Title: The fej-t of loanwords in Hungarian: degrees of linguistic integration in a social media corpus

Studying how a language adopts loanwords can yield clues about how the recipient language develops, its internal grammatical rules, as well as the social context in which the languages involved are used. The aim of this contribution is therefore twofold: on the one hand it seeks to provide further material on the basis of which to gauge support for earlier and sometimes contrasting work on how Hungarian integrates linguistic items from other languages (e.g. Fenyvesi, 2005; Hyllested, 2017; Vishogradska, 2017) in a given social context; and secondly it raises questions about interactions between spoken and written language, particularly regarding transparent orthography in language contact where the discourse setting is social media, as the latter is considered to be situated between graphic and phonic codes (using the terminology from Koch & Oesterreicher, 2011).

The language pair studied here – English and Hungarian – diverge typologically, which makes it particularly interesting for research on language contact as transfers are thus more salient. A corpus of forum posts was collected from a Facebook group of Hungarian speakers living in the United Kingdom. This differs from other works which have studied loanwords in a Hungarian context, including heritage speakers in English-speaking countries (Fenyvesi, 2005; Fenyvesi, 1995).

Two principal interrelated aspects of Hungarian grammar are examined: (1) morphosyntactic integration and (2) phonetic adaptation. The results are compared to the framework and languages surveyed by Poplack, especially Turkish-English vowel harmony and case-marking in Ukrainian-English and Japanese-English (Poplack, 2018). A further locus for contact is orthographic adaptation, which is compared to reports on French-English loanwords (Vendelin & Peperkamp, 2006) and Italian-English (Hamann & Colombo, 2017). Results mainly support both Poplack's cross-linguistic findings (2018) as well as Fenyvesi's Hungarian-specific ones (2005). However, interesting patterns emerge for a small number of occurrences of orthographic adaptation correlating with greater morphosyntactic integration. The findings may also be of interest for applications in language learning, when approaching a language system with opaque orthography from an L1 with transparent orthography.

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