

HUNGARIAN GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

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Összefoglalás

A magyar természetföldrajzi nevek az angol nyelvű szakirodalomban és népszerűsítő kiadványokban rendkívül sokféle alakban fordulnak elő. A magyar földrajzinév-írás sokat foglalkozott az idegen nyelvű földrajzi nevek magyar átírásával, de még nem kapott kellő figyelmet, hogyan szerepeljenek a magyar földrajzi nevek az egyre szaporodó angol nyelvű kiadványokban, így térképeken, ábrákon, útikönyvben, geológiai, földrajzi és régészeti munkákban. Sokszor zavaró, félrevezető, ha az olvasó ugyanannak a tájnak több angol nyelvű változatával találkozik, esetenként egyazon könyvben, vagy nem tudja az eredeti magyar alakot visszakeresni. Ez a dolgozat a magyarországi természetföldrajzi nevek angol nyelvű használatát tekinti át, és javaslatot ad az egységes használatra.

This paper forms part of an extensive study on the geographical names of present Hungary. Probably, this is the first attempt to introduce the English language readers to some of the practical questions of using the English translation of Hungarian toponyms in maps and publications. (The use of Hungarian street and other public area names as well as administrative units and institution names etc. in English is not discussed here.)

In Hungary, there is a rich literature of writing foreign geographical names. These studies discuss the Hungarian transliteration of those names which are written in non-Latin script and the rules or traditions of transcribing those names which are not written by letters but by various "pictures" of the ideas or objects. Further, the use of exonyms or conventional names – due to the specific character of Hungarian language and to the fact that the language is spoken by millions well beyond the present borders of the country – is also a popular topic for Hungarian cartographers, geographers and historians. However, very little attention has been paid exclusively to the use of Hungarian geographical names in foreign language literature.

Most of the literature about Hungary written for foreign readers is now in English, and it is expected that more and more articles and papers will be published in English language on Hungary in the future. Many of these publications, from simple presentations to books and CD-ROMs, contain country or regional maps to help the readers or listeners to better understand the subject. There may even be maps or atlases of Hungary explicitly prepared for English language readers. Therefore, it is important, and will become increasingly so, to find common agreement first of all among the various Hungarian authors on how to use the Hungarian geographical names in such publications. It would be a great advantage for the foreign readers of Hungarian geography literature if these authors had a standardised way of translating Hungarian geographical names into English in full or in part. Naturally, not only foreign geographers and cartographers would benefit from this

system, but also those who study or deal with Hungarian or Central European geology, history, archaeology, ethnology and even tourism – in general everybody who may use Hungarian geographical names.

One of the most useful benefits would be that the foreign readers would always find the name of a feature in the same form. As the authors of various subjects use the English versions of Hungarian names, the foreign readers, unfortunately, often hardly recognise that they are reading about the same landscape region or hill, for example. This problem is further complicated when there is a map or a table accompanying the text, and there the use or translation of the Hungarian landscape feature is different. The present paper describes some typical and frequent contradictions in the usage, grammar, spelling or in the logic of translation of physico-geographical features and landscape regions or ethnographic and historical units now forming part of Hungary, and tries to offer a simplified solution to this problem facing the authors, map-makers and the editors of all kinds of publications in Hungary and abroad.

In Hungary, there are really only a few geographical names that have their own accepted English version and can be seen in English maps. I think we have only two names that obviously belong to this category. Both are large and extend well beyond the present borders of the country: *Great Hungarian Plain (Alföld)* and *Danube (Duna)*. Probably, there are a few more – particularly in publications for tourists – that are usually mentioned in their English form, such as the *Castle Hill (Várhegy)*, a district and hill in Budapest, *Danube Bend (Dunakanyar)*, *Little Alföld (Kisalföld)* and *Transdanubia (Dunántúl)*. Although this list is rather subjective, I think that all the other Hungarian names should follow an established and logical pattern of English usage. In addition, the United Nations recommend minimising the use of exonyms in international usage. Therefore, the first rule is that Hungarian place names should never be translated into English, and the translation of the proper name part (specific element) of the topographic features should be strictly limited.

The second rule is not to translate or create new English versions for those names of landscape regions (from microregions to macroregions) that are written in one word in Hungarian. That is, these proper names should not be broken up into elements and given a false interpretation. Here is an incomplete list of such names with their English versions in parentheses that I do not recommend for use, although some may be seen in several publications: **Bükkalja** (*Bükk Foothills, Bükk Foreland*), **Kemeneshát** (*Kemenes Plateau*), **Nagykunság** (*Cumania, Great Cumania*), **Szigetköz** (*Island Interfluve*), **Tiszahát** (*Tisza Ridge*), **Tiszántúl** (*Transtisia, Trans-Tisza Region*).

I suggest that all such names should keep their Hungarian form in any case. Although in certain cases – particularly when they are mentioned for the first time – an explanatory word or a general term may be added for clarity, but these additions are not considered as constant parts of the proper name. Accordingly, these generic terms or rather explanatory words should not be written in capital letters: **Bükkalja** (*Bükkalja region* or *foothills*), **Kemeneshát** (*Kemeneshát region*), **Nagykunság** (*Nagykunság region*), **Szigetköz** (*Szigetköz region*), **Tiszahát** (*Tiszahát region*), **Tiszántúl** (*Tiszántúl region*). This system would help the foreign readers to easily and reliably identify these names in Hungarian maps, which is one of the main objectives of this system.

The example of the English translation of **Kemeneshát** and **Tiszhát** above already suggests that the Hungarian words that describe the physical feature cannot always be automatically or mechanically corresponded to an English term. In the first name, *hát* really means a (low-lying) plateau, while in the second one *hát* refers to a plain which is somewhat rising above the swamps of the River Tisza. Consequently, the translators sometimes must be aware of the actual features of the geographical unit.

Perhaps all Hungarian geographical names originally had an informative meaning for the Hungarians or other peoples, but in the course of history and migrations many of them became meaningless for the present population. Naturally, in many cases their original meaning can be felt or detected. These names could be translated into English or modernised in Hungarian, but it is certainly for interest only and not for general usage. Some of the larger world mountain ranges have their Hungarian equivalent, but their number is really limited (e.g., *Rocky Mountains* = **Sziklás-hegység**, *Great Dividing Range* = **Nagy-Vízválasztó-hegység**). Normally, only those names or parts of names are translated into Hungarian, which refer to the position of the feature or qualify it in some way (colour, size etc.). The third rule, however, would state that no Hungarian parts (adjectives) of a toponym should be translated even if they describe the position, size, shape, colour etc. of a feature. Also, where the proper name (specific term) itself is an adjective, it should be kept in its Hungarian form. For example, **Belső-Somogy** (*Belső-Somogy* or *Belső-Somogy region*), **Belső-tó** (*Lake Belső*), **Fekete-hegy** (*Fekete Hill*), **Fekete-Körös** (*Fekete-Körös* or *River Fekete-Körös*), **Fekete-víz** (*Fekete Brook*), **Felső-Tisza** (*Felső-Tisza* or *Felső-Tisza region*), **Nagy-Csikóvár** (*Nagy-Csikóvár* or *Nagy-Csikóvár Hill* or *Nagy-Csikóvár Peak*), **Nagy-fennsík** (*Nagy Plateau*). Naturally, these names can be extended in English with (possibly) one word that explains the feature, if it is considered necessary for a better interpretation. I would consider the following English versions of the above as incorrect: *Inner Somogy*, *Inner Lake*, *Black Hill*, *Black Körös*, *Black Brook*, *Upper Tisza*, *Great Colt Castle*, *Great* or *High Plateau*.

These basic concepts could be easily adopted for the great majority of Hungarian geographical names. Still there are, however, several important rules that we should follow to build up such a logical system where the analogies can be easily used.

First, as said above, an English generic term describing the feature can be added to the proper name for clarity, if the Hungarian name does not indicate it, because the name is well known for the Hungarian population and causes no ambiguity. This is typical of larger regions, some mountains, peaks, regions, most rivers, streams and fewer lakes. Here is a list of such names that can be extended by an English generic element (often recommended): (*Lake*) **Balaton**, **Bükk** (*Mountains*), **Concó** (*Stream*), **Mezőföld** (*Plain*), **Naszály** (*Peak*), **Nyírség** (*Plain*), (*River*) **Tisza**, **Zselic** (*Hills*).

Sometimes a word is not only added to clarify the form or type of the feature, but also because it is worth giving additional information for the foreign reader. These pieces of information usually refer to the position and national belonging. A good example of this reasoning is the **Great Hungarian Plain**, which, if strictly translated from the Hungarian **Alföld**, would only read as *Plain*. But also, **North Hungarian Mountains** for **Északi-középhegység**, which, if just mechanically translated, would become *Northern Mountains-of-Medium-Height*.

Another group of Hungarian names in themselves already express whether they are a plain or a hill. Even in these cases it is recommended to add the English word classifying the feature, because the foreign readers do not know or sense this kind of duplication: **Vasi-Hegyhát** = *Vasi-Hegyhát Hills*, **Sárrét** = *Sárrét Swamp*.

Again, these interpretive words must not always be mechanically translated without being aware of the morphology of the place. The Hungarian way of giving names to features is not always logical, but – as it often happens to translators – the foreign language version may follow a more logical and in several ways simplified pattern. Also, there are dialectic or old words in the geographical names, which should not be corresponded to another dialectic word in English (e.g., *aszó* for *völgy*, meaning *valley*). There are synonyms in Hungarian, which can be simply translated in the same way, just as the English words *bay*, *bight*, *cove*, *gulf*, *inlet* are all translated as *öböl* into Hungarian, because the languages do not have the same number of synonyms for the same word. Naturally, the result will be that the translated names are in these cases poorer and probably less expressive. From Hungarian, it is best if the various nouns describing the type (size) of small watercourses (*csermely*, *ér*, *séd*, *víz* etc.) are consistently reduced to the use of *brook* only, and *patak* (which is bigger and very common) is corresponded to *stream*, and we do not try to rigidly translate them as *brook*, *rivulet*, *runnel*, *streamlet* or *water*. In addition, the translators do not necessarily feel the actual difference between such synonyms.

An often used term in Hungary both in names and in descriptions of relief is *középhegység*, which actually cannot be translated directly only explained as an extensive relief feature the height of which is between that of hills and mountains. In short, it means a range of low mountains. In geographical names, however, only the shorter term (*mountains*) should be used and the topographic content left for the author to describe.

A typical translation problem for Hungarian authors is making the distinction between hills and mountains when using the geographical names in English. The difficulty comes from the fact that, mainly in the lowland areas of the country, hills are often named as mountains. This is again a case where the reasoning of the translator may disturb the foreign reader. Therefore, if a relief feature is described as a mountain in Hungarian, it may not be reduced to hill or hills in English to express its actual size and extension, because other authors or translators may consider the feature as a mountain. In addition, the borderline between a hill and a mountain is of course not always evident. I think it is proper to translate *hegység* as mountains even when the highest point of the relief feature is only a few hundred metres. For instance, although **Villány-hegység** is only a compact range of hills and not mountains, the correct form would be *Villány Mountains*. Just like **Keszthelyi-hegység**, which is translated as *Keszthely Mountains*, although they are only hills (both *Villány Mountains* and *Keszthely Mountains* do not exceed 450 metres in height and they do not extend to large areas). The translator is not expected to indicate the topographic feature – this rather belongs to the author's professional opinion – but has to reflect the original Hungarian term consistently, because otherwise it is difficult to identify the name in a map.

There is a very interesting group of Hungarian names with a meaning – and can be sometimes considered a sentence – that can be easily translated, but should not be either, because they do not tell the reader anything of the feature: **Döme halála** = *Death of Döme*,

Kovács szénája = *Hay of Smith*, **Péter hegyese** = *Hill of Peter* or **Urak asztala** = *Table of Lords*. Naturally, it is recommended that these expressions should be completed by adding the feature: **Döme halála Valley**, **Urak asztala Peak** etc. If in Hungarian they contain an additional word giving information about their topographic feature, we translate this term only: **Mária asszony sziget** = **Mária asszony Island** (and not *Lady Mary Island*), **Miklós deák völgy** = **Miklós deák Valley** (and not *Clerk Nicholas Valley*), **Mitnyögsz** = **Mitnyögsz Hill** (and not *Why-Are-You-Groaning Hill*), or **Nekaszáld-rét** = **Nekaszáld Meadow** (and not *Do-Not-Mow Meadow*).

Most of the Hungarian geographical names, however, particularly most frequently used in literature, pose no special problem. In spite of this opinion, there are several variants of the same name in English if we examine the sources. A part of my sources that I list at the end of the article was written or edited by native English speakers, who normally used Hungarian reference sources (geography books, guidebooks, maps and atlases or consultants) for their work. Another part was written and translated by Hungarians, then checked by native speakers (not necessarily geographers or cartographers). This explains to a great extent why there are several versions, occasional mistakes and inconsistent uses – quite often within the same publication – of the same name. Here is an interesting list of such names that I collected, and I also give my suggestion for the correct and logical use (**Hungarian name** – *Variants in literature* – **Recommended use**).

Aggteleki-karszt – *Aggtelek Mountains, Aggtelek Mountain Range* – **Aggtelek Karst**;

Alföld – *Alföld, Great Alföld, Great Plain, Hungarian Plain, Plain of Hungary* – **Great Hungarian Plain**;

Bakony – *Bakony, Bakony Hegység, Bakony Mountain, Bakony Mountains* – **Bakony Mountains** or **Bakony**;

Balaton – *Balaton, Balaton Lake* – **Lake Balaton** or **Balaton**;

Balaton-felvidék – *Balaton Highland, Balaton Highlands, Balaton Upland* – **Balaton Uplands**;

Bodrog – *River Bodrog, Bodrog River* – **River Bodrog** or **Bodrog**;

Borsodi-medence – *Borsod basin, Borsodi Basin* – **Borsod Basin**;

Cserhát – *Cserhát Hills, Cserhát Mountains* – **Cserhát Hills** or **Cserhát**;

Dunántúli-dombság – *Dunántúl Hill Region, Transdanubian Downs* – **Transdanubian Hills** (although my system – if I did not respect traditions – would recommend **Dunántúl Hills**);

Dunántúli-középhegység – *Bakony Forest, Dunántúl Highlands, Highlands of Dunántúl, Highlands of Transdanubia, Mountains of Dunántúl, Mountains of Transdanubia, Transdanubian Central Range, Transdanubian Hills, Transdanubian Midmountains, Transdanubian Mid-Mountains* – **Transdanubian Mountains** (although my logic – contradicting traditions again – would recommend **Dunántúl Mountains**);

Északi-középhegység – *Northeast Hungarian Mountains, Northeast Mountains, North Hungarian Highlands, North Hungarian Mid-Mountains, North Hungarian Range* – **North Hungarian Mountains**. (The term *Hungarian* is added for clarity by most users; my logic would rather prefer **Északi Mountains**, but this would be against the general usage);

Felvidék – *Highlands, Northern Hungary, Upper Hungary* – **Felvidék** or **Felvidék region**;

Háromashatár-hegy – *Háromashatárhegy, Mount Háromashatár* – **Háromashatár Hill**;

Kékes – *Kékestető, Kékes Peak, Mount Kékes* – **Kékes Peak** or **Kékes**;

Keszthelyi-hegység – *Keszthely Hills, Keszthely Mountain, Keszthely-Mountains* – **Keszthely Mountains**;

Kisalföld – *Kisalföld, Little Plain, little Plain, Little Hungarian Plain* – **Little Alföld** (again, in principle, I would prefer **Kisalföld Plain** or **Kisalföld**);

Nagykunság – *Cumania, Great Cumania* – **Nagykunság** or **Nagykunság region**;

Pilis – *Danube-bend Mountain, Pilis Hills, Pilis Mountain, Pilis Mountains, Pilis Range* – **Pilis Mountains** or **Pilis**;

Velencei-tó – *Lake Velence, Lake Velencei, Velencei Lake* – **Velence Lake**.

It is also true that Hungarian authors do not always consistently use the names in their Hungarian publications and they easily confuse the foreign readers in this way. In addition, some of the Hungarian geographical names were dropped in the past decades while others were recently created. There are two major reasons for these changes. First, the land of Hungary split up after the Great War, and – as a consequence – the new boundaries cut the formerly uniformly handled physical-geographical regions. The new national boundary motivated the Hungarian geographers to produce some new names to describe the geography of the lands that were partly cut by the new borders as well as to develop a new attitude to the description of the physical geography of the much reduced country. (Naturally, those geographers over the other side of the borders started creating their names at the same time.) Second, new professional attitudes have developed, which tried and are still trying to introduce a modern system into the naming of the landscape regions of Hungary or the Carpathian Basin as a larger unit.

In the meantime the Hungarian spelling may have also changed a bit and – to confuse the situation further – the denominations may now refer to somewhat different areas. In addition, Hungarian authors do not always agree either in which term is correct. Therefore, when the foreign writers use even original Hungarian maps or books as their source from various authors or decades, they may not realise they loan outdated or synonymous forms. However, Hungarian scientists of geology and physical geography widely use those "old" names in their studies and maps. Therefore, the names in many general geographical maps do not always harmonise with the actual usage by professionals. Here is a selection of such relatively new name changes of more or less the same features, with the date of their first introduction in Hungarian maps and their English version given in parentheses:

Aggteleki-karszt (1979, *Aggtelek Karst*), **Észak-borsodi-karszt** (1958, *North Borsod Karst*), **Aggteleki-hegység** (1955, *Aggtelek Mountains*), **Érc-hegység** (1947, *Érc /'ore/' Mountains*), which replaced the former **Gömör-Tornai-karszt** (*Gömör-Torna Karst*) in maps only and not in geology literature;

Dunántúli-középhegység (1955, *Transdanubian Mountains*), replacing **Nyugati-középhegység** (*Western Mountains*);

Dunazug-hegység (created in 1927, *Dunazug Mountains*);

Északi-középhegység (created in 1955, *Northern Hungarian Mountains*);

Tokaji-hegység (1996, *Tokaj Mountains*) living side by side with **Zempléni-hegység** (1958, *Zemplén Mountains*), which replaced **Sátorhegy** (1947, *Sátor Mountain*), replacing **Sátor-hegység** (1930s, *Sátor Mountains*), which again – in maps – replaced the former **Eperjes–Tokaji-hegyvidék** (*Eperjes–Torna Mountains*) widely used in literature even today;

Vilyvitányi-rög (1955, *Vilyvitány Block*), replacing **Zempléni-szigethegység** (*Zemplén Block*) still in use by professionals.

For detailed explanation on the above question see the interesting article, "A magyar névhasználat változásai a Kárpát-medencét ábrázoló térképeken" by Imre Faragó in the present volume.

Following conventions, we should use the basic Hungarian form of the proper name, without inflections if it is an adjective (most often made from place and county names). This inflection or ending is usually *-i*, which turns the noun into an adjective, such as *Zala* (name of a county and a river), which will become *Zalai* in several geographical names (**Zalai-dombság**, for instance). However, in these cases the basic form of the name must be retained: *Zala Hills*. **Csór-rét** will be *Csór Meadow*, but – following the system – **Csór-réti-víztároló** will be *Csór-rét Reservoir*, because the basic form (specific term) must be retained and only the last element is translated. Consequently, when the Hungarian adjective forms part of a generic term, such as in **Tolnai-Hegyhát**, it is not possible to return to the basic form of *Tolna*. The addition of the topographic feature, however, is recommended to make it *Tolnai-Hegyhát Hills*.

The Hungarian adverb *menti* (meaning *lying along something*) is a word that should not be translated into or explained in English. This word can be considered either a part of the name (**Drávamenti-síkság** = *Dáravamente Plain*) or not part of the name (**Pándzsa menti laposok** = *Pándzsa Plain*).

Conclusions. The toponymic guidelines of using Hungarian toponyms consistently in English are formed in view of the following objectives:

- to retain the conventional names,
- to give additional information on or an image of the topographical feature type,
- to facilitate the non-Hungarian users to easily identify the names in Hungarian maps and in glossaries,
- to avoid the introduction of unnecessary exonyms.

1. Those few Hungarian geographical names that have their widely accepted English equivalent are recommended for use without any restriction in running text and in professional publications (*Castle Hill* of Budapest only, *Danube*, *Danube Bend*, *Great Hungarian Plain*, *Little Alföld* and *Transdanubia*). No new versions should be created or proper name parts or specific names translated. (Naturally, only Hungarian names should appear on individual or atlas maps published for international use. If a study, guidebook or paper is specifically written for English language readers, the English form of the Hungarian geographical names should be used in their maps or annexes too.)

2. The generic term of the Hungarian geographical names (usually written hyphenated and always placed after the specific element) should be translated into English. Their consistency should reflect the Hungarian name itself and not the actual – and sometimes subjective – characteristics of the feature (**Által-ér** = *Által Brook*, **Hármashatár-hegy** = *Hármashatár Hill*, **Kálvária-domb** = *Kálvária Hill*, **Kemence-patak** = *Kemence Stream*, **Villány-hegység** = *Villány Mountains*).

The translation and use of the Hungarian term *tó* needs special attention. Unlike in English, the Hungarian word *tó* for *lake* can never stand in front of the name of the lake. The word *tó* always follows the name, but in some cases *tó* is completely left. In English, the word *lake* is more usually part of the name, particularly when otherwise the name alone would be ambiguous (compare *Lake Erie* and the town of *Erie*, or *Lake Huron* and the *Huron* Indians; however, *Lake Titicaca* or *Lake Tonle Sap* can also be *Titicaca* or *Tonle Sap* when it is already evident from the text that they are lakes). The term *lake* normally stands in front of the specific name – though often omitted from maps. If the Hungarian name does not contain the word *tó* as a generic term (**Balaton**, **Fertő**, **Sóstó** and **Tengerszem**) and when the specific term (most commonly an adjective) is not formed by adding *-i* to the name of a settlement or region, we should use the English way of naming and writing lakes: *Lake Balaton*, *Lake Fertő*, *Lake Sóstó* and *Lake Tengerszem*, or **Baláta-tó** = *Lake Baláta*, **Kolon-tó** = *Lake Kolon*, and **Tisza-tó** = *Lake Tisza*. Also, **Belső-tó** = *Lake Belső* (*belső* = *inner*), **Fehér-tó** = *Lake Fehér* (*fehér* = *white*), **Feneketlen-tó** is corresponded to *Lake Feneketlen* (*feneketlen* = *bottomless*). In English, *lake* can also stand after the specific name, especially when it is preceded by an adjective (e.g., *Clear Lake*, *Great Salt Lake*, *Rainy Lake*, but also *Crater Lake* or sometimes also *Kyoga Lake*). The foreign reader, however, will certainly not know if the Hungarian word is an adjective or not, that is why it is preferable to simplify the rule: only when the specific element of the lake behaves like an adjective formed from settlement names in Hungarian, the term *lake* will follow the name: **Velencei-tó** = *Velence Lake* (*velencei* = *from* or *of Velence*).

3. As it happens to other languages, very specific geographical terms (such as *firth* or *mull* in British, *bolson* in Spanish) should be retained in Hungarian and may only be explained in the text: **Duna-Tisza köze** = *Danube-Tisza köze region*, **Magyar-mál** = *Magyar-mál Hill*, **Bél-kő** = *Bél-kő Peak*.

4. When translating the generic term of the Hungarian composite names, the number of synonyms and sub-types (designations of precise geomorphological forms) should be simplified and reduced to a basic vocabulary of entities (*aszóvölgy*, *oldalvölgy*, *völgy* = *valley*; *barlang*, *cseppkőbarlang*, *tavasbarlang* = *cave*; *bérc*, *orom*, *szirt* = *rock*; *csúcs*, *tető* = *peak*; *domb*, *hegy* = *hill*).

5. All those Hungarian geographical names (mostly ethnographic and landscape regions) that are compound names and conventionally written in one word should not be translated into English. Occasionally – exclusively in running text – they may be completed with a generic term when it is felt necessary for better understanding (*Alpokalja* /'under the Alps'/ or *Alpokalja region*, *Mezőföld* /'field land'/ or *Mezőföld region*, *Nagykunság* /'great Cumania'/ or *Nagykunság region*, *Tiszántúl* /'over the River Tisza'/ or *Tiszántúl region*).

6. Those names that have no generic term in Hungarian (because they express the geographical object by themselves, they are well known among the Hungarian speakers, or

refer to a large area) should be occasionally completed with an English one to help clarify the feature in running text only (*Bükk Mountains* or only *Bükk*, *Naszály Peak* or *Naszály*, *Őrség region* or *Őrség*, *River Tisza* or *Tisza*). If a strict principle were followed, in these cases the added generic terms in English should not be capitalised (*Mountains*, *Peak*, *River*), because they may incorrectly suggest that they are part of the original name. In English, there are names that can be used with or without the generic term, but when the term is added, the name is in capitals: the *Golan*, *Golan Heights*, *Golan Plateau*, or *Windermere*, *Lake Windermere*. This practise does not exist in the Hungarian usage – however, the tradition of English orthography has to be respected and the added term should be written in capital letter. In short, the addition of generic terms may be necessary in English running text, but not in maps, tables, glossaries etc.

7. If the Hungarian specific term is an adjective formed from a proper name and a generic term is added, then the original proper name form should be used with the generic element in English. For instance, *Hámori-tó* = *Hámor Lake*, *Istállós-kői-barlang* = *Istállós-kő Cave*, *Zalai-dombság* = *Zala Hills*.

Where the adjective part of the Hungarian geographical name refers to a cardinal point and when it is just an occasional or arbitrary adjective and not a permanent one (namely, normally it is not printed in maps), it should be translated (*Dél-Tiszántúl* = *South Tiszántúl*, *Kelet-Cserhát* = *Eastern Cserhát Hills*, *magyar Érmellék* = *Hungarian Érmellék*). Even those adjectives of the specific element that describe the position, size, shape or colour etc. should be kept in their original form, because they are part of the proper name (capitalised in Hungarian) and otherwise it would be difficult to find them in maps. (*Fekete-Körös* = *Fekete Körös* or *River Fekete Körös*, *Felső-Válicka* = *Felső-Válicka* or *Felső-Válicka Stream*, *Kis-Balaton* = *Lake Kis-Balaton* or *Kis-Balaton*, *Kis-Konda-patak* = *Kis-Konda Stream*, *Nagy-fennsík* = *Nagy Plateau*, *Nagy-Hideg-hegy* = *Nagy-Hideg Peak*, *Óreg-Duna* = *River Óreg Danube*).

8. Hungarian geographical names containing personal names (including the names of saints) should not be translated: *János-hegy* = *János Hill*, and not *John Hill*, *Margit-sziget* = *Margit Island*, and not *Margaret Island* (although often used incorrectly in guidebooks in this way), *Szent Anna-völgy* = *Szent Anna Valley*, and not *Saint Ann Valley*. The original Hungarian sequence of family name and given name should be retained in geographical names (*Vass Imre-barlang* = *Vass Imre Cave*, and not *Imre Vass Cave*), just as in the case of *Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem* = *Eötvös Loránd University*.

9. In spelling, the general standard English orthography of geographical names should be followed (*Csepel-sziget* = *Csepel Island*, and not *Csepel-island*, *Galya-tető* = *Galya Peak*, and not *Galya-peak*). The generic terms – except for *region*, which is not a feature type in this respect – are capitalised even when they are not translations but only added for clarity in running text (*Fertő* = *Lake Fertő*, *Maros* = *River Maros*, *Mátra* = *Mátra Mountains*). Otherwise – in maps or when the name is considered already known to the reader – the generic terms should be easily left out (*Fertő*, *Maros*, *Mátra*).

Note. Several Hungarian placenames originate in a topographical name, and they may have the same pronunciation. In Hungarian, the spelling clearly shows whether the name designates a settlement (a populated district etc.) or a physical geographical object,

because all placenames are written in one word, while the topographical names are mostly hyphenated or written in two or more words. In these cases, the settlement names are not translated at all, but the physical objects are translated. For instance, **Egervölgy** (settlement in Western Hungary) is only translated when it is spelled as **Eger-völgy** (*Eger Valley*); **Köröshegy** (village south of Lake Balaton) remains *Köröshegy* in English, but **Körös-hegy** is corresponded to *Körös Hill*; **Margitsziget** (part of a district in Budapest) remains the same, while **Margit-sziget** = *Margit Island*; also, **Sárospatak** (town in Northeast Hungary) is not translated, but **Sáros-patak** = *Sáros Stream*.

The examples were taken from the following publications:

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- Encyclopaedia Britannica. 15th edition, 1974 [by (in part) Marton Pecsli], pp. 22–25.
- Encyclopaedia Britannica. 15th edition, 1992, pp. 693–695.
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- Földrajzi Közlemények, Magyar Földrajzi Társaság, Budapest (various editions)
- Gazetteer of Conventional Names. Names approved by the United States Board on Geographical Names. Defense Mapping Agency, Washington, DC, 1977
- Geology of Hungary, by László Trunkó. Gebrüder Borntraeger, Berlin-Stuttgart, 1996
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- Information Please Almanac Atlas and Yearbook 1968. Simon and Schuster, New York, NY, 1967
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- Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2000 (CD-ROM)
- Microsoft Encarta Interactive World Atlas 2000 (CD-ROM)
- Magyarország földrajzinév-tára I. Fontosabb domborzati, táj- és víznevek. MÉM OFTH, Budapest, 1971
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- The Picture Atlas of the World. Dorling Kindersley Ltd., London, 1991
- Reader's Digest Almanac and Yearbook 1969. The Reader's Digest Association, Inc., Pleasantville, NY, 1968