

## Discourse accessibility and *pe*-marking in Romanian

Sofiana Chiriacescu & Klaus von Heusinger

(Abstract)

Referential expressions introduce discourse referents with particular referential properties, but also with an activation level that reflects their accessibility for subsequent anaphoric expressions. Romanian expresses Differential Object Marking (DOM) by the particle *pe*, which is obligatory for personal pronouns, proper names and in general for definite noun phrases. However, the particle is optional for indefinite noun phrases, allowing the realization of referential properties such as epistemic readings and wide scope readings. We further claim that *pe*-marking in Romanian signals “referential persistence”, a discourse property closely connected with a high activation level of the associated referent. In the talk, we elaborate upon this claim and extend our analysis to some particular cases of optional DOM for definite “bare” noun phrases. We will discuss different tests in order to show that *pe* with definite “bare” noun phrases signals referential persistence as well.