Investigating how Hungarian- and German-speaking learners of Finnish use the object cases

The distinction between the restrictive and partitive case of the Finnish object is often considered as one of the most difficult parts of Finnish grammar to learn. But why it is so difficult for Hungarian and German students to learn how to use the Finnish object cases? In my paper I analyse Hungarian and German students' use of Finnish object cases: in which syntactic contexts do they use the restrictive object and when do they use the partitive? I believe that the mistakes of Hungarian and German students of Finnish may (at least partly) result from the structural differences between the three languages in expressing object cases, definiteness / indefiniteness, and aspect.

Keywords: Finnish, object case, accusative, partitive, definite.

ERZSÉBET PANKA