

Innovative Possessive Marker in the Burgenland Dialect of Hungarian in Austria

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This study examines the possessive plural marker in the Burgenland dialect of Hungarian in Austria, and shows that it has different meanings from the possessive plural marker used in Standard Hungarian.

The Burgenland dialect is included in the west dialect group of Hungarian, but we can find differences from Standard Hungarian not only in phonetic and lexical areas, but also in some grammatical points, such as the possessive plural marker. In Standard Hungarian, the possessive plural marker is *-i*, as shown in (1).

- (1) *az autó-i-m*
 the car-PL-POSS.1SG
 ‘(the) my cars’

- (2) *a láb-am-iék*
 the leg-POSS.1SG-PL
 ‘(the) my legs’

IMRE (1971, 1973) described that speakers of the Burgenland dialect add the special marker *-iék* to create the possessive plural form, as in (2).

And then I point out that *-iék* in the Burgenland dialect corresponds to *-ék* in Standard Hungarian, which is used as the marker of the associative plural form (BALOGH 2000, MORAVCSIK 2003, SZOLCSÁNYI 2007).

- (3) *Péter-ék*
 Peter-ASSOC.PL
 ‘Péter and his family or friends or associates’

It is found that there are different functional meanings between *-ék* and *-iék*. The associative plural can be added only to human nouns (4a), not to animate or inanimate nouns (4b, c) in Standard Hungarian.

- (4) a. *anya-m-ék*
 mother-POSS.1SG-ASSOC.PL
 ‘my mother and her family or friends or associates’
 b. **kutyá-ék*
 dog-ASSOC.PL
 c. **szemüveg-ék*
 glass-ASSOC.PL

However, *-iék* can be added to not only human nouns, but also animate or inanimate nouns (5a, b) in Burgenland dialect.

- (5) a. *kutyá-m-iék*
 dog-POSS.1SG-ASSOC.PL
 ‘my dogs’
 b. *szemüveg-em-iék*
 glass-POSS.1.SG-ASSOC.PL

‘my glasses’

Finally, I would like to argue that the special marker *-jĕk* might be result of innovation in the possessive plural of Burgenland dialect in contrast with Standard Hungarian.