

# CHANGES IN THE SETTLEMENT NAMES REFERRING TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

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# TYPOLOGICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE HUNGARIAN TOPONYMS

## FUNCTIONS DENOTING CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

### 1. settlement names referring to the human environment

- a. names created out of tribe's names, ethnonyms, names of professions and words denoting status (e.g. *Németfalu* 'German/village')
- b. names created out of personal names (e.g. *Peterd* <*Péter* personal n.+*-d*)

### 2. settlement names referring to the built environment, a human activity

- a. name-giving has been motivated by a building (e.g. *Fehéregyház* 'white/church')
- b. by an activity (e.g. *Újvásár* 'new/market')
- c. by an inherent characteristic feature of the settlement (e.g. *Nagybánya* 'large/mine')

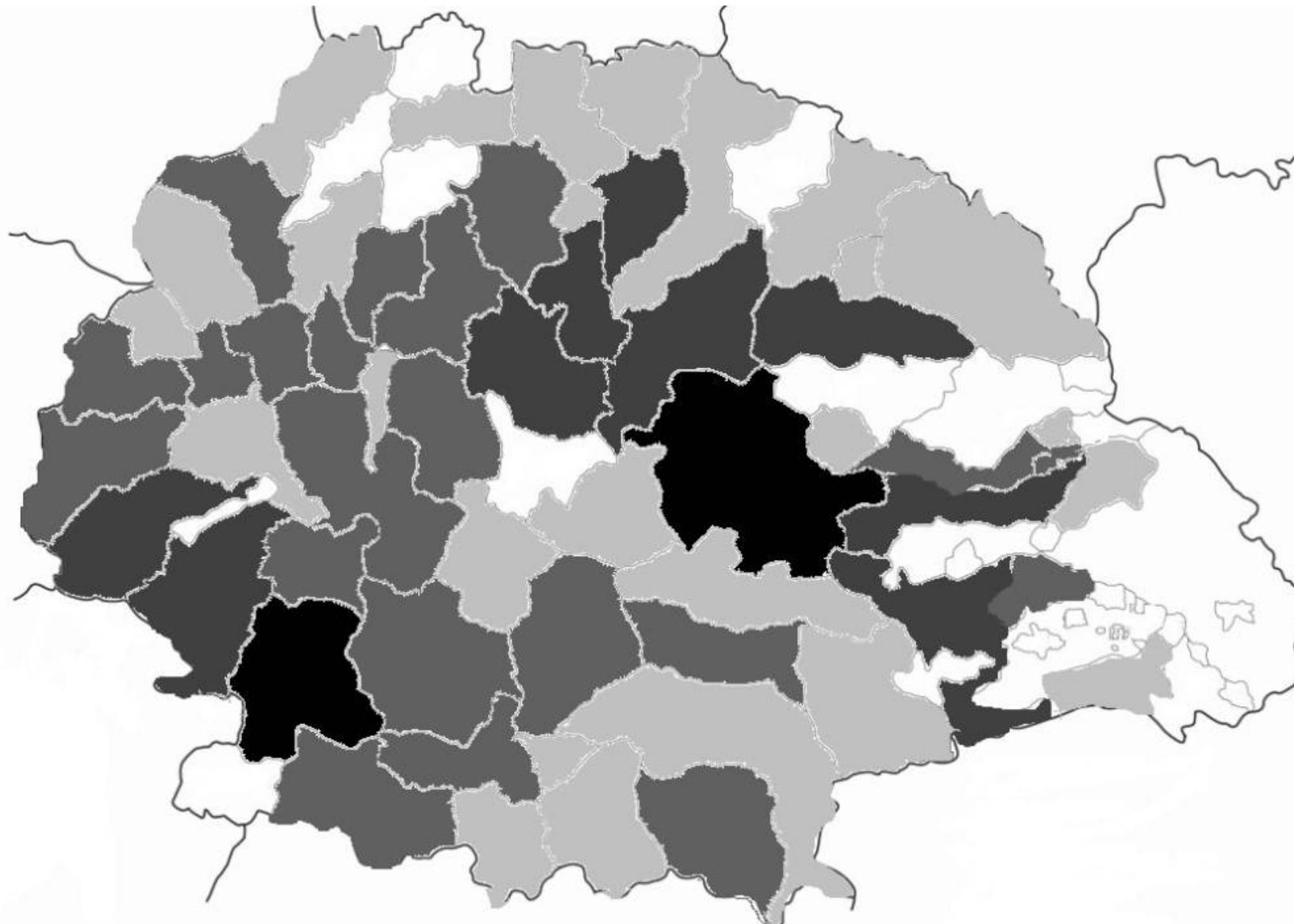
### 3. settlement names referring to the natural environment

- a. referring to a local relationship
- b. referring to a general geographical relationship (e.g. flora, fauna, geological nature)



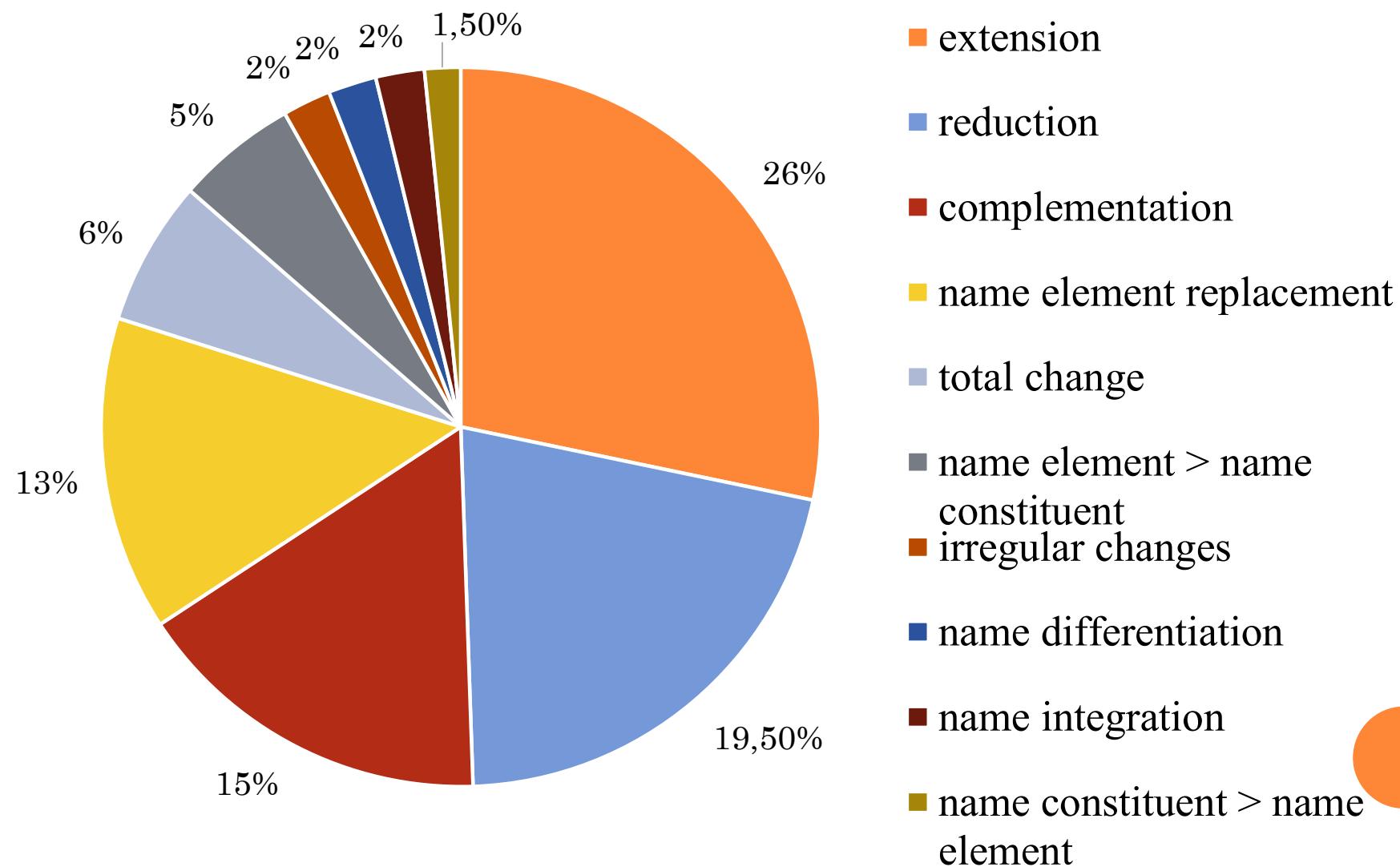
# HISTORICAL ONOMASTIC CORPUS

(2,193 SETTLEMENT NAMES IN THE 11<sup>TH</sup>-14<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES)



# SETTLEMENT NAMES REFERRING TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- historical onomastic corpus: 2,193 settlement names
- susceptibility of the names to change : 5%



## 1. FORMAL CHANGES

- Change the **formal structure** of names (lexical-morphological and sometimes the related functional-semantic structure)
- Denotative meaning remains unaffected

### Partial Changes:

- the increase (**extension**) or decrease (**reduction**) of name elements:  
26% + 19,5% of the settlement names
- **name element replacement** and **name component replacement**:  
13% + 2,5% of the settlement names
- **complementation** with geographical common words and attributive first constituent: 15% of settlement names
- **irregular changes**: re-semantization, de-semantization: 2% of the settlement names

**Total Change: name replacement:** 6% of the settlement names



## 2. COMPLEX CHANGES

- Change the **formal structure** of names
- Change the **denotative meaning**
  
- Name Differentiation
- Name Integration
- 4% of the settlement names



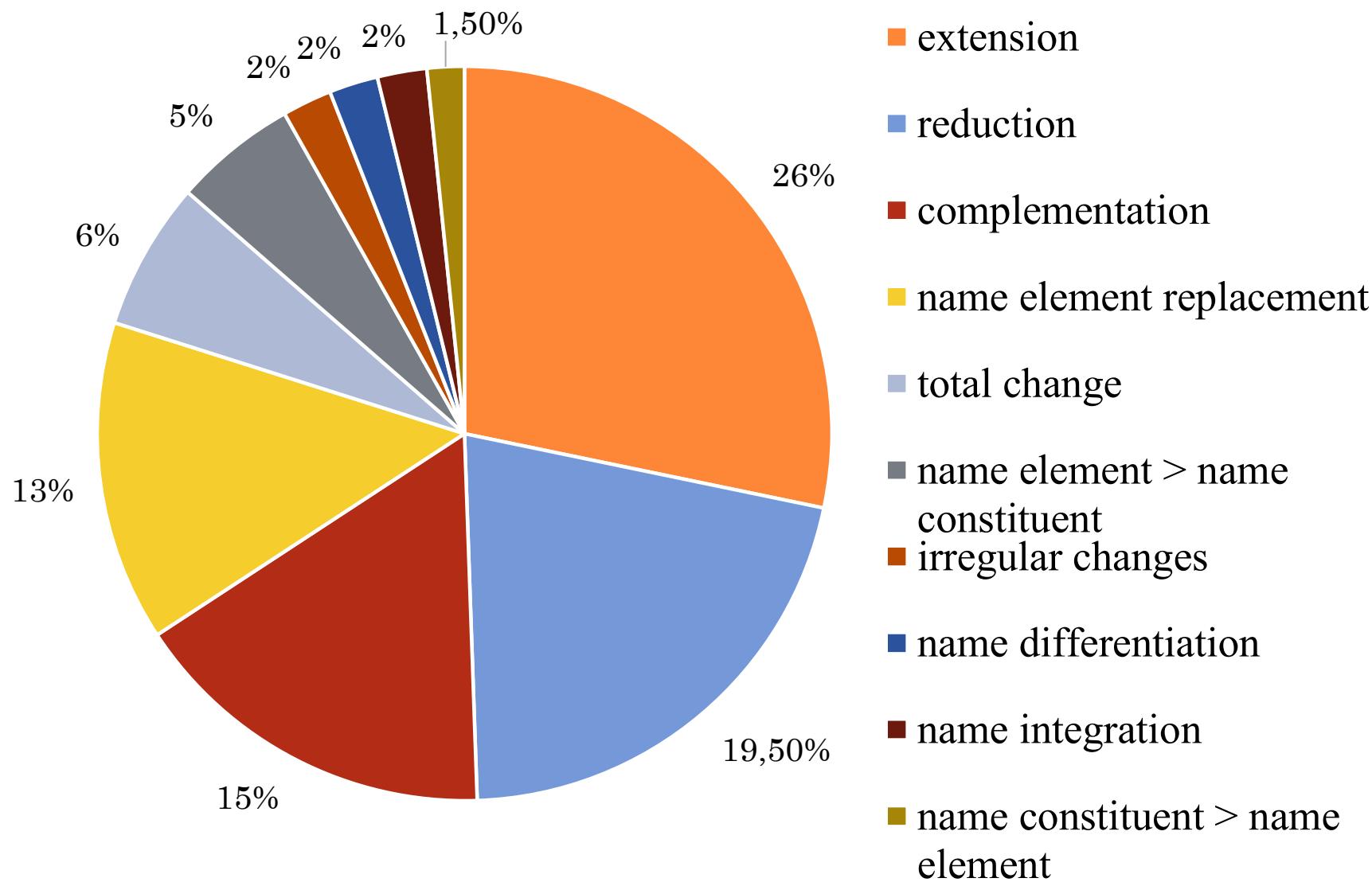
### 3. SEMANTIC CHANGES

- Change the **denotative meaning**
- Not always change the **formal structure** of names
- **Hierarchical** relations of names
- People's peculiar perception of space
- **No examples** among settlement names referring to the natural environment
  
- Extension of Meaning
- Narrowing of Meaning



# HISTORICAL ONOMASTIC CORPUS: 2,193 SETTLEMENT NAMES

## SUSCEPTIBILITY OF THE NAMES TO CHANGE : 5%



# 1. FORMAL CHANGES

## 1. Extension of name elements (26%)

**-d suffix:**

- *Árpa* (\*+1214/1334: *Arpa*, villa, Gy. 1: 595) > *Árpád* (1326: *Arpad*, p., villa, Gy. 1: 595), cf. *árpa* ‘barley’ + *-d*
- *Diós* (1330: *Gyous* ~ *Gyows*, possessio, Gy. 1: 854) > *Diósd* (1331: *Gyosd*, possessio, Gy. 1: 854), cf. *dió* ‘walnut’ + *-d*
- *Farkas* (1113: *Forcas*, villa, Gy. 4: 383) > *Farkasd* (+1278 [XIV.]: *Farkasd*, possessio, Gy. 4: 383), cf. *farkas* ‘wolf’ + *-d*
- *Szamár* (1208: *Samar*, villa, Cs. 4: 210) > *Szamárd* (1245: *Zamard*, villa, Cs. 4: 211), cf. *szamár* ‘donkey’ + *-d*



# 1. FORMAL CHANGES

## 1. Extension of name elements (26%)

### -s topoformant:

- *Alma* (1211/1252: *Alma*, Gy. 1: 270) > *Almás* (1338: *Almas*, Gy. 1: 270), cf. *alma* ‘apple’ + -s
- *Körtvély* (1208/1359: *Kurtuel*, villa ~ *Kurthuel*, Gy. 4: 155) > *Körtvélyes* ([1273–90]: *Curtueles*, villa ~ *Curtuelus*, Gy. 4: 155), cf. *körtvély* ‘pear’ + -s

### -i topoformant :

- *Ér* (\*1214/1550: *Her*, praedium, Gy. 1: 615) > *Éri* (1326: *Eery* ~ *Ery*, Gy. 1: 615), cf. *ér* ‘brook’ + -i
- *Parlag* (1330: *Parlag*, possessio, Gy. 3: 231) > *Parlagi* (1332: *Parlagy*, Gy. 3: 231), cf. *parlag* ‘unploughed land’ + -i



# 1. FORMAL CHANGES

## 1. Extension of name elements (26%)

### -Sg3. possessive suffix:

- *Árok* (1301: *Arok*, Gy. 3: 40, 67) > *Árka* (1302: *Arka*, Gy. 3: 67), cf. *árok* ‘trench’ + -a Sg3.poss. suffix
- *Sólyomtelek* (1331/1334: *Solumtelek*, Gy. 3: 131) > *Sólyomtelke* (1475: *Solyomtheleke*, TÓTH V. 2008: 128), ‘falcon/village’ + -e Sg3.poss. suffix

### -lexical elements:

- *Boldva* ([1295 k.]: possessio et castrum *Boldua*, Gy. 1: 70) > *Boldvakő* (1300: *Bolduaku*, Gy. 1: 70), cf. toponym *Boldva* + *kő* ‘stone’
- *Hangony* (1214: *Hongun*, praedium, Gy. 2: 503) > *Hangonyvölgye* (1327: *Hangunuulge*, possessio, Gy. 2: 503), cf. toponym *Hangony* + *völgy* ‘valley’

# 1. FORMAL CHANGES

## 1. Extension of name elements

**! Alma > Almás**, cf. *alma* ‘apple’ + -s:

**1) natural name + topoformant:** (*alma* ‘apple’ plant name >) ***Alma*** river name > ***Almás*** river name > ***Almás*** settlement name,

**2) settlement name + topoformant:** (*alma* ‘apple’ plant name >) ***Alma*** river name > ***Alma*** settlement name > ***Almás*** settlement name



# 1. FORMAL CHANGES

## 2. Reduction (19,5%)

### topoformants:

- ***Fertőd*** (1234: *Ferteud*, villa, Cs. 3: 608) > ***Fertő*** (1265: *Ferteu*, villa, Cs. 3: 608), cf. *fertő* ‘marshy lake’
- ***Monyorós d*** (1270: *Monorosd* ~ *Monyorosd*, Cs. 2: 777) > ***Monyorós*** (1295: *Monorous*, possessio, Cs. 2:777), cf. *mogyoró* ‘wallnut’
- ***Haraszti*** (1342: *Harazty*, possessio, KMHsz. 1: 122) > ***Haraszt*** (1347: *Harazth*, KMHsz. 1: 122), cf. *haraszt* ‘kind of oak tree’
- ***Kórógy*** (\*1323: *Chorog*, Gy. 1: 635) > ***Kóró*** (1335: *Chorow*, KMHsz. 1: 160), cf. *kóró* ‘a piece of wood’



# 1. FORMAL CHANGES

## 2. Reduction (19,5%)

### -Sg3. possessive suffix:

○ **Csabkuta** (1330: *Chobkuta*, Gy. 1: 292) > **Csabkút** (1341: *Chapkwth*, v., Gy. 1: 292), Personal name *Csab/ kút* ‘well-spring’

○ **Péterréve** (+1092/+1274//1399: *Peterreue*, v., DHA. 285) > **Péterrév** (+1247/+1284/1572: *Peturreu*, Gy. 1: 230), Personal name *Péter/ rév* ‘water crossing point’

### -lexical elements:

○ **Hódostó** (1219/550: *Hodosto*, villa, NÉMETH 2008: 113–114) ‘beaver/lake’ > **Hódos** (1328: *Hudus*, NÉMETH 2008: 114)

○ **Örvényesligete** (1336: *Wrwenusligethe*, TÓTH V. 2008: 100) ‘whirlpool/grove’ > **Örvényes** (1360: *Ewrwenes*, TÓTH V. 2008: 100)

# 1. FORMAL CHANGES

## 3. Name element replacement (13%)

**-gy > -d suffixes:**

- **Nyárágy** (1238/1377: *Narrag*, terra, Gy. 1: 793) > **Nyárád** (1317: *Narad*, villa, Gy. 1: 793), cf. *nyárfa* ‘poplar’ + topoformants
- **Debregy** (1255: *Debregy*, Gy. 1: 76) > **Debrőd** (1427: *Debred*, Cs. 1: 205), cf. *debrő* ‘valley’ + topoformants

**other topoformants:**

- **Mogyoród ~ Mogyorós** (1269/1294: *Munorod* ~ *Munoros*, Gy. 1: 299), cf. cf. *mogyoró* ‘wallnut’ + topoformants
- **Örvénd** (1282: *Vluend*, Gy. 1: 649) > **Örvényes** (1360: *Ewruenes*, Cs. 1: 599), cf. *örvény* ‘whirlpool’ + topoformants



# 1. FORMAL CHANGES

## 3. Name component replacement (2,5%)

- **Tengerfalva** (1418: *Thengerfalva*, Cs. 1: 219) cf. ‘water, see’/*falu* ‘village’ > **Tengerlaka** (1420: *Tengerlaka*, Cs. 1: 219) cf. ‘water, see’/*lak* ‘village’
- **Árpádfölde** ([1332 k.]>1412: *Arpadfelde*, Gy. 3: 404), cf. Personal name Árpád/ *föld* ‘land’ > **Árpatelek** (1415: *Arpatelek*, TÓTH V. 2008: 145), cf. Personal name Árpa/ *telek* ‘land, village’

# 1. FORMAL CHANGES

## 4. Complementation (15% of settlement names)

### A. geographical common words meaning ‘settlement’ (11%):

- *Erdő* (1221/1550: Nic. de villa *Erdei*, Gy. 1: 77) ‘forest’ > *Erdőfalva* (1272>1344: *Erdeufalua*, Gy. 1: 77) ‘forest/village’
- *Vadas* (1227: *Wodos*, terra, Cs. 3: 634) ‘wild’ > *Vadasfalva* (1280: *Vadosfolua*, terra, Cs. 3: 634) ‘wild/village’
- *Mák* ([1278]/1278: *Mak*, Gy. 3: 114) ‘poppy-seed’ > *Mákegháza* (1456: *Maakeghaza*, TÓTH V. 2008: 73) ‘poppy-seed/village’
- *Almás* (1234 k./XV.: *Almas*, terra, Gy. 1: 593) > *Almásmonostora* ([1291–94]: *Almasmunustura*, Gy. 1: 593) ‘apple/village’
- *Árok* (1301: *Aruk*, Gy. 3: 67) ‘trench’ > *Árokszállás* (1396: *Aruckzallas*, TÓTH V. 2008: 72) ‘trench/village’



## 1. FORMAL CHANGES

### 4. Complementation (15% of settlement names)

#### B. attributive first constituent (4%):

- **Büked** (1208/1395: *Bucchid* ~ *Bucehid*, terra, Gy. 1: 714) > **Kerekbüked** (1347: *Kerekbeuked*, possessio, Cs. 2: 195) ‘round/beech’
- **Mohi** (1295: *Muh*, Gy. 1: 462) > **Árkosmohi** (1325>1416: *Arkusmahi* ~ *Arkusmoh*, possessio, Gy. 1: 462) ‘trench/moss’
- **Haraszti** (1333: *Harazthi*, possessio ~ *Harazthy*, Gy. 1: 719) > **Szentbenedekharaszti** (1342: *Zenbeneduk Harazthy*, p., KMHsz. 1: 256), cf. patron saint of the church *Szentbenedek*/‘kind of oak tree’
- In comparison: among tribe’s names: 87%, patrociny names: 30%



## 1. FORMAL CHANGES

### 5. Irregular changes (2% of settlement names)

- **Zsábokrék** (1282: *Zabakrek*, FNESz., lexically non-transparent) > **Zsámbokrét** (1292: *Sabochret*, Mályusz 1922/2014: 79), cf. *rét* ‘meadow’
- **Kőkút** (1263/16th century: *Kewkwth*), cf. ‘stone/well-spring’ > **Kékkút** (1569: *kek kwth*, FNESz.), ‘colour blue/well-spring’

# 1. FORMAL CHANGES

## 6. Total change: Name replacement (6% of settlement names)

- *Disznó* (1055: *gisnav*) ‘pig’ > *Apáti* (1267/1296: *Gesnov vel Apathy*), ‘abbot’s’
- *Erdőfalva* (1272>1344: *Erdeufalua*, Gy. 1: 77) ‘forest/village’ > *Didic* (1329/1406/1489: *Dydych*, t., Gy. 1: 77), cf. Personal name *Didic*
- *Hagymás* ‘onion’ ~ *Désfalva* ‘personal name *Dés*/village’ ([1270-72]>137
- *Őrhalom* (\*1310>358: *Herholm*, Gy. 2: 80) ‘guard/hill’ ~ *Márkháza* ‘personal name *Márk*/village’ (1318: *Markhaza*, v.; 1348: *Eurholm* ... *alio nomine Markhaza*, Gy. 2: 80)
- In comparison: among tribe’s names: 0%, patrociny names: 36%

## 2. COMPLEX CHANGES

- Change the **formal structure** of names
- Change the **denotative meaning**
- 4% of the settlement names
- historical changes of settlements

- **Name Integration:**

*Szurdok* ‘canyon’ (1234/1243: *Zurdok*, Gy. 1: 150) + *Bénye* (1293/1496: *Benye*, Gy. 1: 150) > *Szurdokbénye* (1326/1375: *Zudukbenye* ~ *Zurdukbenye*, Gy. 1: 149–150)

*Harsány* ‘linden’ + *Kér* (1267: *Horsan et Keer*, KMHSz. 1: 124) >  
*Harsánykér* (1297/1424/1783: *Harsankér*, p., Gy. 1: 221, 223)

- **Name Differentiation:**

*Árpád* (1181: *Arpad*, Gy. 1: 271) > *Olaszárpád* (1332–5/PR.: Jo. de *Arpad Gallico* ~ *Holas Arpad*, Gy. 1: 271)



## SUSCEPTIBILITY OF THE NAMES TO CHANGE

- **settlement names referring to the natural environment: 5%**  
(purely linguistic reasons: 4%) e.g. *Almás* ‘apple’ + -s, *Erdő* ‘forest’
- **settlement names formed from names of tribes:** maximum 1% (e.g. *Kér*, *Nyék*)
- **Patrociny settlement names:** 17% (e.g. *Szentmária* ‘Saint Mary’, *Boldogasszony* ‘blessed lady’)

### Linguistic reasons: e.g.

- **social prevalence of the names**
- **etimological identifiability**
- **avoid name homonymy**
- **analogy**

### Extra-linguistic reasons: e.g.

- **changes in landowners**
- **changes in ethnic composition**
- **changes in the history of the settlement**



**Thank you for your attention.**

