Reciprocal anaphors in singular constructions in Hungarian

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Introduction
• As expected, both plural reflexive anaphors and the reciprocal anaphor can take plural antecedents in Hungarian:
   (1) A gyerek-ek látották egymás-t a tükörben.
   The children saw each other in the mirror.
   • But while a plural reflexive needs a PLURAL antecedent (and a PLURAL verb), the reciprocal is grammatical in 5G contexts as well.

I. Quantified antecedent
(4) A két gyerek látta/látták a kép-et.
   The two children saw the picture.

II. Singular coordinate antecedent & singular verb
(8) Kati és Mari látta/látták a kép-et.
   Kati and Mari saw the picture.

III. Singular collective noun antecedent
(11) Kati és Mari látták/látották a tükrüben.
   Kati and Mari saw each other in the mirror.

IV. Singular variable as local antecedent
(17) Peti és Éva az-t gondolja, hogy (*ö) szereti egymást.
   Peti and Éva think that they love each other.
   (Peti thinks he loves Éva and Éva thinks she loves Peti.)

Summary
• Plural reflexive anaphors require PLURAL antecedents in Hungarian, but reciprocals are licensed in contexts in which the antecedent is SG (and so is the verb). Thus the plurality that reciprocals feed on need not be available within the computational system (contra, for example, Heim et al. 1991).
• This property of reciprocals is so pervasive in Hungarian that it even surfaces across the board even when the antecedent is a collective noun and the verb is singular (see Palmeri 2018 for variation in judgement in other languages), and it makes singular variables grammatical antecedents for reciprocals (III. & IV.).
• In general, both SG and PLURAL verbs license the full spectrum of reciprocal readings (see Dalrymple et al. 1998), though there might be a slight preference for single-event readings in PLURAL contexts.

An aside:
The inclusive reading of the reflexive
• Singular-plural inclusive reference anaphora is possible (see Den Dikken et al. 2001):
   (3) Kati, látta maguk-at (tükörben) a tükrüben.
   Kati saw themselves in the mirror.
   • These reflexives always require a discourse context that specifies the associates of the referent of the antecedent.
   • The antecedent needs to be a perspective holder, possibly non-local
   → these plural reflexives are logophoric.
   • This kind of inclusive anaphora is unavailable in III. and IV. below, though it is one of the possible readings for the plural reflexive in I. and II. (each member of the subject set saw the self plus the associate(s)). We disregard this option in the judgments provided in I. & II.

References

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