

Remarks about the evolution of DOM in Romanian (1800-2000)
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Based on a diachronic study that comprises a time period of 200 years (1800- 2000), this presentation aims to unveil certain stages in the evolution of DOM in the Romanian language. Firstly, we will notice that the usage of DOM increases in a constant manner during the analyzed period of time. Not only that direct objects are being wider used in the year 2000 than in 1800, but the criteria determining the markedness of direct object have also changed. Even if the distribution into phrases of morphologically marked direct objects has remained roughly the same in this period of 200 years, we nevertheless notice some changes with respect to proper names, definite noun phrases and other NPs. Animacy, another factor characterizing morphologically marked direct object has also changed in time. While at the beginning of the 19th century only direct objects specified for the feature [+human] were differentially marked, we see that in the years that follow, direct objects that are specified for the feature [+animated] can also be case-marked in certain contexts. Secondly, it is impossible not to notice, that in Romanian, the spreading of DOM works hand in hand with the phenomenon of clitic -doubling. In comparison to the 21st century, clitic-doubling is scarcely used at the beginning of the 19th century. Finally, we will look at the differentially marked and unmarked direct objects with respect to the kind of information they introduce in the discourse: if it is new or old information and to the art of NP they are realized. Then, we will see that referents that are introduced by means of a differentially marked object in the discourse tend to be taken up in the following 1-5 sentences more often than unmarked ones.