

IRELAND, IRISH CULTURE AND IRISH ENGLISH IN THE EYES OF HUNGARIAN LEXICOGRAPHERS¹

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Abstract

This study intends to explore how Ireland, Irish culture, and Irish English are represented in two pairs of contemporary online English–Hungarian and Hungarian–English dictionaries of Akadémiai Kiadó (Akadémiai Publishers).² Headwords, entries, and senses related to Ireland, its people, and its Celtic language, those connected to Irish history, politics, and culture, and to the English language as used in Ireland, will be scrutinized in the aforementioned dictionaries. The presence and absence of certain geographical names, first names, lexical items connected to politics and culture, and of words and senses used in Irish English will be explored, analyzed, and commented on. Based on the lexicographical data examined, a picture of the representation of Ireland, Irish culture, and Irish English in these dictionaries will emerge, which may provide a useful starting point for future revisions of these dictionaries and for other dictionaries as well.

KEYWORDS

Lexicography, English–Hungarian dictionaries, Hungarian–English dictionaries, Irish English, Ireland-related terms

¹ It was during the final revision stage of this article, on the 28th of February 2026, that Tamás Magay, the doyen of English–Hungarian and Hungarian–English lexicography, passed away. During his career spanning more than sixty years, he contributed to the compilation and editing of more than fifty bilingual dictionaries, two of which are the objects of analysis here. This paper is dedicated to the memory of this inspiring lexicographer and colleague.

² The publishing house does not have an official English name.

INTRODUCTION

The work and role of lexicographers is extremely important in several respects. Their responsibility is to provide good quality and accurate linguistic data, and, in the case of bilingual dictionaries, to map two different languages onto each other by providing the equivalents in language 2 (i.e. the target language) of the headwords in language 1 (i.e. the source language).³ As well as that, which headwords they select and with what method is also of huge importance. No dictionary can contain all the words used in a language, thus the choices a lexicographer makes will reflect what they think of the relevance of the word, and in the case of a so-called passive bilingual dictionary, its relevance for the speech community which is the target group, i.e. in whose first language the equivalents are given.

The observations above also apply to bilingual English–Hungarian dictionaries. The lexicographer, for example, would have to tackle questions concerning the inclusion of geographical names, personal names, realia (culture-specific lexical items, which also include the names of institutions or political parties), or the senses of a word connected to a specific country. Thinking along these lines, one can understand why it would be interesting to examine what headwords and senses related to Ireland and Irish English certain English–Hungarian and Hungarian–English bilingual dictionaries include and in what contexts. Thus, this research explores what one may call the Irish-related content of four dictionaries published in Hungary that are available in online format and can be searched with the help of a search engine. The hypothesis is that as Ireland and Hungary have always had fewer contacts with each other than with other English-speaking countries, there are going to be gaps in the Irish-related content in these dictionaries, that is, several words, senses, and proper nouns would be absent that a Hungarian with a more than average interest in Ireland would intend to explore with the help of a dictionary.

³ An important point to note here is that in bilingual lexicography, the terms ‘target language’ and ‘source language’ have the same meaning as in translation: “**target language 1** In TRANSLATION, the language into which a SOURCE LANGUAGE text is to be translated. → ACTIVE DICTIONARY, BIDIRECTIONAL DICTIONARY.” (R.R.K. Hartmann – Gregory James: *Dictionary of Lexicography*, London, New York, Routledge, 1998, 137.); “**source language 1** In TRANSLATION, the language of a text which is to be translated into another (the ‘target’) language. → ACTIVE DICTIONARY, BIDIRECTIONAL DICTIONARY.” (Ibid., 128.) Thus, these terms have a different meaning when used in the context of language teaching, where the source language is *always* one’s native language, and the target language is *always* the one to be mastered.

THE DICTIONARIES EXAMINED

The four dictionaries examined are two pairs of general-purpose dictionaries, and they can be accessed by subscribers on the online dictionary website of Akadémiai Kiadó (Akadémiai Publishers), one of the most prestigious dictionary publishers in Hungary. This website is <https://www.szotar.net/>.

The first editions of two of the dictionaries examined, *The English–Hungarian Universal Dictionary (Angol–magyar egyetemes nagyszótár)* and *The Hungarian–English Universal Dictionary (Magyar–angol egyetemes nagyszótár)* by Péter Lázár A. and György Varga (editors-in-chief), both by Akadémiai Kiadó were published in 2000, and since then, the dictionaries have been growing in size, having been revised more than ten times. The online digitized versions are from 2021.⁴ At this stage, both dictionaries contain about 100,000 headwords, thus greatly surpassing the size of a concise dictionary.

The other pair of dictionaries was also published by Akadémiai Kiadó. Here, the editor-in-chief was the doyen of English–Hungarian / Hungarian–English bilingual lexicography, Tamás Magay, who was also the founder of the English Department (now the Institute of English Studies) at Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary (Budapest). Both the *English–Hungarian Dictionary (Angol–magyar szótár)* and the *Hungarian–English Dictionary (Magyar–angol szótár)* contained 60,000 entries and 625,000 lexicographical data when they were published in 2021. According to the publisher's website, the online version, available at szotar.net, is constantly being expanded.⁵

RESEARCH METHOD

As no search can be conducted based on geographical register labels (which are also called regional labels) in these online dictionaries, that is, no search can be made for the label 'Ireland' or 'Irish', the following procedure was adopted:⁶ a search was made for a certain number of geographical names and related terms, first names, terms connected to history, politics, and institutions,

⁴ Impresszum, in: Lázár A. Péter – Varga György: *Angol–magyar egyetemes nagyszótár*, Budapest, Akadémiai Kiadó, <https://www.szotar.net/>, (accessed 10 November 2025), and Lázár A. Péter – Varga György: *Magyar–angol egyetemes nagyszótár*, Budapest, Akadémiai Kiadó, <https://www.szotar.net/>, (accessed 5 November 2025).

⁵ Leírás [product description], Magay, Tamás: *Angol–magyar szótár*, <https://akademai.hu/p100x00003-angol-magyar-szotar.html> (accessed 19 March 2026), and Leírás [product description], Magay, Tamás: *Magyar–angol szótár*, <https://akademai.hu/p100x00004-magyar-angol-szotar.html>, (accessed 19 March 2026).

⁶ For example, when one types into the search engine the regional label *IRE*, used in Magay's dictionary to indicate terms connected to Ireland or Irish usage, the hits will only be the ones for the English word 'ire', and no entry with the regional label *IRE* will come up as a result of the search.

cultural terms connected to Ireland, and finally, some common words that are considered to be either an Irish English lexical item or have a sense that is only known in Irish English. One also has to keep in mind that the Lázár–Varga dictionaries contain considerably more lexicographical data than the Magay dictionaries.

An important point would need to be made here about regional labels. These are “used to mark the dialect or regional variety with which a word or phrase is associated”.⁷ According to Pődör’s article from 2012, which traces the appearance of such labels in the concise English–Hungarian dictionaries of Akadémiai Publishers, Irish English usage is the fourth geographical register label to appear in these works after British English, American English, and Scottish English, and it first appears in Ország’s *Angol–magyar kézikészítár (Concise English–Hungarian Dictionary)*, published in 1981.⁸ The latest concise dictionary at the time of the publication of this article already had eight geographical register labels.⁹ Thus, in our globalized world, the question is not whether to include items connected to a certain English-speaking country in English–Hungarian / Hungarian–English dictionaries, but how many of these to include.

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Attempt has been made to present the complex data in a digestible format. The findings are presented in thematic tables, where only those parts of the entries appear that have been considered relevant to this article. For example, subject field labels like *földr.* (*földrajz* ‘geography’) or *pol.* (*politika* ‘politics’) are omitted, and so is information given on pronunciation (pronunciation is always indicated for each headword with the help of the International Phonetic Alphabet in both English–Hungarian dictionaries, and in Magay’s dictionary a sound file is also often provided); in the case of polysemous headwords, only the relevant meaning is given (in such cases, the omitted parts are indicated with ‘(...)’; and part of speech information is also only given when relevant. The Hungarian glosses and explanations on the lexical items examined are translated only when this is considered to be essential. When the lexical item examined appears in more than one entry, then a blank line is inserted between them. The index number distinguishing different parts of speech is retained

⁷ Hartmann – James: *Dictionary of Lexicography*, 118.

⁸ Pődör, Dóra: A skóciai angol megjelenése az Akadémiai kiadó angol–magyar kézikészítáiraiban [‘The Representation of Scottish English in the Concise English–Hungarian Dictionaries of Akadémiai Publishers’], in T. Pintér – D. Pődör – K. P. Márkus (eds.): *Szavak pásztora. Írások Magay Tamás tiszteletére* [A Shepherd of Words. Festschrift for Tamás Magay], Szeged, Grimm Kiadó, 2012, 135–141.

⁹ László Ország – Tamás Magay – Dezső Futász – Zoltán Kövecses: *Angol–magyar kézikészítár (Concise English–Hungarian Dictionary)*, Budapest, Akadémiai Kiadó, 2010.

(e.g. **Celtic**¹, **Celtic**²). The typography of the original entries was retained wherever it was possible; however, for example, words in color could not be reproduced here. In order to save space, no link is provided for the more than two hundred entries examined here in the footnotes and the 'Works cited' section; for further information, the reader is referred to the dictionaries in question. Each table is followed by a short summary and analysis. The thematic tables appear in the following order:

- I. Geographical names and related terms (43): a) Names for the country and the island (5); b) Names for the inhabitants and for their language (17); c) Offensive terms for or connected to Irish people (8); d) The provinces of Ireland (2); e) Seas, lakes, and rivers (3); f) Cities and towns (8)
- II. First names (14) + prefix in surnames (1)
- III. History, politics, and institutions (21): a) Terms mostly connected to Northern Ireland (15); b) Terms connected to the Republic of Ireland (6)
- IV. Food and drink (8)
- V. Music and dance (8)
- VI. Animals and plants (5)
- VII. Other cultural terms (12+4)
- VIII. Some other Irish English lexical items or meanings (6)

Reference to the dictionaries is mostly made with abbreviations: *LVEH* stands for Lázár and Varga's *English–Hungarian Universal Dictionary*, while *LVHE* for their Hungarian–English one. Similarly, *MEH* stands for Magay's *English–Hungarian Dictionary*, and *MHE* for his Hungarian–English one.

I. GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES AND RELATED TERMS (43)

Some of the geographical names discussed in this section fall into the category of place names. According to Styles, "It is the policy of most general dictionaries not to include entries for place names, a convention which has prevailed in the lexicography of most of the major European languages for the last two centuries."¹⁰ She also adds, however, that there are some exceptions, for example, *The Oxford Dictionary of English*,¹¹ since its first edition in 1998, and some major dictionaries in the United States also include quite a few

¹⁰ Tania Styles: Place-Name Dictionaries, in Ph. Durkin (ed.): *The Oxford Handbook of Lexicography*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2015, 255.

¹¹ Published in 1998 as *The New Oxford Dictionary of English* in 1998 and as *The Oxford Dictionary of English* in 2003; Oxford, Oxford University Press.

place names as headwords in general dictionaries. As it is going to be seen, to a limited extent, this latter practice is followed by *MEH* – continuing the practice of the much earlier comprehensive and concise English–Hungarian dictionaries of Akadémiai Kiadó, first edited by László Országh, and later by Országh and Tamás Magay.

a) Names for the country and the island (5)

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>	<i>MHE</i>
Éire / Eire	Eire VAGY Éire Írország [ír neve]	Írország Ireland; Eire; Éire	Eire Írország [gael neve]	Írország Ireland, [írül] Eire
Ireland	Ireland Írország Ir. = Irish; (...) Ireland Ire. = Ireland	Írország Ireland, [írül] Eire; → ír ³	Ireland Írország the Republic of Ireland (ROI) Ír Köztársaság; → Britain , → Northern Ireland	Írország Ireland; Eire; Éire
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland Észak-Írország NI = (...) Northern Ireland; North Ireland	Észak-Írország Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland Észak-Írország; → Britain , → Ireland NI 2. <i>Northern Ireland</i>	Észak-Írország Northern Ireland NI 2. Northern Ireland
Republic of Ireland / Irish Republic	–	–	Ireland földr [orsz] Írország the Republic of Ireland (ROI) Ír Köztársaság; → Britain , → Northern Ireland ROI <i>the Republic of Ireland</i> Ír Köztársaság → Ireland	ír ³ I. <i>mn</i> Irish Ír Köztársaság Republic of Ireland, Irish Republic

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>	<i>MHE</i>
Northern Ireland as part of the UK	U.K. = United Kingdom (of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) United Kingdom VAGY UK (...) the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Nagy-Britannia és Észak-Írország Egyesült Királysága	Nagy-Britannia (...) Nagy-Britannia és Észak-Írország Egyesült Királysága the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Britain (...) The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Nagy-Britannia és Észak-Írország Egyesült Királysága United Kingdom, the, rövid UK (...) the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Nagy-Britannia és Észak-Írország Egyesült Királysága	egyesült (...) Nagy-Britannia és Észak-Írország Egyesült Királysága United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Nagy-Britannia (...) Nagy-Britannia és Észak-Írország Egyesült Királysága United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Table 1

Éire (the Irish name for Ireland), **Ireland** and **Northern Ireland** can all be found as headwords in both of the English–Hungarian dictionaries. The official name of the country, the **Republic of Ireland**, can only be found in *MEH* in the entry for **Ireland**, and also as the expansion of the abbreviation **ROI**, which appears as a headword. **Irish Republic** can only be found in *MHE* in the entry for **ír** ('Irish'), where it is given as one of the equivalents of **Ír Köztársaság**.

One of the equivalents of **NI** in *LVEH*, **North Ireland**, must be a mistake. **Northern Ireland** appears in other entries as well, e.g. in the entry for **Britain** and **the United Kingdom**, as well as in the entry **egyesült** ('united') in *MEH* – see the details above. The phrase "the Island of Ireland" cannot be found in any of the dictionaries examined.

‘Ireland’ in example sentences and phrases in *MHE* and *MHE* (7)

Headword with the Hungarian or English equivalent	Example sentence in English and Hungarian
commentary 2. (rádió)közvetítés	There’ll be a live commentary on the Scotland–Ireland match. Élő közvetítést adunk/sugárzunk a Skócia–Írország mérkőzésről., A Skócia–Írország mérkőzést élőben közvetíti a televízió.
go down 11. veszít, kikap, vereséget szenved	Ireland went down 2–1 to the Scottish team. Írország válogatottja 2:1-re kikapott a skót tizenegytől.
hail from vhonnan származik	my father hails from Ireland apám Írországból származik
her ¹ 2. azé; annak a... [<i>hajóra, autóra, országra vonatkozóan</i>]	The ship was on her way from Ireland to England. A hajó úton volt Írországból és Angliába.
introduction 2. bevezetés; elterjesztés, meghonosítás; forgalomba hozatal	the introduction of the potato into Ireland a burgonya meghonosítása Írorszáiban
north ² <i>mn</i> északi, észak-	the north coast of Ireland Írország északi partja
mez 2. strip, <i>US</i> jersey, colours (<i>US</i> -ors)	zöld-fehér mezben játszik Írország Ireland are playing in the green and white strip

Table 2

Only Magay’s dictionaries have example sentences with the word **Ireland**. Out of these seven, three are connected to sport, and one to a plant associated with Ireland: the potato.

‘Ireland’ and ‘Northern Ireland’ in examples in *MEH* (2)

Headword with the English equivalent	Examples in Hungarian and English
királynő 1. queen	II. Erzsébet angol királynő Elizabeth II, queen of the United Kingdom (of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
várományos <i>fn</i> jog 1. (...) heir apparent	az angol trón várományosa heir apparent to the throne of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, heir apparent of the British sovereign (= the Prince of Wales)

Table 3

These two examples evoke official contexts.

b) Names for the inhabitants and for their language (17)

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>	<i>MHE</i>
Celt	Celt kelta ember; kelta	kelta ¹ FNÉV Celt; Kelt ¹²	Celt <i>fn</i> kelta (ember)	kelta II. <i>fn</i> [ember] Celt; [nyelv] Celtic
Celtic (noun)	Celtic ¹ FNÉV kelta nyelv	kelta ² MNÉV Celtic; Keltic; Gaelic kelta nyelv(ek) Celtic/Keltic (languages)	Celtic ² <i>fn</i> kelta (nyelv)	kelta I. <i>mn</i> Celtic kelta nyelv Celtic II. <i>fn</i> [ember] Celt; [nyelv] Celtic
Celtic (adj.)	Celtic ² MNÉV kelta C ² (...) Celtic	kelta ² MNÉV Celtic; Keltic; Gaelic	Celtic ¹ <i>mn</i> kelta	kelta I. <i>mn</i> Celtic
Erse	Erse ír(országi) gael/ kelta (nyelv)	–	Erse írországi gael/ kelta (nyelv); → Gaelic ^{1, 2}	–
Gael			Gael <i>fn</i> gael [skót kelta ember]	
Gaelic	Gaelic gael; (skót/ír) kelta	gael Gaelic	Gaelic ¹ <i>mn</i> gael [nyelv] Gaelic ² <i>fn</i> gael (nyelv) [skót/ír kelta nyelv]	gael <i>mn</i> ▪ <i>fn</i> Gaelic
Goidelic	Goidelic VAGY Godhelic VAGY Gadhelic észak-kelta [ír gael, skót gael, ill. Man szigeti]	–	–	–

¹² The form Kelt does not appear in either of the English–Hungarian dictionaries.

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>	<i>MHE</i>
(the) Irish (noun, person, people)	Irish¹ FNÉV 1. ír the Irish az írek	ír¹ FNÉV 1. férfi Irishman; nő Irishwoman; (...) két ír two Irish people az írek the Irish	Irish² fn 2. <i>tsz</i> the Irish az írek, az ír nép	ír³ II. fn 1. (...) az írek the Irish
(in) Irish (noun, language)	Irish¹ FNÉV 2. ír (nyelv) in Irish ír nyelven; írül 3. ír nyelvtudás her Irish is very good nagyon jól tud írül	ír¹ FNÉV 2. ír NYELV Irish írül in Irish írül in Irish	Irish² fn 1. ír (nyelv)	ír³ II. fn 2. [nyelv] Irish írül [beszél] [speak] Irish, [írva] [written] in Irish
Irish (adjective)	Irish² MNÉV ír	ír³ MNÉV Irish	Irish¹ mn ír, írországi	ír³ I. <i>mn</i> Irish (...) az ír nép the Irish
of/from Ireland	–	írországi Irish; (...) of/ from Ireland		írországi Irish, of Ireland
of the Irish Republic				ír³ I. <i>mn</i> (...) ír köztársasági (of the) Irish Republic
Irishman	Irishman ír (férfi)	ír¹ FNÉV II. 1. [férfi] Irishman, [nő] Irish woman	Irishman ír ember, ír [férfi]	ír³ fn II. 1. [férfi] Irishman, [nő] Irish woman
Irish- woman	Irishwoman ír nő	ír¹ FNÉV II. 1. [férfi] Irishman, [nő] Irish woman	Irishwoman ír [nő]	ír³ fn II. 1. [férfi] Irishman, [nő] Irish woman
Irishry			Irishry 1. ír nép 2. ír tulajdonság; ír szokás; ír kifejezés	

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>	<i>MHE</i>
Middle Irish	MIr. = Middle Irish			
Northern Irish	Northern Irish észak-írországi; északír	észak-írországi Northern Irish; of/from Northern Ireland északír Northern Irish; of/from Northern Ireland		észak-írországi <i>mn ▪ fn</i> (of) Northern Ireland

Table 4

It is interesting to note that while **Erse**, which is considered to be old-fashioned by the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (OALD)*,¹³ appears in both *LVEH* and *MEH*, **Irish Gaelic** does not. It is also somewhat puzzling that while the history of the Irish language can be divided into several periods, only the abbreviation of one of these, **MIr.**, standing for 'Middle Irish', appears in one of these dictionaries, *LVEH*, without any explanation. Gael, denoting a person, is explained in *MEH* as [*skót kelta ember*] ('a Scottish Celtic person'), which is not quite accurate, as it can also refer to an Irish person.

In the entry for **Celtic** (adjective), six compounds appear in *LVEH* (**Celtic cross**, **Celtic harp**, **Celtic Sea**, **Celtic Studies / Celtic scholarship**, **Celtic studies scholar / Celtic scholar**, **the Celtic Tiger**), while in *LVHE* only one (**the Celtic fringe**). In *LVHE*, the following compounds appear under the corresponding adjective, **kelta**: **kelta hárf**a, **kelta kereszt**, **kelta nyelv(ek)**, **a kelta tigris**, while in *MHE* only one, **kelta nyelv**. Thus, the editors of the two dictionaries treat these entries quite differently, and the corresponding English–Hungarian / Hungarian–English entries are also quite different. These compounds can be found in the thematic tables according to their semantic category. **Irish** also appears as the first element of compounds in these dictionaries, as well as an adjective accompanying a noun. Lexical items that can be considered compounds are the following: **Irish breakfast**, **Irish bull**, **Irish country hat**, **Irish elk**, **Irish harp**, **Irish moss**, **Irish night**, **Irish setter**, **Irish wolfhound**. Some of these have their own individual entry (**Irish country hat**, **Irish harp**, **Irish moss**, **Irish setter**, **Irish wolfhound**), while some appear in the entry for

¹³ *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/>, (accessed 25 November 2025).

the adjective **Irish** or in some other entries (**Irish breakfast**, **Irish bull**, **Irish night**). **Irish elk** only appears in *LVHE* as one of the equivalents of ‘óriásszarvas’. Adjective + noun combinations that are not compounds but noun phrases are **Irish culture**, **Irish films**, **Irish legend**, **Irish plays**. Again, these are listed in the tables according to their semantic category.

The Hungarian adjectival form, which is the equivalent of **Northern Irish**, has an entry in both Hungarian–English dictionaries; what is more, *LVHE* gives both Hungarian forms (**észak-írországi** and **északír**) an entry; furthermore, only *LVEH* lists **Northern Irish** as a headword.

**‘Irish’ as an adjective in example sentences
in the dictionaries examined (6)**

Headword with the Hungarian or English equivalent	Example sentence in English and Hungarian
accent ¹ 3. akcentus; ejtésmód; kiejtés; kiejtésmód	she hasn’t lost her Irish accent nem veszítette el az ír akcentusát
akcentus 1. accent	nem veszítette el az ír akcentusát she hasn’t lost her Irish accent
become of become of smb lesz vkiből/vkivel	what became of that Irish girl? mi lett azzal az ír lánnyal?
lesz 4. become; make; prove	mi lett azzal az ír lánnyal? what became of that Irish girl?
behold, beheld, beheld megpillant; meglát	he beheld a fair Irish maiden szép ír leányzót pillantott meg
cap ² 2. maximalizál, befagyaszt [pl. fizetést]	Irish Finance Minister was seeking to cap bankers’ salaries at 500,000 euros. Az ír pénzügyminiszter igyekszik 500 000 eurónál maximalni a bankárok fizetését.

Table 5

All of the examples are from the Lázár–Varga dictionaries, with the exception of the last one, which is from *MEH*. The first four examples can be found in two corresponding entry pairs. Out of these six examples, **Irish** twice qualifies **accent**, and three times **girl** or **maiden**.

There is one case where the term **Irish** denotes the language in an example sentence in *LVHE*: **írül beszélnek, de angolul facebookoznak** they speak Irish at home but Facebook in English (in the entry **facebookozik** ‘Facebook’).

c) Offensive terms for or connected to Irish people (8)

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>
bog-trotter		ír ³ MNÉV (...) ír paraszt bog-trotter [!]	
Irish twins	Irish twins [!] egy évnél kisebb különbséggel született testvérek		
Mick / mick	Mick 2. [!] ír férfi [megszólításként is]	ír ³ MNÉV (...) ír férfi paddy [!]; mick [!]	mick szl sértő 1. ír(országi személy)
Paddy	Paddy 1. [!] ír férfi	ír ³ MNÉV (...) ír férfi paddy [!]; mick [!]	Paddy 2. <i>sértő tabu</i> ír (férfi)
Taig	Taig [!] római katolikus [északír gúnyneve]	–	–
Teague	Teague [!] római katolikus [északír gúnyneve]	–	–
West Brit	West Brit [!] ír [gúnynév]	ír ¹ FNÉV 1. (...) gúnynévként West Brit	
West Briton	West Briton [!] brit-szimpatizáns ír	britszimpatizáns pro-Brit; pro-British britszimpatizáns ír West Briton [!]	

Table 6

The Lázár–Varga dictionaries cover derogatory terms used for or connected to Irish people quite extensively, as *LVEH* has seven such terms, while *LVHE* five, one of which does not appear in *LVEH*. *MEH* treats only two of these. In all of these cases the offensive nature of the terms is highlighted – in the Lázár–Varga dictionaries with the [!] symbol, while in Magay’s dictionary with register labels.

d) The provinces of Ireland (2)

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>
Connacht / Connaught	–	–	Connacht [Írorsz] Connacht Connaught [Írorsz] [<i>Connacht korábbi neve</i>]
Ulster	–	–	Ulster [GB Észak Ír] Ulster

Table 7

Of the four provinces of Ireland, none appear in *LVEH*, and only two of them are listed in *MEH*. These two are **Ulster** and **Connacht**, of which the earlier form of the name, **Connaught** is also given as a headword. It may be that these two names are given as they are more likely to appear in a political or historical context known to Hungarians than the other two, Munster and Leinster. It should also be noted that the geographical label for Ulster is *GB*, not *UK*, and *Észak Ír* (= Northern Ireland), although three of the counties of Ulster can be found in the Republic of Ireland. In this respect, *MEH* follows English monolingual dictionaries, for example, the *OALD*, which states in the entry for ‘Ulster’ that it is “another name for Northern Ireland”.¹⁴ **Ulster** also appears in other entries as part of the expansion of certain abbreviations (see in the section on ‘History, Politics, and Institutions’).

e) Seas, lakes, and rivers (3)

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>
Liffey	–	–	Liffey [Írorsz] Liffey [<i>folyó</i>]
Shannon	– (only as a woman’s or man’s name)	–	Shannon 1. [Írorsz] Shannon [<i>folyó</i>]
Celtic Sea	Celtic ² MNÉV (...) Celtic Sea Kelta- tenger	Kelta-tenger Celtic Sea	–

Table 8

Of the three longest rivers in Ireland (the Shannon, the Barrow, and the Suir), only the **Shannon** is given and only in *MEH*. The personal name which derives from this river name appears in both *MEH* and *LVEH*. Dublin’s river, the **Liffey**, is also given in *MEH*. The River Foyle in Belfast, and the River Boyne, which has historical significance because of the Battle of the Boyne that took place

¹⁴ *OALD*, (accessed 20 November 2025).

on the 12th of July in 1690, are not mentioned in either of these works. *MEH* also gives the information that the Shannon and the Liffey are rivers in Ireland.

None of the five biggest lakes of Ireland (Lough Neagh, Lough Corrib, Lough Derg, Lough Erne, Lough Ree) are mentioned in either of the English–Hungarian dictionaries. As far as seas are concerned, the Irish Sea or its Hungarian equivalent, ‘Ír-tenger’, are not given in any of the four dictionaries; however, **Celtic Sea** appears in *LVEH* as a sub-entry under the adjective **Celtic**, and also in *LVHE* as the equivalent of **Kelta-tenger**.

f) Cities and towns (8)

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>	<i>MHE</i>
Belfast	–	–	Belfast [UK, Észak-Írorsz főv] Belfast	–
Derry / Londonderry	–	–	Londonderry [UK] Londonderry	–
Dublin	Dublin Dublin		Dublin [Írorsz főv] Dublin	
Dubliner	Dubliner <i>fnév</i> dublíni	dublíni <i>fnév</i> Dubliner	–	dublíni <i>mn</i> ▪ <i>fn</i> Dubliner
Baile Átha Cliath	–	–	Baile Atha Cliath, Baile Átha Cliath «Dublin ír neve»	
Cork	–	–	Cork [Írorsz] Cork	–
Galway	–	–	Galway [Írorsz] Galway	–
Limerick	–	–	Limerick [IRE] Limerick	–

Table 9

The six biggest cities of Ireland appear in Magay’s English–Hungarian dictionary, but only Dublin appears in *LVEH*.¹⁵ Magay’s dictionary is the only one which also gives the Irish name of Dublin. The dictionary also explains that Dublin is the

¹⁵ List of settlements on the island of Ireland by population, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_settlements_on_the_island_of_Ireland_by_population, (accessed 1 November 2025).

capital of Ireland, while Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland, and that **Baile Átha Cliath** is the Irish name for Dublin. Also note that the name Derry, which is the older and non-official, although extensively used name for **Londonderry**, does not figure in these dictionaries. (It is not the aim of this paper to discuss the Derry/Londonderry name dispute, which has political connotations.)

Dubliner, a derivative of **Dublin**, is only given in *LVEH*, but its Hungarian equivalent, **dublíni**, is provided by both *LVEH* and *MEH*, *LVEH* assigning it only one part of speech (noun), while *MEH* two (adjective + noun).

‘Dublin’ in examples in *LVEH* and *LVHE* (4)

Headword with the Hungarian equivalent	Example sentence in English and Hungarian
around ² 3. közelében; környékén	she lives around Dublin Dublin környékén lakik
elrepül 3. fly	elrepül Dublinba fly to Dublin
késve late	már Dublinból késve indultunk we were already late leaving Dublin
late ¹ MNÉV 1. be late késik; elkésik	we were already late leaving Dublin már Dublinból késve indultunk

Table 10

In the *LV* dictionaries, Dublin also occurs four times in examples in entries other than Dublin, two of which are in basically the same entry, but in two different language directions (**késve** and **late**).

II.

FIRST NAMES (14) + PREFIX IN SURNAMES (1)

Styles has been referred to earlier in connection with place names. These fall into the broader category of proper names, just like first names. Rundell and Atkins state something similar to Styles in connection with proper names: “Formerly, proper names were usually excluded from the headword list, and sometimes corralled into a list at the end of the book”¹⁶ and “Nowadays most reasonably sized English dictionaries include them as headwords.”¹⁷ Thus, it is not surprising to find first names as headwords in the dictionaries examined.

¹⁶ Sue B. T. Atkins – Michael Rundell: *The Oxford Guide to Practical Lexicography*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2008, 186.

¹⁷ Ibid., 187.

Several dozens of commonly used first names in Ireland, names in Irish form, or names connected to Ireland were checked in these dictionaries. The selection was not based on statistical data regarding frequency, as there are several differing lists available on the internet, and obtaining reliable data is complicated by the fact that the names can have several spellings: e.g. **Seán** (Irish spelling with an accent), **Sean** (anglicized spelling without an accent), or **Ciarán** (Irish spelling) and **Kieran** (anglicized form). Moreover, people in the Republic of Ireland have the right to use either the Irish or the anglicized form of their name (or the English equivalent). So, a person called **John** may also sometimes use the form **Seán**.

<i>First name</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>MEH</i>
Aisling	–	Aisling <ír női név> ¹⁸
Aoife	–	Aoife <ír női név>
Ciara	–	Ciara <ír női név>
Ciarán	Ciaran (női név)	Ciaran <ír férfinév>
Deirdre	Deirdre [női név]	–
Éamonn, Éamon (Éamann)	Eamonn VAGY Eamon [férfinév]	Eamon, Eamonn <ír férfinév>
Fergus	Fergus (férfinév)	Fergus <ír és skót férfinév>
Kieran (Ciarán)	–	Kieran <férfinév>
Maeve (Méabh)	–	Maeve <ír női név>
Maureen (Máirín)	Maureen VAGY Maurene (női név)	Maureen <ír női név>
Patrick	Patrick [férfinév]	Patrick <ír férfinév> <i>magy</i> Patrik
Séamas	Seamas VAGY Seamus [férfinév]	Seamas, Seamus <ír férfinév> <i>magy kb.</i> Jakab
Seán	Sean (férfinév)	Sean <ír férfinév> <i>magy kb.</i> János
Siobhán	Siobhan [női név]	Siobhan, Siobhán <ír női név>
<i>Prefix in surnames</i>		
O'	–	O' <ír (gael) családnevekben>

Table 11

¹⁸ ír női név = Irish woman's name; ír férfinév = Irish man's name; női név = woman's name; férfinév = man's name; ír és skót férfinév = Irish and Scottish man's name; *magy* = in Hungarian; *magy kb.* = in Hungarian approximately

The findings are presented in the table below. Note that as neither of the Hungarian–English dictionaries provide any of these names as equivalents, these columns have been omitted. In the first column, the names are given in their Irish form or in their Irish form as well (with the exception of **Patrick**, which is of Latin origin).

The first thing to note is that only Magay’s dictionary indicates the Irish connection of a first name. The only exception is **Kieran**, the anglicized spelling of **Ciarán**, which does not have any labels. **Fergus** is given both as an Irish and a Scottish first name. (Note that **Ciaran** is given as a female name in *LVEH*, which is a mistake.) Next, it can be observed that *MEH* lists more Irish names than *LVEH*: there are twelve names with the Irish label in the table above from *MEH*, only eight of which appear in *LVEH*. However, *LVEH* has **Deirdre**, which does not appear in *MEH*. (In the *OALD* it is indicated that **Deirdre** is used in Irish English.)¹⁹

In *MEH*, the Hungarian equivalent of the name is given for **Patrick**, **Sean**, and **Seamas**, although for the equivalents of **Sean** and **Seamas**, the qualifier *kб*. ‘approximately’ is provided. This is not necessary, as ‘János’ IS the Hungarian equivalent of **Sean**, just as ‘Jakab’ is the Hungarian equivalent of **Seamas**.

Some of the names of Irish origin that have been looked up have become so widespread in the English-speaking world that their connection to Ireland has been obscured and is no longer a characteristic feature worth labelling. Such names are, for example, **Brian**, **Eileen**, **Kevin**, **Liam**, **Rory**, and **Sheila**. All of these appear in the above-mentioned two dictionaries, but there is no indication of the Irish connection. The name **Patrick** is very popular in Ireland because of its patron saint, and so its feminine form, **Patricia**, and the shortened versions **Pat** and **Paddy**. All of these names are also widely used outside Ireland, and the Irish connection is not indicated in the dictionaries with the exception of **Patrick**, so only this one is given in the table above. (**Paddy** as a derogatory term for an Irish person has already been discussed.) Many of the other Irish names that have been looked up (e.g. **Áine**, **Cathal**, **Colm**, **Eoin**, **Máire**, **Niamh**, **Nuala**, **Pádraig**, **Peadar**, **Rónán**, **Sinéad**, **Tomás**, **Úna**) do not appear in either of the English-Hungarian dictionaries.

There are two frequent elements prefixed to Irish surnames: **O’**, literally meaning someone’s grandson or descendant, and **Mc**, an abbreviated form of **Mac**, meaning someone’s son. Of these two, **O’** can be found in *MEH* with the appropriate explanation.

The categories that follow include several entries that contain what is called encyclopedic information in lexicography, which is based on factual knowledge, and cultural information, which is “Knowledge about the social, intellectual

¹⁹ *OALD*, (accessed 20 November 2025).

and artistic achievements of a particular group or civilisation”.²⁰ These types of information may be present explicitly and implicitly – however, it is not the aim of this paper to analyze these aspects. According to Svensén, “encyclopedic items are more typical of monolingual dictionaries than bilingual ones”,²¹ so one has to bear this in mind when approaching this topic.

III.

HISTORY, POLITICS, AND INSTITUTIONS (21)

a) Terms mostly connected to Northern Ireland (15)

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>
DUP	DUP = Democratic Unionist Party (<i>Észak-Írországbán</i>)	–	–
first minister	first minister miniszterelnök [<i>Skóciában, Walesben, Észak-Írországbán</i>]	miniszterelnök (...) SKÓCIÁBAN, WALESBEN, ÉSZAK-ÍRORSZÁGBAN first minister	–
INLA	INLA = Irish National Liberation Army	–	INLA <i>Irish National Liberation Army</i>
IRA	IRA = (...) Irish Republican Army	–	IRA <i>Irish Republican Army</i> Ír Köztársasági Hadsereg, IRA
Orangeman	Orangeman észak-írországi protestáns unionista; protestáns északír	protestáns ¹ FNÉV (...) északír protestáns Orangeman	Orangeman «észak-írországi protestáns unionista, az Orániai Rend tagja»
Orange Order, the	–	–	Orange Order, the az Orániai Rend [<i>észak-írországi protestáns koronahű társaság</i>]
Provie	Provie az ideiglenes IRA-hoz tartozó	–	–

²⁰ Hartmann – James: *Dictionary of Lexicography*, 32–33.

²¹ Bo Svensén: *A Handbook of Lexicography*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2009, 290.

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>
Provo	Provo az ideiglenes IRA-hoz tartozó	–	–
RUC	RUC = Royal Ulster Constabulary	–	RUC, the Royal Ulster Constabulary
SDLP	SDLP = Social Democratic and Labour Party	–	–
Sinn Fein (Sinn Féin)	Stickie a Sinn Fein tagja	–	Sinn Fein «szeparatista nacionalista mozgalom Írországbán» Sinn Fein
Stickie	Stickie a Sinn Fein tagja	–	–
UDA	UDA = Ulster Defence Association	–	UDA, the <i>the Ulster Defence Association</i> «illegális protestáns katonai szervezet Észak- Írországbán»
UDR	UDR = Ulster Defence Regiment	–	UDR <i>Ulster Defence Regiment</i> «a brit hadsereg Észak- Írországbán állomásozó egysége»
UVF	UVF = Ulster Volunteer Force	–	UVF <i>Ulster Volunteer Force</i> «illegális protestáns katonai szervezet Észak- Írországbán»

Table 12

Of the political parties, only those that are active in Northern Ireland (**DUP**, **SDLP**, **Sinn Féin**) appear. Note that Sinn Féin is also one of the political parties of the Republic of Ireland. Still, not all the Northern Irish parties are included (e.g. the UUP and the Alliance Party). Also, the DUP and the SDLP are only listed and *LVEH*, and the Irish connection is not given in the latter case. Sinn Féin only gets an entry in Magay's dictionary, while the name of this party appears in *LVEH* in the entry **Stickie**, where it is explained that this is a term

used for a member of Sinn Féin – but there is no explanation of what Sinn Féin is, and there is no reference to (Northern) Ireland. Moreover, this explanation is not correct, as **Stickie** refers to a member of the Official (as opposed to the Provisional) IRA.²²

Several other abbreviations and terms connected primarily to Northern Ireland appear in these dictionaries: **first minister**, **INLA**, **IRA**, **Orangeman**, **(the) Orange Order**, **Provie**, **Provo**, **RUC**, **UDA**, **UDR**, **UVF**. All of these figure in *LVEH* with the exception of **(the) Orange Order**, while **first minister**, **Provie**, **Provo**, and **Stickie** do not appear in Magay. In the case of abbreviations, *LVEH* only provides the expansion, while sometimes Magay also gives an explanation between angle brackets. **Orangeman** also appears in *LVHE* in the entry for ‘protestáns’, as the equivalent of ‘északír protestáns’ (= Northern Irish Protestant); thus one of the equivalents of **Orangeman** given in the English-Hungarian dictionary, ‘észak-írországi protestáns unionista’ (= Northern Irish Protestant Unionist) is not provided here. **IRA** also appears in an example sentence in *MHE* in the entry for **vállal**: {**az IRA magára vállalta a robbantást** the IRA has claimed (responsibility for) the bombing in...} It is interesting to note that a very similar example can be found in *LVHE*, but here the IRA is not mentioned: **magára vállalja a robbantást** claim/assume responsibility for the bombing.

b) Terms connected to the Republic of Ireland (6)

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>
Celtic fringe	–	–	Celtic¹ mn kelta the Celtic fringe Skócia, Írország és Wales, kelta szegély
(the) Dáil	–	–	Dáil Eireann, the Dáil «az ír alsóház»
Dáil Éireann	–	–	Dáil Eireann, the Dáil «az ír alsóház»
Irish Free State	IFS = Irish Free State	–	–
Taoiseach	Taoiseach Írország miniszterelnöke; ír miniszterelnök	miniszterelnök (...) ÍRORSZÁGBAN Taoiseach	–

²² *Oxford English Dictionary (OED)* (online), Oxford, Oxford University Press, <https://www.oed.com/>, (accessed 17 March 2026).

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>
Celtic tiger	Celtic ² MNÉV (...) the Celtic tiger a kelta tigris [az ír gazdaság az ezredfordulót megelőző és követő évtizedben]	kelta ² MNÉV (...) a kelta tigris (az ír gazdaság az ezredfordulót megelőző és követő évtizedben) the Celtic Tiger	–

Table 13

Interestingly, there is no overlap between the two dictionary pairs, as three lexical items belonging to this category appear in each. For the historical term **Irish Free State** no Hungarian equivalent or explanation is given.

Based on tables 12 and 13, it can be stated that the primary focus of these dictionaries seems to be on Northern Ireland. The following terms connected to history, politics, and institutions cannot be found in any of the dictionaries examined, although one may come across them not only in Irish newspapers, but also in British ones (in alphabetical order): **Anglo-Irish** (although several terms with the prefix **Anglo-** can be found in these dictionaries, e.g. **Anglo-Catholic**, **Anglo-Frisian**, **Anglo-Indian**), **Áras an Uachtaráin** (the residence of the president of Ireland), **Dublin Castle** (which serves as a government complex), **Fianna Fáil** (the name of one of the dominant political parties in the Republic), **Fine Gael** (the name of one of the dominant political parties in the Republic), **Garda/Gardaí** (the Irish police), **Leinster House** (seat of the Parliament), **Seanad Éireann** (the upper house of the Irish parliament), **Shinner** (a derogatory term for a supporter of Sinn Féin), **TD / Teachta Dála** (a member of the Irish parliament), **Uachtarán** (the president of Ireland), **Tánaiste** (deputy prime minister), **UUP** (Ulster Unionist Party). Most of these are connected to the Republic of Ireland.

IV.

FOOD AND DRINK (8)

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>	<i>MHE</i>
Irish breakfast	full ² 10. bőséges; kiadós [pl. étkezés] full English/Scottish/Irish breakfast (mindent tartalmazó) meleg angol/skót/ír reggeli			

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>	<i>MHE</i>
Irish coffee	Irish coffee ír kávé [tejszínes/ whiskys]	–	Irish coffee konyha ír kávé [viszkis- tejszínes kávé]	–
Irish stew	Irish stew ír (birka-/ ürü)pörkölt krumplival	birkapörkölt (...) hagymás birkapörkölt krumplival Irish stew	Irish¹ mn ír, írországi Irish stew konyha kb. ír (birka)gulyás	Irish¹ mn (...) Irish stew ír ürügulyás
Irish whiskey	Irish whiskey ír whisky	–	–	–
Liffey water	Liffey water [!] Guinness sör	–	–	–
poteen	poteen ír ír zug- pálinka; ír burgon- yapálinka	burgon- yapálinka ír poteen; potheen krumpli- pálinka ír poteen; potheen zugpálinka (...) ír potheen; poteen	poteen whisky [engedély nélkül párolt ír whisky]	cefre fn mash , crushed fruit cefrébe megy will be used for making poteen pálinka fn kb. brandy, kb. spirit, [házi, kb.] poteen
shebeen	shebeen VAGY shebean ÍR SKÓT AFR zugkocsma; bögrecsárda	bögrecsárda ZUGKOCSMA shebeen; shebean pálinkamérés gin palace; TITKOS shebeen; shebean zugkocsma (...) shebeen; shebean	shebeen zugkocsma, bögrecsárda	–

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>	<i>MHE</i>
sláinte	slainte VAGY sláinte VAGY slàinte ír egészségedre!; egészségetekre!; egészségére!; egészségükre!	-	-	-

Table 14

Eight lexical items are presented in the table above. In *LVEH*, all of them are connected either explicitly or implicitly to Ireland. (**Liffey water** would be implicit, as the Liffey is the river of Dublin.) There are corresponding entries in *LVHE* for only three of the *LVEH* entries, and the Irish connection is not indicated in the ones for **shebeen**. *MEH* has only four out of the eight items of *LVEH*, and no Irish usage is indicated for **shebeen**. **Irish stew** and **poteen** also figure in the corresponding entries in *MHE*, but **Irish coffee** and **shebeen** do not.

V.

MUSIC AND DANCE (8)

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>
bodhrán	bodhran VAGY bodhrán bodhrán (dob); ír/ skót népi hangszer	–	–
ceilidh	ceilidh tradicionális ír/skót tánc(mulatság)	–	ceilidh SC IRE ‹falusi mulatság skót v. ír néptáncal, zenével és énekléssel›
Celtic harp	Celtic ² MNÉV kelta Celtic harp kelta hárfa	kelta ² MNÉV Celtic; Keltic; Gaelic kelta hárfa Celtic harp; clarsach	
clarsach	clarsach kelta hárfa	hárfa harp kelta hárfa Celtic harp; clarsach	–

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>
Irish harp	Irish harp ír hárfá	ír hárfá Irish Harp	–
Irish night	–	–	night 2. est, este [program] an Irish/Scottish night ír/skót est [zenés, táncos]
Irish whistle	Irish whistle (ír) furulya	–	–
reel	reel 4. gyors skót/ír tánc(zene)	–	reel 5. «gyors skót tánc» reel

Table 15

Eight lexical items connected to music and dance are given in the table above. Seven of these appear in *LVEH* (with the exception of **Irish night**), but only three (**ceilidh**, **Irish night**, and **reel**) in *MEH*. The Irish (or Celtic) connection is always indicated with the exception of **reel** in *MEH*, as only a Scottish reference is given there.

VI.

ANIMALS AND PLANTS (5)

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>	<i>MHE</i>
Irish bred	–	–	breed ² II. 1. szaporít, tenyészt [állatot, növényt] Irish bred ír tenyésztésű [ló]	tenyésztésű (-)bred ír tenyésztésű [ló] Irish bred, of Irish breeding
Irish elk	–	óriásszarvas giant deer; Irish elk	–	–

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>	<i>MHE</i>
Irish moss	Irish moss ital/orvosság/ zselé formában [főleg Írországbán] használt vörös színű tengeri növény	–	–	–
Irish setter	Irish Setter ír szetter	–	Irish setter ír szetter	–
Irish wolfhound	Irish Wolfhound ír farkaskutya	ír ³ MNÉV (...) ír farkaskutya Irish wolfhound	–	–

Table 16

Five lexical items belong to this category, and there is only a 20% overlap in the two dictionary pairs, as only **Irish setter** appears in both *LVEH* and *MEH*. According to the *Oxford English Dictionary (OED)*, in **Irish setter** and **Irish wolfhound** the initial letter of the second word is not capitalized; however, there are many examples on the internet with capitals.

VII.

OTHER CULTURAL TERMS (12+4)

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>
banshee	banshee FNÉV banshee; halálesetet sikollyal előre jelző női kísértet [Írországbán] she was up in the night wailing like a banshee éjjel fenn volt, és banshee módjára sikoltozott banshee ² IGE rikoltozik; kiabál; zajong	rikoltoz VAGY rikoltozik (...) banshee	banshee, banshie <i>fn</i> «nőnemű kísértet, aki sikolyával előre jelzi egy családtag halálát [Írországbán, Skóciában]»

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>
Celtic cross	Celtic ² MNÉV (...) Celtic cross kelta kereszt	kelta ² MNÉV (...) kelta kereszt Celtic cross kereszt 1. cross kelta kereszt Celtic cross	–
Celticism	Celticism kelticizmus	kelticizmus Celticism	–
Celtic Studies	Celtic ² MNÉV kelta Celtic studies/ scholarship keltisztika; keltológia Celtic studies scholar / Celtic scholar keltológus	keltisztika VAGY keltológia Celtic/Keltic studies/scholarship	
Celtic scholar / Celtic Studies scholar	Celtic ² MNÉV kelta Celtic studies scholar / Celtic scholar keltológus	keltológus Celtic/Keltic scholar; Celtic/ Keltic studies scholar; Celticist	
Gaelic football	Gaelic football [15 fős csapatok közötti] ír football	–	–
hurling	hurling 2. ír hokifajta	gyephoki VAGY gyeplabda (field) hockey; SKÓT VÁLTOZATA shinty; ÍR VÁLTOZATA hurling	hurling 2. [egy fajta] hokizás [Írországbán]
Irish bull	bull 5. (Irish) bull önellentmondás	–	–
(Irish culture)	Irish ² MNÉV (...) Irish culture az ír kultúra		
Irish country hat	Irish country hat horgászkalap; surdakalap	horgászkalap (...) Irish country hat surdakalap (...) Irish country hat	–

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>
(Irish films)		játszik 5. a Mars moziban/ színházban ír filmeket/darabokat játszanak Irish films/plays are on at the Mars cinema/theatre	
Irish joke	Irish joke ír vicc [„rendőrvicc”]		
(Irish legend)	legend 2. mondavilág in Irish legend az ír legendavilágban	legenda 1. legend (...) régi ír legenda old Irish legend	
(Irish plays)		játszik 5. a Mars moziban/ színházban ír filmeket/darabokat játszanak Irish films/plays are on at the Mars cinema/theatre	
leprechaun	leprechaun kobold [ír néphitben]	kobold (...) leprechaun	leprechaun manó [ír néphitben], kobold
punt	punt 4. ír font [pénzegység]	–	punt 4. ír font [Írország pénzegysége az euró bevezetése előtt]

Table 17

Twelve lexical items and four phrases (**Irish culture**, **Irish films**, **Irish legend** and **Irish plays**) appear in this category. (**Irish culture**, **Irish films**, **Irish legend**, and **Irish plays** are not real compounds but phrases consisting of a noun + adjective.) The connection to Ireland or to Celtic culture is indicated in all of these cases in *LVEH* (with the exception of **banshee** functioning as a verb; however, the verb form here must be a mistake, as no other monolingual English dictionary seems to have it). Only four of these can be found in *MEH* as well: **banshee**, **hurling**, **leprechaun**, and **punt**. *LVHE* has eleven of these in the corresponding entries, but the Irish connection is not always indicated.

Gaelic Athletic Association, GAA (abbreviation of the aforementioned), **Gaeltacht** (Irish-speaking district) were also looked up, but were not found in these dictionaries.

VIII.

SOME OTHER IRISH ENGLISH LEXICAL ITEMS OR MEANINGS (6)

In this section, some Irish English lexical items and meanings are discussed. A search was made for many items in *LVEH*, *MEH*, the *OALD*, and the *OED*, and those that appear only in the *OED* or whose Irish English meanings appear only in the *OED* (e.g. **yoke** ‘a thing’) will not be discussed here, as the *OED* is the most comprehensive dictionary of the English language, thus it includes a considerable amount of lexical data that other dictionaries would not.²³ In the table below, only those headwords are listed where the connection to Irish usage is made either in *LVEH* or *MEH*.

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>
begorra	begorra ír 1. istenemre!; szavamra! 2. a nemjóját!; a teringettét!	–	–
colleen	colleen 1. ír lány; fiatal ír nő 2. ír lány; (fiatal) nő	–	colleen <i>régies IRE</i> leány
craic	craic ír 1. móka; mulatság just for the craic a móka kedvéért 2. duma; dumaparti	móka (...) ír craic mulatság (...) ír craic	craic <i>IRE</i> kellemes beszélgetés
glen	glen völgy; szurdok [<i>r.szerint Skóciában/Írországbán</i>] ²⁴	völgy (...) glen	glen <i>GB</i> völgy, szurdok, hegyszoros
lough	lough ír 1. tó 2. (hosszan benyúló) tengeröböl	–	lough <i>IRE</i> 1. tó 2. keskeny tengeröböl, tengerszoros

²³ *OED*, <https://www.oed.com/>, (accessed 10 November 2025).

²⁴ = usually in Scotland/Ireland

<i>Lexical item</i>	<i>LVEH</i>	<i>LVHE</i>	<i>MEH</i>
yous/ Youse	yous VAGY youse [!] ír ti; titeket; maguk; magukat I'm fed up with youse! elegem volt belőletek! I hope yous guys like it remélem, tetszeni fog nektek	–	–

Table 18

With this method, only a handful of entries have been found in *LVEH* (6), *LVHE* (1), and *MEH* (3) where it is indicated that the headword or one of its meanings is used specifically in Irish English or in connection with Ireland. (No such entries have been found in *MHE*.) These can be seen in the table above. Note that the connection of **glen** with Ireland is only indicated in *LVEH*. **Colleen**, **craic**, **glen**, and **lough** can be found in both *LVEH* and *MEH*. (*Colleen* also figures as a woman's name in *LVEH*.) Although the data are scant, what has been found seems to indicate that *LVEH* covers this aspect somewhat more extensively than *MEH*.

All of the words in the table above figure in both the *OED* and the *OALD*, and all of them are connected to Irish English or Ireland. **Glen** is also connected to Scotland, while in the case of **youse/yous**, the *OED* indicates that it is used in Scotland, Ireland, Australia, and the US; however, the *OALD* labels it as “non-standard, dialect”.²⁵

In two cases, the words in question also appear as the equivalents of some Hungarian entries in *LVHE*, but it is only in the case of **craic** that a reference is given to Irish English. In a couple of cases, example sentences are also given in the entries; these are also provided in the table above.

There are also some words in these English–Hungarian dictionaries that appear in the *OED* (but not in the *OALD*), where they are connected to Irish English, but this is not indicated in *LVEH* and *LVHE*. Such words, for example, are **banjax** / **banjaxed** ‘ruin, destroy’ / ‘ruined, destroyed’ (*LVEH*), **eejity** ‘idiotic’ (*LVEH*, *LVHE*), **feck** ‘damn’ (*LVEH*, *LVHE*), and **fecking** ‘despicable, damnable’ or ‘very, extremely’ (*LVEH*, *LVHE*). With the exception of **eejity**, these are labelled as “slang” in the *OED*, and they do not appear in *MEH* or *MHE*.²⁶ Some others appear both in the *OED* and the *OALD* with the Irish English label (and, with the exception of **eejit** in the *OED*, with the Scottish English label as well), for example, **eejit** ‘idiot’, or **press** ‘a large cupboard for holding clothes’. **Eejit** appears in *LVEH* and *LVHE*, but without any regional

²⁵ *OALD*, (accessed 12 November 2025).

²⁶ *OED*, (accessed 12 November 2025).

labels; and **press** does appear with this meaning in *LVEH* and *MEH*, but the only regional label that can be found is in *MEH*, and it is for Scottish usage.

CONCLUSION AND SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Although from the lexicographical point of view relatively few entries have been examined, still, quite a few interesting differences have been detected between *LVEH* and *MEH*, as well as some inconsistencies between *LVEH* and *LVHE*. If not counting the four phrases, then 120 lexical items are presented here, of which 93 can be found in the Lázár–Varga dictionaries, while 80 in the Magay ones. 52 items are shared by both. In general, it can be said that *LVEH* covers lexical items connected to Ireland and Irish English somewhat more extensively than *MEH*, which is not surprising considering the fact that the *LV* dictionaries are considerably larger in size; however, in the case of geographical names and first names, Magay's dictionaries contain more information.

When it comes to political terms, the focus seems to be more on Northern Ireland than on the Republic of Ireland, and in the case of Irish English lexical items and meanings, the connection is made in fewer cases than in the Oxford dictionaries. Some asymmetry has also been detected in corresponding entries in the reverse language direction. For example, one of the Hungarian equivalents given for **craic** is 'duma' in *LVEH*; however, under **duma** in *LVHE*, 'craic' is not given. Some gaps have also been identified: e.g. neither of the English–Hungarian dictionaries lists **TD** and **Irish Sea**. All in all, it can be stated that these are excellent dictionaries into which a huge amount of professional lexicographical work has been invested, and the minor inconsistencies and the gaps that have been identified here show how complicated the work of the lexicographer is. However, this paper also hopes to be useful to lexicographers in that it may lead to the reassessment of some editorial practices and their application. Specific recommendations for these dictionaries, however, would require more research, for example, into the treatment of the same items in the major monolingual English dictionaries for advanced learners.

Furthermore, research along these lines could be expanded to involve more English–Hungarian and Hungarian–English dictionaries, for example, by comparing older ones with the ones examined here, or comparing more dictionaries of different sizes, that is, pocket, concise, and comprehensive dictionaries. Comparison with monolingual English dictionaries for native speakers could also be a path to follow.

All in all, conducting this type of research can provide interesting insights into the choices that lexicographers make, and can also demonstrate that some aspects of the rich cultural tapestry of a speech community can indeed be presented in a dictionary.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND OF HUNGARIAN TERMS USED
IN THE DICTIONARY ENTRIES CITED

[!] – taboo word
fn – főnév – noun
 FNÉV – főnév – noun
 GB – Great Britain
 IGE – verb
 ÍR – Írország – Ireland
 IRE – Írország – Ireland
kb. – körülbelül – approximately
magy – magyar -- Hungarian
mn – melléknév – adjective
 MNÉV – melléknév – adjective
 OALD – *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*
 OED – *Oxford English Dictionary*
régies – old-fashioned, dated
 SC – Skócia – Scotland
szl – szleng – slang
tsz – többes szám – plural
 VAGY – or

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