

Speech technology

The development of the multi-functional BEA spontaneous speech database (consisting of 309 hours of recorded speech of 381 informants and its descriptions and annotations at sound level) is noteworthy both nationally and internationally.

Diachronic studies

The Hungarian Generative Diachronic Syntax research group has published work on various aspects of the syntactic structure of Proto-, Old and Middle Hungarian. Morphological analysers are being developed for Old and Middle Hungarian databases representing different registers (<http://omagyarkorpusz.nytud.hu/en-search.html>). A morphologically analyzed database has been developed for a near-spontaneous register of Middle Hungarian, consisting of fully parsed texts of private letters and lawsuits (<http://tmk.nytud.hu>). The database provides a solid foundation for the already well-established grammaticalization research, but as its records also contain sociolinguistic information, it can serve as a basis of sociolinguistically oriented investigations as well. Researches into Hittitology and Indo-European linguistics include Hieroglyphic Luwian problems and Luwic dialectology.

Lexicology, lexicography

Work on the Comprehensive Dictionary of Hungarian has progressed with Vol. 5 published in 2013 and it continues with the writing, revising and standardising of the entries of Vol. 6. (Di-el). The historical corpus has been further expanded with texts from between 2001 and 2010. The compilation of the New Etymological Dictionary of Hungarian is in its final stages.

RIL is the largest research establishment specifically dedicated to linguistics in Hungary, and possibly in the region too, with a history of over 60 years and a bright future based on our young and ambitious research personnel and their exciting research projects.

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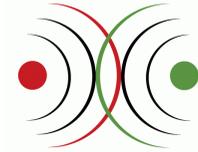
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Research Institute for Linguistics



Hungarian Academy of Sciences

The Research Institute for Linguistics was founded in 1949, and affiliated to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS) in 1951. Its primary tasks include research in Hungarian linguistics, as well as general, theoretical and applied linguistics, Uralic studies and phonetics, in addition to compiling the first comprehensive dictionary of Hungarian and the maintenance of its archival materials. Other research projects investigate various aspects and different variants of spoken Hungarian as well as engage in multilingual and minority studies. Further responsibilities extend to the assembly of linguistic corpora and databases and laying the linguistic groundwork for computational software and applications. In addition, the Institute has the best linguistics library in the country, operates a public counselling service on language and linguistics, provides expert reports on relevant affairs on demand, and administers the Theoretical Linguistics BA, MA and Doctoral Programmes jointly with Eötvös Loránd University. In the past few years it has become more international, both in its activities and regarding its staff. Furthermore, visiting lecturers have included Derek Bickerton, Manfred Bierwisch, Noam Chomsky, Donka F. Farkas, Charles F. Fillmore, Hans Kamp, Ivan Sag, and John R. Searle. The research personnel of the Institute in 2015 comprises 10 Doctors of Sciences (including one member of HAS), 45 PhDs and 32 junior researchers, in addition to the 24 clerical and other personnel; altogether 111 staff members, plus the 52 grantees of scholarships, including 16 PhDs and 7 clerical staff who either have chosen the Institute as host or are hired by tenured staff for various projects.

Current research areas and projects

Uralic studies

Research has been directed first of all to Samoyedic, Ob-Ugric and Saami languages. Etymological traditions, diachronic, typological aspects of these languages have been emphasised. Furthermore, descriptive and sociolinguistic research is of primary importance, especially issues of language contacts, language endangerment, attitude and identity etc. are investigated. Morphological analysers are accessible for Nganasan, Komi, as well as several dialects of Mansi and Khanty. Uralonet is a computerized database on the basis of the Uralic etymological dictionary, which makes this vast material easily searchable according to various criteria.

Theoretical Linguistics

The approach taken is structuralist, including generative approaches and extending to all subsystems of grammar (phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and the lexicon) and to the study of their interfaces from theoretical, descriptive and computational linguistic perspectives. Pragmatics, cognitive approaches and language typology are also represented. The object of the descriptive work and the source of theoretical innovations is mostly, but not exclusively, constituted by the linguistic phenomena of Hungarian. Current research investigates the interactions of the subsystems of syntax, semantics, pragmatics and prosody in the expression of quantifier scope and focus interpretation, discusses the morphology-phonology interface, the role of analogy in grammar, as well as various particular constructions and phenomena. Work is under way, jointly with several Hungarian university departments of linguistics, on a large-scale project targeting a truly comprehensive grammar of Hungarian.

Experimental linguistic research

In the area of recursive operations in language and mind new research has been started on lexical and syntactic recursion with an artificial grammar learning paradigm with aphasic patients and subjects with early Alzheimer's disease. In collaboration with the Cognitive Science Department of the BME, EEG and eye-tracker studies were conducted. The results have revealed interesting conclusions regarding syntactic recursion and Theory of Mind inferences. In psycholinguistics, new empirical investigations tested how Hungarian preschoolers interpret pragmatic phenomena, e.g. focus. There is ongoing research on the milestones of early language development and the language profile of children with specific language impairment (SLI) in Hungarian aiming also to enhance speech and language therapy services for affected children. Investigation of the relationship between individual differences in linguistic, executive and working memory functions in healthy adults has begun.

Studies in Multilingualism

The Research Centre for Multilingualism (RCM) provides expertise in many research fields of multilingualism and minority issues practising the methodology of joint learning and mutual engagement. Research, policy, education, network building are highlighted areas of RCM: Our projects reflect the political, legal, ideological and economic embeddedness of our East-Central European region. RCM is devoted renewing educational methodology and teaching materials exploiting the findings of multilingualism research. The ongoing project SIGNificant Chance on Hungarian Sign Language is a methodologically pioneering endeavour, as with corpus-based grammar, corpora and dictionary, it provides a starting point for research and a successful bilingual educational model.

Language technology

An innovative automated spelling advisory portal (<http://helyesiras.mta.hu>) was launched in 2013 and quickly became one of the most popular services of the institution, attracting more than a half-million visitors a year. An extended and updated 1 billion word version of the Hungarian National Corpus was developed and made accessible in 2014 through a web interface (<http://hnc.nytud.hu>) supporting corpus linguistics research on contemporary Hungarian language data. The Institute recently coordinated two major EU-funded projects. iTranslate4.eu resulted in a machine translation portal that integrates the services of leading European translation agencies (<http://www.iTranslate4.eu>). Within the CESAR project, over 250 valuable language resources and tools of the Central and Eastern European countries have been prepared and published (<http://www.cesar-project.net>).

Phonetics

Processes of speech production and patterns of spontaneous speech have been investigated. Phonetic analysis of various types of coarticulation, phonology-phonetics interfaces, various types of disfluency and the variability of speech sounds and words are characterized by means of measured acoustic-phonetic data.