

The pragmasemantic contribution of the "noise word" *hát* in Hungarian, which can mean everything and its opposite

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In contrast to Dér&Markó (2017), we could point out pairwise significant differences in the temporal characteristics – duration (see I1, I2, I3, I4, I5 in the table) and pausing (see I2', I3', I4') expressed in milliseconds – of five functions of *hát*, the most frequent discourse marker in Hungarian which is also extremely multifunctional (e.g. Schirm 2007-2008).

Nevertheless, there is no conflict between our results and theirs: the functions whose different prosodic characters they examined are (essentially) distinct turn positions (turn-initial, turn-medial, turn-final ones). We have examined five different (but uniformly) turn-initial positions, of which four are sentence-initial (Ib) and one is sentence-final (Ic'). Their difference lies with the "semaphore effect" attributed to certain discourse markers by Alberti (2016): they basically signal how easy/difficult it will be for the listener to digest the message. The prosodic characteristics of the following five *hát*-functions have proved to be significantly different, at least in one parameter: 1. straightforward answer (with I1 as the duration of *hát* in this case), 2. uncertain answer (with I2 and I2' as the duration of *hát* and that of the pausing – which can often be a filled pause (AK5&AK7) – in this case), 3. answer which the speaker considers uneasy or embarrassing (see I3 and I3'), 4. teasing/badinage (see I4, I4'; Schirm 2017), 5. confirmation, sentence-finally (see I5). The data have come from 9 subjects who read out such short dialogues as the one presented in (1) and be

	AK1	AK2	AK3	AK4	AK5	AK6	AK7	AK8	AK9	mean/var
(1) a. I1	286	227	229	157	170	208	207	251	167	210/40
I2	432	551	383	1007	580	377	599	515	515	550/180
I2'	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	0	0	0/15
I3	397	589	330	1712	877	622	981	736	652	770/390
I3'	0	15	0	337	193	102	491	123	0	140/160
I4	292	253	227	253	824	728	211	1136	201	460/330
I4'	0	0	0	0	0	75	0	0	0	10//25
I5	420	386	280	533	459	559	505	453	419	450/80
I2-I1	146	324	154	850	410	169	392	264	348	340/200
I3-I1	111	362	101	1555	707	414	774	485	485	550/410
I3-I2	-35	38	-53	705	297	245	382	221	137	220/220

detective_story.Acc the detective_story.Acc yeah
'Is it really true that you have chosen the detective story?' – 'Yeah, the det'ive story.'

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