# Long-Distance Binding of Indeterminate Pronouns in the History of Hungarian

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## **1** Introduction

Part of a larger project on the expression of quantification in Old Hungarian.

Claim: Early Old Hungarian (and possibly Proto-Hungarian) could express quantification by means of indeterminate pronouns 'bound' long-distance by propositional quantifiers.

Subsidiary claim: D-quantification could be a relatively recent development during the Old Hungarian period. Part of a morphological 'compounding' process that also yielded relative pronouns, Free Choice expressions and morphologically complex complementisers:

Complementisers: *hogy-ha* ('that-if'), *mert-hogy* ('because-that'). Quantifying DPs and indefinites:

	<i>-ki</i> ('who')	<i>-mi</i> ('what')	<i>-kor, -ha</i> ('-time')	-hol ('where')
Q	ki	mi	mikor	hol
$\forall$	minden(-ki)	minden	minden-kor, -ha	minden-hol
	'everyone'	'everything'	'always'	'everywhere'
Э	vala-ki	vala-mi	valami-kor, valaha	vala-hol
quasi-epistemic	'someone'	'something'	'at one time'	'somewhere'
specific	né-ki	né-mi	né-ha	né-hol
	(a certain)	a (certain)	at a certain	at a given
	someone	thing	time	place
FC	akárki	akármi	akármikor	akárhol
	'whoever'	'whatever'	'whenever'	'wherever'
Rel	az-ki, ha-ki	az-mi	a/ha-mikor	az-hol
	'who-Rel'	'what-rel'	'when-Rel'	'where-Rel'
N-words	sen-ki	sem-mi	so-ha	se-hol
	'no-one'	'no-thing'	'never'	'no-where'

Corollary: Lond-distance binding of IPs by propositional operators is unselective, nested, and not sensitive to syntactic islands (Kratzer–Shimoyama). Scope: 'frozen', determined by the surface position of the operator. If Hungarian did in fact have this mode of quantification, its interface/logical properties were radically different from those of Modern Hungarian. (In Modern Hungarian, Dquantification is, as a matter of course, island-sensitive selective and local, scope relations —within islands— flexible, on account of QR.)

### 2 Modes of Quantification

Barbara Partee: D-quantification (determiners, quantifying DPs) vs A-quantification (adverbs, affixes, argument structure adjusters).

Old Hungarian: *minden* 'every', 'everyone' vs floating *mind* 'all', *egymin- denik* 'each'.

Shimoyama, Kratzer: long-distance quasi-binding of alternatives (supplied by indeterminate pronouns) via propositional operators. Similar to the semantics of questions (Hamblin, Karttunen) and Focus in Alternative Semantics (Rooth).

### 2.1 D-quantification

D-quantification is selective, local, and island-sensitive. NB, unmodified indefinites are NOT considered to be quantifiers.

- (1) *Every* cat is fond of *its* kittens. *She* caught a lot of mice.
- (2) a. *Every* professor heard the rumour that *every* student of his had been summoned to the dean's office.
  - b. If *every* friend of mine comes to the party it will be a riot.
  - c. *Every* semanticist moved to Tübingen because *every* computational linguist was working there.
- (3) The ambassador to/of every country was invited to the reception

OH example of narrower-than-surface scope:

(4) Es sonha meg nem sert tyteket valamyben ha mynden and never PRT not hurt you.PL-ACC something-INE if every nappon fogattok neky adnya eleg eledelt day-SUP promise-2PL DAT-3.SG give-INF enough food-ACC 'And he (the wolf) will never cause you any harm if you promise to give him enough food every day' (Jókai C. 151)

The point of the example: the scope of *mynden nappon* 'every day' is confined to the infinitival clause. (The reading is "You promise to give him enough food *every day*", and NOT "Every day, you promise to give him enough food".)

- (5) Thowaba megh nem emlekezem soha mynden o
   Further PRT not remember never every he
   alnoksaghÿrol
   duplicity-POSS.PL-3SG-about
   'Furthermore, I shall never recall all his duplicity' (Érsekújvári C. 77vb)
- (6) akoron wolthak wolna Ierwsalembe sok Irasthwdok mÿndē then were PAST Jerusalem-INE many learned-men every nemzetekbol nations-from
   'At the time there were in Jerusalem many learned men from every nation' (Érsekújvári C. 80rb)

Binding:

- a. mi atyank bodog fferench menden miuelkedetiben we father-POSS.1SG blessed Francis every deed-POSS.1SG-INE istenhez volt hassonlatos god-to was similar
   'Our father the Blessed Francis was similar to God, in everything he did' (Jókai C. 1)
  - b. menden test ne gÿczewlkewgÿek ew lelkeben every body not glorify-REFL-SUBJ.3SG he soul-POSS.1SG-INE 'For every body it holds that he should not glorify his soul/glory in his soul' (Jókai C. 128) OH: *minden* ('everyone', 'everything') and its 'compounds' (*mindenkor, mindenha* 'always'), *egymindenik* ('each and every one of them').

### 2.2 A-quantification

#### 2.2.1 Affixes and Other Stuff

In OH there was, for instance,

• Reduplication:

Reduplicated ki 'who': ki-ki  $\approx$  'each'.

- (8) a. ky ky mind miwelkodethe zerenth wegón: who who all deed-POSS.3SG according.to take-SBJV.3SG awagh Iot: awagh gonozth: or good-ACC or evil-ACC: 'Each should partake according to his deeds, whether it be of good or evil' (Kazinczy C. 89v)
  - b. mindonok feel tamadnak az alkolmas allapatba: meel every-PL up surge-3PL the appropriate state-INE which kinek kynek nezy onnon termezettit: who-DAT who-DAT regard-3SG own nature-POSS.3SG-ACC 'Everyone will be resurrected in the state appropriate to his nature' (Kazinczy C. 96v–97r)

Reduplicated numerals:

- (9) De mert meglen keuessen valanak az baratok nem a. few-N But for yet were the friars not boczathattyauala ewket ketten ketten send-out-POSS-PAST them two-N two-N 'Since there were still not many brethren he could not send them out in twos' (Jókai C. 82) b. ewduezeytew ysten boczata ew tanoÿtuanyt redeemer god sent he disciple-POSS.PL.3SG-ACC
  - redeemergodsentnedisciple-POSS.PL.3SG-ACCketten ketten mendenvarosba eshelyretwo-Ntwo-Neverycity-into andplace-onto'God the redeemer sent out his disciples in twos, to every cityand estate'(Jókai C. 128)
  - c. (Szent Ferenc) boczata kettewt kettewt ez (Saint Francis) sent two-ACC two-ACC vylagotmya predicalnÿ this world-throughout preach-INF 'Saint Francis sent his disciples in twos, to preach all over the world' (Jókai C. 129)
- *-keed*, *-keet* as a distributivity/pluractionality operator:
  - (10)a. Heten vadnak, Mel'eket, az o At'ok which-PL-ACC the she father-POSS-3PL seven-ADV are, az ordog mynd egenkét kazdagon el hazasyta, the devil all oneADV-DIST richly away marries 'They (the daughters of cupidity) are seven in number, all of whom their father the devil marries off generously, one by one' (Székelyudvarhely C. 95r-v)
    - b. Es lakozÿk wala naponkeed nagÿ gÿenÿerewseggel And dwell PAST day-N-LY great pleasure-INS
      'And he dwelt (there) with great pleasure every day' (Érsekújvári C. 5r)
  - (11) hogÿ kÿ naponked eshetel wgÿan azon korsagban that who day-ly fall-POSS-2SG same that illness-ACC 'Every day it is possible for you to come down with the same illness' (Érsekújvári C. 211vb)

#### 2.2.2 Adverbs

Floating quantifiers in OH: *mind* 'all', *monno* 'both', *egymindenik* 'each and every one of them'. A short-lived composite: *ki mind* lit. 'who all', a possible precursor of *minden-ki* 'everybody'.

Floating quantifiers: no division into Restrictor and Scope; discoursal.

### 2.3 Long-distance Binding of Indeterminate Pronouns

Japanese: indeterminate pronouns (Kuroda) that acquire existential, universal or interrogative force via (long-distance) association with certain particles.

	dare	nani	dono
	'who'	'what'	'which' (Det)
Q	dare ka	nani ka	dono ka
Ξ	dare ka	nani ka	dono ka
$\forall$	dare mo	nani mo	donomo
Simi	larly for:		

(12) [[Dono gakusei-ga syootaisita] sensei]-mo odotta which student-NOM invited teacher-mo danced
'For every student x the teacher x had invited danced' ≅
'Every teacher invited by some student (from among alternative students) danced'
-alternatives are exhausted-

Hamblin semantics: i. pronouns introduce alternatives; alternative meanings of larger constituents are computed compositionally. *Ka*, *Mo*: propositional operators that bind alternatives.

- (13) a.  $\llbracket dare \rrbracket^{w,g} = \{x | human(w)(x)\}$ b.  $\llbracket nemutta \rrbracket^{w,g} = \{ lambdax. \lambda w. [sleep(w)(x)] \}$ c.  $\llbracket darenemutta \rrbracket^{w,g} = \{ p | \exists x. [human(w)(x) \land sleep(w)(x)] \}$ (14)  $\llbracket Dono hon-o yonda \end{bmatrix} kodomo ]-mo yoku nemutta which book-ACC read child -MO well slept$
- which book-ACC read child -MO well slept 'For every book x, the child who read x slept well'  $\cong$ 'Every child who read a book from the set of alternative book slept well'

Operators reduce the set of alternatives to a singleton. Sentential quantifiers (Kratzer–Shimoyama): for  $[\![\alpha]\!]^{w,g} \subseteq D_{\langle s,t \rangle}$ :

(15) a. 
$$[\![\exists\alpha]\!]^{w,g} = \{\lambda w'. \exists p. [p \in [\![\alpha]\!]^{w,g} \land p(w')]\}$$
  
b. 
$$[\![\forall\alpha]\!]^{w,g} = \{\lambda w'. \forall p. [p \in [\![\alpha]\!]^{w,g} \land p(w')]\}$$
  
c. 
$$[\![Neg\alpha]\!]^{w,g} = \{\lambda w'. \neg \exists p. [p \in [\![\alpha]\!]^{w,g} \land p(w')\}\}$$

Mathematical properties of Hamblin style quantification:

- Nested dependencies:
  - (16) \*[...[...ind...ka/mo]...]ka/mo
     Alternatives 'associate' with the first available operator. In this scheme, the outermost operator cannot associate with the indeterminate pronoun.
  - (17) [[[Yamada-ga **dare**-ni **nani**-o okutta **ka**] sitteiru] Yamada-NOM who-DAT what-ACC sent **Q** know syoonin]-**mo** damatteita witness-mo was.silent 'The witness who knew what Yamada sent to whom was also silent' (Here, **mo** means 'also') NOT 'For every person x, the witness who knew what Yamada sent to x was silent.
- The illusion of unselective binding:
  - (18) [[**Dono** gakusei-ga **dono** ie-ni syootaisita] sensei]-odotta which student-NOM which house-to invited teacher-mo
    - danced 'For every student x and every house y, the teachers x had invited to y danced' (Shimoyama 2006)
- Operators can reach across certain syntactic islands (complex NPs and adjuncts but not *wh*-islands).
  - (19) [[[[Dono T.A.-ga osieta] gakusei]-ga syootaisita] sensei]-mo which T.A-NOM taught student-NOM invited teacher-mo kita came

'For every T.A. x, the teacher(s) invited by the students taught by x came' (Shimoyama 2006)

- (20) [[[Taro-ga **nani**-o katta-kara] okotta] hito]-**mo** Taro-NOM what-ACC bought-because got.angry person-MO heya-o deteitta room-ACC left 'For every thing x, the people who got angry because Taro bought x left the room' (Shimoyama 2006)
- Scope is 'frozen': Scope is determined by the placement of the nearest operator.

# 3 The Landscape of Quantification in Old Hungarian Records Some Oddities

Requantification? Sensitivity to spoken discourse?

(21)mÿndennemo dolgath kÿth az o zent a. every-kind-of matter-POSS.3SG-ACC who-ACC the he holy hagÿoth wolna onekÿ mÿndeneketh attÿa father-POSS.3SG left PAST he-DAT.3SG everything-PL-ACC weeghezeth wolna finished PAST 'Every affair of his, which had been ordered by his Holy Father, he brought everything to an end' (Érsekújvári C. 68ra) az angÿaloknak **mÿnden** karÿbol hwllottanak wala b. the angel-PL-DAT every order-POSS.PL.3PL fell PAST az athkozoth Lwcÿperrel kÿk mÿnd onekÿ lee down the accursed Lucipher-INS who-PL all he-DAT.3SG enghedeenek bÿnben vield-PST-3PL sin-INE 'from every order there were angels who fell together with the accursed Lucipher, who had all yielded to him and sinned' (Érsekújvári C. 68rb)

 (22) Ennek feletthe mÿndenek kÿk hallÿak wala kÿ This-DAT above-POSS.3SG everyone who-PL hear-3PL PAST who mÿnd ew nÿelweken oketh zolwan each he tongue-POSS.3SG-on speak-PARTICIPLE
 'Furthermore, everyone who heard them, each (hearing them) speak in their tongue' (Érsekújvári C. 80va)

# 4 Indeterminate Pronouns in OH Codices and Elsewhere

### 4.1 Preliminary: IPs in (Modern) Hungarian

- Reduplicated *ki-ki* (lit. 'who-who') 'each':
  - (23) *Ki-ki* menjen haza! Who-who go-SBJ-3SG home 'Everyone (should) go home!'
- 'Existential' free relatives:
  - (24) a. Van, *mit* ennem Is what-ACC eat-INF-1SG 'I have something to eat' Lit. 'I have what to eat'
    - b. Van, *hova* mennem Is where go-INF-1SG 'I have somewhere to go' Lit. 'I have where to go'
- Partitive-existential ki 'who':
  - (25) a. *Ki* jól, *ki* rosszul oldotta meg a feladatot.
    Who well, who badly solved PRT the problem-ACC
    'Some solved the problem correctly, and some made errors'
    - b. \*Ki jól oldotta meg a feladatot
       Who well solved PRT the problem-ACC
       Intended: 'Some solved the problem correctly'

(26)Mert nemellÿek ez neepek lakoznak kezzwl Since some-PL this people-PL from-among dwell parthÿaban medÿaban kÿk kezzwl wannak Naap parthia-INE media-INE who-PL from-among are Sun kelethrol **kÿk** delrol kÿk nap nÿgothrol kÿk rise-from some South-from some Sun set-from some ezakrol Nemellÿek o kezzwlek lakoznak North-from Some-PL he from-among dwell Mesopothanÿaban ... Nekÿk lakoznak az thengernek keeth Mesopotamia-INE ... NÉ-who-PL dwell the sea-DAT two feleen... side-POSS.3SG-on...

For some of these people dwell in Parthia, Media, some of whom are from the East, some from the South, some from the West and some from the North. Some of these dwell in Mesopotamia, ... some dwell on the two shores of the sea...' (Érsekújvári C. 73ra)

(27)zolgaÿ bewlczek walanak nagÿ sok tanaczot servant-POSS3.SG.PL wise-PL were great much advice-ACC tartanak wala kÿ kÿ mÿnd Hozza mond uala kÿ egÿet keep PAST who who all to-it say PAST who one-ACC kÿ masth mond wala who other-ACC say PAST 'His servants were wise and gave a lot of advice; each of them joined in, some said this and some said that.' (Érsekújvári C. 224va)

### 4.2 The OH Data

Query method: old-fashioned (manual & ocular). Came across data while reading codices. In all, found about 10 occurrences (one or two of which can be analysed as correlative/relative operators).

(28) tevzet ievttem bochatny fevldre. es myt akarok fire-ACC come-PST-1SG release-INF earth-SUB and what-acc want-1SG egyebet. hanem chak hog eegyen.
else-ACC if-not only that burn-SBJV.3SG
'I've come to release fire onto earth, and what (else) do I want but for it

to burn' (Cornides 65 r–v)

'I've come to release fire on earth, and I want nothing else but for it to burn'

*myt*: interrogative in (rhetorical) question ('what else do I want but...') or bound by (implicit) negation ('I want nothing else but...').

(29) Az yo lelkew embernek kedeeg nagyob erdemót zerez the good natured man-DAT CONJ bigger merit-ACC acquire vele chak ky neky ne engheggyen INST.3SG just who DAT-3SG not yield-SBJV.3SG '(The devil's temptations) (only) increase the merits of good souls; it is just that no-one should yield to them' (Érdy C. 82b) '(The devil's temptations) only serve to multiply the merits of good souls; the key is that no-one is to yield to them'

*ky* 'who' bound by negation.

(30) Es tehat latek tewz langott menbelewl leÿtewtt
And so saw-SG1 fire flame-ACC heaven-from descend-PART-ACC
... de az egÿebekrewl nem tudok mÿtt
... but the other-PL-about not know-SG1 what-ACC
"I saw a flame descending from Heaven ... but I know nothing about the rest" (Jókai Codex 45)

**mÿtt** 'what' bound by negation. Clear from syntactic context that it is not an embedded question (à la 'I don't know what to say').

(31) Ha ky kerdenee honnan volt az. Azzonywnk if who ask-COND.3SG where-from was that. lady-POSS.1PL marianak hogy semy terheet nehesseegeet nem zenwette Mary-DAT that none burden-ACC difficulty-ACC not suffered legyen Reea felelnek doctorok mondwan.
be-SBJV.3SG SUB-3SG reply-3PL doctors say-PART ... 'Should someone ask how come that Our Lady Mary had no difficulty (in giving birth) learned men reply saying ...' (Érdy C. 44a)

*ky* immediately following *Ha* 'if': default existential closure, universal reading in virtue of conditional. (Donkey sentence.)

(32) Ha kedeeg **my** kewessee annal nagyobot zolt if CONJ what little-TRANS that-ADE bigger-ACC speak-PST.3SG hogy mind ez vylaag sem volna. hyzóm be-COND believe-1SG that all this world neither foghatta volna meg catch-POSSIB-PERF.3SG be-COND PRT 'And if he (St John) had spoken somewhat louder / any louder I believe that not even the whole wide world could have grasped it' (Érdy C. 54a)

*my*: default existential closure, universal reading in virtue of conditional. (Donkey sentence.)

(33) De ha kÿ kerdene mÿ leegÿen az eredet zerent But if who ask-COND.3SG what be-SUBJ.3SG the origin acc.to walo ÿgassagh...wgÿ mond zent Anselmws doctor... be-PARTICIPLE truth ...so says saint Anselm doctor... 'Should someone ask what original truth should be ... Doctor Saint Anselm says ...' (Érsekújvári C. 289 r)

 $k\ddot{y}$  'who' existentially closed, universal construal due to conditional. (Donkey sentence.)

(34) Ha mÿ fogÿatkozasnak kedeeg tórteenÿk esnÿ ... Vala kÿ meg If what deficiency-DAT CONJ happen fall-INF ... some one PRT erthetÿ es twdhattÿa semÿ ellensees nem leezen understand-POSS and know-POSS no antagonism not will-be oka ha meg emendallÿa reason-POSS.3SG if PRT correct
'Should there be any deficiencies (in this text) let it be understood (by anyone) that there will be no resentment if they are corrected' (Érdy C. 3a)

mÿ 'what' existentially closed, universal construal due to conditional.

(35) Mÿkoron kedeeg ÿwtot vona az patakra kÿn az
 When CONJ arrived the stream-onto which-on the wood-ACC
 ffaat atal vetettek vala. mÿnth ha kÿ meg mondotta vona. ottan across hurled PAST like if who PRT said PAST there PRT

meghÿsmereelelkeebenrecognized soul-POSS.3SG-INE'When she (the Queen of Sheba) reached the stream bridged by the wood(that would be used in the Holy Cross), it was as if someone had told her,she recognized it in her soul' (Érdy C. 289b)

- $k\ddot{y}$  default existential closure (under modal/counterfactual).
- (36) ha kÿnek valamÿre enghedelmet hagÿott volna es nem if who-DAT something-onto permission-ACC left PAST and not tette volna ... azokat nagÿ eressen megh feddÿ vala did PAST ... those great strongly PRT reprimand PAST 'If (whenever) he ordered someone to do something, and they failed to do it, those were severely reprimanded' (Érdy C. 298b)

Could be correlative; **kÿnek** ('to whom') could as well be a free pronoun bound by existential closure (universal construal: donkey effect).

(37) Es azert valamÿkoron mÿtt zoluala zent ferenczrewl mondÿa And thus when(-ever) what-ACC say-pst saint francis-about say-Pst uala ffrat(er) lleo En dragalatosim mend nagÿok: de zent fferencz es Pst brother Leo My dears all great-PL but Saint Francis too nagÿ great

'So, whenever Brother Leo said something about Saint Francis, he would say: 'My dears, they are all great, but Saint Francis is also great' 'Or: "So, whenever Brother Leo said <u>any</u>thing about Saint Francis, he would say: ..." (Jókai Codex, 44)

Latin source: 'Et propter hoc quandocumque aliqui loquebantur de sanctis, frater Leo dicebat...'

*mÿtt* is either bound by existential closure, or the subordinate clause is understood as a correlative, and *mÿtt* is a relative–correlative operator.

 (38) Azerth mÿdē Ember ezeben wegÿe hogy kÿ Thus every man mind-POSS.3SG-INE take-SUBJ.3SG that who mÿkoron ÿwtand o halalanak ÿdeere when reach he death-POSS.3SG-DAT time-POSS.3SG-onto Naggÿal Nehezeb Es erosseb kesertethek leznek greatly heavier and stronger temptations be-FUT.3SG 'Thus everyone should bear in mind that whoever, whenever (he) reaches the hour of his death he will have to face much stronger temptations' (Érsekújvári C. 136va)

**kÿ** can be a correlative pronoun, but it can also be a free, universally generalised pronoun.

Indeterminate pronouns could be full DPs, but they could also be determiner-like or modifier-like elements in the DP (as in Japanese).

Indeterminate pronouns have been detected in the following environments:

- Sentence-initially, with a partitive construal.
- In the scope of negation.
- In antecedents of conditionals, where they are taken to be existentially closed. Universal reading due to conditional.
- Taken for granted: interrogative and relative (correlative) contexts. In relative clauses and correlatives, morphologically simple pronouns freely alternate with morphologically complex pronouns (even in Modern Hungarian).
- Reduplicated *ki-ki* (lit. 'who-who', meaning 'each'): either a distributivity operator on its own, or an indeterminate complex bound by a covert distributivity operator.

#### 4.3 Discussion

The presence of indeterminate pronouns in OH codices is not surprising, given that morphologically complex quantifiers, FC items, relative operators a.s.o. are Hungarian developments (Benkő 1993), even if their components often go back to Finno-Ugric roots. When the codices were written such complexes could be judged as relatively recent.

A complex like *vala-ki* ('somebody') or *akár-ki* ('whoever') or *minden-hol* ('every-where') can be said to consist of a pronoun (made determinate, as it were), and an operator/a semantic marker for a quasi-epistemic or a FC construal. Tentatively, these compounds can be said to date from the Proto-Hungarian or Early Old Hungarian period. The expression *mind* 'all' (which is also the root morpheme in *minden* 'every-', 'everything', 'everybody') also consists of an indeterminate pronoun (*mi* 'what' and an adverbial suffix -n(d), which could have been interpreted as a maximality operator).

 $\Rightarrow$  Before such compounds emerged, quantification in OH could have been expressed with A-quantifiers (adverbials and affixes) and propositional 'binders' of indeterminate pronouns. Not clear: whether Proto-Hungarian or Proto-Uralic had determiner quantification, which became obsolete.

 $\Rightarrow$  IF D-quantification (in its present form) is taken to be a PH/Early OH development, and IF it is taken to be preceded by a mix of A-quantification and longdistance propositional quantification, it follows, from comparing the logical properties of the two modes of quantification, that the emergence of D-quantification has brought about a rather abrupt and radical shift in the logical architecture of the language.

Two remarks:

- 1. Long-distance propositional quantification over alternatives has possibilities of expression which may or may not have been fully exploited in Hungarian. The possibility was nevertheless there.
- 2. Reconstructing/extrapolating quantificational properties: this is not reconstruction as such, since mathematical properties of long-distance binding follow *directly* from Hamblin semantics.

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