The Syntax of Old Romanian
Ed. by Gabriela Pană Dindelegan
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The Syntax of Old Romanian is a diachronic comprehensive investigation of the syntax of Old Romanian (OR), which is considered to be the period between the beginning of the 16th century and the end of the 18th century, whereas the Modern Romanian (MR) refers to the stage of language after the 18th century. The study consists of the work of nineteen researchers, mainly members of the Department of Grammar of the "Iorgu Iordan – Al. Rosetti" Institute of Linguistics of the Romanian Academy who were also consulted by Martin Maiden's (University of Oxford). It is easy to observe the accessible modern framework approach, similar to *The Grammar of Romanian* (Gabriela Pană Dindelegan, 2013, Oxford: Oxford University Press)*,* as designed to continue it, but with a shift in the period of time.

The "Introduction" (pp. 1-14), written by Emanuela Timotin, Camelia Stan and Martin Maiden represents Chapter 1 and presents the corpus in three subsections: typology, dating and localization of texts; the main phonological features of old Romanian; the morphological characteristics of OR, briefly examined.

The second chapter, "The verb and its arguments: the root clause" (pp. 14-232), written by seven linguists: Rodica Zafiu, Alexandru Nicolae, Dana Niculescu, Gabriela Pană Dindelegan, Irina Nicula Paraschiv, Adina Dragomirescu, Andra Vasilescu, deals with

aspects such as syntax of moods and tenses, pronominal clitics syntactic variation in the verbal domain – where reflexive and non-reflexive verbs are highlighted –, how a preposition is selected, the changes they have suffered during the transition towards MR. Furthermore, clauses with *be*-passive vs. *se*-passive, middle and anaphoric reflexives, reciprocal structures and adverbial possessive dative clitics are also presented in a comprehensive analysis.

"Non-finite verb forms and non-finite constructions" (pp. 232-288) represents the third chapter of the anthology, where Isabela Nedelcu, Adina Dragomirescu and Dana Niculescu describe the aforementioned issues in a more precise way. For instance, the long and short infinitive, the evolution of the nominal, underspecified and verbal supine, the adjectival past participle or the active vs. passive value of the past participle. In addition, the researchers analyze all non-finite constructions, highlighting formatives in periphrastic constructions, control and raising structures, the predicative value etc.

Camelia Stan, Gabriela Pană Dindelegan, Alexandru Nicolae, Raluca Brăescu, Andra Vasilescu are the writers of Chapter 4, i.e. "The Nominal Phrase" (pp. 288-394). They describe the internal constituents and the nominal-phrase constructions in OR: determiners and polydefinite structures, analytic and synthetic means of expressing the genitive, the syntax of partitive phrases, pronominal possession, quantifiers, modifiers, appositions and nominal classifiers, nominalizations, the licensing of nominal ellipsis, and nominal intensifiers.

Chapter 5, i.e. "Adjectives and adjectival phrases" (pp. 394-413), is the work of Raluca Brăescu, and Chapter 6 (pp. 414-423, by Carmen Mîrzea Vasile and Chapter 7 by Isabela Nedelcu, (pp.424-443) underlines the behavior of adjectives, adverbs, prepositions and their phrases, highlighting both morpho-syntactic and semantic traits. As in the entire book, the differences produced in the evolution of OR in its transition to Modern Romanian are described. Also, the changes in the inventory, the selection, the restriction of prepositions are discussed and supported by plenty of examples.

"Coordination and coordinating conjunctions" (i.e. Chapter 8, pp. 444-442), written by Blanca Croitor, is a description of coordinative relations (i.e. conjunctive,

disjunctive, adversative, conclusive and alternative) with the coordinators that express them, their evolution, their use as sentence connectors and other issues related to the topic of coordination.

Mihaela Gheorghe, Andreea Dinică, Rodica Zafiu, Oana Uță Bărbulescu deal with the structure of complex clauses in Chapter 9 (pp. 463-561), emphasizing the Romanian subordination realized by *wh-* words. Thus, in this chapter are described prototypical complementizers and also the ones that have either lost their values in MR or the ones that have been grammaticalized and specialized as supplementary modal markers in MR. Moreover, special patterns with adjuncts and others subordinating conjunctions, as well as comparative construction, are presented. The behavior of relative constructions is also analyzed and one extensive subchapter (i.e. "Subordinating conjunctions and clausal adjuncts", pp. 491-549) focuses on the selection and distribution of clausal adjuncts.

In Chapter 10 (i.e. "Word order and configurationality", pp. 562-575), Alexandru Nicolae provides an analysis of word order in the nominal, adjectival, verbal, and clausal domains, focusing on the greater degree of word-order freedom in OR, in relation to MR. Moreover, in the same chapter is described the process of evolution to the configuration of MR, providing evidence of some traits as residual head-final structures and discontinuous structures.

"Clausal organization and discourse phenomena" (pp.576-628) is Chapter 11, written by Mihaela Gheorghe, Dana Manea, Rodica Zafiu, Irina Nicula Paraschiv, Dana Niculescu, Gabriela Pană Dindelagan, Margareta Manu Magda. It focuses on major issues related to discourse phenomena: interrogative and exclamatory clauses, negation, presentative constructions, cognate constructions, feminine singular pronouns with neutral value, appellation and forms of address, mainly describing the inventory of specific markers, their evolution into MR, their occurrence and their behavior in discourse.

The "Conclusions", i.e. Chapter 12 (pp. 629-638), written by Gabriela Pană Dindelagan and Adina Dragomirescu, pay attention to features which are considered characteristic of   OR   and   they   also   emphasize   the   restructure   of   the

Tense–Aspect–Mood system, argument structure changes, non-finite constructions changes, several cases of grammaticalization, tendency to stabilization of syntactic rules, reduction of syntactic variation, etc.

Overall, this descriptive grammar, written in English, is a major contribution to the series *Oxford Studies in Diachronic and Historical Linguistics*. More specifically, this grammar⁰ is an important contribution to diachronic studies because it also aims to study the Latin evolution to Romance languages. In addition, an aspect that is worth considering is the fact that this book also examines the archaic phenomena that were lost in MR, but were preserved in the regional variation of OR, such as the preservation of the long infinitive with a verbal value, clitic repetition, etc.

In conclusion, *The Syntax of Old Romanian* is a book that does not require a prior knowledge of Romanian history to understand the Romanian language phenomena, while focusing on describing specific traits of Old Romanian in the large context of Balkan areas, it is a book that provides a comparison with Modern Romanian.