

Surprise: Nonfinite Clause with Finite Complementizer

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Abstract

It has been common knowledge that the Hungarian complementizer *hogy* can only occur in finite clauses. Even though it started to occur c. 100 years ago in new contexts, such as in clauses accompanying sentence adverbials, nonfinite clauses were exempt from its occurrence. Recently, however, it began to be used in infinitival clauses. This squib offers an overview of related structures and initial analyses for its structure arguing that it fills a slot in a syntactic paradigm where verbs and adjectives can have both finite and infinitival complement clauses but nouns cannot since they only allow finite clauses. The new construction makes it possible for nouns to have infinitival complements, although with a twist: they must be accompanied by the finite complementizer thus making the resulting construction peculiar. We have also tested two populations by means of a questionnaire in order to investigate the acceptance scale of the construction as tabulated in the paper as based on an established statistical methodology.

Keywords

Finite clauses, nonfinite clauses, complementizer, embedding, topic position, statistical evaluation

1. Introduction¹

It has been common knowledge that the Hungarian complementizer *hogy* can only occur in finite clauses. Even though it started to occur c. 100 years ago in new contexts, such as in clauses accompanying sentence adverbials, nonfinite clauses were exempt from its occurrence. Recently, however, it began to be used in infinitival clauses. We will offer here an overview of related structures and initial analyses for its structure arguing that it fills a slot in a syntactic paradigm where verbs and adjectives can have both finite and infinitival complement clauses but nouns cannot since they are known to allow only finite clauses. The new construction makes it possible for nouns to have infinitival complements, although with a twist: they must be accompanied by the finite complementizer thus making the resulting construction peculiar. We have also tested two populations by means of a questionnaire in order to investigate the acceptance scale of the construction as tabulated in the paper as based on an established statistical methodology.

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2. Nonfinites in Hungarian

In Hungarian few nonfinites and no infinitives are allowed in predicates, unlike of course finite verbs. Of the two major classes, infinitives, or rather infinitival clauses, can be arguments, as in (1a-c) or complements to auxiliaries (1d), whereas participles occur as modifiers, i.e., adjuncts to nouns (2a-d), or verbs/verb phrases (3a-c), or as part of a complex predicate (3d), see Tóth (2000), Laczkó (2000), É. Kiss (2002), Szécsényi (2010), Bácskai-Atkári and Dékány (2014), Lipták and Kenesei (2017), among others.

- (1) a. Sétál-ni jó volt
walk-INF good was
'It was good to walk.'
- b. Anna sétál-ni akar.
Anna walk-INF wants
'Anna wants to walk.'
- c. Ede igyekszik sétálni.
Ede strives walk-INF
'Ede strives to walk.'
- d. Ede fog sétálni.
Ede will walk-INF
'Ede will walk.'
- (2) a. [az utcán sétál-ó] diák
the street.on walk-PRT student
'the student walking in the street'
- b. a [tegnap olvas-ott] könyv
the yesterday read-PRT book
'the book read yesterday'
- c. a [jól olvas-ható] könyv
the easily read-able book
'the book easily readable'
- d. a [holnap elolvas-andó] könyv
the tomorrow read-PRT book
'the book to be read tomorrow'
- (3) a. Anna [az utcán sétálva] látta Edét.
Anna the street.on walk-PRT saw Ede.ACC
'Anna saw Ede walking in the street.'

- b. A palack tele-tölt-ve állt az asztalon.
the bottle up-fill-PRT stood the table.on
'The bottle stood on the table filled up.'
- c. [A vihar elvonul-ván] elindulhattunk.
the storm pass-PRT depart.could.1PL
'The storm having gone we could depart.'
- d. A palack tele van tölt-ve.
the bottle up is fill-PRT
'The bottle is filled up.'

No attempt is made here to review the types or recent analyses of these constructions; the interested reader is referred to the literature listed above. In line with the general consensus concerning nonfinities, cf. e.g., Bhatt (1999), Wurmbrand (1998), Bianchi (2003), it is taken for granted that the absence of *Tense* (or, equivalently, *-Tense*), with the concomitant lack of nominative case assignment, consequently, of a covert subject, is responsible for the properties of these types of clauses. At the same time, the category of *Agreement* as accompanied by dative case assignment is possible in infinitival clauses (Tóth 2000). Nominative or unmarked subjects can also occur in a specific type of nonfinite clause, cf. Kenesei (1986), Sárík (1998) or Nádásdi (2011). There is no general agreement as to whether it is *Agr* that makes this possible, or, as Nádásdi (2011) claims, we have to do with finite predicates here.

As far as the infinitive is concerned, in contrast with sentences produced in early childhood, in adult language root clauses formed with infinitives have no *Tense* in them, but *Modality* is present there, cf., e.g., Philips (1996), Grohmann and Etxepare (2003), Pesetsky and Torrego (2004).

The phenomenon described first by Szabolcsi (2009), where there is a nominative subject in an infinitival clause is due to Long Distance Agree, which is compatible with Binding Theory, and no need arises to invoke inflected infinitives, government of the subject from the Complementizer, or Backward Control. According to her, the type illustrated in (4a) is only possible with raising verbs, while in (4b, c) the pronominal subject of the embedded clause is forced to have a *de se* interpretation coreferent with the matrix subject.²

- (4) a. Idén elkezdett [csak Péter kap-ni jó szerepeket]
this.year began.3SG only Peter get-INF good roles.ACC
'This year it has begun to be the case that only Peter is getting good roles.'
- b. Utálok [csak én dolgoz-ni]
hate.1SG only I work-INF
'I hate it that only I work.'

² We will forgo various ramifications related to scopal properties, for which see Szabolcsi (2009).

- c. Senki nem akart [csak ő leül-ni]
 nobody not wanted.3SGonly he/she sit-INF
 ‘Nobody wanted it to be the case that only he/she takes the seat.’

Bartos (2002) analyses two different types of infinitival structures. Both are interesting for our purposes since the infinitive that occurs without a finite verb in the root clause encodes modality, viz., possibility in case of (5a, b).

- (5) a. A hátsó sorokban is jól halla-ni, amit mondasz.
 the back rows.in even well hear-INF what.ACC say.2SG
 ‘It can be heard well even in the back rows what you are saying.’
- b. Alig érez-ni meg ezt a finom remegést.
 hardly feel-INF PV this.ACC the gentle quiver.ACC
 ‘This gentle quivering can hardly be felt.’

According to Bartos’ account, there is a *Modality* operator over the CP as given below.

- (6) Mod_{circ} [CP ... [VP V_{inf} ...

The other infinitival construction discussed by Bartos is the one with an imperative construal, familiar in several languages.

- (7) Jegyeket az ellenőrnek felmutat-ni!
 tickets.ACC the controller.DAT show-INF
 ‘Present the tickets to the controller!’

Since the construction allows no reflexive pronouns and because Hungarian has no general reflexive, such as English *oneself*, cf. (8), Bartos suggests that there must be a PRO_{arb} of arbitrary reference in the subject, but he does not exclude the option of there not being any subject at all, in which case the imperative infinitive is a bare VP without an external thematic role Agent assigned to it.

- (8) *Megmutat-ni magadat/magát/magatokat/magukat/magunkat!
 show-INF yourself.ACC/himself.ACC/yourselves.ACC/themselves.ACC/ourselves.ACC
 Intended meaning: ‘Show yourselves’ (lit.: ‘Show oneself’)

Then this VP is merged with a functional category *Force*, which accounts for its imperative nature. If this were the case, then they would be comparable with Halm’s (to appear) ‘radically truncated clauses’, in which the verb occurs completely deprived of *phi*-feature agreement, tense, aspect and mood features. This proposal is not likely to be applicable to the construction under scrutiny.

3. A Construction in Emergence

The novelty of the new type of infinitival clause consists in its occurrence not in root, but embedded clauses and introduced by the regular finite complementizer *hogy*. They are illustrated in the following examples with the complementizer *hogy* italicized in them.³

- (9) a. Az a cél, *hogy* az értelmiségiek alól kihúz-ni a talajt. (LK)
it the goal *that* the intellectuals from.under pull-INF the soil.ACC
'The goal is to pull the rug from under the intellectuals.'
- b. Nem szól másról, mint *hogy* a kritikus gondolkodás magjait
not speak.3SG other.about than *that* the critical thinking seeds.ACC
is kiirta-ni. (LK)
even eradicate-INF
'It speaks of none other than eradicating even the seeds of critical thinking.'
- c. Egy életet lehetne arra áldoz-ni, *hogy* azokat megírni. (LK)
a life.ACC could for.it sacrifice-INF *that* those.ACC write-INF
'One could sacrifice a life for writing them.'
- d. Mert nem csak az a mészárosság, *hogy* feldarabol-ni a húst ... (HNC)
because not only it the butchery *that* cut.up-INF the meat.ACC
'Because butchery is not (tantamount to) only cutting up the meat...'
- e. Nyilvánvalóan kínálja magát az a lehetőség,
obviously offers itself.ACC that the opportunity
hogy eltöröl-ni az egészségügyi hozzájárulást. (HNC)
that abolish-INF the health subsidies
'The opportunity to abolish health subsidies obviously offers itself.'
- f. A nyugdíjszerű ellátásoknál indokolt az a megjegyzés, *hogy*
the pensionlike provisions.with justified that the remark *that*
differentiál-ni... (HNC)
differentiate-INF
'As regards pensionlike provisions the remark is justified that (we have) to differentiate.'

At first blush the examples listed here indicate that the infinitival clauses introduced by the complementizer *hogy* (ICH for short) are adjoined to the (possibly case-marked) expletive

³ The examples are due in part to László Kálmán (LK), who recorded them in conversations and with whom the first author discussed them at length, and in part to Bálint Sass, who helped us find them in the Hungarian National Corpus (HNC). See also Oravecz et al. (2014). We express our gratitude to both of them for their invaluable help. For lack of space few of the examples can be given here.

pronominal *az* ‘it’ on the one hand, or to the head noun allowing it in its lexical characterization. Their rough structures are given below.⁴

(10) a. a cél (van) [DP az [CP hogy V-ni ...]]
 the goal is it that V-INF

b. ... [DP az a [N megjegyzés [CP hogy V-ni ...]]
 that the remark that V-INF

The examples in (9a-d) fall under type (10a), and (9e, f) under (10b). The latter type can be easily identified by relying on the generally accepted version in current Hungarian, i.e., when the head nouns have tensed embedded clauses as their complements, as in (11).

(11) Indokolt volt [az a megjegyzés, hogy differenciál-j-unk]
 justified was that the remark that differentiate-IMP-1PL
 ‘The remark that we should differentiate was justified.’

One has to handle these data with care since it is easy to confuse a nominal in the predicate with a head noun that has a complement ICH, as in (9d), where the decision to classify the noun *mészáros-ság* ‘butchery’ as part of the predicate is supported by the fact that it can have no complement clause, cf. (12).

(12) *Betiltották [azt a mészáros-ság-ot, hogy feldarabol-ják a hús-t]
 prohibited.3PL that the butchery-ACC that cut.up-3PL the meat-ACC
 ‘They have prohibited the kind of butchery in which the meat is cut up.’
 (intended meaning)

Thus we claim that ICHs occur in DPs either in construction with expletives or lexical heads. As far as the subject of an ICH is concerned, it cannot be an overt DP or pronominal, that is, it must be a phonetically null PRO, which can be coreferent with some (explicit or implicit) antecedent, as in (9c), where it is most probably the speaker him/herself, or it can be an arbitrary agent rendered as PRO_{arb}, as in (9d), or a singular/plural agent in any person, as in (9a). A reliable test for the last option is to insert a reflexive pronoun in the clause, cf. (13), which contrasts with the root infinitive analysed by Bartos (2002), as illustrated in (8).

(13) Az volt a cél, hogy saját mag-ad/mag-unk/mag-uk alól kihúz-ni
 it was the goal that own self-2SG/self-1PL/self-3PL from.under pull-INF
 a talajt.
 the soil.ACC
 ‘The goal was to pull the rug from under yourself/ourselves/themselves.’

⁴ The proper discussion of structures like (10a) would lead us far afield. For more, see, e.g., Kenesei (1994), Lipták (2001), É. Kiss (2002), and our final proposal in (14a) below.

No ICH has Tense, but Modality is extant in them, very much like in the infinitival root clauses analysed by Bartos (2002), where they have imperative purport. In the embedded ICHs in our case the modality accords with the clause type, so it is conjunctive, rather than imperative, which is mostly uninterpretable in nonroot clauses. Conjunctives on the other hand have a posterior interpretation, therefore they have an implicit temporal reference as well.

The final proposal we suggest for the structures in which ICHs occur are as follows, where (14a) shows the ICH associated with a (possibly case-marked) expletive, and (14b) as embedded in a DP containing a demonstrative.

- (14) a. [_{DP} *it*] ... [_{CP} *that* [_{MODP} MOD [_{IP} PRO V-INF ...]]]
 b. [_{DP} Dem [_{NP} N [_{CP} *that* [_{MODP} MOD [_{IP} PRO V-INF ...]]]]]

4. Pilot Survey

Following pioneering studies in testing syntactic comprehension in general and in Hungarian in particular (McWhinney and Pléh 1988, Pléh 1998) a questionnaire was compiled and administered to two different populations of participants.

This section provides a statistical analysis of some preliminary results of this questionnaire among linguists. It consists of 22 sentences with and without the complementizer *hogy* and the pronoun.⁵ Some of them contained a (case-marked) expletive pronoun initially, which will be called ‘neutral order’, see (15a, c) and (16a), others a topicalized embedded clause, cf. (15b, d), yet others an embedded clause ordinarily having a verb in indicative instead of conjunctive, see (16), and the clauses were embedded in various matrix clauses (see Figure 1). Since ICH is not a well-documented construction in the linguistic literature currently, the sentences tested were motivated by the collected examples, introduced in Section 3. The survey involved 16 linguists, all of them older than 30 years. The sentences were distributed in writing and they were rated on a five-grade Likert scale. The informants were told that 1 is the worst and 5 is the best score on the scale (as in, e.g., Surányi and Turi 2017: 224). The linguists often judged the ICH sentences noticeably differently from each other, therefore, the judgements assigned to (15a-d) show a bimodal distribution.⁶

This bimodality comes from some rejecting and some ICH-friendly participants selecting very low (1) and somewhat higher values (3, 4 or even 5). In order to differentiate between them, hierarchical clustering was made with squared Euclidian distance metrics and Ward’s method (Ward 1963). Based on all the sentences tested and considered as variables, two subgroups were identified: 6 completely ICH rejecting participants as one branch and the other 10, more ICH-friendly, participants as the other one. The mean values of the judgements are shown after the respective items with the ICH rejecting and the ICH-friendly participants separated by a slash.

- (15) a. az a mérce, hogy kitör-ni a magyar valóságból 1.17/2.2
 it the measure that break.out-INF the Hungarian reality.from

⁵ For reasons of space we have had to forgo reproducing here the list of sentences in the questionnaire; the glosses with the sense translations would have been too voluminous.

⁶ The statistical analysis was performed using SPSS version 23.

- b. hogy kitör-ni a magyar valóságból, az a mérce 1/2.4
 ‘The measure is to break out of the Hungarian reality.’
- c. az a cél, hogy túlélni 1/2.8
 it the goal that survive-INF
- d. hogy túlélni, az a cél 1.17/2.5
 ‘The goal is to survive.’

Figure 1 visualizes the 95% confidence intervals of the sentences, discussed in this section. It is shown that the expected values by the ICH-friendly subgroup are almost always above 1 and in a few cases they reach 2 or 3 and even 3 or 4 (by nominal predicates).

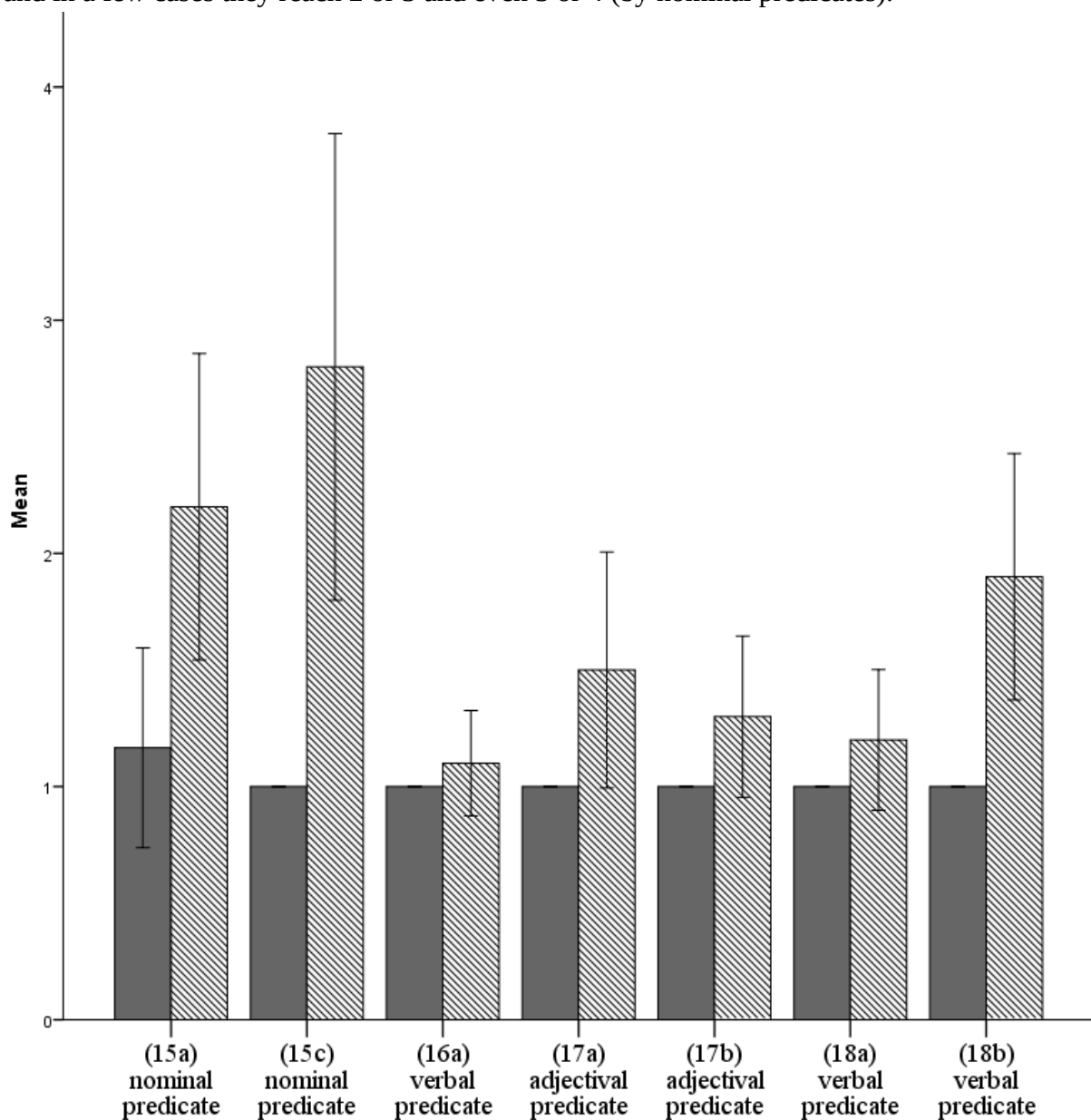


Fig. 1. Grammaticality judgements of the ICH-rejecting (*grey*) and the ICH-friendly subgroups (*hatched columns*)

Non-parametric tests were used by finding differences between the sentences since the variables did not prove to be normally distributed since they are grammaticality judgements. The sentences with nominal predicates, see (15), reached a high level of acceptability among the ICH-friendly participants, however, sentences (16a, c), which usually contain the verb in the indicative, cf. the fully grammatical (16b), proved to be significantly worse both in the entire group (n=16) and the subgroup of the ICH-friendly linguists, based on Friedman's ANOVA and Wilcoxon posthoc tests.

- (16) a. azon gondolkodom [hogy mindenkinek megmonda-ni az igazat] 1/1.1
 it.about think.1SG that everybody.DAT tell-INF the truth.ACC
- b. azon gondolkodom, hogy mindenkinek megmond-om az igazat
 tell-1SG
- c. [hogy mindenkinek megmonda-ni az igazat] azon gondolkodom 1.17/1.9
 'I am thinking about telling everyone the truth.'

While the ICH in its postverbal position in (16a) proved to be entirely unacceptable, its topicalized version in (16c) is somewhat more acceptable ($p=0.023$ by Wilcoxon test and even its expected value is higher than 1, the "entirely unacceptable" value, among the ICH-friendly subgroup). This contrast, however, could not be found in case of the sentences with nominal predicates, such as (15), which are acceptable on the same level, either in the basic word order or topicalized.⁷

Sentences containing an expletive + ICH along with adjectival predicates, cf. (17a, b), are significantly worse than those with nominal predicates, see (15), in the entire group as well as in the "ICH-friendly" subgroup. This is probably due to the fact that adjectives can have infinitival subjects, whereas nouns cannot, cf. (17c, d).

- (17) a. az a legnehezebb, hogy mindenkinek megmonda-ni az igazat 1/1.5
 it the most.difficult that everybody.DAT tell-INF the truth.ACC
 'To tell everyone the truth is the most difficult.'
- b. az fontos volt, hogy megismerked-ni az elnökkel 1/1.3
 it important was that meet-INF the president.with
- c. fontos volt megismerkedni az elnökkel
 'It was important to meet the president.'
- d. *az a cél megismerkedni az elnökkel
 it the goal meet-INF the president.with

⁷ The contrast in the acceptability of (16a) and (16c) may be enhanced by an alternative reading of the sentence which, however, requires a different, so called contrastive topic intonation pattern (*Hogy mindenkinek megmondani az igazat, azon "gondolkodom* 'As for telling everyone the truth, I am still thinking about it.').

A plausible explanation could be that an adjectival predicate, in contrast to a nominal one, can take an infinitival argument (17c, d), thus the sentences in (15), as it were, fill a gap in the grammar: that of the missing infinitival complement clauses to nominal heads.

Finally, two sentences are presented with ICHs as complements to their verbal predicates, see (18a, b), which in spite of their general conjunctive construal, do not reach the acceptability level of ICHs in nominal complements. The acceptability of (18a) hardly approaches even the lower level acceptability of the sentences with adjectival predicates, and is possibly blocked by its hidden subject and by the alternative grammatical infinitival construction in (18c), in which the coreference of the matrix and the embedded subjects is self-evident, while (18b) reaches the level of acceptability of the sentences with nominal predicates ($p=0.085$ by Friedman's ANOVA).

- (18) a. azt szeretném, hogy alaposan ledöngölni a padlót 1/1.2
 it.ACC would.like.1SG that thoroughly flatten-INF the floor.ACC
- b. az kellene, hogy kifesteni a kamrát 1/1.9
 it would.need.3SG that paint-INF the shed.ACC
 'It would be necessary to paint the shed.'
- c. Szeretném alaposan ledöngölni a padlót.
 would.like.1SG thoroughly flatten-INF the floor.ACC
 'I would like to thoroughly flatten the floor.'

At this point we can conclude that an ICH can pass the bottom level of acceptability for at least a limited group of speakers if

- a) it is a nominal complement or in construction with an expletive,
- b) must have a conjunctive modality, and
- c) its covert PRO subject is either coreferent with the root subject or has general or arbitrary reference.

5. A Second Survey

If we are interested in a change in progress it is worth examining a younger generation's attitude to its acceptability. That is why the same questionnaire given to the linguists was distributed among 63 middle school pupils aged between 16 and 20 in Budapest.⁸

And indeed, they found some of the test sentences, such as (15a), more acceptable than the grown-ups, with an average between 2.05 and 2.7. And there was again a minority group, though much smaller than with the linguists, altogether 4 to 5 people, who rated sentences with ICHs higher than the average. Still, it is remarkable that topicalized ICHs show higher acceptance rate than those in 'neutral word order' or what is seen in the linguists' case. The

⁸ We are grateful to Marianne Schiller for managing the experiment. It is to be noted that the two groups are, strictly speaking, not comparable because the pupils' judgements are contrasted with not a random group of adults but a linguistically well-trained population, which is highly thoughtful in their assessments. This initial probe, however, was intended to barely be informed of the phenomena.

average for (15b) is 2.82, that of (15d) is 3.44, which is higher than the rating by the ‘permissive’ linguists, or that assigned to (15a) when in neutral order ($p=0.001$ for the pairs (15a)-(15b) and (15c)-(15d) by Wilcoxon test, NB: no such differences were found in the group of the linguists).

It must be noted at the same time that the pupils’ judgements are less radical than those of the linguists. The lowest rating given by the latter to (16a), i.e., 1.06, is a far cry from the pupils’ record low at 2.05, incidentally for the very same example. Parallel with this, the pupils judged the most acceptable example as rated by the linguists at least .5 lower. We can but conjecture as to why that is the case. They might be more cautious in judging the examples thinking they have no expertise in this respect, or they do not sacrifice the time and effort that linguists are ready to invest in such tasks.

However, this account does not cover the different scores seen in the topicalized ICHs, which is demonstrable not only between pupils and linguists, but also within the two groups. The tests applied within one or the other group were not affected by the different use of the scales. Tests inside the pupils’ group show that they made use of the scale less widely than the linguists, but that they judged the respective acceptabilities of ICHs with nominal, verbal and adjectival predicates as significantly different (Friedman ANOVA: $p=0.001$), just like the linguists. Probably owing to the large number of participants ($n=63$), we may conclude that the different uses of the scales did not prevent the pupils from producing visible differences between the grammaticality judgements of individual test items.⁹

We may try to give an account for this phenomenon. (19a) was one of the most ungrammatical examples as judged by our participants, which supports our distinction between nominal and adjectival predicates. Its topicalized version in (19b) was valued higher, which is probably due to a countereffect owing to (19c), in which infinitival clause in the left-dislocated topic is referred back to by the pronominal in front of the adjectival predicate at the end. A similar construction type was discussed in Kenesei (1994), although in relation to a usual *that* clause, cf. (20). (Scores by linguists and pupils, respectively, are separated by a slash.)

(19) a. Az a legnehezebb [hogy mindenkinek megmonda-ni az igazat] 1.31/2.19
 it the most-difficult that everyone.DAT tell-INF the truth.ACC
 ‘It is the most difficult to tell everyone the truth.’

b. [Hogy mindenkinek megmonda-ni az igazat] az a legnehezebb 1.81/3.04

c. [Mindenkinek megmonda-ni az igazat] az a legnehezebb 5,0/4.61
 ‘To tell everyone the truth is the most difficult.’

(20) [Hogy Emma megérkezett] azt Ervin tudta (Kenesei 1994: 325)
 that Emma arrived it.ACC Ervin knew.3SG
 ‘That Emma had arrived, Ervin knew.’

⁹ Clustering the participants with respect to their grammaticality judgements produces a telling dendrogram, to which we will turn our attention in a different paper in the future.

Again, what we see here is that the pupils assigned less radical scores but the tendency is the same: if the ICH is in topic, it helps raise its acceptability score.

6. Conclusions

As seen in case of other novelties in this language, such as the illustrious Adverbial + Comp construction in Hungarian,¹⁰ linguists often reflect on new phenomena well after it has been introduced or become wide-spread. Although a given type of expression has been around for several decades, it still does not surface in careful speech or writing. It is a process that is observable with ICHs as well, which are still not to be found in higher registers but only in casual or informal language use.

The innovation may have started from the type of (19c), i.e., the topicalized infinitival clause. As a transitional second stage, it could move on to a customary parlance in colloquial Hungarian, in which a kind of rhetorical question is introduced by the complementizer, determining the topic, and answered immediately by a statement, cf. Dér (2019).

- (21) *Hogymindenkinek megmonda-ni az igazat? Az nagyon nehéz.*
that everyone.DAT tell-INF the truth.ACC it very difficult
'To tell everyone the truth? It's very difficult.'

It is from (21) and (19c) that the type of (19b) can be derived, which is more acceptable with a nominal predicate or head, cf. (15a, c). Nouns can only have *that* clauses as complements; infinitival clauses are not allowed in this function. An infinitive can have a general or arbitrary subject, which can motivate its emergence in construction with nominal heads. On the other hand, since verbs and adjectives can have infinitival complements, nothing motivates the occurrence of an ICH as their complement. What is happening here is simply the occurrence of an ICH that contains a coreferential or arbitrary subject along with a nominal head or predicate, while infinitival complements *per se* continue to be disallowed, as illustrated schematically in (22), where INF stands for infinitival clause, and TC for *that* clause.

- (22) a. V - TC/INF/*ICH
b. A - TC/INF/*ICH
c. N/Pron -TC/*INF/%ICH

In sum, this is seen to be a case of filling a syntactic gap here. It is conceivable that the construction will spread with the inevitable change of language use, which will have to be reported in descriptive grammars in time. This pilot study has demonstrated that the construction is alive and is above the threshold of acceptability, and it has endeavoured to accommodate it in the structural relations of the syntax of Hungarian.

¹⁰ For more, see Kontra (2003), Kenesei (2002).

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