

Result states in Hungarian

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Many verbs (often though not always with a preverb) appear to entail what may be called a *result state*, e.g., *eltűnik* ‘disappear’, *hőssé válik* ‘turn into a hero’, *kap* ‘receive’, *zöldre fest* ‘paint green’. Essentially, a result state is a kind of state that is brought about or caused by the kind of event denoted by the verb. For example, the meaning of *A macskám eltűnt* ‘My cat disappeared’ implies that the result of my cat’s disappearing is its being out of sight. In this paper, I present and defend an event semantic analysis of result states, showing out it can be naturally applied to an account of temporal adverbials ending in *-rA* as well, e.g., *öt napra* ‘for five days’ as in *A macskám öt napra eltűnt* ‘My cat disappeared for five days’. Since such temporal adverbials modify the duration of result states, they provide evidence for the modifiability of result states. I also address certain problematic examples for the account, e.g., *#Réka három hónapra szőkére festette a haját* ‘Réka dyed her hair blond for three months’ versus *Réka három évre zöldre festette a falat* ‘Réka painted the wall green for three years’, which is acceptable, arguing for a pragmatic explanation for such contrasts and against the view (advocated by Gyuris and Kiefer) that a notion such as “reversibility” is also needed in a semantic treatment of temporal adverbials ending in *-rA*.