

## **Given names of Spanish origin in the Hungarian personal name system**

### **Prenomes de origem espanhola no sistema antroponímico húngaro**

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**Abstract:** In the present-day Hungarian given name stock, there are probably less than a hundred names of Spanish origin, as interpreted in terms of etymology, intermediary languages and cultural sources. This short paper outlines the category of these names, its composition, background and main characteristics, accompanied by relevant examples.

**Keywords:** first names, naming fashion, given name stock, Hungarian, Spanish origin.

**Resumo:** Atualmente o repertório de prenomes húngaro, há, provavelmente, há menos de uma centena de nomes de origem espanhola, assim interpretados segundo a etimologia, as línguas intermediárias e as fontes culturais. Este breve artigo descreve e exemplifica esta categoria de nomes, sua composição, seu contexto e suas características principais.

**Palavras-chave:** prenomes, nomeação de moda, repertório de prenomes, húngaro, origem espanhola.

The recent changes in Hungarian given name stock are basically similar to modern global trends. Naming fashions are changing rapidly, the variety of names is constantly increasing, and many names and variants are being taken from other languages and cultures. This also affects the composition of the given name stock by *origin*, which can be interpreted in several ways, including etymology, intermediary languages, and cultural sources (SLÍZ, 2020). The Hungarian given name stock can be expanded within a regulated framework, where names of foreign origin are registered according to the Hungarian transcription of pronunciation (RAÁTZ, 2012). The examples below represent also this pattern.

The official Hungarian given name stock currently<sup>1</sup> contains 2586 female and 1953 male names. Of these, it is estimated that roughly a hundred are names of Spanish background,

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although these cannot always be distinguished from those taken from other languages, especially Italian (e.g. *Antónió, Mauríció; Alba, Fernanda*). Their overview is based on an analysis of the modern Hungarian given name stock and its dynamics (SLÍZ & FARKAS, 2021), and through a comprehensive online given name dictionary (UNK.).

A significant part of the category of Hungarian given names of Spanish origin are Spanish variants of elements of the traditional European, mainly ecclesiastical, name stock, especially in the case of male names. Their traditional Hungarian equivalents can be frequent names (e.g. *Benitó – Benedek; Inez – Ágnes*), or can be infrequent in our present-day use (e.g. *Mauríció – Mór, Ramón – Rajmund; Elena – Heléna, Tereza – Terézia*). Among the female names, there are several of hypocoristic origin which entered the Hungarian language as first names (e.g. *Anita, Evita, Lola, Rozita*), but none among the male names.

Other part of these names, in a way more common to female names, can be traced back to the Spanish lexicon (e.g. *Largó; Bonita, Dulcinea, Eszmeralda, Palóma*), while others are based on different Spanish proper names types (e.g. *Bolivár, Bolívia, Monszerát, Núria, Szantiágó*). In Hungarian the indirect origin of the majority of these names are not transparent, even less so for the specific background of the female names associated with the veneration of the Virgin Mary (e.g. *Dolóresz, Kármén, Lupitá, Milágrosz, Pilár*).

Roughly two thirds of the Hungarian given names of Spanish origin are female names. Both male and female variants of a name may have entered Hungarian (e.g. *Fernandó – Fernanda; Ramón – Ramóna*), while in other cases (at least for now) only half of a name pair can be found (e.g. *Manolita* yes, *Manolító* no). Variants of a male or female name may be present (e.g. *Diaz – Diegó; Lola – Lolita*). The most tradition-rich Hungarian name here, *Izabella* (from the Italian version of *Isabel*) has the most variants today (*Iza, Izabel, Izabell*).

An overwhelming majority of these names are rare in the Hungarian name set (cf. MKT.). Among the top 100 female names in the total population, there are currently two: *Anita* (23rd)

and *Izabella* (94th); among the male names, there are none. Among newborn girls, *Anita* was once the 6th most popular (circa 1980), but is no longer in the top 100 – unlike *Izabella*, which is still popular (15th in 2017). In the top 100 for boys' newborns, only *Rikárdó* has been, for a decade, in the top 100 (66th in 2013).

A great majority of these names are newcomers to the Hungarian name set, and could be inspired by the names of celebrities, such as football stars and soap opera characters, of the recent decades.

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