

DUNDAGA PARISH ORONYMS (HILL NAMES) OF LIVONIAN ORIGIN IN JURIS PLĀĶĪS' LATVIAN TOPONYM PUBLICATION

Ojārs Bušs

Latvian Language Institute

Abstract: Each less known addition to the collection of authentic Livonian language materials is very valuable, and a small contribution can also be made by Juris Plāķis' publication about Latvian, i.e., Courland toponyms, among which Livonian ones can be found as well. This collection includes toponyms collected by J. Plāķis himself, toponyms from Augusts Bīlenšteins' onomastic materials, as well as toponyms which have been sent in to the Folklore depository by pupils from different parishes. This article goes through oronyms (hill names).

Keywords: Livonian, Latvian, oronyms, toponyms, onomastics, dialects

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.12697/jeful.2014.5.1.13>

As is well known, Grizelda Kristiņa, the last native speaker of Livonian, passed away in 2013, at the age of 102. Although the functionality of the Livonian language has not ended with her, there is still a small number of people who know the language and, hopefully, revitalization of the Livonian language will be successful; however, fully authentic Livonian now exists only in written sources.

The total volume of written and published Livonian language materials (from which very valuable dictionaries have been compiled, e.g. Sjögren 1861; Kettunen 1938; Viitso, Ernštreits 2012; Winkler, Pajusalu 2009) is neither extremely small nor very large. As such, each slightly less known addition to the collection of authentic Livonian language materials is very valuable, and a small contribution can be made by Juris Plāķis' publication about Latvian, i.e., Courland toponyms (Plāķis 1936).

This collection of toponyms includes toponyms collected by Juris Plāķis himself, which he has mostly recorded from forester stories, toponyms from Augusts Bīlenšteins' onomastic materials, as well as toponyms which have been sent in to the Folklore depository by pupils from different parishes (Plāķis 1963, 6). Dundaga parish toponyms, some of which are of Livonian origin, take up about eleven pages in J. Plāķis' publication (*ibid.*, 251–261). This article looks at

hill names, which J. Plāķis has split up in three groups (according to elevated terrain object denominations used in the Dundaga parish): mountains (*kallan*¹), hills (*kanger*) and knolls (*ūzkallan*); the respective toponyms can be found on pages 253–254.

The main factor which allows toponyms to be considered unmistakably Livonian, at least in the materials viewed here, is when the geographical term used in the toponym is a Livonian word (unless the onomastic component of the toponym is clearly Latvian). Toponyms with relatively certain Livonian geographical classification words can be found among the Dundaga parish oronyms published by J. Plāķis, which came into J. Plāķis' possession already in written form, namely, among those collected by A. Bīlenšteins and among those sent in by undetermined pupils. Here are some hill names containing Livonian geographical terms:

*Boschkangar*² (hill) B.

Jahkenscho megga (mountain) B.

Jonig mēg (mountain) skv. (Dundaga parish has also written down the toponym *Jāņu kallans*; although it is not known whether these names – *Jonig mēg* and *Jāņu kallans* – are given to the same geographical object.)

Juhrikschpulka megga (mountain) B. (see also *Pulka mēg*?)

Jurikšsto mēg (mountain) skv.

Kahrnetmegga (mountain) B.

Kornūd mēg (mountain) skv. (Identical to the previous?)

Lountora pomēg (knoll) skv.

Poraci pomēg (knoll), "(= slope)" (Plāķis 1936, 254) skv.

Pulka mēg (mountain) skv. (see also *Jūrikšpulka megga*?)

Ronda mēg (mountain) skv.

Sewnoukmegga (mountain) B.

Sūr mēg (mountain) skv.

Uimatarra megga (mountain) B.

The Livonian word *mā'g*³ 'mountain', apparently, has been written in two ways within the structure of a toponym: *megga* (B.) and *mēg* (skv.). Furthermore, pupils' writing seems to be more precise; even

1 The cited materials (and cited toponyms) do not indicate the syllable intonations marked by J. Plāķis.

2 [Toponyms from A. Bīlenšteins' onomastic materials in J. Plāķis' collection are published in Gothic type, using German spelling elements; the words are transliterated in this article. In J. Plāķis' collection the toponyms are written starting with a lower case letter.]

3 The spelling of Livonian appellatives in this article has been coordinated with Viitso, Ernštreits 2012.

other Dundaga parish toponym materials sent in by pupils and included in J. Plāķis' publication show that at least one of the senders (if there was more than one of them) was a native Livonian speaker. The sender's spoken Livonian dialect or even his idiolect apparently had a tendency to labialize the pronunciation of *a*, *ā* (the same tendency is also indicated by Lauri Kettunen (Kettunen 1938, XXIII)), which clearly demonstrates, supposedly, parallel forms of one and the same toponym *Kahrnetmegga* B. and *Kornūd mēg* skv. (for example, Livonian *kārnaz* 'raven', plural *karnōd*). The aforementioned labialization has also taken place, borrowing the prefix *pa-* from Latvian, with which the word *pomēg* 'knoll' or 'pakalns' has been formed (resp., in this case, we can talk about the substitution Latvian *-a* > Livonian *-o-*). Latvian language prefixes used in Salaca Livonian (for example, *pa-*, *pie-*), obviously, have been noticed in the later years of this language's existence, for example, *pakanat* 'carry' or 'panest', *piepidd* 'hold' or 'pieturēt' (Kettunen 1938, 271, 287)). Eduard Vēri, for example, also writes about Courland Livonian prefixes of Latvian origin (Vääri 1966, 149, as well as about double emphasis of prefix-verbs 141). However, the best Livonian language speakers as late as the 1970s have indicated to Tiit-Rein Viitso that such borrowed prefixes are not "good Livonian", confirming that the use of borrowed prefix-verbs is particularly characteristic of the speech of Livonians who have become linguistically assimilated (become "too Latvian") during times of refuge in the First World War⁴. The inclusion of the prefixed geographical term *pomēg* in the structure of toponyms, however, suggests that the borrowing of prefixes from Latvian into Courland Livonian could have begun much earlier, i.e., before the First World War; even the use of prefixes for nouns (not verbs) suggests a longer tradition of their use.

Labialization can be observed in several other toponyms sent by pupils, for example, *Ronda mēg*, which, most likely, is etymologically linked with Livonian *rānda* 'shore, coast, seaside'.

It is more difficult to determine the origin of structurally collocational oronyms whose second component is Latvian, although the first, onomastic component of the collocation is a Livonian compound (and the basis of the second component of these onomastic compounds is a Livonian geographical term):

Atmuzzaso *k*[allans] (mountain) B.

Brautschwigga *k*[allans] (mountain) B.

Imatwigga *k*[allans] (mountain) B.

4 Consultation with Valts Ernštreits.

Nihtebso k[allans] (mountain) B.
Petertarra k[allans] (mountain) B.
Peedabso k[allans] (mountain) B.
Piškisīlda kangars (hill) skv.

It is possible that in these cases the first recorder of the toponym has quite formally added a Latvian geographical term to the Livonian toponym. The origins of these toponyms are “transparent”; in most cases, creation of the toponyms involved the use of appellatives (i.e., a person’s name), which can be clearly identified. The writing *Peedabso*, most likely, imprecisely reflects the Livonian *piedāg* “pine tree” (although the second component *-so*, included in multiple other toponyms, is supposedly identical to the Livonian *sūo* ‘swamp’).

The first component *Al-* of the three-component compound *Almuz-zaso* can be compared to the Livonian *aļļōm* ‘greenery’ (resp., *ōļaz* [crook under ō!] ‘green’), however, the writing *-muzza-* [= *-mucca-*], supposedly, conforms to the modern written form of *mōtsā* ‘forest’. From the appellative collocation derived from the toponym recorded by A. Bīlenšteins, the analogue of **aļ mucca* can be found in L. Kettunen’s dictionary (dramatically simplifying the dictionary writing: *ōļaz metsā* (Kettunen 1938, 267)); L. Kettunen mentions *aļļ* [‘green’] as a Salaca Livonian word (ibid. 8), however, included in both (T. R. Viitso and V. Ernštreits) dictionaries is the generalized character description *aļļōm*, and the toponym *Almuzzaso* suggests that the use of **aļ* or **aļļ* ‘green’ was not uncommon in Courland Livonian either. The more widespread prevalence of the Livonian **aļ* or **aļļ* ‘green’ makes it more believable that the lexeme *aļots* (*aļuots*) from the collocation *zīļota*, *aļota* (in other variants *zīļota*, *zaļota*), from the Latvian folksong recorded in Alsunga, could have come from Livonian (such a possibility was considered by J. Endzelīns (ME169), and was considered certain by K. Aben (Aben 1957, 212); however, the notion of the Finnic origin of this word was categorically rejected by V. Zeps (Zeps 1962, 100)). However, the existence of *muzza* [= *mucca*] as a written variant of the Livonian appellative *mōtsā* strengthens the belief about the Finnic origins of a long-gone hydronym from the Vidzeme region; the river *Mudsa Rivus* in the Bērzaune region, which was marked on the map at the end of 17th century and whose name, most likely, corresponded to the South Estonian *mōts* ‘forest’ and the analogous Livonian word (Bušs, Siliņa-Piņķe 2013, 16).

The most unclear toponyms with regard to the authenticity of their Livonian component are compound toponyms (in this case oronyms) whose last component is a Latvian geographical term (however, in the case of the word *kangars* // *kangērs*, the Latvian origins are shown by

the masculine nominative form ending *-s*, but the respective lexeme has been borrowed from Livonian (Thomsen 1890, mentioning the related Estonian and Finnish lexemes):

Jalksnītkangērs (hill) Pl.
Johrikschkallans (mountain) B.
Kirkangars (hill) skv.
Kuidvigkangērs (hill) Pl.
Kustvigkangērs (hill) Pl.
Ķibarnītkangērs (hill) Pl.
Laipatkangērs (hill) Pl.
Maransvigkangērs (hill) Pl.
Megesnītkangērs (hill) Pl.
Paistvigkangērs (hill) Pl.
Pemkangars (hill) B.
Pubadliedkangērs (hill) Pl.
Pustvigkangērs (hill) Pl.
Rištreakangērs (hill) Pl.
Ruokstkangērs (hill) Pl.
Sornītkallans (mountain) skv.
Suornītkangērs (hill) Pl.
Suhrkallans (mountain) B.
Vārsatvigkangērs (hill) Pl.
Viškangērs (hill) Pl.
Zolakrekkangērs (hill) Pl.

Analyzing whether these toponyms belong to Livonian or Latvian, two basic hypotheses can be put forward. It is more likely that the recorder of these toponyms (at least most of them) heard from Latvian-speaking Livonians, and a less likely hypothesis is that Latvians used toponyms of Livonian descent in their speech without changing them other than to make them conform to Latvian grammar rules. The question remains unanswered even in relation to the foresters interviewed, whether any of them was a Livonian or whether they could very precisely reproduce what was heard from Livonians; the first of the possibilities seems the most likely.

The origins of some Dundaga parish oronyms (for example, *Uzadaukkangērs* (hill) Pl.) are unclear; however, two unusual names have to be mentioned separately. *Zepļa* [= *Cepļa*] *megga* (hill) B. shows that the informer (most likely a Livonian) has combined – at least in his own idiolect – a clearly Latvian onomastic component with a Livonian geographical term (see also *Cepelkalns* (knoll) skv.). *Mustāmačaugš* (mountain) skv. is surprising due to its geographical nomenclature component (*-augš*); some similar although not fully

identical final components of toponyms can be found in gully names (*Wannaauga* B. (Plāķis 1936, 255)) and river names (*Baschaugn* B., *Kusperlanjaugn* B. (ibid. 254)). It seems that the geographical nomenclature components conform to the Livonian word *jo'ug* 'river'; however, it is still unclear whether *Mustāmačaug*s is really the name of a mountain, in which the nomenclature component is used metonymically, or this toponym has been used among hill names by accident.

From the structures of toponymic collocations and compounds examined, it is possible, as can be seen, to determine Livonian geographical terms which describe hills (local resident classification: mountains, hills and knolls) and other geographical objects. These geographical terms (using the spellings used in the publication by J. Plāķis) are:

- kangar* (= Livonian *kāngar*, Latv. *kangars* 'hill')
- megga*, see *mēg*
- mēg* (=Livonian *mā'g*, Latv. *kalns* 'mountain')
- muzz-* (= Livonian *mōtsā*, Latv. *mežs* 'forest')
- nīt-* (= Livonian *nīt*, Latv. *plava* 'meadow')
- pomēg* (Latv. *pakalne*, *uzkalns* 'knoll')
- rek-* (= Livonian *riek*, Latv. *ceļš* 'road')
- rištrek* (= Livonian *rištiriek*, Latv. *krustceles* 'crossroads')
- silda* (= Livonian *silda*, Latv. *tilts* 'bridge')
- so* (= ? Livonian *sūo*, Latv. *purvs* 'swamp')
- tarra* (= Livonian *tarā*, Latv. *dārzs*, *pagalms* 'garden')
- tora*, see *-tarra*
- vīg-*, see *-vīgga*
- vīgga* (= Livonian *vigā*, Latv. *viga* 'gully')

Address

Ojārs Bušs
 Latvian Language Institute
 Akadēmijas laukums 1
 LV-1050 Rīga, Latvia
 E-mail: ojaarsster@gmail.com

Toponym material sources

B. – toponyms from A. Bīlenšteins' onomastic materials, Latv. – Latvian, Pl. – toponyms recorded by J. Plāķis, skv. – toponyms sent in by pupils.

References

- Aben, Karl (1957) "Eesti ja liivi lapene läti sõnavaaras". *Emakeele seltsi aastaraamat*, 199–216. Tallinn: Eesti riiklik kirjastus.
- Bušs, Ojārs and Renāte Siliņa-Piņķe (2013) "17th century map of Bērzaune castle district (Latvia) as source of the research of the Latvian hydronymy: a case study". In *Trends in Toponymy 6. Heidelberg October 7th–10th 2013. Abstract Book*, 16. Heidelberg.
- Kettunen, Lauri (1938) *Livisches wörterbuch mit grammatischer einleitung*. Helsinki: Suomalais-Ugrilainen Seura.
- ME I = Kārlis Mīlenbahs (1923) *Latviešu valodas vārdnīca*. 1. sēj. Rediģējis, papildinājis, turpinājis J. Endzelīns. Rīga: Kultūras fonds.
- Plāķis 1936 = *Latvijas vietu vārdi un latviešu pavārdi. 1. daļa. Kurzemes vārdi* (1936) Sast. J. Plāķis. (Latvijas Universitātes Raksti. Filoloģijas un Filosofijas fakultātes serija IV.1.) Rīga: Latvijas Universitāte.
- Sjögren, Andreas (1861) *Livisch-Deutsches und Deutsch-Livisches Wörterbuch*. Bearbeitet von F. J. Wiedemann. St. Petersburg.
- Thomsen, Wilhelm (1890) *Beröringer mellem de finske og de baltiske (litauisk-lettiske) Sprog*. København.
- Viiťso, Tiit-Rein, Valts Ernštreits (2012) *Livõkõiel-õstikõiel-leķkõiel sõnārõntõz. Liivi-eesti-läti sõnaraamat. Lõbiešu-igauņu-latviešu vārdnõca*. Tartu: Tartu Ülikool, Rīga: Latviešu valodas aģentūra.
- Vääri 1966 = Éduard Vjaari (1966) "Livskij jazyk". In V. Lytkin, K. Majtinskaja, eds. *Jazyki narodov SSSR III: Finno-ugorskie u samodijskie jazyki*, 138–154. Moscow: Nauka.
- Winkler, Eberhard, Karl Pajusalu (2009) *Salis-livisches Wörterbuch*. (Linguistica Uralica. Supplementary Series. Volume 3.) Tallinn.
- Zeps, Valdis J. (1962) *Latvian and Finnic linguistic convergences*. Bloomington: Indiana University, The Hague: Mouton & Co.

Kokkuvõte. Ojārs Bušs: Dundaga kihelkonna liivi päritoluga oronüümid (mäenimed) Juris Plāķise läti toponüümide väljaandes. Iga väikegi lisanud liivi keeleainestiku autentsesse kogusse on väärtuslik. Pisut lisa võib saada ka Juris Plāķise koostatud läti kohanimede väljaandest, nimelt Kura-maa toponüümidest, mille hulgas on ka liivi omi. See kogu sisaldab kohanimesisid, mis on kogutud J. Plāķise enda poolt, aga samuti August Bīlenšteinini onomastilisi materjale ning toponüüme, mida on eri kihelkondade õpilased saatnud Läti rahvaluule arhiivi. See artikkel käsitleb oronüüme (mäenimesid).

Märksõnad: liivi keel, läti keel, oronüümid, toponüümid, onomastika, murded

Kubbōvōttōks. Ojārs Bušs: Dūoņig pagāst līvōpierrizt oronīmōd (māgūd nimūd) Juris Plāķis leļķiel kūožnimūd ulzandōksōs. Jegā piški jūrōāndam līvō kīel sōnāvīļa kubbōn um tādzi. Rōz jūrō vōib sōdō ka Juris Plāķis kubbō pandōd leļķiel kūožnimūd ulzandōksōst, īžkist Kurāmō kūožnimīst, kus siegās ātō ka līvōkēļizt. Sīes kubs ātō nei J. Plāķis eņtš kuoŗdōd kūožnimūd, ku ka toponīmd August Bīlenštein onomastika materiāliš, mis setmiņ kilgōnd skūollapst ātō sōtōnd Leļmō folklōr arhīvōn. Se kēra nīžōb īļ oronīmd (māgūd nimūd).