

EDITORIAL FOREWORD

Old Romanian is one of the least studied languages when it comes to diachronic syntax and semantics. Naturally, philological treatises abound in Romania, and recently formal approaches to this grammar started to come out of the academic scholarship in the country. Very few of these studies, however, are produced in a language other than Romanian, and even fewer make it out of the country. This gap is acutely felt especially by linguists who work on the comparative syntax of Romance languages. In this context, the thematic volume we offer provides valuable and original data that can be exploited for comparative paradigms involving noun and verb syntax and semantics.

For the readers who are not familiar with the history of Romanian, a brief historical introduction is in order. The oldest written documents available in this language date from the first half of the 16th century. This is not the time when writing was introduced, but the date of the oldest documents preserved. Most of these documents are copies of copies, the originals having vanished, and generally consist of translations from Church Slavonic religious texts. There are considerable differences, both in the morpho-syntax and in the lexicon, between the grammar of the translated texts and the grammar of the texts written directly in Romanian, so the linguists are very careful in handling the data. The consensus is that, for the timeline, the texts produced between the 16th and the 18th centuries belong to Old Romanian; from that point on, Modern Romanian emerges.

As the editor of this journal, I am pleased to be able to provide a sample of scholarship on Old Romanian grammar.

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