-atta/ette participles in Old Hungarian

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Revised MGTSZ project meeting handout

April 2012

1. Introduction

The Old Hungarian participial form -atta/ette is a rather rare construction, reported from 14^{th} , 15^{th} and early 16^{th} century codices. It died out shortly after this time and is completely obsolete in present-day Hungarian. Most often, -atta/ette is translated into English with an -ing form.

The non-finite ending is -Vtt (sometimes -t), this is always followed by person-number agreement (-a/e in third person).¹ There are data for all members of the paradigm from codices, except 1^{st} person plural.

The data in this handout come from three early codices: Jókai C. (1372, the first continuous Hungarian text, life and deeds of Francis of Assisi), Vienna C. (1466, translation of parts of the Old Testament) and Munich C. (1466, translation of the four gospels).

There are data from many other codices, but they haven't been collected in a systematic manner.

Károly (1956) has sifted through these codices for the data; I am using his database. A tagged (and growing) corpus of Old Hungarian is also available at http://corpus.nytud.hu/rmk/

Number of examples: 83 (Jókai C.: 1, Vienna C.: 17, Munich C.: 65)

Károly's discussion is descriptive in nature and is limited to 3–4 pages, later work cites his results without adding anything to it. No generative investigations so far.

¹I will gloss the participial ending as *-atta*. Keep in mind that *-atta* is, in fact, *-att-a*, a third person form. Translations are based on *Holy Bible*, *Today's New International Version (TNIV)*. 2004. International Bible Society. At selected places I have appropriated the TNIV text to fit the Hungarian text better.

2. Basic observations

The following observations have been made by Károly (1956) and ?.

The overt modifiers internal to the participial clause: subject, object (with overt Accusative case), adverb.

-Atta/ette participles are aways co-temporary with the main predicate.

Károly (1956): "csak cselekvő értelemben használatos" \approx only has an active reading.

Károly has identified three of the four uses I describe in the next section, he has found the dative modifier examples but didn't realize their significance.

3. Four uses

For now, I want to remain neutral about the nature of the gap in the participial clause, so I label it e.

3.1. Embedded subject = matrix object

55 examples, matrix predicates: $l\acute{a}t$ 'see', hall 'hear', lel 'find', megfog 'catch, find', $meg {\it \" o}riz$ 'keep safe'

- (1) es ϕ k hog lat-ac ϕ -t-èt [$e a \cdot$ tènger-en iar-atta] and they when see-3PL he-ACC-ACC the see-on walk-atta.3SG 'when they saw him walking on the sea' Munich C., 42 ra (Mark 6,49)
- (2) lel-e a. lean-t [e az ag-on vl-ettè]
 find-PAST.3SG the girl-ACC the bed-on sit-atta.3SG
 'found the girl sitting on the bed'
 Munich C., 43 rb (Mark 7,30)

3.2. Embedded subject = matrix dative

3 examples

(3) A3-oc-nak ke· [e meg-od-att-oc a vèhm-et] mod-a-nac o that-PL-DAT prt prt-tie-atta-3PL the colt-ACC say-PAST-3PL he vr-a-i o-nèki-c mi-t ogga-toc meg a· uèhm-ėt owner-POSS-PL they-DAT-3PL what-ACC tie-3PL prt the colt-ACC 'As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them: Why are you untying the colt?' Munich C., 78 rb (Luke 19,33) (4) Mèn-tol vtolbzè ke a. tiz-en eg-nc [e egembè ul-ètt-ec all-from lastly prt the ten-SUFFIX one-DAT together sit-atta-3PL ièlen-ec o-nèki-c ic appear-PAST.3SG they-DAT-3PL Jesus 'Finally Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were together sitting' Munich C., 53 va (Mark 16,14)

(5) es nemel,l,-èc-nèc [e a· tèmplom-rol bèźėll-ètt-ec [hog io and some-PL-DAT the temple-about speak-atta-3PL that good kou-èc-kel es aiandok-oc-kal ėkè∫itètėt volna]] mod-a stone-PL-WITH and gift-PL-WITH adorned aux say-PAST.3SG 'To some who were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts, Jesus said' Munich C., 79 vb (Luke 21,5)

3.3. Embedded subject = matrix subject

4 examples (see section 4.4 for discussion on the bracketing)

- (6) A₃-oc-kal ke· ic [e vačoral-atta,] veu-e a· kenèr-èt es that-PL-WITH prt Jesus dine-atta.3SG take-PAST.3SG the bread-ACC and meg-ald-a prt-bless-PAST.3SG
 'While he was dining with them, Jesus took bread and blessed it' Munich C., 32 va (Matthew 26,26)
- (7) es **o** taneituan-i [e iar-att-ok] keźd-enc gabona fo-t źaggat-ni-oc.
 and he disciple-POSS.PL walk-atta-3PL start-3PL wheat ear pick-INF-3PL
 'and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some ears of wheat'
 Munich C., 37 vb (Mark 2,23)

3.4. Temporal adverbial clause, lexical subject w/ disjoint reference

21 examples

- (8) [O meg è bèzėll-ettè] im fënès kod kornekez-e mg o-t-èt he while this speak-atta.3SG prt bright cloud approach prt he-ACC-ACC 'while he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them' Munich C., 23 rb (Matthew 17,5)
- (9) [aʒoc èuèʒ-ett-ec] ke· o èlalu-ec they row-atta-3PL prt he fall.asleep-PAST.3SG
 'As they sailed, he fell asleep.' Munich C., 63 vb (Luke 8,23)

4. Main analytical questions

4.1. The range of verbs that can be turned into -atta/ette participles

No restriction on argument structure: transitives, unaccusatives, unergatives, as well as a weather verb (blow). The list below is representative but not exhaustive.

The participial verb can be

- transitive: beszél (tr.) 'say sth', elfordít 'lead astray', fűt(i önmagát) 'lit. heat oneself', seper 'sweep', tanít (tr.) 'teach',
- unaccusative: *áll* 'stand', *beteglik* 'be sick', *elfut* 'run away', *éhezik* 'starve', *fekszik* 'lay', *felkel* 'resurrect', *fúj* 'blow(wind)', *függ* 'hang', *jár* 'go', *jön* 'come', *ül* 'sit',
- unergative: munkálkodik 'work', nevet 'laugh', imádkozik 'pray', (egbè) kérdezkedik 'argue', eszik (intr.) 'eat', evez 'row'

No difference with respect to the four uses:

- embedded subject = matrix object
 - unergative: nevet 'laugh', imádkozik 'pray'
 - unaccusative: ül 'sit', éhezik 'starve', jön 'come', fekszik 'lay'
 - transitive: unszol '', seper 'sweep'
- embedded subject = matrix Dative
 - unergative: no example, but only 3 sentences in this group anyways
 - unaccusative: $\ddot{u}l$ 'sit'
 - transitive: beszél 'speak, say', megold 'untie'
- embedded subject = matrix subject
 - unergative: no example, but only 4 sentences in this group anyways
 - unaccusative: jár 'walk', bemegy 'go in'
 - transitive: vesz 'take', emel 'lift, raise'
- temporal adv. clause w/ lexical subject
 - unergative: evezik 'row', országol 'reign'
 - unaccusative: *áll* 'stand', *bemegy* 'go in', *jár* 'walk'
 - transitive: beszél 'speak, say', tanít 'teach'

4.2. The position of the 'gap'

The gap is (almost aways) in the subject position. There is one exception, with the idiom in (10).

(10) a hideg lel-i X-et the cold.nom find-3sg X-acc
i) 'to shiver with cold or from fever'
ii) 'to averse from or abhor sth, to give sy the creeps'

(10) is problematic in and of itself because it is a subject+verb idiom.

(11) lat-a o napa-t [[fek-ette] es [hideg lel-ettè]] see-PAST.3SG he mother.in.law-ACC lay-atta.3SG and cold find-atta.3SG 'he (Jesus) saw his (Peter's) mother-in-law lying in bed and shivering with fewer' Munich C., 14 rb (Matthew 8,14)

(11) contradicts two overarching generalizations: i) the gap of the -atta/ette clause is in the subject position ((11) has an object experiencer gap), and ii) -atta/ette participles are active participles.

4.3. The nature of the 'gap'

The gap as a trace: the DP coreferent with the gap is raised from the embedded clause.

Problem: in (12) the relevant DP precedes the matrix subject (so it is in the matrix clause), and it is postverbal. Hungarian has no extraction to postverbal position.

(12) Es lat-t-ac vala **o-t-èt** a uen-ec egmenden nap-on and see-PAST-3PL aux she-ACC-ACC the old.man-PL every day-on
[bè-men-ètte es teftoua iar-atta,] in-go-atta.3SG and up.and.down walk-atta.3SG
'And the old men saw her going in every day, and walking up and down' Vienna C., 168 (Daniel 13,8)

Thus the only kind of movement that could be involved here is Raising to Object (if we believe in that). The RTO analysis won't extend to cases in which the relevant DP is the subject or dative argument of the clause.

The gap is a PRO: link bw. the coreferent DP and the gap is established via Control.

Problem 1: the subject of *-atta/ette* participles may be filled by a lexical subject **or** a gap, and the literature would like to maintain complementary distribution between lexical subjects and PRO (but see Sundaresan and McFadden (2009, to appear) and references cited therein for claims that this position is untenable).

Problem 2: in case the gap is co-referent with the matrix object or dative, not all matrix predicates look like a control predicate. Some of these verbs cannot take a clausal complement at all.

- (13) Object coreference
 lát 'see', hall 'hear', lel 'find', megőriz 'keep safe', megfog 'find, catch red-handed';
 example from Peer Codex: imád 'worship'
- (14) Dative corefence *jelenik* 'appear', mond 'say', beszél 'say, talk'

The gap is a relative operator: -atta/ette clauses modifying a matrix argument are non-finite relative clauses.

Problem 1: with the 3 Dative coreference examples, the -atta/ette clause is adjacent to the Dative²; with 3 of the 4 subject coreference examples the -atta/ette clause is adjacent to the matrix subject³; but with the object coreference examples the matrix object and the -atta/ette clause can be far apart.

coreferent object DP immediately precedes the matrix verb:

(15) **o-t-èt** latuai-oc [a· tènger-ė iar-atta] meģ ʒomorod-a-nac he-ACC-ACC see-PAST.3SG the sea-on walk-atta.3SG prt terrified-PAST-3PL
'When they (i.e. the discipes) saw him (i.e. Jesus) walking on the sea, they became terrified' Munich C., 21 rb (Matthew 14,26)

coreferent object DP precedes a preverbal adverb, the matirx verb and the postverbal subject, -atta/ette clause follows subject but modifies object:

- (16) ki-t mico lat-ot uolna neminèmo leań [a· vilag-nal ùl-èttè who-ACC when see-PAST.3SG aux some girl the light-at sit-atta.3SG 'when some girl saw him sitting at the fire' Munich C., 82 ra (Luke 22,58)
- (17) e3-t mico lat-t-a-uolna ic [fek-ètte]
 this-ACC when see-PAST-3SG-AUX Jesus lie-atta.3SG
 'When Jesus saw him lying'
 Munich C., 89 ra (John 5,6)

The above sentences contain the matrix predicate $l\acute{a}t$ 'see', which might pass for a control predicate, but *lel* 'talál' is not a control predicate, and separation is OK.

(18) Az parazt-rol ky zent fferencz-et lewl-te-uala [egÿhaz the peasant-about who holy francis-ACC find-PAST.3SG-AUX church sepr-ette]
sweep-atta.3SG
'About the peasant who found Francis sweeping the church' Jókai C., 097/13 - 1/11903

 $^{^{2}}$ There is one example where a discourse particle intervenes, otherwise strict adjacency.

³In the remaining one sentence the overt subject is in the embedded clause, and the matrix clause has pro, c.f. (26).

Problem 2: there are examples where the -atta/ette clause modifies a DP with a finite relative modifier

- (19)az èmber-t lel-ec ki-bol az ordog ki find-PAST.3PL the man-ACC who-from the devil out go-PAST.3SG-AUX men-t-uala] [vl-èttè o lab-a-i-nal] es meg felèmenèc sit-atta.3SG he foot-POSS-PL-at and prt afraid.3PL 'they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet; and they were afraid' Munich C., 64 rb (Luke 8,35)
- (20)Ihē azert hog lat-a o-t-èt fir-atta \mathbf{es} Jesus therefore when see-PAST.3SG he-ACC-ACC cry-ATTA.3SG and a. fido-k-at ki-c iott-èc-uala 0 uèl-ec] [fir-att-oc] the Jew-PL-ACC who-PL come-PAST.3PL-AUX they with-3PL cry-atta-3PL 'When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping,' Munich C., 97 va (John 11,33)

4.4. The analysis of embedded subject = matrix subject participles from Section 3.3

The dilemma here is whether to assume a separate, fourth kind of use for -atta/ette participles (non-finite subject relative or subject control) or to say that they are a subtype of -atta/ette participles with lexical subjects (the embedded and matrix subjects accidentally have the same reference, with one of the subjects being *pro*). Until evidence comes forth for the contrary, I will assume the latter position.

(21) es o taneituan-i iar-att-ok keźd-enc gabona fo-t źaggat-ni-oc.
and he disciple-POSS.PL walk-atta-3PL start-3PL wheat ear pick-INF-3PL
'and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some ears of wheat'
Munich C., 37 vb (Mark 2,23)

Analysis 1a: pro matrix subject, overt embedded subject

(22) es [o taneituan-i iar-att-ok] pro keźd-enc gabona fo-t źaggat-ni-oc. and he disciple-POSS.PL walk-atta-3PL start-3PL wheat ear pick-INF-3PL 'and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some ears of wheat'

Analysis 1b: overt matrix subject, pro embedded subject

(23) es o taneituan-i [*pro* iar-att-ok] keźd-enc gabona fo-t źaggat-ni-oc. and he disciple-POSS.PL walk-atta-3PL start-3PL wheat ear pick-INF-3PL 'and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some ears of wheat' Analysis 2: subject control

(24) es o taneituan-i [PRO iar-att-ok] keźd-enc gabona fo-t and he disciple-POSS.PL walk-atta-3PL start-3PL wheat ear źaggat-ni-oc. pick-INF-3PL
'and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some ears of wheat'

Analysis 3: relative clause

(25) es o taneituan-i [$_{RC}$ e iar-att-ok] keźd-enc gabona fo-t źaggat-ni-oc. and he disciple-POSS.PL walk-atta-3PL start-3PL wheat ear pick-INF-3PL 'and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some ears of wheat'

Potential support for Analysis 1 would be a sentence with overt, coreferent DPs in both the matrix and the embedded clauses, but there are no such examples. (26), however, shows that the embedded subject can have an overt subject coreferent with the main clause subject (the latter being pro), providing potential support for Analysis 1.

(26) [&P [è3-ek-èt bèśell-èttè ic] es [o śem-è-i-t men-bè this-PL-ACC speak-atta.3SG Jesus and he eye-POSS-PL-ACC heaven-into èmèl-uē]] mod-a lift-participle say-PAST.3SG
'After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and said' Müncheni K., 103 rb (János 17,1)

4.5. The size of the embedded clause

The clause structure of É. Kiss (2002):

(27) TopP > DistP > AspP > vP

Embedded clause material preceding the participial verb can be:

subject:

(28) [Q ke· aʒ ait-on - ki men-ètte,] lat-a o-t-èt mas lean he prt the door-on out go-atta.3SG see-PAST.3SG he-ACC-ACC another girl 'Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him' Munich C., 33 vb (Máté 26,71)

 \rightarrow only shows that -atta/ette clauses have a vP layer

verbal particle:

(29) minèmo fa alat lat-t-ad o-k-èt [egbè bèzell-ètt-ec] what.kind.of tree under see-PAST-2SG he-PL-ACC together speak-ATTA-3PL
'What kind of tree did you see them conversing under?'
Vienna C., 172 (Daniel 13,54)

 \rightarrow evidence for AspP in É. Kiss' system

spatial PP (locative, source and goal):

(30) lat-a Leui-t alfeus fi-a-t [**a** vam-on vil-ettè] see-PAST.3SG Levi-ACC Alpheus son-POSS-ACC the tax.booth-on sit-atta.3SG 'he saw Levi son of Alpheus sitting at the tax collector's booth' Munich C., 37 va (Mark 2,14)

 \rightarrow what this shows depends on what your theory of PP modifiers is

object:

(31) es micor lat-ta volna pèter-t - [o-maga-t fuit-ette
and when see-PAST.3SG aux Peter-ACC he-self-ACC warm-atta.3SG
'And when she saw Peter warming himself'
Munich C., 52 ra (Mark 14,67)

 \rightarrow the object could be in TopicP, or it could be in its merge-in position and then it shows nothing (see Section 6 on OV/VO)

adverb

(32) [O meg è bèzëll-ettè] im fënès kod kornekez-e mg o-t-èt he while this speak-atta.3SG prt bright cloud approach prt he-ACC-ACC 'while he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them' Munich C., 23 rb (Matthew 17,5)

discourse particle $ke \cdot$

(33) [O ke· èz-ek-èt bèźell-ette] lon nag kod he prt this-PL-ACC speak-atta.3SG appear.PAST.3SG big cloud 'While he was speaking, a big cloud appeared' Munich C., 66 ra (Luke 9,34)

 \rightarrow what this shows depends on what your theory of discourse particles is (but they are generally taken to be high)

Hungarian quantifier phrases that move to spec, DistP: mindig 'always', mindenhol 'everywhere', minden X 'every X', mindkét X 'both X', hét X-et is 'as many as 7', etc. Something like this in pre-participial position would constitute strong evidence for an ar-

ticulated structure of these time adverbials. Focus would also be a good indicator of this. Unfortunately no examples.

5. Tense, finiteness and Nominative case with -atta/ette

5.1. The temporal dependence of the participial clause

Tóth (2000) on the co-temporaenity of -va participles:

These participles are adjoined to VoiceP. "From this position the event argument of the base verb can be saturated (existentially bound) by the Tense operator of the main clause giving rise to an eventive interpretation of the participle. Since both the event argument of the main verb and that of the participle are bound by the same Tense operator, the events described by the main verb and by the participle must be simultaneous." (p. 247.)

I am inclined to blame the co-temporaenity of -atta/ette participles on the absence or a particular setting of the Fin head. Details remain to be worked out.

5.2. The source of Nominative case on the embedded lexical subject

In the mainstream view, Nominative case is assigned/checked by finite T. -Atta/ette participles contain no finite T. Several hypotheses on the market about where Nominative can come from in non-finite clauses:

- Tóth (2000) on $-v \acute{an}/v \acute{en}$ participles⁴: -n is a complementizer, NOM assignment is possible via this Comp.
- É. Kiss (2002) on *-ván/vén* participles: *-n* is Tense, it assigns Nominative. Extending this to emph-atta/ette participles, *-Vtt* may be Tense.
- Nádasdy (to appear): he discusses -ván/vén participles, and suggests that their lexical subject is in the Genitive case. Extending this to -atta/ette participles, they may be in this unmarked Genitive.
- Schütze (2001): Default case is often Nominative or Accusative. In Hungarian, all default case environments (coordinated subjects, appositive subject pronouns, subject pronouns in gapping, modified pronouns, elliptical answer to subject question, left dislocation/hanging topic) show Nominative \rightarrow NOM could be a default case on the subject here as well

 $^{^{4}}$ These participles are still in use in contemporary Hungarian, they can have an overt lexical DP subject in the nominative (but overt pronominal subjects are ungrammatical).

⁽i) [A kapu be-csukód-ván,] Aladdin egy barlang-ban talál-t-a magá-t. the gate in-close-ván Aladdin a cave-in find-PAST-3SG self-ACC
'The gate having closed, Aladdin found himself in a cave.' (É. Kiss 2002, p. 222., ex. 71.)

- Sundaresan and McFadden (2009, to appear): Nominative is independent of finiteness, assigned internally to the infinitval and gerundival clauses they discuss
- Nom could come from the agreement marker: Pollock (1989) split T into T and AGR, the presence of AGR may be enough for Nominative case to surface (if the real assigner is AGR and not T). C.f. the literature on infinitives with an independent lexical subject (Portuguese, etc.), and Sárik (1998) on $-v \dot{a}n/v \dot{e}n$ (he suggests that $-v \dot{a}n/v \dot{e}n$ has person agreement and agreement assigns NOM)

The OV/VO parameter and Accusative case 6.

6.1. Accusative is optional for preverbal objects

Accusative case is not optional at this stage of the Hungarian language. My colleagues have found, however, that in another type of participle it comes and goes rather freely. In *-atta/ette* participles, Accusative can come and go preverbally but postverbally object must be marked for Accusative. No pronominal vs. non-pronominal divide.

17 of the 83 sentences have an overt object, 16 with a DP object and 1 with a clausal object.

object+accusative > verb: 7 examples

(34)O ke è3-ek-èt bèźell-ette lon nag kod he prt this-PL-ACC speak-atta.3SG appear.PAST.3SG big cloud 'While he was speaking, a big cloud appeared' Munich C., 66 ra (Luke 9,34)

object > verb: 6 examples

(35)ky zent fferencz-et lewl-te-uala Az parazt-rol egÿhaz the peasant-about who holy francis-ACC find-PAST.3SG-AUX church sepr-ette sweep-atta.3SG 'About the peasant who found Francis sweeping the church' Jókai C., 097/13 - 1/11903

verb > object+accusative: 3 examples

(36)Hall-ac a leualta-c a golekezèt-ek-èt morg-att-oc hear-PAST.3PL the Pharisee-PL the crowd-PL-ACC whisper-atta-3PL o-roll-a èz-ek-èt he-about-3SG this-PL-ACC 'The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering these about him' Munich C., 92 vb (John 7,32)

verb > object: not found in the mini-corpus

This pattern is good news for the *Hungarian generative diachronic syntax* project. The hypothesis is that Hungarian used to be an SOV language, with O being morphologically unmarked. The appearance of object morphology was a prerequisite for O to appear elsewhere and for the word order to change. In constructions where the object marker didn't appear, the original SOV was retained.

6.2. OV/VO with participles featuring a lexical subject

The three codices: 21 sentences such that the embedded temporal clause has an overt lexical subject disjoint in reference from the matrix subject, 9 of them have an overt object. In all cases, the object precedes the verb.

Covert subject, overt object:

- O > V (2 examples)
 - (37) [<u>èz-ek-èt</u> bèźell-èttè] fok-ac hùn-c o-bèle this-PL-ACC speak-atta.3SG many-PL believe-3PL he-into 'As he spoke, many put their faith in him' Munich C., 94 ra (John 8,30)
- V > O: no data

Overt subject, overt object:

- S > O > V (7 examples)
 - (38) Q ke·<u>è3-ek-èt</u> **bèğell-ette** lon nag kod he prt this-PL-ACC speak-atta.3SG appear.PAST.3SG big cloud 'While he was speaking, a big cloud appeared' Munich C., 66 ra (Luke 9,34)
- no data for the other possibilities (S > V > O, O > V > S, O > S > V, V > S > O, V > O > S)

6.3. OV/VO with the other types of -atta/ette clauses

Object coreference: 5 sentences with object, 3 O > V and 2 V > ODative coreference: 2 sentences with object, V > O and V > clause Subject coreference: 1 sentence with object, O > V

6.4. Summary of OV/VO

17 sentences with an overt object altogether 16 with DP object and 1 with clausal object 13 with O > V4 with V > O (one of these is the clausal object) These data provide potential support for the research group's hypothesis that changes in word order first took place in finite clauses, and non-finite clauses remained more conservative in their word order for a while.

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