ADVERBIAL PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN ROMANIAN

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Abstract*: This paper aims to present a complex analysis of adverbial phraseological units and expressions in Romanian. This research concerning this type of phraseological units – adverbial phrases and expressions – represents, in fact, an attempt to emphasize the complexity of these structures in our language from different points of view. From the formally point of view, they are classified and grouped into various classes, and, from the semantically point of view, they are analyzed and described according to the meanings they express. In fact, this work tries to contribute to a better understanding of the role of these special units in our language, and constitutes an interesting approach in the field of phraseology.*

Keywords: *phraseological unit, adverbial construction, adverbial expression*

Introduction

Many linguists have been studied this field of phraseology in our language. However, even if there are some important studies about it that contribute substantially to our understanding of the role of these complex phraseological units, there are many other things that can be mentioned, since, by their nature, phraseological units have a dynamic character, and, almost all the time, new aspects related to them constitute the object of research for many linguists.Thus, phraseology represents an open science which gives us the possibility of stdying it from different perspectives.

Over the years, phraseology has gained an important place in any language. Phraseological units, also known as set phrases, fixed (frozen) phrases, word combinations, idiomatic expressions, etc. are recognized due to the essential part they play in written and spoken language.

The aim of this study is to analyze, classify and describe the adverbial phraseological units and the adverbial expressions in Romanian as well as to identify several meanings of these word-combinations.

I. Classification of Adverbial Phraseological Units and Adverbial Expressions

In Romanian, phraseology has been developed as a branch of linguistics due to the linguists who made a great contribution to the study of this field. This description of the adverbial phraseological units which are presented here has been firstly made from the formally point of view. In order to achieve this goal, they have been introduced into various classes. The adverbial phraseological units can be grouped, as the adjectives, according to their degree of complexity into "simple constructions, as a rule, prepositional ones, and complex constructions, made up of more lexemes" (Ciompec, 1985: 82,90) Such constructions are characterized by a single lexeme and one or two prepositions (*ca, cu, de, din, in, la, pe*). There are also adverbial expressions which differ from the constructions mentioned above because they are more complex and they have a high degree of expressiveness within the language.

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Simple Constructions

Formally, the adverbial phraseological units which represent simple constructions are grouped into four categories: 1. Preposition + noun; 2. Preposition + pronoun; 3. Preposition + Adjective; 4. Preposition + Adverb.

These simple constructions consist of different prepositions, such as: *ca, cu, de, din, in, la, pe*, followed by different parts of speech, such as: *nouns, pronouns, adjectives* or *adverbs*, the entire construction being equivalent to a simple adverb.

1. **Preposition + Noun**

   This class of phraseological units is very productive in our language and, most of the times, they can easily

be transformed into simple adverbs. The prepositions may be accompanied by a noun with or without a definite article. A few examples of this type are the following:

a) Preposition "ca" + noun or preposition "ca" + another preposition + noun: *ca la carte, ca prin vis*

b) Preposition "cu" + noun: *cu binele, cu consecventa, cu duiumul, cu desavarsire, cu cale*, or preposition "cu" + another preposition + noun: *cu de-a sila*, etc.
"*Si in loc sa intre in gradina, se intoarse incet, **cu greutate,** de parc-ar fi fost cuprinsa de o suferinta*." (Hardy: 63)

c) Preposition "pe" + noun: *pe fata, pe merit, pe rand, pe sleau, pe timpuri* etc.
*Va rog, nu neglijati sa notati **pe moment** orice alternare remarcabila….."*(Hardy:44)

2. **Preposition + Pronoun** (demonstrative or interrogative). In this category, there are three subclasses of adverbial phraseological units, those which are made up of:

a) Preposition "de" + demonstrative pronoun: *de aceea, de aceasta,* or preposition "de" + interrogative pronoun: *de ce*, etc.
" – ***De ce,** descoperirea acestor taine e atat de infricosatoare*?" (Hardy:14)
" *…drumurile pe ape si pe uscat erau putin cunoscute si foarte incurcate, si **de aceea** nu se putea calatori asa de usor…*" (Creanga:140)

b) Preposition "de" + another preposition + pronoun: *de la sine*, etc.

c) Preposition "pe" + pronoun: *pe nimic*, etc.
One can notice that these simple constructions formed by a preposition and the pronoun " aceasta" are less frequent than those formed with the help of the pronoun "aceea" (Ciompec,1985: 86). All these types of phraseological units in this category have a causal meaning, depending on the context, except those formed by means of the preposition "dupa" which bear a temporal meaning.

3. **Preposition + Adjective:**
   There are a few subclasses, such as:

a) Preposition "cu" + adjective: *cu adevarat, cu greu*, etc.. This construction "cu greu or din greu" is introduced by some linguists in this category, but others introduce it in the category of preposition + adverb.
" *Apoi se indoaie de sele cam **cu greu** si se pune pe chersin*". (Creanga:86)

b) Preposition "din" + adjective: *din greu, din nou*, etc.
"*…isi potrivi hainele pe trup, rasufla odata **din greu**, apoi grai raspicat si deslusit*…." (Slavici:29)

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c) Preposition " in" + adjective: *in comun, in general, in mare, in trecut*, etc.
d) Preposition " la" + adjective: *la sigur*, etc.
e) Preposition " pe" + adjective: *pe bune, pe soptite, pe tacute*, etc.

4. **Preposition + Adverb**.

This category of adverbial phraseological units is made up of an adverb of manner, as a head, accompanied by different prepositions.

a) Preposition "cu" + adverb: *cu adevarat, cu anevoie, cu asupra, cu deodata, cu destul, cu greu, cu insor, cu lesne, cu neschit,,* etc.
"*…zise Petru rasufland* ***cu greu****, ca omul care ar vrea si n-ar vrea sa faca ce face."* (Slavici: 21)
b) Preposition "de" + adverb: *de-abia, de asemenea, de-atocma, de demult, de-a pururea, de tot*, etc.
" *…Giles Martin, un prapadit care* ***de-abia*** *se tinea pe picioare, daca ati auzit de el*." (Hardy: 15)
c) Preposition "in" + adverb: *intr-aiure, intru-ascuns, in curand, intru mult, in zadar*, etc.
d) Preposition " pe" or "pre" + adverb: *pe larg, pre putin, pe nedrept*, etc.
" *Uite cum te trage* ***pe furis*** *apa la adanc, si din veselia cea mai mare cazi deodata in uracioasa intristare…*" (Creanga,2009, *Amintiri*, p. 26)

Turning to look at each subclass presented above, we find that the grouping *preposition + noun* is by far the commonest type and the most productive combination of all the others. This type of combination clearly presents the highest frequency within the language.

Complex Constructions

As far as the complex constructions are concerned, they are made up of at least two elements, linked or not by a connector. This category of adverbial phraseological units is divided by some linguists into four subclasses and by others into three subclasses.
Starting from these two points of view, the present paper presents the following classification of these complex constructions: 1.Phraseological units based on the repetition of the head element or on the use of its antonym; 2. Phraseological units based on the combination of different words; 3. Phraseological units encountered in propositional constructions.

1. Phraseological units based on the repetition of the head element or on the use of its antonym

The first class of this type of complex phraseological units is represented by those where the head element is repeated. In this case, it is compulsory to have connectors, which are, frequently, prepositions or conjunctions:
One preposition/ conjunction in the middle of the construction:
Noun + "de" + noun: an de an, clipa de clipa, zi de zi, veci de veci, noapte de noapte, etc.
Adverb + "de" + adverb: cand de cand, etc.
Noun + "si" + noun: zi si noapte, etc.
Adverb + "si" + adverb: cand si cand, unde si unde, ici si colea, incoace si incolea, etc.
" Apoi incepe a purta caii **incolo si incoace**, si numai iaca slabatura cea de cal iar se rapede si apuca o gura de jaratic." (Creanga:145)

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Noun + “pe” + noun: rand pe rand, etc.
Two prepositions, one preceding the first element, and the other between the elements of the construction:
“de” + noun + “si” + noun: de ani si ani, etc.
“din” + noun + “in” + noun: din an in an, din gura in gura, din neam in neam, din om in om, din loc in loc, din ceas in ceas, din vreme in vreme, din veac in veac, din zi in zi, etc.
“din” + adverb + “in” + noun: din cand in cand, etc.
“ E, in sfarsit, bine sa le stii si aceste, zicea el **din cand in cand,** fiindca se vorbeste cateodata despre ele…” (Slavici, 2009, Budulea Taichii, p. 31)
According to this classification of the first class of complex phraseological units, one can notice that at least two of them are very well represented: noun + “de” + noun and “din” + noun + “in” + noun. The former is typically used in order to convey the idea of “progression”, whereas the latter is used to express the idea of “rarity”.

2. Phraseological units based on the combination of different words

These combinations of words can be classified according to the introductory element, the one which stands before all the other elements. The introductory elements are:
“cu”: *cu toate acestea, cu chiu cu vai, cu tot dinadinsul, cu orice pret, cu sange rece, cu trup si suflet*, etc.
“de”: *de-acum inainte, de bine de rau, de buna seama, de cate ori, de multe ori, de florile marului, de la caz la*
caz, de la o zi la alta, de ochii lumii, de sus pana jos, de unul singur, etc.
“din”: *din adancul inimii, din cale-afara, din scoarta-n scoarta, din tata-n fiu*, etc.
“in”/ “intre”: *in niciun chip, in fel si chip, in vecii vecilor, in lung si-n lat, intre patru ochi*, etc.
“pe”: *pe cont propriu, pe ici pe colo*, etc.
“ *Mai iscodeste ea harca **pe ici pe colea,** sa vada n-a putea afla ceva despre copil…*” (Creanga: 137)

3. Phraseological units encountered in propositional constructions

The introductory element also contributes to the classification of these phraseological units:
“de”: *de cand e lumea si pamantul, de-i merge colbul, de-i merg fulgii, de-i sar maselele, de stinge pamantul*,
etc.
“*…si asa cred ca au fost toti copiii, **de cand e lumea asta si pamantul**, macar sa zica cine ce-ar zice…*” (Creanga:26)
“cum”: *cum se nimereste*, etc.
“pe”: *pe zi ce trece*, etc.
The class of phraseological units which is best represented here is that with the introductory element “de”.

Adverbial expressions

In Romanian, one can observe a large number of adverbial expressions which have a high degree of frequency, especially in spoken language. This happens because they hold a very pronounced expressive content. When the speaker uses them, he/she transmits with a high degree of intensity the emotional state he/she has at the respective moment.

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The same criterion of classification presented above will be chosen here, too, that is, according to the introductory element of the construction:

"ca": *ca vantul si ca gandul, ca sageata, ca melcul, ca ochiul mortului,*etc

" *Atunci, bucuria lui Ipate! Incepe a se tinea de fata* ***ca scaiul de oaie.*****"** (Creanga: 134)

"cu": *cu-un ochi la faina si cu altul la slanina, c-o falca-n cer si cu una-n pamant, cu varf si indesat*, etc.

" *Atunci dracul porneste* ***c-o falca-n cer si cu una in pamant****, si intr-o clipa si ajunge la pusnicul Danila*". (Creanga:105)

"cand": *cand va face plopul pere, cand va zbura porcul, cand mi-oi vedea ceafa*, etc.

"cat": *cat ai zice peste, cat ai bate din palme*, etc.

" *…si cate alte lucruri facute de mana lui Chirica,* ***cat ai bate din palme***!..." (Creanga:p. 127)

"de": de la mana *pan-la gura, de cand era bunica fata mare, de joi pana mai apoi, de zvanta pamantul, de mama focului*, etc.

"din": *din pamant din iarba verde*, etc

"in": *in ceasul al doisprezecelea, in doi timpi si trei miscari, in dorul lelii, in ruptul capului*, etc.

"la": *la dracu-n praznic, la pastele cailor, la sfantu-asteapta, la calendele grecesti, la spartul targului*, etc.

"*…frate-meu se poate culca pe-o ureche din partea voastra;* ***la Sfantul Asteapta*** *s-a implini dorinta lui*." (Creanga:142)

"unde": *unde si-a dus mutul iapa, unde si-a intarcat dracul copiii*, etc.

Classification from the semantically point of view

From the semantically point of view, one can notice that there are a lot of phraseological units and adverbial expressions which are equivalent with different adverbs, such as: adverbs of manner, pronominal, negative or relative adverbs. The present paper presents the following classification in terms of the adverbial equivalents of these complex structures:

Adverbial Phraseological units and adverbial expressions having the meaning of simple adverbs of manner, such as:

- "repede"/"quickly" . This adverb conveys an action that takes place very rapidly or by great speed;

– adverbial phraseological units: *la iuteala/la repezeala/in graba; la trap; din fuga, de zor, intr-o clipa, pe nesimtite*, etc.;

"Si cunoscand iapa ca acesta este semnul pierderii fiului sau, a si pornit ***in graba*** *sa-l caute".* (Creanga: 209)

- adverbial expressions: *ca sageata, ca prin farmec; ca vantul si ca gandul; intr-un suflet; ca fulgerul; cat ai da in amnar/ cremene, cat ai bate din palme, cat te-ai freca la ochi, cat ai zice peste, cat ai scapara din amnar; cat il tin picioarele; cat ai fuma o lulea, cat te-ai sterge la ochi, in doi timpi si trei miscari, de la mana pan-la gura, de zvanta pamantul, de stinge pamantul*, etc.;

"…caci Fat-Frumos ***ca fulgerul*** *a fost langa ele si le-a si prins."* (Creanga: 209)

"*Sosind la curte, Ileana intra* ***in ruptul sufletului*** *in cuhnea imparateasca si grai catre bucatarul cel mare.*"(Slavici:43)

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Some explanations concerning the meaning of the adverbial expression *cat ai zice peste* and of its synonyms, such as: *cat ai bate din palme, cat te-ai freca la ochi, cat ai zice peste, cat ai clipi, cat ai scapara, cat te-ai sterge la ochi, cum ai bea o lingura de apa*, were given by Stelian Dumitracel. He mentioned that, besides the idea of rapidity, they also denote "a temporay action"(Dumitracel, 1997:188).

"*Cate alte lucruri de gospodarie, facute de mana lui Chirica* ***cat ai bate din palme***". (Creanga)

"incet": -adverbial expressions: *ca melcul, ca ochiul mortului, pe soptite, pe tacute*, etc.;

"tare": - adverbial expressions: *cat il tine gura, ca-n gura de sarpe, din (cu) toate puterile/ toata puterea*, etc.;

"sincer": - adverbial phraseological units: *pe drept, pe sfanta dreptate, pe legea mea, pe ochii mei, pe cuvant, la drept vorbind/graind*, etc.;

"departe": - adverbial phraseological units: *la mare departare/distanta, cat colea/colo*,etc.;

-adverbial expressions: *la capatul pamantului, la mama dracului, la celalalt capat al lumii, la mare, la naiba-n praznic, la dracu-n praznic, unde si-a dus mutul iapa, unde si-a intarcat dracul copiii*, etc.;

"aproape -adverbial *expressions: la o azvarlitura de bat, la o aruncatura de bat/ piatra de, la doi pasi, la indemana, etc.;*

"greu": - adverbial phraseological units*: abia daca, din greu, cu anevoie, cu chiu cu vai*, etc.;

-adverbial expressions: *ca vai de lume, ca prin urechle acului*, etc.;

"deloc": -adverbial phraseological units: *nici ca se pomeneste, nici atatica, nici cat un varf de ac, nici intr-un caz, in niciun caz, de leac, nici cat sa orbesti un soarece (choir), nici cat tina sub o unghie, nici cat ai chiori un purice, cat de cat,* etc.

"de demult": -adverbial phraseological units: *din mosi-stramosi, din batrani, etc.*

"…cutia asta e data ***din batrani****, ca sa nu o poarte decat acela care a trecut prin Imparatia frigului."* (Slavici:18)

"dintotdeauna" -adverbial expressions: *cand se bateau muntii cap in cap/ursii in coada, cat e haul, cat e lumea si pamantul, cat lumea*, etc.

"uneori": -adverbial phraseological units: *din vreme in vreme, din cand in cand, la anumite intervale, la interval*, etc.

" *E, in sfarsit, bine, sa le stii si aceste, zicea el* ***din cand in cand****, fiindca se vorbeste cateodata despre ele*…" (Slavici: 31)

"rareori" -adverbial expressions: *din Paste in Craciun, din joi in pasti, din an in paste*, etc.

These adverbial expressions related to one of the most important Christian holiday Pastele (Easter) express actions which occur rarely: *din Pasti in Pasti, din Pasti in Craciun.* If, in these cases, the duration is, thus, definite, there are also other formulae that can make any measure of time disappear: *din an (joi) in Pasti-rarely.*

"mereu": adverbial phraseological units: *la bine si la rau, la fiecare pas*, etc.

Adverbial phraseological units and adverbial expressions having the meaning of pronominal adverbs, such as:

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"niciodata"/"never" which simply denotes a situation that is impossible, unreal or even absurd:

-adverbial expressions*: nici in ruptul capului, de cand m-a facut mama, la anul cand o/va fata bostanul, cand o-nflori bostanul, cand va trece camila prin urechile acului, la calendele grecesti, la Pastele cailor, la mos asteapta, la spartul targului*, etc.;

As it can be noticed, this category includes adverbial expressions that follow the pattern of subordinate temporal clauses, such as: cand o zbura porcul (cu ata), cand or zbura bivolii, cand o prinde mata peste, cand va creste coada ursului, etc. Yet, there are also other adverbial expressions that do not formally fall into this category, for example: la mos asteapta, la spartul targului, la Pastele cailor, etc.

For Stelian Dumitracel, the expression la Pastele cailor with its possible meaning cand se vor indestula caii; never, can indicate an imaginary holiday. He affirms: "o sustragere totala o reprezinta insa indicarea unei sarbatori imaginare, la Pastile cailor" (formula al carei tipar, strict morphologic, il poate costitui Pastile blajinilor), care a rezulatat, probabil, din jocul de cuvinte permis de omofonia Paste (forma mai veche, uzuala inca) si verbul (a) paste, dintr-o expresie figurate a asteptarii (uneori) zadarnice, „ *paste murgule, iarba verde*!..Dupa cum au sustinut diversi semanticieni (printre care si Tiktin), eventualitatea ca Pastile cailor sa se refere, totusi, la Ispas, ce se sarbatoreste la 40 de zile dupa Inviere, nu este cu totul exclusa. Atunci pasunea s-a intemeiat si statul cailor nu se mai afla sub semnul intrebarii". (Dumitracel, 1997:181)

"nicaieri"/"nowhere" meaning not in or to any place; not anywhere;

- adverbial phraseological units: *nici aici, nici colea, nici in car, nici in caruta*, etc.

"nicidecum" – *cu (in) niciun chip, nici intr-un chip, nici in ruptul capului, pentru nimic in lume, cu niciun pret,* etc.

"nimic": adverbial expressions: *nici cat (e) negru sub unghie*, etc.

" Da si din maini si din picioare, cum se zice, si folos, ***nici cat negru sub unghie***".
(Ispirescu)

"oriunde": -adverbial phraseological units: *la tot pasul, unde va vor duce ochii,* etc.

"Inima-mi e moarta si bratele fara putere, mergeti ***unde va vor duce ochii,*** *caci oriunde, tot mai bine veti fi decat cu mine*" (Gane)

"oricum": -adverbial phraseological units: *de bine de rau,* etc.

"*Pana prin postul mare uneori* ***de bine de rau*** *se mai tragea targa pe uscat*". (Pas)

Conclusions

In conclusion, the present paper outlines some important aspects regarding the form and the meanings that phraseological units may have in different contexts, in this regard, offering a wide range of examples taken from different literary works. Formally, it proposes a detailed classification of these adverbial phraseological units and expressions, and, semantically, it suggests another classification according to the type of the adverb they denote.

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