THE USE OF THE ARTICLE IN ENGLISH AND HUNGARIAN: A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS

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This paper primarily considers the question of how determination is expressed in English and Hungarian. The ultimate aim is to identify similarities and differences in the use of determiners — especially in that of articles.

In the first part of this paper the theoretical framework for the research is presented. The definition of determiners is followed by the classification of nouns to provide context for the description of article distribution. The second part presents the contrastive analysis of article usage in their relation to different types of nouns functioning in different syntactic positions. Special consideration is given to changes in article usage in sentence sequences. The statements are illustrated by an ample number of examples. The paper ends up with a small section illustrating some of the problems in English, Hungarian and Polish.

Every language has certain categories to make the expression of ideas and thoughts both precise and understandable. One of the means for achieving clarity is determination. The process of determination may vary in different languages. In both English and Hungarian there is a small closed set of grammatical words that, while unrelated formally, are related by function. The common role they perform is referred to as determination, these function words are the determiners.

Determiners are modifiers of nouns (they modify the scope of the set designated by the noun that follows). Determiners in both English and Hungarian can be classified in several ways: (1) as definite and indefinite — in reference to various features like individualization, identification, selection, etc., and (2) as pre-, central and postmodifiers in reference to distribution within the noun phrase. Being the most frequently used member of central determiners in both English and Hungarian, the article is in the centre of our analysis in the course of this paper.

The hand-outs show 4 tables. Table I gives the list of English and Hungarian determiners which shows that numerals, quantifiers and ordinals are also considered as determiners. Table II and III give the distribution of English and Hungarian determiners respectively. In both tables Group I determiners exclude each other in a noun phrase. In reference to distribution these de-

Table I. List of English and Hungarian determiners

English	Hungarian
⊄	o
a/an	egy
the	a/az
some /sm/	—
some$_1$, any$_1$	néhány, némi, valamelyes, valamennyi
some$_1$ (aff.), any$_1$ (inter.)	valamilyen, valamiféle
any$_1$ (aff.)	akármilyen, bármilyen, bármiféle
not any/no	semmi... sem, nem +V, nincs... sem,
this/that, these/those	ez/az (a), ezek/azok (a)
my, your, his, her, ...	poss. suffixes: (én)...-m, (te)...-d, (ő)...-é, ...
every, each	mindegyik, mindenegyes
either	(az) egyik, bármelyik
neither	egyik sem, semelyik
both	mindkét, mindkettő
whole, all/_N[—Count]	egész, teljes
all/_N[+Count]	(az) összes, mind(en), valamennyi
half	fél
(the) very	éppen ez/az (a)
(the) same	ugyanez/-az (a), azonos
(a) certain	(egy) bizonyos
such (a)	ilyen/olyan (egy)
(an)other	(egy) más/másik; (a) többi
(the) only	egyetlen
many/much	sok
few/little	kevés
a few/little	néhány/egy kevés
2, 3, 4, 5, ...	2, 3, 4, 5, ...
first, second, third, ...	elsö, második, harmadik, ...

terminers are central determiners. Group II determiners can modify a noun alone, but they can combine with articles and /or other determiners of Group I/A (in Hungarian also with Group II/A), and some of them with each other. In reference to distribution determiners of Group II are pre-, or postdeterminers in relation to each other. Group III determiners must be accompanied by an article or another determiner from Group I/A. The elements of these combinations form a permanent set. Finally, Table IV in the hand-out shows the relationship of articles to other determiners in English and Hungarian.

In both languages there are 3 articles: definite, indefinite and zero. The

Table II. Distribution of English determiners

Determiners		
Pre-	Central	Post-
Group II	*Group I/A*	*Group II*
both*	the	whole
all*	a/an	certain
half	this/that	other
such	these/those	few**
many	my, your, his, ...	little**
		many
		much
		several
		first, second, ...
Group III	*Group I/B*	*Group III*
quite	some/any	same
	no	very
	every/each	only
	(n)either	

* can occur after the noun it modifies.

** *a few, a little* can be considered as the combination of the indefinite article plus the quantifier only from a formal point of view, since the indefinite article proper cannot occur with either plural countable or uncountable nouns.

Table III. Distribution of Hungarian determiners

Determiners		
Pre-	Central	Post-
Group II	*Group I/A*	*Group II/A*
mindkét	a/az	...-m, -d, -é, ...
	egy	
Group III	*Group I/B*	*Group II/B*
az/ez	némi	néhány
azok/ezek	valamelyes	egész/teljes
éppen ez/az	valamilyen/-féle	összes
ugyanez/-az	bármilyen/-féle	fél
(and their plural forms)	akármilyen/-féle	ilyen/olyan
	semmi	ugyanilyen/-olyan
	mindegyik/mindenegyes	azonos
	akár-/bármelyik	bizonyos
	mind(en)/valamennyi	másik/más
	egyik... sem	egyetlen
		sok
		kevés
		elsö, második, ...
		Group III
		egyik
		többi

articles almost always occur as the first member of the phrase signalling the presence of a noun, but each of them also signals something additional.

The definite article (the-a/az) in both languages may be used before singular as well as plural forms. In the majority of cases it indicates that the following noun refers to a particular human being, animate object or thing — as distinct from others of the same kind — known by both the speaker and hearer.

The definite article may be required (1) before a noun defined earlier

Table IV[1]. *Relationship of articles to other determiners in English and Hungarian (+ indicates occurrence, — indicates non-occurrence)*

	ø	a/an	the	ø	egy	a/az	
demonstrative	+	−	−	−	−	+	demonstrative
possessive	+	−	−	+	+	÷	possessive suffix
some₁, any₁	+	−	−	+	−	−	némi, valamelyes
				+	+	÷	néhány
some₂, any₂	+	−	−	+	−	−	valamilyen, bármilyen, akármilyen, valamiféle, bármiféle
not any, no	+	−	−	+	÷	+	nem/nincs ... sem
				+	−	−	semmi ... sem
every, each	+	−	−	+	−	−	mindegyik, mindenegyes
neither	+	−	−	+	−	−	semelyik, egyik ... sem
either	÷	−	−	+	−	÷	egyik, (másik)
both	+	−	+	+	−	÷	mindkettő, mindkét
whole, all₁	+	÷	+	÷	+	÷	egész, teljes
all₂	+	−	+	⊤	−	−	mind, minden, valamennyi
				+	−	+	összes
half	+	+	+	÷	+	÷	fél
very, same	−	−	÷	−	−	⊤	éppen ez/az, ugyanaz/-az
only*	−	−	÷	÷	−	÷	egyetlen
certain	+	÷	+	+	+	+	bizonyos
such	+	÷	−	+	+	+	ilyen/olyan
other	+	+	+	+	+	+	másik, más
				−	−	+	többi
many, few	÷	÷	÷	+	−	÷	sok, kevés
much	+	−	−	+	−	+	sok
little	+	÷	+	÷	÷	+	kevés
several	+	−	+	+	−	+	számos
1, 2, 3, 4, ...	÷	−	+	+	−	÷	1, 2, 3, 4, ...
ordinals	+	+	+	+	+	+	ordinals

* *an only*, a set phrase where *only* occurs with the indefinite article.

[1] The determiners represented in Table IV are not complete equivalents in English and Hungarian (in regard to their range), nor is the list exhaustive.

by previous mention in the discourse (i.e., explicit-contextual basis[2]), (2) before nouns, the referents of which are mutually known from previous discourse (i.e., implicit-contextual basis[2]) or (d) before a noun the referent of which can be indicated without having been mentioned previously (i.e., situational basis):

(1) There is *a* book on the table. *The* book is blue.
    Egy könyv van az asztalon. A könyv kék.
(Lit. A book is the table-on. The book blue.)
(2) There is *a* school in the neighborhood. During the breaks *the* windows are open, and the children in *the* classrooms are noisy.
    A szomszédban van *egy* iskola. A szünetekben *az* ablakok nyitva vannak
    (The | neighbor- is a school. The break-s-in the window-s are open
         | hood-in
    és a gyermekek lármáznak *az* osztályokban.
(Open are and the children ind-they the class-es-in.)
(make noise)
(da) Give me *the* book.
     Add ide a könyvet.
(Give here the book-(acc.))
            (narrowest sense)
(db) This year *the* conference is being held in Lubostronie.
     Ebben az évben a konferenciát Lubostronieben tartják.
     (This- the year-the conference- Lubostronie-in hold-they.)
       -in   -in   -(acc.)
              (wider sense)
(dc) *The* sun shines brightly in Egypt all year.
     Egész évben ragyogóan süt Egyiptomban a nap.
     (Whole year-in bright-ly shine Egypt-in the sun).
                (widest sense)

The indefinite article (a/an — egy) in both languages is used with countable nouns in the singular. In the case of uncountable nouns the indefinite article expresses *a kind of/a sort of/a piece of*. The indefinite article indicates that the word it precedes denotes an individual member of the class. It denotes one member of the class or species concerned but it does not indicate which member (Jespersen 1913, 1949). Besides its introductory and individualizing function in specified noun phrases, the indefinite article can also express genericness in English. Recently several linguists, like Gleason (1955), Hill (1958), Palmer (1969), have analyzed the unstressed variant of *some* {sm} as an article used with uncountable nouns in the singular and with countable nouns in the plural:

[2] Christophersen's term (1939).

(4) Give me *some* bread, please.
    Some boys are running in the street.

Hungarian does not always have an overt counterpart for this use of English *some*. Further clarification is needed to determine which of the uses of *some* are considered as articles and which of them as other determiners.

The zero article (ø) — probably because it has neither phonologic, nor graphemic overt form — was generally neglected earlier. However, the absence or omission of an article in the two languages does not always indicate that a noun has lost its nominal function, because e.g., it is used as a phrase head in the case of non-individualized singular countable nouns in Hungarian, and it is determined as in the case of proper names in both English and Hungarian:

(5) ø Virág nő a kertben.
    (Flower grow the garden-in).
    Kwiat rośnie w ogrodzie.

(6) ø John came home late last night.

ø János	későn	jött	haza	tegnap	este.
(John	late-	came	home	yesterday	evening.)
	-(+adv. suffix)				

Distinction must be made, of course, between the cases with the zero article and those where the noun phrase contains a determiner other than an article.

Articles must refer to nouns, while nouns can occur without articles, i.e., with the zero article or other determiners. Nouns constitute an open class, have full meaning and inherent stress, and can act as head of a noun phrase. For futher analysis of determiners nouns must be examined by reference to number. English nouns fall into two major number classes. One class contains nouns where the singular-plural distinction occurs, the other where the nouns are not subject to number variation. From the several terms applied to this distinction, in this paper we call the former class countable and the latter class uncountable. However, the classification of nouns in reference to countability has not been developed so strongly in Hungarian as in English therefore the occurrence of errors in the English speech of Hungarians is frequent (number-quantity distinction in English *much-many, few-little*).

A noun phrase in English and Hungarian consists of a noun-head modified by a determiner. Besides the noun and determiner a noun phrase may contain an adjectival or nominal attributive. In the use of determiners it is also important which syntactic position the noun phrase takes in the sentence. The role of a determiner in both English and Hungarian is to restrict or widen, to specify or generalize the meaning of the modified noun. A noun specified by the situation or content is actualized and individualized in English, but not always in Hungarian:

(7) ø Egér van a szobában.   [—Indiv, —Act]
    (Mouse is the room-in.)
    There is *a* mouse ⎫
    There are *mice* ⎭ in the room.   [+Indiv]

(8) *Egy* egér van a szobában.   [+Indiv, —Act]
    (A mouse is the room-in.)
    There is *a* mouse in the room.

(9) *Az* egér a szobában van.   [+Indiv, +Act]
    (The mouse the room-in is.)
    The mouse is in the room.

Definiteness is a syntactic category which applies to both countable and uncountable nouns in a noun phrase. In the case of countable nouns it applies only to individualized nouns. The most important elements of definiteness are identification [—Y] and actualization [+Act] which are characteristic features of the definite article and demonstrative in both English and Hungarian. Their difference lies in the deixis. In English the demonstrative and the definite article exclude each other. However, in Hungarian the demonstrative generally does not occur without the definite article (see: Table IV):

(10) *This* book is yours, *that* book is mine.
     Ez a konyv a tied, *az* a könyv az enyém.
     (This the book the yours that the book the mine.)

Possessive adjectives also express definiteness.

Not all noun phrases in either language go through a complete process of definization. In the case of countable nouns there are individualized but not actualized noun phrases as well which can be expressed by the indefinite article:

(11) *A* boy played with a ball in the courtyard.
     Egy fiú labdázott   az udvaron.
     (A boy ball+deverb suff.+past tense   the courtyard-on.)
     (played with a ball)

Other indefinite determiners do not individualize the nouns they modify, but they can define the agglomerations or express totality for both countable and uncountable nouns:

(12) *All* boys like to play football.
     Minden/Valamennyi fiú szeret futballozni.
     (All   boy like* football+deverb. suff+inf. suff.)
     (to play football)

(13) It was raining *all* day.

    Egész nap esett az eső.

    (Whole day fell the rain.)

(14) He ate a *whole* apple.

    Egy *egész*   almát   megevett.

    (A whole   apple+(acc.)   has-eaten-he.)

Owing to lack of time the modification of noun phrases is not analyzed in this paper.

After the part showing the place and role of determiners in a noun phrase only the use of the article is examined in noun phrases functioning in different syntactic functions: (1) in subject function, (2) in object complement function, and finally (3) in predicate (subject complement) function. Genericness is only slightly touched upon. Examples are given to show similar, different, and partly different cases in the two languages.

An uncountable noun functioning as subject denoting a material object is preceded by the zero article in both languages:

(15) $Art_{E,H} \rightarrow \emptyset$ / $\_N$ [$-$Count, $+$Concr]

    $\emptyset$ Blood runs in his veins.

    $\emptyset$ Vér folyik az ereiben.

    (Blood flow-s the vein-s-his-in.)

While an uncountable noun referring to an abstract notion occurs with the zero article in English, but generally with the definite article in Hungarian, therefore HLE (Hungarian learners of English) often commit errors:

(16) $Art_E \rightarrow \emptyset$ / $\_N$ [$-$Count, $-$Concr]

    $Art_H \rightarrow$ def / ($\emptyset$)

    $\emptyset$ Time flies.

    Az idő repül.

    (The time fly.)

The same can be stated about uncountable nouns functioning as object when a habitual action is expressed:

(17) $Art_{E,H} \rightarrow \emptyset$ / $\_N$ [$-$Count, $+$Concr]

    The baby drinks $\emptyset$ milk every morning.

    A kisbaba   minden   reggel $\emptyset$ tejet   iszik.

    (The little-baby   every   morning   milk-(acc)   drinks-he.)

or with nouns denoting abstract notion in a generic sense:

(18) $Art_E \rightarrow \emptyset$ / N [$-$Count, $-$Concr, $-$Specific]

    $Art_H \rightarrow$ def

    I like $\emptyset$ music.

    Szeretem *a* zenét.

    (Love-I (def.) the music- (acc.).)

But frequently nouns denoting a material object occur with *some* in English and with the zero article in Hungarian:

(19) $Art_E \rightarrow$ some [$-$Def]

    $Art_H \rightarrow \emptyset$ / $\_N$ [$-$Count, $+$Concr]

  or $Det_H \rightarrow$ egy kis [$-$Def, $+$Quant]

    I have bought *some* cheese and *some* cream.

    $\emptyset$ Sajtot   és $\emptyset$ tejszínt   vettem.

    (Cheese- (acc.)   and cream- (acc.)   bought-I.)

Hungarians generally omit *some* in their speech. The use of *some* in object function is much more frequent than in subject possition.

When nouns are defined by the context or situation the definite article is used in both languages:

(20) $Art_{E,H}. \rightarrow$ def/$\_N$ [$-$Count, $+$Concr, $+$Act]

    Pass   me *the* salt, please.

    Add   ide *a* sót, kérlek.

    (Give   here the salt-(acc.) ask-you-I.)

(21) $Art_{E,H} \rightarrow$ def/$\_N$ [$-$Count, $-$Concr, $+$Act]

    Let's listen to *the* music.

    Hallgassuk *a* zenét.

    (Listen-let's-(def.) the music-(acc.).)

When an uncountable noun refers to an indefinite occurrence of the phenomenon in question both the zero article and *some* can be used in English, while in Hungarian the zero article can vary with the quantifying determiner *egy kis*:

(22) $Art_E \rightarrow \emptyset$/some [$-$Def]

    $Art_H \rightarrow \emptyset$ / $\_N$ [$-$Count, $-$Concr]

  or $Det_H \rightarrow$ egy kis [$-$Def, $+$Quant]

    Let's listen to $\emptyset$/*some* music.

    Hallgassunk $\emptyset$/*egy kis* zenét.

    (Listen-let's-(indef.) $\emptyset$/a little music-(acc.).)

Problems also occur when one language considers a noun as uncountable while the other as countable e.g., English: *information* — Hungarian: *információ/-k*, English: *advice* — Hungarian: *tanács/-ok*.

In the case of countable nouns in the singular, article usage differs in the two languages where no other determiner is present. In English this form must

occur with either the definite or indefinite article while in Hungarian it may occur with the zero article as well. The reason is that the opposition between individualized and non-individualized meaning is not overtly marked in English (see: examples (5), (7) mentioned earlier). The problem is also complicated with the use of existential *there* (*is*/*are*) in English locative sentences which have no overt counterparts in Hungarian unlike French and German.

These statements are also true for nouns functioning as objects. However, there are word-order restrictions on the occurrence of the articles in Hungarian, where the singular countable nouns with the zero article in object function usually precedes the governing verb (S-O-V), while with the indefinite and definite article the neutral position for the object noun is after the verb (S-V-O), when it is emphasized, the noun may precede the verb:

(23) $Art_E \rightarrow$ def/indef   /_N [+Count, —Plural]
$Art_H \rightarrow$ def/indef/ø
What are you doing?
I am writing *a* letter.   (23a) ø Levelet írok.
                                              (Letter-(acc.) write-I (indef).)
                               (b) Írok   *egy* levelet.
                                              (Write-I (indef.)   a letter-.)
                                                                   -(acc.)
                               (c) *Egy* levelet   írok.
                                              (A letter-(acc.)   write-I-.)
                                                                   -(indef)
                                              (i.e., It is a letter I am writing.)

(24) I am writing *the* letter.   (a) Írom *a* levelet.   ...
                                              (Write-I (def) the letter-(acc.).)
                               (b) *A* levelet   írom.
                                              (The letter-(acc.) write-I (def).)
                                              (It is the letter I am writing.)

With plural countable nouns *some* may occur in English, while in Hungarian the zero article or the determiner *néhány* occurs. It causes similar problems for Hungarians as it does with uncountable nouns mentioned earlier:

(25, 26) $Art_E \rightarrow$ ø/some/_N [+Count, +Plural, —Act]
$Art_H \rightarrow$ ø   /_N [+Count, +Plural, -Act]
$Det_H \rightarrow$ néhány
(25) There are *some* rocks on the coast.
ø Sziklák vannak a parton.
(Rock-s are the coast-on.)
Néhány szikla van a parton.
(Some rock is the coast-on.)

(26) Steve bought *some*/ø books at a sale.
Pista vett *néhány* könyvet a kiárusításon.
(Steve bought some book-(acc.) the sale-on.)
Pista *néhány* könyvet vett a kiárusításon.
(Steve some book-(acc.) bought the sale-on.)
Pista ø könyveket vett a kiárusításon.
(Steve book-s-(acc.) bought the sale-on.)
Pista vett ø könyveket a kiárusításon.
(Steve bought book-s-(acc.) the sale-on.)

The problem becomes more difficult when the plural form is used in one language and the singular in the other to express the same idea, i.e., with nouns denoting parts of the human body:

(27, 28) $Det_E \rightarrow$ Det [+Poss]
or Art $\rightarrow$ def/ø   /_N [+Count, +Plural]
$Det_H \rightarrow$ Det [+Poss]
and/or $Art_H \rightarrow$ def/ø   /_N [+Count, —Plural]
(27) to shake ø hands
ø kezet fogni
(hand-(acc.) hold-to)
(28) He fixed *his* eyes on the horizon.
ø Szemét a látóhatárra szögezte.
(Eye-his-(acc.) the horizon-on fixed-he.)

Finally, nouns functioning as the nominal part of the predicate (as subject complement) are analyzed in their relation to article usage.

An uncountable noun functioning as nominal predicate does not cause any problem since in both languages the zero article is used:

(29) $Art_{E,H} \rightarrow$ ø/0N [—Count, +Concr]
Water becomes ø steam at a high temperature.
A víz magas hőmérsékleten ø gőzzé válik.
(The water high temperature-on steam-(suffix.) becomes-it.)

A singular countable noun denoting the class to which the subject belongs is generally preceded by the indefinite article in English, but in Hungarian it is used with the zero article, and precedes the verbal predicate if there is one; while a plural countable noun takes the zero article in both languages:

(30, 31) $Art_E \rightarrow$ indef.   /_N [+Count, —Plural]
Art $_H \rightarrow$ø
(30) John is *a* linguist.
János ø nyelvész.
(John linguist.)

(31) I am *a* Hungarian.

ø Magyar vagyok.

(Hungarian am-I.)

(32) Art$_{E,H}$ → ø/_N [+Count, +Plural]

John and Peter are ø boys.

János és Péter ø fiúk.

(John and Peter boys.)

In cases when the definite article is used before a noun functioning as a predicate its appearance is unrelated to its predicate function:

(33) Art$_E$ → def.

$$/\_M [+Restr] +N [+Count, -Plural, +Y]$$

Det$_H$ → Dem+Art [+Def]

John is *the* linguist whose works are best-known.

János *az a* nyelvész, akinek a művei a legismertebbek.

(John that the linguist who-of the work-s-his the most known-(pl.)

For lack of time the given cases only show the basic uses of the article, no special occurrences are touched upon. It can be seen from the above statements and examples that while both languages have the same set of articles their use differs. While English has fixed word-order, in Hungarian a change in word-order also has some role in expressing determination or at least has some relation to article usage. At this point it may be interesting to see a few examples in three languages i.e., in English, Polish and Hungarian where Polish has no articles and has free word-order (at least in opposition to English).

Every discourse contains some old and new information. In marking the distribution of information stress, intonation as well as word-order have important roles. Since neutral sentence stress generally has final position in Polish therefore the linguistic element containing new information is also placed finally, independently from the grammatical (i.e., syntactical) function it fulfills. The known, already mentioned information is placed sentence-initially. So topic-comment also influences the sentence structure of languages with free word-order.

Word-order plays an important role in anaphoric sentences. While in an independent sentence several types of word-order are possible, in sentence sequences that is not the case:

(34) W pokoju siedział chłopiec.

A boy was sitting in the room.

Egy fiú ült a szobában.

(A boy sat the room-in.)

(a) Wyszedł chłopiec. A boy went out. Egy fiú kiment.

(A boy out-went.)

(b) Chłopiec wyszedł. The boy went out. A fiú kiment.

(The boy out-went.)

In all three languages only sentence (b) can be correct in relation to sentence (34) since in the case of sentence (a) the noun is not co-referent with that of sentence (34).

A noun is considered definite in sentence-initial position and indefinite in final position in Polish. So the idea is expressed by word-order in Polish which is expressed by the articles in English and Hungarian:

(35) Chłopiec dał kotu piłkę.

The boy gave the cat a ball.

A fiú adott a macskának egy labdát.

(The boy gave the cat-to a ball-(acc.).)

(36) Chłopiec dał piłkę kotu.

The boy gave the ball to a cat.

A labdát a fiú egy macskának adta.

(The ball-(acc.) the boy a cat-to gave-he.)

(37) Kotu piłkę dał chłopiec.

A boy gave the ball to the cat.

Egy fiú adta a macskának a labdát.

(A boy gave-he the cat-to the ball-(acc.).)

However the demonstrative *ten, ta, to, ci, te* and the indefinite pronoun *jakiś* can also express reference and definiteness in Polish:

(38) Wykradł milicjantowi rewolwer.

He stole a gun from the policeman.

Ellopott a rendőrtől egy revolvert.

(Away-stole-he the policeman-from a revolver-(acc.).)

(a) *Ten* milicjant siedział za to.

Therefore *the* policeman was in prison.

Ezért *a* rendőr börtnőben volt.

(This-for the policeman prison-in was.)

(b) Milicjant siedział za to.

Therefore *the* policeman was in prison.

Ezért *a* rendőr börtönben volt.

(This-for the policeman prison-in was.)

(c) Siedział za to *ten* milicjant.

(In English it is the same as [a] and [b].)

Ezért börtönben volt *a* rendőr.

(This-for prison-in was the policeman.)

(d) Siedział za to ø milicjant.
    Therefore *a* policeman was in prison.
    Ezért *egy* rendőr börtönben volt.
    (This-for a policeman prison-in was.)
    Ezért börtönben volt *egy* rendőr.
    (This-for prison-in was a policeman.)

Difference in meaning occurs only in the last example (d) where word-order has changed and *ten* does not occur. Where the demonstrative *ten* occurs with the noun in final position it still remains definite: *The policeman was in prison*; while where the noun occurs with the zero article it becomes indefinite: *A policeman was in prison*—not the same whose gun was stolen.

The indefinite *jakiś* can also overrule word-order in Polish:

(39) Widziałam jak do pokoju wchodził mężczyzna.
    I saw that *a* man entered the room.
    Láttam, hogy *egy* férfi belépett a szobába.
    (Saw-I that a man in-entered the room-into.)

(a) Kiedy weszłam zobaczyłam, że mężczyzna stoi przy oknie.
    When I entered the room I saw that *the* man was standing in front of the window.
    Amikor beléptem láttam, hogy *a* férfi az ablak előtt.
    (When in-entered-I saw-I that the man the window before all stand.)

(b) Kiedy weszłam zobaczyłam, że przy oknie stoi mężczyzna.
    When I entered the room I saw that *a* man was standing in front of the window.
    Amikor beléptem láttam, hogy *egy* férfi áll az ablak előtt.
    (When in-entered-I saw-I that a man stand the window before.)

(c) Kiedy weszłam zobaczyłam, że *jakiś* mężczyzna stoi przy oknie.
    When I entered the room I saw that *a/some* man was standing in front of the window.
    Amikor beléptem láttam, hogy az ablak előtt *egy/valamilyen* férfi áll.
    (When in-entered saw-I that the window before a/some man stand.)

In example (a) the man is identified with the one who entered the room, in examples (b, c) it is a different man. This difference can be expressed in Polish by word-order change (example b) and by *jakiś* (example c) marking the indefiniteness overtly on the surface. The same difference is expressed with the help of the definite and indefinite article in both English and Hungarian.

My aim was to illustrate the role of determination in two languages which are dissimilar in character but use the same set of articles though not according to identical patterns. The few Polish examples served the purpose of showing what means a language that does not possess any articles has to express determination.

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