

Variation in the accusative form of Hungarian loanwords ending in coronal consonant clusters

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In this paper, I present how one can account for the difference in the accusative suffixation of two groups of loanwords adapted into Hungarian, ending in (at least) two coronal consonants.

The accusative is marked obligatorily at the end of noun phrases by the suffix *-(o/a/e/ö)t*, its form depends on vowel harmony, paradigm class, and the quality of the word-final consonant. If there is no linking vowel (LV), the last consonant of the stem is either a coronal sonorant or a coronal continuant: {s, z, ʃ, ʒ, n, ɲ, l, r, j}. If the stem contains only one of these consonants word-finally (**simple** coda), the productive pattern is the form without LV (*oázis-t*, *radar-t*). However, if the stem ends in a coronal **complex** coda, (1) there might be variation regarding the presence of a LV; (2) the order of magnitude of variation depends on the exact quality of the coda.

A LV hardly ever occurs after words ending in two sonorants (*fáj[ɟ]#* 'file', *popko[rɲ]#*); while one can observe a much larger variation in the accusative of stems ending in a sonorant + sibilant fricative coda, e.g. *assziszte[nʃ]#* 'assistant'; *Snicke[rʃ]#*. Based on a large national corpora MNSZ2 (Oravecz–Váradi–Sass 2014), these tendencies across accusative forms of words ending in coronal complex codas were confirmed.

	#type	#token	ratio of LV
-SonSib#	1,462	28,428	23.31%
-SonSon#	141	6,478	1.43%
sum	1,603	34,906	19.25%

It is quite intriguing that such single coronal consonants never co-occur with LV in the accusative, but when occurring in clusters, they differ in willingness to form the accusative with LV.

I argue that this pattern can be explained by the interplay of sonority hierarchy (Clements 1990) and the analogical interaction of paradigm classes (Kálmán et al. 2012; Arató–Rebrus 2024). Words ending in the respective coronal simple codas can act as **LV-dispreferring** analogical sources for both groups. In contrast, the group of words ending in a stop+sibilant coda (e.g. *bice[ps]#*, *hél[ks]#*) can act as an **LV-preferring** analogical source **only for** group -SonSib# while there being **no similar LV-preferring** source for group -SonSon#. Namely, stop+nasal or stop+liquid clusters cannot form codas in Hungarian, but they imply syllabic consonants which obligatorily trigger accusative without LV. Thus, there has been almost no variation in the latter case, but some variation in the former case due to the presence of two conflicting analogical sources.

References

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