

Theses of the Doctoral (PhD) Dissertation

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"Changes in the ethnic relations in selected cities of the Hungarian-Slovakian contact zone at the time of dualism. (Economic, political, demographic, social and historical analysis) "

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1. Antecedents of the research

The forming of the modern civilian nations in Central Europe - within the framework of the multiethnic realms of the region - was a highly complicated, complex process. The decisive phase of the establishment of Slovak and Hungarian civilian national societies, despite their differing political, institutional and economic conditions, took place in the same era, in the same imperial and "nation-state" framework from the end of the 18th century to 1918. In my work, I examine the relationship between the two societies in the surroundings of the cities of the Slovakian ethnic region of North Hungary. I mainly deal with their mutual assimilation. Two other communities, a German and Jewish communities is also part of my research.

The multiethnic states and the development of multiethnic cities in the 19th century was studied by huge international literature. Numerous analytical theories and concepts have emerged about the role of interethnic relations, urban multilingual communities, and urban „melting pots”. Behind these things, the library literature of the nation, nationalism, ethnicity, and identity is only one of the layers. For me, Benedict Andersen and Miroslav Hroch, Rogers Brubaker's books on nationalism, studies and the acculturation process, Gábor Gyáni, etc. analyzes proved to be important.

My work is basically quantitative data but qualitative city analysis. These harmonization of the two methodologies, these completely different approaches, according to some opinions, are fulfill with many challenges. Furthermore, it was necessary to review the problem of the often used concept of nation and nationality, as their meaning is far from clear. Just as the application of ethnic identity, and in particular the identity theories, approaches for the late 19th century dualism environment in Hungary is meet with some problems.

At the beginning of my research, it was also motivated to see the Miroslav Hroch thesis in real sources. Hroch described in the North Hungarian cities is that there are serious historical antecedents of ethnic history in the originally multiethnic micro-regions and cities.¹ Based on this, I determined the research time scale for one of case studies far before of the 19.th century.

For the standard case studies, my starting point was the examination of the data of the Hungarian census of 1910. This census considered by the historians of the successor states mostly negatively. According to some extreme opinions, the 1910 census was nothing more than the "guilty pursuit" of the Hungarian elite attempting to reach the magical majority numbers. Hungarianization (Hungarianization) was a

¹ The triple periodization of Czech historian Miroslav Hroch entered the "mass movements" phase at that time. Hroch has refined its periodization since, for a 6-stage model. See Miroslav Hroch. 2009. 120-121. (national agitation-mass gaining movement-political program statehood - democratization-industrial revolution).

spectacular, one-way and general process that influenced all regions, especially the cities, mostly at one way.

2. Objectives, Test Methods, Resources

My main goal is to systematize the "mother tongue" changes between the 1880 and the 1910 census in the cities of the North Hungarian region. After the database, which was edited and uploaded, the assimilation patterns search was the first step. I would have liked to do this first at county level, and then at urban level. Since at the beginning of the research it was not known how many relevant groups would be formed, I planned to do a case study from at least three cities from the three largest group.

At the beginning of the analysis, I felt that cities were primarily "assimilated" in the region under investigation. My further hypothesis was that the nationality of the settlements in the formed groups and the 19th-century relations can be identified. At the same time, the different patterns will be sufficiently different, so I hoped that my study would be considered relevant to the macro data's.

As I mention before, the research is based on a Microsoft Access database containing census data and other data. Using my database and the SPSS statistical data analysis program, I selected rationalized, predefined criteria for cities, according to

statistical data recordings, meet a group of national minorities. The database contains data from the census of 1880 and 1910 to the settlements of the counties of today's Slovakia (and more). It is about 3300 settlements, which I have to identify after the name change.² The analysis required the identification of the name change due to the Local Names Act (1898: IV.). After that, the urban settlements were filtered out. When designating the area, I took into consideration the statistical districts of dualism, including the counties on the left bank of the Danube and the right bank of the river Tisza. These counties were: Árva, Bars, Hont, Liptó, Nógrád, Nyitra, Pozsony, Trencsén, Turóc and Zólyom, and Abaúj-Torna, Bereg, Gömör and Kis-Hont, Sáros, Szepes, Ung and Zemplén. I did not consider it advisable to break down the administrative boundaries of the counties and, for example, narrow the research into today's Slovak-Hungarian frontier. The region covers the "Slovakian Upper Hungary" region as defined by László Katus and the "assimilation space" and also Béla Grünwald. I did not consider the towns inhabited by other Slovaks, due to their distance from the compact Slovakian population. For a compact picture, however, I left all of the cities in my database. The status of towns was determined by the data of the 1880 census. When defining the issue of urban existence, as a check, I ran the test for settlements in the region

² To identify, I used the following well prepared books :Lelkes György 2011: *Magyar helységnevé-azonosító szótár*. Argumentum Kiadó and KSH könyvtár 2011. Majtán, Milan 1972: *Názvy obcí na Slovensku za ostatných dvesto rokov*. Vydavateľstvo akadémie vied, Bratislava, and the Arcanum 1913.

and in the city of Beluszky in the city hierarchy. Of course, I took care that a case study would only pick up a settlement that is included in the Beluszky City hierarchy, avoiding marginalized cities. I therefore divided language-nationalities from three to seven larger groups through the SPSS statistical analysis program.³ Finally, the five group divisions were the most suitable for the number of elements and data character of the cities surveyed. The group of the three largest members of the population, which included cities with similar assimilation tendencies, examined in one case study (Besztercebánya, Késmárk, Losonc).

Then, after a year, a really historian work could begin. First I reviewed the Slovak and Hungarian literature on the socio-economic development of the selected cities. In the case of the Banska Bystrica - whose nationality history was sourced from the early modern era - I relied mainly on literature analyzes, comparisons and, the minor part of exploration of archival resources. The results were in the second chapter. The actual starting point for 19th century research, however, was the mapping of the social, ethnic, economic and educational structure of the city in question. I have reviewed city-related documents, school inspector reports, ministerial reports and

³ Within this I used K-Cluster analysis. See: Sajtos - Mitel 2007: SPSS Research and Data Analysis Manual. Alinea Kiadó. There were also some cities with extreme proportion value changes in the statistics. Of course, their use as a case study was excluded.

posters, mayor and county correspondence, medical reports, police reports, city rules, marriage contracts, court procedures, work application forms, association policies and activities, and the local Felvidéki Magyar Közművelési Egylet (FMKE). The press was also analyzed, which was complicated by the extraordinary diversity of local media. From among the short-lived tablets that had to be exchanged, one had to choose the one that had the longest survival in the given local medium, newspaper. In order to demonstrate the individual effect and interpretation of the assimilation process, I also tried to examine a specific intellectual career. I assumed that a person could better grasp the whole process and its key moments through the possible change of identity of the family environment and that the difference between the groups could be analyzed to some extent at this level. This multi-stage, in many places largely unfinished, Hungarian intellectualism showed a sample of emerging bourgeois communities in local groups. Among other things, this allowed for much more positive census data in the early 20th century in cities with no Hungarian majority exist before.

In the introductory section of the presentation of the three case studies, cities, I was first take a look at the statistical data. I give a few sentences about the earlier history of the city. I will also present the ethnic sources of the cities. This is followed by the subdivisions of the city's economy, schools and

“nationalization of space”. Because of the different circumstances, the analyzes included individual chapters, such as the section on religious contrasts in the March celebrations. Elsewhere, where religious differences are less or less pronounced in the sources, another subchapter has been dealt with for two or three pages. It also happened that a certain source material that was available in two urban researches was unfortunately not prepared or unavailable to the third.

3. New scientific results

In the examined region there were a total of 249 settlements with urban status. I studied the proportionality between nationality data of 1880 and 1910.

	Cluster				
	1	2	3	4	5
Slovak	-37.23	-.88	12.55	7.60	-12.41
Hungarian	44.53	5.50	7.91	27.01	21.21
German	-3.37	-1.58	-18.10	-33.18	-6.70
Cases	17	157	22	8	43

1. Table: Final Cluster Centers all cities from the selected region

The members of Group 1 were cities with a very high Slovak ratio decreasing (-37.23%), the proportion of Hungarians increased exponentially (+ 44.53%), the proportion of Germans stagnated and declined. The 17 best-known members of the

group are Bárfa, Vágselye, Zólyom, Nagymihály, Kassa. I chose the short name "extremely fast Hungarized towns".

2. Group of cities with smaller or larger stagnation (+/- 6% change). There were 157 settlements, eg. Rimaszombat, Somorja, Malacka, Rózsahegy, and one of my case studies, Losonc. He was named the "stagnant or permanent ethnic" city group.

In the 3rd group there were cities in which the Slovaks proportion was increased (+ 12.55%), and the Hungarians also grew by + 7.91%, while the Germans decreased significantly (- 18.10%). Here are 22 settlements. Eg: Gölnicbánya, Vágújhely and my case study Késmárk. The name of the group was due to the rise of the Slovak and the Hungarian ethnic groups, mainly as a "more Slovakized" city group.

The proportion of Slovaks (+ 7.60%) increased slightly in the 4th group, but the Hungarians also increased significantly (+ 27.01%), while the Germans dropped to a giant numbers (- 33.18%). Here are 8 settlements, for example: Szepesszombat, Dobsina, Liptószentmiklós, Pozsony, etc. This is the "more Hungarized" city group.

In the case of Group 5, the proportion of the Slovaks (- 12.41%) decreased, as the proportion of Germans (-6.70%), but the Hungarians increased about (+ 21.21%). Here 43 settlements are grouped: Selmecebánya, Zsolna, Trencsén és

esettanulmányom Besztercebánya. This is the so-called "hungarized" city group.

Another aspect was the accessibility of the archival material of the cities, at the other hand, I did not intend to choose a city that worked relatively well in the Hungarian literature (for example Košice-Kassa, Bratislava-Pozsony). Due to this, the nationality history of Késmárk and Besztercebánya at the end of the 19th century has been largely unpublished. Although the history of the town of Losonc has already been dealt with, I have been able to enrich the history with newly researched data. Regarding the majority-minority relationship of the cities in the examined region, I found great differences that correlate with the data of 1880 and the data of 1910, more precisely with the proportional differences and their location within the group. This means that I have been able to reveal different relationships in all three cities.

The deep drilling of the Banská Bystrica, Losonc and Késmárk allowed the local nation building efforts of the three different cities and their immediate surroundings to be compared. These efforts are measurable and can be seen as integrating communities into the narrative of great national historiography. According to Peter Burke, "many historical stories have come through to the people by amateur historians (both men and women), novels, plays, theatrical performances,

encyclopedias, museums and memorials.” This statement is particularly relevant in the era of so-called historicism.”⁴ In all three cities, I could see similar things. However, the types of activities and their initial times are not the same. Their national building goals are not the same, so the measurable results are minimum questionable.

The rhetoric of the press, the voice of the street and the role of the students also differ in the three cities I’ve examined. While in Késmárk, for instance, the student is a driving force for national celebrations, Besztercebánya and Losonc they are only a part of these festivals. In Késmárk the religious issue was even more pronounced, than the other two cities.

The local "Hungarians clubs" of the Felvidéki Magyar Művelődési Egyesület operated with different efficiencies and goals. Of the three cities studied there is a clear superiority of the Losonci-based associations, where three FMKE-type companies have been working successfully. They later merged, although the national FMKE based in Nyitra was slightly withdrawn from Losonc. After the merge, the Nógrád National Institute was able to show the greatest wealth and membership and broad spectrum activities. The operation of the local FMKE

⁴ Peter Burke: Lay History. Official and Unofficial Representations, 1800–1914. In: The Oxford History of Historical Writing. Eds. Stuart Macintyre–Juan Maignushca–Pók Attila. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2011. 115.

was also relatively active in the Banska Bystrica, although the Hungarization process was, in my opinion, hardly influenced by the operation of the group. FMKE in Szepesség has shown the smallest activity and membership, its strength is practically exhausted in its own organization, the reward of some teachers and its greatest purpose in helping to form the Hungarian language theater association in the region.

However, the differences in assimilation between the three cities are only partly explained by the presence of the environment, the administration, the schools and the military. I believe that the composition of urban society, minority-majority backgrounds in the area, past experiences and the resulting adaptation strategies have also played a role in the different national development of the three cities. This was also proved by my research, which found a different attitude towards the nationalities in the three cities. The differences between the counties are also obvious. It can be noticed that the northern western counties were traditionally under Czech-Moravian influence, and under the influence of the group called after Ľudovít Štúr and the Slovak "nation-builders". It should not be forgotten, however, that this is a traditional base for the Slovaks, while the Germans, the Gorals, the "Slovjaks" (szlovjások) and the Hungarians are even more prominent. The county differences are presented in my three county-based self-

constructed maps. Instead, he also drew a map of the city's location within the group and also a list of all the city's affiliates.

4. The candidate's publications

Studies

Az etnikai térképek szerepe a történettudományban tegnap és ma. Szlovák és Magyar területi-statisztikai önszemlélet. A 19–20. század fordulóján. In: Nemzet és kisebbség. Társadalomtörténeti változások a XIX–XX. században - Národ a menšina. Sociálnohistorické zmeny v XIX–XX. storočí. Komárno, 2014. 39-63. ISBN 978-80-971820-9-0.

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demográfiai elemzése. In: Közösség és identitás a Kárpát-medencében. Határhelyzetek VII. Balassi Intézet Márton Áron Szakkollégium, Budapest, 2014. 34-59. ISBN: 978-615-5389-39-9.

Adalékok Besztercebánya etnikai változásaihoz. Alkalmazkodási stratégiák egy értelmiségi asszimilációs életpálya tükrében. In: Fórum Társadalomtudományi Szemle, 17. évfolyam, 2015/2., 153-172. p. Főszerkesztő: Csanda Gábor. XVII. évfolyam. 2 szám. ISSN 1335-4361.

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Losonc etnikai változásai a 19-20. század fordulóján. Városi asszimilációs folyamatok történeti – demográfiai elemzése. In: Fiatal tudomány – tudományunk fiataljai a Kárpát-medencében.

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Conferences, Lectures

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Téka, Nemzet és Kisebbség. Társadalomtörténeti változások a XIX–XX. században - Národ a menšina. Sociálne zmeny v XIX–XX. storočí.– The role of the ethnic maps in history past and nowadays. Slovak and Hungarian territorial-statistical self reflection at the turn of the century, 19-20. c. előadás, 2014. március 12. Komárno.

Prístupy k riešeniu národnostnej otázky v medzivojnovom Československu a v Maďarsku c. konferencián - Assimilácia Maďarov v slovenských mestách na príklade Banskej Bystrici. c. előadás, 2014. Április 25. Komárno.

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