

GUEST EDITOR'S NOTE

The *Debrecen Workshop on Argument Structure* was held between 25–27 May 2012 at the Department of English Linguistics of the University of Debrecen. Many inspiring papers were presented, and we made a decision at the end of the event to publish a selection of them. Eventually, two special issues of *Acta Linguistica Hungarica* have been arranged: this special volume on datives, and another one to be published later on in 2014.

Dative case is an issue of perennial interest in modern linguistics. It plays a central role in the grammar of many languages, yet it is remarkably versatile in functions. The current volume, in line with much recent work in linguistics, aims to add to the description of this versatility by a discussion of novel dative data from a selection of languages and constructions. The authors of the papers have different theoretical persuasions, but they all share the drive to discover and present data that the readers of this volume will hopefully also find fascinating.

Two papers focus on the role that dative case plays in ditransitive constructions. The paper by Camilleri, ElSadek and Sadler, *A cross dialectal view of the Arabic dative alternation* is concerned with ditransitive verbs in three geographically spread vernacular dialects of Arabic. The paper by Fernández-Alcalde, *Two types of datives in Spanish: Caused possession vs. possessor raising* discusses Spanish ditransitives in a systematic comparison with the corresponding prepositional constructions. É. Kiss, in her paper *Ways of licensing external possessors*, examines the status of Hungarian external possessors marked by dative case and distinguishes three different types of them. Finally, the paper by Rákosi, *On dative causers in Hungarian*, provides an overview of the grammar of non-selected dative causers in Hungarian. This last paper was not presented at the Debrecen workshop.

I am profoundly grateful to the reviewers of the volume, whose careful work was vital in shaping the papers into their final form: Gábor Alberti (University of Pécs), John Beavers (The University of Texas at Austin), Antonio Fábregas (University of Tromsø), Dmitry Ganenkov (Russian Academy of Sciences/Sholokhov Moscow State University for the Humanities), Jonathan E. MacDonald (University of Illinois), John Payne

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