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;

RRL, **LV**, *4*, p. 397–402, Bucureşti, 2010

BDD-R225 © 2010 Editura Academiei
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.31 (2026-11-26 16:11:47 UTC)

● 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

BDD-R225 © 2010 Editura Academiei
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.31 (2026-11-26 16:11:47 UTC)

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.

Alexandru Nicolae
"Iorgu Iordan − Al. Rosetti" Institute of Linguistics, Bucharest

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.

BDD-R225 © 2010 Editura Academiei
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.31 (2026-11-26 16:11:47 UTC)