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## **Forms of language teaching and the significance of multilingualism among Hungarian aristocrats from the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> to the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century**

In this paper I will present the ways in which languages were taught to a particular class of Hungarian aristocrats - those who had gone on a study tour abroad, the so-called Kavalierstour - the *gentleman's tour*. These were mostly representatives of the *homo novus* aristocracy, who had risen in the political, economic, cultural and social elite of the Hungarian kingdom in the post-Hungarian period. They were Catholics (or converted to Catholicism under the influence of the Archbishop of Esztergom, Péter Pázmány), oriented their marriage policy towards the Viennese court aristocracy, and enjoyed the advantages of integration into the Viennese court before other Hungarian magnates. The Pálffys, Esterházys, Csákys, Zichys, Nádasdys and Széchenys sent their sons on the *gentleman's tour* with the clear aim of following the most modern trends in the education of the nobility, and also for the young representatives of these families to acquire the widest possible knowledge of languages.

I will focus on the following themes: what were contemporary ideas about the "ideal" education of a nobleman in the early modern period, and what role did linguistic knowledge play in this period? What model did the nobility follow in choosing "useful languages for courtly communication"? Did the family background and the region from which the nobleman came influence his language skills? I will also present the course of language teaching among the nobility, the contemporary requirements for language teachers, and the peculiarities of language selection in Hungary. By analysing the different types of foreign travels of the Hungarian nobility, I present the possibilities of acquiring and practising languages in the knightly academies and also during travels in different countries. Finally, I will address the important issue of the practical application of language knowledge during the diplomatic, political, statecraft and military careers of Hungarian nobles in the environment of the Viennese court and in Hungary. The aim of the lecture is also to present the process of integration of the Hungarian aristocracy from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the reign of Charles III (VI), in which language skills played a key role – for German opened the gates to Vienna.