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## **Humour and Parody by the Rhymes in Hungarian Poetry**

(Abstract)

The rhyming in Hungarian poetry is a rather complicated stylistic feature. Its evolution was the most striking during the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when from strophes containing only non-rhyming lines it arrived to the level of highly complex rhyme-topoi.

In our paper we would like to show the further evolution of this rhyming tradition, and the ironical potential of rhyming in later periods. The paper focuses in particular on (1) echoing rhymes and their use for humorous purposes; (2) the uses of identical and homophonic rhymes as imitation and parody of earlier versification patterns; (3) the computational analysis of identical and homophonic rhymes from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, till the 1930's.

Our analysis aims to measure the quality of rhyming, which depends primarily on whether the rhymes under consideration are made by suffixes (a simple way of rhyming, as Hungarian is an agglutinative language) or are more sophisticated. Humorous poems generally don't have a higher score (and therefore better rhyming quality). However, some authors (such as Dániel Varró) or certain humorous genres, such as Hungarian limericks or satirical poems from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, scored high, showing that there is indeed some relationship between humour and rhyme quality.