Main duties in 2016

Research in Uralic languages
Syntax. Investigations in Udmurt, Tundra Nenets and Khanty syntax – possibly, fieldwork among the Khanty.
Anthropological linguistic explorations in Mansi: investigations into the concept of hero on the basis of the Mansi heroic epic (Changes in the Eurasian Steppes and their Peripheries – ANN11399).
Handbook. Participation in producing a handbook of Uralic languages to be published by OUP (finalizing of the chapters, editing).

Research on historical linguistics.
Finno-Ugric languages. Continuation of the research on Mansi loanword phonology.
Hungarian historical linguistics. Research in competing variants in Middle-Hungarian vernacular using a variationist approach.
Research on Indo-European languages. Investigations in Anatolian languages, general studies in Germanic languages. Lexicological research of the Anatolian languages. Developing the database and investigations within the framework of the project „Computerized Historical Database of the Imperial Age“.
The fieldwork among the Khanty was postponed, otherwise research proceeded according to plan.

Outstanding research and other results in 2016

Uralic languages
Syntactic studies
Tundra Nenets. In cooperation with other departments two investigations have been launched concerning the word order of the Tundra Nenets language. The sentences exhibiting VX structure in three languages (Udmurt, Surgut Khanty, Tundra Nenets), which are traditionally regarded as SOV languages, are examined on the basis of early and present-day texts.
Research was conducted on the informational structural role of the elements in clauses with non-canonical OS orders, as well as the order of locational constructions. In the latter case, the effects of the Russian–Nenets language contact were sharply focused.

Khanty. Postverbal elements in Khanty dialects were analyzed in texts from different periods, dialects, and genres, including the potential motivations behind this syntactic phenomenon, i.e. inner development or Russian influence.
In the first phase, the oldest possible texts were examined (folk tales collected by Paasonen in 1901, Surgut dialect), and it was revealed that, on the one hand, it is mainly purpose infinitives that occupy a post-verbal position, on the other hand, elements that have already been introduced but do not have topic functions.
In the second phase, investigations focused on texts that are closer to spoken Khanty. The proportion of sentences containing postverbal elements proved to be no higher than in old texts.
However, the functions of postverbal elements are more diverse. In addition, it is rather common that there is one, or there are more than one element in postverbal position that convey new information.

In a related investigation, the postverbal elements in early texts from a North Khanty dialect (Sherkaly) were discussed. In these texts of non-folklore genre it is postverbal elements that typically convey new information. Purpose infinitives exceed in number as well as in proportion (postverbal purpose infinitives to total). The comparison between two dialects of the same language proved the observations made in other language families claiming that even closely related SXV languages may differ in the motivation of moving elements in postverbal position. In philological investigations related to the Sherkaly corpus it was revealed that in early text publications the word order may have been manipulated by the editor. Consequently, these texts are suitable for syntactic analyses to limited degree.

_Udmurt_. Basic research (at the department) involves several topics, for instance the description of Udmurt non-finite clauses. The aim of this research is to clarify several issues regarding the syntax of these clauses, such as adjunct control, agreement and case-marking of the subject. In addition, it has been proposed that certain non-finite constructions should be analysed as deverbal compounds rather than non-finite clauses. The investigation of Udmurt non-finite clauses not only contributes to the syntactic description of this language, but also bears relevance from a theoretical perspective since it touches upon highly debated questions in current syntactic theories. This research provides a descriptive account of Udmurt non-finite clauses, although it also draws parallels with other Finno-Ugric languages, as well as with languages from the Volga-Kama area. The Udmurt language data have been collected during fieldwork supported by the Erasmus Mundus Aurora scholarship programme. Furthermore, several members of the department participated in syntactic projects related to other departments „Languages under the influence. Uralic syntax changes in an asymmetrical contact situation. Aim: The project investigates the change of Uralic SOV word orders to SVO under the influence of Russian. “ (ERC HU 15 OTKA 118079).

_Sociolinguistic studies_

At the Department of Finno-Ugric Studies and Historical Linguistics, sociolinguistic research concerning Uralic peoples are mainly conducted within the frame of the projects _Minority languages in the process of urbanization: A comparative study of urban multilingualism in Arctic indigenous communities_ (OTKA K112476), and “_A longitudinal study of Finnish-Sami language change in Northern Sami speech communities in Finland (2002–2012)_” (OTKA-PD-104612). Moreover, two colleagues participate in projects related to another department of the Institute for Linguistics (Finno-Ugric Digital Natives: Linguistic support for Finno-Ugric digital communities in generating online content; OTKA FNN 107885), as well as to the University of Szeged (Computational tools for language revitalization in endangered Finno-Ugric languages; OTKA FNN 107883), respectively.

_Saami minority in Enontekiö_

Saami studies on bilingualism continued with taking and transcribing in-depth interviews. Establishing working relations with the members of the Saami community is the most important result of the fieldwork, which made it possible to make interviews revealing the attitudes of the interviewees, as well as giving information on their identities. Moreover, the interviews gave way towards observing their language behaviour.

_Identity of indigenous peoples in arctic cities_

The analysis of minority identities in three arctic cities focused on exploring the peculiarities, similarities and differences in the linguistic landscape of each research destination. This is complemented by the observation and analyses of the linguistic landscape of the cities concerned. On the one hand, the results of the fieldwork carried out among the Saami minorities
of Finland prove that the linguistic landscape in Enontekiö is influenced by the official language policy, on the other hand, by the language use and attitude of the local community. The function of the bilingual public signs of considerable number is unambiguously symbolic, and the language of unofficial labels, notices etc. is Finnish, i.e. symbolic functions seem to be overcome by practical considerations.

Khanty and Mansi minorities of Khanty-Mansijsk
According to the investigations of the vitality of the Mansi language in Khanty-Mansijsk, the situation of the two minority languages can be summarized as follows: although the presence of Khanty and Mansi is increasing in urban language use, as well as in the linguistic landscape, they are still under-represented in the official, semi-official and the economical spheres, excluding the educational centre Liling Soyum.

Minorities in Dudinka
The phase of participant observation has been prepared, furthermore, the structure and issues of the interviews have been elaborated. In the course of the preparatory fieldwork, the institutions preserving and transmitting the language and culture of indigenous minorities have been explored. The analysis of the linguistic landscape of an educational and two cultural institutions has proved the dominance of Russian monolingualism. Similarly to other Russian towns, it is primarily the visual symbols of the indigenous minority that can be seen all over the city. Further specificities of the local linguistic landscape can be explained with the closed status of the settlement.

Antropological linguistics
Within the framework of the project “Changes in the Eurasian Steppes and their Peripheries” (ANN11399), the analysis of the Khanty concept of hero, as well as the linguistic processing of the texts has been finished, as well as a preliminary version of a chapter has been written.

Typology. A paper in Hungarian presented the lexico-semantical investigations of the question words in the Ob-Ugric languages. The research extended the former similar investigations concerning the Samoyedic languages.

Lexicology
The corpora created for the purposes of language technological projects allow for the research of lexical borrowing. They are suitable for the investigations of international loanwords in the Permic languages. The research of borrowings from Croatian into Hungarian, on the one hand, focuses on the preservation of dialectal lexicon, on the other hand, describes the function of Croatian elements in the regional variety of Hungarian (in press).

Handbook
The development of the chapters on the Khanty language, phonology, and the characteristics of the Ob-Ugric languages continued, and was partially completed, for M. Bakró-Nagy – J. Laakso – E. Skribnik (eds), The Oxford Guide to the Uralic Languages.

Hungarian historical linguistics:
Competing structures in Middle Hungarian vernacular: variationist approach (NKFIH K 116217). The development of the database continued. There was a significant increase in the proportion of disambiguated texts in the corpus containing informal texts (the size of the texts that went through disambiguation amounts to 2.5 million characters). Two studies on developing the database have been completed: a Hungarian language paper has been published and an English language study is in press.
Variationist studies
Several morphosyntactic and pragmatic issues were investigated on the basis of corpus studies. One of these targeted variants of negative sentences in Old, Middle and Early Modern Hungarian. The distribution of the variants was stable throughout Old and Middle Hungarian, then a significant change took place during Early Modern Hungarian due to which the former marginal variant became the general pattern of expressing negation.

Another study investigated the different types of grammatical manifestation of expressing temporal continuity and their effect on narration in the texts of 16th–18th century witch trials, with special attention to detailed story telling. A further line of investigation aimed at discussing the morphosyntactic encoding patterns of conditional and concessive relationship in Middle Hungarian private correspondence and witch trials.

Finally, the investigation of the changes affecting relative pronouns was based on the comparison of two types of texts. On the one hand, a study based on the Corpus of Historical Hungarian Informal Texts showed that the innovative feature of relative pronouns, i.e. the differentiation of forms on the basis of the feature [animate] was less frequent in informal language use than in formal genres (printed literary works). On the other hand, a comparison of nine versions of early Bible translations showed that with respect to relative pronouns, the first printed Bible translation resembles the Old Hungarian translations in many features. However, as the innovation (the use of a specific pronominal form for relative pronouns with [-animate] antecedents) spreads, Bible translations seem to be more innovative than any of the other investigated genres. A further change affecting the form of relative pronouns is the diffusion of the prefix a(z) (distinguishing relative pronouns from interrogative pronouns), which is contingent upon the pronominal stem: it combines most frequently with pronouns having the stem mi ’what’ (cf. the so-called snowball effect).

Historical pragmatics
Specific types of strategies of language use (threats and incriminations) were analyzed in relation to the situational context as well as text types in documents of witch trials. A further line of enquiry addressed issues in historical pragmatics by investigating such metapragmatic (mostly intertextual) hints and signs that refer to certain aspects of correspondence routine in 16th–18th private letters on the one hand and encode the speaker’s attitude on the other hand.

Studies pertaining to linguistic records / Philological studies
The last phases of philological work on 16th century letters of serfs were done, including the publication of text samples of the volume to be published.

Indo-European studies
Anatolian linguistics and general Indo-European studies. Within the framework of the project “Digitales philologisch- etymologisches Wörterbuch der altkleinasiatischen Kleinkorporussprachen” (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Institut für Assyriologie und Hethitologie, München) investigations focused on questions of epigraphy, etymology, historical phonology, contact linguistics, semantics, lexicology, as well as onomastics concerning several Anatolian languages including (hieroglyphic) Luwian, Carian, Sidetic, Hittite, Philistine etc. In addition, the editing work of the electronic etymological dictionary of the languages of Asia Minor continued.

Studies in Latin - MTA “Momentum” Research Group for Computational Latin Dialectology (LP2015-1/2015). The aim of the project is to develop the unique computerized historical linguistic online database (http://lldb.elte.hu/) which, based on its firm theoretical background,
is capable of answering the key questions of Latin dialectology on an international level; as well as to conduct research in several directions on the basis of the material of the database.

**Database development.** In 2016 more than 6,500 digital data forms were added to the online database. Furthermore, the database software also underwent significant developments concerning searches, and user’s support, interface settings etc.

The checking and evaluation, as well as the dialectological processing of the material having been uploaded earlier also continued.

**Research in historical dialectology.** The team elaborated on the theoretical background for the dialectology of Latin inscriptions and some subtasks in the processing of the sound history of Latin dialects (e.g. certain changes of the consonant system, as well as approaches to $b$-$w$ fusions from the aspects of dialectology and contact linguistics).

Research, among other tasks of the team, focused on inscriptions of magic character, and especially the analysis of the so-called curse tablets proceeded. During 2016 further curse tablets were published.

The characteristic features of the Alps-Danube-Adriatic region of the Roman Empire have also been processed, including the checking of the data originating from this region.

In April a successful international project conference the First International Workshop on Computational Latin Dialectology (WCLD 1) was organised. The Herman József Award for Young Researchers (for 2015) was granted to a member of this team.

**Dialogue between science and society**

Numerous members of the department participate in popularizing science concerning various subfields of linguistics.

Several researchers are members of the bureaus of the Kalevala (Hungarian–Finnish) Friendship Society and the Reguly Society, which aim to popularize the Finnish language and culture, as well as the languages and cultures of the Uralic peoples, respectively. One other researcher puts her experience gained in dealing with endangered languages to good use in supporting the work and activities of the Soroksár Local Council of the Ethnic German Minority (continuing the ’Schwabe’ tradition, organizing and carrying out revitalizing programs).

As part of the program of the Hungarian Science Festival, researchers of the Momentum Research Group for Computational Latin Dialectology held two sessions of talks in the main building of the H.A.S., titled “From misspellings to dialects – in the wake of the regional varieties of the Latin language”, and “A Computerized Historical Database of the Imperial Age”, respectively (November 8th and 17th).

In the program series of Finno-Ugric Capitals of Culture, or organized by schools, several talks have been given. On the occasion of the Day of Uralic Peoples a quiz game was conducted for secondary school pupils. In Croatia, four lectures were given on the situation of Hungarian spoken in Croatia.

In Croatia, four lectures were given on the situation of Hungarian spoken in Croatia. Apart from this, researchers also published a number of popularizing articles in various outlets (e.g., about typological research, which generally gets little coverage in popularizing materials, as well as about language history, diachronic change, and revitalization).

A researcher of the department participated in the selection of the Hungarian team for the International Linguistics Olympiad.
A presentation of national and international R&D relations in 2016

National relations

The Momentum Research Group for Computational Latin Dialectology has been developing the Computerized Historical Database of the Imperial Age’; [http://lldb.elte.hu](http://lldb.elte.hu) in cooperation with the Latin Department of ELTE, which is also financed by OTKA K 108399 (2014-2017). The members of this team taught courses at the Latin Department of ELTE as well as at the Centre of Language Teaching and Communication. The leader of this research team also participates in the educational activities of the Linguistics Doctoral School, Ancient Studies Program.

A colleague conducted courses at the Department of Finno-Ugric Linguistics, as well as worked as a leader of the Uralic Studies program of the Linguistics Doctoral School, University of Szeged.

The researchers of the department actively participate in various academic forums in Hungary. They have worked in the following organizations: Society of Hungarian Linguistics; Hungarian Society for Ancient Studies, Committee on Hungarian Linguistics, HAS; Working Committee on Uralic Linguistics, the Hungarian National Committee of the International Finno-Ugric Congresses; the Doctoral Council, the Habilitation Committee and the Scientific Council of the University of Szeged. A researcher is also a member of the editorial board of the periodical Nyelvtudomány. Another researcher functions as the vice-president of the organizing committee of the Hungarian Linguistics Olympiad.

International relations

The MTA “Momentum” Research Group for Computational Latin Dialectology collaborated with numerous educational and research centres, i.e. the Department of Classical Studies, Masaryk University (Brno); the Department of Greek, Latin, Romance Languages and Semitic Languages, the University of Barcelona, Centre for Classical Studies, the University of Lisboa. From these research centres, numerous experts joined data collecting conducted within the framework of the project, as well as they participated in the project conference by giving lectures and presentations. The Hungarian partner conducted courses and gave presentations on the method of data collection to the specialists of the research centres listed above.

A member of the department works as an invited lecturer in cooperation with the experts of the Institut für Assyriologie und Hethitologie of Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (Munich) as well as Philipps-Universität in the project entitled “Digitales philologisch-etymologisches Wörterbuch der altkleinasiasischen Kleinkorporus–sprachen” for the lexicological-lexicographic processing of Anatolian languages. Within the framework of another cooperation that same colleague also participates in the project The 'Luvic' Dialects of Indo-European Anatolian Group: Genetic and Areal Approaches at the Department of Greek, Latin, Romance Languages and Semitic Languages, University of Barcelona.

Several researchers of the department are members in the following international scholarly bodies: Société Internationale pour l’Étude du Latin Vulgaire et Tardif, International Committee of Finno-Ugric Congresses, Science Europe Committee for Humanities.

Researchers of the department are members of the editorial boards of the following journals and periodicals: Antik Tanulmányok, Finno-Ugric Languages and Linguistics, Mémoires de la Société Finno-Ougriennes, Nyelvtudomány, Ural-Altaic Studies.

The handbook on Uralic languages to be published by the Oxford University Press is edited in cooperation with the Institut für EVSL, University of Vienna as well as Fakultät für Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaften, Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich.

A researcher of the department gave lectures and practical courses concerning Hungarian linguistics, and Hungarian as a foreign language at the Faculty of Philology of Strossmayer
University at Osijek, as well as participated in a research project titled *The linguistic situation of Hungarian in Croatia* (financed by the Faculty of Humanities, University of Zagreb, DOMUS Program, Hungarian Academy of Sciences), completed in 2016.

A staff member conducted research including data collection within the framework of *Erasmus Mundus Aurora* at the Udmurt State University (November 2015–May 2016; Izhevsk, the Russian Federation).

Two researchers participated in the summer school titled *Documentation and Description of Uralic Languages* of the Kone Foundation (June 2016, Mynämäki, Finland).

Another researcher of the department contributed to translating the items in the catalogue of Yugra State University (Khanty-Mansijsk, the Russian Federation) from Ob-Ugric languages into Hungarian (October, 2016).

*Participation in international conferences*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Researcher</th>
<th>Title of paper</th>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date (month)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adamik, Béla</td>
<td>On the Role of Palatalization in the Vulgar Latin Sound Change /w/ → /β/</td>
<td>Latin vulgaire – latin tardif XII - 12th International Conference on Late and Vulgar Latin (LVLT 12)</td>
<td>Uppsala</td>
<td>August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barta, Andrea</td>
<td>„Quicunqua adversarius surgeserit . . .” Linguistic features of new curse tablets from Pannonia</td>
<td>Latin vulgaire – latin tardif XII - 12th International Conference on Late and Vulgar Latin (LVLT 12)</td>
<td>Uppsala</td>
<td>August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamik, Béla</td>
<td>Potential Greek influence on the Vulgar Latin sound change [b] → [β]: Dialectological evidence from inscriptions</td>
<td>First International Workshop on Computational Latin Dialectology (WCLD 1)</td>
<td>Budapest</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barta, Andrea</td>
<td>A Letter to the Netherworld. The Third Curse Tablet from Aquincum</td>
<td>First International Workshop on Computational Latin Dialectology (WCLD 1)</td>
<td>Budapest</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonda, Attila</td>
<td>The Aquincum–Salona–Aquileia Triangle: Latin language in the Alps–Danube–Adria region</td>
<td>First International Workshop on Computational Latin Dialectology (WCLD 1)</td>
<td>Budapest</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barta, Andrea</td>
<td>Underworld Deities of the Aquincum Curse Tablets</td>
<td>International PhD Student Conference Laetae Segetes V</td>
<td>Brno</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duray, Zsuzsa &amp; Horváth, Csilla &amp; Vármai, Zsuzsa</td>
<td>Uralic indigenous minority identity and multilingual societies in Arctic urban centres</td>
<td>1st International Conference on Sociolinguistics</td>
<td>Budapest</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgieva, Ekaterina</td>
<td>Non-finite clauses in Udmurt and Tatar</td>
<td>“Contact-induced changes in syntax” workshop, 12th Changing Language Day</td>
<td>Tartu</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Csepregi, Márta – Gugán, Katalin</td>
<td>Subordination in Surgut Khanty</td>
<td>Uralic Syntax Days</td>
<td>Budapest</td>
<td>May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gugán, Katalin &amp; Kivik, Piibi-Kai &amp; Tamm, Anne</td>
<td>Changes affecting case, aspect, and negation in Uralic</td>
<td>SLE 2016 49th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea</td>
<td>Naples</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horváth Csilla</td>
<td>The role of online press and media in creating computational tools for Mansi</td>
<td>The Bridges of Media Education VIII.</td>
<td>Novy Sad (Serbia)</td>
<td>May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hegedűs Veronika – Mus Nikolett – Surányi Balázs</td>
<td>Predicational copular clauses and locational constructions in Tundra Nenets</td>
<td>6th Conference on Samoyedology</td>
<td>Moscow</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mus Nikolett – Simon Eszter</td>
<td>Languages under the Influence: Building a Database of Uralic Languages</td>
<td>6th Conference on Samoyedology</td>
<td>Moscow</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Date</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mus Nikolett</td>
<td>„Non-canonical” word order in Tundra Nenets. An explanation of the initial OS order</td>
<td>LDLT5: Workshop on information structure and discourse in the minority languages of the Russian Federation</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oszkó Beatrix - Ponomarev a Larisza</td>
<td>Digitális eszközök és finngor nyelvek – a komi-permják háttér</td>
<td>19. Élőnyelvi Konferencia</td>
<td>Targu Mures (Romania)</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oszkó Beatrix</td>
<td>Változó szókincs –in Olga nyomában Penav</td>
<td>Penavin Olga 100</td>
<td>Novy Sad (Sébia)</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon Zsolt</td>
<td>Aramaean Borders: the Hieroglyphic Luwian evidence</td>
<td>Aramaean Borders. Defining Aramaean Territories in the 10th – 8th Centuries BCE</td>
<td>Prague</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon Zsolt</td>
<td>Selected Pisidian Problems</td>
<td>‘Luwic’ Dialects: Inheritance and Diffusion III.</td>
<td>Barcelona</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon Zsolt</td>
<td>Die Etymologie des luw. *hazzuwanni-</td>
<td>2. Indogermanistisches Forschungskolloquium</td>
<td>Würzburg</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon, Zsolt</td>
<td>Luwian Personal Names in Old Assyrian Transmission</td>
<td>Onomastics and its History</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon, Zsolt</td>
<td>What do we really know about the Philistine language?</td>
<td>The Aegean and the Levant at the Turn of the Bronze and Iron Ages</td>
<td>Warsaw</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Title of paper</td>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Date (month)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon, Zsolt</td>
<td>Alleged Anatolian Phraseological Borrowings in Homer’s Language: A Reconsideration</td>
<td>Language Change in Epic Greek and Other Oral Traditions</td>
<td>Leiden</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Várnai, Zsuzsa</td>
<td>Малые языки в процессе урбанизации: Сравнительное исследование городского многоязычия в Арктических аборигенных сообществах</td>
<td>Таймырские Чтения 2016</td>
<td>Norilsk (the Russian Federation)</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamik, Béla</td>
<td>A palatalizáció szerepe a vulgáris Latin /w/ &gt; /β/ hangváltozásban.</td>
<td>Nyelvmélet és diakrónia 3. műhelykonferencia (NYD 3)</td>
<td>Budapest</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamik, Béla</td>
<td>Császárkori latin feliratok számítógépes nyelvtörténeti adatbázisa - a latin dialektológiai kutatások újabb eredményei</td>
<td>Emlékkonferencia Alföldy Géza halálának ötödik évfordulója alkalmából</td>
<td>Budapest</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamik, Béla</td>
<td>A vulgáris Latin /b/ és /w/ fúziójának összefüggése a magánhangzóközi /w/ kiesésével a feliratos anyag tükrében</td>
<td>12. Magyar Ókortudományi Konferencia (MÖK 12)</td>
<td>Debrecen</td>
<td>May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>City</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
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<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barta, Andrea</td>
<td>Levél az alvilágba. A harmadik aquincumi átaktábla</td>
<td>12. Magyar Ókortudományi Konferencia (MÖZ 12)</td>
<td>Debrecen</td>
<td>May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barta, Andrea</td>
<td>„Mercurius epistularius. A harmadik aquincumi átaktábla</td>
<td>Fiatal Római Koros Kutatók X. Konferenciája (FIROKONF 10)</td>
<td>Pápa</td>
<td>May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonda, Attila</td>
<td>Latin nyelv az Alpok-Duna-Adria régióban</td>
<td>12. Magyar Ókortudományi Konferencia (MÖZ 12)</td>
<td>Debrecen</td>
<td>May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonda, Attila</td>
<td>Az Aquincum–Salona–Aquileia háromszög. Regionális latin nyelvváltozatok nyomában</td>
<td>III. Mathema Konferencia</td>
<td>Budapest</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dömötör, Adrienne</td>
<td>„Oly napot végezni, ki bizonyos legyen” – a főnévi vonatkozó névmási kötőszó a középmagyar kor élőnyelvében.</td>
<td>A nyelvtörténeti kutatások újabb eredményei IX.</td>
<td>Szeged</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gugán, Katalin &amp; Sipos, Mária</td>
<td>Ilyen nincs, és mégis van: ige mögötti mondatrészek a hanti nyelvjárásokban</td>
<td>A nyelvtörténeti kutatások újabb eredményei IX.</td>
<td>Szeged</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gugán, Katalin</td>
<td>A magyar tagadó mondatok szórendje és a konstansrátaihipotézis</td>
<td>Nyelvelmélet és diakrónia 3.</td>
<td>Budapest</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oszkó, Beatrix</td>
<td>A magyar nyelv az Eszéki J.J. Strossmayer egyetemen</td>
<td>A magyar mint idegen-, környezet- és származásnyelv tanítása a Magyarországgal szomszédos országokban</td>
<td>Budapest</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varga, Mónika</td>
<td>Az hol az haragról írsz – Metapragmatikai jelzésekkről középmagyar levelekben.</td>
<td>Újdonságok a szemantikai és pragmatikai kutatásokban</td>
<td>Szeged</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varga, Mónika</td>
<td>Sajátos jelentéstartalmú szerkezetek változási tendenciáiról középmagyar szövegekben.</td>
<td>A nyelvtörténeti kutatások újabb eredményei 9.</td>
<td>Szeged</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varga, Mónika</td>
<td>„Nem szólhatván, az Úristent segítségül hívta” – A fonák okságról középmagyar szövegekben.</td>
<td>Nyelvész doktoranduszok 20. Országos Konferenciája (LingDok.)</td>
<td>Szeged</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conference(s) organized by the Department of Finno-Ugric Studies and Historical Linguistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organizer</th>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Co-organizer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Momentum” Research Group for Computational Latin Dialectology</td>
<td>First International Workshop on Computational Latin Dialectology (WCLD 1)</td>
<td>Budapest</td>
<td>6-7 April 2016</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Brief summary of national and international research proposals, winning in 2016

National proposals winning in 2016
A support of 0.5 M HUF for compiling the volume From the Establishing charter of the abbey of Tihany to the Káldi Bible presenting basic knowledge as well as new results, with facsimile illustrations and original excerpts, popularizing historical linguistics and old Hungarian written records (National Cultural Fund of Hungary; 201102/2757; 1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017).

Research plan for 2017

Research in Uralic languages

Sociolinguistics: The investigation of the linguistic and cultural identity of minority communities in arctic cities (Enontekiö, Khanty-Mansiysk, Dudinka). The investigation of the linguistic vitality of the urban Mansi (PhD dissertation). Lexical borrowings and interference between Komí-Permyak–Russian and Hungarian–Croatian respectively will be in the focus of research. Investigations focusing on the consequences of (North-)Khanty–Russian bilingualism. Funding/Source: OTKA K-112476, FNN 107885, budget of RIL HAS/MTA.

Historical linguistics
Hungarian. Building the database, checking and correcting the corpus available at tmk.nytud.hu, text normalization and disambiguation, drawing up the list of the sociolinguistic factors to be utilized in further studies. Investigation of relativizers, negation, certain types of adverbial subordination (concessive, conditional) and coordination. Data collection, variable rule analysis. Writing a popular science book on Old Hungarian written records. Funding/Source: OTKA K 116217, NKA A2012/N7980, budget of RIL HAS/MTA.

Indoeuropean and Anatolian linguistics
Indo-European and Anatolian linguistics: lexicological research. Funding/Source: budget of RIL HAS.


Publications in 2016


Horváth Csilla: Hanti-manszijszki nyelvi tájkép. FOLIA URALICA DEBRECENIENSIA 23 (2016): XXX


ISBN 978 963 693 701 0

ISBN 978 963 693 701 0:

ISBN 978 615 5219 05 4

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Simon Zsolt: Hinweise auf einen luwischen Lautwandel. NOUVELLES ASSYRILOGIQUES BRÊVES ET UTILITAIRES 2016/1: 40-42 (Nr. 21).
https://www.academia.edu/24394016/Hinweise_auf_einen_luwischen_Lautwandel

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https://www.academia.edu/17872575/Die_letzte_Zeile_der_phrygischen_Inscription_von_Vezir
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Várnai Zsuzsa: Малые языки в процессе урбанизации: Сравнительное исследование городского многоязычия в Арктических аборигенных сообществах. in Таймырские Чтения- 2016 Norilszk, 32-37
Várnai Zsuzsa: Kisebbségi identitás vizsgálata arktikus városokban: ÉDES ANYANYELVÜNKK XXXVIII. évf. 3. szám, 16. o.

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Várnai Zsuzsa – Pfiszter Tamás: Szent Donát beköltözött a Kegyoszlop ablakába: SOROKSÁRI HÍRLAP XXII. évf. 8. szám (szeptember) 13. o.