Why Hungarians in Serbia like object pro-drop forms more than Hungarians in Slovakia and Ukraine

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In my paper I revisit the mystery of object pro-drop forms in Hungarian that came to light during the mid-1990s, when the 7-country project 'The sociolinguistics of Hungarian outside Hungary' (for details see Miklós Kontra 2001. Hungarian verbal puzzles and the intensity of language contact. Journal of Sociolinguistics 5.) was conducted. This study showed namely that there is a split between grammaticality judgments of Hungarians in Slovakia, Ukraine and Serbia: for Hungarians in northern Slavic countries the overt objects are much more acceptable than for Hungarians in Serbia.

My explanation of this split is based on the tripartite typology of pronouns developed by Anna Cardinaletti and Michal Starke (The typology of structural deficiency: A case study of the three classes of pronouns. In H. van Riemsdijk ed. Clitics in the languages of Europe. Berlin, New York, Mouton de Gruyter, 1999. 145-233.), and on the structural differences in Hungarian and Serbian accusative personal pronoun paradigm. Since the Hungarian accusative paradigm consists of full pronouns and pro, and the Serbian of full pronouns and clitic pronouns, I claim that Hungarians in Serbia choose the standard, object pro-drop forms more often because they map the Serbian full accusative personal pronouns into Hungarian full accusative personal pronouns, and the Serbian clitic accusative personal pronouns into Hungarian pro accusative personal pronouns.