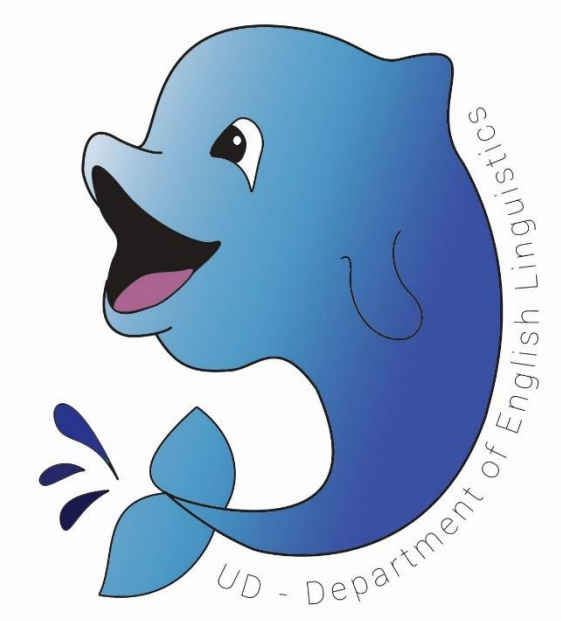


Reciprocal anaphors in singular constructions in Hungarian

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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 látták egymás-t a tükörben.*
the child-PL saw.3PL each_other-ACC the mirror.in
'The children saw each other in the mirror.'
- (2) *A gyerek-ek látták maguk-at a tükörben.*
the child-PL saw.3PL themselves-ACC the mirror.in
'The children saw themselves in the mirror.'

- But while a plural reflexive needs a PLURAL antecedent (and a PLURAL verb), the reciprocal is grammatical in SG contexts as well.

I. Quantified antecedent

- (4) *A két gyerek látta/*látták a kép-et.*
the two child saw.3SG/saw.3PL the picture-ACC
'The two children saw the picture.'
- (5) *A két gyerek látta magá-t/*maguk-at a tükörben.*
the two child saw.3SG himself-ACC/themselves-ACC the mirror.in
'The two children saw themselves in the mirror.'
- (6) *A két gyerek látta egymás-t a tükörben.*
the two child saw.3SG each_other-ACC the mirror.in
'The two children saw each other in the mirror.'
- (7) *Minden ember szereti egymás-t/magá-t/*maguk-at.*
every man love.3SG each_other-ACC/himself-ACC/themselves-ACC
'All (the) men love each other/themselves.'

II. Singular coordinate antecedent & singular verb

- (8) *Kati és Mari látta/látták a kép-et.*
Kati and Mari saw.3SG/saw.3PL the picture-ACC
'Kati and Mari saw the picture.'
- (9) *Kati és Mari látta magá-t/*maguk-at a tükörben.*
Kati and Mari saw.3SG herself-ACC/themselves-ACC the mirror.in
'Kati and Mari saw themselves in the mirror.'
- (10) *Kati és Mari látták *magá-t/maguk-at a tükörben.*
Kati and Mari saw.3PL herself-ACC/themselves-ACC the mirror.in
'Kati and Mari saw themselves in the mirror.'
- (11) *Kati és Mari látta/látták egymás-t a tükörben.*
Kati and Mari saw.3SG/SAW.3PL each_other-ACC the mirror.in
'Kati and Mari saw each other in the mirror.'

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 Palmieri 2018 for variation in judgements 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_i látta maguk-at_{i+k(+...)} a tükör-ben.*
Kati saw.3SG themselves-ACC the mirror.in
'Kati saw them(selves) 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.

III. Singular collective noun antecedent

- (12) *A család már fáradt volt/*voltak.*
the family already tired was.3SG/were.3PL
'The family were already tired.'
- (13) *A Facebookon szidta egymás-t a család.*
the Facebook.on scolded.3SG each_other-ACC the family
'The family scolded each other on Facebook.'
- (14) *A pár az interneten találta meg egymás-t.*
the couple the internet.on found.3SG PRT each_other-ACC
'The couple found each other on the Internet.'
- (15) *A pár a parkban találkozott (egymás-sal).*
the couple the park.in find.RECIP.PAST3G each_other-with
'The couple met (each other) in the park.'
- (16) *Az egész család jól érezte magá-t/*maguk-at.*
the whole family well felt.3SG itself-ACC/themselves-ACC
'The whole family enjoyed themselves.'

IV. Singular variable as local antecedent

- (17) *Peti és Éva az-t gondolja, hogy (*ő) szereti egymás-t.*
Peti and Éva that-ACC think.3SG that (s)he love.3SG each_other-ACC
'Peti and Éva think that they love each other.'
(Peti thinks he loves Éva and Éva thinks she loves Peti.)
- (18) *Álmomban két macska voltam és (*én) játszottam egymás-sal.*
dream.POSS1SG.in two cat was.1SG and I played.1SG each_other-with
'I was two cats in my dreams and I was playing with each other.'
(Frigyes Karinthy, Hungarian author)

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