

## ICSH 11 Keynote Address by Robert Vago

### Title

“The Inflectional Phonology and Morphology of Hungarian in Stratal Optimality Theory”

### Brief abstract

This presentation motivates the Stratal Optimality Theory (OT) framework on the basis of three sets of facts from the inflectional system of Hungarian:

1. “Lowering.” In a class of V-initial suffixes, V shows up as a mid vowel in immediate post-stem position, but as a low vowel in distant post-stem position: e.g. *hoz-od* “bring-2SG DEF,” vs. *hoz-t-ad* “bring-PAST-2SG DEF.”
2. Opaque epenthetic vowel. In predictable contexts, a vowel is inserted in immediate post-stem position, but it appears as low, rather than as mid (as expected on the basis of 1). E.g.: *hoz-ni* “bring-INF” vs. *mond-ani* “say-INF.”
3. Stem allomorphy. In two large stem alternation classes one alternant appears before V, the other before C or finally. Cf. *bokor* “bush” vs. *bokr-unk* “bush-1PL POSS”; *nyár* “summer” (*á* = long) vs. *nyar-unk* “summer-1PL POSS” (*a* = short). However, a set of V-initial suffixes select those allomorphs that appear before C or finally, rather than those that appear before V. E.g.: *bokor-ig* “bush-TERM,” *nyár-ig* “summer-TERM.”

On the basis of a thorough analysis of the facts (including implications for the representation of long consonants and vowels), it is proposed that Stratal OT affords insights into the inflectional system of Hungarian that heretofore eluded investigators.