

Challenging Grammar – AN21003BA
offered for 2nd-year students in the English Studies BA program
3-credit seminar
Spring 2026

Course Description

In this course we will discuss papers on verb meanings, event lexicalization and culmination phenomena across languages. Our main goal will be to learn about how languages are similar and different when it comes to the expression of events while focusing on facts of English and Hungarian.

Grading

The final grade will be based on a midterm test and an endterm test.

Attendance

No more than three absences are allowed, illness included.

Weekly Syllabus

	Class topic	Papers
Week 1	Introduction	
Week 2	Verb meanings are highly structured 1	Rappaport Hovav, Malka & Beth Levin. 1998. Building verb meanings. In Miriam Butt & Wilhelm Geuder (Eds.), <i>The projection of arguments: Lexical and syntactic constraints</i> . Stanford, CA: Stanford University. 97-134.
Week 3	Verb meanings are highly structured 2	
Week 4	Constraints on verb meanings 1	Rappaport Hovav, Malka & Beth Levin. 2010. Reflections on manner/result complementarity. In Malka Rappaport Hovav, Edit Doron, & Ivy Sichel (Eds.), <i>Lexical semantics, syntax and event structure</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press. 21-38.

Week 5	Constraints on verb meanings 2	
Week 6	Event lexicalization strategies across languages 1	Beavers, John, Beth Levin & Shiao Wei Tham. 2010. The typology of motion expressions revisited. <i>Journal of Linguistics</i> 46(2): 331-377.
Week 7	Event lexicalization strategies across languages 2	
Week 8	Spring break	
Weeks 9	Midterm test	
Week 10	Event lexicalization in Hungarian 1	Kardos, Éva & Andrea Szávó. 2024. Event lexicalization in Hungarian. In Marcel den Dikken & Hideki Kishimoto (Eds.), <i>Formal perspectives on secondary predication</i> . Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton. 95-126.
Week 11	Event lexicalization in Hungarian 2	
Week 12	Event culmination 1	Kardos, Éva. 2024. Culmination phenomena across languages. <i>Language and Linguistics Compass</i> 18(5): 1-24.
Week 13	Event culmination 2	
Week 14	Endterm test	

Place and Time

Room 106, Thursday 2:00 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.

Contact

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Thursday 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.