Using Praat and ELAN for the functional annotation and query of spoken discourse markers

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Corpus material

Multimodal HuComTech corpus (Hungarian only)

- the corpus was originally designed to study the interrelation of the multimodal aspects (prosody, visual signals, etc.) of spontaneous humanhuman interaction
- audio and video material with aligned speech transcript and multi-level annotation (50 hours of video and audio recordings of 111 formal and 111 informal dialogues, wordcount = approx. 450.000 tokens), a webbased SQL database (metadata in Metashare and a few files in the Language Archive)

DM annnotated parts of the corpus:

• 22 casual conversations + 22 simulated job interviewees

22 Praat textgrids (involving audio and automatic prosodic annotation) and 22 eaf files (involving audio, video, pragmatic, DM, and automatic prosodic annotation) Number of tokens of DMs segmented:

- *Mondjuk (~say)*: 208
- Ugye (~*is that so*?): 121
- Amúgy (~otherwise): 87

Examples of (peripheral) multifunctional DMs/ PMs – ugye (~*is that so?*)

- High frequency of (peripheral) DMs in our corpus with multiple functions (such as *well, let's say, you know, of course* in English) →
- *"BA-s hallgató vagyok ugye ezt a 3 éves képzést csinálom". (evidentiality m.)* ('I'm a BA student *DM^{ugye} I do this three-year course.'*) (HuComTech, 006_I);
- *"Pestre fogsz költözni, ugye?"*

('You're moving to Pest, **DM**^{ugye}?') (HuComTech, 085_I) (checking info.)

- *"Boldog élmény volt, mikor elhoztuk, ugye egy <egy> sharpeiről van szó, {b} és hát ilyen kis pici {l} volt"*
- (It was a happy memory when we took him (the dog) home, it's **DM_ugye** a shar pei, and so he was tiny like that) (HuComTech 016_I) (background info, inserted comment, voice break)

Examples of (peripheral) multifunctional DMs/ PMs – *mondjuk ('let's say')*

markers of lexical search or approximation as own speech management functions (can be glossed as *about, like*):
"gyorsan megy a motorom mondjuk 120–140-nel"
(*'my bike is really fast, it can do DM^{mondjuk} 120–140 kmphs'*) (HuComTech, 017_I)

 markers of concession (can be glossed as although, but): "szeretek a belvárosban élni mondjuk elég nagy a szmog"

 (*'I like living in the city centre DM^{mondjuk} the air is polluted*') (HuComTech, 019_I)

- \rightarrow "Problem" of multifunctionality \rightarrow need for disambiguation \rightarrow
- → Disambiguation of the actual function of the DM/PM is possible using multimodal contextual cues

Research questions and queries

Can we distinguish different functions relying on multimodal (nonverbal, nonlexical) contextual cues?

Research questions that can be answered using multilayer queries in ELAN: Is there a significant relation/correspondence between the discoursepragmatic function of a DM/PM and

- 1. The simultaneous manual gesticulation/hand movements of the speaker
- 2. Gaze direction of the speaker (eye contact or diverted gaze)
- 3. Duration of the DM
- 4. Pause preceding the DM (phonological independence)
- 5. Prosodic features of the DM and its host unit
- 6. Facial expression (Ekman-Friesen taxonomy)

Hypothesis: the actual function of a multifunctional DM/PM can be predicted based on its position in the turn, duration, prosodic features, and the nonverbal behaviour of the spekaer (gaze direction, hand movements)

Methods

- **Segmentation** of the selected words in the speech transcript
- Tagging discourse-pragmatic functions
- Low-level prosodic features and temporal features (durations, pitch movements and preceding pauses) were extracted from the segmented sound files (.wav) using **Praat and Prosogram scripts**, and the results were later **exported into ELAN** for querying.
- The nonverbal-visual features (gaze direction, facial expression, hand gestures) of the speaker's behaviour were extracted from the manually-performed video annotations of the recordings and can be automatically queried using the **ELAN** software.
- The queries on the relation of each functions and each nonverbal features were run separately and were ultimately joined in contingency tables for statistical analysis.

User interface of DM segmentation in ELAN

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Criteria that a functional DM annotation model should meet:

- it should be comprehensive and multi-layered covering all domains of discourse
- the subcategories (labels) within the layers should be clear-cut, easily distinguishable and mutually exclusive

The **annotation tool, ELAN 4.6.1** (Brugman-Russel 2004) enables **tagging multiple functions to a single DM**, which is necessary because most spoken DMs simultaneously perform multiple functions.

Our functional DM annotation taxonomy

In our framework, a single DM can be described in several domains of discourse along the following aspects of interaction:

•Own Speech Management: lexical search, reformulation, giving example, explanation

•Attitude Marking: approximation, emphasis, PFM_booster, PFM_hedge, rhetorical question

•Interpersonal Functions: agreement, emphasis, asking for reassurance, expressing sympathy

•Structural Conversation Management: *turn-take* (distinction of *preferred* and *dispreferred second pair parts*), *turn-keep, turn-give (end-of-turn),* (listener's) backchannel

•**Thematic Control:** introducing *topic initiation, topic elaboration, topic change, marking concession*

•Information Management: signalling new information, evidentiality marker

Methods: Editing the controlled vocabulary for annotation in ELAN 4.5.1

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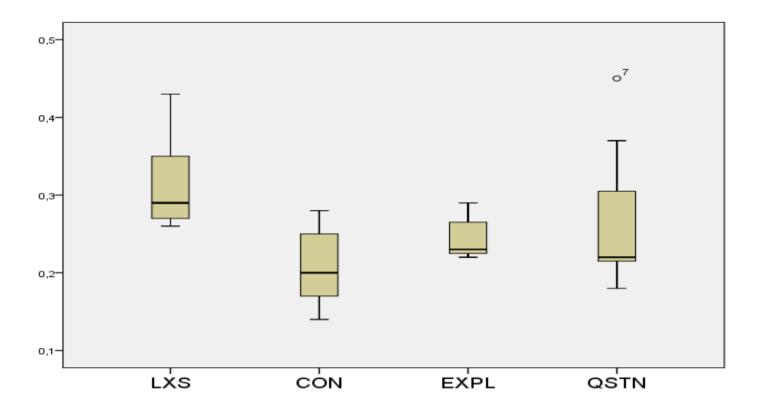
Querying the relation of duration and discourse function

Our hypothesis about the duration of the various functions of the DM mondjuk (*let's say*):

 Tokens of mondjuk (let's say) expressing lexical search and approximation is expected to be realized longer than tokens of mondjuk expressing concession

Distribution of the duration of DMS with different functions

Duration of DMs



independent samples t-test on *mondjuk (say)*: significant independent samples t-test on *ugye (is that so?)*: not significant

Automatic silence annotation in Praat

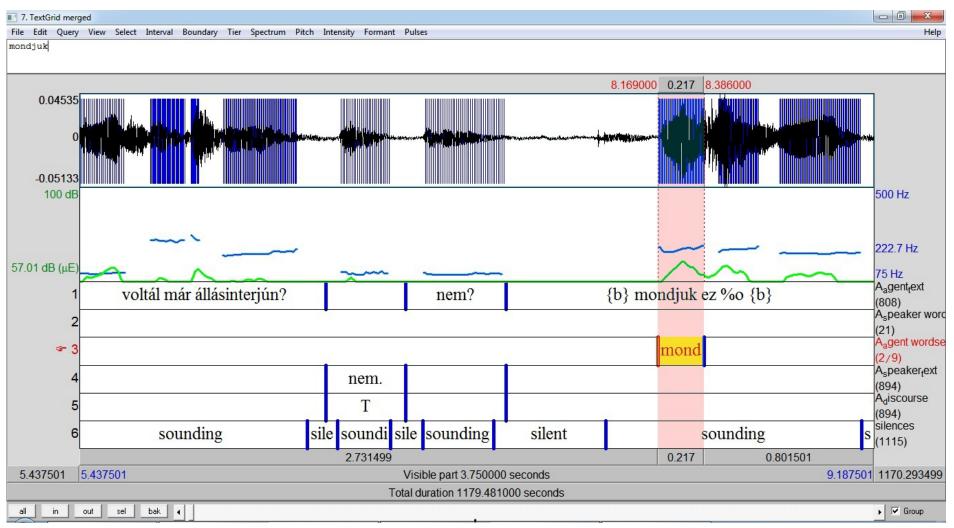
Silence annotation was performed following the segmentation of DMs with the aim to test the hypothesis if DMs are predominantly separated by pauses (as they are often described in the literature). The phonetic parameters set for automatic silence annotation were as

follows:

- minimum pitch: 100 Hz (subtract mean)
- time step: automatic (0,01 s)
- silence threshold: 45 dB
- minimum silent interval duration: 0,2 s
- minimum sounding interval duration: 0,05 s

As a result, the recordings were segmented into sounding and silent segments.

Automatic annotation into silent and sounding parts in Praat



Querying results in ELAN – to see if DM *ugye* is preceded by pause/silence or not

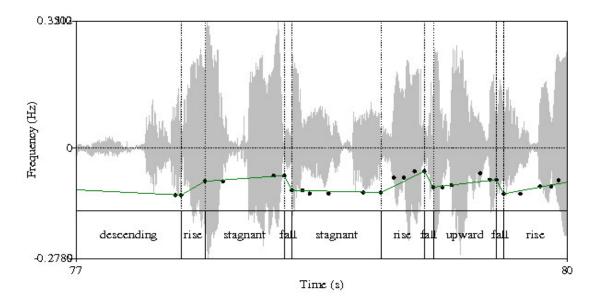
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Extracting prosodic features - Automatic prosodic annotation

We use a modified version of **Prosogram** (Mertens 2004) called **ProsoTool** (Hunyadi & al. 2012):

- ProsoTool uses dynamic, speaker-dependent pitch range
- it extracts F0 data and uses a **stylization method** to calculate more holistic trendlines to describe the movement of pitch
- pitch movement can be segmented along trend-lines (point to point) into blocks for labelling
- the standard deviation of the pitch values is used as a threshold to classify the pitch movement progress using five simple categories:

rise, fall, upward, descending and stagnant



Two-layer search in ELAN

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Three-layer searches in ELAN

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Save nits #1 [mondjuk] #2 [T] #3 [stagnant]							
Save hit statistics		#1 mondjuk	#2 T #3 stagnant				

🎾 Searc	h eaf files								- 🗆		
Substri	ng Search	Single Layer Search	Multiple Layer Search								
Dom	ain: 22 eat	ffiles							Define Domai	n	
Quer	y Histor	y: < >	New Query								
Mode	case ins	sensitive		▼ regular expression		-			Clea	r	
N	linimal Duratio	on Maximal Du	uration Begin After End	Before							
			mondjuk		Tier Type: wordseg					-	
			Overlap	•	Must be in same file					-	
			.+		Tier Name: P_pitchmovements						
			Overlap	•	Must be in same file					•	
			Т		Tier Name: A_discourse					-	
F	nd					Fewer Columns	More Columns	Fewer Layers	More Layer	s	
Fou	nd 39 hits in	39 annotations (of	f 103522)		Ready				Canc	el	
	>	Frequency 1	- 7 of 10								
Perc	entage	Count			Annotation						
	5,64%	10			#1 mondjuk #2 stagnant #3	T					
1	5,38%	6			#1 mondjuk #2 stagnant #3	Т_К					
1	2,82%	5			#1 mondjuk #2 stagnant #3	T_G					
1	0,26%	4			#1 mondjuk #2 rise #3 T	l					
1	0,26%	4			#1 mondjuk #2 stagnant #3 K_T						
	7,69%	3			#1 mondjuk #2 rise #3 K_T						
	7,69% 3 #1 mondjuk #2 rise #3 T_K										

Single layer search in ELAN using regular expressions (concordance view)

🐲 Search eaf files			
Substring Search Single Layer Search Jultiple Layer Search			
Domain: 48 eaf files			Define Domain
Query History: < > New Query			\bigcirc
Mode N-gram within annotation	✓ case insensitive	regular expression	•
Find # mondjuk			All Tiers
Found 284 hits in 279 annotations (of 244971)		Ready	Cancel
> Hit 1 - 18 of 284			
%s vágom de {i	{b} %o bárhonnan? hát mondjuk	ertéstelepen nem {l} szívesen dolgoznék. {b} de v	égülis so— <sok> mindent megtudok csinálni bár a</sok>
ír *papírgyárba. nem egyszerűen azt nem bírok állni. és akkor egyfolytába	oan egy dolgot csinálni. {b} mondjuk a	szellemi monoton munka is más azért szerintem, d	le az még megy. %s {b} hát szívesen %o 3
		zi– %o (()) konkrétan ez a rendszergazdai állás ez	
ilyen, %s konkrétan olyan %o {b} pozícióba, hogyha szólnak, akkor én meg			
n nem vagyok az a típus. {b} é%s ezt én %o egyáltalán nem szeretem, m			
szív módon természetesen de {b} eleinte csak figyelmeztetek hogyha %s			
		ogyha tudom, hogy igazam van, mondjuk hogy eg,	
		pa, <apa> akar venni majd egy nagy motort <i>azt ma</i></apa>	
		kkor mondjuk azt amikor nagyon kicsi voltam még	
hogy a szememet ki ne vigye a talicska lába [] %s úgy hogy ez		azt amikor nagyon kicsi voltam még vegyük azt ,a	
		 tegnap is úgy volt, hogy megyünk bulizni csak há 	
hén nevelkedtünk de azok jobban tetszenek ezek a coco jumbo michael jack			
		olt egy érdekes. mikor egyszer aludtam {b} és úg	
(b) azt aki én nem hiszek benne azt akiben nem hiszünk isteníten%i kö			
{b} mesélj nekem a legboldogabb emlékedről! %s			
tudom ö azt tudom hogy hát az izét a rutint azt ilyen százhuszonöt köbcentis			
1t> azt ilyen százhuszonöt köbcentis %o %s 'MZ'-vel kellett {l} csinálni {l} {l			

Frequency view of the search '# mondjuk' by frequency in decreasing order

뛽 Search eaf	files							_		×
Substring Se	earch Sing	gle Layer Search Multiple Layer Search								
Domain	22 eaf file	es						Define	Domain	
Query H	listory:	< > New Query								
Mode:	N-gram with	in annotation	-	case insensitive	•	regular expression			-	
Find	# mondj	uk					All Tiers		-	•
Found 1	110 hits in 1	07 annotations (of 103522)		Ready					Cancel]
	>	Frequency 1 - 16 of 58								
Percent		Count		Annotation						
12,15				{b} mondjuk						
10,28	3% 11	r		de mondjuk						
10,28	3% 11	r		hát mondjuk						
5,61	% 6	3		tehát mondjuk						
3,74	!% 4	1		az mondjuk						
3,74		1		meg mondjuk						
1,87				%o mondjuk						
1,87	7% 2			<az> mondjuk</az>						
1,87	7% 2			alatt mondjuk						
1,87	7% 2			hogy mondjuk						
1,87	7% 2			hogyha mondjuk						
1,87	7% 2	2		{p} mondjuk						
0,93	3% 1	,		%o +mondjuk						
0,93	3% 1	,		(()) mondjuk						
0,93	3% 1	,		((kök)) ((mondjuk))						
0,93	3% 1	,		*mer mondjuk						

Single layer search in ELAN using regular expressions (concordance view)

🗶 Search eaf files				
Substring Search Single Layer Search	Multiple Layer Search			
Domain: 48 eaf files			Define Doma	ain
Query History:	New Query			
Mode: N-gram within annotation		case insensitive	regular expression	-
Find mondjuk #			Tier Name: A_agent_text	-
Found 187 hits in 183 annotations (o	of 244971)	Ready	Cano	cel
Hit 1 - 18 of 18		is áll d%e %s mondjuk %o, van e olyan el tud-e képze	lni olyan szituációt, ho <hogy> a munkatársak idegesítik? és</hogy>	is e%z,
{b} mesélj nekem a	a legboldogabb emlékedről! %s %s há	it vagy e hát ami mondjuk a legelevenebben él ben %s	na. milyen motor?	
lom ö azt tudom hogy hát az izét a rutint a	azt ilyen százhuszonöt köbcentis MZ-vel	kellett csinálni hát mondjuk a kettő ötvenes amivel viszont g	vakoroltunk az kettő ötvenes volt és azok között voltak ilyen trag	gacs ál
azt ilyen százhuszonöt köbcentis %o %s	'MZ'-vel kellett {l} csinálni {l} {b} az mé	g jó vol- {b} h%át mondjuk a kettőötvenes tehát ,ami <ami< td=""><td>el> viszont gyakoroltunk az kettőötvenes volt. {b} és azok köz</td><td>zött volt</td></ami<>	el> viszont gyakoroltunk az kettőötvenes volt. {b} és azok köz	zött volt
			%s (()) *mer tehát nem olyan kényelmes. mint mondju egy ily	
koccanás, tehát akkor biztos, hogy egybo			en nem is válalnám már be %s [] nem is vállalnám már be a n	
(1) * 1 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			kint Londonban és így mesélte, hogy ott milyen a tömegközleke	edes al
		az biztos. %s mondjuk Pesten. %s %s %m. másrészró		
			ilyen nem is tudom %s ijesztő hogy darázsfészkes hogy él	n meg-
Show Frequency view	, , , , , ,	vokáljon ki. {[] mondjuk nem látszott annyira. csak mon		chama
Show Frequency view (by frequency)		mindenki tud. monojuk persze mondom az is a celunk, ne m találkoztam, de monojuk ő olyan, hogy +bármikor, hogy	ygy meglepetést okozzunk, +tehát nem feltétlenül az, hogy {b}	chogys
Show hit in transcription			környék, nem? j%a hajnalban akkor már nem annyira. aha,	cabas
Show info balloons	705 Tun. T	ar emissem. de mondjuk furd, mer az nyen forgamasabb	Konyek, nemi jiya najnawan akkol mai nem annyna. ana,	saild>.

párom pont most jött vissza Londonból, de hát ő meg mondjuk neki szerencsére ilyen {b} élménye nem volt, viszont olyan volt, hogy +ugye most tört ki ez a vulkán, o-Context Size sszem negyvenhat óra, vagy valami ilyesmi. jó, de mondjuk Párizsban ott aludt egyet, *mer ott ottragadt, tehát onnan nem tudott aznap továbbmenni, jó meg Münchel %s uhum, uhum {b} és mi az amit mondjuk tervezne magától legközelebb? %s ezen a területen? egy konkrét alkalmazást -- mondjon egy példát

m. %s uhum, uhum, uhum. %s {p} és mi az amitől mondjuk ideges lesz %s munkahelyen? %s

agnap

Font

Save hits

Save hit statistics

%s uhum. %s {b} ez miben nyilvánul meg mondjuk a munkahelyen? %s %s

Frequency view of the search 'mondjuk #' by frequency in decreasing order

🏂 Search eaf files						
Substring Search	Single Layer Search Multiple Layer	er Search				
Domain: 48 e	af files				De	efine Domain
Query Histo	ry: < > New Quer	у				
Mode: N-gram	within annotation	✓ case insensitive	-	regular expression		-
Find mor	ndjuk #				Tier Name: A_agent_text	-
Found 187 hits	s in 183 annotations (of 244971)	Ready				Cancel
Percentage	 Frequency 1 - 17 of 98 Count 	Annotation				
6,56%	12	mondjuk a				
6,01%	11	mondjuk egy				
5,46%	10	mondjuk én				
4,37%	8	mondjuk ez				
4,37%	8	mondjuk így				
3,83%	7	mondjuk az				
3,83%	7	mondjuk nem				
3,28%	6	mondjuk %o				
2,73%	5	mondjuk nekem				
2,73%	5	mondjuk ott				
2,19%	4	mondjuk ha				
1,64%	3	mondjuk {b}				
1,64%	3	mondjuk úgy				
1,09%	2	mondjuk *azér				
1,09%	2	mondjuk ezek				
1,09%	2	mondjuk hát				
1,09%	2	mondjuk igen,				

After the queries:

statistical tests were performed on the data in SPSS 19.0

Descriptive and inferential statistical tests, including Pearson's chi-square test, Fischer's exact test, Crosstabs test, independent samples t-test, paired t-test, and drawing box plot graphs.

Descriptive statistical tests simply measured the **frequency** of the use of the selected items based on gender, speaker role (interviewer or interviewee) and situation type (job interview or job interview).

Pearson's chi-square test, Fischer's exact test and Crosstabs test were performed to decide if there is a **relationship** between two categorical variables (e.g. between thematic role and pitch movement, utterance position and pitch movement, discourse function and hand movement, etc.). Conclusions: The results of a multiple layer search: prototypical sets of features of the canonical uses of *mondjuk (say)* performing its two different functions

	Lexical search, approximation	Concession
HAND GESTURES	no	yes
GAZE DIRECTION	upwards	other than upwards
FACIAL EXPRESSION	recall	other than recall
DURATION	> 250 ms	< 250 ms
PRECEDING PAUSE	< 150 ms	> 150 ms



Conclusions: prototypical sets of features of the canonical uses of of *ugye (is that so?) expressing two* different functions

	Evidentiality marking in explanations	Tag question use: asking for reassurrance
HAND GESTURES	yes	no
GAZE DIRECTION	shifting gaze, more often averted	forwards, eye conatct
PITCH MOVEMENT (in the clause)	non-rising	rising
POSITION	non-turn-final	turn-final
F0 range (during uttering the word)	< 30 Hz	> 30 Hz

These findings should be tested on larger data sources and may serve as a springboard for further theoretical modelling (such as organizing features into decision trees to semi-automatically distinguish different senses of words).

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