

**20th International Lexical-Functional  
Grammar Conference**

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**On a realistic LFG treatment of the  
periphrastic IRREALIS MOOD in Hungarian**

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# 1. Introduction

# 1.1. Introduction

## Goals of the talk

1. to develop and implement an analysis of the **Hungarian periphrastic irrealis mood** in the framework of Lexical-Functional Grammar by
  - subscribing to the **paradigmatic** (= inferential-realizational) **view** of morphology/morphosyntax **and**
  - formally maintaining LFG's classical synthetic notion of a morphological word (= **one-word lexical entry strategy**)
2. to posit it in a **broader** cross-linguistic and cross-theoretical **context**

# 1.2. Introduction

## Structure of the presentation

1. Introduction
2. The data
3. The challenge
4. The paradigmatic approach
5. Two analyses in LFG
6. Paradigms in HPSG
7. Conclusion

## **2. The data**

## 2.1. The data

- Hungarian **conditional** verb forms (cf. *would see*) are **synthetic**
- **irrealis** verb forms (cf. *would have seen*) are systematically **analytic**: they use a two-word pattern
  - the first word is the conjugated past tense form of the lexical verb
  - the second word is the combination of one of the stems of the copula *van* 'be' (*vol-*) and the conditional marker (*-na*)

V-PAST-AGREEMENT    VOLNA

→ formally, Hungarian encodes **irrealis** mood periphrastically via the combination of two words and two morphosyntactic features: **PAST** and **CONDITIONAL**

## 2.2. The data

### the two singular & indefinite paradigms

**conditional**, indef. **irrealis**, indef.  
'would see' 'would have seen'

*lát-né-k*  
see-COND-1SG

*lát-ná-l*  
see-COND-2SG

*lát-na*  
see-COND.3SG

*lát-t-am* *vol-na*  
see-PAST-1SG be-COND

*lát-t-ál* *vol-na*  
see-PAST-2SG be-COND

*lát-ott* *vol-na*  
see-PAST.3SG be-COND

**volna** is also a member of the **conditional** paradigm:

*vol-né-k* be-COND-1SG

*vol-ná-l* be-COND-2SG

*vol-na* be-COND.3SG

earlier Hungarian had several analytic tense form complexes, e.g.:

(a) PRES&AGR + PAST  
*megy-ek* *vala*  
go-PRES.1SG VALA  
ca. 'I was going'

(b) PAST&AGR + PAST  
*men-t-em* *vala/volt*  
go-PAST-1SG VALA/VOLT  
ca. 'I had gone'

for Mari and Udmurt counterparts, see below





# **3. The challenge**

## 3.1. The challenge

- ideally, the two conditional **paradigms** (analytic vs. synthetic) should be treated in a uniform manner

(1) *lát-t-am*      *vol-na*  
see-PAST-1SG BE-COND  
'I would have seen'

(2) *lát-né-k*  
see-COND-1SG  
'I would see'

BUT:

- lexical forms are assumed to be synthetic (morphological) words in LFG
- in addition, this irrealis mood is **non-compositional**:

PAST + COND → IRREALIS



(formally, morpho-phonologically a genuine past tense morpheme, BUT not semantically/functionally: compatibility with present & future)

## **4. The paradigmatic approach**

## 4.1. The paradigmatic approach

- **Matthews (1991)**
- **Vincent & Börjars (1996)**: LFG - a treatment of suppletion and **periphrasis** at *f-structure*, phenomena from Kashmiri, and comparative adjectives and adverbs in Latin and Romance  
(compositional)
- **Börjars et al. (1997)**
- **Ackerman & Webelhuth (1998)**
- **Ackerman & Stump (2004)**
- **Ackerman et al. (2011)**
- **Spencer (2001, 2003, 2006)**
- **Stump (2002, 2006)**
- **Bonami and Samvelian (2009)**:  
HPSG (Persian complex predicates)
- **Bonami & Webelhuth (2012)**:  
HPSG (English, German and French verbal complexes)

the programmatic development of  
the **inferential-realizational model**

## 4.2. The paradigmatic approach

### Ackerman & Stump (2004: 115)

- A **lexeme** may be realized **synthetically** (as a single syntactic atom) or **periphrastically** (by two or more syntactic atoms co-occurring in a c-structure).
- The **contentive information** associated with a **periphrase** is **not determined by** the contentive information associated with its individual, syntactically independent parts through the mediation of **unification** principles defined on syntactic structures; rather, the contentive information associated with a periphrase is specified morpholexically. That is, *syntactic principles of constituency and linearity determine the distribution of a periphrase's individual parts, but not the functional information which that periphrase expresses.*

[emphasis mine, TL]

## 4.3. The paradigmatic approach

Ackerman & Stump (2004: 116, Fn. 8)

- Minimally, within LFG the **possibility of multi-word lexical items requires modifying the conventions used for annotating c-structure expressions associated with single-word lexical items** so that appropriate lexical information will produce well-formed f-structures. We **leave these sorts of implementational issues to another forum** in favor of developing general arguments for the morphological status of periphrasis.

[emphasis mine, TL]

## 4.4. The paradigmatic approach

Ackerman & Stump (2004: 142)

one of the sufficient (but not necessary) criteria for the identification of periphrases: **noncompositionality**

- *If the morphosyntactic property set associated with an analytic combination C is not the composition of the property sets associated with its parts, then is a periphrase.*

second past realization in Eastern dialects of Mari (Cheremis)	
AFFIRMATIVE	NEGATIVE
<i>kol-en-am</i> die-PAST-1SG 'I died'	<i>kol-en o-m-əl</i> die-GER be-1SG-NOT 'I didn't die'
ordinary synthetic form	<b>gerund</b> + <b>negated</b> and <b>conjugated present</b> tense <b>copula</b> = <b>second past</b>

## 4.5. The paradigmatic approach

Ackerman & Stump (2004: 146)

Udmurt: imperfective past tense	
FUTURE	IMPERFECTIVE PAST
<i>mino</i> 'I will go' <i>minod</i> 'you will go' <i>minoz</i> '(s)he will go'	<i>mino val</i> 'I used to go (long ago)' <i>minod val</i> 'you used to go (long ago)' <i>minoz val</i> '(s)he used to go (long ago)'
	<b>future</b> -tense form (inflected for subject agreement) + <b>invariant past</b> form <i>val</i> of the copula = <b>imperfective past</b> tense

cf. Hungarian:

**PAST & AGR + COND → IRREALIS**  
† **PRES & AGR + PAST → PAST CONTINUOUS**  
† **PAST & AGR + PAST → PAST PERFECT**



## **5. Two LFG analyses**

# 5.1. Two LFG analyses

## general considerations

- Lexical Integrity Principle (Bresnan 1982) → *both* theoretical and implementational aspects
  - theoretical: the classical view
  - implementational: the architecture of XLE
- one (morphological) word = one synthetic form = one lexical item = one syntactic atom

## 5.2. Two LFG analyses

### (A) a morpheme-based solution: a classical LFG treatment

(1) *lát***t***ál*, V ‘see <(↑SUBJ) (↑OBJ)>’

(↑SUBJ PERS)= 2

(↑SUBJ NUM)= SG

(↑OBJ DEF)= -

(↑TENSE)= PAST

{ (↑MOOD)= INDICATIVE

| (↑MOOD) =<sub>C</sub> CONDITIONAL

(↑PRT FORM) =<sub>C</sub> VOLNA }.

(2) *volna*, PRT

(↑PRT FORM) = VOLNA

(↑TENSE)=<sub>C</sub> PAST

(↑MOOD)= CONDITIONAL.

implemented in XLE  
in **Laczkó & Rákosi**  
**(2008-2013):**

past + conditional =  
irrealis (face values)

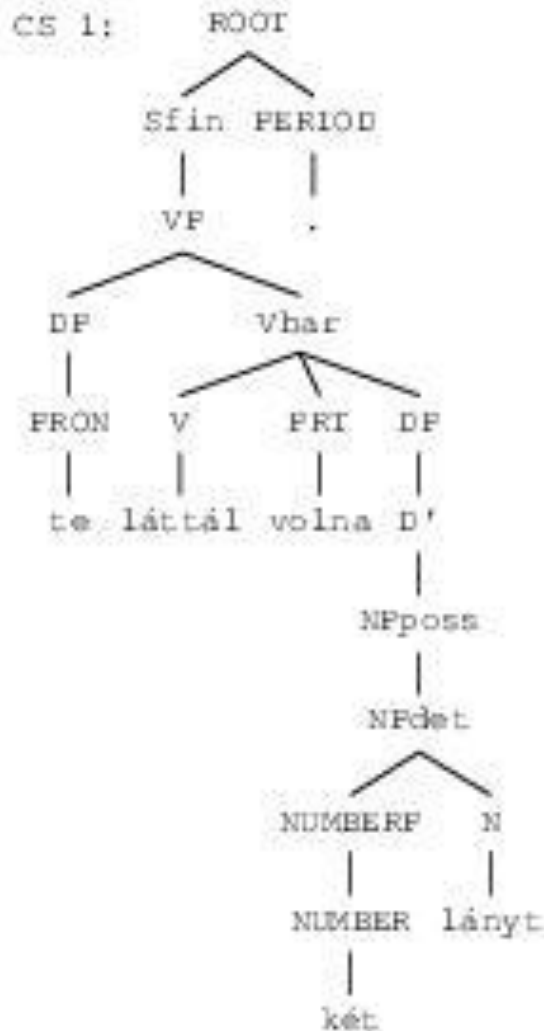
*associated with  
the +Past tag of XLE’s  
morphological analyzer*

**the major problem:**

- semantically (functionally):  
~past  
→ inappropriate f-structure

## 5.3. Two LFG analyses

### (A) a morpheme-based solution: XLE implementation



*Te lát-t-ál*                      *volna két lány-t.*  
 you see-PAST-2SG.INDEF    VOLNA two girl-ACC  
 'You would have seen two girls.'

"Te láttál volna két lányt."

[	PRED	'lát<[2:pro], [108:lány]>'	]															
SUBJ	2	[ <table border="1"> <tr> <td>PRED</td> <td>'pro'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CASE</td> <td>nom, NUM sg, PERS 2, PRON-TYPE pers</td> </tr> </table>	PRED	'pro'	CASE	nom, NUM sg, PERS 2, PRON-TYPE pers	]											
PRED	'pro'																	
CASE	nom, NUM sg, PERS 2, PRON-TYPE pers																	
OBJ		[ <table border="1"> <tr> <td>PRED</td> <td>'lány'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ANJUNCT</td> <td>{                     <table border="1"> <tr> <td>PRED</td> <td>'két'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CASE</td> <td>nom, NUM sg</td> </tr> </table> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>GLOSS</td> <td>[TRANS girl]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NTYPE</td> <td>[                     NSEM [COMMON count]                     NSYN common                 ]</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>108</td> <td>[CASE acc, DEF -, NUM sg, PERS 3]</td> </tr> </table>	PRED	'lány'	ANJUNCT	{ <table border="1"> <tr> <td>PRED</td> <td>'két'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CASE</td> <td>nom, NUM sg</td> </tr> </table>	PRED	'két'	CASE	nom, NUM sg	GLOSS	[TRANS girl]	NTYPE	[                     NSEM [COMMON count]                     NSYN common                 ]		108	[CASE acc, DEF -, NUM sg, PERS 3]	]
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	108	[CASE acc, DEF -, NUM sg, PERS 3]																
FOCUS		[2:pro]																
GLOSS		[TRANS see]																
TNS-ASP		[MOOD conditional, TENSE past]																
29	FRT-FORM	volna, SIMT-TYPE decl																

## 5.4. Two LFG analyses

### B) a realization-based solution (1)

motivation: the treatment of certain **particle-verb constructions** in Laczkó (2013) ( $\Leftrightarrow$  Forst et al. (2010) and Laczkó & Rákosi (2011))

- (1) **ki** PRT XLE  
((↑ DIR) = out)  
(↑PRT-FORM)= ki  
(↑CHECK \_PRT-VERB) =c +.
- (2) **mászik** V XLE  
(↑PRED)= 'crawl-out < (↑SUBJ) (↑OBL) >'  
(↑CHECK \_PRT-VERB) = +  
(↑PRT-FORM)=c ki  
(↑ DIR) =c out.
- (3) **fejez** V \*  
(↑PRED)= 'express <(↑SUBJ) (↑OBJ)>'  
(↑CHECK \_PRT-VERB) = +  
(↑PRT-FORM)=c ki.
- \*fej-ez  
head-Vsuf
- 

**ki # mászik**  
out # crawl  
'crawl out (of sg)'

**ki # fej-ez**  
out # head-Vsuf  
'express'

## 5.5. Two LFG analyses

### B) a realization-based solution (2)

(1) lát<sup>t</sup>ál, V ‘see <(↑SUBJ) (↑OBJ)>’

(↑SUBJ PERS)= 2

(↑SUBJ NUM)= SG

(↑OBJ DEF)= -

{ (↑TENSE)= PAST

(↑MOOD)= INDICATIVE

| (↑MOOD)= IRREALIS

(↑CHECK \_PRT-VERB)= +

(↑PRT FORM)=<sub>C</sub> VOLNA }.

all the specifications of the given **paradigmatic slot** are encoded in the lexical verb's entry

associated with the *+Past* tag of the morphological analyzer

(2) volna, PRT

(↑PRT FORM)= VOLNA

(↑CHECK \_PRT-VERB)=<sub>C</sub> +.

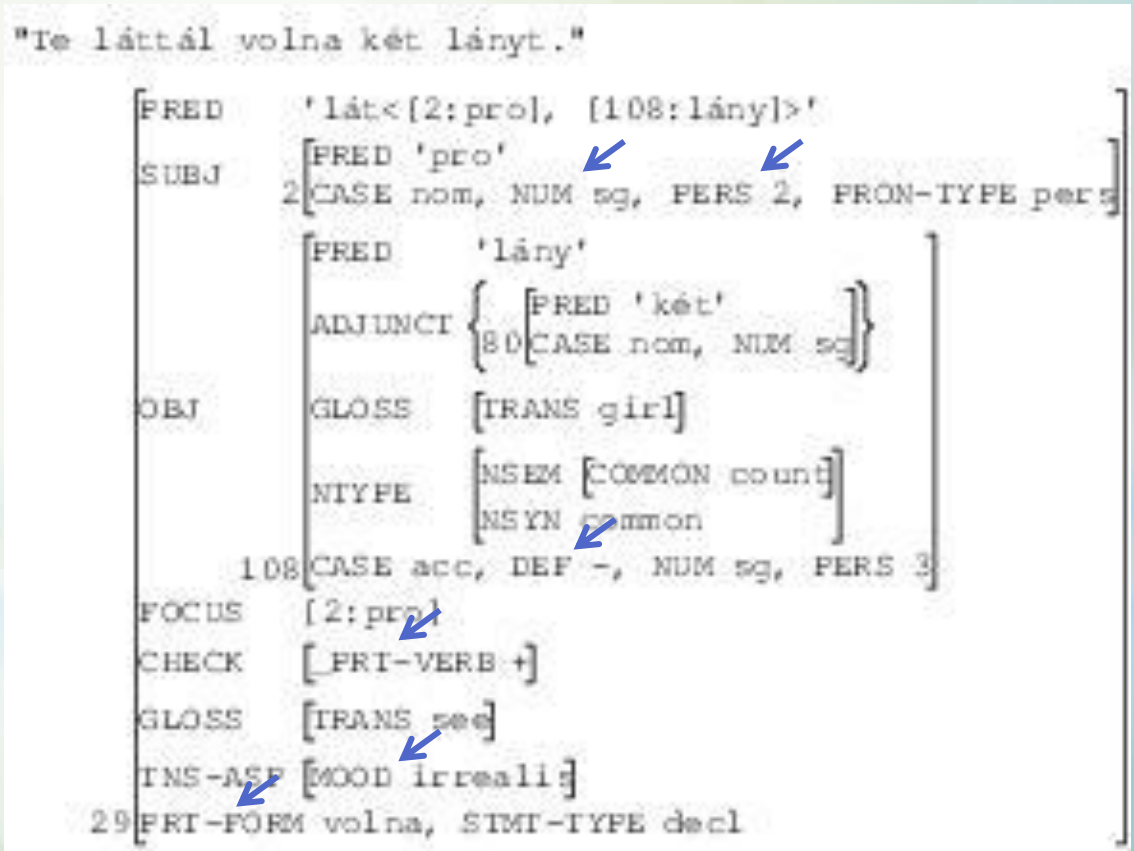
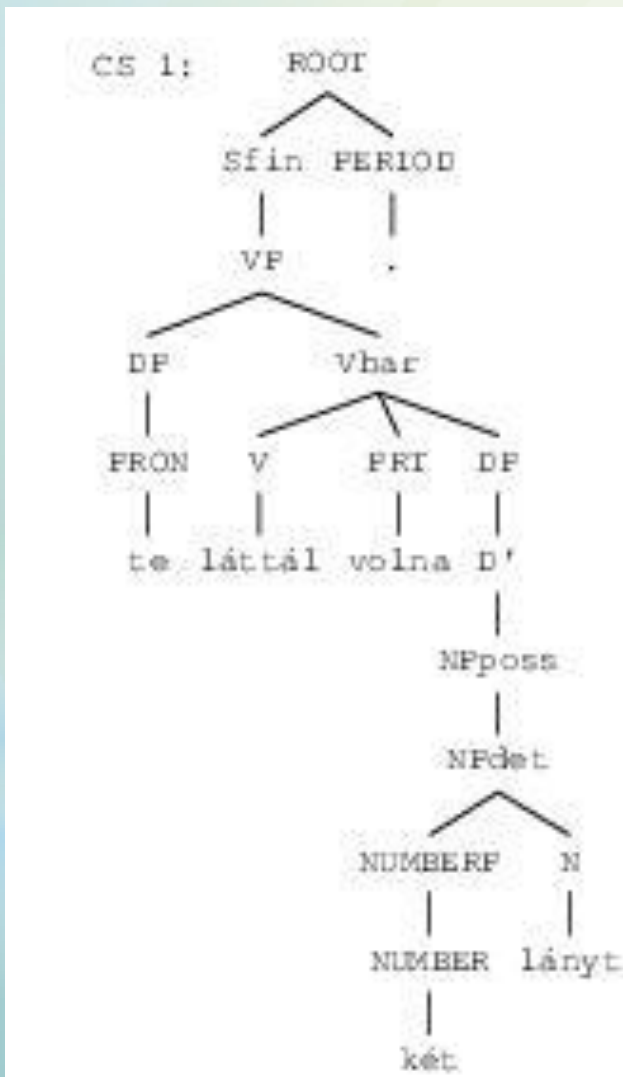
it only has a form feature

cf. the treatment of PVCs, in Forst et al. (2010), Laczkó & Rákosi (2011), Laczkó (2013)

# 5.6. Two LFG analyses

## B) a realization-based solution (3): XLE implementation

*Te lát-t-ál*                                      *volna két lány-t.*  
you see-PAST-2SG.INDEF    VOLNA two    girl-ACC  
‘You would have seen two girls.’



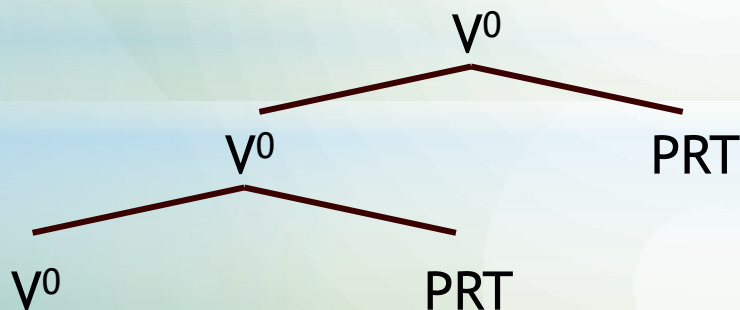
## 5.7. Two LFG analyses

### the phrase structure issue

□ the crucial assumption:

- **preverbs** of particle-verb constructions
- ***volna***
- ***is*** ('also')
- ***csak*** ('only')
- ***-e*** (yes-no question marker)

belong to the non-projecting category PRT (cf. Toivonen (2001))





# 6. Paradigms in HPSG

## 6.1. Paradigms in HPSG

### **Bonami and Samvelian (2009)**

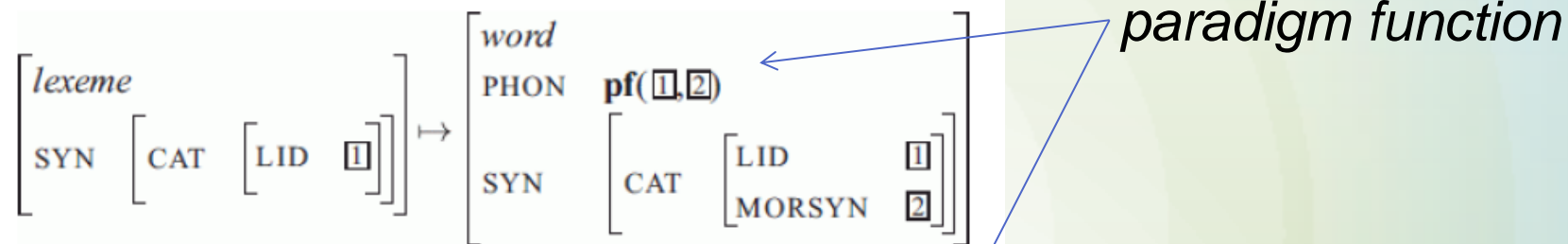
- on Persian complex predicates

### **Bonami & Webelhuth (2012)**

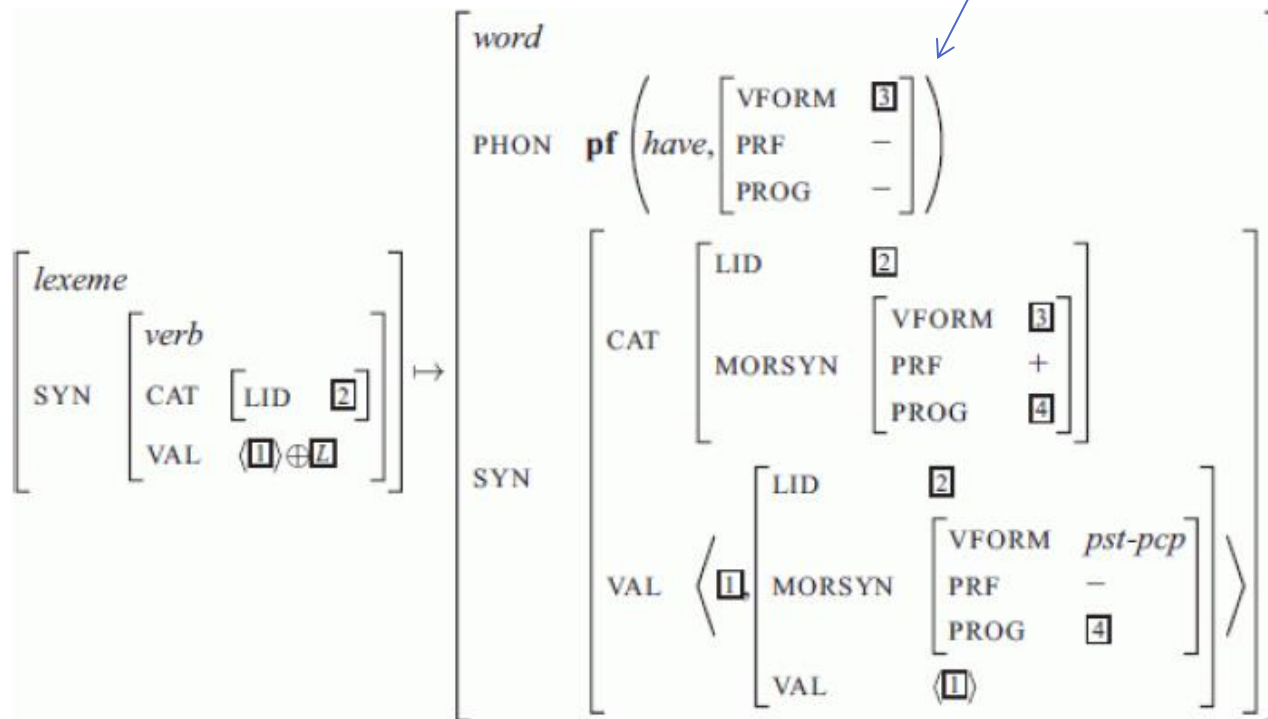
- on English, German and French verbal complexes

## 6.2. Paradigms in HPSG

Bonami & Webelhuth (2012)

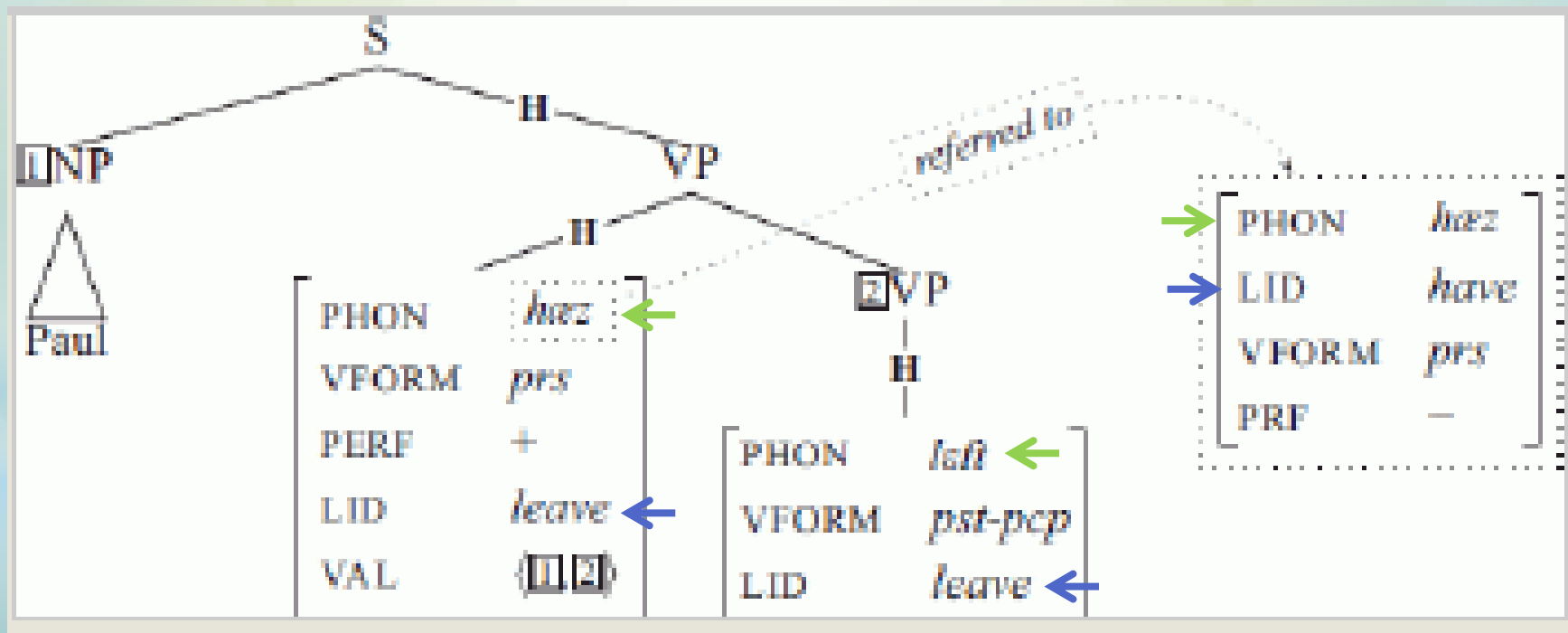


(37) The perfect periphrase in English



## 6.3. Paradigms in HPSG

- “the perfect word constructs its **phonology in an unusual way**: instead of feeding the **pf** (•) function with its own LID, **it provides the LID of LEAVE** instead” [my emphasis]
- cf. my FORM feature



Paul has left.

Paul **has** a book.

# 7. Conclusion

## 7.1. Conclusion

1. This analysis spells out the **inferential-realizational approach to periphrasis** advocated by Ackerman & Webelhuth (1998) and Ackerman et al. (2011), among others, in an LFG framework *in this particular inflectional domain*.
2. It leaves a basic aspect of the widely accepted, *classical view* of lexical encoding in LFG intact: by using an appropriate *checking and cross-referencing* mechanism in the relevant lexical forms, it can *avoid* recourse to *multiple word lexical entries*, which would pose rather severe problems for LFG's general morphological assumptions as well as for implementation. For a discussion, see Laczkó & Rákosi (2011, 2013).
3. The devices can be argued to be *motivated* and justified independently, again, see Laczkó & Rákosi (2011, 2013) for the treatment of *derivational processes* in the case of non-compositional PVCs, and Laczkó (2013) for both compositional and non-compositional PVCs.

## 7.2. Conclusion

4. This analysis is part of my larger project of developing an LFG proposal for treating several categories as *non-projecting words*, in the (modified) sense of Toivonen (2001), or *minor categories*, in the sense of Dalrymple (2001).
  - so far: preverbs, now: *volna*, later: *nem* ‘not’, *is* ‘also’, *-e* ‘QM’, *csak* ‘only’, etc.
5. Butt et al. (2004), Frank & Zaenen (2004), etc. – m-structure
6. Dalrymple (2015, talk at LFG15, day 2)

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# Appendix

(1) *fog-ok me-nni*  
will-1SG go-INF  
'I will go'

- 'will' is inflected for (subject-verb) agreement, and it is V ( $\Leftrightarrow$  I or PRT), see Laczko (2014)
- both elements are Vs and they are co-heads  $\rightarrow$  the FORM constraint wouldn't work here ( $\Leftrightarrow$  *volna*)

(2)  $menni_1$ , V 'GO < ( $\uparrow$  SUBJ) ( $\uparrow$  OBL) >'  
( $\uparrow$  SUBJ NUM)=c sg  
( $\uparrow$  SUBJ PERS)=c 1  
( $\uparrow$  TENSE)=c FUT  
( $\uparrow$  DEF)=c –

- the TENSE constraint requires the presence of (always finite) *fog* 'will'
- the specifications of the entire paradigmatic slot are encoded in the lexical form of the infinitive; however, here by dint of constraining equations

## 4.6. The paradigmatic approach

- in all these cases a form of the copula is involved
  - Hungarian, Udmurt: the copula form is invariant and the lexical verb is conjugated
  - Mari: the lexical verb form is invariant and the copula is conjugated
  - there are also instances when the encoding of agreement is done jointly by the two elements (person vs. number)
  - the two elements are non-compositional AND there is (possibly unpredictable) variation in the locus of encoding conjugation
- motivation for a paradigmatic approach

## 4.7. The paradigmatic approach

Taxonomy of lexicalist approaches (Ackerman et al. 2011)		Lexical modification	Morpholexical inflection	Unary expression
Classical LFG (A)	Bresnan	YES	YES	YES
Some recent LFG views (B)	Alsina, Bresnan, Butt	NO	YES	YES
Realization-based lexicalism (C)	Ackerman, Ackerman et al.	YES [yes]	YES [yes]	NO [yes];[yes]

(A) Bresnan (1982)

(B) Alsina (1992), Bresnan (2001), Butt (2003), partially (PVCs): Forst et al. (2010), Laczkó & Rákosi (2011, 2013)

(C) Ackerman (1987, 2003), Ackerman & Webelhuth (1998), Ackerman et al. (2011), [Laczkó \(2013\)](#)



## 4.8. The paradigmatic approach

(C) Ackerman (1987, 2003)

Ackerman, Stump & Webelhuth (2011:16)

- Only **morphological** and not syntactic **rules** can associate **morphosyntactic content** with a **lexeme's realizations** (= the principle of morpholexical inflection).
- **the paradigmatic view, TL: OK**
- **Lexemes** tend to be expressed by single **synthetic word** forms but can also be expressed by **combinations of words** ⇔ **(B)** (cf. the classical notion of a *morphological word*).
- **TL – aim here: to reconcile the paradigmatic view with the classical notion of a(n obligatorily synthetic) lexical form**

## 4.9. The paradigmatic approach

Ackerman (2003) on Hungarian particle-verb constructions (PVCs):

**Morphological Expression** (Ackerman & Webelhuth 1998)

### ***Synthetic realization principle***

- Where the realization  $w$  of  $\langle L, \delta \rangle$  is a synthetic member of category  $X$ ,  $w$  may be inserted as the head of  $XP$ .

### ***Periphrastic realization principle***

- Where the realization  $w_1 w_2$  of  $\langle L, \delta \rangle$  is periphrastic and  $w_1$  and  $w_2$  belong to the respective categories  $X$  and  $Y$ ,  $w_1$  and  $w_2$  may be inserted as the heads of the respective nodes  $X(P)$  and  $Y(P)$ .
- [ $\delta$  = either ***morphosyntactic*** or ***derivational*** properties]

PROGRAMMATIC FOR HUNGARIAN PVCs AND LFG → THEORETICAL AND IMPLEMENTATIONAL CHALLENGES FOR LFG

LFG-XLE solutions: Forst et al. (2010), Laczkó & Rákosi (2011), Laczkó (2013)

## 7.2. Conclusion

4. This analysis is part of my larger project of developing an LFG proposal for treating several categories as *non-projecting words*, in the (modified) sense of Toivonen (2001), or *minor categories*, in the sense of Dalrymple (2001).
  - so far: preverbs, now: *volna*, later: *nem* ‘not’, *is* ‘also’, *-e* ‘QM’, *csak* ‘only’, etc.
5. The construction type shown in (1) requires an entirely different treatment.
  - (1) *fog-ok me-nni*  
will-1SG go-INF  
‘I will go’
    - ‘will’ is
      - inflected for (subject–verb) agreement
      - of category V (and not Infl or PRT), see Laczkó (2014)