THE CASE FOR CASE OF INTONATION
IN HAMLET’S “TO BE, OR NOT TO BE…”

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Abstract: Shakespeare’s “Hamlet” is very much Hamlet-centered, as evident in “that same rusty speech” opening with an alternative question – the famous soliloquy “To be, or not to be…” (3.1.55). The soliloquy implies a doer, i.e. a deep semantic agent (A), acting transitively on a deep semantic patient (P). The semantic pattern is approached in this paper as a typical case of a two-case system. The syntactic-semantic analysis here is carried out within the framework of Aekadiev’s Two Case Grammar (Aekadiev 2008), and it resorts to concepts from intonation analysis.