

UNIVERSITY OF PANNONIA  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
MULTILINGUALISM DOCTORAL SCHOOL  
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## REVIEWER'S OPINION ON THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

### *“THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE HUNGARIAN DIASPORA IN DUAL/MULTIPLE NATIONAL IDENTITIES IN SÃO PAULO”*

by

**Máté Barnabás CSREPKA**

In line with the distinguished mission of the Multilingualism Doctoral School at the University of Pannonia, I hereby submit a comprehensive review of the structure and content of the doctoral dissertation, together with an evaluation of the Candidate's scientific achievements. My assessment includes the following 11 points: **1. Overview and relevance of the topic; 2. Theoretical and Literature Background; 3. Structure and Methodology; 4. Research Questions and Hypotheses; 5. Research Results and Conclusions; 6. Applicability and Usefulness; 7. Novel Scientific Contributions; 8. Limitations and Areas for Improvement; 9. Suggestions for Future Research and Development; 10. Overall Evaluation; 11. Questions for the Candidate**

#### **1. Overview and relevance of the Topic**

The dissertation focuses on a highly topical and socially relevant issue. In the context of globalization, transnational mobility, and the increasing recognition of multicultural societies, questions of diaspora identity, heritage language maintenance, and cultural sustainability are of great importance. While Hungarian communities abroad have been widely studied in Europe and North America, the Hungarian diaspora in Brazil—and especially in São Paulo—has remained underexplored. By examining the sustainability of dual and multiple national

identities in this context, the dissertation fills a significant research gap and contributes to both international scholarship and Hungarian diaspora policy.

The Candidate demonstrated strong personal motivation in researching and elaborating on the chosen topic, having spent nine months as a scholarship holder (Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Programme - <https://www.korosiprogram.hu/hirek/csrepka.mate.barnabas>) within the Hungarian community of São Paulo, Brazil, which served as the focus of his investigation.

## **2. Theoretical and Literature Background**

The Candidate demonstrates a commendable ability to convey complex materials in a professional and accessible manner. The presentation of the literature is well-structured and aligns with the research objectives. Each chapter effectively synthesizes a substantial body of scholarly work, offering a robust foundation for the research. The dissertation demonstrates a robust and interdisciplinary theoretical foundation. It integrates insights from sociolinguistics, identity theory, diaspora studies, and sustainability research. Foundational concepts, such as Anderson's imagined communities, Social Identity Theory, Fishman's and Crystal's models of language maintenance, Berry's acculturation framework, and Hall's theory of cultural hybridity, are employed effectively. A notable strength is the inclusion of cultural sustainability as a dimension of sustainable development, extending the discussion beyond its conventional ecological and economic scope. The literature review is comprehensive, well-structured, and clearly connected to the research questions. The main subchapters of Chapter 2 are as follows:  
*2.1. Minorities and language policy, 2.2. Language policy and minority languages in Brazil, 2.3. Culture and language, 2.4. Identity and language, 2.5. Hungarians in São Paulo*

## **3. Structure, Data and Methodology**

The dissertation is well-organized and follows the structure expected of a doctoral work with logical coherence in their organization. The 138-page work consists of six main chapters (*1. Introduction, 2. Literature review, 3. Data and methods, 4. Results and analyses, 5. Discussion, 6. Conclusions*), *References* (133 different sources, such as monographs, articles, other documents), *Appendices*. At the beginning of the thesis, the pages numbered with Roman numerals also contain the table of contents, the *List of figures* (18 pcs.) and the *List of tables* (4 pcs.)

We note that it would have been worthwhile to include the Candidate's previously published scientific articles in the bibliography, as the Hungarian Collection of Scientific Works (MTMT - <https://m2.mtmt.hu/gui2/?type=authors&mode=browse&sel=10076408&view=simpleList>) includes 12 items under his authorship, most of which are closely related to the dissertation.

The introduction contextualizes Hungarian migration to Brazil and situates the research within broader policies and academic discussions. The literature review systematically builds the conceptual framework.

The methodology chapter presents a convincing mixed-method design. In the dissertation were conducted semi-structured interviews with 11 individuals, with each generation being represented. Some of the participants fulfill or have fulfilled important positions at the Hungarian House or at the General Consulate. The interviewees were Hungarian language users on a daily, weekly, or at least a monthly basis – also depending on the generation.

This was combined with the National Identity Profile Questionnaire (NIP-Q), which was developed and administered for this research, on a larger sample for the first time. This methodological innovation is one of the dissertation's key contributions. Seventy-eight respondents of four different generations filled in the NIP-Q. The Candidate stated that no specific criteria were imposed for selecting participants for the questionnaire, apart from aiming to include individuals who identified as being of Hungarian heritage. He underlined that for the in-person administration of the questionnaire, he made deliberate efforts to reach representatives of each generation. In the case of the online version – which received a higher number of responses – the distribution was facilitated by one of the leaders of the Hungarian House. He shared the questionnaire through the organization's mailing list and Facebook group, both of which consist of members with Hungarian ancestry. In the NIP-Q, the first generation was represented by 14 participants, the second by 33, the third by 22, and the fourth by 9 individuals. The most populous age group is between 40 and 65 years old, while the least represented are those under 18 years old. Gender distribution was almost evenly balanced, with 38 female and 40 male participants.

The results and findings are clearly presented in the dissertation with figures and tables, while the discussion and conclusions sections synthesize the findings convincingly.

#### **4. Research Questions and Hypotheses**

The three main research questions (*RQ1: Is there a difference in the perception of Hungarian and Brazilian national identities among different generations of respondents?*, *RQ2: What are the greatest identity-shaping factors in the participants' Hungarian identity? Are these factors much different from those of Brazilian identity?*, *RQ3: Do respondents think positively about their mixed identity?*) are well-formulated, focusing on generational differences, identity-shaping factors, and the evaluation of mixed identities. The hypotheses, derived from prior research, assumed a stronger Hungarian orientation among older generations, the primacy of language in identity formation, and the dominance of single over dual identity. The empirical findings, however, revealed that hybrid identities are more prevalent and sustainable than anticipated. This divergence between hypotheses and outcomes significantly increases the scientific value of the work, as it challenges traditional assumptions about diaspora identity.

#### **5. Research Results and Conclusions**

The dissertation presents several key findings, among which I highlight the following:

- Hybrid Identities: The majority of respondents identify with a mixed Hungarian–Brazilian identity, rather than with a single national identity.
- Heritage Hungarian: The community preserves a unique form of Hungarian shaped by dialectal features of early immigrants and influenced by prolonged contact with Portuguese.
- Institutional Support: Cultural associations, churches, folk dance groups, scouting, and community spaces play a vital role in sustaining Hungarian culture and identity.
- Generational Differences: Older generations emphasize language and religious traditions, while younger members often rely on symbolic cultural practices (such as cuisine, humor, or folk dance) to express identity.

These conclusions are solidly grounded in the empirical material and contribute to broader discussions on multiculturalism, bilingualism, and cultural sustainability.

## **6. Applicability and Usefulness**

The dissertation has high practical value. For policy-makers, it provides evidence to refine Hungary's diaspora strategies, especially in relation to language preservation and youth programs. For community institutions, it highlights the importance of symbolic cultural practices alongside linguistic competence. For academic research, the NIP-Q represents a promising new instrument for measuring national identity in diaspora contexts and can be applied beyond the Hungarian case.

## **7. Novel Scientific Contributions**

The originality of the dissertation is evident in several respects which can be summarized in 5 points:

1. The first systematic study of the Hungarian diaspora in São Paulo with a focus on identity sustainability.
2. The development and application of the National Identity Profile Questionnaire (NIP-Q), a novel methodological tool.
3. The documentation of heritage Hungarian as a distinctive variety shaped by contact with Portuguese.
4. The integration of cultural sustainability into diaspora identity studies.
5. The empirical demonstration that dual and multiple identities are sustainable across generations, not merely transitional.

## **8. Limitations and Areas for Improvement -**

Although the dissertation is of high academic quality, some limitations should be noted. First, the sample size, while sufficient for exploratory purposes, could be expanded in future research to increase generalizability.

Second, I note that the focus is primarily on São Paulo; a comparative view including Hungarian communities in other Brazilian regions would enrich the analysis.

Finally, I suggest that the validation of the NIP-Q should be extended with larger and more diverse populations to establish its full reliability.

These limitations, however, do not diminish the valuable results of the dissertation, rather, they highlight promising directions for future research.

## **9. Suggestions for Future Research and Development**

Building on the strengths of this dissertation, the following seven research directions are recommended:

1. Comparative studies within Brazil, extending the analysis to Hungarian communities in Rio de Janeiro, Curitiba, or Porto Alegre.
2. Cross-diaspora comparisons, applying the NIP-Q to Hungarian diasporas in North America, Europe, and Australia.
3. Longitudinal studies, tracing identity and language practices across time and generations.
4. Further validation of the NIP-Q, adapting it to broader and more diverse diaspora populations.
5. Interdisciplinary collaboration, linking linguistics with anthropology, education, and digital communication studies to capture the role of online communities in identity formation.
6. Policy-oriented research, assessing the impact of scholarship programs and cultural initiatives on diaspora identity.
7. In-depth sociolinguistic analysis, documenting phonological, syntactic, and lexical features of heritage Hungarian in Brazil.

## **10. Overall Evaluation**

This dissertation represents an excellent scholarly achievement. It is timely, theoretically well-founded, methodologically innovative, and empirically rich. Its findings challenge existing assumptions and provide new insights of both academic and practical significance. The Candidate has demonstrated originality, analytical maturity, and a high level of scholarly and scientific competences.

**I consider the dissertation worthy of acceptance and recommend the award of the PhD degree with the qualification Summa cum Laude.**

**I extend my best wishes to the Candidate for their future scientific pursuits and professional journey.**

### **11. Questions for the Candidate**

1. To what extent can the findings about the sustainability of dual or multiple identities in the Hungarian diaspora of São Paulo be generalized to other (Hungarian) diaspora communities worldwide?

2. How might the National Identity Profile Questionnaire (NIP-Q) be further refined to capture not only generational differences but also more subtle dimensions of identity, such as symbolic cultural practices, digital connections, or transnational mobility?

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