

Annual Report, 2006, Department of Experimental Linguistics

I. Research objectives of the department in 2006

Neurolinguistic research

- 1.1. In our research related to the model of mental grammar an objective was the construction of an argument system pertaining to the cooperation and common restrictions of the syntactic, morphological and phonological subsystems and certain memory subsystems in the linguistic processing and production performance of healthy and aphasic subjects.
- 1.2. Preparation and clinical testing of test materials for the systematic analysis of sentence comprehension in aphasic patients. Investigation of the relationship between sentence comprehension performance and verbal working memory capacity.
- 1.3. Performing psychophysiological tests and tests on reaction time investigating the effect of word order and the increase in the temporal distance of linguistic elements undergoing agreement on the perception of correctness of tense and person/number agreement.
- 1.4. In the research of context-sensitive phonological strategies the objectives were discovering syllable organisation processes, gathering spontaneous speech data containing phonological deviances and building an analysed corpus from the data.

Psycholinguistic research

- 1.5. Investigating grammaticality judgment ability and its relations to the parameters of processing in child groups of typical language development and groups with language development problems. Testing the ability to recognise syntactic functions by analogy in healthy adults.
- 1.6. Starting experimental research on incomplete questions (silent predicates).

Sociolinguistic research

- 1.7. Starting the EU project DILING (*Dimensions of Linguistic Otherness: A nyelvi másság dimenziói*) and coordinating efforts spanning eight countries. Organising an international conference under the aegis of the project.

Research on languages spoken by Roma communities

- 1.8. Description of the syntactic structure of Boyash sentences. Studying the possibilities for language shift and language maintenance in Boyash-speaking communities, preparing education material. Surveying the linguistic-political situation of the Roma minority in Hungary. Description of linguistic ideologies in a Transsylvanian Roma community.

II. Outstanding research achievements of the Department in 2006

Neurolinguistic research

- 2.1. The project entitled *The hypothesis of weakened syntax in sentence production* has been carried out under the leadership of Zoltán Bánréti. Sentence repetition tests were carried out involving subjects with agrammatic aphasia. Results showed that subjects systematically dropped syntactic markers of information structure contained in the sentences, such as definite and indefinite articles and tense markers. However, the information context of the test did not encourage dropping these endings. Based on our results we have concluded that in an aphasiac disorder syntax disruption does not necessarily involve the dropping of rules/endings. A condition that can be characterised with the term weakened syntax is thus produced. Structure building operations may still be carried out in this weakened syntactic system but only by abnormally overusing mental resources. This induces compensation strategies in the subjects where structural markers related to information structure are dropped, erroneously supposing that they can be deduced from context.

2.2. Katalin Szentkuti-Kiss's research carried the title *Aphasic sentence comprehension*. She has found that based on comprehension data of Hungarian aphasics the validity of hypotheses accounting for agrammatic comprehension solely by the primary disruption of subsystems responsible for producing structural representation can be questioned. Existing results have been interpreted in a theoretical framework where the restricted activation of information stored in the lexical representation of the verb and the disturbed operation of syntactic-semantic mapping processes, rather than restrictions of structural operations is supposed to be in the background of agrammatic comprehension.

2.3. *Investigations in electrophysiology* have been coordinated by Éva Mészáros. The results emphasise the significance of memory-related processes in the judgment of congruence of number/person agreement in healthy subjects. In the experiments on the sensitivity for tense-time adverb congruence the effect of word order on grammaticality judgments of aphasics also points toward that performance is not determined by the primary deterioration of morphological-structural agreement operations. Interpretation of patterns discernible in response times and correct responses was carried out applying an interaction-type model of sentence processing based on capacity.

2.4. Judit Szépe has studied the syllable organisation operations of phonological mistakes, errors and linguistic deviances related to old age and aphasia. She has found that these organisation operations follow the principle of simplification, meaning that their phonological information content is always lower than that of their counterparts following rules. The diverse syllable-construction deviances are governed by only a few wide-scope processes of structure reordering, structure repetition, and syllable optimality increasing/lowering processes that are based on rule scope modification, that is, on rule extension and rule constraining in addition to the two former operation types. The former includes cases of extending sonority hierarchy, while the latter accounts for the cases of producing malformed syllable types/syllable match.

Psycholinguistic research

2.5. The research team lead by Ágnes Lukács investigated grammaticality judgments on sentences with agreement errors in children diagnosed with language development disorder and in a control group with matched receptive vocabulary. Performance was significantly dependent on sentence processing characteristics. Although the performance level of the groups was identical, accompanying factors showed difference. In the group diagnosed with language development disorder (as opposed to the control group) there was a close correlation between the size of vocabulary and verbal working memory and error detection rate, in addition to the clearly discernible effect of grammatical knowledge (or the deficits therein). According to the analysis, grammaticality judgments cannot be regarded as clear measures of grammatical competence.

2.6. Ilona Kassai edited a bilingual volume on the information structure of sentences in which she published the results of a French-Hungarian joint research project. Research on so-called interrupted questions containing silent predicates has begun. The research, also lead by Ms. Kassai, is based on a wide-scope empirical database.

Sociolinguistic research

2.7. Lead by Csilla Bartha, the EU-funded project *Dimensions of Linguistic Otherness*, targeted towards surveying the situation of linguistic minorities in eight countries of East-Central Europe has started successfully. As the first milestone of the project an international conference was organised. The conference was held in Budapest, October 25-27. The comparative research project on language shift in six Hungarian minority groups, started with NKFP support, was carried on, also under the leadership of Csilla Bartha. Results were made

available in multiple publications appearing in Hungary and abroad and conference presentations in Hungarian as well as in foreign languages. In 2006, work was finished on the corpus of the Hungarian language spoken in the Carpathian basin. A project surveying linguistic, legal, educational political conditions of Hungarian minority schools in the Carpathian basin has also been finished together with a sociolinguistic survey investigating bilinguality among Hungarians living in the Mura basin and the effectiveness of bilingual education in Slovenia applying questionnaire and interview sampling with a pool of 140 people and subsequent statistical analysis. Csilla Bartha is editing a volume of linguistic studies entitled *Roma communities and their languages in the Carpathian basin*.

Research on languages spoken by Roma communities

2.8. Anna Orsós and László Kálmán are preparing a work on Boyash sentence grammar. In addition to various word structures they put down descriptive rules concerning special and yes/no questions. A classification of Boyash compound sentences based on grammatic-semantic relations of clauses has also been finished.

Orsós Anna has completed her PhD dissertation dealing with the sociolinguistic and linguistic/educational political situation of the Boyash language. The aim of fundamental research on the Boyash linguistic community has been the investigation of opportunities for language shift and language maintenance, as well as the production of supplementary material applicable in minority education and community building.

2.9. Andrea Szalai has finished a study (in press) on some aspects of territorial and social variability of the Romani language and on the diversity of the Roma minority in Hungary. In the research project "Oath and gender in the linguistic ideology of a Transylvanian Roma community" Andrea Szalai's PhD dissertation is not far from being completed. The dissertation investigates gender aspects of Romani linguistic ideology concerning oaths. Csilla Bartha, Anna Orsós, and Andrea Szalai have completed a selected bibliography on Romani and Boyash linguistics.

III. DOMESTIC RELATIONS AND RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS

3.1. All members of the department were active in higher education, teaching first and foremost in the Theoretical Linguistics MA and PhD programmes of ELTE/HAS. Zoltán Bánréti is both the leader of the PhD programme in Theoretical Linguistics and the department itself. He led the work of preparing new detailed curricula for BA and MA in Theoretical Linguistics.

Department members were also teaching at the following higher-education institutions: ELTE Bárczi Gusztáv Gyógypedagógiai Főiskolai Kar, BA and university program, a BME Doctoral School in Cognitive Psychology, Theoretical Linguistics Workshop of PPKE BTK Doctoral School in Language and Literature, PTE BTK French and Linguistics departments, PTE BTK Department of Romology and Sociology of Education, ELTE BTK Department of Modern Hungarian Language, SzTE PhD Programme in English Applied Linguistics.

Targeted professional courses were taught to members of the National Family Protection Service.

Ilona Kassai heads the PTE BTK Doctoral School in Linguistics.

Staff members supervised 7 doctoral dissertations in 2006.

3.2. Joint research projects were carried out on topics described in sections 2.1 and 2.3 with the Developmental Psychophysiology group of the HAS Institute for Psychology, with the Cognitive Science group of SZTE and with the General Linguistics Department of DTE BTK.

Department members were opponents of 1 HAS doctoral dissertation, 3 PhDs, and 1

habilitation dissertation. They reviewed publications of several Hungarian professional journals (*Nyelvtudományi Közlemények*, *Magyar Nyelv*, *Magyar Nyelvőr*) and acted as reviewers for 23 applications for scientific grants.

Hungarian grants

Members of the department take part in work under grants OTKA T047381, OTKA K60403 and in the NKFP project *Nyelvbányász (Language Miner)*.

Activities in Hungarian scientific life

Department members were active in the following societies:

Nyelvtudományi Társaság (Linguistic Society)

Magyar Alkalmazott Nyelvészek Egyesülete (Society of Hungarian Applied Linguists)

Nemzetközi Magyar Filológiai Társaság (International Society of Hungarian Philology)

(as board member)

Magyar Fonetikai, Foniátriai és Logopédiai Társaság (Hungarian Society of Phonetics, Phoniatory and Speech Therapy).

the editorial board of the journal *Nyelvtudományi Közlemények*

Participation at scientific events in Hungary

Staff members delivered talks at the following conferences:

- 14. Élőnyelvi Konferencia (14th Conference on the Spoken Language), Bük, 2006. október 9. (Judit Szépe)

- XVI. Magyar Alkalmazott Nyelvészeti Kongresszus (16th Hungarian Congress on Applied Linguistics), Szent István Egyetem, Gödöllő, 2006. április 11. (Zoltán Bánréti, Judit Szépe)

- VIII. Dunaújvárosi Nemzetközi Alkalmazott Nyelvészeti, Nyelvvizsgáztatási és Medicinális Lingvisztikai Konferencia (8th Conference in Dunaújváros on Applied Linguistics, Language Testing and Therapeutic Linguistics), Dunaújvárosi Főiskola Nyelvi Intézete, 2006. május 5. (Judit Szépe)

- X. Jubileumi Alzheimer-kór Konferencia (10th Conference on Alzheimer Disease), SzTE és Szegedi Neurológiai Klinika, Szeged, 2006. szeptember 22. (Zoltán Bánréti, Judit Szépe)

- Kommunikációelmélet (Communication Theory), SzTE Médiatudományi Intézete, Szeged, 2006. november 17. (Zoltán Bánréti, Judit Szépe)

- A Magyar Fonetikai, Foniátriai és Logopédiai Társaság XXIX. Országos Szakmai Konferenciája (29th Conference of the Hungarian Society of Phonetics, Phoniatory and Speech Therapy), Hódmezővásárhely (Judit Szépe)

- A magyarországi beások nyelvi közössége (The Boyash language community in Hungary). 2006. december 18. Pécs (Anna Orsós).

Hungarian research grant

Ágnes Lukács has been taking advantage of the Bolyai János Research Grant awarded in 2005.

PhD dissertation

Anna Orsós (at University of Pécs, PhD School in Linguistics, PhD Programme in Applied Linguistics) has completed her PhD dissertation entitled *INyelvi helyzet, nyelvoktatás, nyelvtanárképzés - Vizsgálatok és gondolatok a beás nyelv megőrzésének lehetőségeiről (Linguistic situation, language education, language teacher training: Investigations and thoughts on preserving the Boyash language)*.

IV. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

Research cooperation

Csilla Bartha is the project coordinator of the European Union project *Dimensions of Linguistic Otherness*.

Zoltán Bánréti, Éva Mészáros, Katalin Szentkúti-Kiss and Judit Szépe have developed the detailed research plan for a new European project entitled *Data and theories in neurolinguistics* together with the Clinical Linguistics Department of the University of Reading. In the field of aphasia phonology Judit Szépe has been in cooperation with the Montréal research lab founded by Jean-Luc Nespoulous.

Ágnes Lukács has been engaged in joint research with Lawrence B. Leonard at Purdue University (US).

Andrea Szalai is participating in the project no. SAL - 029013, entitled *Society and Lifestyles: Towards Enhancing Social Harmonisation through Knowledge of Subcultural Communities*.

International higher education

Ágnes Lukács is to teach a course on language development disorders at Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj, Romania.

Activities in international scientific life

Bartha Csilla Bartha is member of the International Pragmatics Association, is Hungarian research expert of the UNESCO project *Multilingualism in the world*, is also an expert of *Mercator Education Network* in the field of minority languages, bilingual and minority education, and is on the international advisory board for the book series *Multilingualism and Linguistic Diversity*.

As a member of the Scientific Council of Centre Interuniversitaire d'Études Hongroises, Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris 3, Iona Kassai is actively taking part in shaping the scientific profile of the institution.

Participation at international science events

Csilla Bartha participated at the following international science events:

- Sociolinguistics Symposium 16, University of Limerick, 6 - 8 July 2006 (Ireland)
- International Conference on Dimensions of Linguistic Otherness – Prospects of Maintenance and Revitalization of Minority Languages, 25-27 October, 2006, (Budapest)
- The Legacy of EBLUL and the Future of Lesser Used Languages in the EU, Dublin Conference, 26 October, 2006.
- Presentation of the scientific analysis of the Slovenian bilingual education model, Hungarian Science Day, Lendava, November 14, 2006.

Iona Kassai participated at the following international science events:

- Temps, Espaces, Langages: Colloque International – Paris
- Az állítmány(predikáció) a magyar és a francia nyelvben/La prédication en hongrois et en français - roundtable.

V. MAJOR PUBLICATIONS IN 2006

Bartha Csilla (coauthor: Borbély, Anna), *Dimensions of linguistic otherness: prospects of*

minority language maintenance in Hungary. *Language Policy* 5.3: 337–365(29)

Bartha Csilla, A magyarországi siketek közössége és a magyarországi jelnyelv. (The Hungarian deaf community and Hungarian sign language) In: Kiefer Ferenc ed., *Magyar nyelv. (Hungarian Language)* Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó. 852–906. (Coauthors: Hattyár Helga és Szabó Mária Helga)

Bánréti Zoltán, Neurolingvisztika. (Neurolinguistics) in: Kiefer-Siptár (szerk): *Magyar nyelv (Hungarian Language)* Akadémiai kiadó –Kluwer, Budapest, 2006. 653-725.

Bánréti Zoltán, A kötőszói fej kettős jellege a mellérendelő főnévi szerkezetekben (The twofold nature of the conjunctive head in coordinating nominal structures ???), 1.-2. rész, *Magyar Nyelv (Hungarian Language)*, Argumentum kiadó, Budapest, CII. évf. (2006: 1-2) 43-57., 169-176.

Kassai Ilona (ed.): *A mondat információs szerkezete/La structure informationnelle de la phrase (Information structure of the sentence)*. Budapest: L'Harmattan. 2006.

Kassai Ilona, Az *is* partikula és az információs szerkezet műfordítások tükrében. (The particle *is* and information structure in the light of literary translations) In: Kassai Ilona (ed.) *A mondat információs szerkezete (Information structure of the sentence)*. / La particule énonciative *is* et la structure informationnelle à la lumière de traductions littéraires. In: Ilona Kassai (dir.) *La structure informationnelle de la phrase*. Budapest: L'Harmattan, 134-142., 142-151.

Lukács Ágnes - Kas Bence, „A kutya kerget a macskát”, avagy mit mondanak a grammatikalitási ítéletek a nyelvtani kompetenciáról? („Dog is chasing cat”, or what do grammaticality judgments tell us about grammatical competence?) In: Kálmán László (ed.): *KB 120 A titkos kötet. Nyelvészeti tanulmányok Bánréti Zoltán és Komlósy András tiszteletére*. MTA Nyelvtudományi Intézet – Tinta Könyvkiadó, Budapest, 2006. 399-411.

Lukács, Ágnes, Nyelvelsajátítás (Language acquisition). In: Kovács, I. & Szamarasz, V. (ed.) *Látás, nyelv, emlékezet (Sight, language, memory)*. Typotex, Budapest. 2006. 95-111.

Mészáros Éva, Jolsvai Hajnal, Csépe Valéria, Csuha Roland, *A szám-személy egyeztetés a hozzáférési idő függvényében (Person-number agreement as a function of access time)*. *Pszichológia*, 26, No.3, (2006) 227-246.

Mészáros Éva, *Az időkompatibilitás vizsgálata magyar agrammatikus afáziásoknál (Studying temporal compatibility in Hungarian agrammatical aphasics)*. In: Kálmán László (ed.) *KB 120 - A titkos kötet. Nyelvészeti tanulmányok Bánréti Zoltán és Komlósy András tiszteletére (The secret volume: Studies in linguistics honouring Zoltán Bánréti and András Komlósy)*. Budapest, MTA Nyelvtudományi Intézet - Tinta Könyvkiadó 2006. 87-102.

Orsós Anna, A magyarországi beás nyelv oktatási és nyelvtervezési kérdései (Education and language planning issues of the Hungarian Boyash language). In: *KB 120 – A titkos kötet. Nyelvészeti tanulmányok Bánréti Zoltán és Komlósy András tiszteletére (The secret volume: Studies in linguistics honouring Zoltán Bánréti and András Komlósy)* Ed. by Kálmán László. MTA Nyelvtudományi Intézet Tinta Könyvkiadó, Budapest. 2006. 67-86.

Orsós Anna, A magyarországi cigány nyelvek szociolingvisztikai nyelvpolitikai megközelítése. Tankönyv (A sociolinguistic language political approach to languages spoken

by Hungarian Roma communities. Textbook). In: *Ismeretek a romológia alapképzési szakhoz. (Contributions to the BA curriculum in Romology (???)*) ed. Forray R. Katalin, Bölcsész Konzorcium Budapest, 2006. (93-109 p)

Szalai, Andrea, Yaron Matras: *Romani. A Linguistic Introduction*. (Review article) *LINGUA*, 116, (2006) 2238-2253.

Szentkúti-Kiss Katalin, Az aphasia vizsgálata stroke-syndromában (The examination of aphasia in stroke syndrom). In: Dr. Nagy Zoltán (ed.) *Vascularis neurologia*. Budapest, B + V (medical & technical) Lap- és Könyvkiadó, 2006. 91-102.

Szentkúti-Kiss Katalin, Agrammatikus mondatmegértési mintázatok a magyarban (Agrammatic sentence comprehension patterns in Hungarian). In: Kálmán László (ed.) *KB120 – A titkos kötet. Nyelvészeti tanulmányok Bánréti Zoltán és Komlósy András tiszteletére (The secret volume: Studies in linguistics honouring Zoltán Bánréti and András Komlósy)*. Budapest, MTA Nyelvtudományi Intézet – Tinta Könyvkiadó, 2006. 23-35.

Szépe Judit, Nyelvi devianciák szótagszervezési műveletei (Syllable organisation operations of linguistic deviances). In: Gecső Tamás (ed.): *Nyelvi kompetencia – kommunikatív kompetencia (Linguistic competence - communicative competence)*, 345–353. Kodolányi János Főiskola – Tinta Könyvkiadó, Székesfehérvár – Budapest. 2006.