume, from a terminological point of view, was reviewed by ÁGOTA FÓRIS (Budapest); and, from the perspectives of international and Hungarian onomastics, was checked by MILAN HARVALÍK (Prague) and JÁN BAUKO (Nitra). The Hungarian version of the UNGEGN *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names* was reviewed by numerous representatives of relevant professional fields. The book was jointly published by ICOS and the Society of Hungarian Linguistics.

In his Foreword to the volume, MILAN HARVALÍK, the president of ICOS and the initiator and chair of the ICOS Terminology Group expresses his thoughts about the history and importance of international onomastic terminological works. ATTILA TÓTH, the director of the Institute for Hungarian Language Strategy, the financial supporter of the publication of the volume, calls attention to the importance of the maintenance of terminology in national and special languages.

The editors of the book wish to express their thanks to all colleagues who contributed to this volume with their work. The work of the ICOS and UNGEGN experts who compiled and published the original term lists should also be duly recognised. The editors also thank the Institute for Hungarian Language Strategy for the financial support for the publication of this volume.

This bilingual volume will be available both in print and online as an open access publication. The editors aim to ensure the national-wide and international applicability of the term lists and the relevant information in several disciplines, facilitating successful communication among Hungarian and foreign onomasticians, the representatives of different professional fields dealing with proper names, and to strengthen professional relationships, encourage common research projects and help the further development of Hungarian and international scholarship.

THE EDITORS