

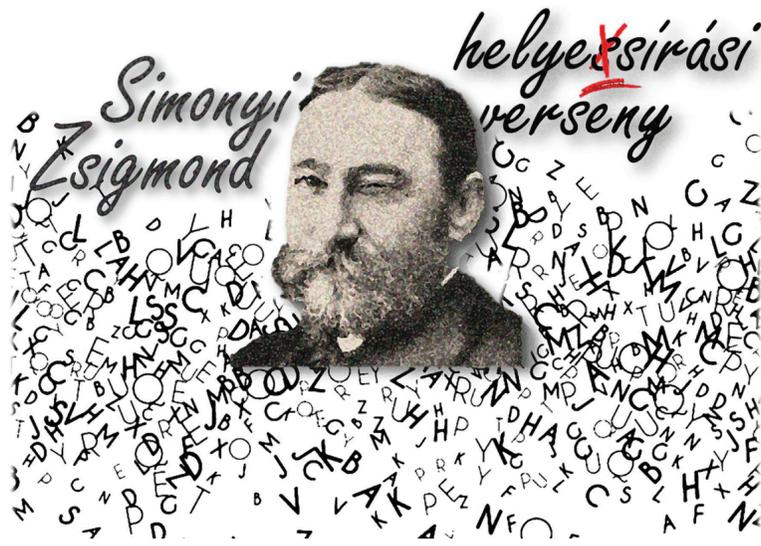
Simonyi Zsigmond Orthographic Competition in the Carpathian Basin

Related researches:

- Language competencies in space and time
- At the crossroads of arts and languages

The objectives of the Simonyi Zsigmond Orthographic Competition in the Carpathian Basin, whose mission is nurturing talent and establishing professional and community relationships, are as follows:

- strengthening the love of the Hungarian language and the responsibility towards proficient language use,
- promoting Hungarian language culture,
- highlighting the importance of the Hungarian writing culture and the Hungarian orthographic system,
- developing digital literacy.

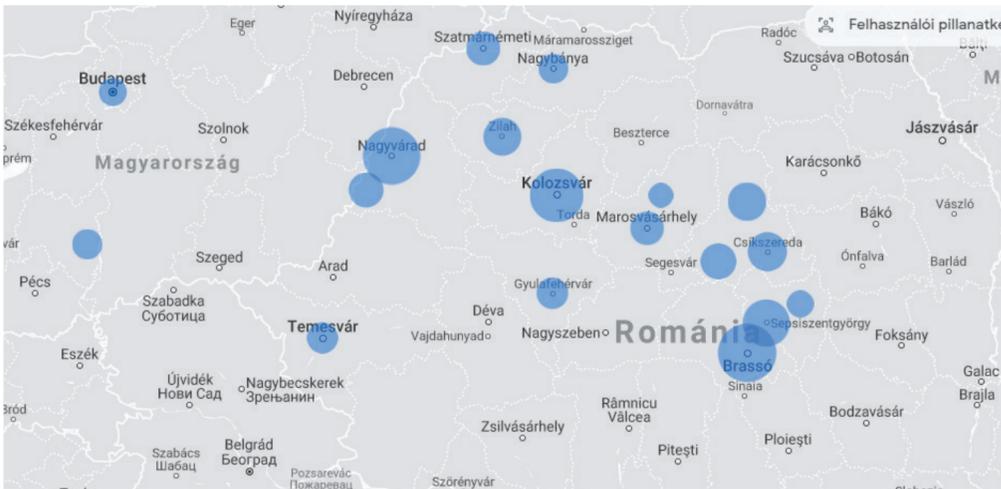


Its history in a nutshell:

- The competition was first held in the academic year of **1996/1997** and was organized by the Hungarian Linguistic Society. Its main organizer was the Department of Modern Hungarian Linguistics at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) Faculty of Humanities Institute of Hungarian Linguistics and Finno-Ugric Studies.
- Since the academic year of **2020/2021**, the competition has been organized by Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary Faculty

of Pedagogy in cooperation with the Hungarian Linguistic Society and with the professional support of the organizers living outside present-day Hungary. It was the Faculty of Pedagogy which reformed the competition and created its digital framework. **It was the Faculty of Pedagogy which reformed the competition and created its digital framework.**

- The competition material conforms to the requirements of the Hungarian National Core Curriculum.
- Ten to fourteen-year-old students living in present-day Hungary as well as ethnic Hungarian students from Romania, Slovakia, Serbia and Ukraine participate in this three-stage competition.



First stage in Transylvania on 27 February 2021

Academic year of 2021/22 – first stage

Number of participants	5 th grade	6 th grade	7 th grade	8 th grade	Total
	5,871	5,632	5,506	5,022	22,031

A maximum of forty students per institution from any school in the Carpathian Basin (altogether about 2,700) can take part in the competition and complete the worksheets on a digital platform at a specified time using a personal identification code.

Language competencies in space and time

The research analyses the **database** consisting of the answers of the participants in the competition. We use **interdisciplinary** resources from the perspective of three fields of science – pedagogy, linguistics and economics/sociology.

The aim is to analyse and understand the pedagogical, linguistic and socio-economic factors which influence the indicators of language competency.

International outlook:

Using the data of Dutch and Estonian orthographic competition, we compare the methodology and pedagogical practices of mother tongue education in Hungary, the Netherlands and Estonia.

Main research questions:

- Is there a connection between the students' language competencies on the one hand and the socio-economic and education policy indicators of the given area, on the other hand?
- Is there a connection between mistakes in language use and orthography and mistakes in the language variety in the given language region and the contact language?
- What good practices can be adopted from two Protestant countries with languages with a small number of speakers and from their orthographic competitions?

The present research is a collaboration of **three faculties** of Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church: Faculty of Law, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of Pedagogy.

At the crossroads of arts and languages

The aim of this complex research is to process the data of the Simonyi competition and analyse it from different aspects, to harmonize the common methodology of first language and foreign language acquisition. In addition, we intend to investigate how the language learning process can be made more effective and motivating by applying the coaching approach, innovative early language acquisition methods, efficient digital resources and intercultural communication.

Result: We hope that by analysing the data collected, we can identify synchronic language phenomena and issues related to language competency which can help us to make the process of language acquisition, mother tongue education and foreign language teaching more effective.

The research is being conducted by Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church **Faculty of Pedagogy**.

Website: <https://simonyi.kre.hu/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/simonyiverseny>

The competition in the academic year of 2022/2023 held for the 26th time is supported by the National Talent Programme (Ministry of Culture and Innovation) and the National Talent Fund: NTP-TMV-M-22-B-0022 and NTP-TMV-22-0066.