

## APPLICATION OF A NEW METHOD IN COMPILATION OF A SETTLEMENT MONOGRAPH

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### ABSTRACT – Application of a new method in compilation of a settlement monograph

In some settlement monographs mainly the ethnographic elements dominate. Monographs of Vereb (FÖLDES 1937) and Rákospalota (SZABÓ-STRAUCH 1927) are like this, for example. Certain volumes of the series „Monograph of Hungarian Towns”, Szeged (KISS-TONELLI-SZIGETHY 1927), Nagykanizsa (BARBARITS 1929), Makó (LADÁNYI 1929), Baja (RAPCSÁNYI 1934) have similar structure. Description of the natural-, social-, economical-, and infrastructural spheres can be found in them but they do not explore, analyse the causal relations at all. These works are of descriptive character, „actually, it is a data base for the future, a source for a forthcoming historian” (LADÁNYI 1929:7). After a general historical review they put the events of the last few years in writing. The most important turning-point which was taken into consideration was the first world war. Some authors were aiming to create a „historical document” (RAPCSÁNYI 1934:4). The close connection between the natural and social spheres were considered by BOGNÁR in „Settlement geography of Pápa” and by TÓTH in „Mezőberény, the town that seeks its place”. In 1943 BOGNÁR already used the expression „cultural region”. The new monograph of Mezőhegyes will fit into the mentioned works in its structure, but it will differ in its methods. It will survey each stage with the help of the tetrahedron-model (TÓTH 1997) examining how the change in any spheres will alter the other three ones.

### Összefoglalás – Új módszer alkalmazása településmonográfia összeállításában

Néhány településmonográfiában főleg a néprajzi elemek domináltak. Ilyen például Vereb (FÖLDES 1937) és Rákospalota monográfiája (SZABÓ-STRAUCH 1927). A Magyar Városok Monográfia sorozat egyes kötetei Szeged (KISS-TONELLI-SZIGETHY 1927), Nagykanizsa (BARBARITS 1929), Makó (LADÁNYI 1929), Baja (RAPCSÁNYI 1934) hasonló felépítésűek. Itt már a természeti-, társadalmi-, gazdasági-, és az infrastrukturális szféra elemeinek leírása megtalálható, de az ezek közötti ok-okozati összefüggést nem tárja fel, nem elemzi. Ezen alkotások leíró jellegűek, „adattár ez voltaképpen a jövő részére, kútfő egy eljövendő történetíró számára” (LADÁNYI 1929:7). Az általános történelmi áttekintés után az utolsó néhány év eseményeit rögzítették. Kardinális fordulópontra, amit a sorozat köteteinek megírásakor figyelembe vettek, az első világháború volt. Némely író arra törekedett, hogy „történelmi okiratot”(RAPCSÁNYI 1934: 4) hozzon létre. A természeti- és társadalmi szféra közötti szoros kapcsolatot figyelembe vette BOGNÁR Pápa településföldrajza (BOGNÁR 1943) és TÓTH Mezőberény, a helyét kereső kisváros c. (TÓTH 1980) munkáiban. Már 1943-ban BOGNÁR használta a kultúrtáj kifejezést. Mezőhegyes készülő monográfiája szerkezetének felépítésében illeszkedni fog az előbb említett írások közé, de módszerében eltér. A tetraéder modell (TÓTH 1997) segítségével fog minden szakaszt áttekinteni, azt vizsgálja, hogy valamely szférában történő változás hogyan fogja megváltoztatni a másik három szférát.

**Kulcsszavak:** természeti szféra, társadalmi szféra, gazdasági szféra, infrastrukturális szféra, tetraéder modell

**Keywords:** natural sphere, social sphere, economical sphere, infrastructural sphere, tetrahedron-model

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to describe a new model of settlement monograph, the tetrahedron-model (Tóth 1979), and to analyse that what methods were used to write the settlement monographs of Rákospalota (SZABÓ-STRAUCH 1927), Dunaföldvár (CZIRÁKY 1910), Nagykanizsa (BARBARITS 1929), Szeged (KISS-TONELLI-SZ. SZIGETHY 1927), Makó (LADÁNYI 1929), Baja (RAPCSÁNYI 1934), Vereb (FÖLDES 1937), Kecskemét (CSATÁRI 1987), Pápa (BOGNÁR 1943), Mezőberény (TÓTH 1980), Szentendre (SIN 2000), Esztergom (LETTRICH 1964), Békéscsaba (HAÁN 1968), for

example, and how much they deviate from the mentioned model. This study is aiming to describe the methodological background of the future monograph of Mezőberény, too.

## **MATERIAL AND METHOD**

During my research work I read and treated a great number of literature. I examined that how the writers regard the close connections among the four spheres (social-, economical-, infrastructural-, and natural spheres) in certain monographs, what methods they used, what their sources were, how they built up their works, and how the monograph, written by me, will fit into the other works.

## **EXAMINATION**

Regarding that I am examining the methods of settlement monographs it is useful to make clear what I mean by settlement. I would point out one from the numerous definitions: „The settlement is a system based on the interaction of social-economical, infrastructural and natural spheres where the content elements are important” (TÓTH 1997:23).

I am intending to write the monograph of Mezőhegyes with the tetrahedron-model of TÓTH, JÓZSEF. TÓTH defined the tetrahedron-model of settlements as follows: „The character of settlements, defined as the culminating points of the social-economical space, is determined by four spheres –nature, society, economy and infrastructure- which are in intensive interaction. This system can be modelled by a tetrahedron which is a geometric solid made up of four coincident triangles with equal sides. Actually, the model illustrates that each sphere is in very close connection with the other ones, the interactions are realised along the edges. Consequently, the settlement –which is made up of these spheres- is an interactive system, the unity of which cannot be disrupted. If any of its elements is extracted, it cannot be defined as a settlement any more. The dynamic feature of the model is stressed, since it approaches the settlement in its constant change, in modifications of its population, economy, infrastructure and natural environment. The system is harmonious in the sense that any change in the spheres of the tetrahedron –the settlement-, and in their processes has effect on the other parts, too. On the other hand, alteration in the quality or feature of any sides –being a harmonious model- causes the alteration of the whole tetrahedron” (TÓTH 1997:23).

SZABÓ TIVADAR and STRAUCH ÁRPÁD wrote the historical monograph of Rákospalota „from the 1800’s to the times when the settlement became town with a council” (SZABÓ-STRAUCH 1927:5). They used both primary archival, and secondary sources for their work. Basically, it is a historical description written in chronological order. Not only in this work, but in the case of other authors from the 1920’s, monographs have a similar structure. They begin with the description of the geographical situation, the geological formation and the climate of the given settlement, like the monograph of Dunaföldvár (CZIRÁKY 1910). Then it is followed by the historical background. At the end of the monograph we can find an ethnographical description, popular that time. Traditional dresses, folk costumes, burials are described here. They give data in chart forms regarding the population and religion from the census of 1823 up to the census of 1920. In the appendix we can find lists of the town’s institutions, churches, schools, industrial-, social- and commercial institutions, choral societies, sport clubs, political parties and libraries (SZABÓ-STRAUCH 1927).

It was CZIRÁKY, GYULA who wrote the monograph of Dunaföldvár (CZIRÁKY 1910). At the beginning of the monograph he treats the literature on the history of the

town. He mentions those who made research or published works in this topic. Then, it is followed by the description of the geographical position of the settlement, which precedes the description of its historical development. In the second half of the monograph CZIRÁKY outlines the lives of the significant personalities who were born in Dunaföldvár, and describes what they did for the town. In time: he treats the available material from the beginning to 1909. On the bases of these works we cannot talk about a conscious description of the interactions among the natural-, social-, infrastructural-, and economical spheres.

The introductory volume of the series 'Monograph of Hungarian Towns' is the monograph of Szeged (KISS-TONELLI-SZ. SZIGETHY 1927). It outlines the past and describes the history of the few decades before 1927, in details. This work was called „turning-point” by SOMOGYI, SZILVESZTER the mayor of Szeged that time (KISS-TONELLI-SZ.SZIGETHY 1927 Foreword). The purpose of the monograph was that the next generation can find all the important data in one place. The monograph of Nagykanizsa was published as the fourth volume of this series (BARBARITS 1929). The sixth volume of the series was published under the title „Makó and towns of county Csanád-Torontál” in 1929. Mayor NIKELSZKY, JENŐ mentions in the foreword that it is not a real historical monograph, just a simple description of Makó in 1929. The book is of descriptive nature, it does not seek causal relations, it is just „a data base for the future, a source for a forthcoming historian” (Ladányi 1929:7). It tells us the events of the last 15 years before 1929. In the second half of the volume it describes the towns of county Csanád-Torontál in 4-5 pages, one by one, from Ambrózfalva, through Mezőhegyes to Végegyháza. In the social part it is listed in details that who participated in the war, who was awarded, who what office held in the life of the settlements. The eleventh volume of the series is „Baja and towns of county Bács-Bodrog”, written by RAPCSÁNYI, JAKAB (1934). This work is rich in references, in indication of sources. The author aspired to a complex work, to „a historical document” (RAPCSÁNYI 1934:4). „A separated chapter describes the particular features of the town, its position, population, religious life; its issues in administration, industry, trade, agriculture, public health, culture etc.” (RAPCSÁNYI 1934:4). He frequently considers political and military events as guiding principles. The settlements of county Bács-Bodrog are detailed in the last chapter of the monograph, then we can find a personal data base at the end of this volume, too. To sum it up, each volume of the series has similar structure, they collect the data of the last few decades before their compilation, which are described in a descriptive way without carrying out an analysis.

The monograph of town Vereb, written by FÖLDES, FERENC, was compiled for a contest of the Village Research Institution of the Hungarian Society in 1936. Details of the geographical position of the settlement are followed by the natural conditions. We can read about the geological formations and the soil. We get a detailed hydrographical description, then it goes on with the outline of the climate and weather of the settlement. In the second chapter we can read about its history from the Roman times. In the third picture we can get a picture of the population and its culture. HAÁN wrote in a similar way about the population of Békéscsaba (HAÁN 1968:33). In the fourth chapter he describes the family life, the house, the garden, the yard and the village. He mentions the transport and even the postal trade. In the closing chapter FÖLDES writes about the future tasks in 14 points. He describes each sphere, but he does not go into details regarding the connecting points, the interactions.

The rise of Kecskemét is due to its farmhouse-system and to its position as a market centre (CSATÁRI 1987:1). The work of CSATÁRI, BÁLINT „describes the alteration of Kecskemét in its settlement space, and its particular connections with its outskirts all in a

geographical approach” (CSATÁRI 1987:2). In the terms of settlement geography, connection between the town and its outskirts is nothing else than a determined correlation-system created among settlements in different levels of hierarchy (KIS 2008). The work consists of two parts. One describes „the forms of settlements and the transforming farmhouse-system which represent the special development of suburban character in case of Kecskemét, regarding their connection-system” (CSATÁRI 1987:3). The other chapter analyses „the closer and wider pull-area of the town, the connection of the independent settlements with the town, including the migrating force of their population, its structure and intensity” (CSATÁRI 1987:3). As CSATÁRI has to pay attention to the farmhouses around Kecskemét, so farms cannot be left out from the monograph of Mezőhegyes, either. It can be seen in the census data that a significant part of the population live in farms. What is more: examining the changes of the recent past in the frame of European effects, we have to reckon with the role of the settlement played in the small region (KIS-BODNÁR 2004).

In the interactions among the natural-, social-, infrastructural-, and economical spheres mentioned in the tetrahedron-model the first two ones consciously appeared in BOGNÁR’s work „Settlement geography of Pápa”, published in 1943. He „summarized the people’s life there, their connections with the environment and their transforming activity” (BOGNÁR 1943:44). The triple of environment, society and people can influence future significantly. (GÁL 1999) „The human being, who is forced to alter the natural conditions of the environment while satisfying his needs, intervenes in the life of the land, alters its image, and this way he becomes its dynamic element. This interaction between nature and people creates the cultured region in the place of the original one. How do people alter the image of the original land in the plains of Pápa, and how their work became part of the image of the cultured region?” (BOGNÁR 1943:39) – these are the questions the writer wants to answer to. „In foundation of a settlement and in its further development people have a real leading role when they utilize conditions given by nature according to their necessities. History of the development of a human settlement is nothing else than the history of utilization of the environmental conditions. However, we cannot be averse to mentioning the importance of historical events” (BOGNÁR 1943:40).

Monograph of Mezőberény (TÓTH 1980) begins with the description of its natural and geographical conditions. Then it is followed by a historical presentation in accordance with the methods of monograph writers at the turn of the century. He regarded Turkish occupation, 1848, World War I, World War II, Russian occupation as important turning-points. A whole chapter is devoted to the description of the social sphere. Here, he examines stratification of the population by employment, its demographic features and the processes of manpower allocation. „Registration forms are the bases of the treatment” (TÓTH 1980:65). In the following chapters he describes the economical and infrastructural spheres: agriculture, industry, tertial sectors of Mezőberény, its role in traffic and trade, its tourism and its activities in education. We can read the level of public works in a separate chapter. He studies the housing problems, electricity-, gas-, and water supply and the sewerage system. Chapters „Hierarchy level of the settlement and its outskirts” and „Place and role of Mezőberény in town region of Middle-Békés” close the work.

Beside the known chronological analysis, the application of the tetrahedron-model can be found in the analysis of formation and development of the settlement Csorvás (PAPP 2006). The author studies the social and economical changes of the village through the changes in utilization of the environment, from the Tartar occupation to becoming a town.

The title of the fifth volume of the series „Szentendrei Füzetek” is „Chronicle of a century. Szentendre 1900-1990” (SIN 2000). The author neither explains, nor assess the past but cites it. „I generally cited from the sources word for word” (SIN 2000:7).

Monograph of Esztergom (LETTRICH 1964) begins with the description of the natural environment of the settlement and its wider surrounding. „Social-economical factors determine the main stream of development. The society has always strived to utilize the geographical advantages – in accordance with its level of development” (LETTRICH 1964:19). The environs of Esztergom had very good conditions for people to settle down. LETTRICH studied the peculiarities of its surface, and which period each formation originate from. He described the characteristics of climate. In the second chapter Lettrich studied the changes in functions of Esztergom to the end of capitalism. Actually, it is a historical outline from the settling, for example, how Esztergom became centre of the state and the ecclesiastic administration, how it survived the Turkish era, how it was reconstructed again. Variation of the town’s population was examined on the bases of census data between 1720 and 1869. To examine the industrial concentration he made use of archival data. He studied the number of employees per master trade by trade (LETTRICH 1964:45). In the following chapters he wrote about the role of Esztergom in the industrial area Dorog.

## CONCLUSIONS

In the study we can see that there are settlement monographs that emphasises the ethnographical elements. Monographs of Vereb (FÖLDES 1937) and Rákospalota (SZABÓ-STRAUCH 1927) are like this. Certain volumes of the series „Monograph of Hungarian Towns”- Szeged (KISS-TONELLI-SZIGETHY 1927), Nagykanizsa (BARBARITS 1929), Makó (LADÁNYI 1929) and Baja (RAPCSÁNYI 1934)- have a similar structure. Description of the natural-, social-, economical-, and infrastructural spheres can be found in them but they do not explore, analyse the causal relations. These works are of descriptive nature, „actually, it is a data base for the future, a source for a forthcoming historian” (LADÁNYI 1929:7). We can mean by this for example, the name lists by trades in the social part. The significant turning-point, which was considered at the time of compilation of certain volumes, was the World War I. It has important role in the monograph of Makó (LADÁNYI 1929). RAPCSÁNYI regarded the political and military events as guiding principles in the monograph of Baja. He strived to compile a „historical document” (RAPCSÁNYI 1934:4). The close connection between the natural and social spheres were taken into consideration by BOGNÁR in „Settlement geography of Pápa” (BOGNÁR 1943) and by TÓTH in „Mezőberény, the town that seeks its place” (TÓTH 1980). BOGNÁR already used the expression „cultural region” in 1943.

The new monograph of Mezőhegyes will fit into the mentioned works in its structure but it will differ in its method. I am describing its planned structure, as follows. It will begin with a historical outline. The first historical period will describe the events from the foundation of Mezőhegyes to Trianon, the second one will study the period between the two world wars, and the third one will cover the events from the second world war to the change of the political system. The main part of the monograph will treat the data from the big political change to 2006. It will be followed by suggestions regarding the future, and finally, I will examine the changes in areal connections of Mezőhegyes. It is similar to the other settlement monographs so far. What will the difference be? I will study each stage with the help of the tetrahedron-model (TÓTH 1997), examining that how a change in any sphere will alter the other three ones. Consequently, it will not be a work of descriptive nature but it will show the system of connections among the spheres. In the

period between the change of the political system and 2006 each sphere will be examined in details, analysing census data and other KSH data, as well.

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