

Endpoint(s) in Hungarian denominal verb constructions

Veronika Hegedűs (RIL HAS)

This talk will focus on the argument structure of some subclasses of denominal verbs in Hungarian, namely, on how telicity and endpoints appear in transitive location verbs ((*be-*)*dobozolja a könyveket* ‘(into-)box the books’) and transitive locatum verbs (*fel-nyergeli a lovat* ‘saddle the horse’). These denominal verbs have been in the center of attention of recent studies on the argument structure of complex events (starting with Hale & Keyser 1993, 2002; more recently Acedo-Matellán 2016, a.o.), and cross-linguistically they often involve prefixed/particle verbs or other locatives, as is the case in Hungarian.

Hungarian being a satellite-framed language (in the sense of Talmy 2000), telic complex events generally include verbal particles or goal-denoting PPs, however, transitive location verbs seem to be among the few verb constructions that are exceptions to this generalization: although a particle (mostly *be-* ‘into’) often appears with location verbs, they can be telic without the particle as well. I will argue that it is due to the fact that the endpoint of the change of state described by the predicate is incorporated into the verb (as the nominal root), which distinguishes this class from other denominal complex verb constructions, e.g. locatum verbs, despite their being similar at first sight.