

Learning a foreign language requires re-learning basic concepts, writing, speaking and listening, and fundamental grammar rules again from scratch. However, learning a new foreign language has several difficulties, because we have already adapted rules and preferences according to our mother tongue that we have to overwrite. Moreover, we have to master all specific features of a language to maximise our perception. One of these features is ambiguity, which has some types that appear in more languages yet it is mainly generated by unique factors of a particular language. Hungarian and English are truly different languages in almost every respect, regarding, pronunciation, grammar rules, agglutination or isolation, conjugation, word order etc. These distinct factors and words generate distinct types of ambiguities. Although there are some of the ambiguous structures in common, their interpretation might be dissimilar. Hereby my question is, are Hungarians able to recognise ambiguity in the English language? Do they have the ability to identify syntactic ambiguity, even those which are not ambiguous after translation? What is the process of decoding? What is their first interpretation due to their instincts? With the following research, I attempt to answer at least some of these questions.

Having gone through several articles in both Hungarian and English concerning syntactic ambiguity, I had to realise that studying Hungarians' parsing strategies in English language is quite a unique topic. I have found some relevant experiments, but they studied Chinese and Italian native speakers. Concerning Hungarian literature, they mainly discuss morphological and lexical ambiguities in Hungarian language. Being aware of this, I was looking forward to investigating Hungarian native speakers' abilities when they are dealing with ambiguous English sentences and as discussing a new research topic, I consider this research a test run, or a preliminary survey, however it has led to some undeniable results.

I chose to run the test online in the form of a questionnaire. I have developed two types of questionnaires: type A gave no clue that there might be more possible solutions, when participants had to translate ambiguous English sentences into Hungarian. The participants who filled out questionnaire type A became the control group, where beyond sentence processing, ambiguity awareness could be tested as well. At the same time, participants who submitted questionnaire type B were encouraged to find more possible translations and openly were informed about the equivocal nature of the sentences. Conclusively, 46 participants submitted valid answers. The sole criterion was to be a Hungarian native speaker

besides cultivating English language, hence the age, occupation, gender or the level of English knowledge of the participants varied.

Despite the fact that this research represents a pilot study, it has declared some essential information about Hungarian native speakers' parsing techniques. First of all, there were more examples for a globally ambiguous structure, where grammar allows to relate the adjunct both to the subject and to the object. The participants were able to detect this phenomenon, still they had a certain preference of the object. Moreover, it is fascinating how world knowledge can overwrite this preference.

Moreover, a few control sentences occurred in the questionnaire, which had solely one reading and one interpretation due to grammatical restrictions. The vast majority was successful in retrieving the correct interpretation of the control sentences, ensuring that the participants were aware of ambiguity and could identify unequivocal sentences as well.

Additionally, the participants of type A, who were not informed about ambiguity while going through the translation task, also submitted more interpretations at the same time. It definitely confirms that these participants were able to recognise ambiguous structures on their own.

The most compelling result implies that Hungarian grammar logic has a role in processing English sentences. Several interpretations were submitted beyond expectations, I refer to them as "unexpected translations" in my paper. These translations for the first sight seemed to be illogical. I have cogitated possible explanations for these submitted translations with the help of follow-up questions. Unfortunately, not every participant replied to these questions, however I based the theory on the given answers and Hungarian grammar logic.