

“This vague question is of little use to our Philology...”
Kazinczy on the comparative language theory of Sajnovics

As it is well known, Kazinczy rejected Sajnovics’s theory of the kinship of Hungarian and Finno-Ugric. The paper aims to highlight two previously un-emphasized reasons for the rejection. First, the paper presents Kazinczy’s notes on Volume VI of *Beschreibung einer Reise durch Deutschland und die Schweiz im Jahre 1781* by Christoph Friedrich Nicolai, published in 1785. It can be observed that the arguments used by Nicolai to reject the theory of Sajnovics show similarities to Kazinczy’s own views, set out in the article *A’ Nyelv’, az Irás’ feltalálása*. Another observation of the paper is that Kazinczy’s skepticism towards the theory of Sajnovics came down to the prominent role of the principle of euphony. Kazinczy regards the aesthetic nature of languages as highly important and, as he put it, it is little or no use concerning oneself with such an obscure question.

Keywords: *Kazinczy, Sajnovics, Nicolai, euphony*

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