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**THE TOPONYMY OF THE UKRAINIAN PLACES
SITUATED IN THE INFERIOR VALLEY OF THE RIVER VISEU
AND THE RIVER RUSCOVA – HUTSULIA MARAMURESANA (VISEVSHCENA)**

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Distribution of Ukrainian toponyms in the valley of the rivers Ruscova and Vyshev is analyzed. The main types of toponyms are selected, their origin are disclosed. Relationship of toponyms in the valley of the rivers and Vyshev with toponymy of Ukrainian Hutsul is found. Cultural and historical significance and problems of preservation of Ukrainian Hutsul Marmaros toponymy are show.

Key words: toponymy, typing of toponyms, origins of toponyms, Hutsulschyna.

Toponymy is considered an interdisciplinary science which includes scientific branches such as philology, history, geography and ethnography. Each of these sciences tries to explain and analyse toponymy through methodology and specific concepts, of the scientific branch. Historians think that this science is auxiliary to history where the chronological methods are being used. Any phenomenon or process has got a history, more exactly an origin [3].

Philologists consider that the history of a phenomenon can be studied only after its main elements have been characterized through linguistic methods. The essential criterion of toponymy as a linguistic branch is functional and not semantic [6].

As a science, geography largely uses toponymy, as the geographical names are closely related to the territory and give the possibility of studying the relations between the elements of the relief, the plants, the animals and the people.

Toponyms gathered from the Ukrainian places on the inferior valley of the River Viseu and Ruscova (Bistra, Ruscova, Repedea and Poienile de sub Munte villages) have been named by the Ukraininas regarding the historical background, belonging to the old Ukrainian age of the 14th century. If a certain territory had been populated earlier, this would be characterized by a huge presence of toponymy. Socio-political elements and the level of the spiritual culture had had a remarkable influence in naming the geographical objects. In order to be able to orientate themselves on the territory, in the past, people were using as clues the relief configurations (mountain tops, ridges, peaks), rivers, lakes and others. The similarities between them and their great number require the individualization of these geographical objects with the aid of nominalization [3]. The origin of toponyms is motivated, bearing addressing functions which hide information about geographical objects, their purpose and meaning. Each toponym in its way bears important geographical historical, linguistic, ethnographical and cultural information.

Geographical objects' nominalization is a popular creation in which the dialectal meaning of words plays a special role, taking a hard task to discover the meaning of toponyms in its absence [4]. We need to offer a great priority to those versions corresponding more to the natural background and to the culture which had nominalized them, in order to discern toponyms. We can see that the collected toponyms have deep roots and represent a real

monument of the Ukrainian culture and language, having a semantic loading and specific information.

The diversity of the toponyms collected from the Ukrainian places in the inferior valley of the river Viseu and of the river Ruscova in the Maramures county assert the very old presence of this ethnic community in the area. In his work called *Maramuresean Diplomas*, the well-known Romanian historian Ioan Mihali de Apsa mentions the fact that most of the Ukrainian and Romanian places in Maramures county have been dated from the 14th century. These places had been populated much earlier. The historical facts and the semantic analysis of the toponymy give us the possibility to include a great part of the geographical names as part of an old Ukrainian period. During the centuries many toponyms have met linguistic influences, due to the existing interrelations from the specific area.

Based on the researches made around, the author of this study collected and classified 360 toponyms from all the Ukrainian places situated in the inferior valley of the rivers Vieu and Ruscova in Maramures county. Their classification was accomplished on the lexical-semantic principle [2]. Not all toponyms been included in the article.

Categories of toponyms:

1. Toponyms which derive from the **representatives of the animal world**:

a) *wild animals*: Bilka/ (squirrel) – toponym with an Ukrainian origin – Bistra village; Vovcia/Vovchya/ (wolf) – Ruscova village; Medvejei/Medvejij/ (bear) si Sokolov/Sokil/C (eagle) – Poienile de sub Munte village; Svennei/ (the place where the wild boars hide) and Suldac/Shuldak/ (wild boar) – Repedea village;

b) *domestic animals*: Korovli/ (cow) – Poienile de sub munte commune;

2. Toponyms deriving from the **vegetal world representatives** (vegetal elements, trees, bushes, and herbs): Berezneac/Bereznyak/ (birch tree forest), Cosiv/ (mowed land), Ceretiv/ (bulrush, cane), Cesnekiv/ (garlic, the place where garlic grows), Dibrova/ (grove, oak tree forest), Dubruci/ (oakery), Hreskiv/ (buckwheat), Ialenca/Yalynka/ (fir, fir tree forest), Ialivnek/ - (spruce fir forest), Iasinac/Yasinnyk/ (ash tree, ash tree forest), Iavoriv/ (sycamore maple tree forest), Luh/Lunca/ (pasture), Malannac/ (raspberry, raspberry bush), Plai/ (Romanian toponym – hill area with grass), Tisa/ (resinous essence tree), Topoliv/ (poplar, poplar tree forest) – Bistra village (the belonging villages, Valea Visoului, Bistra and Crasna Visoului) [5]; Dubrova/ and Dubovet/ (grove, oak tree forest), Ialynca/Yalynka/ (fir, fir tree forest), Ialovet/Yalovet/ (spruce fir forest), Bokovenka/Bocovinca/ (beech, beech tree forest) – Ruscova village; Dolyna Iasenunska/Yasenunsca/ (Ash Tree Valley); Ceretu/ (the grass lawn); Dibrova/ (grove, oak tree forest), Smerceaneii/ (spruce fir tree forest); Suharasce/ (dry wood forest), Ceresenica/ (sweet cherry tree) – Repedea village; Ruska Polyna (the old name given to Poienile de sub Munte – The Meadow Below The Mountain – comes from Poiana Rusului – The Meadow of the Russian), Polyna/ / (meadow, grassland, mountain), Zarub/ (cleared forest); Iasenunskiy/Yasenunskiy/ (ash tree forest).

3. Toponyms which derive from different **landscape's characteristic** features such as:

a) toponyms deriving from *mountain and hill forms*: Dil/ (rivers' sweep), Hora/ (mountain), Makovita/ (Ukrainian – Makivka, the upper part of a mountain), Magura/ - (mountain), Obcina/ (peak, a prolonged ridge of a hill or mountain which joins two peaks), Picuiata/ / (top, peak), Megla/ (a small hill in the middle of the plain, evidence of erosion in Valea Visoului village) – Bistra village;

b) toponyms denoting *valleys, depressions and terraces*: Pereslup/ (depression), Gruninky/ (hill, hillock) – Ruscova village; Jolob/ (sewer, deep valley); Iama/ (hollow), Zarinok/ (meadow area), Cotel/ (small depression), Berdo/ (steep slope), Poderei/ (terrace shaped territory) – Bistra village; the toponym Zarika/Zarica/ (beyond the river territory) is met in all four villages.

) toponyms deriving from slopes: Osui/ (sunny slope), Repky/Rypky/ (uneven steep slope) – Repedea village; Osovnya/ (slope with sunny steep, southern position) – Bistra village; Oblaz/ (road at the foot of a mountain) – Ruscova and Bistra communes.

d) toponyms deriving from *passes and defile*: Rostoca/ (the place where rivers separate themselves), Perehrestea/ (the intersection of the mountainous paths) – Bistra commune; Pereslup/ (saddle-shaped pass, highly situated) – Repedea and Poienile de sub Munte communes;

e) toponyms deriving from the *agricultural lands*: Lazy/ (common), Lujana/ (everglade), Tarina/ (arable lands), Levadcyna/ (orchard) – Repedea commune; Luh/ (everglade), Pasovnea/ (grazing place), Poderei/ (terrace shaped territory), Poloinca/ (meadow, mountainous pasture), Preluca/ (small glade), Poleanche/ (meadow, lawn), Stuilasce/ (the place where sheep graze in spring time – spring like), Toloca/ (common), Sadow/ (orchard) – Bistra commune;

f) toponyms deriving from some *geological layers*: Kaminceane/ (Ukrainian – stone), Pud Kamenem/ (under the stone) – Repedea commune; Cameanca/ (stone, boulder) and Cremanasce/ (flint) – Bistra commune, Grehit/ (detritus) – Bistra and Poienile de sub Munte communes; Soloteanei/ (territory rich in mineral salts – salt) – Poienile de sub Munte commune; Vapnarke/ (the place with kilns where they burn the lime) – Bistra and Repedea communes.

4. **Hydronyms**: Mlaciky/ (swampy territory) – Repedea commune; Rica/ (river) – Poienile de sub Munte commune; Bolota/ (swamp, puddle), Bolotin/ (swamp, puddle), Carnacica/ (stream), Potic/ (stream, torrent, spring) – Bistra commune.

5. Toponyms deriving from the **old landowners**: Denkova/Denkiv/ (Denko's territory), Keresove/ (Keres's land), Serbanskiy/ (Romanian toponym Serban's land) – Bistra commune; Dancul/ (Dancul's land) – Repedea commune; Drahmirov/ (Drahmir's estate) – Ruscova commune; Maxemniuc/ (Maxemniuc's land) – Poienile de sub Munte, the largest commune in the county.

6. Toponyms which come from the **given names of the old landowners**: Hora Hali/ (Halea's mountain) – Ruscova commune; Mihailyk/ (Michael's land), Mihailusky/ (Michael's land) and Miclusa/Micklush – Nicolae from Hungarian (Miclush's estate) – Repedea commune; Ivancikov/ (Ivan's land) and Paulik/ (Pavlo's land), Iurcescu/ (the toponym with Ukrainian origin with Romanian termination – the given name Yura in the Romanian language *Gheorghe* – the Iurcescu field) – Poienile de sub Munte commune; Pip Ivan/ (river and mountain having the same name) – Bistra commune, and Repedea commune.

7. Toponyms deriving from **household objects**: Bardeu/Bardau/ (axe, hatchet) – Poienile de sub Munte commune; Vorotet/ (gate) – Bistra commune.

8. Toponyms deriving from the **exterior aspect of people**: Voloseanka/ (the toponym comes from Ukrainian, volosea in Romanian hair – very thick forest), Holovaci/ (thick – headed); Tovstei/ (thick, fat, big hill) – Bistra commune; Ciolar/ (forehead) – Repedea commune.

9. Toponyms which derive from **people's profession**: Cusnirca/ (Ukrainian – furrier, the furrier's estate), Pasicyni/ / (apiary), Tokarnea/ (the turner's estate) – Bistra commune.

10. Toponyms formed by **adjectives and nouns combination**: CrasnaViseului/ c (in Slavonic transcription and in the Ukrainian language, *crasna* means beautiful). The upper, lower Grigoretz/ , (the inferior and superior part of the landowner Hryhorii).

11. **Adjectives**-formed toponyms: Billy/ (Ukrainian – white), Plavnii/ (Ukrainian – slowly), Seredni/ (Ukrainian – middle) – Ruscova commune; Bilyanskii/ (Ukrainian – albino), Mohnatey/ (Ukrainian – hairy, moss-covered soil), Ciornii/ (Ukrainian – black) – Bistra commune;

12. Toponyms with a **mystical-religious meaning**: Hluhei/ (Ukrainian – deaf), Poklykovysce/ / (Ukrainian – to call), Neviru/ (Ukrainian – Do not believe in facts and phenomena which don't make sense) – Bistra commune; Valea Negara – Black Valley (after the building of the monastery it was changed into Valea Luminata – The Lighted Valley) – at the bourn of the communes Rona de Sus, Petrova si Bistra; Bludniak/ (the place where people loose their orientation; derived from Ukrainian – to loose oneself), Zaklyana Dolyna/ (Ukrainian – The Cursed Valley), Hamonanka/ (Ukrainian – to brake, the place where something stops you; areal explanation – the place which confuses you) – Repedea commune; Lyhey Potik/ (Ukrainian – The Bad Valley), Reveaka/ ' (Ukrainian – to cry, the crying place), Usteklii/ (Ukrainian – mad, the place where people loose their minds) – Poienile de Sub Munte commune.

The detailed analysis of the areal spreading of the Ukrainian toponymy of this mystical-religious group of toponyms shows itself almost regularly in the studied territory, at a certain distance [2]. The nominalization of the toponyms is related to some forms of the relief, hydrographical objects, the vegetal and animal world features.

The nominalization of the geographical objects took place in a sudden connection of man and nature. In the past at the subconscious level, some people would comprehend the mystical over application of a certain territory, which used to have an influence upon their psychic. This is how the origin of the religious-mystical toponyms is explained. In the special literature these places are called geopathogenic areas. In order to investigate and study them we shall suggest the classification and the analysis of the toponymy, which has an important, informative and applicative influence. The discovery of the geopathogenic areas has an applicative relevance. In these areas building relaxing, habitable objectives churches, roads, schools and others. With an applicative purpose we recommend the mapping of these toponyms on largely-used maps: topographic, touristic and many more.

In the places of the Ruscova river valley the following homonyms-toponyms are specific: Poloninka, Polyana, Bukovynka, Yalynka. The geographical name Scorodniy is familiar in Repedea and Bistra communes. Yalynka toponym is located in the following villages: Valea Viseului, Bistra, Crasna Viseului, Ruskova, and the toponym Uloha is familiar in Bistra and Poienile de Sub Munte communes.

Toponyms have been formed and named by the Ukrainians which settled on these territories beginning with the 14th century. If a territory has been populated from old times this will bear a rich and interesting toponymy and their semantic and explanation must be looked for in the language where these true linguistic monuments have been formed [1].

In many Ukrainian places from Hutsulia Maramuresana Visevsca the history placed its fingerprints upon toponymy. Here we can find Romanian origin names (Big Little, Little Big, The Sleeking, Intense Heat – in Repedea commune, Podina, Plai, Furghiu, Runcul – Bistra commune; Hungarian (Miclusa – Repedea commune, Portos – woods storehouse – Bistra commune). We can notice a Ukrainian-Romanian collision of toponymy, though a little substantial.

The study of toponymy as well as the history of populating the trans-frontier area in Maramures can be accomplished on the basis of a bilateral complex Ukrainian-Romanian study – linguistic, historic, geographic and ethnographic.

The study of toponymy in the villages from Hutsulia Maramuresana – Visevsca proves that during the history, this area has met different cultural and linguistic influences. The minority of Ukrainian population was remarkable through its steadiness concerning the preservation of mother's tongue, the toponymy, customs, rites and culture. The ethno-cultural values which have been created in the past, especially the old toponyms represent a living evidence of the continuation of this ethnic community in the area having been assimilated among the Ukrainian population and shared respectfully from generation to generation.

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