

## **Reflexive pronouns in Hungarian PPs: synchronic variation and diachronic change**

The distribution of reflexive and personal pronouns in pre- or postpositional phrases (PPs) shows some variation in various languages (as different as English and Hungarian) and it is hard to account for in a principled way. In Hungarian, the variation is both dialectal and lexical, in that some postpositions take part in it while others are invariably used with reflexives. Taking a look at historical data, we find that Old Hungarian postpositions were almost exclusively used with personal pronouns. The reflexive pronoun was first only used with accusative and dative case marked arguments and it spread to PPs with the grammaticalization of postpositions from nouns, whereby the originally nominal elements lost their nominal features and could no longer be analyzed as possessive constructions. Due to the slow nature of this grammaticalization, in some dialects, the nominal features are still lexically available and the present variation is due to that.