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Abstract. *Each process, state or event needs a certain temporal and spatial context in order the speaker to be able to present its characteristics (how close or how far away is it towards the moment/ the place of being produced or towards the moment/ the place of speaking, information about the length of the process, its position, etc.). Within the grammatical elements which help building the temporal and spatial context, a very important place is taken by the adverbs of space and time which are, most of the time, mandatory inside a sentence. The present study wants to demonstrate both the way in which the adverb "now" functions in different speaking situations and the way in which this adverb can be given a meaning within a certain context.*

Key words: *temporality, now, deixis, reflexive token*

The adverb *now* is an adverb which needs its referent to be identified starting from the contextual elements – these elements can be found whether in the speaking context or in the linquistic context. Included in the group of temporal adverbs, next to *then, today, yesterday, tomorrow*, etc., the adverb *now* is the most important element from the subgroup of *deixis elements which are mandatory simultaneous with* T_0. This adverb is defined as having a complex way of functioning which allows it to express a large number of values both at sentence level and text level.

Even though the fundamental value of *now* is that of mandatory simultaneity with the moment of speaking (T_0), which allows us to call it adverb of the moment, the definitions from the dictionaries take in consideration only its meaning of present, without pointing out a proper guide mark: *now* refers at the moment of speaking, at present and it can be the same as immediately. **Acúm** adv. 1. „În prezent, în momentul de faţă; actualmente. 2. Îndată, imediat, numaidecât (*acuşi, acuşica, amuşi*). This definition can be completed by taking in consideration the usage of this adverb in marking a certain distance from the temporal reference (T_0), but only when it comes with a quantification element such as in *acum doi ani.*

In order to analyze the different values of this adverb, we discussed two different types of communication: the real, current communication which includes sentences from reality, and the fictional communication expressed by the texts of literature, in which the author are his own freedom in organizing the speech and the world. We made a distinction between the the absolute usage (where the deictic adverb is a mark of the simultaneity with T_0) and the relative usage of this adverb in situations where T_0 is a moment of speaking from inside of the narrative plan which is not the same with the time of the real speaking.

If in a face-to-face conversation the reference to the moment of speaking is a clear one and the particular aspects of using this adverb can be explained without any kind of difficulty, in literary texts things get more complicated. *Now* functions as a temporal determinant not only in the first line (the told story), but also in the second line which reveals the existence of a narrator inviting the reader to follow the confessed events.

The absolute usage of the deictic *now* is obvious when the adverb determines a verb in Romanian present simple (*Acum scriu tema*); frequently, in both types of the mentioned

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communication this adverbs comes together with other words which have the role of emphasizing the idea of the present speaking.

- *Dar **chiar acum**, în celula mea, nu mă pot stăpâni eu însumi, în faţa perspectivei apropiate a morţii, să nu râd.* (Preda, 1984, I, p.135) (coincidence between the time of enunciation of the narrative and the event plan).
- *Bine, Vasile, mai du-te o dată si spune-le că nu toţi rulmenţii scapă (...) **Chiar acum** mă duc.* (Preda, 1984, II, p. 266-267) (inside the fiction is marked coincidence time between two processes belonging to the characters)
- *Bine, mă duc **chiar acum**. Şi mă ridicai*. (Preda, 1984, II, p. 415) [the coincidence T_0 - T_e].

The meaning of adverb of present moment can be slightly modified, *now* becoming, only within a context, an adverb of a period of time. So, in:

- A: *ce se întâmplă la inspectorat c-am înţeles că-i conflict mare.*
  B: *da, păi N le-a spus **miercuri**. Şi când au auzit ... cum de-abia **acuma**? O să vină doamna ministru şi noi habar nu avem?* (IVLRA, p.33-40, p. 35)

Now refers to the plan of events, which in this case means *then*. Functioning anaphorically, it refers to *miercuri*, but for the one who reads the text and not for the real participants to the communication for whom *now* refreshes a sequence which is not simultaneous with the moment of speaking. The anaphorical functioning of *now* brings into present some past events (it brings them from the events level onto the discourse level), modifying the fundamental value of *now* (as a system deictic), through the relation that it has with the antecedent *miercuri* / *Wednesday*.

Generally, the adverb *now* refers to temporal moments in connection to the zero reference point.

- ***Acum** ne aflăm în Sinaia. Aici ne-am întâlnit prima oară.* [*acum* indicates T_0].
- *Timpurile pe care le trăim noi **acum**, le-am trăit io **atunci** în Brăila...şi în Bucureşti este **acum** la fel.... **Acum** copiii de astăzi sunt foarte moderni...**Acum** ne-am întors înapoi la Capitalism...numai că **acum** trebuie să luptăm..."* (IVLRA, p.28-32).
- ***Acum** sunt în anul IV*. (IVLRA, p. 33- 40). [marking a period limited to a determinable period: one year].

Within the last sentences, we notice that *now* integrates the deictic centre in a much larger area expressing either the coincidence with T_0 (now, today means *in this moment*) or an x-days/years/century-length-stage, or a previous/next event from T_0 moment (yesterday/ tomorrow, etc.). The event moment can be towards the moment of speaking (T_0) in a relation of: simultaneity, anteriority, posteriority.

1) *Simultaneity with T_0 as moment of speaking or as a period including also T_0*
   A) Simultaneity with T_0 as moment of speaking is marked by the adverb *now* and the present tense: *Acum vorbesc cu tine* (Now I am talking to you): the deictic adverb *now* points out the coincidence with the present moment of speaking (this coincidence is also being translated by the tense of the verb) emphasizing the idea

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of actual. It can also indicate a previous moment of speaking creating the clear opposition between past and future.

- *N-am avut* [zi de naştere] *şi nici* ***acum*** *n-am, florile mele o să crească singure pe mormânt.* (Preda, 1984, II, p.416)
- *Nu uitam bucuria cu care eu însumi îmi scrisesem cele două cărţi (...) dar* ***acum*** *această iluminare venea numai din mine şi mi se părea unică, nedeterminată şi eternă.* (Preda, 1984, II, p. 423-424)
- *Nu-mi dădeam seama atunci (dar* ***acum*** *văd totul dar) că neputinţa mea de a înţelege neînţelegerea ... deschidea încet şi pe nesimţite uşa secretă în care stătea ascunsă întreaga mea putere de a fi fericit în singurătate* (Preda, 1984, II, p. 426).

The moment of speaking can differ from the moment of action and, thus, it can sits either in the past or in the future (but we are talking about a minimal distance) towards a T_0 (anteriority/ posteriority). The information that is usually brought by the adverb *now* is that of a certain distance between T_0 and the moment of the event: the time between the two moments. According to the speaking and the spoken events, there can be several meanings which are connected to the particularities of the context, phrasal elements, stress, accent and intonation.

B) Simultaneity with T_0 as an unlimited period, overtaking the conversational length (which also includes the moment of speaking):

[*Conversaţie în accelerat*]

- A: *Eram în Brăila, sînt brăileancă şi timpurile pe care le trăim noi* ***acuma***$_1$*, le-am trăit io atunci*$_1$ *în Brăila...Nici atunci nu se găseau bunătăţi şi* ***acuma*** *mai au neobrăzarea să mai spuie că bătrânii ăştia...* ***Acum*** *e un val, ştii, împotriva lor...*

  B: ***acuma***$_2$ *io te-ntreb....* (IVLRA, p.28-33).

The adverbs *now* and *then*, translate two distinct moments which are opposite to the moment of speaking which is supposed by the adverb *now* (present/ past). The adverb *now* has an absolute deictical usage and it also marks the simultameity with a period belonging to T_0.

- [*Conversaţie în accelerat*]

  B: *Io nu vă contrazic*

  A: ***Acuma***$_3$ *ne-am întors înapoi la capitalism, numai că* ***acuma***$_4$ *trebuie să luptăm.* (IVLRA, p.28-33).

In both situations, the structure *now* + past simple// present does not indicate only the moment of speaking, but a period of time which also includes the T_0 moment.

Associated with past continuous (the Romanian imperfect), *now* indicates a period of time which contains a series of situations which is repeated (***Acum*** *Mihai venea în fiecare seară să ne vadă.*).

The approximative concidence between the time of the event and the time of speaking appears very frequently within oral communications such as live TV and radio shows:

- *Dăm legătura* ***acum*** *la Piteşti.*
- ***Acum*** *suntem în legătură cu Palatul Victoria.*

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Even when the temporality is marked by the help of the verbal tenses, the speaker feels the need of expressing very clear the action moments, and that is why he tends to use the adverb *now*. By retaking the adverb *now*, the speaker manages both to keep the listener focused on the conversation and to cut different stages from the presented event. The further the discourse goes, the further the presented event goes. In this situation *now* functions only deictically translating the mandatory coincidence with the moment of speaking.

- *Iată* ***acum*** *o nouă acţiune a formaţiei piteştene...Dinu în posesia mingii şi iat-* ***acum*** *pe partea stângă a terenului...iat-****acum*** *din nou se şutează de la mare distanţă...*
- ***Acum****, în minutul 10, la Craiova este în continuare unu la zero pentru Universitatea.*

The adverb *now*, connected to T_0, is able to mark both the anteriority and the posteriority:

2) *Anteriority to* T_0

- *Înţeleg ce vrei să spui,* ***acum*** *am ascultat declaraţia preşedintelui. Acum* (deictic) means „before uttering this sentence" (*recent, puţin înainte de*).
- ***Acum*** *că am ascultat declaraţia preşedintelui, înţeleg ce vrei să spui.*

3) *Posteriority to* T_0

- ***Acum*** *voi revedea filmul „Pe aripile vîntului".*
- ***Acum*** *ce-o să faci?* [*Now* is equivalent whit *for now- de acum*: „an indefinitely period, in the future or *now*, after this event" plus a conclusive value];
- ***Acuma*** *io te-ntreb...* [*acum* – „due to the fact...", Posteriority to T_0];
- ***Acum*** *este zece şi jumătate.* [enunciation when time is already running; *Now it was half past ten.*];

4) *...şi* ***acuma*** *privind retrospectiv...****Acuma*** *mi-aduc aminte.*

As we have shown, *now* if often associated to past tenses, even though at first sight it is equivalent to the structure in this moment (which cannot be replaced with in all contexts), structure which is strongly connected to the moment of speaking, because it cannot be used to refer to a different moment - not the moment of speaking - as *now* can be.

Associated with a past tense verb (in oral communication often used past continuous or past simple, and seldom past perfect and present perfect), *now* containing an information regarding to numbers points out the temporal distance towards the moment of speaking.

- ***Acum o oră*** *m-a întrebat de examen.*
- ***Acum doi ani*** *mai era linişte în ţară.*
- *Păi, asta* ***acum, de curând şi acuma...acuma trei zile la prânz.***
- *Eu ţi-am spus* ***acum o săptămână****.*
- *Ţi-ai cumpărat garsonieră? De când? Păi,* ***acum două zile...***
- ***De pe acum*** *se pregăteşte pentru examen.*

In the last sentence, *now*, followed by the preposition *de* involving an antecedent event towards the moment of speaking, points out a temporal increasing which can be translated as showing a future event.

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- B: *...totul se rezumă la...nu avem bani, dar în schimb te caută, te cheamă la servici şi este mult mai multă mună decât* ***acum doi sau trei ani în urmă,*** *când îţi dădea salariu. Eu nu mai am zi de salariu de un an jumate...* (IVLRA, p. 29)

In the above sentence, the speaker feels the need of bringing further explanations in order to fix the distance between the moment of speaking and the reference point which follows a previous period having the staring point not actually the time of speaking, but a period of time including that moment. *Now* refreshes the reference point and realizes a left extension starting with the period meant by *acum/în zilele noastre* (now/in our days).

- B: *....în sănătate,* ***la momentul actual*** *e un haos total (...) să vă dau un exemplu. Deci am plecat* ***într-o dimineaţă*** *la serviciu...şi în spaţiul ăla verde dintre sensurile de mers ale maşinilor, (...) era un bătrân căzut* ***de dimineaţă****, i-a venit rău şi ăă, mă rog, l-a luat cu maşina...* (IVLRA, p.29)

Într-o dimineaţă indicates the undetermined moment (sometime early in the day/ at the beginning of the day) in speaking, placed back from the moment of speaking: its meaning refers to the physic time as a moment of a day. But *de dimineata (in the morning*) fixes a period within the sequence *într-o dimineaţă* which can refer to another reference point which is not the moment of speaking.

The temporal meaning is being build in contemporary Romanian language using different elements: adverbs, adverbial phrases, but also some temporal structures which are not well fixed with Romanian like la momentul actual which refers to the extensive present.

The different ways of interpreting these can be made by a comparative analyse of the following examples:

a) *Te duci la asta* [conferinţă], ***acum, în octombrie***?[2]

b) *Faci baie* ***acum, în octombrie***?[3]

c) - *De la gară plecaţi singure?*

- *Nu,* ***acum*** *au zis că ne aşteaptă cineva.* [4]

In a) *now* does not refer to the moment of speaking, it is referring to a future moment, and has cataphorical usage because it anticipates the period translated in the text by the structure *în octombrie* (*in october*). Even though the two sentences seem to have the same meaning, there is a big difference between them which shows either the coincidence or the noncoincidence between the moment of speaking and the moment of the event. In b) *now* shows the simultaneity between the moment of speaking and the moment of the event. In c) the meaning is changed because the adverb loses its temporal value: *now* send to a previous moment.

The adverb *now* can also have some other functions expecting the temporal usages: it can mark the change of the perspective and it can realize the opposition between the background and the front line:

- *Soarele lumina* ***acum*** *o frunză,* ***acum*** *o creangă*. [indicate the changes in the picture described, perceived by the speaker].

Now can have the role of a connector being part of articulating different segments of the discourse. In this situation it loses its fundamental meaning by erasing the exact temporal

[2] IVLRA, p.73
[3] *Ibidem*.
[4] *Ibidem*.

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meaning. It marks, thus, a limit between a period of time shown by *înainte* and another one shown by *după*. The simple reference to a moment is not enough.

The different adverbial values are given by the verbal form. In repetitive structures (*acum-acum, acuși-acuși*) the meaning of the adverbs can be modified due to their position in the sentence. In the exemples below they can express:

a) the imminence of the process expressed by the verb: ***Acum-acum*** *vine zăpada.*, ***Acuşi-acuşi*** *veţi auzi ştirea.*

b) the interrupting of the process or the change of the state: ***Acum*** *plouă*, ***acum*** *e soare.*

Many specialists have shown that under some specified conditions the adverb does not have a temporal value anymore. It only proves the truth of a denoted situation by *now* (or maybe a longer situation which includes this moment) and also shows that the situation was not a valid one. Taking in consideration that there are differences between sentences like: *Petre mănâncă*. / *Petre eat*. and *Petre mănâncă acum*. / *Petre is eating now*., sentences between which there should be no difference if the only function of *now* is to show that the situation is true in the moment of speaking, Mudler considers that there is a focus-role played out by *now* which also shows that there is a period of time when *Petre mănâncă*. (Petre eat.) The sentence *Petre mănâncă acum*. (*Petre is eating now.*) can be used as an answer for the question: *Petre eat at 8 o'clock*?, while *Petre is eating now*. is opposed to the temporal mark *la ora 8* - *at 8 o'clock*. This is always a transparent token reflexive expression, but the referent is not the moment of speaking, it is a moment associated with a representation of a starting situation of the speaker. This idea was taken by F. Recanati[5] who argues that the token reflexives make a connection between us and the world. In order to find the expression of a token reflexive we need to consider as an unique occurrence of this expression.

A sentence like: *Acum muncesc la Constanța.* (*Now, I am working in Constanta*.) suggests not only the fact that the speaker did not work before this moment in Constanta, but also that the speaker worked in some other cities. Starting from the contrastive value of *now*, C. Vetters and Mulder[6] name this a transparent reflexive token.

Excepting the temporal role of a coincidence with a RP, we can see that this adverb has a supplementary value gained contextually: the opposition between a past state and an action required by the future.

In the sentence: *Ajungem acum la București*., we can see a gap in the events'cycle marked by the adverb *now* through which it is shown another state which is different from a past one, considering a previous plan composed by the already existing situations before the moment of speaking.

Things are not the same if we consider a sentence like: *După tot ce ai aflat despre ei, acum tu vei ști de ce plângi. (After all you know about them, now you'll know why you are crying now.)* where we can see, on one hand, a break from the previous context before its occurrence, and, on the other hand, it involves also the continuity with the speaking situation and the elements it is determined by.

[5] Récanati, F., 1979, p. 163.
[6] De Mulder, W., 2006, p. 26.

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If we talk about the position taken by the adverb *now*, we can see that it can occur in any position within a sentence, even though in first position it can describe a passing through another action or another level of the same action:

- *A spălat şi **acum** fierbe ceaiul pentru bunica. (She did the laundry and now she is boiling tea for grandma.)*

In the end we can admit that *now* can be considered a plurifunctional adverb.

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