

GUEST EDITORS' NOTE

Issues 56/4 and 57/1 of *Acta Linguistica Hungarica* are devoted to contributions to the description of Hungarian from a functional cognitive perspective. Both issues have been planned, edited and written by members of the Functional cognitive linguistics workshop at the Institute of Hungarian and Finno-Ugric Linguistics, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. In this brief note, we therefore begin by providing some background information about the group and its general objectives before attending to each contribution in its own right.

The workshop was founded by five senior linguists in 2005, and has since attracted more than ten young researchers, partly as a result of the group's close ties with the cognitive linguistics doctoral program at the Hungarian Linguistics Doctoral School of Eötvös Loránd University. A key priority of the workshop is the broadening of the empirical scope of functional cognitive linguistics by applying its principles and methods to the description of Hungarian. Frameworks of particular influence on the group's work include those by Ronald W. Langacker, Leonard Talmy and George Lakoff, with further crucial reference to related functional schools of Talmy Givón, Joan Bybee, Elizabeth Traugott, Bernd Heine, Michael Tomasello, Chris Sinha and others. An important challenge is to creatively adapt (or even expand on) these frameworks as they are applied to novel data while maintaining their integrity and cross-linguistic appeal.

Besides sharing the results of their work in individual papers and conference presentations, workshop members co-authored volume 22 (2008, 566 pp.) of *Általános Nyelvészeti Tanulmányok*, an academic series for general linguistics. A review of that volume by Bernadett Modrián-Horváth appears in the present issue.

The eleven papers to be published in the two volumes of the present collection explore one or more of the following domains and features of Hungarian. 1. Its rich morphological system expressing several syntactic functions. 2. The role of grammaticalization and the nature of Hungarian stem + suffix composite structures. 3. Word order, characterized by a high degree of flexibility (compared to languages like English) but not without subtle regularities of its own. 4. The pronominal system. 5. Deixis and

the grammar of perspective. 6. The semantics and pragmatics of clausal topic. 7. The functional syntax and semantics of modality.

As the topics suggest, workshop members have varied research interests; inevitably, they also have disagreements concerning certain details of their accounts. However, we believe that the papers ultimately converge in terms of both scope and perspective, hence contributing to the workshop's general agenda and, more importantly, to the concepts and results of functional linguistics.

The present issue of *Acta Linguistica Hungarica* contains four papers.

András Imrényi's article, 'Toward a unified functional account of structural focus and negation in Hungarian', explores the possibility of interpreting the distinction between neutral and non-neutral clauses from a functional cognitive perspective. He suggests that the non-neutral clause type should be understood as a symbolic category with semantic import, and offers a way of subsuming structural foci and the negative particle under a single functional account by assessing their 'symbolic relations' to the primary predicate of the clause.

In her paper entitled 'Loan affixes in Hungarian word formation: regularity, productivity, rivalry', Mária Ladányi studies the degree of productivity of some loan affixes on the basis of a relatively large amount of corpus data, starting from the Natural Morphology approach to productivity. The author proposes a system of criteria for the productivity scale of loan affixes in Hungarian. Departing from certain usual assumptions in Natural Morphology, she finally concludes that the size of the domain of rule application and type frequency may also play a role in the emergence and maintenance of productive rules and in the fate of the degree of productivity of individual affixes.

Bernadett Modrián-Horváth's paper, 'Gesichtspunkte zu einer funktionalen Typologie der ungarischen Infinitiv regierenden Hilfsverben', aims at an exploration of functionally relevant morphosyntactic criteria for Hungarian auxiliaries taking an infinitive complement. The author investigates the auxiliary status and the process of auxiliarization of almost 50 verbs on the basis of empirical material (synchronic and diachronic corpora) and proposes some partially new criteria for auxiliary status such as frequency, infiltration between the preverb and the infinitive, and the markedness of predicative complements. As a result of the investigation, two prototypes of Hungarian auxiliaries are presented that are characterized by gradual transitions to each other and to other types of verbal constructions with an infinitive.

In 'Perspectivization and modes of quoting in Hungarian', Szilárd Tátrai and Nóra Csontos examine modes of quoting with special regard to the organization of perspective. Due to the pragmatic interest of the study, their focus is on the functioning of two context-dependent vantage points, the subject of consciousness and the referential centre. Their key question about the former is to whom speaking as a sign of active consciousness is attributed and how this is linguistically marked. As regards the latter, the central issue is from where and how the spatio-temporal and interpersonal relations of the quoted discourse are represented. Although the paper is mostly concerned with a 'universal pragmatic' characterization of the functioning of perspective in quotations, it also highlights some language-particular features of Hungarian quoting strategies and touches on their evolution in the history of the language.

In the final stage of preparing their contributions, the authors benefited greatly from the useful comments and insightful suggestions of their reviewers, whose work is hereby gratefully acknowledged. Our panel of reviewers for the present issue includes Hans Altmann, Rita Brdar-Szabó, Wolfgang Dressler, Nóra Kugler, Piroska Kocsány, Jef Verschueren, Balázs Wacha, and Daniel Wedgwood. Naturally, the authors take full responsibility for any errors or shortcomings that remain.

Finally, the reader is informed that the following papers are scheduled to appear in the next issue of this journal. 'On the status of discourse markers' by Csilla Ilona Dér; 'Variability in Hungarian address forms' by Ágnes Domonkosi; 'Illocutionary force, salience and attention management: A social cognitive pragmatic perspective' by Ágnes Hámori; 'Modal adverbs in Hungarian (The case of *talán* 'perhaps')' by Nóra Kugler; 'Space deixis, discourse deixis and anaphora' by Krisztina Laczkó; 'What is *nagy* 'big'?' by Kornélia Papp; and 'The auxiliary + infinitive construction in Hungarian' by Gábor Tolcsvai Nagy.

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