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The hydronymic system of the Kalocsai Sárköz region (Hungary) as cultural heritage

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[1] Introduction

Topics of the presentation

- toponymy in general
- Hungarian National Toponym Registry
- water name system of the Kalocsai Sárköz
- typology of the semantic contents manifested in the feature-denoting name constituents of water names

Terminology

helynév (place name) ~ földrajzi név (geographical name)

mikronév (micro name) ~ mikrotoponima (microtoponym)

helynévrendszer (place name system)

névközösség (name-using community)

[2] Toponymy

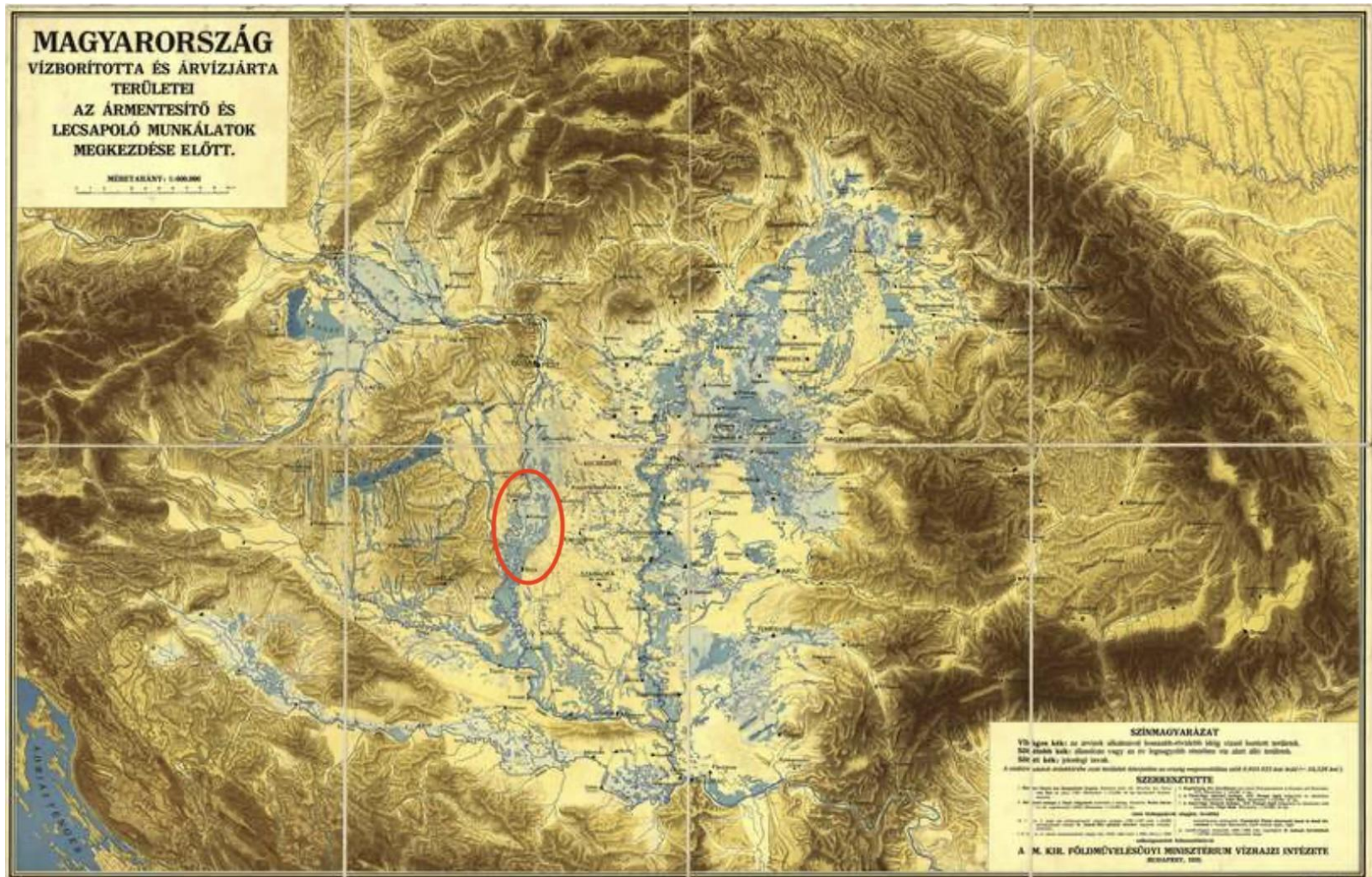
toponymic usage: distinctive phenomenon of human culture

acquisition of place names is inseparable part of both language acquisition and socialization

place name usage is a cultural universal

different historical periods, cultures, and social groups have different naming patterns □ the stock of **place names** is a central component of a community's **cultural heritage**

[4] Kalocsai Sárköz in the early 19th century



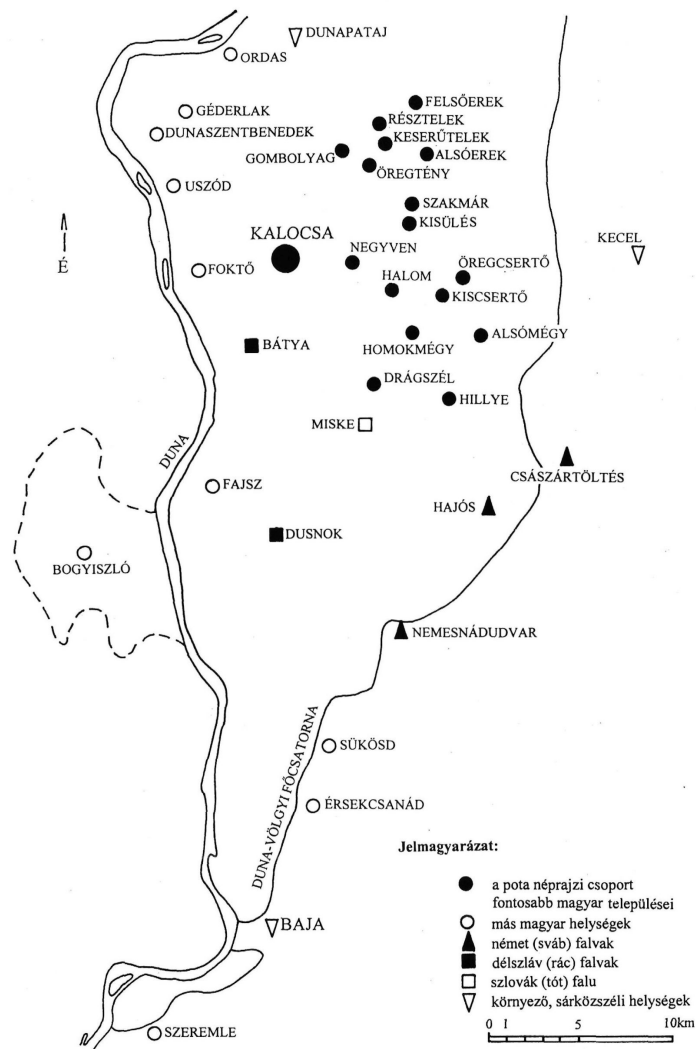
[5] A land between Danube and Sár waters

Sárköz: the area lies between two water bodies: the Danube, Hungary's largest river, and the Sár



[6] Analysing water names: the subject

the scope of investigation is determined by ethnographic, historical-demographic, and historical-geographical considerations



[7] The hydrographic network of the Sárköz

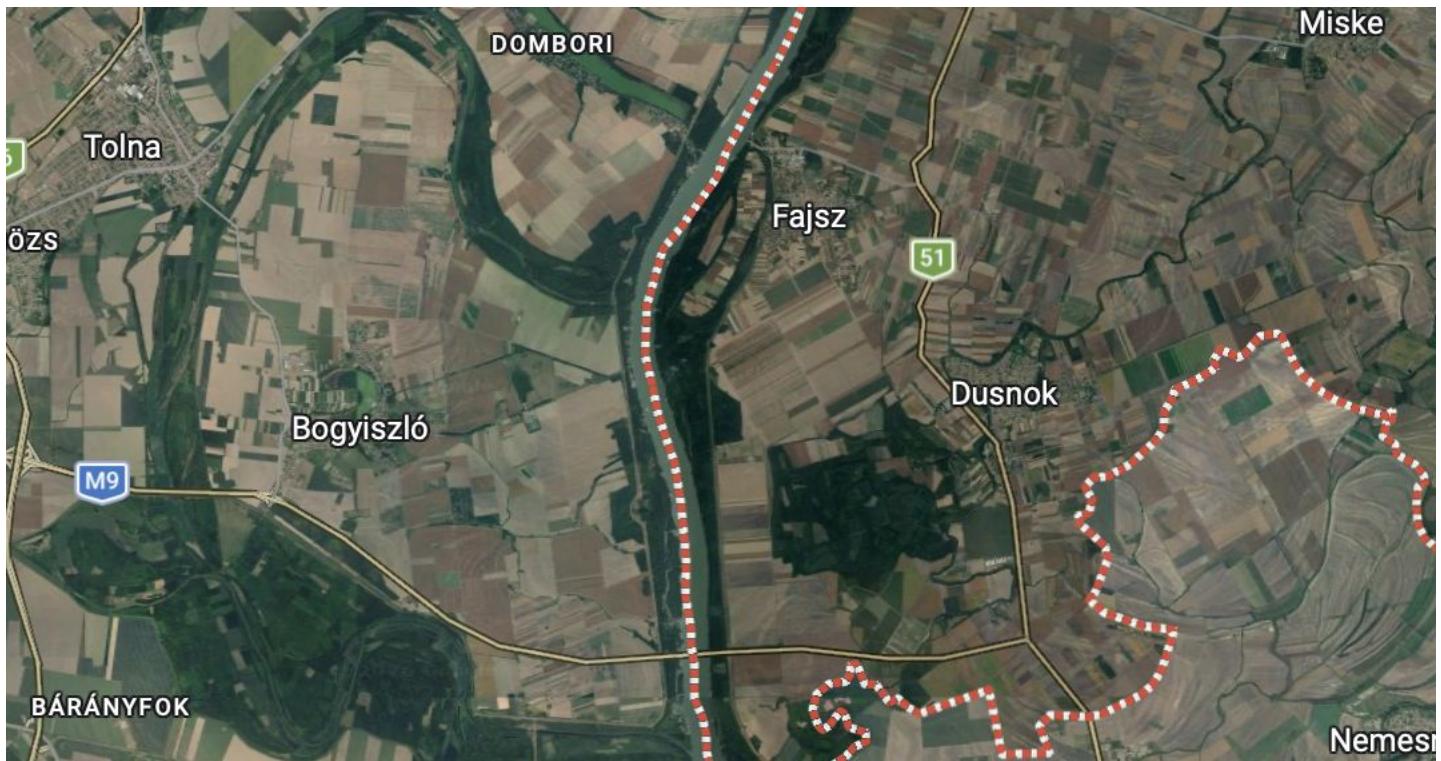
From the perspective of physical geography

- the Sárköz constitutes part of the Danube floodplain.
- dense and diverse hydrographic network until the mid-19th century
- in this area in Hungarian the smaller, and often regulated watercourses are called fok.



[8] Settlements of the Kalocsai Sárköz

Bátya, Bogyiszló, Császártöltés, Drágszél, Dunapataj, Dunaszentbenedek, Dusnok, Érsekcsanád, Fajsz, Foktő, Géderlak, Hajós, Homokmégy, Miske, Nemesnádudvar, Ordas, Öregcsertő, Sükösd, Szakmár, Újtelek, and Uszód



[9] From the 9th to the 18th century

Hungarian Conquest (9th century)

Ottoman occupation (16-17th century)

88% of the 130 villages destroyed and deserted by the end of the 17th century



[10] Factors affecting changes in name system

social changes

e.g. shifts in the composition of the population

transformations in socio-economic conditions and human ways of life

changes in the physical environment

during the ottoman occupation: plundering incursions, impoverishment and outmigration

[11] Desertation and repopulation

Under the ottoman occupation

- villages became *puszta* ('deserted settlements')
- their boundaries and lands were leased and cultivated by the inhabitants of neighboring villages
- the local toponymic system mostly vanished from the living language, but some place names were preserved in boundary surveys and land registers

After the ottoman occupation

- resettlement of the villages: settlers from various parts of the country
- Croatians in Dusnok and Bátya; Slovaks in Miske; Germans in Hajós, Nemesnádudvar, and Császártöltés
- the result is still-living bilingual toponymic systems

[12] Millenia old water names of the Sárköz

Physical geography

- the greatest influence was always exerted by the Danube
- in the early period: marshes, swamp forests and wet meadows
- regulation of the area's waters: the creation of the canals (*fok*)

Oldest water names

- Duna (Danube) is an ancient, Scythian-origin name, others are formed through Hungarian naming practices in the **11th century**
- *Árpás* (1061: *Alapas*)
- *Homród* (1061: *Chomurod*)
- *Likár* (1061: *Lycuar*)
- *Sár* (1061: *Sar*)
- *Vajas* (1061: *Vayos*)

[13] Etymology of the oldest water names

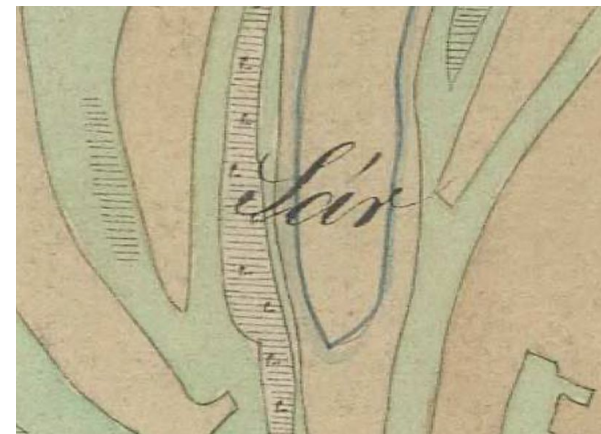
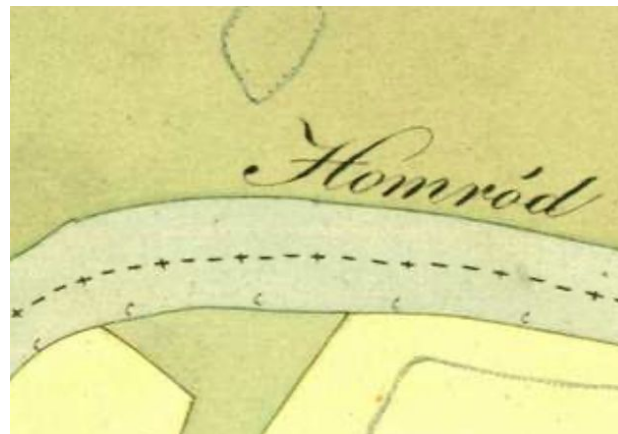
Árpás 'Barley' + -s adjectival suffix

Homród 'Concave' + -d locative suffix

Vajas 'Buttery'

Likár ?

Sár 'Mud'



[14] Typology of the feature-denoting name constituents

The structural analysis is based on the **name constituent functions** and the related regularities defined in the Hoffmann model (Hoffmann 2007).

- place names are functionally composed of either one or two constituent parts
- a name constituent may fulfil three different roles
 - feature-denoting function (e.g. **Vajas** 'buttery')
 - type-denoting function (e.g. **Vajas-fok** 'canal')
 - denotative function (e.g. Holt-**Vajas** 'a water named *Vajas*')

Categories in this typology are illustrated with examples selected from among the more than 1300 water names.

[15] Categories in feature-denoting name constituents

The feature-denoting name constituents of water names essentially capture either

1. some internal characteristic of the water
2. some external characteristic of the
3. the relationship of the water to another place
4. an event connected to the water

These categories may be further subdivided into more specific types.

[16] Referring to the internal characteristics

Concern a particular feature of the water (1.1)

- **colour** of the water: *Fekete-Vajas* ('Black Vajas') *Aranyos-három-fok* ('Golden Three Canal')
- **smell** of the water: *Büdös-kút* ('Smelly Well')
- **composition** of the water: *Vajas* ('Buttery'), *Sáros-lapály* ('Muddy Lake')
- **flow velocity** of the water: *Sebes-fok* ('Swift Canal').
- **temperature** of the water
- **sound** of the water

[17] Referring to the internal characteristics

Concern a particular feature of the bed of the water body (1.2)

- **size of the waterbody:** *Nagy-ér* ('Big Creek'), *Kis-fertő* ('Little Lake'), *Hosszú-palé* ('Long Lake')
- **shape of the channel:** *Kerek-kobolya* ('Round Lake'), *Görbe-fok* ('Crooked Canal')
- **drying up of the channel:** *Holt-fok* ('Dead Canal'), *Száraz-palé* ('Dry Lake'), *Vak-ér* ('Blind Creek')
- **material of the channel:** *Kavics-kobolya* ('Gravel Lake')
- **relief of the channel:** *Kotyola* ('Bumping'), *Lapos-tó* ('Flat Lake')
- **age of the channel:** *Új-kút* ('New Well')
- **formation of the channel:** *Kettős-kút* ('Double Well')
- **circumstances of its formation:** *Szakadék-kobolya* ('Chasm Lake', where the flood protection dam had broken)

[18] Referring to the external characteristics

Concern a natural or built feature of the environment surrounding the water (2.1)

- **vegetation surrounding the water:** Árpás ('Barley'), Kákás-palé ('Rushy Lake'), Mogyoró-mocsár ('Walnut Marsh')
- **animals living in or around the water:** Nyúl-kút ('Rabbit Well'), Tatos ('Tenchy'), Viza-völgy ('Beluga Valley')
- **building or structure situated on or near the water:** Szentegyházi-palé ('Church Lake'), Malom-ér ('Mill Creek').

[19] Referring to the external characteristics

Concern socio-economic relations connected to the water (2.2)

- **owner of the surrounding land or plot:** *Balog-fok* (*Balog* is a family name), *Cigány-kobolya* ('Gipsy Lake'), *Jegyző-kút* ('Notary Well')
- **function of the water:** *Mosó-fok* ('Wash Canal'), *Kanász-kút* ('Swineherd Well'), *Lófürdető* ('Horse Bath').



[20] Expressing the relationship of the water to other places

- **nearby locations:** *Nátkai-fok* ('Canal of Nátka'), *Patyomi-gödör* ('Canal of Patyom)
- **nearby settlements:** *Géderi-tó* ('Lake of Géder[lak]'), *Szentgál laposa* ('Lake of Szentgál')
- **relative position in relation to another place include:** *Fölső-kút* ('Upper Well'), *Külső-borjúkút* ('Outer Well')



[21] Referring to events connected to the water

A wide variety of narratives...

Mária-fok ('Mary Canal'), a record from 1864 states: „According to popular traditional belief, the **Virgin Mary was seen** by the elders bathing at that canal at night, and combing her hair under a willow tree standing not far from it.”



[22] Referring to events connected to the water

A wide variety of narratives...

Bujok basa fok ('Bujok Basa Canal')

- it is said that during the Ottoman period a **Turkish pasha fleeing** from the Hungarians was **captured** in this area. The term *bujok basa* itself is an Ottoman Turkish title.



[23] Referring to events connected to the water

Jézus-kobolya ('Jesus Lake') preserves in a humorous form the memory of an incident in which a travelling vendor of holy images fell into the lake, after which the holy images were seen floating on the surface of the water.



[24] Deadly waters

Among the feature-denoting name constituents referring to events...

Water names preserving the memory of drowning victims

Berényi-gödör, *Csanádi-fok*, and *Vidókné-kobolya* (whose first constituents are family names), and *Pap-kobolya* ('Priest Lake'), *Lányos-kobolya* ('Girl Lake') refer to persons, and a priest and children who drowned in the dangerous water body.



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Thank you for
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