The Grammar of Romanian
Ed. by Gabriela PANĂ DINDELEGAN
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The book under review is the first comprehensive and concise descriptive grammar of contemporary Romanian language in English. As Gabriela Pană Dindelegan (Emeritus Professor at the University of Bucharest and Senior Researcher at the 'Iorgu Iordan - Alexandru Rosetti' Institute of Linguistics) points out in the preface, it should be seen as an 'essential grammar' that covers the most significant aspects of present-day Romanian. The editor highlights the modern character of the framework used, which is updated 'in conception, terminology, topics, and bibliography' (p. xxv).

The grammar was written by members of the 'Iorgu Iordan - Alexandru Rosetti' Institute of Linguistics of the Romanian Academy, and benefited from Martin Maiden's (University of Oxford) editorial consultancy. Two modern Romanian Grammars served as a basis for the present book: *Gramatica limbii române* (2008), a modern academic grammar, and *Gramatica de bază a limbii române* (2010), a recent synthesis of it. The book consists of 16 chapters, a table of "Detailed contents and author attributions" (p. vii), a "Preface" (p. xxv), a page on "Notes on style and format" (p. xxvii), a list of "Abbreviations and conventions" (p. xxviii), a description of "The contributors" (p. xxxii), the "Sources" used (p. 621), a bibliography of cited works (p. 624), and an "Index" (p. 649).

Chapter 1, the "Introduction" (pp. 1-17), written by Pană Dindelegan and Camelia Stan (University of Bucharest), offers a brief presentation of Romanian, where it is spoken, a genealogical definition of it, details on the age of formation and the linguistic contacts it had, with the specific observation that neither the Slavic superstratum nor other Hungarian, Greek, Turkish, modern Slavic languages, German, or modern Romance languages influences have modified the Latin structure of Romanian. The introduction also includes remarks on the transition to modern Romanian, on the history of the alphabets used, as well as on the dialectal variation found on the territory of Romania. The first part of the introduction concludes with a comment on the individual character Romanian has among other Romance languages, attributed mainly to geographical, historical, sociolinguistic conditions, and, in addition, to a permanent contact with languages belonging to the Balkan linguistic union. The last part of the first chapter summarizes the phonological and orthographic features of Romanian.

The second chapter is dedicated to "The Verb" (pp. 18-99), being the joint work of six linguists: Isabela Nedelcu (University of Bucharest), Rodica Zafiu (University of Bucharest), Gabriela Pană Dindelegan, Adina Dragomirescu (University of Bucharest), Irina Nicula, and Ana-Maria Iorga Mihail. The chapter is an overview of the five inflectional classes of the Romanian verbs, and provides substantial discussion on their morphology, with emphasis on the categories of mood, tense, and aspect. We particularly appreciate the detailed and exemplified description of the uses of the subjunctive mood. The tense-aspect system resembles to those of the other Romance languages, with the difference that Romanian has a reduced number of temporal forms for the irrealis moods (e.g., the subjunctive, the conditional). The presentation of the verbal tenses is followed by a brief illustration of the (lack of) sequences of tenses and of the aspectual periphrases. The last part of the chapter includes a syntactic-semantic typology of the main classes of verbs.

Chapter 3 focuses on "The Structure of Root Clauses" (pp. 100-203), more specifically on the grammatical functions established inside the Romanian root clauses. It is a dense chapter, to which five different linguists contributed: Gabriela Pană Dindelegan, Ana-Maria Iorga Mihail, Adina Dragomirescu, Dana Niculescu (University of Amsterdam), and Andra Vasilescu (University of Bucharest). The chapter tackles the syntactic notions of subjects, objects, predicative complements, passives, reflexive and reciprocal constructions, and complex predicates. With respect to the first notion, the discussion is centered on the characteristics of the subject and the contexts in which it can appear (or simply lack). The analysis extends to raised subjects and patterns of subject word order. The investigation on subjects is followed up by the subchapter on objects. The authors also examine contexts of prepositional object marking, with accent on the use of the accusative preposition '*pe*'. The rest of the chapter presents two passive constructions (*fi* 'be'-passives and *se*-passives), some reflexive and reciprocal constructions, and a list of predicates that build verbal complexes.

The discussion related to the verbal domain closes with chapter 4, "Non-finite Verb Forms and Non-finite Clauses" (pp. 204-254), written by Pană Dindelegan and Nicula. The authors look at the main properties of the non-finite forms, i.e. the infinitive, the gerund, the participle, and the supine, to which they add the subjunctive mood, which, in spite of presenting agreement features, sometimes has the behavior of a defective form. It is worth mentioning the subchapter on the infinitive (§4.2) which includes, among others, remarks on the proclitic inflectional infinitival marker/head *a* (as in *a scrie* 'to write' (§4.2.1)), a parallel drawn between the verbal infinitive and the nominal infinitive (§4.2.2), as well as an examination of the internal structure of the infinitival clause headed by *a*.

Chapter 5 is the longest chapter of the grammar and is concerned with "Nouns and Noun Phrases" (pp. 255-378), being the joint work of five linguists: Isabela Nedelcu, Camelia Stan, Alexandru Nicolae (University of Bucharest), Ana-Maria Iorga Mihail, and Raluca Brăescu (University of Bucharest). The first half of the chapter is dedicated to the noun morphology, paying special attention to the three classes of nominal gender, the Case inflection, the inflectional classes, and the specialized prepositions Romanian uses for marking certain Cases (e.g. the syntactic marker *a* for the genitive Case), while the second half of the chapter presents in detail the structure of the nominal phrase. The subsection on

determiners is large and focuses on the description of definite/indefinite articles, demonstratives, alternative determiners that Romanian has (e.g. *alt(ul)* 'an(other) and *celălalt* 'the other (one)), and the determiner *CEL*, which has a special status in the Romanian nominal system, setting Romanian apart from other Romance languages (Reinheimer Rîpeanu 1993), and bringing it nearer to the Balkan ones (Niculescu 1965). Another section that can arouse the reader's interest is §5.3.3, which deals with "[m]eans of encoding nominal phrase internal possession". Romanian has preserved a "dual adjectival-determiner paradigm" (p. 377) that other Romance languages have lost (Ledgeway 2011). The last part of the chapter on the structure of the nominal phrase tackles nouns that take arguments, restrictive and non-restrictive modifiers, appositions and classifiers, and configurations of nominal ellipsis.

The following four chapters focus on pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions, and the properties of their phrases. Chapter 6, "Pronouns" (pp. 379-409), by Andra Vasilescu (University of Bucharest), covers the inventory of Romanian pronouns, with permanent reference to their morphosyntactic and semantic features. The chapter also provides information on clitic clusters and clitic doubling, and the contexts in which personal pronouns function as deictics, anaphorics, and expletives (subchapter §6.1.8). Chapter 7, by Raluca Brăescu, entitled "Adjectives and Adjectival Phrases" (pp. 410-432), summarizes the main inflectional classes of adjectives, providing a view on their morphological and syntactic structure. It also includes examples of the levels of intensity and the degree markers of adjectives. Chapter 8, "Adverbs and Adverbial Phrases" (pp. 432-450), written by Carmen Mîrzea Vasile (University of Bucharest) and Andreea Dinică, briefly examines the properties and the placement of Romanian adverbs. Chapter 9, "Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases" (pp. 451-465), by Isabela Nedelcu, lists the classes of Romanian prepositions and provides information on the structure of their phrases, the way they assign Case and the restriction they impose on the nouns they select.

The structure of complex clauses is outlined in chapter 10, "The Structure of Complex Clauses. Subordination" (pp. 466-513). It is the joint work of Mihaela Gheorghe (Transilvania University of Braşov), Dana Manea, Blanca Croitor, and Rodica Zafiu. The chapter surveys the distribution of Romanian complementizers (e.g. *că* 'that', *(ca…) să* 'to', *cum că* 'that', *precum că* 'that', *cum de* 'how come', *dacă* 'if, whether', *de* 'if'), other subordinating conjunctions (for a list see §10.2.2), and adjuncts that appear in some special patterns (temporal, reason, purpose, result adjuncts, conditional and concessive constructions, etc.). A special subchapter (§10.3) is dedicated to the characterization of syntactic types of relative constructions, indirect interrogative constructions, relative infinitival constructions, and pseudo-cleft constructions. It is worth mentioning the fact that this chapter also contains an inventory of *wh*-words (§10.3.5) and comments on the phenomenon of pied-piping in Romanian. In addition, this chapter presents general properties and types of secondary predication and closes with a discussion on comparative constructions.

The following two chapters are Blanca Croitor's contributions. Chapter 11, "Coordination" (pp. 514-525), as the title suggests, concentrates on the semantic types of coordination and on the structure of the coordinated phrase, whereas

chapter 12, "Agreement" (pp. 526-536), focuses on different kinds of agreement (e.g. DP-internal agreement, subject-predicate agreement, anaphoric agreement).

Chapter 13, "Sentence Organization and Discourse Phenomena" (pp. 537-598), is quite complex and covers other aspects of the organization of the sentence: sentence types (Andra Vasilescu), where 'intonation' is also touched on (especially in interrogatives, exclamatives and imperatives); reported speech and vocative phrases (Margareta Manu Magda); sentential negation (Dana Manea); information structure (word order, topicalization, focalization, etc.), modality and evidentiality, and anaphora (Rodica Zafiu).

The last three chapters discuss the main processes of creating new words and the alternations that occur in inflection and in suffixal derivation. In Chapter 14, "Derivational morphology" (pp. 599-606), Blanca Croitor offers a traditional description of the means of word formation: suffixation, prefixation and derivation. Chapter 15, "Inflectional and Derivational Morphophonological Alternations" (pp. 607-611), by Camelia Stan and Mona Moldoveanu Pologea, is concerned with the inventory of vocalic and consonantal alternations. Romanian has a complex system of morphophonological alternations that make it be distinctive among other Romance languages. Finally, chapter 16, "Compounding" (pp. 612-620), by Andreea Dinică, analyzes the process of compounding and its productivity, listing the types of compounds and the available syntactic patterns in contemporary Romanian.

All in all, *The Grammar of Romanian* is a remarkable linguistic achievement which fills a major gap in the inventory of Romanian grammars, being the first important academic grammar written in English. This is of great significance since it can attract a large audience: it will definitely serve as an important reference source for researchers and students alike. All the information in the book is illustrated with a great volume of data, while the chapters and the subchapters are connected through abundant cross references. Throughout the book we are given indications on the history of particular phenomena (marked with the symbol H), on the usage of certain constructions (U), and on the cross-linguistic comparisons (C) the authors draw. The constant comparisons to other Romance and Balkan languages make the grammar a valuable tool also for those who have an interest in comparative linguistics.

The following are some comments regarding aspects that are not fully developed or simply lack. The overall organization of the grammar is concise, coherent, and accessible. However, there are a few sections that could have been improved and we just want to suggest some possible shortcomings. One of them is §1.2 on the phonological features of Romanian; this section is rather laconic (for instance, nothing is said about the phonological processes or the syllabic structure). Other subchapters that could have been enlarged are §2.3.1 and §2.3.2, dedicated to transitive/intransitive verbs. A rather brief description is also the one related to clitics, clitic doubling (§6.1.4, §6.1.5, and §13.4.2.2), and Differential Object Marking (§3.2), considering the fact that these are aspects of the syntax of pronouns much analyzed and debated in the literature on Romance languages. The chapter on compounding (chapter 16) could have been very well an extension of the fourteenth chapter. Moreover, there is no special section devoted to light verbs (e.g. *face* 'make', *da* 'give'), and no mention to other lexical elements such as idioms or other fixed expressions. Mostly because the grammar is highly

descriptive, the discussion of theory is terse. Terms are not always defined (for example, 'restructuring' is used a lot in chapter 3, but there is no reference to what is generally understood in the literature as restructuring; the same comment can apply to notions such as subject-to-subject/object raising, etc.) and few suggestions on possible analyses or theoretical approaches are given. Nevertheless, these are only minor observations that should not detract the reader from the value of the grammar.

In conclusion, this book is a useful and important reference work for linguists and students, and a very welcome addition to the list of the most important grammars of the Romance languages.

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