The International Use of the Word Rovas

Dr. Gábor Hosszú

Email: hosszu@eet.bme.hu

21st January, 2010, modified in 25th February 2010

Contents

1. Introduction.................................................................1
2. Documents that prove the extensive international use of the term “rovas”..................................................2
   2.1. In Albanian language: rabush, labush.................................................................2
   2.2. In Bulgarian language: равош, равуш, ровуш, ръвош...........................................2
   2.3. In Czech language: rabuše..................................................................................2
   2.4. In Danish language: Rovás Skriften....................................................................2
   2.5. In English language: rovás..................................................................................3
   2.6. In French language: rovás..................................................................................6
   2.7. In Polish language: rowasz................................................................................7
   2.8. In Romanian language: răvaş, răbuş, răboj, răboş răbaş.....................................8
   2.9. In Serbocroatian language: rovaš, ravaš, raboš, rabuš, r(e)vaš..........................8
   2.10. In Serbian language: ровашко писмо.................................................................9
   2.11. In Slovakian language: rováš..............................................................................9
   2.12. In Slovenian language: rováš, rováša................................................................10
   2.13. In Ukrainien language: ровац ........................................................................10
3. Bibliography........................................................................10

1. Introduction

Since the Szekely-Hungarian Rovas has no relationship to the Germanic Runes, the Hungarian-origin word “rovas” /rovːʃ/ is used and not the term “rune” or “runic”; and also since “run-“ is a Germanic root, as the German expert Andreas Stötzner pointed out in 2008. The Szekely-Hungarian Rovas is different from the Germanic Runic scripts. Prof. András Róna-Tas (member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences) also opposed the use of the name “runic” to the rovas script.2

The term “rovas” is not new in English literature and is used more and more frequently in English (see Subchapter 2.5). In order to settle on an official English name, the Rovas Committee - Community of Hungarian Rovas Writers discussed the alternate names of this script and on September 22nd 2008 formed a recommendation. Based on their recommendation, on 4th October 2008 the “Living Rovas” Symposium in Gödöllő3 accepted as official names for the script: “székely-magyar rovás” in Hungarian and “Szekely-Hungarian Rovas” in English (originally with “Szekler” spelling).4 After this decision, the Hungarian rovas writers and their organizations soon unified their terminology, all using the term “Szekely-Hungarian Rovas” (sometimes with “Szekler” spelling).

Detailed examples are collected in Chapter 2 in order to demonstrate the use of the word “rovas” in different other languages for the rovas script.

---

1 Stötzner, Andreas in Unicode mailing list on Friday November 07 2008: „... Though we have the runic range named “Runic” and not “Old Germanic” we have the old turkish ‘Runes’ named “Old Turkic” because *run-* is a germanic root and as such inappropriate to the turkish script. ...”, see (Stötzner, 2008)
2 Róna-Tas, 1995, p. 270
3 Hosszú-Rumi-Sipos, 2008
4 The Szekler people are a specific group of Hungarians living in Szeklerland (Transylvania, Romania) who conserved this script through the centuries.
2. Documents that prove the extensive international use of the term “rovás”

2.1. In Albanian language: rabush, labush

Figure 8.1-1: Scholarly description of the word “rabush” as a loanword in Albanian (Balázsi, 1998, p. 323).

2.2. In Bulgarian language: рапуш, рабуш, ровуш, ръвуш

Figure 8.2-1: Scholarly description of the word “рапуш” as a loanword in Bulgarian (Balázsi, 1998, p. 323)

2.3. In Czech language: rabuše

Figure 8.3-1: Scholarly description of the word “rovás” as a loanword in Czeh (Balázsi, 1998, p. 323)

2.4. In Danish language: Rovás Skriften

Figure 8.4-1: Entry in the web site of the Aalborg Universitet, Denmark with the “Rovas script” in Dannish: Rovás skriften (web page, retrieved in 2010 from http://vbn.aau.dk/research/szeklermagayer_rovs_skriften(18419140)/)
2.5. In English language: rovas

The following images demonstrate the use of the word “rovas” in various text in English.

**Figure 8.5-1:** The use of the “Székely-Hungarian Rovás Script” expression on an Australian web page, [http://users.tpg.com.au/etr/rovas/inf/rovasE.html](http://users.tpg.com.au/etr/rovas/inf/rovasE.html)

![Székely-Hungarian Rovás Script](image1)

**Figure 8.5-2:** The web page [http://www.acronet.net/~magyar/english/96-10/csallany.htm](http://www.acronet.net/~magyar/english/96-10/csallany.htm) using the word “rovás”

![Magyar website using rovás](image2)

**Figure 8.5-3:** The web page [http://www.acronet.net/~magyar/english/1997-3/NEWLDROV.htm](http://www.acronet.net/~magyar/english/1997-3/NEWLDROV.htm) using the word “rovás”

![Hungarian website using rovás](image3)
Figure 8.5-4: An English page about rovas tattoo using “rovás” to denote the script:  
http://zsil-works.deviantart.com/art/Rovas-iras-120970098

Rovas - Hungarian runes

Rovas - Les runes hongroises

The topic and even the existence of a rune-like writing originating from Hungary is often superbly ignored by the nummologists, even when they discuss the possible origin of the runes. It seems that, worse, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences does not want to see the topic even discussed. Thus, it is left to a handful of faithful Hungarians who try to show the antiquity of their rovás writing. When so few people are active in a field, it cannot but show large deficiencies. For example, when a set of shapes is found, nothing proves it represents runes, rovas, or gothic letters, etc. The recognition comes when some archeological studies have been performed, the shapes are well recognized for belonging to a given alphabet, an interpretation is given, and some kind of coherent body of knowledge is formed about the topic. To read more...

Figure 8.5-5: Page of Yves Kodratoff using the word “rovás”: http://www.nordic-life.org/nmh

The first mention of the Hungarian “Székely-rovás” script we can find in Gesta Hungarorum, written in Latin language, about 1283 by Simon Kárai, the Court priest of King László Káli the 4-th. He wrote: “...the Székelys (the Magyars of the Eastern

Figure 8.5-6: English web page of Gabor Z. Bodroghy from 1998, retrieved in 2009.5

Fig. 8.5-7 presents part of a web forum where the word “rovás” is used in a natural way.

5 Bodroghy, 1998

The International Use of the Word Rovas - 4 of 10
Figure 8.5-7: Part of a forum entry in 24 March 2008 10:16 AM, retrieved in 2009 from http://bbs.keyhole.com/ubb/ubbthreads.php?ubb=showflat&Number=1130546&site_id=1#import

Fig. 8.5-8 presents another example of using the word rovas from 2006.  

![File:Enlaka rovas inscription.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Enlaka_rovas_inscription.jpg)

Figure 8.5-8: The file name of the Énlaka rovas inscription uses the term rovas in the Wikipedia from 2006.

Géza Rózsa developed a very interesting script for the web browser that convert every web pages into Szekely Hungarian Rovas script. Fig. 8.5-9 presents a page of his web site.

**Scripts tagged rovás**

1 scripts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>SzekelyWagyarRovas, SzeklerHungarianRovas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This script displays all text on every web page in the Szekler Hungarian Rovas. (Only useful if you know hungarian.) Székely rovással megjelenített web (MMW) MINDEN megnyitott weblap rovás belükkéje jobbról baira íva. Rovás font is kell hozzá!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 8.5-9: A page of the rovas-converter web site (Rózsa, 2009)

---

7 Rózsa, 2009
2.6. In French language: *rovás*

*Figure 8.6-1* and *2* give examples for the use of “rovás” in French text. The author clearly differentiate the between “les rovás” and the “les alphabets runiques” in the first figure and between the “rovás” and the “runes” is the second figure.

Quelques liens **www sur les rovás**

*urnal of The Institute For Hungarian Studies à
*http://www.acronet.net/-magyar/english/96-10/magyarad.htm

*san Tornyó est l’éditeur en chef de ce journal.*

“alphabet” rovás à: *http://www.imagesoft.net/hungary/hun101/fx010015.htm*

**nombreuses rovás et des images,** mais les textes sont en Hongrois, à *http://www.inforum.hu/rovas/*

**Sur l’existence d’un alphabet rovás cohérent.**

**Les rovás et les alphabets runiques**

*Figure 8.6-1*: Page of Yves Kodratoff with using the word “rovás”, retrieved in 9 August 2009 from *http://www.nordic-life.org/nmh/rovassFr.htm*
**Figure 8.6-2:** Another part of page of Yves Kodratoff with using the word “rovás”, retrieved in 9 August 2009 from http://www.nordic-life.org/nmh/rovasFr.htm

Next Google hit gives a part of a text where the “les rovás” is used in the French language without quotation marks.

Les Fils d’Odin • Afficher le sujet - Les "runes" hors du monde... [Translate this page]
Jo vous met ici un lien intéressant sur les "runes" hongroises, les rovás. Ce sujet, écrit par Yves Kodratoff (alias Hurd-Hedinn), nous permet de...
www.lesfilsdodin.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=756 - Similar

**Figure 8.6-3:** A web page where the “les rovás” word is used in the French language, screen shot is from a Google result.

**Fig. 8.6-4** gives another example for the use of “rovás” in French.

Figure 8.6-4: A forum page, retrieved in 9 August 2009 from http://www.hongrieforum.com/viewtopic.php?p=41632&sid=79688cd31b95120691002bd50f7023a2

### 2.7. In Polish language: *rowasz*

In Poland the word “rovás” is used with it’s Polish spelling as “rowasz”. The pronunciation of the Polish word “rowasz” /ˈrovaʂ/ practically equals the pronunciation of the Hungarian origin “rovás” /ˈrovaʃ/.

The word is quite pervasive in print literature and also on the Internet.
2.8. In Romanian language: răvaş, răbuş, răboj, ráboş rábaş

A study of Ildikó Posgay about the word “rovas” as a loanword in Polish (Posgay, p. 370)

2.9. In Serbocroatian language: rovaš, ravaš, raboš, rabuš, r(e)vaš

A scholarly description of the word “rovaš” as a loanword in Serbocroatian (Balázsi, 1998, p. 323)

2.10. In Serbian language: ровашко писмо

Fig. 8.10-1 presents the Serbian name of the rovas script: ровашко писмо, its pronunciation is /rovashko pismo/, the Serbian spelling of the word rovas (писмо means “script” or “writing] in a declined form.
2.11. In Slovakian language: *rováš*

Fig. 8.11-1 gives the cover page of the (thesis) book by Ms. Gabriella Salgó, Konstantin University of Philosophy, Nyitra (Slovakia) titled: “Rovas scripting as a free time activity”, 2008. The Slovakian title demonstrates the use of the word “rovas” in the Slovakian language, in the form of “rováš” according to the Slovakian spelling.

---


---

Fig. 8.11-2: Scholarly description of the word “rováš” as a loanword in Slovak (Balážsi, 1998, p. 323)

---

Fig. 8.11-3: Study of Ildikó Posgay about the word “rováš” as a loanword in Slovakian (Posgay, p. 370)
2.12. In Slovenian language: rováš, rováša

In Sleeven language: rováš, rováša

Figure 8.12-1: Scholarly description of the word “rováš” as a loanword in Slovenian (Balázs, 1998, p. 323)

2.13. In Ukrainen language: posau

In Ukrainen language: posau

Figure 8.13-1: Scholarly description of the word “posau” as a loanword in Ukrainian (Balázs, 1998, p. 323; Schubert, 1982

Figure 8.13-2: Study of Ildikó Posgay about the word “posau” as a loanword in Ukrainian (Posgay, p. 370)

3. Bibliography


