

**Tel-Aviv University
The School of Philosophy, Linguistics and Science Studies
Department of Linguistics**

THURSDAY INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLOQUIUM

**Thursday 6.5.2021
16:15-17:45**

**György Rákosi
University of Debrecen, Hungary**

Reciprocals vs plural reflexives: A singular difference

Reciprocal and reflexive anaphors have overlapping, but non-identical distribution. Reciprocals, for example, may be acceptable as subjects of finite subordinate clauses in various languages, in contrast to reflexive anaphors, which are typically ungrammatical in this position. In general, however, reciprocals are normally claimed to have a narrower distribution than reflexives. They are much less likely to be long-distance bound or to be licensed as perspective-dependent, logophoric pronominal elements, whereas reflexives often thrive in such contexts.

After a brief overview of the pertinent literature on the differential behaviour of reciprocal anaphora, I introduce and discuss a particularly strong morphosyntactic difference between reciprocals and plural reflexives in Hungarian. Reciprocals, but not true plural reflexive anaphors, are grammatical in several constructions in which the subject antecedent is not plural-marked and it shows singular agreement with the verb. These configurations include subjects that are (i) singular coordinate noun phrases, (ii) quantified noun phrases, (iii) singular collectives, (iv) and some special cases where the immediate local subject antecedent is a singular variable. The emerging empirical generalisation is that the plurality that Hungarian reciprocals require need not be represented in the syntax, whereas plural reflexives must have a plural antecedent. I conclude with a discussion of how and to what extent these data can be handled in competing theories of reciprocal anaphora.

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