GABRIELA PANĂ DINDELEGAN, ADINA DRAGOMIRESCU, ISABELA NEDELCU, *Morfosintaxa limbii române. Sinteze teoretice şi exerciţii* [The morphosyntax of Romanian. Theoretical syntheses and exercises], Bucureşti, Editura Universităţii din Bucureşti, 2010, 219 p.

The aim of this work, as Gabriela Pană Dindelegan shows in the *Foreword*, is to provide a textbook for the students attending the *morphology* and *syntax* courses at the Faculty of Letters, University of Bucharest. As such, this textbook is an "agent" mediating between the university lecture and the linguistic literature − as known for the Romanian community, in 2005 the Institute of Linguistics published a thorough academic grammar of Romanian (GALR), which is too ample (2 volumes, 1801 pp.) to be used in class; the need for a textbook of this kind is thus justified.

There are several main characteristics which mark this textbook out as different from other works of this type currently available in the field.

First, it critically summarizes the main findings of GALR, and addresses them in a simplified manner, easy to understand by students with a poor background in the study of grammar − grammar is currently studied in lower secondary schools in Romania, but not in upper secondary schools; consequently, BA students have a poor background.

Secondly, it contains a substantial workbook section, usually placed at the end of the chapter (in the case of two chapters, i.e., *The Verb and the Verb Phrase* and *The Noun and the Noun Phrase*, the exercises are interspersed between the sections of the chapters because of the ample dimension of these chapters). In addition, the didactic perspective from which the textbook was written has imposed some constraints on the data presentation:

● there are numerous syntheses at the end of the chapters which direct the reader's attention to the most important discussed matters;

● the book contains a *glossary* which provides complex indications of the basic uses of the main terms;

● there are many X-bar representations which have a double role − they contribute to the reader's understanding of the syntactic hierarchies of different constructions, on the one hand, and they help the reader understand the syntactic differences between different structures/constructions, on the other hand.

Thirdly, this textbook fills a gap in the theory of grammar available in the Romanian literature. GALR is an extensive grammar whose goal is descriptive rather than theoretical. *The Morphosyntax of Romanian* is written from a modern generative perspective, and brings to the foreground the most important results of generative work, acknowledged world-wide:

● the Rizzian organization of the clause;

● the fine-grained distinctions among intransitives: there are inventories of Romanian unaccusative and unergative verbs, and the relevance of this distinction in Romanian is discussed;

● the fine-grained distinctions among classes of nouns (an extensive presentation);

● the latest findings in the theory of θ-roles are incorporated in the book; moreover, the realization of θ-roles in Romanian is presented;

● notions of information structure are presented and used in the analysis of Romanian syntactic structures/constructions.

Last but not least, one can find at the end of each chapter a section entitled *Typological features of Romanian*, in which Romanian data are placed in a comparative frame. The existence of this section is an originality factor (from what we know, morphology and syntax textbooks do not usually contain a section of this type), showing that this work is more than a regular textbook.

The book contains ten chapters; the largest chapter is the one dealing with verbs and verb phases (chapter IV), which is 62 pages long. Each chapter contains one or more set of exercises (usually at the end) and one or more sections regarding the typological features of Romanian.

In chapter I, *Syntactic organization. Types of sentences* (pp. 19−27), the authors present the syntactic organization of the sentence (in Romanian, *enunț*), understood from a double perspective. From a linguistic perspective, the *sentence* is defined in a Bloomfield-like manner: it is a meaningful sounded (or written) sequence comprised between two pauses; from a communicative-pragmatic perspective, the *sentence* is the product of uttering. The Rizzian (cf. Rizzi 1997) conception of clause-structure is used to describe the main units of the sentence. The main distinctions arrived at are: *structured* vs. *non-structured sentence*; *grammatical* vs. *agrammatical sentence*; *assertive* vs. *interrogative* vs. *imperative* vs. *exclamative sentence*. The chapter ends with a table in which the relation between types of sentences (*assertive…*) and speech acts is investigated.

In the second chapter, *Predication and the predicate* (pp. 29−33), the main features regarding the concept of predication are presented. The authors distinguish between *logical/semantic predicate*, *syntactic predicate* and *sentential predicate* (in Romanian, *predicat al enunțării*); the last one corresponds to the traditional grammar notion of "predicate". Another distinction is made between *simple* and *complex* (sentential) predicate.

In chapter III, *Syntactic relations* (pp. 35−46), the authors identify and describe three main syntactic relations: *coordination, subordination* and the *appositive relation*. The linguistic means through which these relations are expressed in Romanian are presented in this chapter.

Chapter IV, *The verb and the verb phrase* (pp. 47−109), is the largest chapter of the book. Alongside of the following chapter, it is the most original part of this textbook as it contains a new rich and solid theoretical part (much of it unknown to the Romanian readers), and a lot of empirical data which support these new theoretical findings: unaccusative and unergative verbs; variations in the argument structure of verbs (*transitivisation, detransitivisation − passivization* and *anticausativisation −, reflexivization*, etc.); a minute presentation of non-finite verb forms; the syntactic hierarchy of the verb's subordinates. The morphosyntactic perspective becomes obvious in this chapter: for instance, the examination of the verbal categories (mood, tense, aspect; number and person) is made from this (somehow double) perspective.

In chapter V, *The interjection and the interjection phrase* (pp. 111−113), the main features of Romanian interjections (the definition of interjections, the main types of interjections) and of the phrase that interjections head are briefly presented.

Chapter VI, *The noun and the noun phrase* (pp. 115−154), is the second largest chapter of this book. As mentioned above, it is a highly original chapter as it introduces − in contrast to former descriptions of the nominal phrase in the Romanian literature − a hierarchical (generative) perspective on the structure of noun phrases. The main constituents of the noun phrase are: determiners, quantifiers, complements (in the sense of objects), restrictive and non-restrictive modifiers, adjuncts, and focal particles. Despite the labelling "**noun** phrase", the nominal phrase is conceived as "determiner phrase" (p. 142), a conception generalized in the generative literature (cf. Abney 1987). Similarly to chapter IV, the *morphosyntactic perspective* is also present in the description of the nominal phrase: for example, the description of Romanian cases is made from this perspective. Another point in which this perspective is evident is the section describing the means of cohesion of components inside the noun phrase.

In chapter VII, *The pronoun and the noun phrase with a pronominal head* (pp. 155−168), the main types of pronouns available in Romanian, as well as their most salient features are presented. Pronouns are arranged in classes according to two main criteria: personal vs. non-personal pronouns

and deictic vs. anaphoric vs. variable pronouns. The noun phrase with a pronominal head is analyzed in terms of the fused-head approach (cf. Huddleston & Pullum 2002, 2005).

Chapter VIII, *The adjective and the adjectival phrase* (pp. 169−184), contains: the inflectional description of Romanian adjectives (several classes of adjectives are distinguished on the basis of inflectional criteria), the typology of adjectives, the syntactic positions occupied by the AP in the clausal organization, and the internal syntax of the adjectival phrase. The most original part of this chapter is the presentation (for the first time in a Romanian textbook) of the "situational/reference-modifying adjectives", also known in the literature as intensional adjectives (cf. Bollinger 1967, Brăescu 2009).

Chapter IX, *The adverb and the adverbial phrase* (pp. 185−195), contains an accurate description of the morphology and syntax of Romanian adverbs. From a semantic perspective, there are four criteria according to which the following classes of adverbs are distinguished: *lexical* vs. *grammaticalized adverbs* (criterion: *type of signification*); *adverbs with an inherent semantic content* vs. *deictic*, *anaphoric*, *variable adverbs* (criterion: the way in which adverbs acquire their reference); *modal* vs. *quantificational* vs. *situational adverbs* (criterion: *lexical content*); and *full adverbs* vs. *semi-adverbs* (*weak adverbs*) (the criterion of *syntactic independence)*. Adverbs are also distinguished from a word formation point of view (*simple adverbs*, *adverbs obtained by suffixation*, etc.). The positions that the AdvP can occupy in the clausal organization and the internal structure of the adverbial phrase are also investigated.

In chapter X, *The preposition and the prepositional phrase* (pp. 197−205), the main distinction in the class of prepositions is between *lexical, functional,* and *semi-lexical* prepositions. As such, the class of Romanian prepositions is investigated from this perspective, and there is a presentation of the contexts of occurrence of functional prepositions in Romanian.

The textbook ends with a *Glossary* (pp. 207−215), which contains the definitions of the most important concepts/terms used in the book, and with a *Selected references* section (pp. 217−219), which contains only the bibliographical information not included in GALR.

The textbook under review is a detailed and refined introduction to the morphological and syntactic structure of Romanian. Besides the extensive presentation of linguistic data, the book contains solid analyses of the linguistic phenomena, written from a modern (mainly generative) perspective.

The presentation of the data is made in a clear way, with strict demarcations that eliminate the possibility of confusion between concepts, ideas, different structures or classes.

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KIM SCHULTE, *Prepositional Infinitives in Romance languages. A Usage-Based Approach to Syntactic Change*, Peter Lang, Oxford, Bern, Berlin, Bruxelles, Frankfurt am Main, New York, Wien, 2007, 409 p.

The author examines the present-day distribution and the diachronic evolution of a set of infinitival constructions, i.e. the prepositional infinitives, which are absent from Latin but have developed in the majority of the Romance languages. It is a cross-linguistic study, reffering to data taken from three Romance languages: Spanish, Portuguese and Romanian.

The current volume has the character of an usage-based study because of two reasons. First, it is written in the spirit of Langacker's dynamic usage-based model (R. W. Langacker, *Grammar and conceptualization*, 1999: 91−145). Secondly, the data presented in the study are based on a large corpus which provides examples that covers the Middle Age period up to the contemporary period of time. The study thus combine the methods of corpus data with the theoretical stance of cognitive linguistics.

The aim of the study is to investigate the reasons for which this type of constructions are used by the speaker. The book is organized in seven main chapters, one set of final conclusions and three appendices.

In the first chapter, *Motivation and theoretical parameters*, the author motivates his choice for analyzing the data excerpted from the three Romance languages, and tries to clarify some notions used in his research, such as: dependent complements, the distinction between complements and adjuncts, prepositional constructions, compound prepositions and conjunctions.

The next section of this chapter analyzes how pragmatics can interact with syntax. The importance of the pragmatic factors in syntactic choice is underlined. According to the *Gricean Maxims of conversation*, any normal utterance must be relevant, clear, true and brief. In order to satisfy these requirements, the speaker must choose some particular structure for every sentence he utters. All these choises are influenced by the semantic content and by the pragmatic context of the individual utterance. There are some situations when the semantic content of a sentence determines or limits the syntactic options. The author supports this claim with the case of transitive Spanish verb *castigar* 'to punish'. He argues that *castigar* can be used in an active construction, accepting the semantic roles [Agent] and [Pacient], which correspond at the syntactic level to [Subject] and [Object]. This verb can also be used in a passive construction, in which the prepositional phrase represents the agent, and the subject is the patient. In this case, the syntactic structure is influenced by the semantic content of the sentence. The choice between the active or passive construction is determined by two pragmatic factors: the stylistical register in which the utterance is used and the subject topicalization. As to the register, the author argues that passive constructions are mostly used in the journalistic register, while the colloquial style shows a limited usage of this kind of structure. The subject is topicalized only in the passive structure.

This is followed by a discussion regarding the role of pragmatic factors in the mechanisms involved in syntactic change: reanalysis, extension and borrowing. It is claimed that one of the cases in which pragmatics contributes to the process of reanalysis is the mechanism of pragmatic inference. The author supports his claim with the case of Spanish verb *tener* 'to have, to hold' which suffers an ongoing process of reanalysis. The original meaning of *tener* is 'to have, to hold', but currently this verb is used as an auxiliary marker of perfectivity in combination with the past participle of some verbs.

In the fifth part of the chapter, the author motivates his choice for the statistical approach on which the study is based. He argues that the statistical analysis is useful for the understanding of linguistic structure and change.

The second chapter, *From Latin to Romance*, offers a survey of two different types of subordination in Latin: finite and nonfinite subordination. For finite subordination, the author analyzes conjunctional subordination by *quod, ut/ne* for indicative and subjunctive, asyndetic finite dependent clauses and hypotactic with underspecified subordinator. For nonfinite subordination, the author analyzes two types of infinitival constructions (Nominative and Infinitive, Accusative and Infinitive) and some nominal constructions, called non-infinitival nominal dependent clauses (gerund, gerundive, supine and participial constructions). This inventory is viewed in comparison with the surviving inventory in Modern Romance.

In the third chapter, *The Infinitive in Spanish and Portuguese today*, the author presents a synchronic description of the situation of the infinitive in Spanish and Portuguese. It contains four sections. The first one presents the syntactic environments in which a subject can be assigned to an infinitival construction based on some already existing theoretical models. Then, the author presents his own syntactic and semantic model, based on the assumption that pragmatic factors are involved in the process mentioned above. The new approach is called *Decision tree subject reference assignement*. The second and the third section examines the infinitival constructions with overt subject in modern Spanish and Portuguese as well. The statistical data obtained suggest that the main function of these constructions is pragmatical. The fourth section is built around the question of whether if the infinitive is more nominal or verbal now-a-days than it was in Latin.

The fourth chapter of the book is named *Diachronic development of the infinitive in Spanish*. The author makes a statistical analysis of the evolution of prepositional infinitives in ancient Spanish, since the early Middle Ages. In the first section, he discusses two syntactic types of infinitival constructions: prepositional and nonprepositional infinitives. The author makes an inventory of all the prepositions that can occur with the infinitive. He also studies the usage frequency of this kind of constructions and all the semantic criteria which characterize the prepositional infinitive. The author continues his research with a statistical comparison of finite and subordinate clauses along the timeline. At the end of the chapter, he discusses the results obtained and gives a possible explanation for the facts.

Chapter five, *Portuguese and Spanish developments compared*, deals with the problem of the statistical diachronic development of some prepositions and of their counterparts (prepositional infinitive constructions) in Spanish and in Portuguese. The results of the analysis points out some similarities, but also some differences in the historical evolution of the two languages. The author demonstrates again that pragmatic factors had a crucial role concerning the spreading and the evolution of all the constructions analyzed so far. The second part of this chapter deals with a detailed diachronic presentation and analysis of a special type of structure, precisely the infinitival constructions with overt subject both in Spanish and Portuguese. The author concludes that the origin of infinitival constructions with overt subject is the same. The further historical developments of the two languages, that occured along time, have led to the different distribution nowadays.

Chapter six, *The Infinitive in Romanian* examines the situation of the infinitive in Romanian. The first section of the chapter begins with a short description of the status of this mood in present-day Romanian. The author argues that the Romanian infinitive has a "marginal role in Modern Romanian syntax" (p. 283), taking into acount the fact that in Romanian, like in the majority of the languages spoken in Balkans, the infinitive is replaceable with the subjunctive. The observations are followed by an overview of all the morpho-syntactic environments of the infinitive in Modern Romanian, in comparison with those from the other Romance languages. The author analyzes: the use of the infinitive with temporal and modal auxiliary verbs and the infinitival *wh*-constructions. In addition, he analyzes the uses of the infinitival complements with intrisically coreferential verbs, optionally coreferential verbs and non-coreferential matrix verbs.

Then, the analysis is focused on the uses of prepositional infinitives, viewed synchronically and diachronically. In another section, the author makes some observations related to the status of the subject in Romanian infinitival clauses. He argues that a common pattern of subject assignement in prepositional infinitive constructions is coreferentiality. This fact has an important role in the occurences of certain prepositions with infinitival constructions.

In the final section of the chapter, the author gathers all the data and compares them with those found in Spanish and Portuguese. He points out that there are both similarities and differences between these three Romance varieties. Sinchronically, the most obvious similarity is that the inventory of prepositional infinitives found most frequently in Romanian corresponds to the one found in Spanish and Portuguese. But for all that the three languages differ regarding the usage frequency of prepositional infinitives in comparison with their finite counterparts. The statistical data show that the use of the prepositional infinitives is generally lower in Romanian than it is in the other two languages discussed. This is due to the fact that in Romanian the infinitive is replaced by fully finite complement clauses.

Next, the author argues that parallels between these three languages can be also observed diachronically (i.e. *de a* + infinitive construction which appears early in Romanian, and its Spanish and Portuguese counterpart, *de* + infinitive construction which is found since the earliest texts).

All the similarities between these three languages are considered to be the "result of more frequent pragmatic usage patterns becoming entrenched at the expense of less frequent ones" (p. 15).

Chapter seven, *Relevance and reanalysis: prepositional complementizers*, deals with the analysis of two prepositions, *a* and *de,* which are found in Romance languages. The author wants to prove that the functional role of *a* and *de* from the present day languages is due to a long process of reanalysis and semantic bleaching that the two prepositions have undergone in different stages of the

language evolution. Taking into account these facts, the author tries to explain all these processes. He supports his analysis with the case of the preposition *para/pra* from Portuguese, which suffers an ongoing process of reanalysis and tends to become a complementizer.

The final chapter is dedicated to some final conclusions regarding all the differences and similarities between the three languages analyzed. The results presented by the author reveal the important role of the pragmatic factors in the diachronic evolution of the prepositional infinitive construction and in the spread of this type of construction. The author also concludes that even though there are some differences concerning the uses of these structures in the three languages, the pragmatic mechanisms which are involved in their development are the same.

The book contains also three appendices for each language analyzed. These appendices contain all the name of sources used by the author to settle his corpus of data. As we already mentioned, the corpus consists in old and modern texts.

Attempting to link cognitive linguistic theory to empirical evidence in the form of a corpus data, this book offers us a detailed description and analysis of the evolution and distribution of prepositional infinitives in Romance languages.

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