

100 YEARS OF ROMANIAN THEORETICAL SYNTAX A QUANTITATIVE QUALITATIVE STUDY

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ABSTRACT. *100 years of Romanian Theoretical Syntax. A quantitative qualitative study.* In the hundred years since Romania's Unification - 1918-2018 - and 400 years since the first documentation - 1619-2018 - the syntax of Romanian has evolved slowly, at a pace which is historically predictable; syntax has been growing through its own discoveries about the object, but also through significant international theoretical influences. Two major periods in the evolution studying the syntax of Romanian can be identified, not only in succession, but also running simultaneously, especially in the more recent past. The first period is covered by empirical (factual) theoretical syntax, relying mainly on observation and description; the result was the inventory of the syntactic structures of Romanian, the description of their morphological support, their genetic mechanisms, which allowed an algorithm-based functional interpretation, as well as their computational annotation. The reason is that syntax means a large, but not infinite, number of facts subject to a large, but not infinite, number of interpretations. The second period in its evolution is conceptual, abstract, semantic and pragmatic syntax, which moves away from the facts, combines semiotically the terminological implications of some theories and creates possible syntactical worlds. We refer here to the current co-existence of traditional grammar theories and of research based on these theories, as well as to theories on cognitivism, neurolinguistics, etc. which do not need syntactic facts anymore, but samples and meta-interpretations. At this point in the evaluation of Romanian theoretical syntax, as regards the further development of this branch of linguistics, we can estimate only that there will be growing interest in computational linguistics and any other linguistic annotations and metadata.

Key-words: *Romanian Syntax, Grammar, Morphology, Linguistics Bibliography, Historical Synthesis*

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REZUMAT. 100 de ani de sintaxă teoretică românească. Un studiu cantitativ-calitativ. La 100 de ani de omagiere - 1918-2018 - și 400 de ani de atestare - 1619-2018 - sintaxa românească a cunoscut un parcurs evolutiv lent, istoric predictibil, crescând prin propriile descoperiri despre obiect, dar și prin infuzii teoretice importante din arealul internațional. Se pot decela două mari perioade evolutive ale sintaxei românești, nu atât doar succesive, cât și simultane deseori mai ales în ultima parte. Prima perioadă este acoperită de o sintaxă teoretică factologică, observativă și descriptivă prin care s-a obținut inventarul structurilor sintactice românești, descrierea suportului lor morfologic, mecanismele lor de geneză, lucruri care au făcut posibilă și algoritmizarea interpretărilor lor funcționale, precum și adnotarea lor computațională. Această etapă este aproape revoluționară pentru că sintaxă înseamnă un număr mare, dar nu infinit de fapte supuse unui număr mare, dar nu infinit de interpretări. A doua perioadă evolutivă este sintaxa conceptuală, abstractă, semantică și pragmatică, care lasă deoparte faptele și combină semiotice implicațiile terminologice ale unora și altora dintre teorii și construiește lumi sintactice posibile. Ne referim aici la coexistența de acum a teoriilor gramaticii tradiționale și a cercetărilor care au la bază aceste teorii și a teoriilor privind cognitivismul, neurolingvistica ș.a. care nu mai au nevoie de faptele sintactice, ci de eșantioane și metainterpretări. Aflați în acest punct al evaluării sintaxei teoretice românești, nu putem estima dezvoltările ei ulterioare, vizionarismul științific nefiind un domeniu ușor accesibil. Putem aprecia cu siguranță că va exista o creștere a interesului pentru lingvistica computațională și orice alte adnotări și metadata lingvistice.

Cuvinte cheie: sintaxă românească, gramatică, morfologie, bibliografie lingvistică, sinteză istorică

0. General introduction

Exactly 100 years ago, Gabriel Ștrempel (1831-1918) put an end to his industrious research of *the Modern Romanian Bibliography*¹. The information that his dedicated work reclaimed for the repository of Romanian science would otherwise have been lost forever; Romulus Ionașcu also undertook the task of retrieving such precious historical information when he published his book *Gramaticii români. Tractat despre evoluțiunea studiului gramaticii limbei române dela 1757 până astăzi* / [*The Romanian Grammarians. A tractate on the evolution and study of the grammar of Romanian from 1757 to the present*], published in Iasi in 1914: in this volume he presented and described in annotated form the Romanian grammar works published in the period

¹ Academia Republicii Socialiste România; Neonilă Onofrei; Societatea de Științe Filologice din Republica Socialistă România, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, București, 1996.

mentioned above; such a study would be more difficult to complete today. Here we are today at a new historic moment, in a position to comment on the development of Romanian linguistics, of Romanian syntax more precisely, in the past century; this area has not seen any thorough documentation and recording in a comprehensive bibliographies² in a fashion that would present the lines along which it developed. On hindsight, we see that there are no historical studies³ that focus exclusively on the evolution of the syntax of Romanian. In the volume *Istoria lingvisticii românești / [History of Romanian linguistics]*, published in 1978 and coordinated by Iorgu Iordan (to which other 14 linguists contributed), there are several chapters and sections which mention contributions to the development of the syntax of Romanian, but the information on syntax is so lean in terms of both quality and quantity, that this paper cannot be considered a landmark on this topic. The authors refer here to the theory of the syntax of Romanian, namely the fact that, in 1975, through great efforts the Academy (of the then Socialist Republic of Romania) established the group of research departments called “The History of sciences in Romania”; its goal was to develop a history of scientific disciplines, and the first volume in this series was *Lingvistica / [Linguistics]*, in 1975, coordinated by Iorgu Iordan. It was at this stage that the scientific works of H. Tiktin, I.-A. Candrea, O. Densusianu, S. Pușcariu, E. Petrovici, V. Bogrea, P. Iorgovici, P. Maior, T. Cipariu, I. Heliade Rădulescu, L. Șăineanu, G. Pascu, T. Papahagi were recirculated as critical editions, and so were the contributions of the School of Transylvanian scholars i.e. Școala ardelenă (see I. Iordan, 1978: 234). It is clear then that this avenue of academic research outlined the general framework of later monographic research, that was to meet the requirement of outgrowing the empirical stage of the linguistic sciences of language. The results of the syntactic research published as monographs after 1975, as well as various Romanian historical grammars, that were republished and recovered, have been preserved to this day.

1. A second introduction

In the past few years of personal research, while my motivation was not the centenary itself, I became aware of the fragmented nature of contemporary

² Obviously, the official concern of the Romanian Academy for the bibliographic records is well known. The Romanian bibliography in linguistics, which is published annually in the last issues of the journal *The Romanian Language*, although organized by domains, must be reorganized in separate corpora, as the entries are difficult to follow.

³ Romulus Ionașcu wrote a history of the grammar works, Romanian syntax included; it was an annotated bibliography. In his history of the syntax, (1945), Nicolae Drăganu deals in point of fact with general linguistics and hardly any mention is made of Romanian linguistics. Later on, Sorin Stati proceeds similar to Nicolae Drăganu in his outstandingly concise and clear *Teorie și metodă în syntaxă / Theory and method in syntax* (1967).

synthetic syntactic research and of the danger of involution and of false discoveries; therefore I have grown concerned with the inventory of the total number of works on Romanian syntax published as volumes, articles and studies, as well as works in applied syntax, starting with 1619 to 2014; this list was published in 2017 in the volume *Bazele sintaxei. Corpusul bibliografic al studiilor românești de sintaxă teoretică și aplicată* / [*The Foundations of syntax. The bibliography of Romanian studies in theoretical and applied syntax*]. In the course of my documentation stage, I formulated my own considerations on the importance and necessity of a historic work on the development of syntax, even of a bibliographical cartography of all papers concerning syntax published from the beginning to the present day, in the development of science. It is my firm conviction that, were we to ignore the history of scientific development, we would, in fact, ignore the very essence of a science, which is by its nature historic; I have put forward this opinion before, when I claimed that Romanian specialists have not abandoned the idea of *history* and historic studies about how the Romanian syntax has developed, or of recording the development of Romanian syntax as a science. This idea may not have been rejected, however, when this aspect was taken into account, the emphasis was just moved from *an evaluation of Romanian syntax according to its representatives and their theories* to *an evaluation of Romanian syntax as a science according to a systematic assessment of idea shifts*; this last position can be supported by the Romanian monographs in the field on syntactic categories; other studies in syntax, which can be considered descriptions of synchronic theoretical syntax, also implicitly include historical elements. And yet how has theoretical Romanian syntax evolved in the absence of axiological landmarks of the historical type? In retrospect, to a certain extent, all the monographs on Romanian syntax also have a historical dimension in the sense that while elaborating on certain issues they naturally refer to other – previous – works. Consequently, although I stand by the appreciation expressed above, I cannot ignore the idea that elements of synthesis are necessary; they are not only indicative of the advancement of a science, but also of the direction in which the said science will develop and could or should develop to be consistent with its own existence and necessity. Relying on documentary information from my own bibliographic volume, *Bazele sintaxei...* / [*The Foundations of syntax...*], (Secrieru, 2017), in the present paper I will process data mainly quantitatively, but qualitatively, too. Quantitative approaches aim at recording information using the method and technique of representing graphically the total number of works published during various periods of time. The qualitative approach aims at establishing the crucial moments in the evolution of Romanian syntactic theories marked by important works, usually monographs, between 1918 - 2018. In fact, the novel element will consist of getting as close to the year 2018 as possible, since the information personally verified and collected goes only as far as 2014.

1.1. Studies in Romanian theoretical syntax (1619-1918)

As I mentioned before, the focus of the present paper is the past century, thus I am considering the period between 1918-2018; however, for a better assessment of the dynamics of studies in Romanian theoretical syntax, I will make some preliminary statistical remarks about the period between 1619-1918. Two studies as Ma. diss. have been published. Madalina Asaftei ("Dimensiuni", 2017) focused on the processing of the quantitative-qualitative information from the period 1619-1900, and Diana-Amalia Bătrânu Iarca ("Dimensiuni", 2017), who focused on the same dynamic for the period 1900-2014; both pieces of research were part of MA dissertation papers I coordinated in 2017. To sum up, in the 281 years (1619-1918) 101 papers of general grammar - including syntax - were published, a few papers on syntax and a similar number of studies in applied syntax. In this first stage in the development of Romanian syntax, the evolution of this science has the following features:

- an accumulation of partial descriptions,
- an accumulation of partial descriptions complemented by critical elements,
- opposing ideas, are used as techniques to develop science i.e. syntax during this period,
- the reiteration of ideas through uncritical replication (compilation)⁴

2. The theoretical syntax of the Romanian language in data and moments (1918-2016)

The historical approach of syntax from its origins until 1918 and since 1918 until today, to which I have referred so far, has no scientific basis yet, but only a cultural basis. As I have mentioned before, the present paper attempts at mapping a hundred years and more of Romanian research in syntax; however, it is adequate to list a number of criteria for discussion. I believe that, given the satisfactory development of the Romanian corpus of syntactic theory from the historical and bibliographical point of view, the following non-historic, quantitative-qualitative criteria can be listed; they focus on the content and characteristics of the science called the syntax of Romanian, namely, from the quantitative point of view:

1. mapping the number of volumes, articles and studies of Romanian applied syntax, identifying within this inventory works aimed at:

⁴ In all honesty we can say here, as we have elsewhere, that "a feature of this period and of the following one, is what we might call popular science; in fact, the two components - science and discipline - were generally indistinct, the information flowed between the works in a natural way; some authors even reproduced accurately information from the works by other authors. Even so, these authors-compilers have the merit of disseminating the information among the school teachers from the various regions of the country; there weren't many of them, but they have secured a critical mass of information on the emerging science." (Secieru, *Bazele*, 385).

2. the history of the syntax of Romanian, as illustrated by the work of critical and philological retrieval of historical grammars and by the subsequent works dedicated to their reception, through monographs, through works on the history of general syntax or Romanian syntax, through works which summarize and forecast the development of the syntax of Romanian in relation to general linguistics or to Romanian linguistics or to itself, but also through bibliographic works;
3. the terminology of syntax, illustrated by the theoretical approach to the terminology of syntax, syntactic dictionaries are also included here;
4. research methods, exemplified by works of theoretical and applied syntax.

2.1. Mapping the number of volumes, articles and studies of Romanian applied syntax 1918-2016

From the available bibliographic data, the number of papers published between the years 1918-2016 (Table 1 *infra*), is presented in table format:

Table 1. The number of works of theoretical and applied syntax published between the years 1918-2016

Year	Vol.	Art.	Applied Syntax	Sum	Year	Vol.	Art.	Applied Syntax	Sum
1918	1	0	1	2	1971	6	43	11	60
1919	0	0	1	1	1972	6	64	9	78
1920	1	0	1	2	1973	25	35	8	68
1921	0	0	0	0	1974	15	41	15	71
1922	0	0	0	0	1975	4	24	12	40
1923	0	0	4	4	1976	3	35	18	56
1924	1	0	0	1	1977	5	65	18	88
1925	0	0	0	0	1978	7	45	24	76
1926	1	1	0	2	1979	2	47	27	76
1928	1	0	1	2	1980	6	62	19	87
1929	0	0	2	2	1981	4	102	46	152
1930	2	0	0	2	1982	3	56	51	110
1931	0	0	0	0	1983	5	49	14	68
1932	1	0	0	1	1984	2	55	10	67
1933	0	0	1	1	1985	2	52	17	71
1934	0	1	0	1	1986	5	49	24	78
1935	0	1	0	1	1987	3	41	23	67
1936	1	0	0	1	1988	2	36	15	53
1937	2	1	0	3	1989	1	55	12	68
1938	1	3	3	7	1990	3	43	11	57
1939	1	0	0	1	1987	3	41	23	67
1940	1	0	0	1	1991	2	35	20	57

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Year	Vol.	Art.	Applied Syntax	Sum	Year	Vol.	Art.	Applied Syntax	Sum
1941	0	0	0	0	1992	5	50	33	88
1942	0	0	1	1	1993	5	43	37	85
1943	4	0	3	7	1994	11	36	13	60
1944	1	2	1	4	1995	7	27	23	57
1945	4	0	4	8	1996	3	52	15	70
1946	1	1	1	3	1997	6	36	21	63
1947	1	0	3	4	1998	10	33	11	54
1948	1	0	1	2	1999	4	30	0	34
1949	0	1	1	2	2000	9	34	3	46
1950	0	3	2	5	2001	6	16	4	26
1951	0	1	0	1	2002	13	26	7	46
1952	0	2	0	2	2003	6	31	3	40
1953	4	3	2	9	2004	11	49	8	68
1954	3	6	0	9	2005	19	51	17	87
1955	1	7	0	8	2006	7	78	15	100
1956	3	13	2	18	2007	9	49	17	75
1957	2	17	4	23	2008	8	81	34	122
1958	4	15	3	22	2009	8	161	64	233
1959	0	10	3	13	2010	8	82	29	119
1960	3	13	6	22	2011	7	81	29	117
1961	1	25	8	34	2012	2	115	10	127
1962	0	28	8	36	2013	14	91	7	112
1963	1	20	10	31	2014	1	29	2	32
1968	4	37	10	51	2015	2	20	3	25
1969	6	41	18	65	2016	2	19	2	23
1970	5	69	27	101	Total	357	2675	943	3975

In relation to this table, there are small differences between the number of works listed by Diana Bătrânu Iarca ("Dimensiuni", 85-87), and the number mentioned in my paper (which is still work in progress) *Bazele sintaxei* (Secrieru, 2017), given the fact that my paper was a manuscript offered to her for reference and on which she worked; in the meantime I did further work on my manuscript and added new material in view of the publication of a new revised and completed edition, to include the years 2015-2016; I am now using that edition as a support for the present study. The graphs associated with these tables offer a better image of the evolution or dynamics of the interest in syntax and of the scientific literature produced in the field⁵. As can be seen in Table 1, in the almost one hundred years investigated (1918-2016) 357 volumes, 2.675 articles and studies on the syntax of Romanian and 943 paper

⁵ The graphs related to this development, according to statistical data at the time of the research, were provided by Diana Bătrânu Iarca ("Dimensiuni", 85, 88, 94). We emphasize again that the bibliographical data is being revised in view of a second edition and the data in the present paper are only given for the purpose of illustration.

on applied syntax were published; the total rises to 3.975, the average is 40 papers per year. The data will be discussed below in terms of quality, according to areas of research, topics and subtopics.

2.2. The years 1918-2018: studies about the history of the syntax of Romanian and part of it

In my opinion the element that worked as a catalyst for the studies of the syntax of Romanian was the publication of the two comprehensive editions *Gramatica limbii române* [GA] / [*Grammar of the Romanian language*], under the aegis of the Romanian Academy; the first was published in 1954, the second in 1963 (and the revised edition in 1966); these volumes represented a base for and a landmark in generating new research avenues in the syntax of Romanian. As it has been stated before, the history of syntax is exemplified by the works that reclaim the historical grammars from a critical-philological perspective, and by the studies on their subsequent reception (reviews, booknotes), by monographs, by works on the history of general syntax or Romanian syntax, by works which summarize and anticipate the development of the syntax of Romanian in relation to general linguistics or Romanian linguistic, or even in relation to itself, but also through the bibliographic work. Under these guidelines various sub-topics can be found which will be listed below.

2.2.1. Syntax related sub-topics

The actual inventory of the sub-topics addressed by linguists specializing in syntax reveals many works focusing on: topics related to the predicate, the predicative, the object complement, the attribute, grammar logic, apposition, subject, objects and adverbials, syntactic relations and groups, as well as many other novel sub-topics that will be referred to below.

The topic of the predicate is first discussed in a monograph by G. Beldescu, published in 1955 (*Predicatul*), followed by a second one by G. G. Neamțu published in 1986 (*Predicatul*); the topic of the predicative⁶ and of the sentence as the effect of predicative relations were also investigated. A dynamic development of the theories of the object complement is intrinsically linked to this topic; it was approached in two monographs published in this period (Secrieru, *Cumulul*; Popușoi, *Structuri*). As a consequence of the studies on the topic of the verb vs the copula as elements of predication, a number of works on the morpho-syntax of the verb, of predicative vs. semi-predicative verbs relations are published. Statistically, the number of studies on each of

⁶ The same author, G., Beldescu, who writes the first monograph on the predicate also addresses the predicative in a monograph (*Contribuții*, 1957).

the sub-topics goes as follows: in the 100 years under investigation 95 papers on the predicate were published, 12 papers on the predicative, 37 papers on the object complement, 21 papers on the agreement between the predicate and the subject, and 28 papers on the didactics of syntax - or applied syntax - on similar topics.

Issues related to the congruence or incongruence of logic and grammar were addressed in about 17 papers; some of them are papers in applied syntax, see Eugen Tanase ("Un caz", 1965), Dumitru Andrașoni ("Importanța", 1965); a few are written by specialists in related fields, mathematicians for example: Solomon Marcus ("Logiceskij", 1963), Gr. C. Moisil ("Logica", 1968, "Probleme", 1970), or philosophers: Gh. Enescu ("Axiomatica", 1967), others were published abroad, E. Coseriu (*Logicismo*, 1958). As regards the theoretical implications of the congruence of grammar with logic, Gh. Ivănescu ("Gramatica" (I), 1963, "Gramatica" (II), 1964) can be considered a specialist in the field, while E. Coseriu can be considered to have organized and conclusively solved the problem, so that starting 1980 the question of the interconnections between logic and grammar no longer emerges as a topic for intensive research in syntax.

The apposition is often addressed in Romanian linguistics, both in monographs and in volumes, as well as in papers and studies, counting approximately 53 works. These works investigate issues related to the status of the syntactic function of apposition and of the appositional syntactic relation, discussing its differences from other functions, as well as elements of similarity between the apposition and other syntactic functions, or similarities/differences between it and other syntactic relations. The most important contributions belong to M. Mitran ("Despre apoziție", 1963), V. Hodiș (*Apoziția*, 1990), and Ion Diaconescu (*Sintaxa*, 1995); the last author comprehensively discusses the apposition in one of his volumes on the general syntax of Romanian.

The studies related to the subject and the subject clause focused on several aspects that were controversial up to a point in time. Some of the topics referred to whether the subject clause is a main or secondary syntactic function (which derives from the syntactic relation between the verb and the subject clause), to the existence of the zero or missing ("indeterminate") subject, to the agreement between the subject and the verb, to the subject as the governing element of the object complement, and fills two special volumes; one of the volumes is a monograph on the subject and subject clause function, *Propoziția subiectivă* [*The subject clause*] by Ecaterina Teodorescu, published in 1972⁷. Another more recent monograph can also be mentioned, *Subiectul și propoziția subordonată subiectivă*/ [*The subject and the subject clause*], published by Ștefan Găitănaru in 1994. In addition to the volumes mentioned above, 144 more articles and 18 more studies of applied syntax have been published on these topics.

⁷ This volume was reviewed seven times shortly after it was published.

The topic of the attribute is addressed only by Alexandru Metea, in a monograph on Romanian theoretical syntax (*Propoziția*, 1975), and the author has been a passionate theorist of this syntactic function and has published many papers on it along his career. The number of works specifically devoted to the study of the attribute does not amount to more than 50; there are five studies on contiguous topics (actually focusing on the interpretation of the object complement as an attribute) and 12 more studies on applied syntax.

Initially, the topic of the objects was addressed in a monograph only by Dumitru Crașoveanu (*Limba*, 1973), and it was subsequently also discussed by Elena Ciobanu in a study (*Funcția*, 1997), while the adverbials were addressed in a monograph by Mioara Avram (*Evoluția*, 1960) and by other linguists (Vonica, *Sintaxa*, 2007) recently. Rodica Nagy's monograph (*Determinare*, 2002) can be added to the various individualizing approaches on objects and adverbials; the volume is the published form of a doctoral thesis and investigates the two distinct syntactical functions in a compared-discriminative manner. The specialists in generative-transformational syntax share the same approach (Berea-Găgeanu, and Mierlă, *Din sintaxa*, 2006). Both objects and adverbials have been more intensely theorized than the attribute, with more than 145 theoretical articles and 20 works of applied syntax to prove it. In my opinion, this large quantity of scientific literature is due to the wider semantic-syntactic range of objects, as well as to the contiguous topics regarding object reduplication by repetition or anticipation of this syntactical function (cf. Al. Graur, "Reluarea", 1969, N. Saramandu, "Reluarea", 1966), the distinction between objects and adverbials, between objects and other syntactic functions (I count here the approximately ten articles encompassing the issue of plurality of syntactic function, traditionally called in Romanian grammar "element predicative suplimentar" ("object complement"), the correlative or double subordinate nature of some objects and adverbials, their internal taxonomy etc. These issues that are specific of the object ("complement"), do not refer to the attribute, hence the difference in the number of works.

The topic of the syntactic relations – chronologically the first one to be addressed was coordination – is discussed during this time span by Gheorghe N. Dragomirescu (*Sintaxa*, 1939) in a theoretical work in which he distinguishes between varieties of coordination vs. subordination. Coordination has aroused interest especially in relation to its internal subdivisions, or subclasses as seen in the works by Mioara Avram ("Observații", 1957), Cornel Săteanu ("Coordonarea", 1966) and by I. Muțiu ("Probleme", 1968); the last one is also the author of a doctoral thesis on coordination, first published as a Ph. D. abstract (*Probleme*, 1973), and later as a monograph. The aspects addressed are the semantic border between subordination and coordination, the distinction between apposition

and coordination, as well as topics of historical and comparative syntax. Certain peculiarities of coordination have been studied in monographs by other linguists (Dumitrescu, *Coordonarea*, 1979, Teiuș, *Coordonarea*, 1980); the number of papers on coordination is around 72. Similar to coordination, subordination is a productive research topic; however, it was addressed in monographs later than coordination, cf. Mioara Avram, (*Evoluția*, 1960), followed by Magdalena Vulpe (*Subordonarea*, 1980). The number of studies addressing the various problems raised by subordination is about 130, plus the 18 papers on applied syntax.

The topic of syntactic units includes specific references to the sentence (< fr. *énoncé*) as a syntactic unit, first theorized by Sorin Stati ("Clasificarea", 1966), but also to the concepts of simple and complex sentence and clause, phrase / group ("propoziție", *frază* and "sintagmă" in Romanian grammar); among the first linguists who addressed the subject, were S. Stati ("La transposition", 1966) and Maria Magyarodi ("Analiza", 1970). The number of studies addressing this complex fundamental set of issues are as follows: 27 works about the theory and realization of the simple and complex sentence, more than 50 studies on the sentence as a syntactic unit or as a unit of a different nature (the subject was first addressed by Sorin Stati in *Elemente*, 1972): it was also investigated as a philosophical-linguistics unit by G. Enescu, ("Axiomatica", 1967), as a mathematical-linguistic unit by Gr. Moisil, ("Logica", 1968). It is important to remark that the theories of the sentence as a syntactic unit group have long been a topic for discussion since the very notion of a *syntactic unit* has been hardly at all addressed and clarified theoretically. This fact directly influenced the theories regarding the other syntactic categories: syntactic units, syntactic relations and syntactic function. The difficulties arise from the fact that the syntactic representations of the dichotomous concepts of syntactic content and syntactic form have not been clarified and identified and therefore not all the systems of syntactic oppositions could be identified; such oppositions were the internal oppositions of the categories of syntactic unit, syntactic relation and syntactic function, among which their empty realization is an important element.

To the inventory above another type of works can be added, those of a *vademecum* type, i.e. academic grammars or grammars of the Romanian language by various authors; such books discuss the syntactic categories; their number reaches about 40 works, most of them are published in Romania (Stati, *Teorie*, 1967, Guțu Romalo, *Sintaxa*, 1973, Iordan and Robu, *Limba*, 1978, Irimia, *Structura*, 1983, Dimitriu, *Tratat*, 2002, Stan, *O sintaxă*, 2013 etc. see infra. 2.3), and few of them are published abroad (Stati, *Teoria*, 1972, Vasiliu, and Golopenția-Eretescu, *The Transformational*, 1972, Pană Dindelegan, *The Grammar*, 2013 etc.).

Finally, teaching syntax, or applied syntax, as I have referred to it, faithfully follows the major topics in syntax; this aspiration of including it in

the Romanian academic grammar and linguistics and the popularization of the new theories was quite important. I should add here a few remarks regarding PhD papers. As can be seen from the bibliographic mapping of the years 2009-2014, (Sterian "Bibliografia", 2015), only five PhD papers in the past ten years have addressed Romanian syntax as their research topic, which seems to indicate a low level of interests in this domain and its topics, a small number of studies in the future and, not least, a decreasing number of specialists in this domain.

2.3. Works on the terminology of syntax

The increased terminological repertoire of syntax falls under this category; it is well exemplified by specific, as well as indirect, terminological theoretical discussions, dictionaries of syntactic terms included here. Diachronically, the first work overtly discussing the terminology of grammar in the period under discussion (1918-2018) belongs to Dimitrie Găzdaru: *Terminologie gramaticală cu noțiuni de gramatică generală* / [*Grammar terminology and issues on general grammar*], which was published in Iași in 1931-1932 and was circulated in photocopied form; it was followed by another general study published abroad by Pius Servien [Piu Șerban Coculescu], *Le langage des sciences*, (1938), and by some more recent works: Kis, Emese, *Terminologie lingvistică* / [*Linguistic terminology*] (1968); D., Macrea, *Le terminologie scientifique et technique dans la langue roumaine contemporaine* (1968). However, the philosophy of the terminology of syntax is not purposely addressed by the Romanian linguists between 1940-1954, when the great works by the following linguists are published: Sextil Pușcariu (*Limba*, 1940), Nicolae Drăganu (*Istoria*, 1945, *Elemente*, 1945), Iorgu Iordan (*Gramatica*, 1937), Al. Rosetti and J. Byck (*Gramatica*, 1943), N. I. Barbu (*Sintaxa*, 1944), and the first (1954) and second edition (1963, ed. 1966) of the *Gramatica limbii române*, named also "a Academiei", [*The Grammar of the Romanian language, "of the Academy"*]. Neither was it investigated later (see *modus operandi in medias res* of the latest edition of the Academy's Grammar of Romanian (published in 2005, and a new edition in 2008). Other works can be added here that discuss terminological distinctions (Marcus, "Dependență, 1938, Mladin, "Incident" 2003), as well as the glossaries of grammar terms in the critical editions of the historical grammars and not only (Mazilu, "Primele", 2014). Transformational grammar is better represented in this respect (Pană Dindelegan, "Concepte", 1969). Various terminology works discussing the historical evolution of certain concepts have been published lately (Pană Dindelegan, "Aspecte", 1978). The number of studies on the conceptualization of the terminology of syntax is about 30.

2.4. Studies that theorize on research methods in syntax

Specific research methods are a condition of the scientificity of any field, but syntax has only few instruments of its own, such as zero substitution or “commutation” (Coteanu, “Comutarea”, 1967); the rest of the methodological arsenal of research in syntax is the same as that of general linguistics (Vasiliiu, “Metode”, 1960; Pană, Probleme”, 1978). Other related works refer to techniques (for example the intuitive principle, Munteanu, “Aplicarea”, 1959; Braeşter and Nedeianu, “Aplicarea” 1979) or analytical tools (Marcus, “Noţiunea”, 1961; Landa, “Înarmarea”, 1961), or mathematical processing (Cărăuşu, “Asupra modelării”, 1967). Certain works related to syntax can be mentioned here, such as those on psycholinguistics (Slama-Cazacu, “La méthodologie”, 1965), which introduce interesting concepts on the syntax of orality. The total number of works related to the issue is no more than ten.

2.5. Self-reflective studies

Works exploring the development of the theoretical syntax of Romanian can also be grouped here; this topic was of great interest for important Romanian grammarians such as Graur, (*Tendinţe*, 1968), Iordan, (*Tendances*, 1966, “Tendinţe”, 1970, *Istoria*, 1978), Theban, (“Ce noutăţi”, 2010), as well as theoretical synthesis and diagnosis works (Butnariuc, *Istoria*, 2006). The number of such studies is relatively small. A related yet relatively distinct topic can be added here, that of specialized bibliographies. Bibliographies of special branches or subdomains of linguistics is seen abroad as a laborious and wearisome, yet extremely important, enterprise, hence the interest of major publishing houses to compile and collect them. In Romania, this avenue of research – even in recent years – has been considered an activity that does not fall within a linguist's scope and is therefore treated as superfluous; this is obvious in the way it is quantified in the various academic grids of scientific contributions or in the lack of academic authority associated to this type of activity. This explains then why specialized bibliographies of works written in the past hundred years discussed in the present paper were produced only by linguists from the diaspora (Buescu and Turdeanu, “Les études”, 1954, Lozovan, “Bilan”, 1956⁸, Popinceanu, and Onciulescu, “Les études”, 1953, Popinceanu, and Sporea “Rumänische”, 1956, Ciureanu, “Rassegna”, 1957, Colan Munteanu and Rodriguez, *Bibliografia*, 2003), and only exceptionally by Romanian singular linguists (Avram, “Bibliografia”, 1967, Secrieru, *Bibliografie*, 2014, Bazele 2017).

⁸ The article of 1956 was developed and updated, and republished in 1960.

Conclusions

The dynamics of studies on Romanian theoretical syntax is not spectacular, but it is constant and has notable results within its context. We cannot offer a quantitative comparison of the scientific literature on syntax to literature on morphology, lexicology etc. and we cannot therefore appreciate its statistics as satisfactory, as there are no terms for comparison. In terms of quality, however, we can say that there is no topic or sub-topic, i.e. aspect or feature of a syntactic category or class, that has not been addressed and that does not have a history of references, either direct or indirect. In terms of quantity, in relation with various topics or sub-topics, certain aspects have been considered more interesting than others. If we consider the Alethic square of characteristics of any science as a benchmark, namely its object, method, terminology and history, we can notice that as far as syntax is concerned, the object, the methods, as well as its own history and development through diagnoses and prognoses, are less dynamic; the studies that, one way or the other, metabolize and refine the terminology of syntax are much more dynamic; in fact today the novelty of linguistics resides in this very terminological awakening. The total corpus of studies on Romanian theoretical syntax consists of around 4.000 works, including the volumes, articles and studies, as well as papers on applied syntax; there are about 40 monographs and grammars. Unlike the period previous to that under investigation, i.e. 1619-1918, it can be noticed that following 1918 there are fewer slots with no bibliographic information and supposedly no research in the field; following 1969, the number of studies in theoretical syntax increases significantly and the amount of papers increases annually – between 1918-2016 the average number is around 40 works per year. In fact, the span 1950-1980 was the most prolific qualitatively, as the major topics of syntax were fully covered by fundamental studies; the period 1980-2018 increases the analytical scope of these studies and adds only one new topic – computational linguistics.

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