

# Agreement with possessed direct objects in Hungarian

## An experimental approach

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# Overview

Intro: Object agreement and possessed NPs

The data

Surveys

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- ▶ Standard Hungarian: all possessed DOs agree
- ▶ But: dialectal variation?

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## Methods and results

- ▶ Series of online surveys
- ▶ Acceptability judgments with and without contexts
- ▶ Forced choice tests with and without contexts
- ▶ Speakers treat all possessed DOs alike: **syntactic** trigger?

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b. *Mari lát-ja/ %lát egy kutyá-m-at.*

M. see-3SG.OBJ see.3SG the dog-1SG.POSS-ACC

‘Mari sees a dog of mine.’

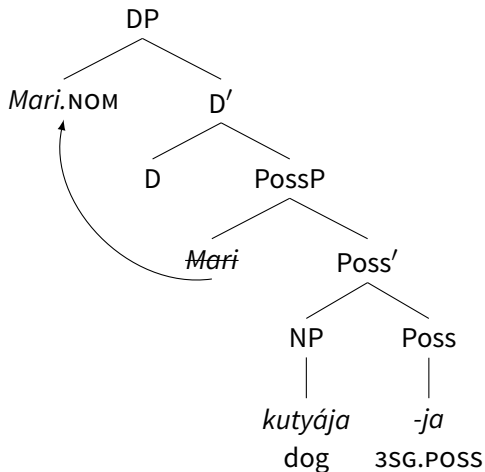
# Types of possessed NPs

- (3) a. *Mari* (\*a) *kutyá-ja* Nominative possessor  
 Mari.NOM (the) dog-3SG.POSS  
 ‘Mari’s dog’
- b. *Mari-nak a kutyá-ja* Dative possessor  
 Mari-DAT the dog-3SG.POSS  
 ‘Mari’s dog’
- c. *az ő kutyá-ja* Pronominal possessor  
 the s/he.NOM dog-3SG.POSS  
 ‘her/his dog’
- Distribution suggests different heights in the NP (Bartos 1999; den Dikken 1999; Dékány 2015)



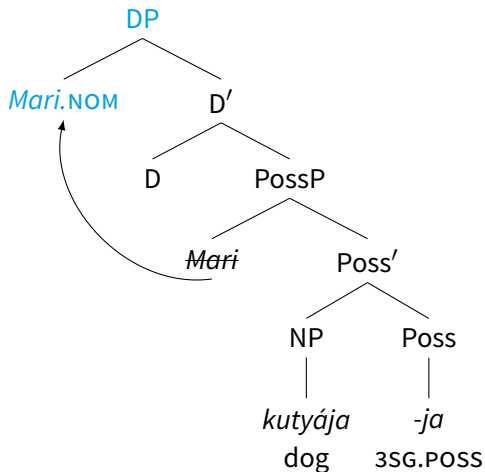
# Structures: NOM possessor

(4)

*Mari kutyája* 'Mari's dog'

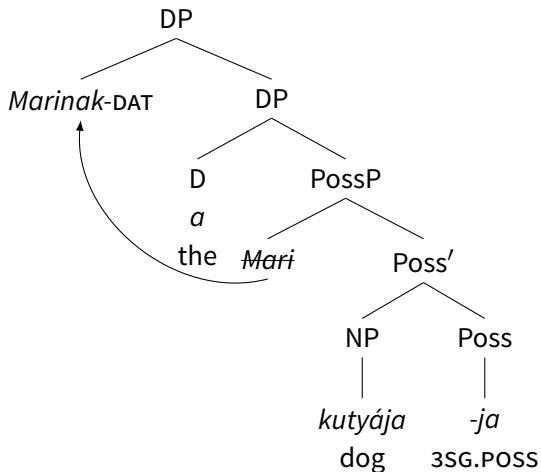
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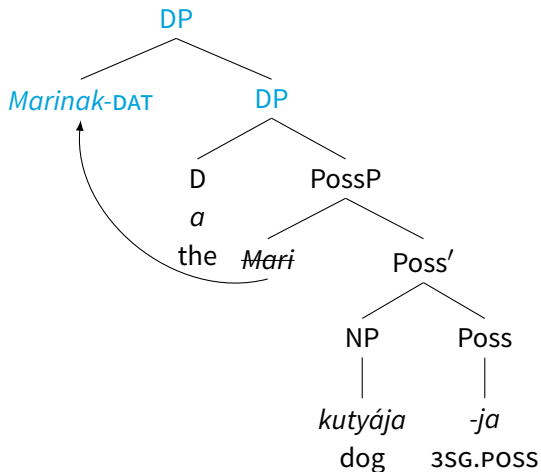
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*Marinak a kutyája* 'Mari's dog'

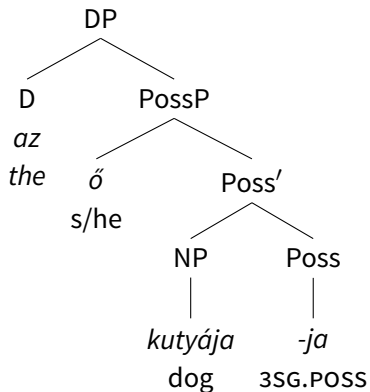
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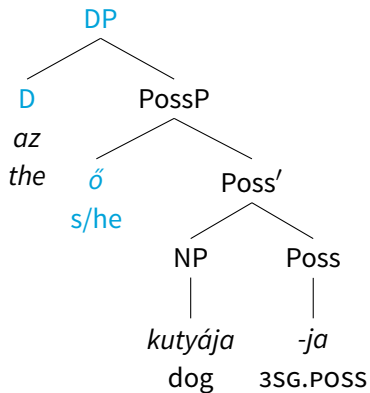
# Structures: pronominal possessor

(6)

*az ő kutyája* 'her/his dog'

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# Syntactic and semantic properties

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- ▶ Dative possessors can be extracted (Szabolcsi 1994)

(7) a. *Mari-nak van kutyá-ja.*  
Mari-DAT is dog-3SG.POSS  
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- ▶ Non-specific reading in (7a)

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## Syntax?

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## Semantics?

- ▶ A feature [DEF] introduces presupposition (Coppock 2013)

## Both? Neither?

- ▶ Possessed DOs have DP but they can be non-specific?
- ▶ How does this influence agreement?

# Surveys

# Acknowledgements

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