

The annotation system of HunMorph

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1 Introduction

The annotation system for Hungarian morphology was designed to satisfy at least three, sometimes contradictory, conditions. The annotation has to be

- informative: it has to reflect the morphological information of a given word-form,
- adequate: it should use linguistically adequate categories, and
- simple: easily processable by machines and humans as well.

These conditions are difficult to fulfill simultaneously. Being simple is opposed to both being adequate and informative, on the other hand the conditions mostly depend on the users' aim, whether they use the annotation system for spell-checking, stemming, syntactic analysis or statistical research.

2 Representing inflectional information as trees

The morphological description of a word has to include every inflectional feature of a given word-form. Most inflectional features play a role in syntactic analysis. Such morphosyntactic features are usually represented in an attribute-value-structure (AVS) [3]. An AVS is independent of both the surface form of the word and the formal features of the morphosyntactic properties.

In attempting to align the above conditions we chose not to make a decision in the question of morphological segmentation. Whether we treat a morph as a whole or segment it into as many parts as the number of the morphemes it represents is a question of the chosen morphological framework. E.g. the morph *'-jaim'*, though corresponds to more than one morphological property (1st person, singular possessor and plural possessed), these properties cannot be unambiguously associated with separate parts of the morph. Therefore, our annotation system does not employ the notion of segmentation in the case of suffixes. This way the annotation could be both theory neutral and modular, furthermore, it remains independent of the surface form of the word.

The morphological features of a word-form have two important properties with regard to the annotation system. The features are

- hierarchical, i.e. certain features require the presence of other features,
- asymmetrical, i.e. certain values of a feature are considered marked, while others unmarked.

¹Documentation of LDC LCTL project

These properties are best expressed by labelled trees. The roots of the trees represent the equivalence classes of lexical entries with regard to inflection (these correspond to part-of-speech categories) and the vertices are the inflectional features. The vertices in the graph define a path with the positive values of the features. This means that the graph is capable of encoding a binary attribute-value-structure where a vertex can have a daughter only if it has positive value [2]². The labelled tree satisfies all three conditions. It is

- informative, as it represents morphological information in an AVS,
- adequate, as it captures morphological markedness and the hierarchical nature of inflectional information, and
- simple, as it can be automatically transformed into an AVS, furthermore, it can easily be linearized.

3 POS categories of HunMorph

The valid POS categories are listed in Table 1. Inflectable categories are: ADJ, NOUN, NUM and VERB. The following categories cannot be inflected: ADV, DET, ART, UTT-INT, CONJ, PREV, ONO, PUNCT and PREP. For postpositions see Section 7.2.

| Tag | POS category |
|---------|------------------------|
| ADJ | adjective |
| ADV | adverb |
| ART | article |
| CONJ | conjunction |
| DET | determiner |
| NOUN | noun |
| NUM | numeral |
| ONO | onomatopoeic |
| POSTP | postposition |
| PREP | preposition |
| PREV | preverb |
| PUNCT | punctuation |
| UTT-INT | utterance/interjection |
| VERB | verb |

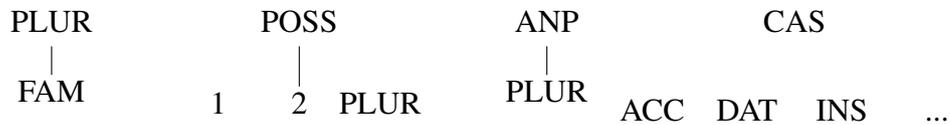
Table 1: POS categories of HunMorph

4 Encoding inflectional information of nouns and nominal categories

An actual feature set was designed following the above considerations for the morphological analysis of Hungarian.

²This is a special interpretation of markedness.

NOUN

Figure 1: The signature of the graphs originating from the root node *NOUN*

In the case of a noun four binary features have to be specified. They are $\pm PLUR$ (number), $\pm POSS$ (possessor), $\pm ANP$ (possessed) and $\pm CASE^3$. All of these can be continued as specified in Figure 1. and in Table 4. Adjectives and numerals can take the same set of inflections as nouns.

The following restrictions apply to the combination of the features:

- the $\pm CASE$ feature has to be continued by one of 16 cases,
- the $\pm PLUR$, $\pm POSS$ and $\pm ANP$ features can be continued or can appear on their own,
- the features ± 1 and ± 2 exclude each other,
- if the $\pm PLUR$ feature of $\pm POSS$ is positive, then the $\pm FAM$ feature cannot be positive,
- if the $\pm PLUR$ and the $\pm POSS$ feature are positive simultaneously, then the $\pm FAM$ feature cannot be positive.

The morphosyntactic annotation of an inflected word-form is represented by a sub-tree of the above tree. The paths originate from the root and they encode the positive values of the attribute-value matrix. The negative values of the signature are not present in the tree. The tree is thus equivalent to an AVS encoding the inflectional properties of a word-form, however, it is free of redundancy and can be easily linearized by bracketing the nodes of the tree.

We present some examples with their full inflectional specification as an AVS and the linearization of their (sub)tree as it appears in the analysis where the outermost brackets and the + signs are omitted and the POS category is preceded by a slash and the lemma of the word-form.

kutya 'dog'

<NOUN<-PLUR><-POSS><-ANP><-CAS>>

kutya/NOUN

kutyának 'for/to the dog'

<NOUN<-PLUR><-POSS><-ANP><+CAS<+DAT>>>

kutya/NOUN<CAS<DAT>>

kutyáink 'our dogs'

<NOUN<+PLUR<-FAM>><+POSS<+1><-2><+PLUR>><-ANP><-CAS>>

kutya/NOUN<PLUR><POSS<1><PLUR>>

kutyáéi 'those things of the dog'

<NOUN<-PLUR><-POSS><+ANP<+PLUR>><-CAS>>

kutya/NOUN<ANP<PLUR>>

³There are two more morphosyntactic features that are in fact part of this tree. These are $\pm PERS$ and $\pm POSTP$, which are discussed in sections 7.1 and 7.2 respectively.

kutyáikéit 'those things of their dogs.ACC'

<NOUN<+PLUR<-FAM>><+POSS<-1><-2><+PLUR>><+ANP<+PLUR>><+CAS<+ACC>>>
 kutyá/NOUN<PLUR><POSS<PLUR>><ANP<PLUR>><CAS<ACC>>

5 Encoding inflectional information for verbs

A maximal verbal word-form has to have several properties specified. The properties are specified in Figure 2.⁴ and in Table 5. The following restrictions apply to the combination of the features:

- only one of $\pm SUBJUNC$ and $\pm COND$ can be positive simultaneously,
- the feature $\pm PAST$ can only be positive if both $\pm SUBJUNC$ and $\pm COND$ are negative,
- if the feature $\pm OBJ$ is positive than its daughter feature has to positive as well,
- the feature $\pm INF$ can only combine with the feature $\pm PERSON \pm PLUR$ and $\pm MODAL$.

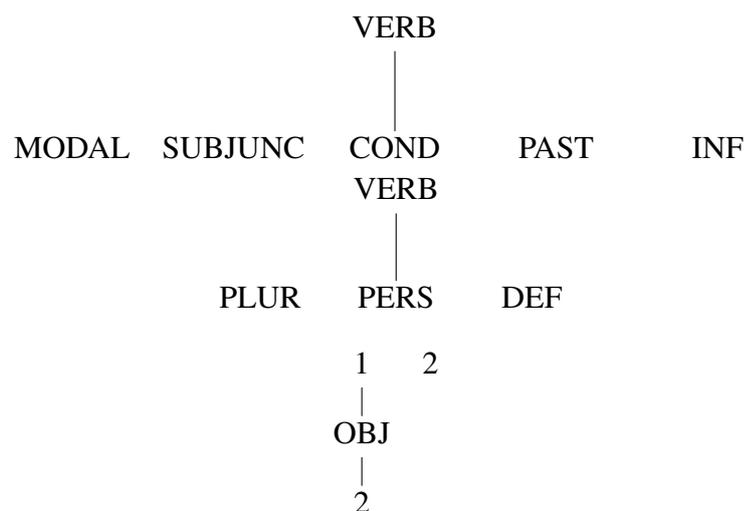


Figure 2: The signature of the graphs originating from the root node *VERB*

The annotation of verbs with inflectional suffixes is similar to that of nouns. Examples are:

lát 'he sees'

<VERB<-INF><-MODAL><-PAST><-COND><-SUBJ-IMP><-PERS><-PLUR><-DEF>>
 lát/VERB

láttál 'you saw'

<VERB<-INF><-MODAL><+PAST><-COND><-SUBJ-IMP><+PERS<+2>><-PLUR><-DEF>>
 lát/VERB<PAST><PERS<2>>

láthassátok 'that you may see it'

<VERB<-INF><+MODAL><-PAST><-COND><+SUBJ-IMP><+PERS<+2>><+PLUR><+DEF>>
 lát/VERB<MODAL><SUBJUNC><PERS<2>><PLUR><DEF>

⁴The tree has been cut into two parts for reasons of clarity.

6 Derivation and compounding

6.1 Representing derivational information

The above tree structure is not directly suited to describe derivation. However, a derivational suffix can be treated as a relation between two lexical entries. This way we can extend the tree structure by representing derivation as a directed edge between nodes of inflectional categories (roots of trees). Derivation can change or leave intact the POS category of a word. The POS category of the resulting word is the output category of the last derivational suffix, and the derived word can undergo further inflectional suffixing. Inflected forms, however, cannot be subjected to derivation. Consider the following examples:

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>fax</i> | fax/NOUN | 'fax' |
| <i>faxol</i> | fax/NOUN[ACT]/VERB | 'to send a fax' |
| <i>faxolás</i> | fax/NOUN[ACT]VERB[GERUND]/NOUN | 'faxing' |

6.2 Annotation of compounds

Compounding is encoded in the annotation by use of a + sign. A preverb followed by a verb is treated as a compound in this respect, as well as a *NOUN+NOUN* or an *ADJ+NOUN* compound. Compounding is similar to derivation in that only the last part of the word can be subjected to inflectional suffixing and that the output category of the compound is determined by the last component. E.g.:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>rákkoktél</i> | 'shrimp cocktail' |
| | rák/NOUN+koktél/NOUN |
| <i>keresztüllövi</i> | 'he shoots it through' |
| | keresztül/PREV+lő/VERB<DEF> |

7 Pronouns and postpositions

7.1 Pronouns

In Hungarian a pronoun can substitute for any noun, adjective or numeral, as well as for adverbs. The inflection of pronouns, where applicable, conforms to the restrictions imposed by the inflectional features and the tree-structure discussed above. This enables us to avoid the use of 'pronoun' as a POS category, and use instead the category which the pronouns stand for.

Personal pronouns are nouns, but they are subject to the following restrictions: their *POSS* feature must be negative and their *PERS* feature has to be specified. Otherwise, the *PERS* feature can combine with any other features (*PLUR*, *ANP*, *CAS*). E.g.:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>ti</i> | 'you.PL' |
| | t i/NOUN<PERS<2>><PLUR> |
| <i>titeket</i> | 'you.PL.ACC' |
| | t i/NOUN<PERS<2>><PLUR><CAS<ACC>> |

Possessive pronouns are personal pronouns with a possessed feature, thus they carry the *ANP* feature as well. Examples include:

tiétek 'yours'

t i /NOUN<PERS<2>><PLUR><ANP>

tieteknek 'to/for yours'

t i /NOUN<PERS<2>><PLUR><ANP><CAS<DAT>>

The anaphoric possessive can be repeated as shown in the next example:

enyémé 'that of my something'

én /NOUN<PERS<1>><ANP<ANP>>

The above properties are shared by other pronouns including demonstrative, reflexive, relative, interrogative pronouns. The inflection of adjectival and numeral pronouns resemble to that of adjectives and numerals respectively, i.e. they are tagged as ADJ and NUM and take the usual inflections.

7.2 Postpositions

The function of postpositions is the same as that of case-suffixes, although some differences have to be noted. One major difference is that postpositions are separate words and, as such, have their own annotation. Furthermore, a number of postpositions can take the *PERS* feature and as their syntactic distribution (function) is the same as that of personal pronouns, these inflected postpositions will be annotated as nouns. In this case the *POSTP* feature of the tree also takes the positive value and the name of the relevant postposition has to be specified in the annotation as well⁶:

mellettek 'next to you.PL'

t i /NOUN<POSTP<MELLETT>><PERS<2>><PLUR>

If the *POSTP* feature is positive, the *CAS*, *ANP* and *FAM* features have to be negative. Uninflected postpositions have the characteristics of a main POS category in that they can, for example, undergo derivation. Examples are:

mellett 'next to'

mellett /POSTP

mellettek next to you.PL

t i /NOUN<POSTP<MELLETT>><PERS<2>><PLUR>

melletiekben 'in those that are next to'

mellett /POSTP [ATTRIB] /ADJ<PLUR><CAS<INE>>

8 Derivational morphemes

The full list of derivational morphemes can be seen in Table 5. The output tag is followed by an (approximate) English name of the suffix and an allomorph. The input and output categories of the suffix are also indicated.

⁶The full list of tags that can be dominated by a *POSTP* tag can be seen in Table 7.2.

9 Comparison with other systems

The annotation system described in this document is independent of the implementation and the technical details of the morphological analysis. As such it is especially suitable to act as a common ground when comparing different formalisms.

While designing our system we examined the MSD coding system[1], which is positional, i.e. it has fixed positions for each morphosyntactic property and these positions can be either filled in or left empty. An MSD code is not suited to describe derivations, it deals only with inflectional suffixing. The mapping between the two systems is ambiguous, but we designed our annotation system in a way that it should contain at least as much information as the MSD system.

Bibliography

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- [3] Viktor Trón. Attribútum-érték struktúrák. In László Kálmán, Viktor Trón, and Károly Varasdi, editors, *Lexikalista elméletek a nyelvészetben*. Tinta Könyvkiadó, Budapest, 2002.

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| number: | singular | (<i>sógor</i>) | <-PLUR> |
| | plural | „simple" (<i>sógor-ok</i>) familiáris birtokos (<i>sógor-ék</i>) | <+PLUR<-FAM>> <+PLUR<+FAM>> |
| possessor: | none overt possessor | person: 1st (<i>sógor-om</i>) 2nd (<i>sógor-od</i>) 3rd (<i>sógor-a</i>) number: singular (<i>sógor-ai</i>) plural (<i>sógor-uk</i>) | <-POSS> |
| | | | <+POSS<+1><-2>> <+POSS<-1><+2>> <+POSS<-1><-2>> <+POSS<-PLUR>> <+POSS<+PLUR>> |
| possessed: | none overt possessed | number singular (<i>sógor-é</i>) plural (<i>sógor-éi</i>) | <-ANP> |
| | | | <+ANP<-PLUR>> <+ANP<+PLUR>> |
| case: | „none” overt, one of 16 cases: | NOM (<i>sógor</i>) | <-CAS> |
| | | ACC (<i>sógori</i>) | <+CAS<+ACC>> |
| | | DAT (<i>sógor-nak</i>) | <+CAS<+DAT>> |
| | | INS (<i>sógor-ral</i>) | <+CAS<+INS>> |
| | | CAU (<i>sógor-ért</i>) | <+CAS<+CAU>> |
| | | TRA (<i>sógor-rá</i>) | <+CAS<+TRA>> |
| | | SUE (<i>sógor-on</i>) | <+CAS<+SUE>> |
| | | SBL (<i>sógor-ra</i>) | <+CAS<+SBL>> |
| | | DEL (<i>sógor-ról</i>) | <+CAS<+DEL>> |
| | | INE (<i>sógor-ban</i>) | <+CAS<+INE>> |
| | | ELA (<i>sógor-ból</i>) | <+CAS<+EAL>> |
| | | ILL (<i>sógor-ba</i>) | <+CAS<+ILL>> |
| | | ADE (<i>sógor-nál</i>) | <+CAS<+ADE>> |
| | | ALL (<i>sógor-hoz</i>) | <+CAS<+ALL>> |
| | | ABL (<i>sógor-tól</i>) | <+CAS<+ABL>> |
| | | TER (<i>sógor-ig</i>) | <+CAS<+TER>> |
| FOR (<i>sógor-ként</i>) | <+CAS<+FOR>> | | |

Table 2: Inflectional features of nouns

| | | | |
|----------------|---|--|--|
| modality: | none | modal (<i>futhat</i>) | < -MODAL> < +MODAL> |
| mood: | conjunctive | subjunctive/imperative (no tense) conditional | <-SUBJUNC><-COND> < +SUBJUNC> <+COND> |
| tense: | present past ⁵ future (only for the copula 'van') | | <-PAST><-FUT> <+PAST> <+FUT> |
| number/person: | subject person subject number | 1st (<i>futok</i>) 1st (<i>várlak</i>) with 2nd person object 2nd (<i>futsz</i>) 3rd (<i>fut</i>) singular (<i>fut</i>) plural (<i>futnak</i>) | <+PERS<+1><-2>> <+PERS<+1<+OBJ<+2><-2>> <+PERS<-1><+2>> <+PERS<-1><-2>> <-PLUR> <+PLUR> |
| definiteness | indefinite definite | (<i>lát</i>) (<i>látja</i>) | <-DEF> <+DEF> |

Table 3: Inflectional features of verbs

| | |
|----------|--|
| ALÁ | (to) under X |
| ALATT | under X |
| ALÓL | from under X |
| ÁLTAL | by X, by way of X |
| ELÉ | before X, in front of X |
| ELÉB | before X, in front of X (archaic) |
| ELLEN | against X |
| ELLEN | contrary to X |
| ELŐL | from (in front of) X |
| ELŐTT | before X, in front of X |
| FELÉ | towards X |
| FELETT | above X, over X |
| FELŐL | from (the direction of) X, as for X |
| FELÜL | from (above/over) X |
| FÖLÉ | above X, over X |
| FÖLIBE | above X, over X (archaic) |
| FÖLÖTT | above X, over X |
| FÖLÜL | from (above/over) X |
| HELYETT | instead of X |
| IRÁNT | person marking with infixing |
| KÖRÉ | (to) around X |
| KÖRÖTT | around X |
| KÖRÜL | around X |
| KÖRÜLÖTT | around X |
| KÖZÉ | to (between many, among many) X |
| KÖZIBÉ | to (between many, among many) (archaic) |
| KÖZÖTT | between X, among X |
| KÖZT | between X, among X |
| KÖZÜL | out of X, from among X |
| LÉT | these can have inflected demonstrative forms |
| MELLÉ | to somewhere near X |
| MELLETT | beside X, by X, (somewhere) near X |
| MELLŐL | from somewhere near X |
| MIATT | because of X |
| MÖGÉ | (to) behind X |
| MÖGÖTT | behind X |
| MÖGÜL | from (behind) X |
| NÉLKÜL | without X |
| RÉSZ | as concerns X |
| RÉSZ | for X |
| SZÁM | for X (recipient) |
| SZERINT | according to X |
| UTÁN | after X |

Table 4: List of features that can combine with the feature *PERS*

Table 5: Derivational morphemes

| Tag | explanation | example | POS |
|----------------------|--|---------------|-------------|
| FREQ | frequentative | gat | VERB → VERB |
| MEDIAL | medial | ódik | VERB → VERB |
| CAUS | causative | tat | VERB → VERB |
| PART | adverbial participle | va | VERB → ADV |
| PERF_PART | perfect adverbial participle | ván | VERB → ADV |
| IMPERF_PART | imperfect adjectival participle | ó | VERB → ADJ |
| FUT_PART | future adjectival participle | andó | VERB → ADJ |
| PERF_PART | perfect adjectival participle | ott | VERB → ADJ |
| NEG_PERF_PART | negative perfect adjectival participle | atlan | VERB → ADJ |
| GERUND | gerund | ás | VERB → NOUN |
| NEG_MODAL_PART | negative modal adjectival participle | hatatlan | VERB → ADJ |
| MODAL_PART | modal adjectival participle | ható | VERB → ADJ |
| REG_ACT | regular activity | kodik | NOUN → VERB |
| ABSTRACT | abstract | ság | NOUN → NOUN |
| MRS | mrs | né | NOUN → NOUN |
| DIMIN | diminutive | ka | NOUN → NOUN |
| ATTRIB | attributive | s | NOUN → ADJ |
| MET_ATTRIB | metonymical attributive | i | NOUN → ADJ |
| INAL_ATTRIB | inalienable attributive | jú | NOUN → ADJ |
| NEG_ATTRIB | negative attributive | talan | NOUN → ADJ |
| TYPE1 | type1 | szeru | NOUN → ADJ |
| TYPE2 | type2 | féle | NOUN → ADJ |
| TYPE3 | type3 | nemu | NOUN → ADJ |
| TYPE_RANK | type rank | rangú | NOUN → ADJ |
| NEG_ATTRIB2 | negative attributive2 | mentes | NOUN → ADJ |
| TYPE4 | type4 | fajta | NOUN → ADJ |
| LOC_INE | locative inessive | beli | NOUN → ADJ |
| QUANTITY | quantity | nyi | NOUN → NUM |
| ESS_FOR | essivus formalis | képpen | NOUN → ADV |
| COM | comitative | stul | NOUN → ADV |
| PERIOD1 | period1 | anként | NOUN → ADV |
| PERIOD2 | period2 | onta | NOUN → ADV |
| ACT | activity | oz | NOUN → VERB |
| ACT2 | activity2 | ol | NOUN → VERB |
| COMPAR | comparative | bb | ADJ → ADJ |
| SUPERLAT | superlative | leg-bb | ADJ → ADJ |
| SUPERSUPERLAT | supersuperlative | legesleg-bb | ADJ → ADJ |
| COMPAR_DESIGN | comparative designative | bbik | ADJ → ADJ |
| SUPERLAT_DESIGN | superlative designative | leg-bbik | ADJ → ADJ |
| SUPERSUPERLAT_DESIGN | supersuperlative designative | legesleg-bbik | ADJ → ADJ |
| MANNER | manner | lag | ADJ → ADV |
| MANNER | manner | an | ADJ → ADV |
| INTRANS_RESULT | intransitive resultative | odik/ul | ADJ → VERB |
| TRANS_RESULT | transitive resultative | ít | ADJ → VERB |
| MULTIPL-ITER | multiplicative iterative | szor | NUM → ADV |
| MULTIPL-ITER | multiplicative iterative | szoroz | NUM → VERB |
| ITER_ATTRIB | iterative attributive | szori | NUM → ADJ |
| MULTIPL_ATTRIB | multiplicative attributive | szoros | NUM → ADJ |
| MULTIPL | multiplicative | szorta | NUM → ADV |
| AGGREG | aggregative | an | NUM → ADV |
| FRACT | fractional | ad | NUM → NUM |
| ORD | ordinal | odik | NUM → NUM |
| DATE | date | odika | NUM → NOUN |
| ATTRIB | attributive | i | POSTP → ADJ |