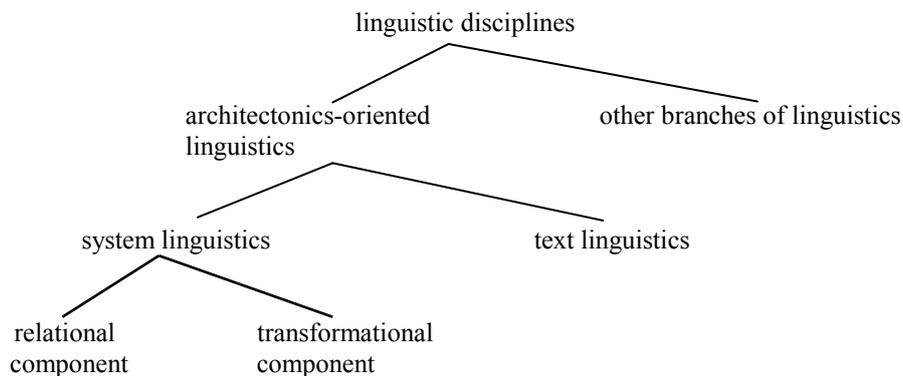


***Officina Textologica* 3.**
Towards the analysis of the linear arrangement
of text sentence constituents
(Analysis of Hungarian language texts)

0. *Officina Textologica*, a new periodical by the Publishing House of Lajos Kossuth University of Debrecen, has been originated in order to contribute to the elaboration of a text linguistic – textological method for analysing text sentences. (As regards the main functions of this periodical, see its first issue: János S. Petőfi, *Egy poliglott szövegnyelvé-szeti-szövegtani kutatóprogram* [= A polyglot research program in textology / text linguistics]. *Officina Textologica* 1. 1997.)

As far as linguistics is concerned, we should draw a clear distinction between the so-called architectonics-oriented linguistics and other branches of linguistics (e.g. psycholinguistics, ethnolinguistics, sociolinguistics) on the one hand; and, within the scope of architectonics-oriented linguistics, we should separate system linguistics and text linguistics on the other hand. Moreover, system linguistics should be divided into two components: the relational component and the transformational component, respectively. The system of linguistic disciplines outlined above can be illustrated in a tree-like diagram as shown in **Fig 1**:



(Fig. 1)

1. *Architectonics-oriented linguistics* deals with the lexicogrammatical structure and formation, as well as prosodic, metric and rhythmic characteristics of verbal units.

– The *relational component* of *system linguistics*, studying the construction of basic lexicogrammatical structures as elements of the language system, elaborates methods for representing the existing lexicogrammatical relations between components of these lexicogrammatical structures.

Officina Textologica 3. Towards the analysis of the linear arrangement...

– The *transformational component* of *system linguistics* studies all possible linear manifestations of basic lexicogrammatical structures within a specific language, and attempts to outline the conditions under which a certain manifestation could be applied.

– The function of *text linguistics* is, on the one hand, to assign a 'basic lexicogrammatical structure'-representation (hereafter referred to as BLS-representation) to the text sentences of those texts that are being examined, and to provide information about all possible linear arrangements of basic lexicogrammatical structures having been assigned to text sentences. On the other hand, another function of text linguistics is to present arguments for explaining the occurrences of the specific manifestations of basic lexicogrammatical structures that have been actually applied in different places of texts.

Since text sentences seem to be incomplete in most cases, that is, they cannot be considered, as opposed to system sentences, to be independent of each other, it is necessary to transform text sentences into something like system sentences by completing them before the assignment of BLS-representation. When completing text sentences and presenting arguments about their manifestations, we need, of course, *competence in linguistics*; however, in most cases, it is essential to have *special knowledge about textology*, and *general knowledge about 'the world-fragments'* that can be associated with all the verbal expressions concerned.

When analysing a selected text the following steps should be executed in order that the lexicogrammatical structure and formation of each text sentence can be interpreted:

(1) the text sentence should be completed with all the necessary information that can be acquired from (mostly previous) text sentences;

(2) a BLS-representation should be assigned to the completed version of the text sentence; then

(3) the BLS-representation of Step 2 should be provided with information about its possible linear manifestations; and finally,

(4) arguments are to be sought that can explain

(a) why a specific linear manifestation is applied in a given place of text; and

(b) why and how this linear manifestation can be deduced by transformation from the representation created in Step 2 (by means of deleting some parts of the BLS-representation or replacing them with pronouns) taking into account whether the text sentence in question is complete or incomplete.

Both in Step 1 and Step 4, it is important to consider co-reference relations between text sentences. That is the reason why we need general knowledge for executing the process, beyond the necessary competence in linguistics.

Officina Textologica 3. Towards the analysis of the linear arrangement...

2. The four steps described above can be considered as *text linguistic* operations. By them, the conceptional framework of our research program in textology / text linguistics can be further specified as a framework covering all aspects of architectonics-oriented (text) linguistics. The thematical volumes of *Officina Textologica*, which will contain studies on architectonics-oriented (text) linguistics, will be in accordance with this framework. (As for the conceptual framework, see the first issue of *Officina Textologica*.)

The main function of architectonics-oriented linguistics — as we have seen — is the analysis of text sentences. The planned thematic volumes of *Officina Textologica*, in which the main issues of the analysis of text sentences are going to be discussed in order that these volumes should also be used as textbooks, can be classified into the following groups (the order of items corresponds to the logic of the research strategy):

(a) completing the text sentences of various texts with verbal elements and reference or co-reference indices;

(b) analysing the possible internal linear arrangements of text sentences of various texts;

(c) assigning BLS-representations as well as information on their possible linear manifestations, to the completed text sentences of texts;

(d) generating text sentences from the BLS-representations on the basis of the information having been assigned to the representations.

3. In the Foreword of *Officina Textologica 2: Koreferáló elemek – koreferenciarelációk (Magyar nyelvű szövegek elemzése)* [= Coreferential elements, co-reference relations. (Analysis of Hungarian texts)] the aims of the volume have been summarized as follows:

(1) to show how reference is made, in different text types, to the entities (e.g. persons, objects, events, etc.) of a specific world-fragment presumably represented in the selected text, according to the sender (author, speaker, etc.) and/or the receiver (reader, listener, etc.) of the text; in other words, what sort of words and/or suffixes can be used as referential units for these entities?

(2) to show what kind of linguistic, textological, or general knowledge (knowledge about the World, so to say) is needed for revealing the co-reference relations between words or phrases referring to the same entity;

(3) to search for the most effective way of representing and illustrating the coreferential elements and co-reference relations.

These aims were previously explained in Section 3.1 [=Coreferential elements and co-reference relations] of Chapter 3 of *Officina Textologica 1*. In that section two

selected texts were analysed with the aim of demonstrating some possible ways of co-reference analysis.

Vol. 2. of Officina Textologica belongs to Group (a) within the classification listed above.

4. The present volume of *Officina Textologica: Szövegmondat-összetevők lehetséges lineáris elrendezéseinek elemzéséhez (Magyar nyelvű szövegek elemzése)* [Towards the analysis of the linear arrangement of text sentence constituents (Analysis of Hungarian language texts) – corresponding to its title – contains essays on the possible internal linear arrangements of text sentences.

This issue was previously discussed in Section 3.2 [The possible linear arrangements of the components of text sentences] in Chapter 3 of *Officina Textologica 1.*

For the purpose of analysis, we selected 3 parts from the first 5 paragraphs of a short story (Lajos Áprily: *A Hiúz* [=Lynx]). Those parts were as follows:

(i) a *clause* which was the first clause of a compound text sentence (i.e. a text sentence containing two or more independent clauses which are joined by co-ordination);

(ii) a *complete but simple text sentence*;

(iii) a *complex text sentence* containing five independent clauses which are joined by co-ordination.

Some experts have been invited to analyse the possible arrangements of the components of the selected units listed above (hereby referred to as Task (i), Task (ii), and Task (iii), respectively).

In all cases, the analysis of the possible arrangements has been prepared as follows: firstly, the selected clause or text sentence has been deleted from the text containing it; secondly, all the acceptable arrangements of the components of the deleted clause or text sentence have been made available without indicating the proper arrangement that has been actually occurred in the text. The object of the analysis was to select the acceptable and unacceptable arrangements in the given context.

Three persons have been invited to analyse each task. Two of them have been asked to perform the analysis themselves (Version A), and one of them to have students analyse the selected units in a seminar as well as to summarise and evaluate the obtained results (Version B).

The essays are inserted in three sections each corresponding to one of the selected units and starting with the description of the task in question; it is followed, in each part, by the analyses performed by the two persons assigned to Task A and the description and summary of the work of the group of students who have been asked to accomplish Task B.

Officina Textologica 3. Towards the analysis of the linear arrangement...

As almost all of the nine essays seem to use different methods, this current volume of *Officina Textologica* certainly makes important and varied contributions to analyses of this sort.

4.1 In her essay entitled “Thematic progression and linear arrangement”, FRANCISKA SKUTTA examines the relation between thematic progression and linear arrangement in order to select those arrangements of words that correspond most (or least) of all to the first clause in Task (i).

IMRE WACHA emphasizes the role of prosody (that is, the rhythm of sentence and stress) in the examination of the question of linear arrangement in his essay entitled “The role of prosody in the formation of linear arrangement”.

EDIT DOBI’s essay with the title “Examination of linear surface structures on the basis of five selected paragraphs from Lajos Áprily’s short story entitled «A Hiúz»” studies the results of the work of a student group. It turns out from the selections and comments of students that they seem to consider context dependency as the most important factor. The author follows a generative approach to the representation of sentence constituents, then comments on the effects of focus and the intonation it involves on linear arrangement.

4.2. Among the essays written by the authors invited to elaborate Version A of Task (ii), the starting point of PIROSKA KOCSÁNY’s essay entitled “Word-order variations in texts: which are “true”?” is as follows: the first sentence of a paragraph is more closely connected with the part of text that follows it than with the part that precedes the paragraph. As a consequence of that, the author’s selection of a specific variant is determined by the part of text that follows it.

In her essay entitled “Creation of a fairly acceptable vehiculum for a piece of prose”, ESZTER SZIKORA KOVÁCS declares that the sequence of those three elements that accomplish place-assignment function in the deleted 13th text sentence of Áprily’s text, can be considered to be fairly or poorly acceptable on the basis of information value and stress relations.

In his essay entitled “A creative-productive exercise in the formation of a selected verbal text”, LÁSZLÓ VASS describes the results of the group work of fifteen college students of Hungarian who were dealing with Version B of Task (ii). It is quite clear that the vast majority of students consider the same sentence as the most acceptable one; nonetheless the selections of students concerning the least acceptable sentence are very scattered.

4.3. Among the authors invited to elaborate Version A of Task (iii), ÁGNES DOMONKOSI expresses her opinion about the acceptability of all the 120 possible variations in her essay entitled “A creative approach to the linear arrangement of text sentence constituents of the order of clauses (or simple sentences)”. According to the author, all the variations seem to be acceptable at the level of mental and referential

meaning because the clauses are joined without conjunctions and they do not contain coreferential elements which might influence the order of clauses. At the level of communicative meaning, however, these variations are quite different. The final conclusion is that the measure of acceptability is determined, on the one hand, by the 'flow of depiction' (that is, the sequence and link of sentences in the text) influenced by different aspects, and, on the other hand, by syntactic and rhythmic characteristics.

In his essay entitled "Contributions to the analysis of text sentence constituents of the order of a sentence", JÁNOS S. PETŐFI deals with the general question as to which elements have any influence on the order of clauses in a text sentence containing syntactically independent clauses which are joined by co-ordination. To answer this question, firstly, the author analyses the logical structure of each clause and attempts to obtain some criteria that can determine the order of clauses. Secondly, he studies the rhythmic structure of all the variations in the sequence of clauses which may be a possible element of those criteria; finally, he discusses the presumable impact of perceptual processes on the arrangements of clauses and, on the basis of that, he tries to specify determining characteristics. As regards these criteria and the formation of a so-called three-dimensional 'filter' from them, the author raises the question as to what effect the order of the criteria in the 'filter' has or might have on the overall result of the analysis.

In her essay entitled "The study of communicative meaning in the linear arrangement of text sentence constituents", KATALIN B. FEJES gives a clear picture of the work done by her students who dealt with the solution of Version B of Task (iii). The author arranges systematically the students' comments according to the acceptability or unacceptability of the given linear arrangements. Her summary model shows that the decisions of students have been influenced by logical-semantic factors; that is, the spatial arrangement of constituents determined by general and specific characteristics including those referring to the whole or part of something (e.g., being greater or lesser than others), the order of important or unimportant elements, and considerations about syntax or rhythm: length (long-short), sentences with or without verbs, rhymes, etc.

Both the analyses of students and those of teachers are explanations about the creation and reception of texts at the same time because, on the one hand, those explanations are preceded by the reconstruction of a complete text-segment that might be considered as closed; and, on the other hand, the essays reflect the inner mechanisms used for controlling the way of creating texts instinctively, especially when someone makes a decision on the acceptability of the variations of texts. The approaches followed by the authors are consistent explanations based on the knowledge about language and world as well as arguments which are intended to justify the authors' intuitive understanding of the subject.

Vol. 3. of *Officina Textologica* belongs to Group (b) within the classification presented above in the section 2.