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## OBSERVATIONS REGARDING THE VALUES OF THE IMPERATIVE IDENTIFIED IN ROMANIAN LANGUAGE

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The article deals with the problem of the imperative values in modern Romanian language

**Key words:** imperative values, Romanian language, suprasegmental marking.

### Structural generalities

In modern Romanian language, the imperative is different from the rest of the personal modes. This difference is reflected through its suprasegmental marking given by intonation and the fact that it has an incomplete flexionary paradigm. Thus, this mode does not know time oppositions, as the action expressed is concomitant with the moment of speech. This is revealed by the possibility of inserting adverbs of time in its nearby vicinity: *Vino acum/imediat acasa!* (*Come now/immediately home!*)

Also, the use of personal pronouns is limited to 2 forms: second person singular and plural. These forms motivate the reduced frequency in communication, while retaining the role of center of the sentence, for example *Vino acasa!* (*Come home!*)

The imperative has borrowed from other personal modes the affirmative and negative forms. These forms have structural differences. Thus, the affirmative form of the imperative is homonymous to present time form, as follows: for 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural the homonymy is total: e.g. *Voi citiți* (*You are reading*) (present time), *Citiți!* (*Read!*) (for affirmative imperative). The differentiation takes place suprasegmentally, through intensive stress; for 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular, the form for affirmative imperative is the same as for present time, if the verb is transitive: *Fugi!* (*Run!*), *Stai!* (*Wait!*), *Dispari!* (*Go away!*), *Rămâi!* (*Stay!*), *Râzi!* (*Laugh!*). However, if the verb is transitive, the form is homonymous with 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular form: *Alege!* (*Choose!*), *Spune!* (*Say!*), *Cere!* (*Ask!*), *Mănâncă!* (*Eat!*), *Scrie!* (*Write!*). A series of verbs like *a auzi* (*to hear*), *a vedea* (*to see*), *a crede* (*to believe*) with the forms *Auzi!* (*Hear!*), *Vezi!* (*See!*), *Crezi!* (*Believe!*) constitute an exception, and their forms for 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular imperative are identical with the forms for present time. Intransitive verbs, which can also become transitive depending on the context, have two forms for imperative. In this case, the structural rule of the imperative forms is the same noting that if the verb is contextually transitive, it has, for 2<sup>nd</sup> person, the forms of present time, 3<sup>rd</sup> person: e.g. *Adormemă!* (*Put me to sleep!*), *Plange-l!* (*Cry for him!*), *Crește-o!* (*Raise her!*); if the verb is intransitive, then the forms for 2<sup>nd</sup> person are homonymous with the forms for the same person present time: e.g. *Adormi!* (*Fall asleep!*), *Plângi!* (*Cry!*), *Crește!* (*Grow!*).

Regarding the verb *a fi* (*to be*), the forms for affirmative imperative for 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular and plural are identical to the forms for conjunctive present: e.g. *Fii atent!* (*Pay attention!*), *Fii cuminți!* (*Behave!*).

Other verbs have for 2<sup>nd</sup> person affirmative imperative syncopated structures in the root: *a face (to do)*, *a se face (to pretend)*, *a se prefăce (to pretend)*, *a reface (to redo)*, *a desface (to open)*, *a zice (to say)*, *a se duce (to go)*, *a seduce (to seduce)*, *a duce (to carry)*, *a aduce (to bring)*: *Fă! (Do it!)*, *Fă-te! (Pretend!)*, *Prefă-te! (Pretend!)*, *Refă! (Redo!)*, *Zi! (Say it!)*, *Du-te! (Go!)*, *Sedu! (Seduce!)*, *Du! (Carry it!)*, *Adu! (Bring it!)*.

If these forms are combined with pronominal clitics, in spoken language, the topic is, usually, concrete: in the form verb + pronoun — *Du-l! (Take him!)*, *Fă-l! (Do it!)*, *Adu-mi! (Bring me!)*, *Zi-mi! (Tell me!)*. The homonymy between affirmative imperative and present time is absolute, for 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural: e.g. *Citiți! (Read!)*, *Alergați! (Run!)*, *Vedeți! (See!)*. The negative imperative maintains for 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural the same forms from affirmative imperative, to which it adds the negative morpheme *nu (no)*: e.g. *nu citiți! (Don't read!)*. The only difference between the forms for affirmative/negative imperative and those for present time for 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural, is suprasegmental. It regards the stress in context and the ascendant intonation: *Nu citiți! (Don't read!)*, *Nu fiți! (Don't be!)*, *Nu aduceți! (Don't bring!)*.

For 2<sup>nd</sup> person the forms are the same with those of negative infinitive, without the preposition — morphem “a”. As such, we can't talk about it's own flexion: *Nu pleca! (Don't go!)*, *Nu citi! (Don't read!)*, *Nu adormi! (Don't fall asleep!)*. The different realisations that appear in different variants of the standard language (regional, popular, familiar): *Nu te du! (Don't go!)*, *Nu fă! (Don't do!)*, *Nu adu! (Don't bring!)*, are not literary. In these realisations the negative imperative is reduced to 2<sup>nd</sup> person, following the model of the affirmative.

In contemporary Romanian there are a series of verbs that do not have a form for imperative, affirmative or negative. This is commonly applicable to modal verbs: e.g. *can, need, to want*, atmospherical verbs, and also verbs of perception (*to hurt, to sting*).

### **The values of imperative in contemporary romanian**

In the context of contemporary Romanian, the semantical-functional values of the imperative are equivalent to the deontic verbs *a trebui (need)*, *a face (to do)*. Thus, the context *Trebuie să citești! (You need to read!)* is identical, in terms of obligativity, to *Citește! (Read!)*, the same way the sentence *Pentru mâine ai de făcut neapărat tema! (For tomorrow you must do your homework!)* is equivalent to *Fă tema pentru mâine! (Do the homework for tomorrow!)*. The imperative can occur in combination with vocatives and interjections with a conative role, with adnouns and pronouns: e.g. *Dragul meu, vino acasă! (My dear, come home!)*, *Du-te, frumosule, la mare! (Go, handsome, to the seaside!)*, *Faceți dumneavoastră problema! (You solve the problem!)*. In most cases, the imperative is equivalent to the hortative conjunctive: *Să mă lași în pace!/Lasă-mă în pace! (You leave me alone!/Leave me alone!)*, *Să nu te duci la mare!/Nu te duce la mare! (You shouldn't go to the seaside!/Don't go to the seaside!)*. Sometimes the present indicative is used with the value of imperative: *Pleci repede și mănânci ce ți-am lăsat!/Pleci repede și mănânci ce ți-am lăsat! (You go quickly and eat what I've left for you!/Go quickly and eat what I've left for you!)*.

Sentences which express a recommendation utilise the forms of the infinitive and supine: e.g. *A nu se fuma! (Do not smoke!)*, *Nu vă aplecați înapără! (Do not lean ou-*

wards!), *De citit pentru mâine textul!* (Read the text for tomorrow!). When dealing with the substitution of the imperative with infinitive, the latter becomes the center of the sentence. For supine, the possible occurrence of modal operators *a avea* (to have) or *a fi* (to be) invalidates it as the center of the predicative structure. For example, the context *De citit pentru mâine textul!* (Read the text for tomorrow!), is actually equivalent to *Ai de citit pentru mâine textul!* (You have to read the text for tomorrow!). The supine with imperative value comes from a deep structure, where its function is that of an indirect object.

Linguistical elements that appear to be constituents of illocutionary or interactional acts, can appear in different types of sentences, generated by different communication situations. Their presence is not correlated with the transmission of cognitive information, but with the fatical aspects of communication. Catalogued as elements of exploration in the specialized literature and called *fatemi*, these are part from the broader class of discursive signals. They perform interactional functions, sometimes of glossarie for certain units in the sentence.

Besides the overutilised *păi* (well), *deci* (so), *așa* (so), *ei* (well) (the majority having no contextual motivation), in the contemporary stage of the language, there is frequent recourse to some form of imperative, with phatic function: *Ascultă, ce-ai de gând cu examenul?* (Listen, what are you going to do with the exam?), *Zi mai departe!* (Go on!), *Stai să-ți spun că n-am terminat.* (Let me tell you, I haven't finished.). These forms of imperative do not carry their basic semantic information anymore, their role is to manage the message or to provide its continuity, hence the possibility of substitution with interjections: e.g. *Hei, ce-ai de gând cu examenul?* (Hey, what are you going to do with the exam?), *Hai mai departe!* (Come on!), *Hai să-ți spun!* (Let me tell you!). Perhaps in a later stage of the language, they will evolve in other parts of speech, either maintaining their phatic function, or as fillinf words (interjections, adverbs, even conjunctions).

## **К ВОПРОСУ ИСПОЛЬЗОВАНИЯ ПОВЕЛИТЕЛЬНОГО НАКЛОНЕНИЯ В СОВРЕМЕННОМ РУМЫНСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ**

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В статье речь идет об использовании повелительного наклонения в современном румынском языке.

**Ключевые слова:** повелительное наклонение, румынский язык, супрасегментное значение.