

# Split Grammaticalization: Romanian *iar*, Adverb and Conjunction

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As it has been already emphasized, adversative conjunctions carry a conventional implicature denying an expected (non-)identity between the predicates of the connected sentences. They differ in the way they impose certain constraints on their expectations, as well as to the result of their denial in the assertion (see Manoliu-Manea 2013). In what follows, we intend to present an interesting case of split grammaticalization by which the proper meaning of an adverb became the denied expectation of an adversative conjunction. It is the case of Romanian *iar*, which, according to various etymological dictionaries, has a controversial origin:

- (a) Rom. *de + (i)ar(a)* [Cioranescu et al. s.v. 2779]
- (b) Rom. reconstructed *deara* < lat. *de vero* [Tiktin & Miron 2001 : 49];
- (c) Lat. *de ea re* (Meyer-Lübke 1968 : 2513; Meyer-Lübke 1972 : v. iii, §492).

Interesting enough, it has corresponding forms in other Romanian dialects: Aromanian, Megleno-Romanian *ară* ‘and, again, contrary to, against’ and also in other Romance varieties such as Engadin *eir* ‘also, and’, Occitan *era, eras* ‘also, too’. Pușcariu (1905 : 65 s.v. 756) mentions the existence of similar items in Greek (‘ἐρα, ἀρα, lit. ‘even, and, but’), which might signal a preroman origin (see also Meyer-Lübke 1968 and Tiktin & Miron 2001, s.v.).

The adversative value carried by *iar* rests upon the denial of an expectation in which the predicates applied to the arguments are semantically identical while their referents are non coreferential.

## 1. Pragma-semantic models: expectation, implicature.

According to Robert Martin’s pragma-semantic model, *expectation* is a way of representing a ‘possible world’, i.e. the world that has the best chances of realization as predicted by the speaker’s universe of beliefs. But Robert Martin goes further than Leech by distinguishing between the semantic and pragmatic

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dimensions of expectations. Such a distinction made possible the integration of expectation into the semantic component of the information conveyed by an utterance even at a time when pragmatics was considered as a rather non-scientific component of linguistics:

En tant que mécanismes, présuppositions et attentes font partie de la sémantique; en tant que contenus, ils relèvent de la pragmatique [‘As mechanisms, presuppositions and expectations belong to semantics; as to their content, they belong to pragmatics’] (Martin 1983: 233).

and, later on:

[...] la «pragmatique» de la phrase n’est rien d’autre que la prévision de l’énoncé comme acte. Elle est intégrée comme une composante essentielle à la théorie sémantique elle-même [‘The pragmatics of the phrase is nothing other than the prediction of the utterance as speech act. It is integrated as an essential component into the semantic theory itself’].

Ainsi pour la pragmatique de l’interprétation, certes l’explication des présupposés ou des ‘attentes’ se fait selon des règles prévisibles [‘As for the pragmatics of the interpretation, certainly, the explanation of either presuppositions or expectations is subject to predictable rules’] (*ibidem*: 235).

Robert Martin’s model is in agreement with Levinson (1983)’s, which makes the distinction between *conversational* and *conventional implicatures* and it is a precursor of Vanderveke (1990), which offers a formal description of speech Acts<sup>1</sup>.

As a matter of fact, an assertion confirming an unexpected event carries a conventional implicature that denies a certain expectation. According to Levinson,

Conventional implicatures are non-truth-conditional inferences that are not derived from superordinate pragmatic principles like the maxims, but are simply attached by convention to particular lexical items or expressions. They are not cancellable because they do not rely on defeasible assumptions about the nature of the context; they will not be detachable, because they depend on the particular linguistic term used; they will not be calculated using pragmatic principles and contextual knowledge, but rather given by convention; they may be expected to have a relatively determinate content or meaning; and therefore will be no expectation of a universal tendency for languages to associate the same conventional implicatures with expressions with certain truth conditions (Levinson 1983: 127–128)<sup>2</sup>.

The integration of expectations and conventional implicatures into the semantic component of a linguistic model results in a more unified description capable of accounting for the constraints governing the use of adversative conjunctions in general, and the corresponding Romanian forms, in particular. As I hope to have demonstrated in an anterior paper (see Manoliu-Manea 2013), adversative conjunctions correspond to the logical operator *et*. They serve to express

<sup>1</sup> For a formal description of speech acts see especially chapter 4. *On the logical form of illocutionary acts*, p. 103–136.

<sup>2</sup> In Levinson (1983: 129), the adversative conjunction *but* constitutes a typical example of a lexical item carrying a conventional implicature. For the concepts of ‘conversational and conventional implicature’ see more recently, the survey of various positions concerning Grice’s ‘Principle of Cooperation’ in Jaszczolt 2002: 207–223.

an illocutionary speech act of confirmation by denying a certain expectation. However they differ in the way they impose certain constraints on their expectations, as well as to the result of their denial in the assertion. *Dar* denies an expectation stating that both arguments share predicates which bear the same sign, either positive or negative in each of the conjoined expressions, while its assertion changes the signs of one of the predicates: either (a)  $((p \cdot q)$  and asserts  $(p \cdot \sim q)$  or (b)  $(\sim p \cdot \sim q)$  and asserts:  $(\sim p \cdot q)$ . It may contain either semantically identical or different predicates.

(1) A: – Am auzit că Ana cântă și dansează în acest spectacol [‘I heard that Ann sings and dances in this show’].

B: – Ana cântă, e adevărat, *dar* nu dansează [‘Ann sings, it is true, *but* she does not dance’].

(i) Expectation:  $(V1x \wedge V2y) (x = y). (V1 \neq V2)$

Implicature:  $\sim (V1x \wedge V2y)$

Assertion:  $(V1x \wedge \sim V2y) (x = y). (V1 \neq V2),$

where  $V1 =$  ‘sings’,  $V2 =$  ‘dances’,  $x =$  Ana. Or:

(2) A: – Am auzit că Petru și Ana vor cânta în acest spectacol [‘I heard that Peter and Ann will sing in this show’].

B: – Petru va cânta, e adevărat, *dar* Ana va dansa [nu va cânta] [‘Peter will sing, it is true, *but* Ann will dance [will not sing]’]

(ii) Expectation:  $(V1x \wedge V2y) (y \neq x). (V1 = V2)$

Implicature:  $\sim (V1x \wedge V2y)$

Assertion:  $(V1x \wedge \sim V2y) \wedge V3 (y \neq x) (V1 = V2),$

where  $V1$  and  $V2$ : ‘sing’ and  $V3 =$  ‘dance’,  $x =$  Petru and  $y =$  Ana.

*Iar* requires that the arguments are not coreferential:  $(x \neq y)$ . Its adversative value rests upon the denial of an expectation in which the second predicate is semantically identical to the previous one. Its adversative value may signal just that a new event is to follow. It has no real English correspondent. It may be translated by *whereas*, *whilst*, *while* or by *and*, but then it loses its pragmatic function of denial. Unlike *while*, *iar* may not connect semantically different predicates applied to coreferential arguments.

(3) Petru cânta *iar* Ana dansa [‘Peter was singing whereas/ *whilst* Ann was dancing’].

In (3) *iar* serves to deny the expectation that  $V2$  and  $V1$  are identical:

(iii) Expectation:  $(V1x \wedge V2y) (V2 = V1) (x \neq y)$

Implicature:  $\sim (V2 = V1)$

Assertion:  $(V1x \wedge V2y) (V2 \neq V1) (x \neq y),$

where  $V1 =$  ‘sing’,  $V2 =$  ‘dance’,  $x =$  ‘Peter’,  $y =$  ‘Ann’.

## 2. Old Romanian *iară*

Old Romanian texts present two variants: the variant *iară*, which, like in Greek and South-Danubian Romanian dialects, has a final vowel. As such, it is

attested from the oldest Romanian texts (16–17<sup>th</sup> cs.) with two readings: (i) as an adverb denying an expected non-identity between the event described by the predicate determined by *iar* and previous events present in the speakers' memory (cf. Engl. 'again'), and (ii) as a conjunction, as a conjunction, denying the expectation that the predicate of the second sentence is semantically identical with the predicate of the previous sentence. In other words, the proper meaning of the adverb ('repeated event'), became the denied expectation by the conjunction. These semantic differences are reflected in their distribution:

(i) The adverb occurs as a sentence constituent of VP (see examples 4 and 5):

(4) Și încă *iară* grăiaște Davidū [lit. 'And *again* David says'] (Coresi 1914: 4) (16<sup>th</sup> c.).

(5) Mihai vodă după războiul ce-l pierduse la Teleajen, strîngea *iară* oastea pen munți ['King Michael, after he lost the battle at Teleajen, was *again* gathering the army in the mountains'] (Costin 1967: 81) (17<sup>th</sup> c.).

(ii) The conjunction occurs between two sentences (either with a full VP or with an elliptical copula) (see 6):

(6) Cumū și Hristosū întru pilda evangheliei au grăitū de cela ce semănă, de-i căzū sāmānța pre piatră, altuia în mărăcini, și rodū nu făcură, *iară* acelaia ce căzū pre pāmāntū bunū, multū rodū făcū ['As Christ has said in one of his parables about the sower who went out to sow, and some seeds fell on rocky soil, others fell among thorns, and they did not yield fruit, *whereas* other seeds fell on fertile soil and bore rich crop'] (Coresi 1914: 3).

The conjunction *iară* is often used just as a discourse marker of narrative continuity when a new event is added to the previous one (see 7)<sup>3</sup>:

(7) *Iară* după ce amū oblicitū, *iară* eu foarte m'amū bucuratū. Și cu multă rugăciune cerșutu-amū de la Sfinția lui, și mi-o au tremisū. *Iară* eu, deaca o văzuiu ce învățatură dumnezeiască și cu folosū sufletului și trupului iaste întru ea, *iară* inima mea se îndulci ['[*Iar*] after I found it, [*iar*] I was very glad. And with a lot of prayer I asked for it to His Holiness, and he sent it to me, [*iar*], as for me, when I saw that it has so much of a wholly teaching and help for the soul and body, [*iar*] my heart was full of joy'] (Coresi 1914: 5–6).

In some cases *iară* is synonymous with *dar* (see 8, 9):

(8) Că ne-amū nevoitū ș'amū truditū, *iară* mintea noastră și firea doară nu se-au de toate domiritū ['(Be)cause we worked hard, *but* our mind and soul could not really understand everything'] (Coresi 1914: 6).

(9) Răspunse duhulu hicleanu și dzise: 'Isusu-l cunoscū și Pavel știu, *iară* voi cinre seți?' ['He answered to the sly ghost and said: "Jesus, I am acquainted with him and Paul I know him, *but* you, who are you?"'] (CV: 233)

(10) Cerul și pāmāntul se va schimba, *iară* cuvântul meu nu va trece în veacu (C Sturdz: 237) ['The sky and the earth will change *but* my word will never disappear'].

<sup>3</sup> Its function as a discourse marker is also mentioned in Tiktin & Miron (2001), according to which *iar* may mark the passage to another event, like Slavic *a* preceding *i* or *no*.

For example, (10) has the following pragmatic information, which corresponds to the formula (i), carried by *dar*:

implicature:  $\sim ((V1x,y) \wedge (V2z))$   
 assertion:  $(V1x,y) \wedge (\sim V2z)$ , où  $(z \neq x, y)$

By the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> c., *iară* lost its final vowel.

In Neculce, for example both variants are present but *iar* has a very low frequency while *iară* is the preferred variant either as an adverb or a conjunction:

(11) Atuncea i-au întrebat vezirul pre boieri pentru Grigorii-vodă unde să află și, de i-ar scrie, oari n-ari vini? *Iară* boierii muntenești îl suduia și dzicea că este om rău și nici a mai vini de unde este dus. Dzisu-le-au atuncea veziriul: “Alegeți-vă dară un domnu dintre voi, pe cine v-a plăcea, și viniți mâini dimineață să vi-l fac”. *Iar* Grigorii-vodă de după perdeaoa veziriului asculta toate [‘The Vezir then asked the boyars about Grigorii-Prince where he is and whether if they wrote to him, would he come? *And* the boyars from Muntenia said that he is a bad guy and he would not come back. The Vezir then said: “Elect them as a king from among yourselves and tomorrow morning I shall make him [king]. *And* Grigorii – voiveod, hidden by a curtain, was listening to everything’] (Neculce 1982: 39)

(12) La capul cel dintâi al Facerii spune Moysi cum că Dumnezeu a făcut doi luminători mari: unul mai mare și altul mai mic; și pre cel mal mare, adecă pre soare, întru stăpînirea zilii, *iar* pre cel mai mic, adecă pre lună, întru stăpînirea nopții [‘In the first chapter of the Genesis, Moses says that God has made two great enlighteners: one bigger that is the sun, to bring light to the day, *whereas* the other smaller, that is the moon, to bring light to the night’] (Ivireanul 1962: 126).

### 3. *Iarăși*

As early as the 16<sup>th</sup> c., the adverb has a variant *iarăș(i)*:

(13) Că și în cealea mai realele schimbându-mă, *iarăși* mă măresc în deșert. Și grăind, încă mă măresc, și tăcând, *iarăși* mă măresc [‘(Be)cause when changing my wrong ways, I praise myself *again* in vain. And speaking, [about it] I also praise myself, and shutting up, I praise myself *again*’] (Coresi 1914: 14).

(14) Decii Dabiije-vodă s-au întorsu și s-au așezat lucrul despre veziriul și *iarăș* au vinit domnu în Moldova [‘So Dabiija-king went back [to Istanbul] and got the approval of the Vizier, and became *again* the King of Moldova’] (Neculce 1982: 38) (18<sup>th</sup> c.).

The enclitic *-și* (< Lat. *sibi* ‘self’) has been very productive in Old Romanian. It has been added to pronouns in order to express coreferentiality, usually denying an unexpected non-coreferentiality:

(15) *eluși* ‘he himself’ vs. *el* ‘he’,  
*însuși* ‘he himself’ vs. old Rom. *însu* ‘he’ (Cf. Lat. *ipse*).

Added to the demonstrative pronoun of distance, it served to the formation of the emphatic pronoun: Compare: *același* ‘the same’ vs. *acela* ‘that [one]’. The opposition between ‘same’ and ‘self’ is expressed even in contemporary Romanian by the forms ending in *-și*:

(16) ‘same’:

aceiași,	aceeași,	aceiași,	aceleași
same: MASC/SG	same: FEM/SG	same: MASC/PL	same: FEM/PL

(17) ‘self’:

însuși,	însăși,	înșiși,	însele ‘self’
self: MASC/SG	self: FEM/SG	self: MASC/PL	self: FEM/PL

See also the indefinite pronoun for persons:

(18) *urul cinrescuși de voi* [‘one whoever of you’] (CV: 250)

When added to adverbs it suggests a quasi-identity between the time of speaking and the time of the event:

(19) *acuși, acuși* ‘right now’ vs. *acu(m)* ‘now’,  
*acieși* ‘right away’ vs. *aci (aici)* ‘here’, etc.

(20) Și *acieși* închiseră ușile cerîndu elu se-lu ucigă [‘And they closed the doors right away while asking them to kill him’] (CV: 261).

In standard contemporary Romanian, the conjunction continues the short variant *iar* (*iară*), whereas the adverb oscillates between *iar*, and the compound *iarăși*. For example, in Creangă (*Amintiri*), the variant *iar* is more frequent than *iară* as a conjunction:

(21) Bădița Vasile a zâmbit atunci, *iar* noi școlarii am rămas cu ochii holbați [‘Mr. Vasile then smiled, whereas we the students were staring with wide-opened eyes’] (Creangă 1953: 18).

(22) Flăcăii ceilalți pe dată s’au facut nevăzuți *iară* noi copiii ne-am întors plângând pe la casele noastre [‘The other boys disappeared instantly, whereas we, the children, went back to our homes wiping’] (Creangă 1953: 20–21).

More recently, the variant *iar* is used as a conjunction, while *iarăși* is the preferred adverbial variant:

(23) Nimic nu era necriticat, nebârfit, necomentat, *iar* imitația se practica pe scară largă [‘Nothing was left without being criticized, maligned, slandered, whilst the imitation was used on a large scale’] (Buzura 1993: XI).

(24) M-am interesat *iarăși*, cu încăpățănare, de lumea celor de “care nu ne putem lipsi” [‘Stubbornly, I took again an interest in the world of those “we can not live without”’] (Buzura 1993: IX).

In a sample of the site presenting articles from various contemporary newspapers (October, 2013), only the variant *iar* is present either as an adverb or a conjunction:

(25) A fugit *iar* și l-am urmărit până la St George’s Road. Mi-a dat telefonul atunci [‘He ran *again* and I followed him up to St George’s Road. Then he gave me the phone’] (ziare.com: 10, 14, 2013).

(26) Acesta este urmat de Ferdinand I (72,3%), regele Marii Uniri din anul 1918, *iar* cel mai puțin important personaj dintre regii incluși în sondaj este Carol al II-lea (66,3%) [‘This one is followed by Ferdinand I (72.3%), the king of the Great Unification, *whilst* the less important person among the kings included in the survey is Carol II (66.3%)’] (ziare.com. 10, 15, 2013).

## Conclusions

The evolution of Romanian *iar* ‘again’ or ‘whereas’ constitutes an interesting case of split grammaticalization, where a pragmatic information of the adverbial variant (‘denial of an expected non-identity between the event described by the predicate determined by *iar* and previous events present in the speakers’ memory) becomes the proper meaning of the other variant, the conjunction (i.e. ‘the predicate of the second sentence is semantically different than the predicate of the previous sentence’).

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### **Abstract**

Of a controversial origin, IAR is attested from the oldest Romanian texts with two functions: (i) as an adverb meaning ‘repeated event’, cf. Engl. ‘again’, which denies the expectation that the predicate determined by the adverb is not identical with previous events present in the speakers’ memory, and (ii) as a conjunction, denying the expectation that the predicate of the second sentence is semantically identical with the predicate of the previous sentence. This evolution shows once again the fact that some language changes can be accounted for only by including pragmatic dimensions such as expectation and implicature in the description of the conveyed information.