

Coordinating conjunctions in Hungarian
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1. Claim

Contrary to the claim of Bánréti (2008) there are no "right-adjoined" clausal conjunctions appearing inside the second coordinated clause. All clausal coordinating conjunctions are "central", appearing between clauses. Conjoining elements internal to the second conjunct are adverbs.

2. The data

Bánréti's classification (1992, 2008) of conjunctions on the grounds of their position:

„Central” conjunctions (*és* 'and', *de* 'but'):

- (1) [Péter hazament], [*és* a húga egyedül maradt].
Peter homewent, and his sister alone was left
Peter went home, and his sister was left alone.

- (2) *[Péter hazament], [a húga *és* egyedül maradt].
*Peter homewent, his sister and alone was left
*Peter went home, and his sister was left alone.

Optionally and obligatorily „right-adjoined” conjunctions (e.g., *ezért* 'therefore' and *meg* 'and') can/must be attached from the right hand side of the topic

- (5) [Péter hazament], [*ezért* a húga egyedül maradt].
Peter homewent, therefore his sister alone was left
Peter went home, therefore his sister was left alone.

- (6) [Péter hazament], [a húga *ezért* egyedül maradt].
Peter homewent, his sister therefore alone was left
Peter went home, therefore his sister was left alone.

- (9) [Péter a tévét nézte], [János *meg* mindig a rádiót kapcsolta be].
Peter the TV watched John CONJ always the radio switched on
Peter used to watch TV, John at the same time used to switch the radio on.

- (10) *[Péter a tévét nézte], [*meg* János mindig a rádiót kapcsolta be].
*Peter the TV watched CONJ John always the radio switched on
*Peter used to watch TV, John at the same time used to switch the radio on.

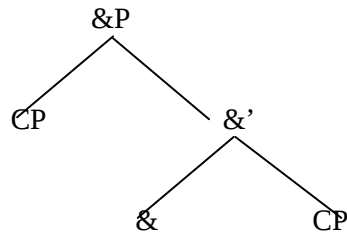
3. The position of conjunctions

Munn's (1987) theory: coordinating conjunctions head a phrase (&P)

Specifier: first clause

Head: the conjunction itself

Complement: second clause.



4. Two conjunctions in the same clause?

„Right-adjoined” conjunctions can always be preceded by a „central” one:

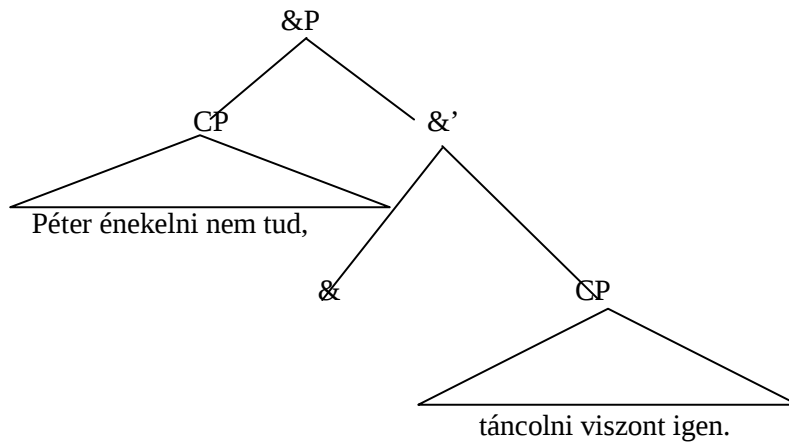
- (11) [Péter énekelni nem tud], [**de** táncolni **viszont** igen].
 Péter to sing not can, but to dance on the other hand yes
 Péter can't sing, but he can dance.
- (12) [Tóth Gabi hisz önmagában], [**és ezért** a fenekét is meg akarta mutatni].
 Tóth Gabi believes in herself, and therefore her bottom also wanted to show
 Tóth Gabi believes in herself, and therefore she wanted to show also her bottom.
- (13) [Péter a tévét nézte], [**és** János **meg** mindig a rádiót kapcsolta be].
 Peter the TV watched and John CONJ always the radio switched on
 Peter used to watch TV, and John at the same time used to switch the radio on.

But we can't invert their order:

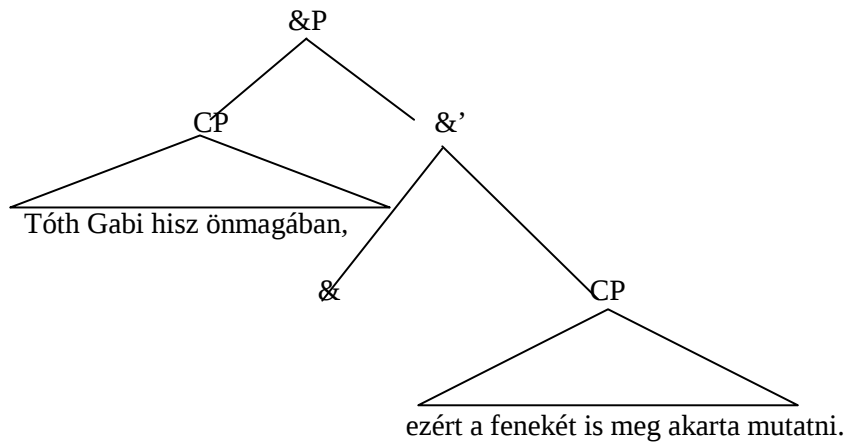
- (14) *[Péter énekelni nem tud], [**viszont** táncolni **de** igen].
 *Péter to sing not can, on the other hand to dance but yes
 *Péter can't sing, but he can dance.
- (15) *[Tóth Gabi hisz önmagában], [**ezért és** a fenekét is meg akarta mutatni].
 *Tóth Gabi believes in herself, therefore and her bottom also wanted to show
 *Tóth Gabi believes in herself, therefore and she wanted to show also her bottom.
- (16) *[Péter a tévét nézte], [**meg** János **és** mindig a rádiót kapcsolta be].
 *Peter the TV watched CONJ John and always the radio switched on
 *Peter used to watch TV, and John at the same time used to switch the radio on.

Conjunctions can be omitted, with only the „right-adjoined” ones inside the second CP:

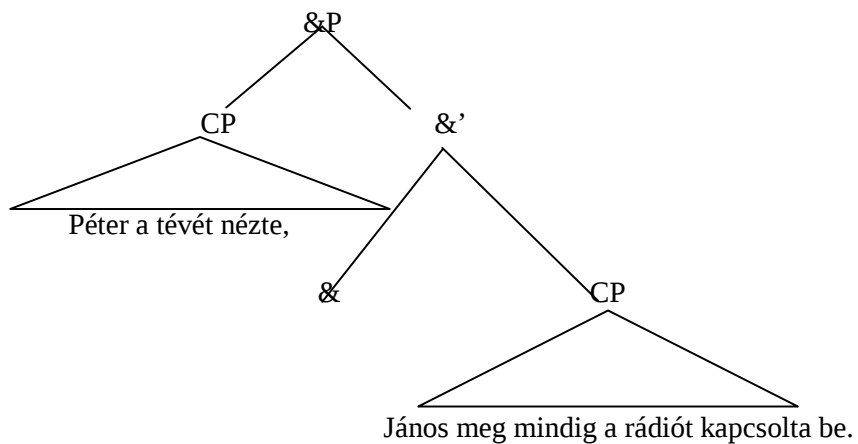
- (17) [Péter énekelni nem tud], [táncolni **viszont** igen].
 Péter to sing not can, to dance on the other hand yes
 Péter can't sing, he can dance on the other hand.



- (18) [Tóth Gabi hisz önmagában], [**ezért** a fenekét is meg akarta mutatni].
 Tóth Gabi believes in herself, therefore her bottom also wanted to show
 Tóth Gabi believes in herself, therefore she wanted to show also her bottom.



- (19) [Péter a tévét nézte], [János **meg** mindig a rádiót kapcsolta be].
 Peter the TV watched John CONJ always the radio switched on
 Peter used to watch TV, John at the same time used to switch the radio on.



5. „Right-adjoined” conjunctions: rather sentence adverbs

Ernst (2002): adverbs are attached to the constituents which can be found in its scope

Predicate adverbs modify an event (the PredP)

Sentence adverbs modify the proposition (the TopP)

Events (PredP, FocP, NegP) can be regarded as propositions, too

„Optionally right-adjoined” conjunctions are sentence adverbs:

- (20) [Péter énekelni nem tud], [_{TopP}Ø [_{CTopP}táncolni [_{PredP}**viszont** [_{PredP}igen]]]].
Péter to sing not can, to dance on the other hand yes
Péter can't sing, he can dance on the other hand.

- (21) [Tóth Gabi hisz önmagában], [_{TopP}**ezért** [_{TopP}Ø [_{PredP}a fenekét is meg akarta mutatni]]].
Tóth Gabi believes in herself, therefore her bottom also wanted to show
Tóth Gabi believes in herself, she wanted to show quickly also her bottom.

- (22) [Péter énekelni nem tud], [_{TopP}**viszont** [_{TopP}Ø [_{CTopP}táncolni [_{PredP}igen]]]].
Péter to sing not can, on the other hand to dance yes
Péter can't sing, he can dance on the other hand.

- (23) [Tóth Gabi hisz önmagában], [_{TopP}Ø [_{PredP}a fenekét is [_{PredP}**ezért** [_{PredP}meg akarta mutatni]]]].
Tóth Gabi believes in herself, her bottom also therefore also wanted to show
Tóth Gabi believes in herself, she wanted to show quickly also her bottom.

References

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