

# The International Use of the Word Rovas

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## 1. Introduction

Since the Szekely-Hungarian Rovas has no relationship to the Germanic Runes, the Hungarian-origin word “*rovás*” /rovaːʃ/ 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

The term “*rovás*” 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008 formed a recommendation. Based on their recommendation, on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2008 the “*Living Rovas*” *Symposium* in Gödöllő<sup>3</sup> accepted as official names for the script: “*székely-magyar rovás*” in Hungarian and “*Szekely-Hungarian Rovas*” in English (originally with “*Szekler*” spelling).<sup>4</sup> 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 “*rovás*” in different other languages for the rovas script.

<sup>1</sup> 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)

<sup>2</sup> Róna-Tas, 1995, p. 270

<sup>3</sup> Hosszú-Rumi-Sipos, 2008

<sup>4</sup> 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*

ски етимологичен речник 1—3. София, 1971—86; SCHUBERT i. m. 561), továbbá az albán is *rabush, labush*-ként (MANN, STUART E., A Historical Albanian—English Dictionary. London, Beccles, 1948. 421; SCHUBERT i. m. 562). A román nyelvben belső fejlőd-

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

### 2.2. In Bulgarian language: *равои, равуи, ровуи, ръвои*

a távolabbi népekhez is elvándorolt: románból átvett kölcsönszóként ismeri a bolgár *рабои, рабуи, робуи, ръвои* alakban (БЕРНШТЕЙН i. m. 652; ГЕОРГИЕВ, В., Български етимологичен речник 1—3. София, 1971—86; SCHUBERT i. m. 561), továbbá az

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

### 2.3. In Czech language: *rabuše*

de ezenkívül kialakult egyedi jelentése is: korbácsos utcai börtön (SCHUBERT i. m. 562), cseh *rabuše* (bár itt használatos a szláv szó is: *máš u mne vroubek* ‘rovásod van nálam’) (KERTÉSZ, Szok. 164) *níčeš na mui vrub* ‘az én rovásomra iszol’ (KERTÉSZ: i. h.)

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

### 2.4. In Danish language: *Rovás Skriften*

The image shows a screenshot of the Aalborg University website. At the top left is the Aalborg University logo. At the top right are links for 'aau.dk' and 'vbn.dk', and a search bar with the text 'Søg i VBN' and a button '> Avanceret s'. Below the navigation bar is a dark blue banner with the word 'FORSKNING' in white. Underneath the banner is a horizontal menu with links: 'Forskere', 'Publikationer', 'Forskningsprojekter', 'Aktiviteter', 'Presse', 'Forskningsenheder', and 'Ekspertter'. Below the menu is a breadcrumb trail: 'VBN > Szekler-Magayer Rovás Skriften'. The main content area has a grey header 'FORSKNING' and a 'Publikation:' label followed by 'FORORD/EFTERSKRIFT'. Below that is a 'PUBLISHED' label. The title of the publication is 'Szekler-Magayer Rovás Skriften : Az élő rovás - Nemzeti írásunk útján' and the author is 'Rita Cancino'.

Figure 8.4-1: Entry in the web site of the Aalborg Universitet, Denmark with the “Rovas script” in Danish: *Rovás skriften* (web page, retrieved in 2010 from [http://vbn.aau.dk/research/szeklermagayer\\_rov\\_skriften\(18419140\)/](http://vbn.aau.dk/research/szeklermagayer_rov_skriften(18419140)/))

## 2.5. In English language: *rovás*

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

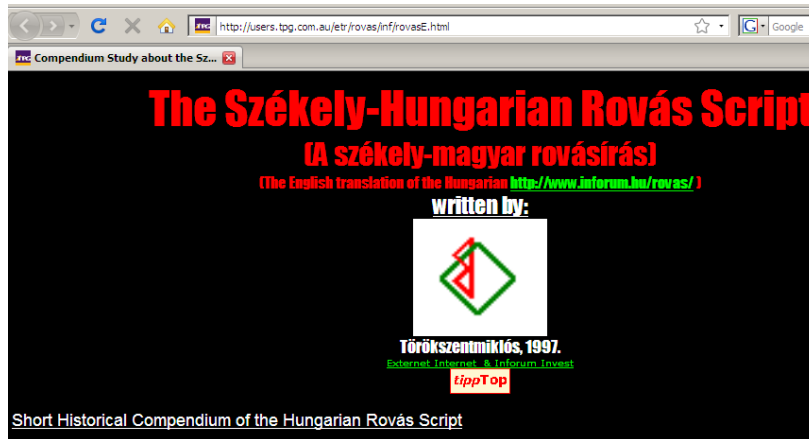
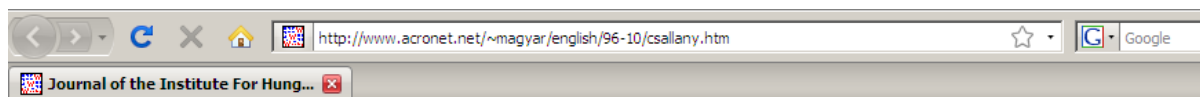


Figure 8.5-1: The use of the “Székely-Hungarian Rovás Script” expression on an Australian web page, <http://users.tpg.com.au/etr/rovas/inf/rovasE.html>



Dezső Csallány's study in the Journal of Archaeology 1966.1., Vol. 93 deals in great detail with the history, further development, places of occurrence of the Székely-Magyar rovás („A Székely-Magyar Rovásírás történetéhez” "Additions to the History of the Székely-Magyar rovás") The : beyond this present work. I do have to mention the places where the rovás scripts he mentions were found, their connections, the basic character direction of further development of the Székely-Magyar rovás. I am mentioning the rovás texts according to the material where they were written was used.

Professor Csallány mentions the following places:

*Rovás carved in stone:*

Figure 8.5-2: The web page <http://www.acronet.net/~magyar/english/96-10/csallany.htm> using the word “rovás”

the Kaprinai collection.

The Jesuit missionary János Zakariás wrote a letter from his mission in Peru on April 16, 1756 to the rev. József Bartakovics. His letter was written in the Hungarian and Latin languages, where he used rovás characters in the Latin text only. . Apparently he wanted to use the Hungarian rovás texts as a secret message. He also made a remark: “If you don't know the Siculo-Hunnic characters, go for advise to Vargyasi, Bél, and Otróköcsi.”

Figure 8.5-3: The web page <http://www.acronet.net/~magyar/english/1997-3/NEWLDROV.htm> using the word “rovás”

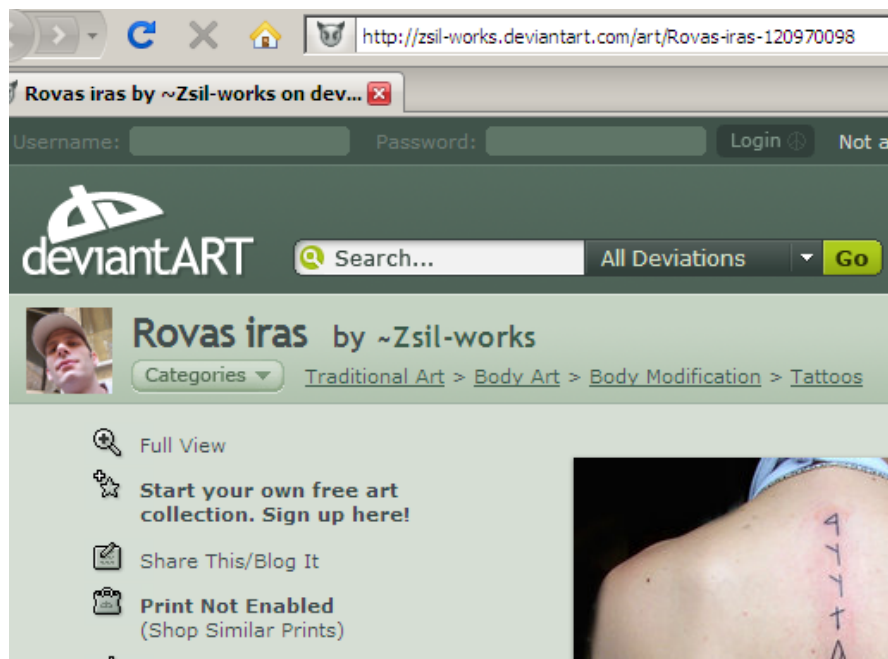


Figure 8.5-4: An English page about rovas tattoo using “rovás” to denote the script: <http://zsil-works.deviantart.com/art/Rovas-iras-120970098>

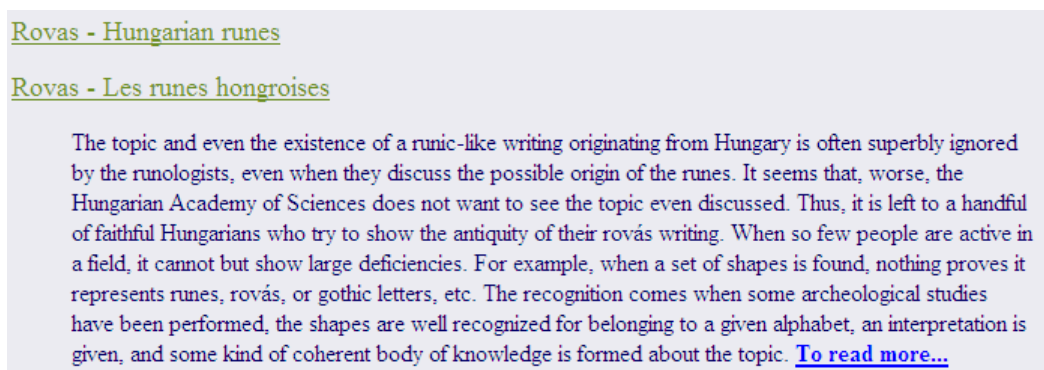


Figure 8.5-5: Page of Yves Kodratoff using the word “rovás”’: <http://www.nordic-life.org/nmh>



Figure 8.5-6: English web page of Gabor Z. Bodroghy from 1998, retrieved in 2009.<sup>5</sup>

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

<sup>5</sup> Bodroghy, 1998

Antonio Bonfini, in the time of the king Mátyás, described the Hungarian rovás: letters, and with few marks, express a lots of meanings...". János Telegdi but, and of Székelys, the runic writing was still taught in the schools".

about the "Székely" runic script, because this relic mainly came from the land of today we see, that the rovás script, as a carrier of an ancient culture, occurs in the past and even outside, where the Hun ancestors once lived. In the past, the rovás script can find it on different media: stone, wood, parchment. The most frequent places are, despite of a fact, that with the arrival of Christianity, the church spread the Latin script, but it encouraged the use of the runes.

was not the only enemy of the rovás script. The Árpád dynasty kings, have seen the use of the rovás as a threat to the nation's unity, and prosecuted the carriers. By the 15th century, the rovás has gone, except in Transylvania, where the kings' influence was far less. However, in the "Land of Székelys" were the shepherds still used it.

Important relics - or their authentic copies - of the Hungarian rovás script, without

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](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 rovás from 2006.<sup>6</sup>



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

Géza Rózsa developed a very interesting script for the web browser that convert every web pages into Székely Hungarian Rovás script.<sup>7</sup> Fig. 8.5-9 presents a page of his web site.

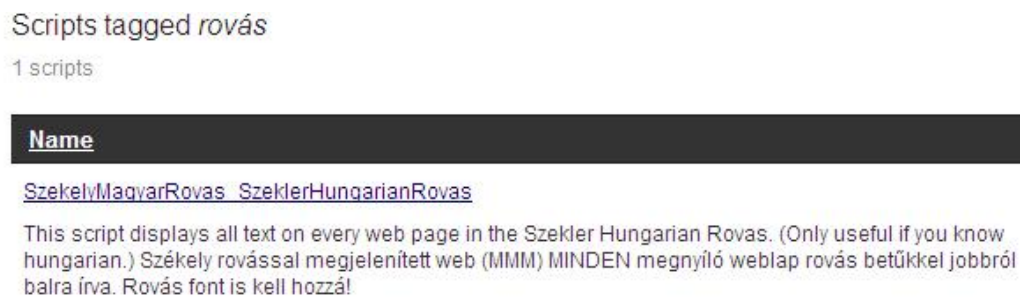


Figure 8.5-9: A page of the rovás-converter web site (Rózsa, 2009)

<sup>6</sup> Wikipedia, Retrieved in 2009 from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Enlaka\\_rovas\\_inscription.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Enlaka_rovas_inscription.jpg)

<sup>7</sup> Rózsa, 2009

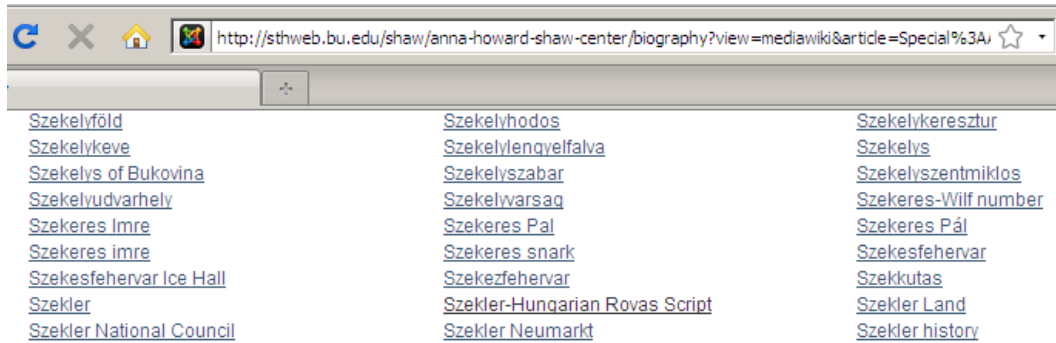


Figure 8.5-10: Using the “Szekler-Hungarian Rovas Script” name in the web page of the Boston University School of Theology, Anna Howard Shaw Center, retrieved in 2009 from <http://sthweb.bu.edu/shaw/anna-howard-shaw-center/biography?view=mediawiki&article=Special%3AAllPages%2Fszekler-hungarian-rovas-script>

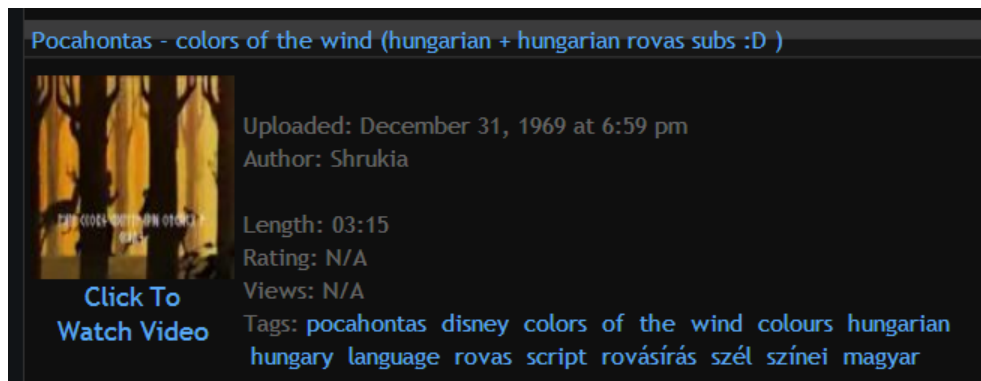


Figure 8.5-11: Blog entry with the name “hungarian rovas”. Retrieved in 17 October 2009 from <http://www.nurple.com/hybrid-cars/tag/Amig>

## 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 rovas” and the “les alphabets runiques” in the first figure and between the “rovás” and the “runes” in the second figure.

### Quelques lien www sur les rovas

Journal of The Institute For Hungarian Studies à  
[p://www.acronet.net/~magyar/english/96-10/magyarad.htm](http://www.acronet.net/~magyar/english/96-10/magyarad.htm)  
 Jean Tomory est l'éditeur en chef de ce journal.

"alphabet" rovas à : <http://www.imagesoft.net/hungary/hun101/fx010015.htm>

Nombreuses rovas et des images, mais les textes sont en Hongrois, à <http://www.inforum.hu/rovas/>

### Sur l'existence d'un alphabet rovas cohérent. Les rovas 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/rovasFr.htm>



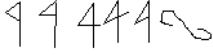



ROVÁS	RUNES
Valeur phonique suivie des formes possibles	Forme de Futhark Germanique ressemblant au rovás à gauche, suivi par le son qui leur est associé. Formes présentées par Bengt Odenstedt, <i>Origin and early history of runic script</i> , Almqvist 1990
Formes comme proposées par Fischer	On donne d'autres formes équivalentes issues d'alphabets antiques quand il n'y a aucun équivalent runique :
A, Á: 	 : son W
B: 	 : son G

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 ... - \[ Translate this page \]](#)  
 Je vous mets ici un lien intéressant sur les "runes" hongroises, les rovás. Ce sujet, écrit par Yves Kodratoff (alias Hund-Heidhinn), nous permet de ...  
[www.lesfilsdodin.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=756](http://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, seen shot is from a Google result.

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

Ensuite : Pourquoi parler de rovás vieux de 6000 ans et du fait que d'après toi cette écriture "c si...j'avais dis oui, que la langue hongroise change très peu. Mais si on suis la théorie comme quoi collons Hongrois de cette époque, installé au péninsule d'Italie, c'était vers - 1200, donc plus de 2000 ans avant quant même. ?  
 Si les rovás correspondent parfaitement à une langue qui allaient devoir attendre plus de 3000 ans avant d'être utilisés. Là, il va falloir choisir une hypothèse entre les rovás de 6000 ans qui collent parfaitement au h l'actuel et le fait qu'il y a 3000 ans les étrusques parlaient un hongrois qui serait d'époque et p

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” /rova:ʃ/ practically equals the pronunciation of the Hungarian origin “rovás” /rova:ʃ/

The word is quite pervasive in print literature and also on the Internet.



Figure 8.7-1: A part of the web page <http://jezwegierski.blox.pl/2008/09/rowasz.html>

rovás. OKDA. V, (43. térkép). Hangtani változatai: le. *rovaś*, rovas, szlk. *rova:ś*, ukr. *posau, posau, pasau*, szerb *posau*. Az atlaszban 62 kutatóponton található meg, ezek többsége vagy szlovák, vagy kárpátaljai település, de megvan a lengyelben is. Szórványosan előfordul még a moldáviai román kutatópontokon.

Figure 8.7-2: Study of Ildikó Posgay about the word “rovás” as a loanword in Polish (Posgay, p. 370)

## 2.8. In Romanian language: *răvaș, răbuș, răboj, ráboș rábaș*

rom. *răvaș, răbuș, răboj, ráboș, rábaș* 'rovás' (SCHUBERT i. m. 564—6; TAMÁS, LAJÓS, Etymologisch—historisches Wörterbuch der ungarischen Elemente im Rumänischen. Unter Berücksichtigung der Mundartwörter. London, The Hague, Paris, 1967. 661; MEYER-LÜBKE, W., Romanisches etymologisches Wörterbuch. Heidelberg, 1935). Belső

Figure 8.8-1: Scholarly description of the word “răvaș” as a loanword in Romanian (Balázs, 1998, p. 323)

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

Nyr. 42: 58—9). A szerbhorvátban *rovaš, ravaš, raboš, rabuš, r(e)vaš* (BUDENZ JÓZSEF, Vegyes apróságok: NyK. 2: 461—476; HADROVICS, LÁSZLÓ, Ungarische Elemente im Serbokroatischen. Bp., 1985; KOVÁCS i. m. 2: 831, 953; SCHUBERT i. m. 559), kicsinyítő

Figure 8.9-1: Scholarly description of the word “rovaš” as a loanword in Serbocroatian (Balázs, 1998, p. 323)

## 2.10. In Serbian language: *ровауко писмо*

Fig. 8.10-1 presents the Serbian name of the rovas script: *ровауко писмо*, its pronunciation is /rovaʃko pismo/, the Serbian spelling of the word rovas (*писмо* means “script” or “writing” in a declined form).





Figure 8.10-1: The rovash title of the Serbian Wikipedia retrieved in 9 August 2009, [http://sr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ровашко\\_писмо](http://sr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ровашко_писмо).

## 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.<sup>8</sup> The Slovakian title demonstrates the use of the word “rovash” in the Slovakian language, in the form of “rováš” according to the Slovakian spelling.

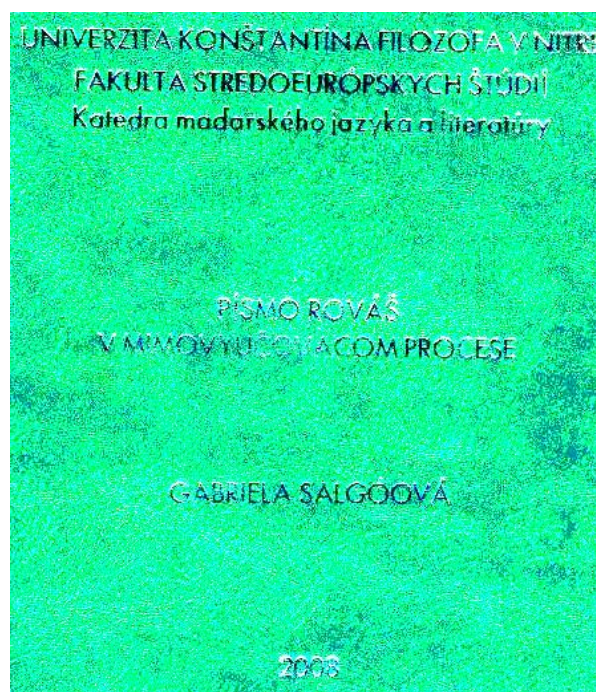


Figure 8.11-1: The cover page of the thesis book of Ms. Gabriella Salgó about “rováš” scripting

mađ. rovás (KERTÉSZ, SZOK. 197), *prjes na mađ. vrb. az. az. rovásírás* (KERTÉSZ, i. h.), szlk. *rováš* (SCHUBERT: i. h.), *daj na rováš* ‘adj rovásra [hitelbe]’ (KERTÉSZ: i. h.; PE-CIAR, S.: *Slovník slovenského jazyka* 1—6. Bratislava, 1959—68. 3: 765), magyarországi

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

*rovás*. OKDA. V, (43. térkép). Hangtani változatai: le. *rovaś*, *rovás*, szlk. *rovaś*, ukr. *рeвaш, pеvаш, pаeаш, szerb pеvаш*. Az atlaszban 62 kutatóponton található meg, ezek többsége vagy szlovák, vagy kárpátaljai település, de megvan a lengyelben is. Szórványosan előfordul még a moldáviai román kutatópontokon.

Figure 8.11-3: Study of Ildikó Posgay about the word “rováš” as a loanword in Slovakian (Posgay, p. 370)

<sup>8</sup> Salgó, 2008

## 2.12. In Slovenian language: *rováš, rováša*

Serbokroatischen. Bp., 1985; KOVACS i. m. 2: 831, 953; SCHUBERT i. m. 559), kicsinyítő képzős alakja *rovášica* (SCHUBERT i. m. 559), a szln. *rováš, rováša* (SCHUBERT i. m. 560), rom *răvas răbus răhoi răhos răhas* 'rovás' (SCHUBERT i. m. 564—6; TAMÁS LAJOS

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

## 2.13. In Ukrainian language: *пован*

A magyarság és a környező népek közötti élénk kereskedelmi kapcsolatokat mi sem bizonyítja ékesszólóbban, mint hogy *rovás* szavunk a szomszéd nyelvekben is meghonosodott (SCHUBERT, GABRIELLA, *Ungarische Einflüsse in der Terminologie des öffentlichen Lebens der Nachbarsprachen*. Berlin, 1982. 557—69): ukr. *пован, пован* 'rovás',

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

*rovás*. OKDA. V, (43. térkép). Hangtani változatai: le. *rovás*<sup>s</sup>, *rovás*, szlk. *rovaš*<sup>s</sup>, ukr. *пован, пован, пован*, szerb *пован*. Az atlaszban 62 kutatóponton található meg, ezek többsége vagy szlovák, vagy kárpátaljai település, de megvan a lengyelben is. Szórványosan előfordul még a moldáviai román kutatópontonkon.

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

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