

Eötvös Loránd University of Arts and Sciences
Faculty of Humanities

Dissertation Abstract

Ágnes Kuna

*Pragmatical description of Hungarian medical recipes as a text-type
between the 16th-17th century
within a functional cognitive framework*

Doctoral School in Linguistics

Head of Doctoral School: Dr. Bárdosi Vilmos CSc.

Hungarian Linguistics Programme

Head of Programme: Dr. Kiss Jenő Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Members of the Dissertation Committee:

Chair: Dr. Szathmári István DSc.

Officially invited reviewers:

Dr. Keszler Borbála DSc.

Dr. Csontos Nóra PhD.

Committee secretary:

Dr. Hámori Ágnes PhD.

Committee members:

Dr. Tátrai Szilárd. PhD.

Dr. Korompay Klára CSc., Dr. Dér Csilla, PhD.

Dissertation supervisor:

Dr. Tolcsvai Nagy Gábor MHAS

2011

„History is not only something of the past,
but includes the present and the future.”

(Taavitsainen–Fitzmaurice 2007: 29)

1. The aim and relevance of the thesis

The thesis investigates the earliest period (16-17th centuries) of the Hungarian medical literature including its wider cultural and social context based on the introduction of the text-type available on all levels of medical textual tradition of the period: the medical recipe. The starting point for the investigation is the recognition of the fact that writings connected to healing are not simply imprints of the past, but also pave the way for a better understanding of the present. Therefore during the investigation of the text-type special emphasis is placed on the developmental history. Even though in the present thesis I am only investigating the time period indicated within the title, I consider them to be a part of a developmental history. The aim of the investigation is to introduce the 16-17th century medical recipe as a text-type within the textual tradition and culture-historical aspects of the European and Hungarian medicinal text tradition, as well as to emphasize the basic pragmatic context of the medical communication of the period.

The investigation of the 16-17th century recipes is relevant from different aspects. On the one hand, the chosen text-type has hardly been dealt with from a linguistic point of view (cf. Keszler forthcoming; Keszler–ifj. Kaán 2010a, 2010b; Kuna 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010), though through its characteristics, extended usage we can get a closer view of the roots and development of scientific language, as well as the specific language use of the healing process of the period. On the other hand, it is important to make a note of how research into text typology has been missing in Hungarian language in all aspects. (cf. Kocsány 1989, 2002). Thirdly, there seems to arise an increasing demand within language history to include a pragmatic, text-based approach in research (cf. Maitz 2000, Maitz–Molnár 2001, Pusztai 1999, Sárosi 2003). The present thesis reflects upon these missing areas, focusing on the 16-17 century medical recipe as a text-type from a pragmatic point of view.

2. The corpus and time setting of the research

The research investigates the early phase of the Hungarian medical recipes' developmental history. The starting point of the time setting is therefore designated by the time, from where we have the first Hungarian medical texts and recipes. So the earliest work examined as a whole is by György Váradi Lencsés *Ars Medica* (1577 k.). The endpoint of the research was terminated in the 17. century. The reason for this is partly due to the fact, that from the 18. century onwards, we find a substantial change in perspective regarding medicine. The institutionalized, scientific medicinal practice gains in importance (which does not mean the total disappearance of empirical folk medicine). The other reason for terminating research with the 17th century is due to the *Pax Corporis* by Ferenc Pápai Páriz (1690; 1695). This hugely significant medical work bears many characteristics of the examined period, quasi summarizes them. Even though the *Pax Corporis* is a piece of medical writing of the **utmost** importance, still, I did not find it fortunate to designate the endpoint of the research in an actual date connected with it. This could suggest that a period was closed with it in the history of Hungarian medicine. The development of healing though cannot be dealt with in periods, but rather as a process (developmental history). This means, that many researched characteristics can be found during the 18th century as well.

The compilation of the corpus was largely defined by the time setting and the availability of the works of the time period. In the researched time period „[...] the handwritten and printed books make up together the first period of Hungarian-language medical literature” (Szlatky 1983: 384). According to this, in the process of compilation of the corpus, I examined both printed and handwritten medical works, researching four of the former, twenty-two of the latter kind.

3. The theoretical basis and thesis statements of the dissertation

The dissertation according to its title and the above introduction, aims to introduce the 16-17th century medical recipe as a text-type. The analysis therefore treats the recipes as a text-type by themselves, which is based on characteristics in connection with historical development, European textual tradition, sociocultural and language community dependent

factors. The main ideas of the dissertation are based on the functional-cognitive approach. According to this, the text-types are cognitive patterns, knowledge representations, which in connection with a given communicative situation become conventionalized and are later activated during linguistic activity. (Kocsány 1989, 2002; Tolcsvai Nagy 2001, 2006). These patterns are not clearly differentiated, the different text-types are interconnected, creating networks. Text-types can then be viewed as changing patterns according to the communicative aims of the language community and the individual (Görlach 2004; Kohnen 2004). This way the social-communicative relevance gains crucial importance in the existence, use and development of text-types, which consequently creates a need for incorporating these aspects into the investigation. (vö. Heinemann 2000, Kocsány 2002).

One of the starting points of the dissertation is also connected to the text-type notion of the cognitive approach. According to this, the text-type is the complex form of knowledge, in this present interpretation a scenario, which entails all aspects of linguistic interaction. (Nothdurft 1986) A further important insight of the research is linguistic variability, which is reflected in linguistic potential, the individual-mental and collective-cultural interactions. (Labov 1966, 1972; Langacker 1987).

In this respect the dissertation formulates the following thesis statements:

1. The medical recipe in the 16-17th centuries is a basic-level text-type, in which the knowledge concerning the concept of USEFUL becomes accessible (in the form of KNOWLEDGE and/or ACTIVITY).
2. The recipe has numerous thematic and tradition-based subtypes, which come into existence by the activation of different facets during the linguistic activity. Through the usual typical co-occurrence of certain characteristics more or less standardised types come about/may come about (possibly creating new text-types as well).
3. The scenario of the text-type is largely based on foreign patterns, which greatly influences the characteristics of the vernacular-language discourse as well. At the same time it is also observable that the borrowed patterns are modified according to the specific needs of the language community.

4. The history of medicine plays a central part in the development and characteristics of the medical recipe, the evolved text-types of the medical text tradition as well as the wider social-cultural context of the healing tradition of the period. These factors and the intentions and schooling of the participants of the interactions greatly influence linguistic constructions.

5. Medicine in the examined period is partly present as science partly as practical activity. The two fields are not sharply divided, but rather closely interconnected. According to this, medical texts focus on KNOWLEDGE and/or ACTIVITY to differing degrees, which is also observable in linguistic representations.

6. This duality of medicine shows close connections with the circle and schooling of the persons performing it. The contemporary texts therefore can be interpreted within the continuum of the scientific and the ordinary, showing close connections. The educational level, aims, circle of addressees on the basis of construction processes in the 16-17th centuries we can differentiate scientific and everyday style types.

7. The analysis of the interconnectedness of style, developmental history of text-type, the organization of subtypes, the related text-types is put into the interpretative and explanatory framework of the scenario of the recipe.

It is observable in the thesis statements of the dissertation as well, that a text-typological analysis demands methodological pluralism both in linguistics as in other fields of science, the integration and unification of which is possible within a cognitive approach.

PAPERS

- 2010 A korai orvosi receptekben fellelhető beszédaktusok kognitív pragmatikai megközelítésben [Speech act analysis of early Hungarian medical recipes with methods of historical pragmatics]. In: Illés-Molnár Márta (et.al.) (eds.): *Vol. of Conference 'Félúton 5'*. Budapest. 109–128
- 2009 Az orvosi vény alakulása a kezdetektől napjainkig [The semiotic changing of medical recipes from beginning to recent years]. In: Balázs Géza – H. Varga Gyula (eds.): *Vol. of Conference 'Semiotica Agriensis 6.* 401–410.
- 2009 Az instrukció funkcionális pragmatikai vizsgálata a 17. századi orvosi receptekben [Analysis of instructions of medical recipes in the 17th century in functional pragmatic approach]. In: Keszler, Borbála – Tátrai, Szilárd (eds.): *Diskurzus a grammatikában, grammatika a diskurzusban.* Budapest: Tinta Könyvkiadó. 332–342.
- 2008 Az orvosi recept mint szövegtípus a 16. századtól napjainkig [The medical recipe as a text-type from the 16th century to recent years]. In: Tátrai, Szilárd – Tolcsvai Nagy, Gábor (eds.): *Szöveg, szövegtípus, nyelvtan.* Budapest: Tinta Könyvkiadó. 270–278.
- 2007 Az orvosi receptről. Beszélt nyelvi elemek a 16–17. századi receptekben [Spoken-language effects of medical recipes in the 16–17th century]. In: *Magyar Nyelvőr* 131/4. 470–479.
- forth. Az orvosi receptek alakulása a társadalmi és kulturális tényezők függvényében a 16. századtól napjainkig [Cultural and social changes of medical recipes between the 16th-21th century]. In: *Vol. of Conference 'Kultúra és nyelv, kulturális nyelvészet – Új nézőpontok a magyar nyelv leírásában 3'*.
- forth. A 16–17. századi orvosi receptek történeti-kognitív pragmatikai megközelítése [Description of medical recipes in the 16-17th century with methods of historical pragmatics]. In: *Vol. of Conference 'A nyelvtörténeti kutatások újabb eredményei VI.'*

PRESENTATIONS

- 2010 Cultural and social changes of medical recipes between the 16th-21th century
Conference: *Culture and Language*, Budapest
- 2010 Pragmatical description of Hungarian medical recipes as a text-type between the 15th-17th century in its socio-historical context.
Conference: *Beyond Dichotomies*, Budapest
- 2009 Description of medical recipes in the 16-17th century with methods of historical pragmatics
Conference: *New perspectives on research of historical linguistics*, Szeged
- 2009 Speech act analysis of early Hungarian medical recipes with methods of historical pragmatics
Conference: *Félúton 5*, Budapest
- 2008 Research of instructions of medical recipes from the 17th century in functional pragmatic approach
Conference: *Discourse in Grammar, Grammar in Discourse*, Budapest
- 2008 The semiotic changing of medical recipes from beginning to recent years
Conference: *Semiotica Agriensis 6*, Eger
- 2008 Pragmatic and text-typological research of medical prescriptions from the 17th century
Conference: *Félúton 4*, Budapest
- 2007 The medical recipes as a text-type from the 16th century to the recent years
Conference: *Text, Text-type, Grammar*, Budapest

A bibliography of the works quoted in the thesis statements of the dissertation

- Görlach, Manfred 2004. *Text-types and the history of English*. Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Heinemann, Wolfgang 2000. Textsorte – Textmuster – Texttyp. In: Brinker (et. al.): *Text- und Gesprächslinguistik. Ein internationales Handbuch zeitgenössischer Forschung. HSK. 16.1*. Berlin – New York: Walter de Gruyter. 507–523.
- Keszler, Borbála (forth.). A meggyőzés eszközei a régi magyar receptekben. In: *Kultúra és nyelv, kulturális nyelvészet – Új nézőpontok a magyar nyelv leírásában 3. konferenciakötet*.
- Keszler, Borbála – ifj. Kaán, Miklós 2010a. Az íny és a szájüreg betegségeinek megnevezése a régi magyar orvosi receptekben. In: Bárdosi Vilmos – Kiss Gábor (szerk.): *Szótárak, szólások, nevek vonzásában. Köszöntőkönyv Fábrián Zsuzsa tiszteletére*. 103–112.
- Keszler, Borbála – ifj. Kaán, Miklós 2010b. A 16–17. századi orvosi receptek nyelvi képe. In: Bárdosi Vilmos (szerk.): *Világkép a nyelvben és a nyelvhasználatban*. 135–146.
- Kohnen, Thomas 2004. Methodological problems in corpus-based historical pragmatics. The case of English directives. In: Aijmer, Karin – Altenberg, Bengt (eds.). *Advances in Corpus Linguistics. Papers from the 23rd International Conference on English Language Research on Computerized Corpora (ICAME 23) Göteborg 22–26 May 2002*. Amsterdam, New York: Rodopi. 237–247.
- Kuna, Ágnes 2007. Az orvosi receptről. Beszélt nyelvi elemek a 16–17. századi receptekben. *Magyar Nyelvőr* 131/4: 470–479.
- Kuna, Ágnes 2008. Az orvosi recept mint szövegtípus a 16. századtól napjainkig. In: Tátrai Szilárd – Tolcsvai Nagy Gábor (szerk.): *Szöveg, szövegtípus, nyelvtan*. Budapest: Tinta Könyvkiadó. 270–278.
- Kuna, Ágnes 2009. Az orvosi vény alakulása a kezdetektől napjainkig. In: Balázs Géza – H. Varga Gyula (szerk.): *Semiotica Agriensis 6. konferenciakötet*. Eger: Líceum Kiadó. 401–410.
- Kuna, Ágnes 2010. A korai orvosi receptekben fellelhető beszédaktusok kognitív pragmatikai megközelítésben. In: Illés-Molnár Márta (et.al.) (szerk.): *Félúton 5. konferenciakötet*. Budapest. 109–128.
- Kocsány, Piroska 1989. Szövegnyelvészet vagy szövegtípusok nyelvészeté? *Filológiai Közlöny* 26–43.

- Kocsány, Piroska 2002. *Szöveg, szövegtípus, jelentés: A mondás mint szövegtípus.* Nyelvtudományi Értekezések 151. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó.
- Labov, William 1966. The linguistic variable as a structural unit. *Linguistics Review* 3: 4–22.
- Labov, William 1972. *Sociolinguistics patterns.* Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Langacker, Ronald W. 1987. *Foundations of cognitive grammar 1. Theoretical prerequisites.* Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Maitz, Péter 2000. A nyelvtörténetírás elvi kívánalmairól a német nyelv magyarországi története kapcsán. *Magyar Nyelvőr* 124: 501–513.
- Maitz, Péter – Molnár, Anna 2001. Nyelvtörténetírás és történeti szövegnyelvészet. In: Csatár Péter – Maitz Péter – Tronka Krisztián (szerk.): *A nyelvtantól a szövegtanig. Tanulmányok Kocsány Piroska tiszteletére.* Debrecen: Kossuth Egyetemi Kiadó. 322–335.
- Pusztai, Ferenc 1999. Beszélt nyelv a középmagyarban. *Névtani Értesítő* 21: 380–386.
- Sárosi, Zsófia 2003. Történeti szociopragmatika – magyar nyelvtörténet más megközelítésben. *Magyar Nyelv* 434–448.
- Taavitsainen, Irma – Fitzmaurice, Susan 2007. Historical pragmatics: what is it and how to do it. In: Fitzmaurice, Susan – Taavitsainen, Irma (eds.): *Methods in historical pragmatics.* Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter. 11–35.
- Tolcsvai Nagy, Gábor 2001. *A magyar nyelv szövegtana.* Budapest: Nemzeti Tankönyvkiadó.
- Tolcsvai Nagy, Gábor 2006. A szövegtipológia megalapozása kognitív nyelvészeti keretben. In: Tolcsvai Nagy Gábor (szerk.): *Szöveg és típus. Szövegtipológiai tanulmányok.* Budapest: Tinta Könyvkiadó. 64–90.