



UNIUNEA EUROPEANĂ



Fondul Social European
POSDRU 2007-2013



Instrumente Structurale
2007-2013



MINISTERUL
EDUCAȚIEI ȘI
CERCETĂRII
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OIPOSDRU



ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ

AUXILIARY VERBS TOPIC IN ROMANIAN DIALECTS IN THE NORTH OF DANUBE

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This paper is supported by the Sectorial Operational Programme Human Resources Development (SOP HRD), financed from the European Social Fund and by the Romanian Government under the contract number SOP HRD/1599/1.5/S/136077.

Bucharest, 2015

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Abstract

This research focuses on a specific feature of old Romanian, and also of other old Romance varieties, represented by auxiliary inversion. This syntactic phenomenon disappeared from modern standard Romanian and it is related with other specific phenomena in old Romanian, like scrambling and pronominal enclisis.

In old Romanian, the auxiliary inversion was very frequent, but starting with the 16th century until the beginning of modern Romanian period, inversions disappear gradually, remaining only in interrogations and in rhetoric texts and being accidental.

This research aims to show that the phenomena are also present after the 18th century, in specific writings, like carols and charms, but also in some texts collected by dialectologists. These writings present peculiar properties that make possible the auxiliary verb inversion and the pronominal enclisis.

The purpose of this paper is represented by the analysis of the semantic, syntactic and discursive aspects of the evolution of the verbal complex comprising an auxiliary verb or a pronominal clitic in enclisis. The auxiliary verbs which admit the inversion are *to have* and *to want* and the verbal tense and mood complexes which are related to are compound past, future and conditional. Our analysis shows that in our corpus there is no attestation of enclisis for the auxiliary *to be* in perfect subjunctive, perfect conditional and present or perfect presumptive.

The first part of our research is structured by the information offered by descriptive and historical grammars of Romanian and other languages, by studies and typological books regarding old Romance languages. The data are exhibited following the identification and description of the most important features of the phenomenon analyzed in our paper.

The second part of our research contains a semantic and syntactic analysis of the patterns consisting of infinitive or participle followed by the pronominal clitic and the auxiliary verb, extracted from the corpus. This part also reveals a comparative description of the auxiliary inversion phenomenon in old Romance varieties.

The corpus we have used is represented by carols and charms, and also by some texts collected by dialectologists from Basarabia, Bucovina, Crișana, Maramureș, Transilvania, Dobrogea, Bistrița-Năsăud and Ardeal.

Our analysis shows that the participle and auxiliary-infinitive inversions are a syntactic pattern especially occurring in folkloric writings as carols and charms. Furthermore, we show that pronominal clitics are placed between the infinitive and the enclitic auxiliary. Thus, specific writings like carols and charms reveal features that strongly support auxiliary and clitic enclisis.

Our research aims to show that the preference for enclisis in these writings is due to the formulaic pattern. On the other hand, in texts collected by dialectologists, the order infinitive /participle-auxiliary is slightly less frequent than other types of writings we have examined.

We aim to show in our paper that the auxiliary and pronominal clitics encliticization represents a very frequent pattern in complementary distribution with the canonic order in modern literary Romanian.

Regardless, we showed that there is no pattern that permits auxiliary enclisis, thus, pronominal clitics and auxiliaries occur both in anteposition and in postposition.

Moreover, in all types of writings inverted auxiliaries display for attestations highly more frequent in coordinated main clauses, especially imperative and conditional clauses, and less in subordinate and interrogative clauses.