

**Similarities Between Colloquial  
Language and Contemporary  
Literature in Hungarian Through  
Addressing and Referring to Parents**

**With the Help of Domonkosi Ágnes' Study and Szabó Magda's Novels**

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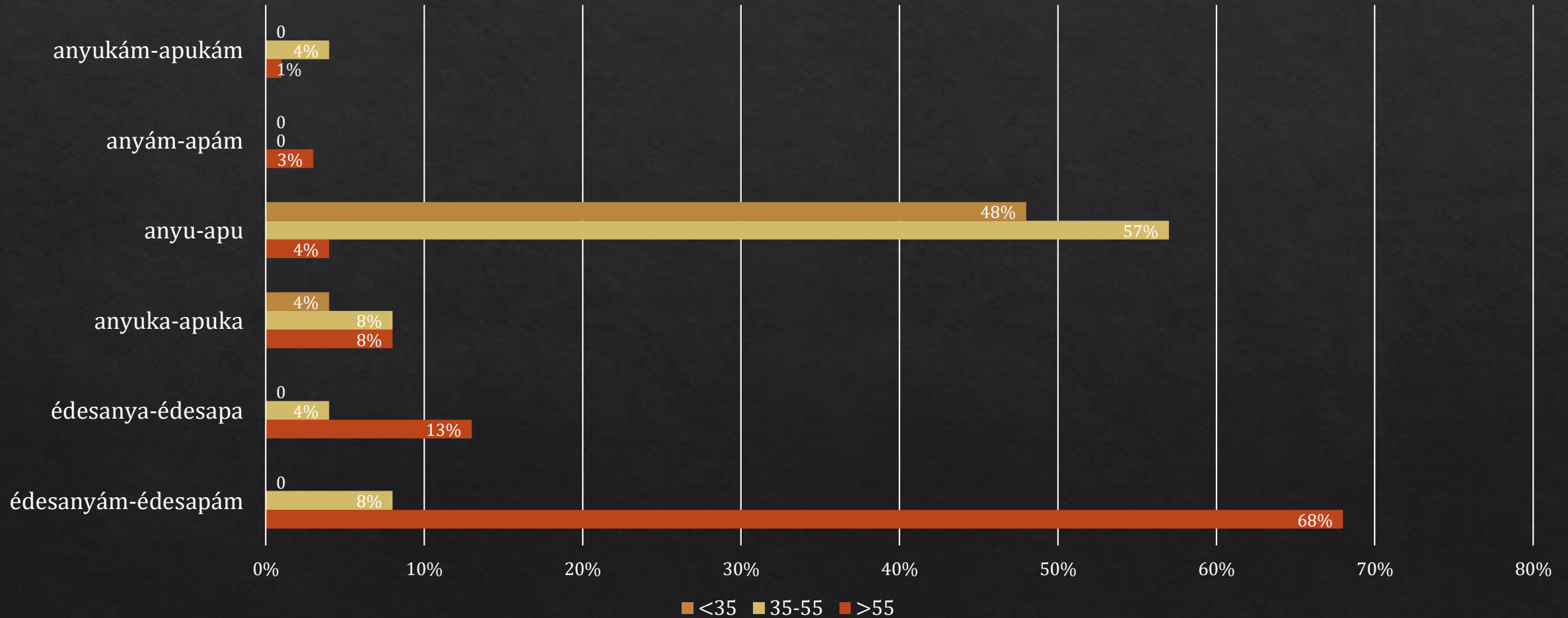
- ◆ Addressing and referring to people is a natural part of communication, giving them titles and nominal addresses as a way of referring to them works almost unconsciously. Family is the first scene of the socialization of a person, the first occasion for one to experience hierarchy, in the parent-child relation (Domonkosi, 52). Forms of addressing parents change through the years, becoming more informal, influenced by certain factors (age, education, etc.).
- ◆ This presentation's aim is to point out similarities and differences between colloquial language and contemporary literature, relying on their usage of certain expressions, parental reference/addressing in this case.
- ◆ First, I am going to outline Domonkosi Ágnes' sociolinguistic study, then I show data I collected from Szabó Magda's novels. Afterwards, I will compare the results and draw a conclusion based on them.

# Translation of Hungarian Terms I Use

édesanyám	my (dear) mother
édesapám	my (dear) father
édesanya	dear mother
édesapa	dear father
anyukám	my mommy
apukám	my daddy
anyuka	mommy
apuka	daddy
anyu	mom
apu	dad
anyám	mother
apám	father

- ◆ Ágnes Domonkosi analyzes nominal addressing in relation to group of age and abode, among other aspects. She creates three groups by age: older than 55, between 35 and 55 and younger than 35 years. Here is an all in one chart based on Domonkosi's circle diagrams, which shows that, the people who belong to the 35-55 or younger than 35 years' group, tend to omit using the forms with possessive suffix, and this can show a lack of respect in a linguistic sense (Domonkosi, 59).
- ◆ My main focus is on the older than 55 years' group, where majority (68%) of the asked people addressed their parents as "édesanyám-édesapám". This form carries the possessive suffix "-m" and also it is the longest. According to Samuel R. Martin, the longer the form, the more courteous it is. This might be the reason behind that, the second most used is "édesanya-édesapa" (13%), very similar to "édesanyám-édesapám" only lacks the possessive suffix.
- ◆ Based on this regularity, it would be expected that "anyukám-apukám" should follow but that pair is the least used in this chart (1%) and instead "anyuka-apuka" is on the third place, regardless of them not having the possessive suffix. "Anyám-apám" is not a well-used pair of addressing either (3%) and it is not used almost at all within the younger age groups (originally part of the 4 "other" addressing group), but will play a more important role later.
- ◆ Another aspect in this analysis is the case of addressing parents informally, which started out from bigger cities (and also from families of higher education) among the people older than 55 years' group (55).

# Domonkosi Ágnes' Study: Megszólítások és beszédpartnerre utaló elemek nyelvhasználatunkban (2002)



- ◆ The reason I have chosen Szabó Magda Monostori Imre published a study in 2005 on Hungarian contemporary writers and their popularity in libraries, titled: “Kortárs magyar írók, kortárs magyar alkotások és a könyvtár” [transl.: Contemporary Hungarian Writers, Contemporary Hungarian Works and the Library]. In this study, he and his group of workers did a small research on which Hungarian contemporary author’s books were lend from libraries in Hungary the most times within a month.
- ◆ Szabó Magda is fifth on that list and she is the second author who did not use any aliases. Furthermore, the six novels I have chosen from her are more or less autobiographical, thus the dialogs happen mostly in scenes where family is present, there are many cases of nominal referring towards parents and her way of writing is very everyday-like.

# Why Szabó Magda?

Author	Copies	%
Szerző	Példány	Százalék
1 Lőrincz L. László	850	5,96
2 Nemere István	843	5,91
3 Radnai Gáborné	605	4,24
4 Moldova György	478	3,35
5 Szabó Magda	435	3,05
6 Molnár Éva	349	2,45
7 Mocsári Erika	339	2,38
8 Kertész Imre	334	2,34
9 Vámos Miklós	250	1,75
10 Csukás István	240	1,68
11 Esterházy Péter	224	1,57
12 Nógrádi Gábor	210	1,47
13 Závada Pál	196	1,37
14 Bálint Ágnes	180	1,26
15 Szepes Mária	179	1,25
16 Jókai Anna	176	1,23
17 Lázár Ervin	176	1,23
18 Marék Veronika	162	1,14
19 Kárpáti Ágnes	142	0,99
20 Kányádi Sándor	135	0,95
21 Erdélyi Margit	133	0,93
22 Sohonyai Edit	133	0,93
23 Sütő András	122	0,85
24 Vujity Tvrtko	118	0,83
25 Babay Bernadette	109	0,76
26 Tőke Péter	103	0,72
27 Nádas Péter	97	0,68
28 Böszörményi Gyula	89	0,62



Monostori István: “Kortárs magyar írók, kortárs magyar alkotások és a könyvtár” (2005)

# Data Collecting Method

- ◆ I collected data from her digitalized novels from DIA (Digital Literary Academia) where many of her works are accessible. I chose novels from various stages of her career: from 1970 to 2002. Using the search option, the engine showed the frequency of certain expressions within a text, in this case the same forms of addressing which are analyzed in Domonkosi Ágnes' chart. The search results however are not divided into direct addressing in a dialog and indirect referring.



# Data Collecting Method



apám| 37/35 ^ v x További könyvjelzők

SZABÓ MAGDA - ABIGÉL

oicaián, ranajtotta tuiet a paranyi nyiasra. most mar naitoua a suttogasi:

- Zsini, kis Zsini, maga az? Hall engem?
- Én vagyok – lehelte a kislány a kulcslyukba. Teljesen ismeretlen volt a suttogása önmagának, mintha valaki idegen beszélne a szájából. – Mi van **apám**mal?
- A szíve – felelte a kulcslyukból a hang –, de ne féljen, már túlesett a legnagyobb veszélyen. Csak mindenképpen látni akarja, s engem kért meg, hogy elhozzam a Matulából, és azonnal hazavigyem.

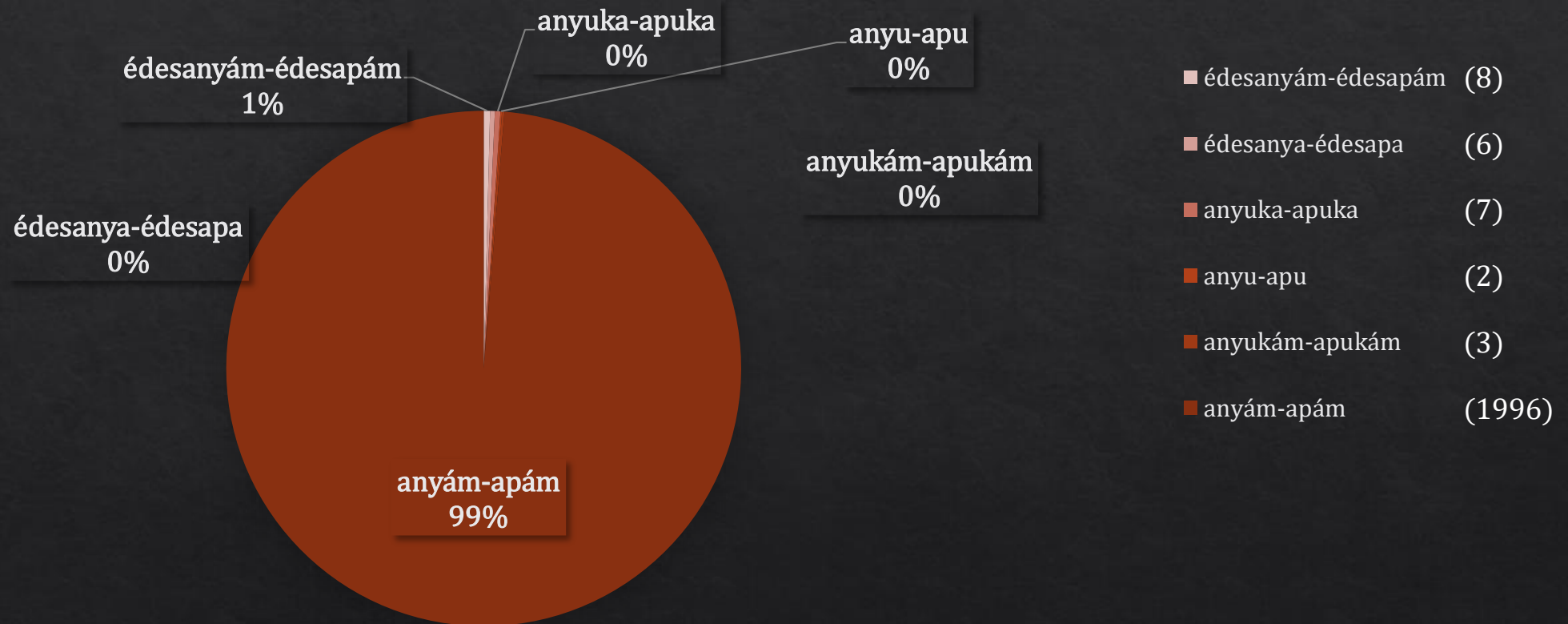
A szíve. Sose volt semmi baj a szívével. De ha apja megmondta Ferinek, hol keresse őt, ha őt kérte meg rá, hogy kivigye a Matulából, akkor a hadnagy is benne van az ellenállásban. Ó, micsoda boldogság, hogy együtt harcol az apjával! Bár igazán tisztelte az árkodi ellenállót, így még jobb, hogy Ferivel mehet. Vagy esetleg az is elkíséri őket? Talán itt is van? Ott áll Feri mellett, csak ő nem látja?

- Egyedül van? – kérdezte.
- Persze. Ki mással?
- **Apám** azt mondta, ha ő nem jöhet, az árkodi ellenállót küldi értem. Azt hittem, itt van ő is.
- Az árkodi ellenálló? – suttogott a hang.
- Aki a táblákat átrendezte a templomban, meg azokat a feliratokat ragasztja. **Apám** azt mondta, csak azzal mehetek el a Matulából.

- ◆ The following diagram shows that most of the addressing in Szabó Magda's works are "anyám-apám" (99%), the second most is "édesanyám-édesapám" (1%), the rest cannot even reach 1%, but there are differences between their frequency.

édesanyám	my (dear) mother
édesapám	my (dear) father
anyám	mother
apám	father

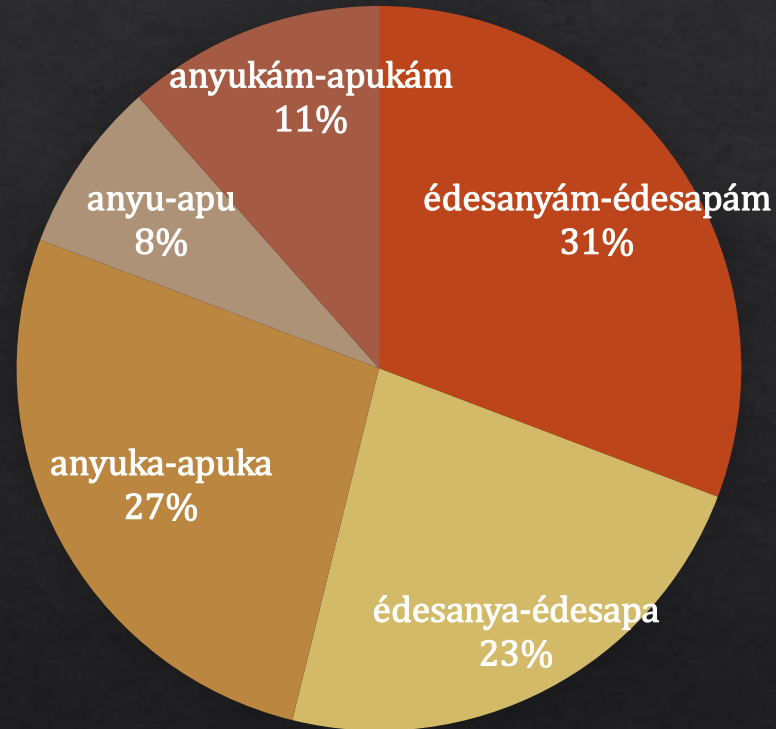
# Data from Szabó Magda's novels



- ◆ I made a second diagram which does not show “anyám-apám” to demonstrate the frequency between the other addressing forms. Without “anyám-apám”, majority of the addressing forms are “édesanyám-édesapám” (31%), followed by “anyuka-apuka” (27%) and “édesanya-édesapa” (23%), very similar to the group of people in Domonkosi’s study who are older than 55 years, with only minor differences.

édesanyám	my (dear) mother
édesapám	my (dear) father
édesanya	dear mother
édesapa	dear father
anyuka	mommy
apuka	daddy
anyám	mother
apám	father

# Data from Szabó Magda's novels

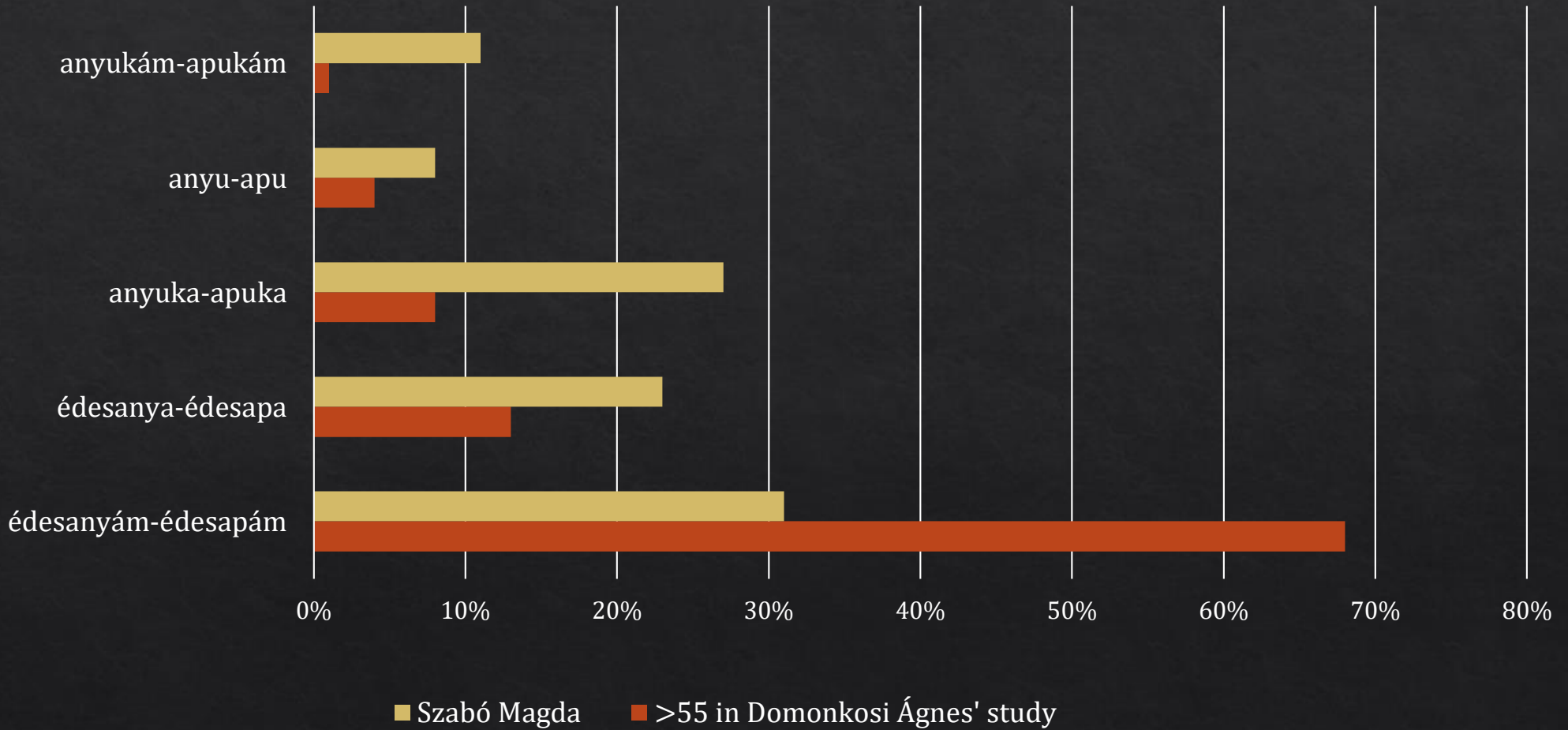


■ édesanyám-édesapám (8) ■ édesanya-édesapa (6) ■ anyuka-apuka (7) ■ anyu-apu (2) ■ anyukám-apukám (3)

- ◆ In order to compare the data from Domonkosi Ágnes' study with the results of Szabó Magda's novels', some background information is required. Szabó Magda, being born in 1917, in Debrecen, belongs to the age group older than 55 years and from a large town and many of her ancestors were highly educated. Knowing these pieces of information, she might even fit into the group of people from where informal addressing between parents and children began.
- ◆ This last chart shows similarities between Domonkosi Ágnes' study and Szabó Magda's use of addresses if the "anyám-apám" pair is not part of the diagram. The most used form of addressing is "édesanyám-édesapám" (31%) but in Szabó Magda's case, it is not that much more frequently used than the others as it is in the case of everyday language (68%).
- ◆ Even the use of informal and shorter nominal referring in Szabó Magda's novels, the amount of respect towards the characters of parents does not lower as it linguistically does because the hierarchy differences, but rather reduces the distance between family members by the lack of formality, based on the context of the expressions in the novels (52).

édesanyám	my (dear) mother
édesapám	my (dear) father
anyám	mother
apám	father

# Data Comparison



- ◆ To conclude, it is unknown whether contemporary literature affects colloquial language more or the other way around, they still have an effect on each other, continuously changing the use of everyday language in such (sometimes insensible and unconscious) parts as addressing parents. Since I worked with data from 2002 and 2005, these nominal references could already change and there might be a lowering or even growing difference between contemporary literature and everyday language.



**Thank you for your attention!**

# Sources

- ◆ Domonkosi, Ágnes. Megszólítások és beszédpartnerre utaló elemek nyelvhasználatunkban. A Debreceni Egyetem Magyar Nyelvtudományi Intézetének Kiadványai, 2002.
- ◆ Monostori, Imre. "Kortárs magyar írók, kortárs magyar alkotások és a könyvtár." Új Forrás, no. 10, 2005, [www.epa.oszk.hu/00000/00016/00110/051017.html](http://www.epa.oszk.hu/00000/00016/00110/051017.html). Accessed 29 December 2019.
- ◆ Martin, Samuel R. "A beszéd szintjei Japánban és Koreában." Társadalom és nyelv. Szociolingvisztikai tanulmányok, 1975, pp. 339-356.
- ◆ Digitális Irodalmi Akadémia (DIA) <https://pim.hu/hu/dia>