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**Keywords:** light verb, ‘give’, ‘take’, Romanian.

(2) to have a rest  $\approx$  to rest  
to take a walk  $\approx$  to walk  
to give a sigh  $\approx$  to sigh

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Basic light verbs are seen as capable of imposing selectional restrictions (6a) (Grimshaw and Mester 1988) and having a partially unspecified argument structure (Di Sciullo and Rosen 1990) (6b):

- (6) a. a spider can ‘walk’, a spider does not normally ‘take a walk’  
(Grimshaw and Mester 1988: 229)
- b. to give advice to students

As for available syntactic structures posited in order to account for the behavior of light verbs and light verb constructions, light verbs have been analyzed either as constituting a special class of verbs, which can be accounted for in terms of instantiations of little *v* (Hale and Keyser 1993, Butt 2010), Complex Predicate formation combining the verb and the noun into a single predicate (Jackendoff 1974), Argument Transfer transmitting the argument of the noun to the verb (Grimshaw and Mester 1988), or as regular verbs with very little semantic specification (Bruening 2015).

Although a purely syntactic characterization of the Romanian light verbs *a da* ‘give’ and *a lua* ‘take’ lies outside the scope of this paper, their behavior in readily accommodating English nouns seems to offer support to the analysis of Culicover and Jackendoff (2005), in which the light verb simply contributes a syntactic frame, whereas the meaning of the noun unifies with the verb.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 illustrates two main corpora, one for light *a da* ‘give’ and the second for light *a lua* ‘take’ - accommodating English loan words in contemporary Romanian internet slang. Starting from the largely accepted view that light verbs crosslinguistically add semantic information about the event (as opposed to the lexical ‘heavy verb’ counterpart), section 3 analyzes the corpora with a view to uncovering these semantic entailments. Section 4 gives the conclusions and outlines some areas for further research.

## 2. THE DATA

Romanian contemporary usage, especially internet speech, has developed a highly productive pattern of light verb constructions with English loans, as preliminarily shown in (7):

- (7) a. Bună, ce înseamnă când cineva îți **dă ban** pe  
hi, what means when someone CL2.DAT.SG give ban on  
facebook?<sup>2</sup>  
facebook?  
‘Hi, what does it mean when someone bans you on facebook?’
- b. **Am luat ban** pe Instagram și ar fi trebuit să treacă pe 29.08<sup>3</sup>.  
have taken ban on Instagram and COND PERF should SBJV pass on 29.08.  
‘I was banned on Instagram and it should have been over on 29.08.’

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.tpu.ro/adolescenti/buna-ce-inseamna-cand-cineva-iti-da-ban-pe-facebook-te-blocheaza-sau-nu-le-mai-poti-da-like-uri-la-poze-ma-refer-in/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.tpu.ro/tehnologie/am-luat-ban-pe-instagram-si-ar-fi-trebuit-sa-treaca-pe-29-08-acum-e-30-si-in-continua-re-imi-apare-faptul-ca-sunt-blocat/>

This paper looks at the English loan word as a (frozen) result token, while the choice of light verb is taken to encode a pragmatic opposition of agency vs. affectedness.

Both verbs under scrutiny here start out as physical motion verbs. *da* ‘give’ comes from Latin *dare* ‘to give / put into someone’s hand’, while *lua* ‘take’ comes from Latin *levare* ‘to lift / take from a place’. Both *da* and *lua* have a long history of light-verb usage, as the light-verb constructions in (8) show:

- (8) a. mi-a zis mișel și mi-a **dat o palmă**<sup>4</sup> 1857  
 Me-has called wretched and me-has given a palm  
 ‘He called me a wretched man and hit me’
- b. Fetele [...] numa-și **dau ghiont** una alteia 1888  
 girls.DEF [...] only-CL3.DAT.PL gave push one.DEF other.DEF  
 și chicoteau<sup>5</sup>  
 and giggled  
 ‘The girls nudged each other and giggled’
- c. de n-or priimi, **a da foc** târgului<sup>6</sup> 1732  
 if not-will agree, to give fire town.DEF.DAT  
 ‘If they won’t agree to it, the town should be set on fire’
- d. vor **lua bătaie** pe spate<sup>7</sup> 1812  
 will take beating on back  
 ‘they will have their backs flogged’
- e. un asemenea chibrit, care **a luat foc**, nu poate să fie 1904  
 a such matchstick, which has taken fire, not can be  
 de cât un chibrit străin<sup>8</sup>  
 but a matchstick foreign  
 ‘Such a matchstick that caught fire can only be a foreign one’

Therefore, what happens in contemporary Romanian usage, internet speech in particular, is that English (nominal) roots are plugged into an old native template. These elements pertain to internet slang, such as *ban*, *like*, *ghosting*, *karma*, etc. Distinct categories are represented by nominal elements, i.e. result tokens, pertaining to mountain bikers’ slang, such as *drop*, *flat*, and Kendama practitioners, such as *bird*, *lunar*, etc.

The next subsections will present the available corpus on the light verbs *a da* ‘give’ and *a lua* ‘take’ accommodating English nouns which behave as result tokens. In point of methodology, the English nouns presented in the subsections 2.1. and 2.2. have been manually selected over the course of three years either from various interactions on the web, or from oral interactions with Gen Z representatives<sup>9</sup>. Wherever possible, attested examples will be provided.

<sup>4</sup> [https://ro.wikisource.org/wiki/Negru\\_pe\\_alb](https://ro.wikisource.org/wiki/Negru_pe_alb)

<sup>5</sup> [https://ro.wikisource.org/wiki/Amintiri\\_din\\_copil%C4%83rie](https://ro.wikisource.org/wiki/Amintiri_din_copil%C4%83rie)

<sup>6</sup> [https://ro.wikisource.org/wiki/Letopise%C8%9Bul\\_%C8%9A%C4%83rii\\_Moldovei/Capitolul\\_IV](https://ro.wikisource.org/wiki/Letopise%C8%9Bul_%C8%9A%C4%83rii_Moldovei/Capitolul_IV)

<sup>7</sup> [https://ro.wikisource.org/wiki/%C8%9Aiganiada/C%C3%A2ntecu\\_I](https://ro.wikisource.org/wiki/%C8%9Aiganiada/C%C3%A2ntecu_I)

<sup>8</sup> [https://ro.wikisource.org/wiki/Pagin%C4%83:Dimitrie\\_R.\\_Rosetti\\_-\\_%C3%8Entre\\_Cap%C8%99a\\_%C8%99i\\_Palat.djvu/158](https://ro.wikisource.org/wiki/Pagin%C4%83:Dimitrie_R._Rosetti_-_%C3%8Entre_Cap%C8%99a_%C8%99i_Palat.djvu/158)

<sup>9</sup> The individuals referred to here are four male young adults, aged 17, collectively engaged in activities related to mountain biking and Kendama playing.

## 2.1. *a da* ‘give’ + N

The purpose of this section is to present a mini-corpus of the light verb construction *a da* ‘give’ + English root in contemporary Romanian internet slang, mountain bikers’ slang, and Kendama players’ slang.

Examples from (9) to (25) illustrate the light verb construction *a da* ‘give’ + English root in contemporary Romanian internet slang.

- (9) Într-un grup pe Facebook am **dat ban**<sup>10</sup>  
 ‘in-a group on Facebook have.PRES.1SG given ban  
 ‘I banned someone on a Facebook group’
- (10) Dacă am **dat like** din greșală unei persoane  
 if have.PRES.1SG given like from mistake one.DAT person  
 pe care nu o am la prieteni și după am  
 DOM whom not CL.ACC.FEM.SG have at friends and after have.PRES.1SG  
**dat repede unlike**, mai poate vedea că am **dat like**?<sup>11</sup>  
 given quickly unlike, more can.PRES.3SG see that have.PRES.1SG given like?  
 ‘If I inadvertently liked the post of someone who is not among my friends and  
 afterwards, I quickly unliked it, can they still see that I first liked it?’
- (11) când am **dat “add friend”** mi-a apărut acest  
 when have.PRES.1SG given “add friend” CL.DAT.1SG-has appeared this  
 mesaj<sup>12</sup>  
 message  
 ‘When I hit ‘add friend’ this message appeared.’
- (12) Dacă **dau unfriend** cuiva de pe fb, nu-i apare  
 if give.PRES.1SG unfriend someone.DAT of on fb, not-CL.DAT.3SG appear  
 notificare<sup>13</sup>  
 notification  
 ‘If I unfriend someone on Facebook, they are not notified.’
- (13) Dacă **dau follow** la cineva pe Instagram,  
 if give.PRES.1SG follow at someone on Instagram  
 cei care au follow la mine o să vadă  
 those who have follow at me will see  
 cui am **dat eu follow**?<sup>14</sup>  
 whom have.1SG given I follow?  
 ‘If I follow someone on Instagram, will my followers see whom I followed?’

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.tpu.ro/informatii-utilitare/intr-un-grup-pe-facebook-am-dat-ban-si-acum-nu-mai-stiu-cum-sa-il-bag-inapoi-in-grup-vreo-idee-va-rog/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.tpu.ro/legislatie-politic-social/buna-daca-am-dat-like-din-greseala-unei-persoane-pe-care-nu-o-am-la-prieteni-si-dupa-am-dat-repede-unlike-mai-poate/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.tpu.ro/jocuri-pc-online/salut-tpu-astazi-cand-am-deschis-steam-ul-am-vrut-sa-adaug-un-prieten-cand-am-dat-add-friend-mi-a-aparut-acest-mesaj/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.tpu.ro/tehnologie/daca-dau-unfriend-cuiva-de-pe-fb-nu-i-apare-notificare-sau-ceva-care-sa-l-anunte-ca-i-am-dat-unfriend-nu-funda/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.tpu.ro/adolescenti/daca-dau-follow-la-cineva-pe-instagram-cei-care-au-follow-la-mine-o-sa-vada-cui-am-dat-eu-follow-dau-funda-mersi-de/>

- (14) Cum poți **da unfollow** la mai multe persoane odată pe Instagram?<sup>15</sup>  
how can.2SG give unfollow at more many persons together on Instagram?  
'How can you unfollow several people at once on Instagram?'
- (15) Dacă **dai** **un search** pe România pentru orice job,  
if give.PRES.2SG a search on Romania for any job,  
poți selecta și orasul<sup>16</sup>  
can.2SG select and city.DEF  
'If you search for any kind of job in Romania, you can also select the city.'
- (16) Cum **dai** **share location** din WhatsApp și Facebook Messenger<sup>17</sup>  
how give.PRES.2SG share location from WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger  
'How to share your location from WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger'
- (17) Efectiv eu pun o întrebare și lumea **dă** **hate**, de ce?<sup>18</sup>  
effectively, I put a question and people.DEF give.PRES.3SG hate, why?  
'I merely ask a question and everybody hates on me, why?'
- (18) TikTok-ul ăsta mi-a **dat trigger**!<sup>19</sup>  
TikTok-DEF this CL. DAT.1SG-has given trigger  
'This TikTok thing has triggered me!'
- (19) Mi-a **dat karma** persoana nepotrivită<sup>20</sup>  
CL.DAT.1SG-has given karma person.DEF unsuitable  
'The wrong person has punished me.'
- (20) mi-a **dat** **ghosting** și am suferit enorm<sup>21</sup>  
CL.DAT.1SG-has given ghosting and have.PRES.1SG suffered enormously  
'She ghosted me and I was very hurt.'
- (21) De ce **dai** **seen** și nu răspunzi?<sup>22</sup>  
why give.PRES.2SG seen and not answer.PRES.2SG?  
'Why are you always leaving me on seen?'
- (22) Sony a **dat** **discontinue** la căștile Sony Gold Wireless?<sup>23</sup>  
'Sony has given discontinue at headphones.DEF Sony Gold Wireless  
'Did Sony discontinue the production of Sony Gold Wireless headphones?'
- (23) Vedeta a **dat spoiler**, amuzată<sup>24</sup>  
star.DEF has give spoiler, amused.  
'The star gave spoilers, amused.'

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.tpu.ro/informatii-utilitare/buna-cum-poti-da-unfollow-la-mai-multe-persoane-odata-pe-instagram/>

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.reddit.com/r/programare/comments/1p3nb5s/are\\_si\\_linkedin\\_programatori\\_de\\_clasa/](https://www.reddit.com/r/programare/comments/1p3nb5s/are_si_linkedin_programatori_de_clasa/)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.libertatea.ro/stiri/cum-dai-share-location-din-whatsapp-si-facebook-messenger-3685973>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.tpu.ro/conversatii/efectiv-eu-pun-o-intrebare-si-lumea-da-hate-de-ce>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVfyBkBN1MI>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjXzFltSjs>

<sup>21</sup> [https://www.reddit.com/r/WomenRO/comments/1oowdng/proaspat\\_mamica/](https://www.reddit.com/r/WomenRO/comments/1oowdng/proaspat_mamica/)

<sup>22</sup> <https://dilemaveche.ro/sectiune/tema-saptamanii/de-ce-dai-seen-si-nu-raspunzi-632429.html>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.consolegames.ro/forum/fl15-sony-playstation-4/18883-clubul-playstation-4-a-index902.html>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.fanatik.ro/daiana-anghel-e-buna-de-plata-dupa-ce-a-castigat-power-couple-vedeta-antena-1-pe-urmele-celor-3-chefi-20635057>

- (24) Zucc mi-a **dat zucc** și a zis că nu mai vrea  
 Zucc CL.DAT.1SG-has given zucc and has said that not more wants  
 să îmi dea contul original înapoi<sup>25</sup>  
 to CL.DAT.1SG give account.DEF original back  
 ‘Zuckerberg restricted my account and said that he didn’t want to give me back my original account.’
- (25) i-am **dat un block scurt** din poignet<sup>26</sup>  
 CL.DAT.3SG-have given a block short from poignet  
 ‘I blocked her quickly and nonchalantly’

The following mini-corpus relates to Kendama tricks, whose English names are inserted into the same *a da* ‘give’ + N light verb constructions. The names of these tricks have been handpicked during interactions with 4 male 17-year-old high school students, who have been observed while performing Kendama tricks. Typically, the light verb construction is used in order to convey that performing a specific trick has been successful.

- (26) *a da* ‘give’ bird, lighthouse, inward lunar, lunar flip, stilt flip, handle stall, gunslinger, whirlwind, border balance, inward lunar flip
- (27) Pe grip stă OK poți **da un lighthouse** sau **un lunar**.<sup>27</sup>  
 on grip sits ok can.2SG give a lighthouse or a lunar.  
 ‘It sits ok on the grip, you can perform a lighthouse or a lunar trick’.
- (28) L-am **dat swing spike-ul**<sup>28</sup>  
 CL.ACC.3SG-have given swing spike.DEF  
 ‘I performed the swing spike trick’
- (29) Mai **dăm un penguin catch**<sup>29</sup>  
 more give.PRES.1PL a penguin catch  
 ‘Let’s try now a penguin catch trick.’

Finally, the third mini-corpus contains a light verb construction of the type *a da* ‘give’ + N, where N represents the name of a mountain biking trick or feature. The list has been compiled over the course of two years, during interactions with groups of mountain bikers, who have been interviewed in Romanian:

- (30) Tricks  
*a da* ‘give’ flat, table, whip, bar spin, backflip, 360, tail whip, manual, nose bonk, stoppie
- (31) Features  
*a da* ‘give’ bear, table jump, gap, drop, road gap, wallride, whoops, off camber, rock garden

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.instagram.com/p/COTWZajgXwo/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://mihaivasilescublog.ro/tag/mascata/>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.emag.ro/kendama-krom-pop-originala-negru-krmppopblrb/pd/D16R103BM/#reviews-section>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0WfJfW4RU>, min. 1:06

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0WfJfW4RU>, min. 1:33

Therefore, the pattern *a da* ‘give’ + N proves to be very productive in contemporary internet slang, Kendama players’ slang, and mountain bikers’ slang. The pattern readily accommodates loan words, which, irrespective of their lexical status in the source language, are nominalized (notice the presence of the indefinite determiner in (15) and (25)) or, at least, “used” as nominal roots. This also affects phrases, as in (16), where *share location* is simply plugged into the nominal slot of a light verb construction. In (11), the phrase *add friend* is placed between inverted commas, which is indicative of the same ‘plugging’ process. More will be said about the syntactic-pragmatic analysis of this construction in section 3.

## 2.2. a lua ‘take’ + N

The present section looks at the converse light verb *a lua* ‘take’ in light verb constructions of the type *a lua* ‘take’ + N. It presents a mini-corpus illustrative of this construction in internet slang<sup>30</sup>.

- (31) De ce **am luat** ban?<sup>31</sup>  
why have.1SG taken ban  
‘Why was I banned?’
- (32) Ziua în care **ne-am luat like-ul** înapoi<sup>32</sup>  
day.DEF in which CL.DAT.1PL-have taken like-DEF back  
‘the day we took our likes back’
- (33) Nu l-am pus pe Facebook și nu **am luat like-uri**<sup>33</sup>  
not CL.ACC.3SG-have put on Facebook and not have.1SG taken likes  
‘I didn’t post it on Facebook and I didn’t get likes.’
- (34) Toate cele care am comentat sau am fost de acord cu unele postări  
all those who have commented or have been of agree with some.DEF posts  
**ne-am luat unfriend** sau mai rău, **block**<sup>34</sup>  
CL.DAT.1PL-have taken unfriend or more bad, block  
‘Those of us who commented or agreed with some posts were unfriended or blocked’
- (35) nush cum de nu mi-**am luat unfollow** masiv  
don’t-know how of not CL.DAT.1SG-have taken unfollow massive  
am pierdut doar 2 oameni<sup>35</sup>  
have.1SG lost just 2 people  
‘I don’t know how I managed to not be massively unfollowed, I only lost two people’

<sup>30</sup> The light verb construction discussed in this section does not feature in Kendama players’ and mountain bikers’ slang. Essentially, these two subtypes of slang discussed in relation to *a da* ‘give’, involve one actant, i.e. the player / biker, who uses the light verb construction in order to entail successful event. In the case of what is called in this paper internet slang, both *a da* ‘give’ and *a lua* ‘take’ involve two actors, the Agent and the Recipient.

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/7Yb0bdd70CM>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.viata-libera.ro/editorial/75145-ziua-in-care-ne-am-luat-like-ul-inapoi>

<sup>33</sup> <https://dilemaveche.ro/sectiune/tema-saptamanii/stai-cuminte-si-fii-diferit-625000.html>

<sup>34</sup> <https://club.desprecopii.com/topic/157017-jurnal-de-familie-in-timp-de-pandemie/page/294/>

<sup>35</sup> [https://www.reddit.com/r/Romania/comments/1kr6zbi/c%C4%83pitanu\\_mocanu\\_ultimu\\_r%C4%83zbun%C4%83tor/](https://www.reddit.com/r/Romania/comments/1kr6zbi/c%C4%83pitanu_mocanu_ultimu_r%C4%83zbun%C4%83tor/)



- (36) am dat prioritate și mi-**am** luat hate<sup>36</sup>  
have.1SG given way and CL.DAT.1SG-have taken hate  
'I gave way to other cars and I was hated on.'
- (37) mi-**am** luat trigger imediat<sup>37</sup>  
CL.DAT.1SG-have taken trigger immediately  
'I was immediately triggered.'
- (38) mi-**am** luat karma grav<sup>38</sup>  
CL.DAT.1SG-have taken karma serious  
'Karma hit me hard.'
- (39) Mi-**am** luat ghosting de la psihoterapeut după prima ședință<sup>39</sup>  
CL.DAT.1SG-have taken ghosting of at psychotherapist after first.DEF meeting  
'I was ghosted by my psychotherapist after the first meeting.'
- (40) de data asta mi-**am** luat seen<sup>40</sup>  
of date.DEF this CL.DAT.1SG-have taken seen  
'This time I got left on seen'
- (41) Eu întotdeauna mi-**am** luat spoiler despre cum se termină cartea<sup>41</sup>  
I always CL.DAT.1SG-have taken spoiler about how REFL finishes book.DEF  
'I can never resist spoiling the ending of books for myself.'
- (42) "Mi-**am** luat Zucc!" a devenit una dintre  
"CL.DAT.1SG-have taken Zucc!" has become one.DEF of  
temutele expresii de pe Facebook<sup>42</sup>  
feared.DEF expressions of on Facebook  
'"I got zucc'd!" has become one of the feared Facebook expressions.'

A cursory look at the examples involving *a lua* 'take' + N in this section prompt two observations. The first is that, unlike light verb constructions involving *a da* 'give' in section 2.1, which typically point to the successful completion of a task, light verb constructions involving *a lua* 'take' typically point to a Malefactive interpretation of the actant getting banned, triggered, etc. by an Agent who very often remains implicit. This is accomplished in one of three ways (or a combination of those): the presence of sentence negation, as in (33), or word negation, i.e. negative prefixes, as in (34), the inherent negative meaning of the N root being plugged into the light verb construction, or, overwhelmingly, the presence of a dative clitic, whose pragmatic contribution is that of emphasizing affectedness and, therefore, attracting sympathy. More will be said about the syntactic-pragmatic analysis of this light verb construction in section 3.

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzfjjaBAm9w>

<sup>37</sup> <https://zoso.ro/rupti-realitate-guvernanti-nostri/>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.tiktok.com/@23darriaa/video/7588146282460351766>

<sup>39</sup> [https://www.reddit.com/r/CasualRO/comments/1mq35b/miam-luat\\_ghosting\\_de\\_la\\_psihoterapeut\\_dupa\\_prima/](https://www.reddit.com/r/CasualRO/comments/1mq35b/miam-luat_ghosting_de_la_psihoterapeut_dupa_prima/)

<sup>40</sup> <https://ziare.com/intarziere-avion/bani-primiti-romani-asteptare-aeroporturi-intarzieri-avion-despagubiri-plata-concediu-1831624>

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.tpu.ro/literatura/salut-deci-am-inceput-sa-citesc-obsesiv-seria-after-dar-nu-mai-pot-nu-mai-am-rabdare-vreau-un-rezumat-la-toata-seria/>

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.wall-street.ro/articol/New-Media/230660/mi-am-luat-zucc-in-ce-conditii-esti-banat-de-pe-facebook-si-ce-strategii-majore-integreaza-compania-acum.html>

### 3. ANALYSIS

The analysis in this section starts from an observation in Butt (2010, 5), who, in discussing light verbs in Urdu, claims that the light verb “is a very productive device for drawing predicates into the language and incorporating loan words into the verbal system (e.g., ‘phone-do’ for *telephone*)”. In this respect, light verbs are reminiscent of the role that verbalizing derivational morphology plays in other languages, such as the suffix *-ify* in English (Butt 2010, 5).

The Romanian light verbs *a da* ‘give’ and *a lua* ‘take’ also serve this function of incorporating loan words. The data in section 2 have shown that there is a consistent pattern of plugging the loan word into the LV + N syntactic structure. As for the parallelism identified by Butt (2010) between light verbs and verbalizing suffixes, it is worth noting that loan words in Romanian may enter two configurations, one in which the loan word carries Romanian inflection (43), and a second, which is gaining ground to the detriment of the former, where the loan word is simply inserted into the LV + N structure (44):

- (43)    Și lucrul      ăsta m-a    triggeruit    instantaneu.<sup>43</sup>  
          and thing.DEF this me-has triggered instantaneously.  
          ‘And this thing triggered me on the sport.’
- (44)    afirmația      anterioară mi-a    dat    trigger<sup>44</sup>  
          assertion.DEF previous    me-has given trigger.  
          ‘The previous assertion triggered me.’

It has long been acknowledged that, in addition of being carriers of tense, aspect, and mood, light verbs make distinct semantic contributions, in the sense that they may signal boundedness, telicity, causation, or even finer-grained nuances, such as “volitionality, benefaction, forcefulness, surprise” (Butt 2010, 17). It is to this kind of semantic contribution that the next subsections turn.

#### 3.1. ‘Giving’ triggers

When trying to see the semantic and pragmatic differences between a light verb construction and the equivalent lexical verb, such as (43) and (44) above, it becomes clear that the light verb contributes aspectual nuances and (many) other types of semantic information (Butt 2010: 17, Traugott 1999: 253). An illustration of this extra aspectual and/or semantic information carried by the light verb is seen in the distinction noted in Traugott (1999: 253) between the lexical verb ‘answer’ and the corresponding light verb ‘give an answer’, the latter signaling that the action was done deliberately.

The light verb ‘give’ is one of the most frequent light verbs in English, and, as the present paper hopefully shows, in Romanian, too. Butt (2010) refers to ‘give’ as being the third most frequently used light verb since early modern English (Butt 2010: 17). It is consistently seen as adding to the event described semantic information, such as the idea that the action is sudden, benefactive, or the responsibility of the actor (Butt and Geuder (2001).

<sup>43</sup> <https://culturaladuba.ro/din-underground-la-sala-palatului-the-mono-jacks-lanseaza-un-nou-album-cu-un-concert-atipic/>

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.mygarage.ro/my-garage/459144-silent-one-12.html>

On the other hand, the kind of aspectual information coded by the light verb ‘give’ is related to presenting the event as complete or telic, discrete, deliberate and brief (Wittenberg et al. 2014, Martinez Caro & Arús-Hita 2020). Kearns (1988/2002: 5) mentions that light verb constructions with ‘give’ describe events that are brief, casual and non-delimited in comparison with their simple verb counterparts, such as illustrated by the pair of sentences *John wiped the tables.* vs. *John gave the tables a wipe.* Wittenberg et al. (2014) also note that the light verb ‘give’ readily combines with any kind of noun denoting deliberate contact, such as *push/kick/kiss/hug* (Wittenberg et al. 2014: 64).

A separate issue but one which cross-cuts the semantic characterization of light verbs is related to the kind of nouns that may appear as complements of light verbs. A relevant study in this respect is Pompei & Piunno (2023), according to which nouns that collocate with light ‘give’ in Romance languages fall into four categories: psychological states (45), indefinite process nouns (46), definite process nouns (47), and punctual nouns (48).

- (45) a da încredere  
give trust  
‘reassure someone’
- (46) a da o mână de ajutor  
give a hand of help  
‘help someone’
- (47) a da un sfat, un răspuns, o explicație  
give an advice, an answer, an explanation  
‘give advice, give an answer, give an explanation’
- (48) a da o lovitură, un pumn, un șut, o palmă, un ordin, un semnal  
give a strike, a fist, a kick, a palm, an order, a signal  
‘hit, punch, kick, slap, order, signal’ (Pompei & Piunno 2023: 111-127)

According to Pompei & Piunno (2023), light ‘give’ is often connected to some kind of foregrounding of the Recipient, particularly in the case of nouns of verbal and non-verbal communication, like ‘give an order’, cases in which a causative value is implied (Pompei & Piunno 2023: 130). The authors refer to nouns like ‘order’ as ‘deontic nouns’ (Pompei & Piunno 2023: 130), and the Romanian corpus in this paper exhibits quite a number of such nouns.

Turning to the analysis of the corpus presented in this paper, it appears that light ‘give’ accommodating loan words fall into three classes.

The first class contains light ‘give’ taking nouns or nominalizations relating to internet and social media rules and regulations, such as *ban, unfriend, add friend, block, zucc, share location*, which would correspond to Pompei & Piunno’s punctual ‘deontic’ nouns. This category contributes to a foregrounding of the Recipient and have a causative value.

The second class contains light ‘give’ taking nouns or nominalizations related to psychological states, like *ghosting, seen, karma, hate, trigger*, and whose being embedded in the syntactic frame ‘give + X’ entails boundedness and punctuality. Again, the class shows foregrounding of the Recipient and entails causation.

The third class contains light ‘give’ taking nouns and nominalizations representing tricks and features pertaining to mountain bikers’ slang, such as *drop, flat*, and Kendama practitioners, such as *bird, lunar*, etc. This time, the light verb construction foregrounds the Agent, which, in combination with the bounded and punctual interpretation of the noun, semantically and pragmatically implicates successful event.

The fact that the English loan words accommodated by *a da* ‘give’ and *a lua* ‘take’ have a bounded interpretation brings evidence in favor of the view that the main function of the light verb seems to be a portioning function, i.e. that of encoding distinct or single instantiations of the corresponding lexical ‘heavy’ verb (Pompei and Piunno 2023)<sup>45</sup>.

### 3.2. ‘Taking’ triggers

This section briefly analyzes the semantic and pragmatic entailments of light ‘take’ + N constructions exemplified in the corpus. The present analysis closely follows that of Pompei & Piunno (2023: 137), according to whom light ‘take’ represents (and sometimes co-occurs) the converse of the causative light verb ‘give’, which basically amount to claiming that light ‘take’ is a marker of anticausativity.

A look at the corpus in the paper shows that, much in the manner of lexical ‘heavy’ ‘take’, light ‘take’ shows the endpoint of a transfer starting from an Agent or a Source and culminating into a Recipient, which is the opposite directionality of ‘give’, be it ‘heavy’ or light (Pompei & Piunno 2023: 137).

All nouns or nominalizations attested in the corpus are bounded and punctual. There are two classes that may be identified in the classes of ‘take + N’ light verb constructions in the corpus. The first class contains light ‘take’ accommodating nouns or nominalizations relating to internet and social media rules and regulations, such as *ban*, *unfriend*, *block*, *zucc*, *unfollow*, i.e. punctual ‘deontic’ nouns. This category contributes to a foregrounding of the Recipient and have an anticausative value.

The second class contains light ‘take’ accommodating nouns or nominalizations related to psychological states, like *ghosting*, *seen*, *karma*, *hate*, *trigger*, and whose being embedded in the syntactic frame ‘take + X’ entails boundedness and punctuality. Again, the class shows foregrounding of the Recipient and entails anticausation.

As shown in section 2.2., unlike light verb constructions involving *a da* ‘give’ in section 2.1, which typically point to the successful completion of a task, light verb constructions involving *a lua* ‘take’ typically point to a Malefactive interpretation of the actant getting banned, triggered, etc. by an Agent who very often remains implicit. This is mainly accomplished by the presence of a dative clitic, whose pragmatic contribution is that of emphasizing affectedness and, therefore, attracting sympathy.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

This paper looked at very recent English loan words plugged into light verb + N syntactic structures, where the light verb slot accommodates two converse terms, *a da* ‘give’ and *a lua* ‘take’. Two main corpora were presented, dealing with English loan words

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<sup>45</sup> From the perspective of this portioning function, as acknowledged by Pompei and Piunno (2023), light verbs seem to act like classifiers. Classifiers are functional or semi-lexical elements that are typically involved in portioning out the denotation of mass nouns (in languages with plural morphology) or all nouns, be they mass or count (in languages with no plural morphology, see Tănase-Dogaru 2007, 2013).

from three domains: internet and social media slang, Kendama players' slang, and mountain bikers' slang. The paper has shown that the English loan word is a (frozen) result token, sometimes in the process of 'unfreezing', i.e. accepting determiners and Romanian plural morphology. The choice between *a da* 'give' and *a lua* 'take' encodes a semantic-pragmatic opposition of agency vs. affectedness. The loan words under scrutiny always have a bounded interpretation, which brings evidence in favor of the view that the main function of the light verb seems to be a portioning function, i.e. that of encoding discreet instantiations of the corresponding lexical 'heavy' verb.

The paper leaves for further research the issue of the syntactic structure of these light verbs, as underscored by their readily accommodating English loan words. At the present moment, this readiness seems to point to an analysis in terms of Culicover & Jackendoff's idea that the light verb simply contributes a syntactic frame, while the meaning of the noun combines with the verb.

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