**INTRODUCTION**

This abstract presents the starting points of the PhD thesis entitled *The influence of the sociolinguistic factors on the productivity in word-formation.* In general, the thesis will consist of two parts. While the first part will introduce the theoretical framework, the second will focus on the research itself.

**THE THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

The lexicon of any language is one of the most dynamic parts of the language system. It reflects the changes in the life of a society. The lexicon is permanently 'updated' by new naming units. These naming units are studied by word-formation – one of the most controversial branches of linguistics nowadays. One of the ambitions of the thesis is to join two linguistic fields – sociolinguistics and word-formation.

The central premise is that the productivity of word formation types is influenced not only by the linguistic factors but also by the extra-linguistic factors.

Productivity has been already studied from many viewpoints. The majority of them focused on the linguistic aspects. The basic aim of the theses is to examine the influence of the sociolinguistic factors on the productivity in word-formation. According to it, the theoretical framework of the theses can be divided in the following fields:

**Word formation**

- *Its position in the linguistic system.* Word-formation is usually regarded as a part of morphology, syntax or lexicology. According to the approach postulated in the thesis, word-formation is an independent and fully-fledged component of the linguistic system. Word-formation defined after this manner deals with productive and rule-governed word formation types and rules, onomasiological types and morphological types used to generate motivated naming units in response to the naming needs of a particular speech community. It makes use of word-formation bases of bilateral naming units and affixes stored in the lexicon.

- *The productivity.* The productivity has been one of the central topics in the field of word-formation for the recent period. There are many approaches to this issue. The approach in the thesis will follow the Štekauer's definition of productivity. He conceives the productivity as the ability of a language to fully respond to naming needs of a speech community. "Consequently, it is defined as a Cluster of Word-Formation Types satisfying naming needs in a specific conceptual-semantic field of a language." (1998). As following this approach, one of the goals is to calculate the productivity of word-formation types and rules, onomasiological and morphological types, the method represents a quantitative approach to productivity.

**Sociolinguistics**

- The research itself regards the following sociolinguistic factors: age, sex, ethnic background, social and economical background, education.
- Special attention is paid to the language background. Hence the germane issues of bilingualism have been studied.

**RESEARCH**

- The research has been carried out in a form of a questionnaire. It surveys the formation of new naming units by bilingual individuals – Hungarians living in the territory of Slovakia and Hungarians living in one of the English-speaking countries. Two facts were reflected in its design:
    1. The questionnaire is aimed at influence of sociolinguistic factors upon the productivity in word-formation. To satisfy the needs of the research, it has to find out the basic sociolinguistic data – age, sex, education, social and economical background, and language background. Special attention was paid

to the language background since the potential informants are bilingual individuals.

2. The research is aimed at the productivity in word-formation. For this reason the questionnaire is based on non-existing naming units, naming units which have not been coined yet but are potential.

- The informants are provided by various tasks. The first is a selection task.

*Example 1:* **Choose the word that you think is the most suitable for the person described in the question.**

A person dependent on phoning is:

a) Phoner
b) Phonnik
c) Phonist
d) Phonant
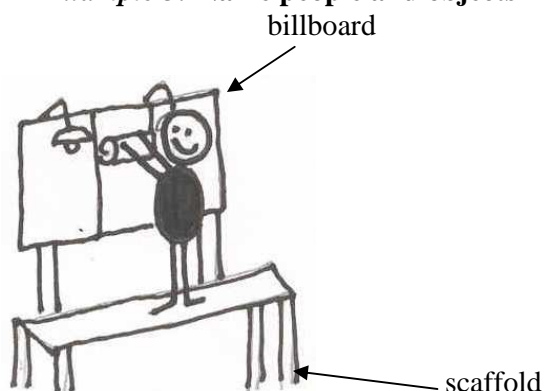e) Phoner
f) Phone-obsesee
g) Phone-obsessive
h) Phoneman

The task 2 does not contain any options. The informants are asked to propose their own naming units based on a motivating sentence.

*Example 2:* **Name people and objects in the following situations.**

Basketball played on skates.

In task 3 sentences and words are replaced by motivating pictures.

*Example 3:* **Name people and objects in the following pictures.**


billboard

scaffold

How would you name this person?

In the last task the informants are provided by a description of a non-existing sport game as well as by a layout of the playground and are asked to coin names for the individual players and balls involved in the game.

- The gained naming units will be analyzed by onomasiological method. The productivity will be counted; the method chosen will be the approach of Štekauer. The results of the analysis should prove the hypothetic influence of the sociolinguistic factors upon the coining of new naming units.

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