

The coordinating conjunctions in Hungarian

1. Goal: This talk will claim that coordinating clausal conjunctions following the topic in Hungarian in fact are not conjunctions but sentence adverbials. These so called right attached conjunctions are adverbials whose primary function is to connect clauses. According to Munn (1987) coordinating conjunctions head a phrase (&P). The specifier of this phrase contains the first clause, the head contains the conjunction itself, and the complement is the second clause. This means that the conjunction is not part of any of the coordinated clauses. The goal of this talk is to define the category and position of the elements that connect coordinated sentences in Hungarian but are internal to the second clause.

2. Background: According to Bánréti's classification (1992, 2008), which is based on a generative framework, conjunctions can be of three different sorts on the grounds of their position. Some of them are central, i.e. they are always to be found between clauses. Others are optionally adjoined from the right which means that they are to be found either between clauses, or on the right hand side of the topic constituent. Finally there are conjunctions which are obligatorily attached from the right.

3. Interestingly, this theory does not deal with sentences that contain more than one coordinating conjunction. Let's see a few examples:

Péter énekelni nem tud, de táncolni viszont igen.
Péter to sing not can, but to dance conversely yes
Péter can't sing, but he can dance.

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.

As we can see conjunctions can be preceded by an other conjunction, whether the conjunction is (or rather would be) in central position (as *ezért* in the second sentence) or is in fact attached from the right (as *viszont* in the first one).

4. The proposed solution of this occurrence is to treat these so called right attached conjunctions like sentence adverbials. According to É. Kiss 2009 there are two classes of sentence adverbials. Adverbials can be unstressed, standing prior to, between or after the topic constituents. If they are stressed, they can be found after the topic, prior to the comment. Conjunctions that are adjoined from the right optionally belong to the first class, ones that are adjoined from the right obligatorily belong to the second class. Their function is indicating correlation between the clauses of coordinating sentences.

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