The prose style is extremely clear and fluid, and there are very few typographical errors throughout the text. The bibliography is most helpful and complete, except for one missing entry which I discovered (Valdés Bernal, 1978) that is cited in the text. Also, it is my belief that although the samples discussed may be found on-line in their entirety, perhaps it would have been somewhat more convenient for the reader to have more of these examples in the text of the book. I found only one factual error, i.e., Aquiles Escalante was not from Palenque de San Basilio.

Overall, this book is extremely well written, meticulously researched, complete in its descriptions and extremely useful for anyone wishing to delve into the current problems of African influences in Spanish and Portuguese. Once again John Lipski is to be congratulated for another outstanding contribution to the field of Hispanic linguistics.


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*Hungarian Language Contact Outside Hungary*, edited by Anna Fenyvesi presents readers with an impressive array of comparable language contact data with a single focus –Hungarian in contact with multiple languages– in the context of Hungarian as a minority language. The primary strength of this volume rests in the wealth of comparable linguistic as well as social and demographic data across a range of contact situations. This strength derives from the fact that the six of the eleven chapters present data and analyses drawn from the first large-scale sociolinguistic survey of Hungarian language use outside the borders of Hungary.
(conducted in 1996). This focus alone makes the book of great value to an audience with particular interests in Hungarian and in East Central Europe. Admittedly, scholars with such an interest can also access much of the material presented here in Hungarian publications; however, this book presents a wide range of material previously unpublished in English, in a well-organized and in-depth format, that makes it of value to those interested in comparative work, whether they are Hungarian speakers or not.

The appeal of this volume to scholars in the area of language contact and language typology is further broadened by three additional data chapters on Hungarians in the United States (Fenyvesi) and Australia (Kovács), as well as on the unique case of the Csángós in Romania (Sándor) as well as three chapters that situate the data chapters in three different conceptual contexts: the connection between linguistic human rights and contact-induced changes (Kontra), a contact-induced typological change model (Thomason) and a linguistic typology model (de Groot).

Kontra’s chapter outlines The Sociolinguistics of Hungarian Outside Hungary (SHOH), a sociolinguistic survey project based on a questionnaire protocol carried out in 1995-1996 in a number of neighboring countries. Five of the chapters (Lanstyák and Szabómihály on Slovakia, Csernicskó on Ukraine, Göncz and Vörös on the former Yugoslavia, and Benö and Szilágyi on Romania) use this uniform questionnaire to gather data using a stratified sample on issues of domains of language use, institutional support for language use, as well as the structure of contact varieties with a focus on specific phonological, morphological and syntactic features.

In keeping with the traditions of language contact studies, the case studies provide rich detailed information with a dual focus. The first is the micro-linguistic level of language contact effects on Hungarian set in a typological and historical linguistic framework. The second focus is on macro-sociolinguistic aspects tied to issues of language maintenance and shift as analyzed through presentation of demographic, economic and social factors related to the Hungarian population’s place in the country in question.

In addition to outlining the SHOH project, Kontra situates the survey in the context of post-Communist Central and Eastern Europe as well as in the context of international legislation and diplomatic attempts to support linguistic human rights. He argues that “[t]his international political context has been playing a significant role in influencing the fate of bilingual Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin in the last decade, and for this reason considering the human rights and language rights situation of the Hungarian national minorities is essential for any understanding or
analysis of Hungarian language contacts today” (p. 31). While perhaps too strongly stated, given that the contact-induced change under consideration has been part of a process of language contact over multiple centuries, accelerated by the political changes in 1920 that resulted in the partitioning of Hungary and the creation of sizable Hungarian populations in the neighboring countries, his point is important in understanding the context of Hungarian linguistics which prior to the end of Communism in 1989 did not consider sociolinguistics as a viable science. In addition, Kontra’s point helps to flesh out Thomason’s (chapter 1) implicational model of contact-induced typological change. While Thomason outlines a model for predicting types and degrees of contact-induced change on the basis of broad sociological factors related to social contexts in which Hungarians live, Kontra extends this analysis by adding a specific focus to the effects of linguistic human rights on specific policies and practices that in turn affect the nature of contact between speakers of two languages –the type of intense contact, which in turn Thomason argues is a necessary although not sufficient condition for typological change.

In the concluding chapter, de Groot takes a linguistic-typological perspective. He posits that the majority of the changes presented in chapters three through ten can be explained in terms of Thomason’s model of language contact where varieties of Hungarian spoken outside Hungary (HO) adopt features from adjacent languages all from the Indo-European language family. Then the researcher asks the question of “whether the changes in the HO varieties follow or violate linguistic universals and implicational hierarchies, and whether co-occurrences of changes can be explained in terms of universals or hierarchies” (p. 369). De Groot concludes that they can on the basis of a careful comparison of data drawn from the 8 data chapters. Further he argues that several different phenomena can be explained on the basis of a single parameter, supporting the robustness of the linguistic typological model. Finally he states that the “study of language change through language contact offers new insights in linguistic typology (...) as it appears that in all cases but one linguistic hierarchies and universals established on synchronic descriptions of a sample of languages also account for the type of changes from HH to HO” (p. 370). The fact that one case, that of the development of synthetic to analytic expressions is not seen in the development of languages not in contact, suggests “that language change through language contact may be subsidiary to a unique set of universals” (p. 370).

The scope of this review is too short to do justice to the richness of data presented in the eight case study chapters. Here I will point out one or two things that make each chapter unique. Lanstyák & Szabómihály’s chapter on Slovakia
presents data not only from the SHOH but also from a large-scale comparative project on Hungarian language use among high school students in Hungarian and Slovak medium of instruction schools. Csernicskó’s chapter on Hungarian in Ukraine, in addition to rich data from the SHOH, and a nice summary of previous research, highlights the ways in which the prestige of Hungarian in this economically depressed context is counterbalancing the expected effects of contact-induced change in a small community of speakers. Benő & Szilágyi bolster their analysis of data from the SHOH with an analysis of language policies in light of linguistic human rights. Sándor presents the unique case of the Csángós, “an originally Hungarian speaking minority in Romanian Moldavia” (p. 163), a region far from the area of Romania discussed in the previous chapter with a sizable Hungarian speaking population. Göncz & Vörös present data from two regions in the former Yugoslavia, at the ends of the Hungarian language community: Voyvodina, today in the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, and Prekmurje, today in Slovenia. The third planned site, that lies between these two sites, in what is now Croatia, could not be studied due to the Yugoslav war. Göncz & Vörös provide comparisons of these two sites as well as a methodological discussion of the survey in comparison with other methods of collecting language contact data. Bodó’s chapter provides an interesting counterpoint as the Hungarian minority in Austria described there was likely to be more educated and suffer from less oppression than Hungarians in the remaining neighboring countries following World War I. In addition, Bodó provides a retrospective analysis, drawing on the landmark work on language shift by Susan Gal as well as that of local linguist Samu Imre in the 1970s.

Fenyvesi’s chapter on Hungarian in the United States is clearly written and well-organized and presents a clear outline of the link between data collection and findings, it also ties the findings to those of other studies presented in the volume. Kovács’ chapter on Hungarian in Australia uses Tandefelt’s model to discuss language maintenance and her own work to examine linguistic factors of language contact in a distance-based model.

As should be evident from the brief discussion of the case studies, another strength of this volume is that the chapters are well articulated with one another, a reflection of the working relationship of the various authors, supported by the SHOH as well as a Dutch-Flemish-Hungarian project entitled ‘Study Centre on Language Contact’ carried out in 1999-2000. In sum, the volume provides the reader with multiple analyses of contact-induced language change and the influence of the socio-political structure on those changes in the time period from 1920 to the mid-1990s. The volume also moves the field of sociolinguistics firmly into the mainstream of Hungarian linguistics. Indeed, as Kontra points out, Szilágyi whose career has
spanned multiple decades, suggested in 2002, that “the modern Hungarian period, which is held to begin in 1772 and last up to the present day, should end in 1918, and the period following World War I should be regarded as the latest period (legújabb kor in Hungarian) because it is since the end of World War I that Hungarian has been spoken as a native language not only in Hungary but in several other states as well. This change in political conditions under which native speakers of Hungarian live, says Szilágyi, warrants recognition by linguists as well” (p. 34).


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Linguists have repeatedly voiced concern over the loss of languages in all parts of the world. The developments of globalism and the unprecedented spread of English have brought about a renewed uneasiness regarding the possibility of a single language dominating the world. Such are the concerns of the authors of *Words and Worlds: World Languages Review* (hereafter referred to as *Words*), which had its origins in a project begun in 1997 and sponsored by the Basque Country, Spain, to explore the issue of linguistic diversity. The project framework and coordination efforts were led by UNESCO Extea, the UNESCO center of the Basque country. *Words* adopts the definitive voice of ecolinguistics, a branch of language study that celebrates linguistic diversity and seeks the preservation of all languages.

The monumental task of data collection for *Words* began in 1998 and continued for 5 years. The chief sources of data used in its compilation come from a questionnaire containing 40 mostly open questions distributed to numerous linguistic communities and a variety of informants, such as linguists and sociolinguists working on endangered languages, politicians responsible for setting