
Dimensionality Expressed by Case-endings and Spatial Prepositions

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SUMMARY

The purpose of this essay is to investigate some of the uses of English prepositions and Hungarian case endings employed to express spatial relations. The observation of invariant mistakes Hungarian native speakers learning English make initiated the investigation. The questions raised are: (a) where do the two systems match and where do mismatches lie, (b) how do language users perceive the world, and (c) do speakers observe spatial relations as two-dimensional or three-dimensional cognitive models? Do different languages see the same thing as either three-dimensional, or two-dimensional?

Abondolo (1988) gives an adequate morphological analysis of ten Hungarian case-endings (inessive, illative, elative, superessive, delative, sublative adessive, ablative, allative and terminative) used in spatial reference, which give a closed set in references made to factors, such as (1) location which can be broken down as interior vs. exterior location with the latter being further analysable as superficial and proximal, and (2) orientation which can be analysed as zero orientation (position), source and goal. In addition to those in this list, two other case endings (genetive/dative and locative) are also used for expressing spatial relations but the last is only a variant of the inessive and superessive case-endings and is only used with place-names. The set is closed in the sense that the same item is meant to refer to the same sort of spatial relation in every case. Language textbooks, c.f. Benkő (1972) seem to suggest a neat match between the above Hungarian case endings and their English prepositional counterparts, e.g. London-ban (inessive) = in London.

The picture, however, is far from being so clear-cut. The data, which were taken from various dictionaries and textbooks, show that the choices of both the prepositions and the case endings listed above depend on how the speaker considers factors (1) and (2) and that proximity is very important. Instead of a one-to-one match between the prepositions and the case endings, we rather find that the above case endings will match a dual, and in some cases a tripartite system of prepositions with the correspondences found in the two languages, which yield the following chart:

position	
inessive -ban, -ben	at, in
superessive (-n)	at, on, in
adessive -nál, -nél	at, by, next to
goal	
illative -ba, -be	into, to
sublative -ra, -re	on(to), in, to
allative -hoz, -hez, -höz	to
source	
elative -ból, -ből	out of, from
delative -ról, -ről	off, from
ablative -tól, -től	(away) from
terminative -ig	as far as
dative -nak, -nek	against, to

We suggest that languages may view or map the same physical entities in different ways, for example along surface vs. volume or goal vs. passage, etc.

Furthermore, we also find it possible that it is the language specific, inherent coding of the nominal phrase that decides – in many cases – upon the choice of prepositions and case endings.

1. INTRODUCTION

Different types of **spatial relations** get expressed in natural languages: reference to entities in space in general, specification of their spatial arrangements along the organising principles of sequentiality, size, saliency, varying degrees of dimensionality for location, orientation, direction, extension and limiting.

The purpose of the present investigation is to provide for a **contrastive analysis** of spatial relations expressed by case endings, case-marking nominal-phrases in Hungarian and prepositions in prepositional phrases (PPs) in English. Our analysis helps to see both the case endings in Hungarian and the prepositions in English in a **systematic and conceptually comparable way**. It will be shown that while the formal, taxonomic characterisation of the two systems does not easily yield systematic comparability due to the lack of one-to-one correspondences between case-marked nominal phrases and PPs, the **semantic role analysis** (making use of cognitive notions such as “location”, “orientation”, “goal”, “source” and “position”) not only brings better results but also allows for deeper insights into the **universal character of mental mapping in spatial conceptualisations**.

The analysis establishes the **basic spatial conceptualisations** first, on the basis of which the modifying processes of the speaker-centred deictic reference, the extension of spatial relations to temporal and abstract relations and the distinction between unspecified versus specified reference in terms of dimensional characterisations are carried out.

The contrastive analysis brings additional evidence to the claim that conceptual systems underlying the grammatical systems of natural languages are sensitive to textual specifications (genres, idiomatisation and metaphorisation) and contextual specifications alike.

2. THE SYSTEM OF HUNGARIAN NOMINAL CASE-ENDINGS

Hungarian is the type of language in which the phrase-structure is employed to express logical relationships through the use of a fairly complex inflectional system, of which case-endings, as part of the system of nominal declension, is a constituting unit. In fact, there is still a debate among Hungarian linguists as to the status of the phrase-structure of the Hungarian language. Some, for example, Benkő and Imre (1972. p. 133.) claim that it has a free word order, while others, like É. Kiss (1987. p. 18.), who

says “the order of major constituents is only free with respect to grammatical functions and cases. (...) The *V* and its complements, including the subject, are indeed, freely permutable as long as no negation, interrogation, or quantification is involved.” This, however, serves to illustrate the structural differences between, say, Hungarian and English, the discussion of which is outside the scope of our present investigation.

In fact, what we want to discuss in the following are spatial case endings:

1. Genitive (gen.)	-nak, -nek	ház- nak kert- nek	<i>of the house/garden</i>
2. Inessive (in.)	-ban, -ben	ház- ban kert- ben	<i>in the house/garden</i>
3. Illative (ill.)	-ba, -be	ház- ba kert- be	<i>into the house/garden</i>
4. Elative (el.)	-ból, -ből	ház- ból kert- ből	<i>from/out of the house/garden</i>
5. Superessive (sup.)	-on, -en, -ön	ház- on kert- en	<i>on the house/garden</i>
6. Delative (del.)	-ról, -ről	ház- ról kert- ről	<i>off the house/garden</i>
7. Sublative (sub.)	-ra, -re	ház- ra kert- re	<i>onto the house/garden</i>
8. Adessive (ad.)	-nál, -nél	ház- nál kert- nél	<i>at the house/garden</i>
9. Ablative (abl.)	-tól, -től	ház- tól kert- től	<i>(away)from the house/garden</i>
10. Allative (all.)	-hoz, -hez, -höz	ház- hoz kert- hez	<i>to the house/garden</i>
11. Terminative (term.)	-ig	ház- ig kert- ig	<i>as far as the house/garden</i>
12. Dative (dat.)	-nak, -nek	ház- nak kert- nek	<i>to/for the house/garden</i>

3. PREPOSITIONS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Prepositions, as the term itself suggests, do not follow but precede the nouns, i.e. their nominal complements, and yet carry the same sort of relational meanings as case-endings do in Hungarian. A preposition together with its complement is usually called a prepositional phrase (PP). Prepositional complements can be:

	Preposition	complement
(i) a noun phrase:	at	<i>the bus stop,</i>
(ii) a wh-clause:	from	<i>what he said</i>
(iii) a V-ing clause:	by	<i>signing a peace treaty</i>

As it is indicated by Quirk and Greenbaum (1973. pp. 144-45) certain adverbs (e.g. *at once, before long, in there, until now*) and adjectives (e.g. *at least, at worst, in brief*) may also function as prepositional complements together with prepositional phrases (e.g. He crawled from *under the table*) and that-clauses (e.g. She became aware of *the fact that* I had deceived her). According to formal features they classify prepositions as simple and complex ones. Simple prepositions are the ones that consist of one

word only and constitute the most common elements of the class.

4. SPATIAL RELATIONS

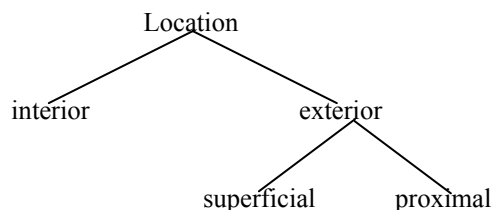
The aim of the section to come is to illustrate the ways in which case endings, on the one hand, and prepositions, on the other, are used to refer to the notion “space”. There are two ways to do it: either one translates Hungarian case-marked nominal phrases into English or one translates English prepositional phrases into Hungarian. Both of the approaches should give approximately the same results (as it is ideas/concepts/notions and not word-for-word translations that count here). Thus, we are going to adopt both approaches where the examples used are taken from various textbooks on English and Hungarian grammar.

5. SPATIAL REFERENCE

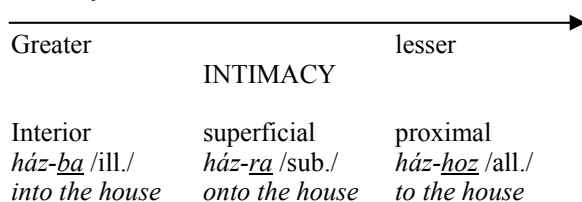
It is adverbs of place that express spatial reference whose constitutive elements are location/place, origin/source, direction and spatial limits of an activity.

In Hungarian there are nine local suffixes, which are defined in terms of their concrete meanings that express (a) location and (b) orientation.

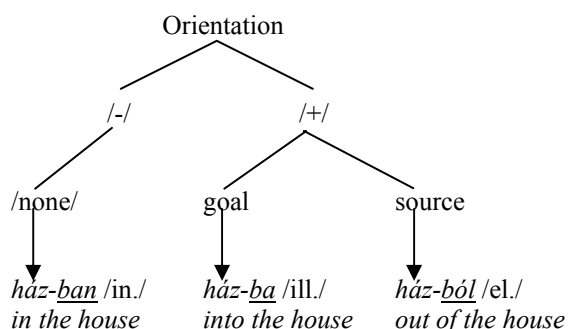
(a) Location: This factor is subdivided by the opposition interior vs. exterior: the subcategory exterior is further subdivided into superficial vs. proximal categories. Schematically it is as follows:



These categories also express different degrees of intimacy:



(b) Orientation: The factor of orientation, if present, is subdivided by the opposition source vs. goal. Schematically it is as follows:



Five more suffixes have to be added to the list indicated so far.

a) One is the proximal, goal-oriented terminative suffix -ig, which differs from all other local suffixes by virtue of a negative semantic component, meaning roughly “/but/ NOT BEYOND” it. Note the contrast:
ház-hoz /all./ - to the house /target/
ház-ig /term./ - as far as the house /and no further/.

Besides the zero orientational inessive suffix -ig, there are two other non-orientational suffixes. One of them is

b) the superessive case-ending /-n/ -on, -en -ön which refers to superficial location:
ház-on /sup./ - on the house,

c) the adessive suffix -nál, -nél, which is used to refer to proximal relation:
ház-nál /ad./ - at the house.

d) the delative case-ending -ról, -ről, which refers to movement away from a surface:
ház-ról /del./ - off the house,

e) and the ablative case-ending -tól, -től, which can be labelled as a proximal source oriented suffix:
ház-tól /abl./ - away/ from the house.

It is also to be noted that the superessive case-ending is not considered to be a real local suffix, but one which has a superstatus of being able to refer to both local and temporal relations.

The simultaneous application of factors /a/ and /b/ yields the following grid of ten case-endings:

		LOCATION			
		INTERIOR	EXTERIOR		
			SUPERFICIAL	PROXIMAL	
		orientation	GOAL	-ba	-ra
NONE	-ban		/-n/	-nál	
SOURCE	-ból		-ról	-tól	

5.1. Interior Location

5.1.1. Goal

As it has already been outlined, interior goal is, in a number of cases, denoted by the illative case-ending -ba, -be in Hungarian and the corresponding English preposition is supposed to be “into” in English, e.g.:

- (1) /Ő/ be-ment a ház-ba /ill./.
He went into the house.

Both the English preposition and the Hungarian case-ending refer to penetration into a three-dimensional object. But the illative case-ending -ba, -be does not always refer to this relation as it is illustrated by the following example:

- (2) /Ő/ könyvet kapott ajándék-ba /ill./.
He got a book as a present.

In this case the meaning of the illative case-ending corresponds to that of the essive-modal -ul, -ül /ajándék-ul/ and/or to that of the formal case-ending -képpen /ajándék képpen/. These two latter cases, however, are not frequently used in present-day Hungarian and in a number of instances – maybe because of the combined reference to state and purpose – are replaced by the illative case-ending. The example here only serves to illustrate the different uses of one and the same case-ending.

Another controversial issue is that places in English are regarded as points in a number of cases and are not viewed as having dimensional characteristics in terms of length, width and height, e.g.:

- (3) We went to Stratford.
/Mi/ Stratford-ba /ill./ mentünk.
(4) We went to the hotel.
/Mi/ a szálloda-ba /ill./ mentünk.

There is a stark contrast between either (3) or (4) and (1), and in (3) and (4) the preposition to seems to refer to a proximal relation with its complement. It

does not refer to actually moving inside the hotel, and neither does the Hungarian *illative* case-ending *-ba* clearly refer to penetration as the final aim of the activity, or at least this is not defined clearly, as this kind of reference is used with the verbal prefix *-be*, as in

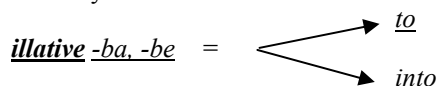
- (4a) Be-mentünk a szállodába
We in-went into the hotel

When, however, dimensional characteristics are also included as reference in the English expression, the preposition *into* will be present on the surface, e.g.:

- (5) We went into the hotel.
/Mi/ a szállodá-ba /ill./ mentünk, or
/Mi/ bementünk a szállodá-ba. /ill./

What these examples tell us is that what is perceived as an interior goal, expressed by the *illative* case-ending *-ba, -be* in the Hungarian language can – depending on the perception of the object’s dimensional characteristics – correspond to either the preposition *into* (perception of a three dimensional object) or to the preposition *to* (no dimensional characteristics involved or indicated).

Schematically:



5.1.2. Position

Position is treated here as location within a three dimensional object. In the Hungarian language this position is normally expressed by the use of the *inessive* case-ending *-ban, -ben*. The corresponding English preposition is *in*, as suggested by our primary chart, is *in*, e.g.:

- (6) A ház-ban /in./ van.
He is in the house.

In this case both the Hungarian *inessive* case-ending *-ban, -ben* and the English preposition *in* refer to the same notion, that is, location within a three-dimensional object. But in the English language, maybe also as a result of the two different ways it expresses direction, we can find other prepositions as well when reference is made to this sort of position. In fact, the result of the direction expressed by the preposition *to* can have two surface realisations. One of them is the preposition *in*, as in:

- (7) He is in the hotel.
/Ő/ a szállodá-ban /in./ van.

and the other one is the preposition *at*, as shown by:

- (8) He is at the hotel.
/Ő/ a szállodá-ban /in./ van.

As the examples indicate the same dual reference is also possible with place-names in the English language. Although the preposition *in* is used with place-names denoting larger areas and *at* to refer to smaller places, the borderline between the two choices is not at all distinct because the choice of preposition to be used is, in a number of cases, a matter of point of view or perception rather than the actual dimensions of the settlement concerned, e.g.:

- (9) He is in London.
Ő/ London-ban (in.) van.
(10) Our plane refuelled at London.
Gépünk London-ban (in.) újratankolt.

In sentence (9) London is viewed as a place having three dimensions, whereas in (10) it is referred to as a point, and there are no dimensions indicated, or involved. The same opposition may be present between (7) and (8). *At* may refer to the hotel as either a place or an institution depending on the context, whereas *in* is only used when the reference is made to the place with its dimensions borne in mind. As the examples illustrate, this kind of differentiation is not characteristic of the Hungarian language and the *inessive* case-ending *-ban, -ben* is used throughout. The result is that the Hungarian language has to employ means, other than case-endings, to reveal differences seen in the following triplet of English sentences:

- (11a) He is at school (attending school),
(11b) He is in school (attending school and actually in the building),
(11c) He is in the school (in the building).

The Hungarian translation of all three would be:

/Ő/ iskola-ban (in.) van.

In which case there is no particular reference made to the function(s) the noun *iskola* may have depending on the situation and context of the above utterance.

In Hungarian an emotional, or other state is also viewed as an inner location, and is expressed by using the *inessive* case-ending *-ban, -ben*, whereas the English language employs several different prepositions in this case, e.g.:

öröm-é-ben (in.) - for joy
baj-ban (in.) - in trouble
magá-ban (in.) - by himself
örizet-ben (in.) - under arrest
izgalom-ban (in.) - with/in excitement

Although the preposition *in* is also used in the English language as a means of expressing some of these adverbials of state, no real correspondence can be found between the two languages in this case, which may be due to the fact that from a locational point of view the two languages have different perceptions of the same emotional state. When,

however, position inside something concrete is meant the correspondence can be set up in the following way:

inessive -ban, -ben =  -in
-at

The choice of the two prepositions in/at in English is subject to the point of view of reference, made to the place, expressed in the nominal phrase.

5.1.3. Source

In our investigation source is regarded as movement away from inside a place. In the Hungarian language this case is denoted by the elative case-ending -ból, -ből, which is thought to correspond to the prepositions out of or/and from in the English language, as exemplified by (12) and (13):

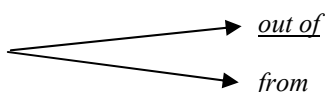
- (12) /Ő/ kijött a ház-ból (el.).
He came out of the house.
- (13) /Ő/ Angliá-ból (el.) jött.
He came from England.

Here the same distinction between viewing something as three- or two-dimensional is retained, since the English language uses the preposition out of when something is considered strictly three-dimensional, as in (12) and also in the following examples:

- (14) They flew out of the country.
/Ők/ kirepültek az ország-ból (el.).
- (15) They drove out of France into Belgium.
/Ő/ Franciaország-ból (el.) Belgiumba mentek autóval.

In these latter two examples the territory, area of a country (something which is usually two-dimensional) is viewed as being enclosed by boundaries and so is considered as a volume. When, however, the area is less specifically denoted or is of uncertain dimensions, the preposition from is used in the way as it is illustrated by example (13). In Hungarian the distinction described above does not exist and the only case-ending, used to denote source of this kind is the elative -ból, -ből.

The resulting correspondence is:

elative -ból, -ből =  out of
from

5.2. Exterior Location

As it has already been mentioned, there are two types of exterior location:

- a) superficial
- b) proximal

and in both cases it is possible to make a distinction between goal, position and source.

5.2.1. Superficial Location

5.2.1.1. Goal

Goal is regarded here as movement onto the surface of something. In the Hungarian language this relation is usually denoted by the sublative case-ending -ra, -re, which is thought to correspond to the English preposition on(to), as in:

- (16) /Ő/ rálépett egy kő-re (sub.).
He stepped on(to) a stone.

Surface, however, may also be viewed in different ways in Hungarian than in English, and as a result of this difference in perception the sublative case-ending -ra, -re is used in Hungarian in a number of cases when in English the preposition in is used:

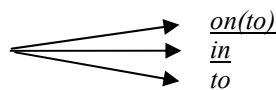
- (17) /Mi/ kimentünk sétálni az erdő-re (sub.).
We went to take a walk in the woods.

It is worth noting, however, that it is possible to say „erdő-be” (ill.) in Hungarian and so have the same sort of three-dimensional reference as the English preposition in has. On the other hand it is more usual to use the sublative case-ending, especially when the function of a place/location is referred to without involving its actual dimensions, e.g.:

- (18) /Ő/ a konyhá-ra (sub.) ment.
He went to the kitchen.

Although neither of the two languages views „kitchen” as a volume, there is a difference between the two views, since in Hungarian „konyha” is looked upon as if it were a surface, while in English „kitchen” is considered an object whose dimensions are unclear or undefined or of no importance.

On the basis of the above examples, we can conclude that the Hungarian sublative case-ending -ra, -re can correspond to three preposition in English: on(to), in and to.

sublative -ra, -re =  on(to)
in
to

5.2.1.2. Position

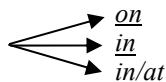
The distinction, mentioned earlier, whereby something can be viewed as a volume, surface or point also applies to the ways superficial position is expressed in the two languages. In Hungarian we find the superessive case-ending (-n) -on, -en, -ön in this reference, while the English language uses the prepositions on, in and in/at as the following examples illustrate:

- (19) A tányér az asztal-on (sup.) van.
The plate is on the table.

- (20) A tehén a mező-n (sup.) van.
The cow is in the field.
- (21) János a postá-n (sup.) van.
John is at/in the post office.

The last two examples may be especially difficult for students to learn since both „field” in English and „posta” in Hungarian seem to contradict our expectations about dimensional characteristics.

The resulting correspondence between the Hungarian case-ending and the English prepositions is:

superessive (-n) -on, -en, -ön = 

5.2.1.3. Source

Movement away from a surface is expressed by the delative case-ending -ról, -ről in Hungarian and it roughly corresponds to the English preposition off, e.g.:

- (22) /Ő/ levette a könyvet a polc-ról (del.)
He took the book off the shelf.
- (23) /Ő/ lefordult az autópályá-ról (del.)
He turned off the motorway.

But again, surface is not viewed as a constant, definite, clearly definable category and may have different referential realisations in the two languages. In English, for example, it is also possible to say:

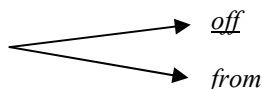
- (23a) He took the book from the shelf.

(= polc-ról /del./) where „shelf” is considered to have three dimensions, which is never the case in Hungarian. There are also cases, like

- (24) He rose from his seat.
/Ő/ felállt a hely-é-ről (del).

When from is used irrespective of the actual dimensional characteristics of what is meant by „seat”.

The resulting correspondence is:

delative -ról, -ről = 

5.2.2. Proximal Relations

5.2.2.1. Goal/Destination

Movement to a place, which is regarded as having no actual dimensions or as a point in space is referred to by the allative case-ending -hoz, -hez, -höz In the Hungarian language and the corresponding English preposition is to, e.g.:

- (25) /Ő/ az ablak-hoz (all.) ment.
He went to the window.

The same case-ending and preposition are used in both languages even when no actual movement is involved, as for example, in the case of approximate measurement of the distance between two points, e.g.:

- (26) /Az/ a ház-a-m-hoz (all.) 100 méterre van.
It is a hundred metres to my house.

In which case the measurement is given as if from a distant point.

The correspondence here is:

allative -hoz, -hez, -höz = to

5.2.2.2. Position

The result of movement towards a destination is that we are there, or more exactly, in the case of proximal position, we are somewhere in the proximity of our destination, but there is usually no indication of our actual position. This position is expressed by the adessive case-ending -nál, -nél in Hungarian, and it can correspond to the prepositions at, next to or by in English if nothing else but spatial reference is indicated, e.g.:

- (27) /Ő/ az ablak-nál (ad.) állt.
He was standing at/next to/by the window.

When, however, a combined reference to position and time is indicated, the only corresponding preposition in the English language is at, e.g.:

- (28) /Mi/ ebéd-nél (ad.) találkoztunk.
We met at lunch.

In this case „ebéd-nél” in Hungarian and „at lunch” in English may equally refer to both the place and the time of the event indicated. It is also true to say that the English prepositional phrase may have an exclusively temporal reference in which case, however, the temporal case-ending -kor is used in Hungarian, as in:

- (29) /Mi/ ebéd-kor (temp.) találkoztunk.
We met at lunch/time.

In (29) the English language may use the word „time” also to indicate only temporal reference as opposed to the dual one mentioned earlier.

The resulting distribution of case-endings and prepositions is:

adessive -nál, -nél 

5.2.2.3. Source

Movement away from a proximal exterior position is designated by the ablative case-ending -tól, -től in Hungarian, which is thought to

correspond to the preposition */away/ from* in English in the way illustrated by:

- (30) /*Ő*/ eljött az ***ablak-tól*** (abl.)
He came *away from* ***the window***.

6. ADDITIONAL REMARKS ON SPATIAL REFERENCES

Apart from the Hungarian case-endings already mentioned, there is one more that can be used to express direction and so is also to be dealt with here. It is the ***dative*** case-ending *-nak, -nek*, which can indicate

a) Movement to/towards/ a place with the intention of facing it, as in:

- (31) /*Ő*/ a ***fal-nak*** (dat.) fordult.
He turned *to* ***the wall***.

b) Concrete physical contact with a given location as a result of movement towards it, as in:

- (32) /*Ő*/ a ***fal-nak*** (dat.) támaszkodik.
He is leaning *against* ***the wall***.

In (31) the ***dative*** case-ending can be replaced by the postposition „*felé*” (*towards*)

- (33) /*Ő*/ a ***fal felé*** fordult.

The two ways of expressing this relation can be used side by side with each other, but there is no alternative expression in the case of (32).

Our findings so far seem to indicate that it is almost impossible to establish one-to-one correspondences between the prepositions and case-endings used in spatial references, which may be due to the fact that the two languages do not always view the same relation in the same way. Still, there may be some indication of basic correspondences as illustrated in the chart, namely, that „*goal*”, „*position*”, and „*source*” can realise the prepositions *to*, *at*, and *from*, respectively, whenever unspecified spatial reference is made. When more specific (specified) relation is meant, however, another set of prepositions may be involved. The difference between specified and unspecified reference is well illustrated by the prepositions used to refer to interior relations in English. When less specific reference is made in terms of dimensional characteristics, the relationship between prepositions in English and case-endings in Hungarian can be illustrated as:

<i>Illative</i>	<i>-ba, -be</i>	-	<i>to</i>
<i>Inessive</i>	<i>-ban, -ben</i>	-	<i>at</i>
<i>Elative</i>	<i>-ból, -ből</i>	-	<i>from</i>

When, however, the reference is specific in terms of dimensional characteristics the likely correspondence is:

<i>Illative</i>	<i>-ba, -be</i>	-	<i>into</i>
<i>Inessive</i>	<i>-ban, -ben</i>	-	<i>in</i>
<i>Elative</i>	<i>-ból, -ből</i>	-	<i>out of</i>

7. AN OVERALL PICTURE OF SPATIAL CASE ENDINGS AND PREPOSITIONS

What has been done so far is a more or less two-sided overview of the Hungarian nominal declension system, as contrasted to the system of prepositions used in English. The two sides are:

(a) the formal characteristics of the system of case-endings in Hungarian and prepositions in English, and

(b) a possible indication of the semantic roles they can appear in.

The correspondences found yield the following chart:

Position

Inessive -ban, -ben	at, in
Superessive (-n)	at, on, in
Adessive -nál, -nél	at, by, next to

Goal

Illative -ba, -be	into, to
Sublative -ra, -re	on(to), in, to
Allative -hoz, -hez, -höz	to

Source

Elative -ból, -ből	out of, from
Delative -ról, -ről	off, from
Ablative -tól, -től	(away) from

Terminative -ig	as far as
Dative -nak, -nek	against, to

What this subdivision indicates is that both languages employ basically the same means, that is, local case-endings and local prepositions, respectively, to express the relational meanings listed in the chart. The overwhelming presence of local case-endings and prepositions, respectively, becomes more evident if we look at the chart diagonally in terms of „*position*”, „*source*” and „*goal*”. There is however, a lack of total correspondence between the two systems, maybe because, as it has been indicated in the chapter on „*location*”, the two languages may view the same physical entity in different ways, e.g.:

Surface	vs.	Volume
Goal	vs.	Passage, etc.

Furthermore, it is also possible that it is the language specific inherent coding of the noun/nominal phrase itself that in certain cases decides upon the choice of prepositions and case-endings, respectively, and this may be the reason for viewing the same thing in different ways in different languages, as far as the surface appearance of case-markers is concerned. It is very likely to be so, since neither local prepositions nor local case-endings

seem to always have just one certain specific relational reference. As an illustration, let us consider the following set of sentences:

- (34a) A fiú a lúdá-ra (subl.) ült.
 (34b) The boy sat on(to) the crate.
 (35a) A fiú a tanyá-ra (subl.) ment.
 (35b) The boy went to the cottage.

As (34a) and (34b) illustrate, the correspondence between the sublative case-ending -ra and the preposition onto is straightforward, which cannot be said of (35a) and (35b). In Hungarian (34a) can have the relational adverbial of pronominal origin rá instead of the sublative case-marked nominal phrase with the following statement resulting:

- (35c) A fiú rá-ült.

The same pronominal substitution is also possible in English:

- (35d) The boy sat on(to) it.

Even the question word “where?” can be replaced by “mire?” in Hungarian, and “onto what?” in English without any loss of relational reference in either language. In (35a) and (35b), however, for lack of concrete dimensional reference, the same operation seems to be impossible and both sentences can only answer the question “where?” “hová?”, despite the possibility that the two set of sentences (34 a&b and 35 a&b) have the same surface structure representation:

NP₁ - V - NP₂-ra.

Sentence type (1) will always realise a preposition indicating exterior goal relation in English, and the sublative case-ending in Hungarian. In the set of sentences (35 a&b), however, the choice of preposition in English may, but not necessarily, correspond in reference to that of the sublative -ra, -re. This, in turn, may indicate that the proposed shared surface structure representation may be inadequate and should be replaced by:

- (1) NP₁ - V - NP(X)_{2dir}
 (2) NP₁ - V - NP_{2dir}

where “dir” stands for the direction and (X) is a semantic marker which indicates some dimensional aspect of NP₂.

If this is the case, then we can say that in sentences (1) the choice and occurrence of the preposition and the case-ending depend on the relation that the speaker of the utterance wants to refer to, or how s/he conceives of of the object in question, since the NP of the adverbial construction, at its basic meaning, indicates an object and does not have a spatial reference in itself.

In the second set of sentences (2), on the other hand, neither the preposition nor the case-ending seems to give any particular indication of the relationship which exists between NP₁ and NP₂ and indicates direction only in a broader, more general sense. As a result, the choice of the preposition or/and case-ending – if it is not an obligatory complement in the VP – depends on the inherent semantic properties of the noun it preposes or postposes, e.g.:

észak (nom.)	-	North
észak- <u>ra</u> (subl.)	-	North
		<u>to</u> the North
észak- <u>on</u> sup.)	-	<u>in</u> the North
		North of sg.
gyár (nom.)	-	factory
gyár- <u>ba</u> (ill.)	-	(in) <u>to</u> the factory
gyár- <u>ban</u> (in.)	-	<u>at/in</u> the factory

or may be a reflection of human mental perception of object relations. These nominal phrases can refer to places by themselves and do not have a primarily objective reference, as for example “crate” does, and consequently the use of relational morphemes (case-endings, prepositions, etc.) does not depend on the relation to be indicated, but on the convention(s) formed by native speakers of the language(s) in question.

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