

Additional Course as part of the MGK program

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Information Structure in Hungarian: Recent advances and new perspectives

When: Wednesday, 2pm-4pm (Oct 30 – Dec 18, 2013)

Where: II.5.0.05 (Golm, building 5, next to the mensa)

Open for PhD students and Master students

Course description

The syntax/information structure (IS) interface is perhaps the best researched aspect of Hungarian, and certainly one that has had a strong influence on developments in this field of research in generative grammar. In this series of lectures I revisit a number of prominent empirical and theoretical issues at this interface, raising questions for mainstream accounts, and offering new perspectives and alternative analyses. Topics covered include:

- the question whether fronted focus has a designated position in clause structure as in cartographic approaches, and the issue of the role of different potential triggers in syntactic focus-fronting: syntactic checking of a feature specific to (identificational) focus (Brody 1990, 1995, Rizzi 1997, Horvath 2000, 2010), vs. the IS/prosody interface principle of Stress-Focus Correspondence (Szendroi 2003), vs. purely interpretive requirements associated with exhaustification and/or identificational/specificational predication;
- experimental evidence bearing on theoretical assumptions regarding the prosodic and interpretive correlates of syntactic focus-fronting, namely, relative prosodic prominence and exhaustivity;
- the phenomenon of differential quantifier scope, which I argue is to be approached from the perspective of IS rather than a cartography of dedicated functional projections (cf. Beghelli and Stowell 1995, Szabolcsi 1997); and
- the role that focus and familiarity (don't) play in post-verbal free word order (E. Kiss 1994, 2008), which I propose to analyze as involving (Japanese-type) scrambling.
- Time permitting, I will also discuss the process of semantic incorporation of bare indefinite NPs, verbal particles, resultatives and locatives, which, I argue, takes place in the syntax in the form of pseudo-incorporation by syntactic movement to a vP-medial position.

Lectures are based on work I am currently involved in, so input from course participants is particularly appreciated.