

HUNGARIAN is an agglutinative language, unique in the heart of Europe.

SUMERIAN: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Sumerian-language>

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“ The linguistic affinity of Sumerian has not yet been successfully established. **Ural-Altai (which includes Turkish), Dravidian, Brahui, Bantu, and many other groups of languages have been compared with Sumerian, but no theory has gained common acceptance. Sumerian is clearly an agglutinative language** in that it preserves the word root intact while expressing various grammatical changes by adding on prefixes, infixes, and suffixes. **The difference between nouns and verbs, as it exists in the Indo-European or Semitic languages, is unknown to Sumerian.** The word *dug* alone means both “speech” and “to speak” in Sumerian, the difference between **the noun and the verb being indicated by the syntax and by different affixes.....”**

LEXICAL CONCEPTION by way of agglutination OR concatenation IN HUNGARIAN LOGIC

Agglutination: word expansion is achieved by morphs/modifiers (szóképzők) and prefixes/infixes, suffixes (with ONE WORD: affixes) inside and around stem words and more complex or compounded morphemes

Concatenation: two or more already existing/coined words are brought together to bring about a semantically new entity word.

In Hungarian **WORD EXPANSION OR AGGLUTINATION** CAN BE ACHIEVED by

- 1., **ANTERIOR or frontal EXPANSION** (placing affixes to the FRONT of a word), or
- 2., **POSTERIOR or rear EXPANSION** (placing affixes to the BACK of a word), and finally by
- 3., **INNER or intra EXPANSION** (placing affixes somewhere inside of an already expanded word).

As an AGGLUTINATIVE language, HUNGARIAN commands a distinctive LOGIC, one might want to call it FUZZY LOGIC. In a way, it renders users responsible/liable for the semantic quality/standard of the language they ultimately generate.

Since in the agglutinative Hungarian the words carry specific **markers/affixes** in both the spoken and written forms affix allocation around stem-words in word building and also in word ordering in sentences enjoy an unparalleled freedom when compared with other European languages. In a way the user is made responsible for his/her meaning creation. Such freedom empowers the user with a resourceful **freewill paradigm** to create new lexical items and an open scale of semantic nuance possibilities in syntax.

In the first place, the user needs to **spontaneously** create the words. Almost simultaneously, the user has to locate the most appropriate place for each one of his/her words in the sentence, in order that those words suitably fit in/coalesce with the intended meaning of the sentence.

In Hungarian one will have to generate the words almost on-the-go from the **stemword or concatenated wordstock in your control, dressed up with affixes**, and then you implant them into the sentences, that will logically shape your discourse's intention. By contrast, in most non-agglutinative languages the USERS have at their disposal a dictionary full of ready-made/coined words and the user's task is simply a recall unease. In other words the greater the number of words in the user's control, meaning that the user can recall them at ease and at will, the user is qualified as language proficient. Consequently, I would call Hungarian as a COMPLEX language whereas the non-agglutinative European languages COMPOUND. This is the reason why Hungarian tends to have the reputation to be a difficult language to learn.

AGGLUTINATION is a lexical manipulation/expansion AROUND A STEM WORD (gyökérszó), with the

addition/inclusion of particle-words or affixes, which convey a collateral, inherent meaning when they become attached to a word, with the end-result of the birth of a NEW WORD, that now carries a NEW denotation / idea.

Eg. *Meg-veszt-e-get-het-etlen-ség-es-ked-és-ei-ték-ért kap-ta-tok ki-tüntet-ést a kormány-tól. You people have received a medal from the government for your incorruptibility.*

CONCATENATION is also a lexical manipulation but this time with the **POOLING TOGETHER** of semantically preexisting wholesome ready-made free-standing/standalone words.

Eg. ország-gyűlés=country meeting=parliament, haza-szeretet=patry-love=patriotisme, idő-járás=weather-movement=weather, karban-tartás=in arm-holding=maintenance, rend-őr=order keeper=policeman, határ-őr=border-gard=bordergard , busz-vezető=bus-director=bus driver

What kind of MINDSET is intrinsic TO AN AGGLUTINATIVE LANGUAGE?

The simple answer is: SUCCINTNESS AND EFFICACY WITH AS LITTLE LANGUAGE AS POSSIBLE.

That means that someone in possession of just a few hundred stem/base (*gyökyszó=root word*) words can easily expand his/her active vocabulary by the addition of about two dozens of affixes to those few stemwords and then the expanded word can be further expanded by reintroducing those affixes in several locations within the same expanded word; which mathematically effectively does result in exponentially increasing the numbers of new interconnected sprout words (*szóbokor=word tree/cluster OR szócsalád=word family*) controlled by the user.

The LEARNING of the grammatical rules in Hungarian regarding the PLACING OF THE AFFIXES remains a bit mind-numbing especially when one wants to agglutinate/glue together a higher number of affixes around the stemword.

Native children of course acquire those RULES through daily use of trial and error. The FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNER THOUGH will have to make use of the piecemeal approach by rehearsing the words or the sentence until a PATTERN RULE takes place.

How does this work?

a., **Word expansion practice:** Keep using ONE SPECIFIC AFFIX AT A TIME with several other stem words.

Eg. barátom, fiam, lányom, anyám, apám.

You can see that in my example, I only changed the stemword and kept the M constant.

b., **SENTENCE word placing practice:**

FIRSTLY, one has to learn to KEEP REPLACING ONE WORD IN A SENTENCE WITH THE SAME TYPE of word in order to reinforce the pattern.

Eg.

Tegnap találkoztam volt osztálytársammal a busz állomásnál.

Ma találkoztam volt osztálytársammal a busz állomásnál. **Today** I met up with my old classmate at the bus stop.

Reggel találkoztam volt osztálytársammal a busz állomásnál. **This morning** I met up with my old classmate at the bus stop.

Este találkoztam volt osztálytársammal a busz állomásnál. **In the evening** I met up with my old classmate at the bus stop.

Késő este találkoztam volt osztálytársammal a busz állomásnál. **Late tonight** I met up with my old classmate at the bus stop.

Délben találkoztam volt osztálytársammal a busz állomásnál. **At lunch time** I met up with my old classmate at the bus stop.

Tegnap este találkoztam volt osztálytársammal a busz állomásnál. **Yesterday evening** I met up with my old classmate at the bus stop.

Tegnap reggel találkoztam volt osztálytársammal a busz állomásnál. **Yesterday morning** I met up with my old classmate at the bus stop.

Tegnap éjjel találkoztam volt osztálytársammal a busz állomásnál. **Last night** I met up with my old classmate at the bus stop.

Tegnap délben találkoztam volt osztálytársammal a busz állomásnál. **Yesterday at lunch time** I met up with my old classmate at the bus stop.

SECONDLY, once you control the pattern, NOW YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO BREAK THE WORD ORDER PATTERN IN THE SENTENCE. You will have to unlearn the STRICT English French German etc. sentence pattern rules. You have to get in the shoes of an agglutinative language user. It's not easy but it will ultimately happen if you aren't shy to practice very often. Why is it scary? Because in Hungarian virtually you can place ANY WORD IN THE SENTENCE ANYWHERE IN THE SENTENCE WITHOUT LOSING THE BASE/UNDERLYING MEANING OF YOUR SENTENCE.

Take strong **NOTE** however as the Hungarian tends to push the words that convey the **FOCAL INTENTION** towards the **BEGINNING of the sentence**, but be aware that **NUANCES** will be introduced by playing with the places of the words in the same sentence. **In fact the intention here is to FURTHER SHAPE/MODIFY the meaning.**

Eg.

1. **Tegnap találkoztam volt osztálytársammal a busz állomásnál.** Yesterday I met up with my old classmate at the bus stop.
2. a busz állomásnál Tegnap találkoztam volt osztálytársammal. It's at the bus stop that I met up yesterday with my old classmate.
3. volt osztálytársammal Tegnap találkoztam a busz állomásnál. yesterday with my old classmate I met up at the bus stop.
4. Tegnap találkoztam a busz állomásnál volt osztálytársammal. It's yesterday at the bus stop that I met up with my old classmate
5. volt osztálytársammal találkoztam Tegnap a busz állomásnál. with my old classmate I met up yesterday at the bus stop.
6. találkoztam volt osztálytársammal a busz állomásnál Tegnap. I met up with my old classmate at the bus stop yesterday .
7. találkoztam Tegnap volt osztálytársammal a busz állomásnál. I met up yesterday with my old classmate at the bus stop .

NOTE:

Such an emblematic Hungarian LOGIC will drive the overarching mindset of the user through the individuality of the syntax paradigm as well as that of the lexical paradigm to arrive at a meaningful discourse.

WHENEVER one makes an attempt to deal with a Hungarian word, phrase, or a sentence, his/her immediate task must be to ascertain/FIND the STEM of a word with as much precision as possible, mostly entrusting for that purpose the Fogarasi&Czuczor Hun-Hun Dictionary for possible synonyms and antonyms but at least the MOST BASIC FORM of the word, before looking up a comprehensive Hun-English dictionary and checking also as many related synonyms as possible.

The STEM should recur even in the expanded words, albeit synonyms or antonyms or just a new idea word.

It can frequently happen that the VOWEL of the STEM WORD might vary but the CONSONANTS should be the same or with minimally disturbance.

Eg.

k-r STEM can appear as

kör

kör-öm

kör-möl

kör-öz

kör-ben jár

ker-ek

ker-ék

ker-ítés

ker-ge birka

kar-ika

kar-ám

kar-bantart

gyűr-ü

etc.

Dictionary :

a., A good bilingual English-Hungarian/Hungarian-English dictionary (or any another Foreign Language-Hungarian dictionary)

b., The Fogarasi&Czuczor Értelmező Szótár (beware !! this is Hungarian- Hungarian mostly for native Hungarians who are well versed in Hungarian).

NOTE: most relevant resources can be had for FREE on the Internet.