

From quotative to causation – the history of Hungarian *mondván* 'saying'

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My talk presents the grammaticalization process of the Hungarian adverbial participle *mondván* 'saying' from the first written records of it up to the present day. Its original role (an element of serial verb constructions in reporting sentences) turned into a discourse marker of quotation. In contemporary language use, a new role of *mondván* has emerged: it is used as a causal connective.

Mondván is the more archaic form of the adverbial participle (converb) of the most frequent verb of utterance, *mond* 'say, tell'. The first written records of the form *mondván* are from the 14–15th centuries: the word appeared in the first Hungarian extant book approximately 50 times. The text proves that the form *mondván* does not only play the typical syntactic functions of adverbial participles (1), but it regularly appears in quoting structures as well (2a–b).

- (1)¹ *gyicséret-et Isten-nek mond-ván, vele vé-vén fráter Leó-t*
praise-ACC God-DAT say-ADV.PTCP he.INS take-ADV.PTCP brother Leo-ACC
'Saying praises to God, taking Brother Leo with him, [he]...'
(JókaiC 39)

- (2)a. *megcsókol-ja vala láb-ait, mond-ván könyvezés-vel:*
kiss-PRS3SG AUX.PST foot-POSS.PL.ACC say-ADV.PTCPcrying-INS
'„Isten, légy kegyelmes nekem, bűnes-nek!”'
God be.IMP2SG merciful I.DAT sinner-DAT
'He kissed his feet, **saying** while crying: “God, have mercy on me, a sinner” (JókaiC 41)

- b. *üvölt-setek, mond-ván: „Atyámfia-i, tolvaj-ok,*
shout-IMP.2PL say-ADV.PTCP brother-PL thief-PL
jöjj-etek hozzánk, mert barát-ok vagy-onk”
come.IMP-2PL we.ALL because friend-PL be-1PL
'**Shout, saying:** „Brethren, thieves, come to us, for we are friends.” (JókaiC 105)

The focus of my talk is the role illustrated by (2a) and (2b), and the grammaticalization processes of this structure, which results in a discourse marker role. This latter function was also present in Old Hungarian, exemplified by (3) from the middle of the 15th century. Function change is clearly marked by the fact that the adverbial participle *mondván* is connected to the main verb *mondja* '(he) says', formed from the same stem.

- (3) *Ez-t mond-ja sereg-eknek ur-a, Isten-e, mond-ván:*
this-ACC say-PRS.1SG army-PL.DAT lord-POSS God-POSS say-ADV.PTCP
'„Igaz ítélet-et ítél-jetek”'
true judgement-ACC judge-IMP.2PL
'The Lord, the God of the Armies **says, saying:** “Pass a true judgement” (BécsiC 303)

In the 20–21th centuries *mondván* spread in a new discourse marker function:

- (4) *Észak-Korea betilt-otta a szűk farmer-t,*
North-Korea prohibit-PST3SG the tight jeans-ACC
mond-ván az a hanyatló nyugati divat saját-ja
say-ADV.PTCP that the decadent western fashion own-POSS
'North Korea banned skinny jeans **saying** ['because'] that belongs to the decadent western fashion.'
(<https://liner.hu/eszak-korea-tiltas-farmer/>)

The word *mondván* marks causation, and at the same time it functions as a connective. (The phenomenon are partly similar to the findings of works dealing with several African and Asian languages: Saxena 1988, Lord 1993, Haspelmath 1993, Chappell 2008, Forker 2019 etc., see also Kuteva et al. 2009.) This new function emerged as the result of reanalysis, namely inference fixing as I will show (see also Dömötör 2015).

¹ This abstract applies present-day orthography.

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Keywords

quotation, grammaticalization, discourse marker, causation, Hungarian