

TOWARDS ANALOGY IN TOPONYMS

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Abstract: The paper is focused on toponyms whose nomination act or later development is connected with the process of analogy. Two main types of analogy are analysed: (1) analogy based on motivation of toponyms and (2) formal analogy. The first type of analogy affects the nomination act; its use often leads either to a rise of an opposition or to a creation of a local toponymic system. The second type of analogy analysed influences the development of individual toponyms: the form of one name can cause a change in the form and/or grammatical properties of other names.

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It is a generally accepted fact that toponyms do not exist as isolated entities; they create a structured system in every language, but also a partial, local system in every region and every locality. We can detect many connections and relationships among the individual names in a given region or locality; one toponym often influences the motivation or form of another. This paper¹ is focused on some cases of toponyms whose nomination process or later development is connected with the process of analogy. Though the notion of analogy can be delimited rather broadly, this paper deals only with such cases in which one name (or several names) influence(s) another name (other names) coming into existence or already existing in the same locality.

Two main types of analogy will be analysed: (1) analogy based on motivation of toponyms and (2) formal analogy. The first type of analogy affects the nomination process; it usually leads either to a rise of an opposition (one toponym determines the occurrence of another toponym, which in a way imitates the motivation structure of the first toponym) or to a creation of a local toponymic system. The second type of analogy analysed usually influences the development of individual toponyms: the form of one name can cause a change in the form and sometimes also grammatical properties of other names. In some cases, however, this type of analogy may also affect the creation of new names.

The material basis of my paper consists of Czech toponyms – settlement names (oikonyms), non-settlement names and street names.

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Analogy based on motivation

The motivational relationship among individual toponyms can be either direct, or analogical. In the first case, the motivation is based on identical or similar facts; for example, the streets in a part of Prague called *Zahradní Město* ‘garden town’ are named according to various kinds of flowers, e.g. *Tulipánová* ‘tulip’, *Petrklíčová* ‘primrose’, *Pampelišková* ‘dandelion’, *Kosatcová* ‘iris’, etc. (Laštovka a Ledvinka 1998: 453). Such cases are often a result of systemised name-giving (cf. Wahlberg 2004). This kind of motivational relationship is not the subject of this paper. In the second case, the motivational relationship is analogical. The motivation of the newly created name(s) based on motivational analogy differs substantially from the motivation of the original name used as model for the formation of the new name(s).

For example, the name of the little town of *Senožaty* in South-Eastern Bohemia is derived from the noun *seno* ‘hay’ and a form of the verb *žnout* ‘mow’. It is therefore interpreted as ‘village of people mowing grass and drying hay’. Near this little town, founded in the 14th century, a new village was founded in 1730 by the manorial nobility from *Senožaty*. It received the name *Otavožaty*; the first element *otava* means ‘aftermath, rowen, second harvest of grass’. In the historical document concerning the founding of the new colony it is stated: “Just as after the first hay harvest comes the second harvest – *otava* ‘aftermath’ –, similarly after *Senožaty* their new colony of *Otavožaty* came into existence” [translated by the author] (Profous 1951: 304–305). These two toponyms create an opposition; the analogical relationship between the two names is based on a metaphorical use of the original name. This historical evidence is immensely interesting, for it captures the process of motivational analogy.

The following parts of the paper will illustrate this process by several examples from the field of street names.

A street in the Prague quarter of *Ďáblice* is called *Květnová* ‘May street’. Its original name, used before the original community of *Ďáblice* became a part of the capital of Prague, was *5. května* ‘street of May 5th’, reminding of the Prague anti-Nazi uprising in May 1945. There already was a street called *5. května* in Prague, therefore the street got a new name, *Květnová*, in 1971. A nearby street got a new name following the same pattern: *Říjnová* ‘October street’, commemorating the Great October Revolution in Russia (1917) (Laštovka et al. 1997: 389; Laštovka et al. 1998: 168). These two names have a similar motivation: the memory of an event that took place in a certain month. In 2005, a number of new streets came into existence in this locality and six of them got analogically created names: *Březnová*, *Červnová*, *Červencová*, *Srpnová*, *Zářijová* and *Prosincová* – ‘March, June, July, August, September, and December street’ (Jišová et al. 2012: 37). These street names are not motivated according to any historical events anymore; they have been formed analogically, just in order to form a unified system of street names.

Unlike the preceding example of analogy, the aim of which was to create a system of street names, the next example illustrates its use for creating an opposition. The street *Na staré silnici* ‘on the old road’ in the Prague quarter of *Horní Počernice* was built on the remains of the old road leading from Prague eastwards (Laštovka et al. 1997: 526). In 2005 a new street parallel to *Na staré silnici* got the name *Na nové silnici* ‘on the new road’ (Jišová

et al. 2012: 112). No road had ever existed here before; this name, mechanically creating this opposition, is merely analogical without any additional motivation.

A street in Velká Chuchle (another part of Prague) is called *Na hvězdárně* ‘at the (astronomical) observatory’ since the 1950s (Lašťovka et al. 1997: 493). However, no such observatory had ever existed in this locality; the name is metaphorical, expressing the location of the street on a hill with a beautiful view. Nevertheless, the original metaphorical motivation has been forgotten, and new street names with “astronomical” motivation came into existence in this locality in 2010, namely *Hvězdářská* ‘astronomical’ and *Mrkosova* ‘Mrkos street’, commemorating a prominent Czech astronomer Antonín Mrkos (1918–1996) (Jíšová et al 2012: 58 and 107).

A part of the city of Olomouc is called *Nový Svět* ‘New World’. This name came into existence as a metaphorical designation of a new settlement (Hosák and Šrámek 1980: 528). No direct relationship with the “new” continent of America can be found here. Despite this fact, a process of reinterpretation similar to the preceding example took part also in this case and several street names connected with the continent of America and its discovery were created here, namely *Vikingská* ‘Viking street’, *Kolumbova* ‘Columbus street’, *Kanadská* ‘Canadian street’ and *Pittsburská* ‘Pittsburgh street’.

One more interesting example concerning the motivational analogy is worth mentioning. This example is different, because a toponym was formed analogically not on the basis of another toponym, but an anthroponym. Therefore, this example can be linked to the preceding cases only loosely; unlike the foregoing examples, this name is not official and it was inspired by popular humour. A small part of the town of Řevnice (near Prague) got its name *Vatikán* ‘Vatican’ due to the fact that a person with the surname *Papež* ‘the Pope’ lived here.

Formal analogy

As mentioned above, this type of analogy is connected mostly with the change of existing names. This issue, namely the role of analogy in reshaping toponyms, has been studied by V. Dalberg (2008). According to this author, “generally, only parts of the place-name are reshaped”. Though the individual parts are not always identical with the elements in the etymological sense, it can be stated that either the first or – more often – second part of the name is changed (Dalberg 2008: 68). In Danish, the majority of toponyms are compound names, thus these parts often correspond (though not exactly) to the individual components in the given compound name. The nature of Slavic toponymic systems is different: compound names form only a minority; a vast majority of Czech toponyms is formed by means of suffixation. If Dalberg’s general thesis should be applied on the Czech toponymic system, it can be stated that either the stem or the ending (a word-formation suffix or a grammatical ending) is altered.

Analogical change of the stem

The change of the stem of a toponym based on analogy with the name of a nearby geographical object can be illustrated by two instructive examples.

The original name of the present-day part of Prague *Bubeneč* was *Ovneč* or *Ovneč*. This name is connected with the diminutive common noun *ovneč* ‘little ram; lamb’. Later *Ovneč*

was changed to *Oveneč* and this form was influenced by the name of the nearby village of *Bubny*. On the basis of this analogy *Oveneč* turned to *Bubeneč* (Lutterer and Šrámek 1997: 57–58). The origin of the name *Bubny* is completely different, of course; it is formed from the plural ending *-y* from the personal name *Buben* (from the common noun *buben* ‘drum’), meaning ‘village of the Buben family’ (Profous 1954: 218–219).

The second example is formed from the name of the spring called originally *Prdlavka*. This is a rather common Czech name of springs and natural wells reflecting the sound of the streaming, gushing water. This name is metaphorical, connected with the verb *prdět* ‘fart’. Since this verb is considered to be vulgar in Czech, it is not surprising that the name of the spring was changed to avoid undesirable associations. Again, the change was analogical in this case: the spring is located in the highlands called *Brdy* (*brdo* or *brd* is an orographic term meaning ‘comb; mountain ridge’). The name *Brdy* influenced the change of the first consonant in the name *Prdlavka*, which was changed to *Brdlavka*.

Analogical change of the ending

The name of the pond called *Budský rybník*, meaning ‘pond belonging to the village of *Budy*’, was changed to *Bucek*. This analogical change was influenced by several toponyms of nearby objects ending in *-ek*, namely the pond name *Lůžek*, the field name *Brodek* or the oikonym *Drnek*.

The field name *Držala*, occurring in several different places in Bohemia, was derived from the Old-Czech verb *držeti* ‘shiver, tremble’ (Gebauer 1903: 347); it referred to water-soaked, marshy, boggy, “trembling” terrain (Cuřín 1975: 215). However, the original meaning of this name soon became unclear and in several cases the original form *Držala* was changed to *Držadlo*. This change could be influenced by two factors: (1) the occurrence of field names ending in *-dlo* (like *Močidlo*, *Koupadlo*) in the close neighbourhood and (2) folk etymology, on the basis of which the original name *Držala* was assimilated to the common noun *držadlo* ‘handle’.

Also a mere change of the grammatical ending occurs in toponyms, which usually involves a change of the grammatical category of number. The change from singular to plural is more frequent. For example, the oikonym *Herink* acquired the plural ending *-y* and was temporarily changed to *Herinky* in the 19th century (Profous 1954: 612); this change in number was analogical, according to the plural names of the nearby villages of *Olešky*, *Popovičky*, *Voděrádky* or *Nupaky*. The opposite change can also occur sometimes: the oikonym *Bojovy* lost the plural ending *-y* and was changed to *Bojov* analogically, according to the names of the nearby villages ending in *-ov* (*Bratřínov*, *Brunšov*) (Profous 1954: 122).

Creation of new names based on formal analogy

The analogical creation of new names can be illustrated by an interesting example in which formal analogy is combined with analogy based on motivation. However, the motivation was evaluated incorrectly when creating the new name; for this reason this case is analysed rather within the category of formal analogy. The oikonym *Nedělišťe* was derived from the Old Czech common noun *nediel* (Profous 1951: 189), which was used as a medieval legal term denoting ‘a common property in which every participant had a

right to the whole of the property' (*Staročeský slovník* 3, 1971: 429). This noun is derived with the negative prefix *ne-* from the noun *díel* 'part'. But later the oikonym *Nedělišťe* was misunderstood and misinterpreted; it was associated with the common noun *neděle* 'Sunday'. On the basis of this folk etymology a new name, *Pondělišťe*, was formed, referring to a part of the village of *Nedělišťe*. This name, which soon acquired a dialectal plural form *Pondělišťata*, has been derived from the common noun *pondělí* 'Monday'. This creation is analogical, using the same suffix as in *Nedělišťe*.

Conclusion

The aim of this paper has been to point out some specific types of rise and reshaping of toponyms. If the naming process based on an analogy is implemented, the motivational relationship between the name and the extralinguistic reality (i.e. especially the named object) is irregular; the motivation cannot be interpreted unless other names involved in the process of analogy are taken into account. On the other hand, the formal analogy is typical rather of a formal change or reshaping of existing toponyms. Though the paper is based on Czech toponyms, the comparison with other languages would probably show that the analogical creation of new toponyms and the analogical reshaping of the existing geographical names belong to linguistic universals.

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