

Functions of diminutives

This paper deals with the formation of diminutives with evaluative contents (amelioratives, endearment, euphemism, affection, pejoratives, denigration etc.). The evaluative constructions in Hungarian sometimes cross the boundaries of morphology (they not always can be numbered among word formation processes), morphology still plays a dominant role in the formation of evaluatives, but the role of pragmatics seems to be central part too. Another central issue is the wide set of semantic nuances that usually accompany pejoratives and amelioratives. The aim of this paper is to investigate the diminutives in Hungarian which is a complex task considering the vast diversity of their pragmatic functions and nuances of their meanings. The author tries to demonstrate how and where the three disciplines of morphology, semantics and pragmatics meet.

Keywords: morphology, diminutives, Hungarian language

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