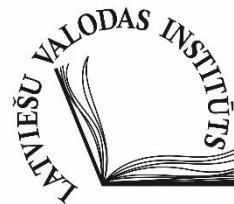

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Generic Elements in Latvian Place Names



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Generic element: that part of a toponym which consists of a generic term. Examples: Port-au-Prince; Sierra Nevada; Newport.

Generic term: A common noun that describes a topographic feature in terms of its characteristics and not by its proper name.

Examples: mountain, sierra, san, shan, dagh, har, river etc.

generic term / element

geographical / topographical / physiogeographical term / element

topographical / geographical appellative

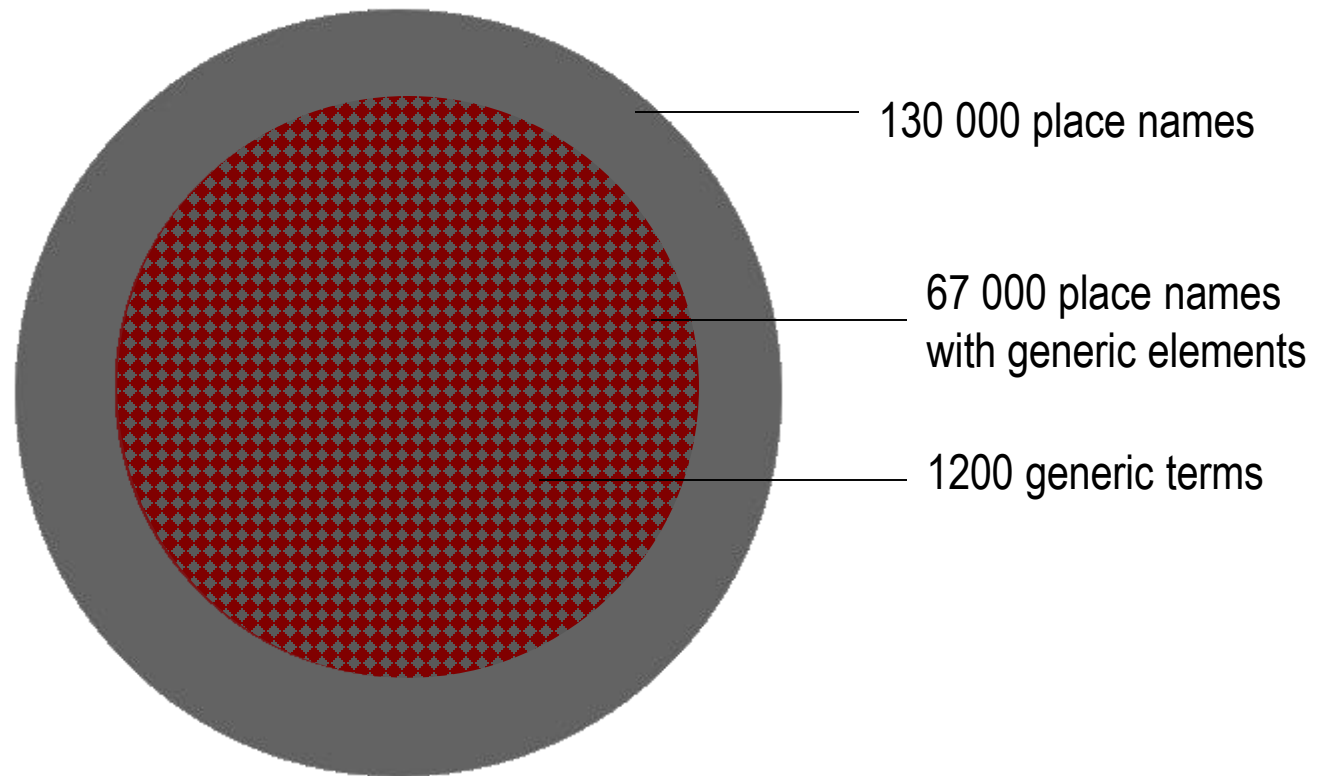
geographical nomenclature word

lexical topoformant

geographical nomen

determinative component of the name

Definition of generic term / element (UNGEGN) and terms



Latvian place names and generic elements

- Generic elements of terrain
 - elevated landforms *kalns* ‘hill’, *paugurs* ‘mound’
 - sunken landforms *ieleja* ‘valley’, *bedre* ‘pit’
 - forest *mežs* ‘forest’, *krūmi* ‘bush’
- Generic elements of environment
 - woodless area *plava* ‘meadow’, *lauks* ‘field’
 - swamp *purvs* ‘swamp’, *dūksts* ‘slough’
- Generic elements of hydrographic objects
 - watercourse *upe* ‘river’
 - waterbody *ezers* ‘lake’
 - watercourse parts *atvars* ‘whirlpool’
- Generic elements of artefacts
 - house *māja* ‘house’
 - other building structures *ceplis* ‘brick-kiln’
 - place of human activity *lauztuve* ‘quarry’
 - burials *kapsēta* ‘graveyard’
- Generic elements of object part, disposition and shape
 - object part *daļa* ‘part’, *puse* ‘half’
 - disposition *gals* ‘ending’, *mala* ‘border’
 - shape *aste* ‘tail’
- Generic elements of administrative-territorial division: *ciems* ‘village’, *pilsēta* ‘city’, *muiža* ‘estate’

Classification of Latvian generic terms

- Ezera **kalns** ‘Lake Hill’
- Avot**kalns** ‘Spring Hill’
- Velna **bedre** ‘Devil Pit’
- Lāča **leja** ‘Bear Valey’
- Diž**leja** ‘Big Valey’
- Kangar**kalns** ‘Hill of Hill’
- Leizemnieki [oikonym] < Lejas Zemnieki ‘Peasants in Valey’
- Kalkalēji [oikonym] < Kalna Kalēji ‘Forgers on Hill’

Generic Elements of Terrain

- elevated landforms *kalns, kangars* ‘hill’
- sunked landforms *leja* ‘valley’, *bedre* ‘pit’

- Garais mežs ‘Long Forest’
- Biezie krūmi ‘The Thick Bushes’
- Dīķplava ‘Pond Meadow’
- Lielceļlauks ‘Field of Highway’
- Aklais purvs ‘Blind Swamp’
- Brieža dūksts ‘Deer Slough’
- Mozlīpuojis ‘Little Linden Forest’

Linden forest:

liepājs

liepalājs, liepulājs

liepene

liepnīca

liepūksnis, liepuoksnis

Generic Elements of Environment

- forest *mežs* ‘forest’, *krūmi* ‘bush’
- woodless *plava* ‘meadow’, *lauks* ‘field’
- swamp *purvs* ‘swamp’, *dūksts* ‘slough’

- **Kārklupe** ‘Osier River’
- **Kaķupīte** ‘Little Cat River’
- **Asarupe** ‘Perch River’
- **Garezers** ‘Long Lake’
- **Zosars** < Zosu ezers ‘Geese lake’
- **Mucinīku atvora** ‘Whirlpool of Barrel Makers’

Generic Elements of Hydrography

- watercourse *upe* ‘river’
- waterbody *ezers* ‘lake’
- watercourse parts *atvars* ‘whirlpool’

- Kalna māja ‘Hill House’
- Čigānu būda ‘Gipsy Hut’
- Vecceplis ‘Old Brick-kiln’
- Olūta oka ‘Spring Well’
- Jipšlauztuve ‘Quarry of Jipši’
- Kungu kapsēta ‘Master Graveyard’

- house *māja* ‘house’
- other building structures *ceplis* ‘brick-kiln’
- place of human activity *lauztuve* ‘quarry’
- burials *kapsēta* ‘graveyard’

Generics of artefacts

- Krīveņu **puse** [part of civil parish] ‘Land of Russians’
- Uboga **daļa** [field] ‘Land of Beggar’
- Lauk**gale** [meadow] < lauka gals ‘End of Field’
- Prūda **mola** [meadow] ‘Border of Pond’
- Vilk**aste** [meadow] ‘Wolf Tail’
- Lāčkā**ja** [forest] ‘Bear Leg’

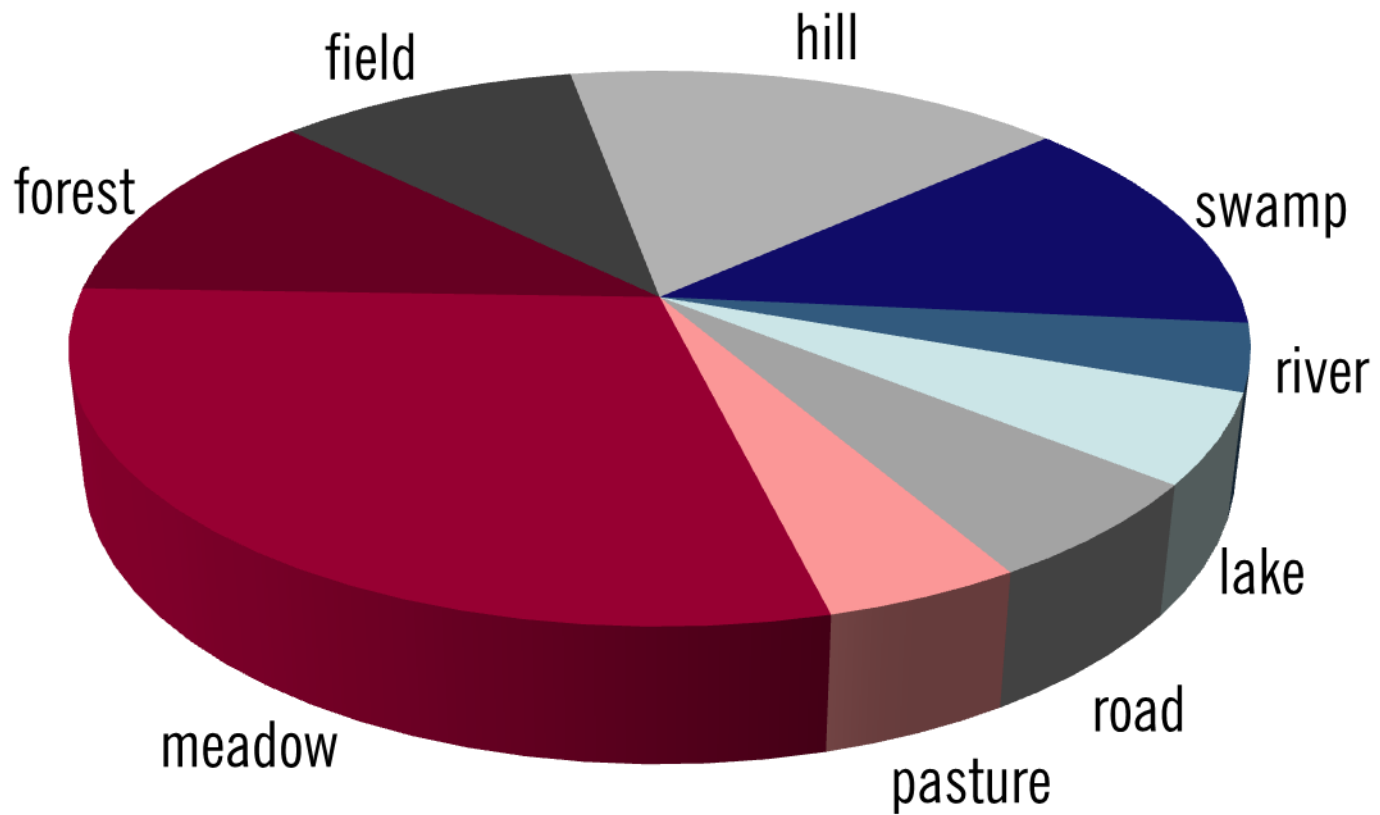
Generics of object part, disposition and shape

- object part *daļa* ‘part’, *puse* ‘half, side’
- disposition *gals* ‘ending’, *mala* ‘border’
- shape *aste* ‘tail’

- Lejasciems ‘Low Village’
- Dārzciems ‘Garden Village’
- Jaunā muiža [territory] ‘New Manor’
- Mežmuiža [territory] ‘Forest Manor’
- Andzeļu sloboda ‘Free Village of Andzeļi’
- Voguļu sādža ‘Village of Voguļi’
- Lozdu sala ‘Hazel Village’

Generic elements of administrative-territorial division

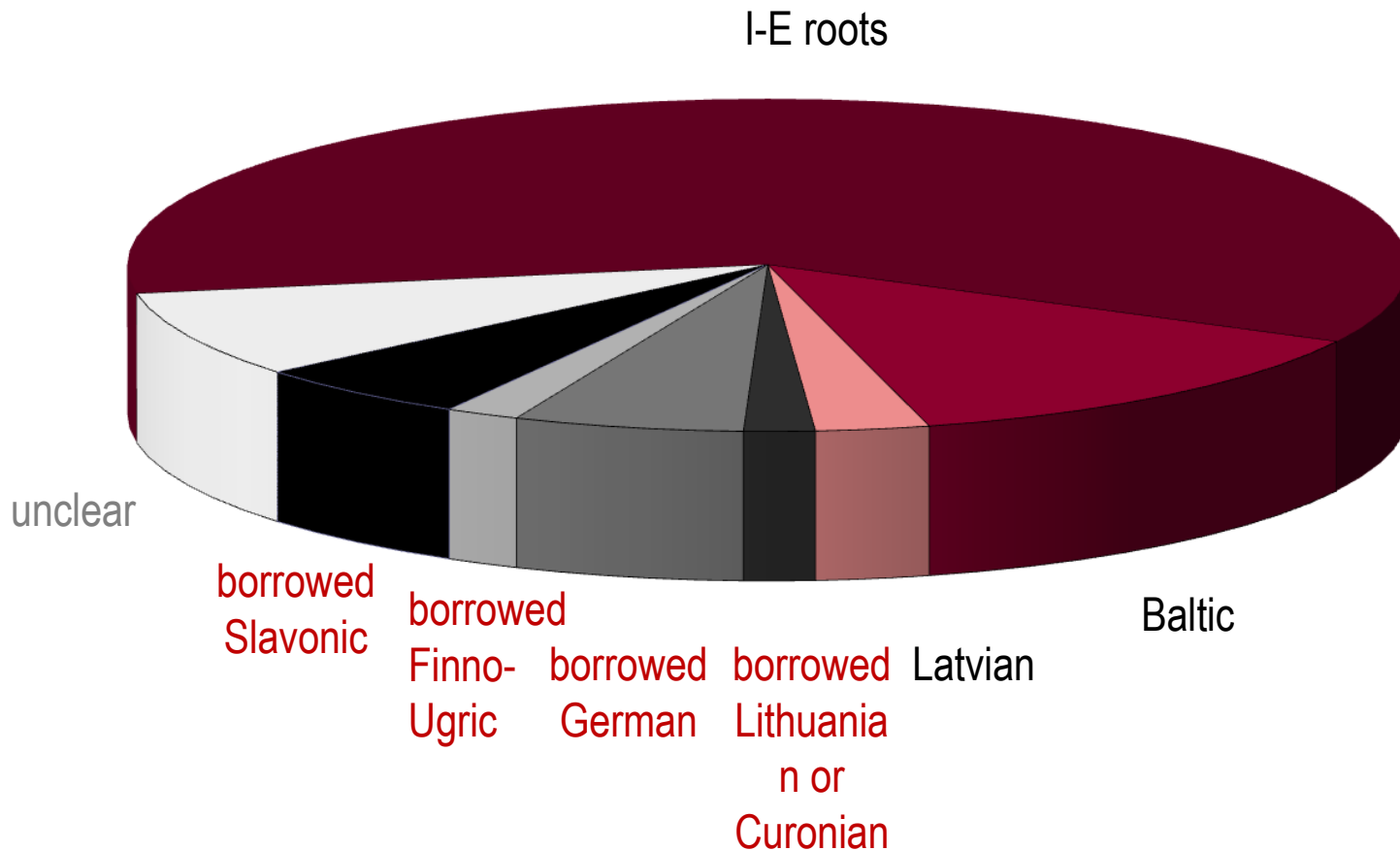
*ciems, miests, deravņa (dzeravņa),
sādža, sala, palata, ciemats ‘village’
dvariška, foļvarka, muiža ‘manor’
mācītājmuiža ‘rectory’
mežkungmuiža ‘forester’s manor’,
sēta ‘farm’
slabada ‘free village’*



**Objects which names most often
comprise generic element**

- substantive constructions (substantive in the genitive + generic element) 89 %
zirgs ‘horse’ + *kalns* ‘hill’ > *Zirga kalns*
- adjective constructions (adjective + generic element) 10 %
zils ‘blue’ + *kalns* ‘hill’ > *Zilais kalns*
- prepositional constructions (preposition + generic element)
pie ‘near’ + *ezers* ‘lake’ > *Pie Ezera*
- coordinative constructions
(substantive in the genitive + [conjunct] + substantive in genitive + generic element)
Rīga [‘capital’] + - + *Liepāja* [‘city’] + *road* ‘ceļš’ > *Rīgas-Liepājas ceļš*
- numeral constructions (ordinal numeral + generic element)
pirmais ‘first’ + *lauks* ‘field’ > *Pirmais lauks*
- pronominal constructions (demonstrative pronoun + generic element)
viņais ‘that’ + *gals* ‘ending’ > *Viņais gals*
- interjectional constructions (interjection + generic element)
līgo ‘refrain in folk song’ + *kalns* ‘hill’ > *Līgo kalns*

Generic elements in toponyms



Origin of Latvian generic elements

- kalns ‘mountain, hill’
- tilts ‘bridge’
- pļava ‘meadow’
- sala ‘island’
- upe ‘river’
- leja ‘valley, dale’
- mežs ‘forest’
- līcis ‘bay’
- ezers ‘lake’
- ceļš ‘road’

The most frequent generic terms in Latvian placenames:
inherited generic elements

■ ‘to bend, to twist, to fold’

keu-*: Augstā **kaupre ‘Big mound’; **lenk-*: Ozollanka ‘Oak meadow’

el-*: Dziļā **liekņa ‘Deep wetland’, Briežleja ‘Deer Valey’

dheu-*: Zābaka **daubas ‘Boot ravine’, Māla **dobe** ‘Clay Pit’

leuk-*: Dardedža **lukne ‘Meadow of Tar-boiler’, Lielais **luksts** ‘Big Meadow’ etc.

■ ‘to run, to flow, [to sparkle]’

dheu-*: Melnā **dūksts ‘Black Slough’, Pīļu **dumbēris** ‘Duck Swamp’, Zaļā **daukste** ‘Green Swamp’

teku-*: Akmeņtece ‘Stone Brook’, Dūņu **tērce ‘Sludge Brook’, Āpšu **taks** ‘Badger Path’

■ ‘to dig, to thirst’

bhedh-*: Kaķbedre** ‘Cat Pit’ etc.

■ ‘middle, border’

medhi-*: Beku **mežs ‘Boletes’ Forest’

egh-*: Dzērvezers** ‘Cranes’ Lake’, Līkā eža ‘Crooked Boundary’ etc.

Inherited generic elements

■ Hydrographical appellatives

dīķis 'pond' < MLG *dīk*

grāvis 'ditch' < MLG *grave*

rennis 'outlet' < MLG *renne*

renstele 'pit with water' < MLG *rennestên* 'pond'

■ Artefact appellatives

kaļķenīca 'place where calx is made' < MLG *kalk*

ķieģeļnīca 'place where bricks are made' < MLG *tēgel*

smēde 'forge' < MLG *smede*

šķūnis 'barn' < MLG *schune*

tuornis 'tower' < MLG *torn*

Generic elements of Germanic origin

- *astrava* ‘island’ < Russian *остров*
- *bolota* ‘swamp’ < R *болото*
- *jama* ‘pit’ < R *яма*
- *baznīca* ‘church’ < Old-Russian *божница*
- *būda* ‘hut’ < R *буда*
- *bors* ‘deep forest’ < R *бор*
- *guberņa* ‘province’ < R *губерния*
- *miests* ‘village’ < OR *мѣсто*
- *prods* ‘pond’ < R *пруд*
- *pūsts* ‘marshy forest’ < OR *пусть* ‘empty’
- *robeža* ‘border’ < OR *рубежь*
- *slabada* ‘free village’ < OR *слобода*

Goru kalns ‘Goru [< *гора* ‘hill’] hill’
Gaina mežs ‘Gaina [< *гайно* ‘forest’] forest’

Generic elements of Slavonic origin

- *juoma* ‘depth in the sea’ < Livonian *jùom*
- *kolka* ‘depth of water; cape’ < Estonian *kolgas* (dial. *kolk*, *kùolka*), Finnish *kolkka*
- *voja* ‘pond, pit with water’ < Liv. *vójā*
- *kangars* ‘hill’ < Liv. *kāṅgar*
- *punga* ‘mound’ < Est. *punga*?
- *lānis* ‘wet meadow; large forest’ < Liv. *lōntš*, *loṅtš*
- *abads* ‘meadow near the sea’ < Est. *abadus*
- *sedums* ‘bay’ < Estonian *sadam* ‘port’
- *selga* ‘open sea’ < Livonian *sāлга* ‘back’

Generic elements of Fino-Ugric origin

- **BINDEKŠI** – nelieli, bet biezi krūmi Aglona VVK.
- **BINGULIS** – neliels mežs VVK (nūja, koks (der Stock)) ME I 297(EH I 220)).
- **BUOGS // BUOGA** – meža puduris Dundaga VVK (koku puduris, neliels mežs; kaudze Laumane 1996, 264, ar krūmiem, kokiem apaugusi vieta laukā, (apaļš) koku puduris (ein mit Gestrüpp, Wald bewachsener Platz im Felde, eine (rundliche) Baumgruppe) ME I 361, EH I 258): lei. *bangà*.
- **ČIKSTE** – purvainā pļava (eine Sumpfwiese) EH I 290.
- **ČŪKSLA** – pļava, kur bieza zāle VVK (bieza zāle (dichtes Gras) ME I 424).
- **DAUBA** – aiza, grava (Schlucht) ME I 443: **dhembh-* 'rakt' Walde I 852.
- **DUBRS** – «dūkstains meža ceļš pa mēlnzemi» ME I 509: adj. **dubrs* (īru *dub* 'melns'), lei. *dubra*.
- **DŪCE** – «nepārejama dūksts» ME I 523.
- **DUOKŠIS I** – 1. **vecā upes gultne, dziļums** (ein altes Flussbett, die Tiefe) ME I 532, 2. «mazs apaļš mārks» («eine kleine, runde Flachsweiche») EH I 350, 3. **dīķis** (ein Teich) EH I 350, 4. «aizaugusi avuota vieta» EH I 350, 5. **bedre, kur sakrājas ūdens** (eine Grube, wo sich Wasser anzusammeln pflegt) EH I 350.
- **DZEDZIEDA** – atmata, vecaine, neapstrādāta zeme, tīrums (Dreeschland, abgearbeitetes Land, nachgelassener Acker) ME I 539: *degt*; vgl. sl. *ugorž* 'papuve' ME I 539.
- **GAILS** – biezs mūžamežs ar lieliem kokiem (ein Urwald) ME I 585.
- **GARGRUODA** – 1. kalnu grēda (der Bergrücken) ME I 602, 2. «garēns tīrums» EH I 385: po. *građ* 'paaugstinājums purvā', *gargrūda* > **gargruoda* ME I 602.
- **GRŪŽNAS** – no mājas attālas meža pļavas (vom Hause weit entfernte Waldwiesen) ME I 670.
- **ĢEIDA** – liela pļava VVK.

Fragment of dictionary of generic elements