

Noun Cases of Hungarian Language in Romanian

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Abstract. In the present-day discourse of bilingualism in Transylvania, the investigation of methods and possibilities for language teaching has an important role. In Romania, it is compulsory for the members of linguistic minorities to learn and to use the language of the state, but at the same time they face a number of problems in the process of learning it. To reconsider the methods of language teaching, there is need for studies which outline the particularities of language use of Romanian of Hungarian speakers. This paper is aimed at presenting a part of this image by analysing how the Hungarian language and the cognitive features entailed influence the translation of noun cases into the Romanian language. The paper presents the 18 noun cases and the prepositions they can be translated with into Romanian.

Keywords: noun case, case suffix, preposition, translation, language use

Introduction

In Romanian, it is compulsory for the members of linguistic minorities to learn and to use the language of the state (the Romanian language). In the process of language learning, the Hungarian learner faces a number of problems, which are caused by several factors, e.g. the very different language system of Hungarian from Romanian, cognitive issues (e.g., different perceptions and divisions of the space) etc. It is a fact that the teaching of the Romanian language for the minorities does not have a well-structured framework, proper teaching materials and even proper methods. To reconsider these methods of language teaching, there is need for studies which outline the particularities of language use of Romanian Hungarian speakers.

This paper investigates the noun cases of Hungarian and their use in Romanian. After the presentation of the case system in Hungarian grammar, I am going to investigate all of the 18 noun cases one by one, and in the summary we are going to see which prepositions of Romanian language are used in the translations.

The case system in Hungarian grammar and the issues entailed

Case is a system of marking dependent nouns for the type of relationship they bear to their heads. Traditionally, the term refers to inflectional marking and, typically, case marks the relationship of a noun to a verb at clause level, or of noun to preposition, postposition or another noun at phrase level. The term 'case' is also used for the phenomenon of having a case system, and a language with such a system is sometimes referred to as a case language (Blake 2001: 1–2). A word that appears in a certain case consists of the stem and the case marker(s).

Languages have extensive case systems; a language can have a number of different cases. As a language evolves, cases can merge, and this phenomenon is called syncretism (Blake 2001: 6–19).

The theory of cases in Hungarian grammar appeared first in a grammar of the Hungarian language written in Russian in 1955 by K. E. Majtinskaja. He takes stock of 22 cases. The first publication (author József Tompa), which contains the presentation of the case system in Hungarian, was published in 1961 and included 28 cases. Different authors identify different numbers of cases (ranging from 17 to 28) (Pete 2003: 308). In Hungarian linguistics, there is no agreement regarding their exact number.

In the Hungarian language, a case is formed by the word stem and a case suffix. Ferenc Kiefer has tried to determine the exact case system by formulating different conditions, which are: 1) the case suffix is a noun suffix, which cannot be followed by other suffixes; 2) the case suffix is a suffix which could be associated independently to a pronoun, to a proper noun, to an adjective, to a numeral, to grammatical signs¹ (which are inflectional suffixes in Hungarian), and its ability of association does not depend on the meaning of the noun; 3) the case suffix associated to a noun results the creation of another noun; 4) a suffix is a case suffix only if it expresses case relation; 5) a suffix is considered to be a case suffix if it is part of an implication framework; 6) every noun can be modified with an adverb derived from an adjective and with the clause entailed (Kiefer 2000, quoted by Pete 2003: 308).

The general theory of the case is yet to be offered (Anderson 1994: 453). However, one thing is clear. The category of case is related to the change of word forms or to their semantic function, and it is often mistaken for other grammatical categories (Илиев 2007: 8).

Another aspect to be considered is whether case theory should be applied to Hungarian language or not, as it is essentially specific of Indo-European languages.

1 The Hungarian term is 'jel'.

The case system of the Hungarian language

Edit Kádár's classification (2007: 152–160) provides the basis of this paper, listing 18 cases in the Hungarian language.

Noun case system of Hungarian language

Case	Usage	Case suffixes
Location		
Aessive case	'adjacent location'	-nál/-nél
Inessive case	'inside something'	-ban/-ben
Superessive case	'on the surface'	-n/-on/-en/-ön
Motion from		
Ablative case	'movement away from something'	-tól/-től
Delative case	'movement from the surface'	-ról/-ről
Elicative case	'out of something'	-ból/-ből
Motion to		
Allative case	'movement to (the adjacency of) something'	-hoz/-hez/-höz
Illative case	'movement into something'	-ba/-be
Sublative case	'movement onto the surface or below something'	-ra/-re
Terminative case	'marking the end of a movement or time'	-ig
Morphosyntactic alignment		
Nominative case	'agent; voluntary experiencer'	-Ø
Accusative case	'patient'	-t
Dative case	'shows direction or recipient'	-nak/-nek
Essive case	'temporary state of being'	-ként
Essive-modal case	'temporary state of being'	-ul/-ül
Translative case	'change of a condition into another'	-vá/-vé
Comitative-instrumental case	'instrument, in company of something'	-val/-vel
Causal-final case	'efficient or final cause'	-ért

The research is based on the translation of sentences from Hungarian into Romanian. The analysis is based on the responses to an online, anonymous questionnaire. The respondents had to translate 36 Hungarian sentences into Romanian. This paper presents the most frequent translation forms.

Each case suffix presented above has been included in these sentences. The analysis always refers to the Romanian translations. In the first part, we are going to discuss the cases which are present in both the Hungarian and Romanian language: Nominative, Accusative and Dative.

1. The Nominative case [NOM]

In Hungarian, the Nominative case is marked by zero morpheme. See the example below:

- (1) *Az életØ* *szép.*
 DEF.ART_life[NOM.SG] beautiful
 ‘Life is beautiful.’
- Viața* *este frumoasă.*
 life.DEF.ART.[NOM.SG] be.PRS.3SG beautiful
 ‘Life is beautiful.’

As seen in the example above, the Nominative case is marked neither in Hungarian nor in Romanian. In Hungarian, the Nominative is always the case of the subject in the sentence, whereas in Romanian it is the case of the subject, of the subject complement,² of the apposition with no agreement,³ and of the supplementary predicative element⁴ (Iliescu 2008: 18).

2. The Accusative case [ACC]

Notice these two sentences comprising the Accusative case, one not referring to a person and the other referring to a person.

- (2) *Látok egy elefánt-ot.*
 see.PRS.1SG INDEF. ART_elephant-ACC
 ‘I see an elephant.’
- Văd un elefantØ.*
 see.PRS.1SG INDEF. ART_elephant
 ‘I see an elephant.’
- (3) *Tegnap láttam Máriá-t.*
 yesterday see.PST.1SG Mary-ACC
 ‘I saw Mary yesterday.’
- Ieri am văzut-o pe Maria.*
 yesterday see.PST.1SG – PERS.PN.ACC PREP.ACC_Mary
 ‘I saw Mary yesterday.’

As seen above, the Accusative case in Hungarian is simply marked by adding the *-t* case suffix to both nouns; in Romanian, the noun not referring to a person is used in its Nominative form, whereas in the case of the noun referring to a person there is a full and a clitic marking of the case: the unstressed (clitic) personal pronoun in the Accusative accompanies a verb (predicate), it can precede the verb or can be preceded by the verb, e.g. *am văzut-o* [‘I saw her’], and it is fully

2 (Rom. *nume predicativ*).

3 (Rom. *apozitie neacordată*).

4 (Rom. *element predicativ suplimentar*).

marked by the preposition **pe** as a morphological marker without lexical meaning (indicating the direct object), which precedes the noun in the Nominative e.g. **pe Maria** [‘Mary’] (Cojocaru 2003: 55–56).

The Accusative is always the case of the direct object in Hungarian; in Romanian, it can have a number of syntactic functions.

3. The Dative case [DAT]

In Hungarian, the Dative case always marks the indirect object of the verb, while in Romanian it can have several syntactic functions. The translated sentences are:

- (4) **Péter-nek** *hoztam* *levest.*
 Peter-DAT ring.PST.1SG soup.ACC
 ‘I brought Peter soup.’
Am adus *supă*∅ **lui Petru**∅.
 bring.PST.1SG soup[NOM.SG] PERS.PN.DAT_Peter[NOM.SG]
 ‘I brought Peter soup.’
- (5) *Adtam* *egy könyvet* **Máriá-nak.**
 give.PST.1SG INDEF.ART_book.ACC Mary-DAT
 ‘I gave a book to Mary.’
Am dat **Mari-ei** *o carte*∅.
 give.PST.1SG mary-PERS.PN.DAT INDEF.ART_book[NOM.SG]
 ‘I gave Mary a book.’

The gender of the noun with the syntactic function of an indirect object in the first sentence is masculine, while in the second one it is feminine. Gender does not have any function when constructing the Dative because Hungarian does not have the gender category. As seen, the Dative is constructed with the help of the noun + the Dative case suffix **-nak/-nek**.

In Romanian, in the case of the masculine gender, the Dative is constructed with the help of the stressed personal pronoun in Dative (**lui**), which precedes the noun **Petru**. This personal pronoun can be considered a proclitic case marker, while in the case of the feminine gender an enclitic case marker is used, a stressed⁵ personal pronoun in Dative which is preceded by the noun *Maria* + *ei* → **Mariei**.

In the following, we will discuss the noun cases present in the Hungarian language as follows: Inessive, Illative, Elative, Superessive, Delative, Sublative, Adessive, Ablative, Allative, Terminative, Essive, Essive-modal, Translative, Comitative-instrumental and Causal-final.

These are the most important cases from the point of view of our research, as we focus on the possibilities of expressing them in a language which does not have such categories.

5 In Romanian, both the Accusative and Dative cases can be formed using stressed (full) and unstressed (clitic) personal pronouns (Cojocaru 2003: 55–57).

4. The Inessive case [INE]

In Crystal's concept, *inessive* is a term used in grammatical description to refer to a type of inflection which expresses the meaning of location or position within a place (Crystal 2008: 243).

This case is also found in Hungarian with the same meaning. See the following examples:

- (6) *A lakás-ban* *négy* *szobaØ* *van.*
 DEF.ART_apartment-INE four room[NOM.SG] be.PRS.3SG
 'In the house, there are four rooms.'
- În casăØ* *sunt* *patru camere.*
 PREP.ACC_house[NOM.SG] be.PRS.3PL four room.PL[NOM]
 'In the house, there are four rooms.'
- (7) *Bukarest-ben* *lakom.*
 Bucharest-INE stay.PRS.1SG
 'I live in Bucharest.'
- Stau* *în BucureștiØ.*
 stay.PRS.1SG PREP.ACC_Bucharest[NOM]
 'I live in Bucharest.'

In the given examples in Hungarian, the Inessive case is formed by the noun and the Inessive case suffix **-ban/-ben**. In the Romanian translation, the element is constructed using the preposition **în**, which indicates the inside of a place, where something happens (NDULR 2009: 727). The language has preserved this preposition from the Latin *in*. In Romanian, this preposition requires the Accusative case (Cojocaru 2003: 171).

5. The Illative case [ILL]

Illative is a term used in grammatical description to refer to a type of inflection which expresses the meaning of 'motion into' or 'direction towards' a place (Crystal 2008: 236). It is found in the Hungarian language constructed by the noun and the Illative case suffix **-ba/-be**.

Example:

- (8) *Nem engedem* *be* *a ház-am-ba.*
 not let.PRS.1SG in DEF.ART_house-POSS.1SG-ILL
 'I do not let (her/him) in my house.'
- Nu îl las* *să intre* *în casa mea.*
 not PERS.PN.ACC let.PRS.1SG SJV.CONJ_come_in.IN PREP.ACC_house.DEF POSS.PN
 'I do not let him to come in my house.'

In Hungarian, this case is constructed using a noun and the case suffix **-ba/-be**, while in Romanian it is formed similar to the Inessive case, by the preposition

în, which indicates that there is a space to move into (NDULR 2009: 727). This preposition requires the Accusative case in Romanian (Cojocaru 2008: 236).

6. The Elative case [ELA]

David Crystal defines *elative* as a term used in grammatical description to refer to a type of inflection which expresses the meaning of motion ‘away from (inside)’ a place. ‘Elative’ is often contrasted with Ablative – from inside *v.* from outside (Crystal 2003: 164). The Hungarian language also features this case, its case suffixes being: **-ból/-ből**.

There was a sentence translated into Romanian: The sentence to be translated into Romanian was:

- (9) *Mennyit olvastál el a könyv-ből?*
 QUANT.PN.ACC read.PST.2SG DEF.ART_book-ELA
 ‘How much did you read from the book?’
Cât ai citit din carte?
 QUANT.PN⁶ read.PST.2SG PREP.ACC_book
 ‘How much did you read from the book?’

In the given example, the Elative case in Hungarian is simply formed by adding the case suffix *-ból/-ből* to the noun. The Romanian version is constructed with the help of the preposition *din*, which indicates the starting point of a motion; it also indicates its origin and appurtenance (NDULR 2009: 440). This preposition comes from Latin (*de + in*), and it always requires the Accusative case in Romanian.

7. The Superessive case [SUPE]

“The Superessive case is a case that expresses location on the referent of the noun it marks. It has the meaning of ‘on’ or ‘upon’.⁷ Its name comes from Latin (*supersum, superesse*: to be over and above).” The Superessive case has four variants for its case suffix: **-n/-on/-en/-ön**.

See below four sentences translated into Romanian, the noun in each sentence having a different shade of meaning:

- (10) *A kémény-en gólyák laknak.*
 DEF.ART_chimney-SUPE stork.PL live.PRS.3PL
 ‘There are storks living on the chimney.’
Pe hornØ locuiesc berze.
 PREP.ACC_chimney[NOM.SG] live.PRS.3PL stork.PL.
 ‘There are storks living on the chimney.’

6 QUANT. is a gloss introduced in this paper with the meaning of “quantitative”.

7 [Http://www-01.sil.org/linguistics/glossaryoflinguisticterms/WhatIsSuperessiveCase.htm](http://www-01.sil.org/linguistics/glossaryoflinguisticterms/WhatIsSuperessiveCase.htm) (11 June 2014).

- (11) **A postá-n** *dolgozom.*
 DEF.ART_post-SUPE work.PRS.1SG
 ‘I work at the post office’.
Lucrez **la poștăØ.**
 work.PRS.1SG PREP.ACC_post_office[NOM.SG]
 ‘I work at the post office’.
- (12) **Budapest-en** *élek.*
 Budapest-SUPE live.PRS.1SG
 ‘I live in Budapest.’
Stau **în BudapestaØ.**
 live.PRS.1SG PREP.ACC_Budapest
 ‘I live in Budapest.’
Stau **la BudapestaØ.**
 live.PRS.1SG PREP.ACC_Budapest
 ‘I live in Budapest.’
- (13) *Dolgozom* **az ügy-ön.**
 work.PRS.1SG ART.DEF_case-SUPE
 ‘I am working on the case.’
Lucrez **pe cazØ.**
 work.PRS.1SG PREP.ACC_case[NOM]
 ‘I am working on the case.’
Lucrez **la cazØ.**
 work.PRS.1SG PREP.ACC_case[NOM]
 ‘I am working on the case.’

As seen above, in Hungarian, the Superessive case is formed by adding the case suffix to the noun, whereas in the Romanian translation we can notice differences in the use of prepositions.

Prepositions occurring in the Romanian translation are: **pe, la, în.**

The preposition **pe** indicates a contact with a surface (10); it comes from the Latin *super, per* (NDULR 2009: 1122).

La is a preposition which has 47 meanings and usages; I have chosen here the functions that are relevant to this case. This preposition can indicate integration in an environment; location, situation, existence in a determined space, contact surface (12); localization in a defined part of an object; being in a place for a specific activity (11); the instrument of the action (13). This preposition has been taken from the Latin *illac(ad)* (NDULR 2009: 785).

We have already discussed above one of the 23 usages of **în**. In this case, it has another function: it indicates that a state or a movement occurs on a surface or above it (NDULR 2009: 727).

In Romanian, all these prepositions require the Accusative case (Iliescu 2008: 255).

8. The Delative case [DEL]

The Delative case (from Latin *deferre* ‘to bear or bring away or down’) is a case that indicates motion downward from the marked referent. In Hungarian, it is used to express movement off of the surface of something.⁸

In our study, we included two sentences related to the Delative case, the case suffixes of which are: **-ról/-ről**.

- (14) *A parasztok* *a mező-ről* *jönnek.*
 DEF.ART_peasant.PL DEF.ART_field-DEL come.PRS.3PL
 ‘The peasants are coming from the field.’
Țăranii *vin* *de pe câmpØ.*
 peasant.PL.DEF. come.PRS.3PL PREP.LOC⁹ACC_field[NOM.SG]
 ‘The peasants are coming from the field.’
Țăranii *vin* *dinspre câmpØ.*
 peasant.PL.DEF. come.PRS.3PL PREP.ACC_field[NOM.SG]
 ‘The peasants are coming from the field.’
- (15) *Mit* *tudsz* *Péter-ről?*
 INT.PN.ACC. know.PRS.2SG Peter-DEL
 ‘What do you know about Peter?’
Ce *știi* *despre Petru?*
 INT.PN know.PRS.2SG PREP.ACC_Peter[NOM]
 ‘What do you know about Peter?’

As seen above, the Hungarian Delative case is formed by adding the case suffix to the noun, whereas in Romanian different types of prepositions / prepositional locutions have been used: **de pe**, **dinspre**, **despre**.

The locution **de pe** was formed by two individual prepositions: *de*, which indicates provenience (NDULR 2009: 387) and *pe*, which indicates contact with a surface, with an object (NDULR 2009: 1122).

Dinspre is a preposition which indicates the provenience from a direction or a place that is a reference point (NDULR 2009: 441). The third preposition, **despre**, has the meaning of about..., on..., being formed by two prepositions of Romanian *de* (< Lat. *de*) + *spre* (< Lat. *super*) (NDULR 2009: 419). All of these prepositions require the Accusative case (Iliescu 2008: 255).

8 http://www.odlt.org/ballast/delative_case.html (11 June 2014).

9 LOC is introduced in this paper as a gloss for indicating the ‘locution’, which is a particular group of grammatical elements in Romanian language.

9. The Sublative case [SUBL]

The term Sublative is used to refer to grammatical cases expressing different situations: in Hungarian, it expresses the destination of the movement, originally to the surface of something.¹⁰ The suffix of this case is: **-ra/-re**.

Examples:

- (16) *Mennyit szeretnél ruhá-ra költeni?*
 QUANT.PN.ACC want.COND.PRS.2SG dress-SUBL spend.INF
 ‘How much (money) do you want to spend on clothes?’
Cât vrei să cheltuiești pe haineØ?
 QUANT.PN.ACC want.PRS.2SG SJV.CONJ_spend.SJV.2SG PREP.ACC.dress[NOM.SG]
 ‘How much (money) do you want to spend on clothes?’
Cât vrei să cheltuiești pentru haineØ?
 QUANT.PN.ACC want.PRS.2SG SJV.CONJ_spend.SJV.2SG
 PREP.ACC.dress[NOM.SG]
 ‘How much (money) do you want to spend on clothes?’
- (17) *Tedd a tányért az asztal-ra!*
 put.IMP.2SG DEF.ART_plate.ACC DEF.ART_table-SUBL
 ‘Put the plate on the table!’
Pune farfuria pe masăØ!
 put.IMP.2SG plate.NOM.DEF PREP.ACC_table[NOM.SG]
 ‘Put the plate on the table!’

As seen in the examples above, in Hungarian, the rule noun + case suffix is applied. In Romanian, the noun in its Nominative form is preceded by the preposition **pe**, which indicates the contact with a surface or object, and it requires the Accusative case – as mentioned above. It is also formed by the preposition **pentru**, which indicates the purpose, the objective, the destination of the action, its form: **pentru** < rom. *printru* < rom. *pre* (< lat. *super*, *per*) + rom. *întru* (< lat. *intro*) (NDULR 2009: 1129), and it also requires the Accusative case (Cojocaru 2003: 172).

10. The Adessive case [ADE]

David Crystal defines Adessive as a term used in grammatical description to refer to a type of inflection which expresses the meaning of presence ‘at’ or ‘near’ a place (Crystal 2008: 11). In the following two sentences, there are different nouns: in the first sentence there is a common noun and the second one includes a proper noun:

- (18) *Találkozzunk a mozi-nál!*
 meet.IMP.2PL. DEF.ART_cinema-ADE

10 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sublative_case (12 June 2014).

- ‘Meet me at the cinema!’
Ne întâlnim
 PERS.PN.ACC_meet.IMP.1PL
- ‘Meet me at the cinema!’
la cinema \emptyset !
 PREP.ACC_cinema[NOM.SG]
- (19) ***Évá-nál*** *jártam.*
 Eva-ADE be.PST.1SG
- ‘I have visited Eva’
Am fost ***la Eva*** \emptyset .
 be.PST.1SG PREP.ACC_Eva[NOM]
- ‘I have visited Eva’
Am fost ***pe la Eva*** \emptyset .
 be.PST.1SG PREP.LOC.ACC_Eva[NOM]
- ‘I have visited Eva’

Both in the case of the common and proper nouns in Hungarian, the Adessive is constructed with the help of the noun and the case suffix: **-nál/-nél**.

In Romanian, there are similar strategies to translate common and proper nouns in Adessive: with the help of the preposition ***la***, which precedes the noun in Nominative. However, another strategy can also be used in the translation of proper nouns: with the help of the ***pe la*** prepositional locution, whose meaning cumulates the meaning of *pe* (contact with the surface or with the object) and of *la* (space as a possession of somebody; location, situation, existence in a determined space). It requires the Accusative case.

11. The Ablative case [ABL]

In languages which express grammatical relationships by means of inflections, *ablative* is a term referring to the form taken by a noun phrase (often a single noun or pronoun), typically used in the expression of a range of locative or instrumental meanings (Crystal 2008: 2). The Ablative case indicates movement away from something, and its suffix variants are: **-tól/-től**.

Examples:

- (20) ***A ház-tól*** *jövök.*
 DEF.ART_house-ABL come.PRS.1SG
- ‘I am coming from the house.’
Vin ***de la casă*** \emptyset .
 come.PRS.1SG PREP.LOC.ACC_house[NOM.SG]
- ‘I am coming from the house.’
Vin ***dinspre casă*** \emptyset .
 come.PRS.1SG PREP.LOC.ACC_house[NOM.SG]
- ‘I am coming from the house.’

- (21) *Ma kaptam levelet Traian-tól.*
 today get.PST.1SG letter.ACC Traian-ABL
 ‘I have received a letter from Traian today.’
Azi am primit o scrisoareØ de la TraianØ.
 today get.PST.1SG INDEF.ART_letter[NOM.SG] PREP.LOC.ACC_Traian[NOM]
 ‘I have received a letter from Traian today.’

In the first sentence, we have a noun which marks a place, which could be translated/used both with the *de la* and *dinspre* (see the Delative case above) prepositional elements. In the case of proper nouns (they mark a person), only the prepositional locution *de la* can be used; this prepositional locution, whose meaning cumulates the meaning of *de* (< lat. *de*; indicates the author or the agent of the action; indicates provenience) (NDULR 2009: 387) and of *la* (< lat. *illac(ad)*, indicates the source of information, the author of something (NDULR 2009: 785). In Romanian, these prepositions require the Accusative case.

12. The Allative case [ALL]

Allative is a term used in grammatical description to refer to a type of inflection which expresses the meaning of motion ‘to’ or ‘towards’ a place (Crystal 2008: 19). In Hungarian, it has three variants: *-hoz/-hez/-höz*.

Notice the following examples:

- (22) *Ház-hoz hozzák a rendelést?*
 house-ALL bring.PRS.3PL DEF.ART_orther.ACC
 ‘Do you bring the order to my house?’
Aduceți comanda la domiciliuØ?
 bring.PRS.3PL order.DEF PREP.ACC_home[NOM.SG]
 ‘Do you bring the order to my house?’
- (23) *Nem értek a témá-hoz.*
 not understand.PRS.1SG DEF.ART_subject-ALL
 ‘This is not my cup of tea.’
Nu mă pricep la subiectØ.
 not PRS.PN.ACC_understand.PRS.1SG PREP.ACC_subject
 ‘This is not my cup of tea.’
- (24) *Péter-hez megyek.*
 Peter-ALL go.PRS.1SG
 ‘I’m going to Peter’s.’
Mă duc la PetruØ.
 PRS.PN.ACC_go.PRS.1SG PREP.ACC_Peter[NOM]
 ‘I’m going to Peter’s.’

The Allative case in Hungarian is constructed with the help of the noun + case suffix, while in Romanian the preposition *la* (indicating the destination of movement here) and the noun in its Nominative form are used.

13. The Terminative case [TERM]

The Terminative is a case which specifies a time or a space limit; it is also used to express the goal or target of an action. In Hungarian, it is used to express the length of an action.

Notice the following examples:

- (25) *Csak a piac-ig megyek.*
 only DEF.ART_market-TERM go.PRS.1SG
 ‘I’m only going to the market.’
Mã duc doar pânã la piață.
 PRS.PN.ACC_go.PRS.1SG only PREP.LOC.ACC_market[NOM.SG]
 ‘I’m only going to the market.’
- (26) *Öt órá-ig várom vissza az új változatot.*
 five hour-TERM wait.PRS.1SG back DEF.ART new version.ACC
 ‘I’m waiting till 5 o’clock to get the new copy.’
Aștept varianta nouă pânã la ora cinci.
 wait.PRS.1SG version.DEF new PREP.LOC.ACC hour.DEF five
 ‘I’m waiting till 5 o’clock to get the new copy.’
- (27) *A koncertØ két órá-ig tartott.*
 DEF.ART_concert[NOM.SG] two hour-TERM last_for.PST.3SG
 ‘The concert lasted until two o’clock.’
Concertul a ținut două ore.
 concert.DEF last.PST.3SG two hour.PL
 ‘The concert lasted for two hours.’

As seen above, there are three sentences that illustrate the usage of the Terminative case and its use/translation in(to) Romanian. In Hungarian, its case suffix is *-ig*, which is added to the noun. In Romanian, we use it with the prepositional locution *pânã la* if it indicates a time or space limit, which is a combination of the preposition *pânã* (< lat. *paene-ad*; indicates the final point, the limit of a space, of time, of an action) (NDULR 2009: 1165) and of the preposition *la* (see Allative case), combining their meanings. In Romanian, the Terminative case (indicating the length of an action) is expressed by the Accusative case, where the direct object is ‘ore [hours]’.

14. The Essive case [ESS]

Crystal defines *essive* as a term used in grammatical description to refer to the type of inflection which expresses a state of being. In Hungarian, this case is present together with its other subtypes. In the Essive case, the noun is used in its basic form and the **-ként** suffix.

Examples:

- (28) **Bohóc-ként** *ismertem meg.*

clown-ESS meet.PST.1SG

‘I met him as a clown.’

L-am cunoscut ca fiind un clovnØ.

PERS.PN.ACC_meet.PST.1SG as be.GER INDEF.ART_clown[NOM.SG]

‘I met him as a clown.’

L-am cunoscut ca un clovnØ.

PERS.PN.ACC_meet.PST.1SG as INDEF.ART_clown[NOM.SG]

‘I met him as a clown.’

- (29) **Orvos-ként** *mondta.*

doctor-ESS say.PST.3SG

‘He said it as a doctor. He gave his medical opinion.’

A spus ca un doctorØ.

say.PST.3SG as INDEF.ART_doctor[NOM.SG]

‘He said it as a doctor. He gave his medical opinion.’

A spus în calitate de doctorØ.

say.PST.3SG in_quality_of INDEF.ART_doctor[NOM.SG]

‘He said it in the quality of being a doctor. He gave his medical opinion.’

- (30) **Péter-ként** *mutakozott be.*

Peter-ESS present_himself.PST.

‘He introduced himself as Peter.’

S-a prezentat ca fiind PeterØ.

PN.REFL_present.PST.3SG as being Peter[NOM]

‘He introduced himself as being Peter.’

S-a prezentat cu nume de PeterØ.

PN.REFL_present.PST.3SG with_name_of Peter[NOM]

‘He introduced himself having the name of Peter.’

S-a prezentat ca PeterØ.

PN.REFL_present.PST.3SG as Peter[NOM]

‘He introduced himself as Peter.’

In all three translations, the preposition **ca** (< Lat. *quam*, having the meanings: ‘in the quality of’, ‘being’, ‘having a function’) (NDULR 2009: 215) is used. In Romanian, it requires the Accusative case.

‘The witch changed the prince into a frog.’

Vrăjitoarea l-a transformat pe prințØ într-o broascăØ.

witch.DEF PERS.PN.ACC_change.PST.3SG PREP.ACC_prince in_INDEF.ART._frog

‘The witch changed the prince into a frog.’

Vrăjitoarea l-a transformat pe prințØ în broascăØ.

witch.DEF PERS.PN.ACC_change.PST.3SG PREP.ACC_prince in_frog

‘The witch changed the prince into a frog.’

In Hungarian, the case is constructed with the help of the noun + the Translative case suffix, whereas in Romanian it is used with a preposition *într-* (*întru*) + indefinite article *o* structure. The preposition *întru* (< Lat. *intro*) has several meanings: it indicates the target or the direction of the movement, it shows the object to which an action or a quality is related, it shows the result of an action or the purpose for the result of the action etc. (NDULR 2009: 765–766). It is also used with the preposition *în*, which in this case indicates the target or the direction of the movement; it may show the purpose (NDULR 2009: 785), just as *întru*.

17. The Comitative-Instrumental case [COMINS]¹⁴

In languages which express grammatical relationships by means of inflections, the term *comitative* refers to the form taken by a noun when it expresses the meaning ‘along with’ or ‘accompanied by’ (Crystal 2008: 87), and the term *instrumental* refers to the form taken by a noun when it expresses the meaning ‘by means of’ (Crystal 2008: 248).

The Hungarian language has both the Comitative and the Instrumental case, but their case suffixes are identical. That is why we discuss the common Comitative-Instrumental case. These case suffixes are *-val/-vel*.

See the following examples:

- (33) *Autó-val megyünk a moziba.*
 car-COMINS go.PRS.1PL DEF.ART_cinema

‘We’re going to the cinema by car.’

Mergem cu mașinăØ la cinematograful.
 go.PRS.1PL PREP.ACC_car[NOM.SG] PREP.ACC_cinema

‘We’re going to the cinema by car.’

- (34) *A kolléganőm-mel sportolok.*
 DEF.ART_colleague-COMINS do_sports.PRS.1SG

‘I do sport with my colleague.’

Fac sportØ cu colegaØ mea.
 do.PRS.1SG_sport[NOM.SG] PREP.ACC_colleague.DEF POSS.PN

‘I do sport with my colleague.’

¹⁴ COMINS is a gloss introduced in this paper for indicating the Comitative-Instrumental case.

In Romanian, this case is formed by the preposition **cu** (< Lat. *cum*), which in this case expresses an association and indicates an instrument (NDULR 2009: 366).

18. The Causal-Final case [CAUFIN]¹⁵

The Causal-Final case is used to express the purpose or the target of an action. The suffix of this case in Hungarian is **-ért**. This case has two meanings and usages: the first one (causative) refers to the meaning ‘because of (somebody/something)’, the second one (final) starts from the fact that the **-ért** suffix is used also meaning ‘for somebody/something’.

- (35) **A gyerekért** késtem el.
 DEF.ART_child_CAUFIN be_late.PST.1SG
 ‘I was late because of the child.’
A gyerek miatt késtem el.
 DEF.ART_child_POST be_late.PST.1SG
 ‘I was late because of the child.’
Am întârziat din cauza copilului.
 be_late.PST.1SG PREP.LOC.GEN child-PERS.PN.GEN
 ‘I was late because of the child.’

To express the meaning of ‘because of’, besides the **-ért** suffix, the postposition **miatt** is also used (moreover, in spoken/colloquial language use, this is more frequent); consequently, the **-ért** suffix could be considered to express the meaning ‘for somebody/something’, i.e. only for a Final case:

- (36) **A gyermekeim-ért** mindent képes vagyok feláldozni.
 DEF.ART_children-FIN everything can sacrifice.INF
 ‘I’m ready to sacrifice everything for my children.’
Sunt dispus să sacrific orice pentru copiii mei.
 be.PRS.1SG_ready SJV.CONJ_sacrifice.PRS.1SG anything
 PREP.ACC_children POSS.PN
 ‘I’m ready to sacrifice everything for my children.’

In Romanian, the Final case of Hungarian is used with the preposition **pentru** (< rom. *printru* < rom. *pre* + *întru* < rom. *pe* + *întru* < lat. *super*, *per* + *intro*), which indicates the purpose, the objective and the beneficiary (NDURL 2009: 1129).

Conclusions

The system of prepositions in the Romanian language is quite ample. For expressing the meaning of the 18 Hungarian noun cases, only 10 prepositions (*ca*,

¹⁵ CAUFIN is a gloss introduced in this paper for indicating the Causal-Final case.

cu, despre, din, dinspre, în, întru, la, pe, pentru) and 4 prepositional locutions (*de la, de pe, până la, pe la*) are used. In the following, we are going to summarize the usage of these prepositions along with their meanings.

The preposition **ca** is used to express a state of being in two cases for the Essive and for the Essive-Modal.

The **cu** preposition expresses a state of being accompanied by something/somebody, or it indicates an instrument; it is used with the Comitative-Instrumental case.

The preposition locution **de la** is used with the Ablative case, which indicates the act of moving away from something. This preposition cumulates the meaning of the preposition *de* and *la*; therefore, it has the meaning of indicating the author or the agent of the action, the provenience, the source of the information.

Another prepositional locution, used for the Delative case, is **de pe**, which cumulates the meanings of the *de* and the *pe* prepositions; therefore, it indicates provenience and the contact with a surface/object.

Despre is a preposition that is also used with the Delative case with the meanings ‘about...’, ‘on...’.

For the Elative case, the preposition **din** is used, which indicates the starting point of a motion; the origin, provenience or appurtenance of something.

Another preposition is **dinspre**, which is used for the Delative and Ablative case, indicating coming from a direction or a place that is a reference point.

The preposition **în** is used for the Inessive, Illative, Superessive and Translative cases, indicating an interior place where something happens, a space that there is a space to move; it also indicates that a state or a movement occurs on the surface or above, and the target or the direction of the movement, showing also a purpose.

The **întru** preposition is also used for the Translative case, with the same meaning as **în**, i.e. it indicates the target or the direction of the movement, or it shows a purpose.

The **la** preposition has also several meanings, and it is used with more cases: Superessive, Adessive and Allative. It can indicate integration in an environment; location, situation, existence in a determined space; contact surface; localization in a defined part of an object; being in a place for a specific activity, the instrument of the action, indicating a space as a possession of somebody or the destination of a movement.

A prepositional locution used for the Terminative case is **până la**, which combines the meaning of the *până* and *la* prepositions (see the meanings of *la* prep.), and indicates the final point, the limit of a space, of time and of an action.

The preposition **pe** is used for the Accusative, Superessive and Sublative cases, being a morphological marker (without lexical meaning) of the Accusative in Romanian, but it also indicates a contact with a surface.

The prepositional locution **pe la** is used to mark the Adessive case only with proper nouns, cumulating the meanings of *pe* and *la*; therefore, it means 'contact with the surface or with the object', it indicates a space as a possession of somebody and a location, situation, existence in a determined space.

The preposition used for expressing one of the Hungarian noun cases is **pentru**. It is used with the Causal-Final case, indicating the purpose, the objective and the beneficiary. All the prepositions used to express the Hungarian cases require the Accusative case in Romanian.

In this paper, we can see the most significant differences between the two languages in expressing a syntactic relation (the Hungarian is an agglutinative, whereas the Romanian is an inflecting language). We could also see the possibilities and methods of expressing the same meaning in the two languages.

Another interesting study of the subject could be the examination of the language use of Hungarian-Romanian bilingual speakers, searching for peculiarities in the usage of these grammatical elements as well as looking for explanations for them. Language contact most probably has an effect on the ways bilinguals apply and use the case system of Hungarian; however, this needs a more ample investigation, which could be the topic of a next study. This paper contains the basic contrastive features between the two languages, aiming at representing the ways Hungarian cases can be translated into Romanian. Further investigations of language contact can start from these strategies and features, and can identify the characteristics of language use in bilingual settings with a special regard to cases.

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Appendix

Hungarian			Romanian		
Case	Case marker (suffix)	Example	Case / structure	Markers	Example
Nominative	-Ø	életØ	Nominative	-Ø	viațaØ
	-t	elefántot, Máriát		non-personal: -Ø personal: unstressed (clitic) personal pronoun in Accusative; preposition pe	elefantØ, ...-o pe MariaØ, l-... pe VasileØ
Accusative			Accusative		
Dative	-nak/-nek	Péternek, Máriának	Dative	masculine: stressed personal pronoun in Dative + noun; feminine: noun + stressed personal pronoun in Dative	lui PetruØ, Mariei
Inessive	-ban/-ben	lakásban	Accusative	preposition în	în casăØ
Illative	-ba/-be	házamba	Accusative	preposition în	în casăØ
Elative	-ból/-ből	anyagból	Accusative	preposition din	din materieØ
	-n/-on/-en/- ön	kéményen, postán, Budapesten, ügyön		preposition pe preposition la preposition în	pe hornØ, la poștăØ, la BudapestaØ, în BudapestaØ, pe cazØ, la cazØ
Superessive			Accusative		

Hungarian			Romanian		
Case	Case marker (suffix)	Example	Case / structure	Markers	Example
Delative	-ról/-ről	mezőről, Péterről	Accusative	preposition despre , preposition dinspre , prepositional locution de pe	de pe câmpØ, dinspre câmpØ, despre PetruØ
Sublative	-ra/-re	ruhára, asztalra	Accusative	preposition pe	pe haineØ, pentru haineØ, pe masăØ
Adessive	-nál/-nél	mozinál, Évánál	Accusative	preposition la , proper noun: preposition pe la	la cinema, la EvaØ, pe la EvaØ
Ablative	-tól/-től	háztól, Traiantól	Accusative	common noun (place) meaning: prepositional locution: de la , preposition: dinspre , proper noun (personal) meaning: prepositional locution: de la	
Allative	-hoz/-hez/- höz	házhoz Évához	Accusative	preposition: la	la domiciliuØ, la EvaØ
Terminative	-ig	óráig, piacig, óráig (how long the action lasts)	Accusative	prepositional locution: până la noun in Accusative case	până la piațăØ, până la oraØ, ore
Essive	-ként	bohócként, orvosként, Péterként	Accusative	preposition: ca	ca clovnØ, ca medicØ, ca PeterØ
			conjunction <i>ca + gerund</i> form of the verb 'to be'	<i>ca fiind + noun</i>	ca fiind clovn, ca fiind Péter
			structures	în calitate de cu nume de	în calitate de medic, cu nume de Peter
Essive- Modal	-ul/-ül	emlékül	Accusative	preposition ca	ca o amintire
Translative	-vá/-vé	békává	Accusative	prepositions întru , în	într-o broască, în broască
Comitative- Instrumental	-val/-vel	autóval kolléganőmmel	Accusative	preposition cu	cu mașină, cu colega
Causal-Final	-ért	gyermekeimért	Accusative	preposition pentru	pentru copiii mei