

INTRODUCTION

The current issue includes several papers on modification, some of which were presented at the *Workshop on Modification*, co-organized by the University of Bucharest and the University of Massachusetts Amherst during 27-28 November 2021.

Going back in time to (at least) Aristotle, language has been assumed to make a distinction between the basic entities we ascribe properties to and the properties we ascribe to them via predication (McNally 2016); for instance, in *the yellow dress*, there is a clear distinction between *dress*, which is the basic entity, and *yellow*, which is the property ascribed to it. Modification has been recognized since as one of the fundamental semantic and syntactic manners of composition (Chomsky 1981, Cinque 1994, Ramchand 2007, McNally 2016, a.o.). Semantically, modifiers have been argued to combine with unsaturated expressions to yield unsaturated expressions, thus contrasting with arguments, which saturate (i.e. reduce the valence of) the expressions they combine with (Frege 1997). Importantly, there has been a rich semantic literature classifying modifiers based on a range of semantic criteria, such as semantic notions (Piccolo 2002) and entailments (Parsons 1970, Kamp 1975). Syntactically, unlike arguments, which are obligatory, modifiers have been argued to be optional (Dowty 1982, 1989, 2003). Nevertheless, there are exceptions: obligatory modifiers like *well* in *a well-built house* vs. *??a built house* (Goldberg & Ackerman 2001). Modification applies to a variety of domains (e.g. the nominal domain, the verbal domain, the adjectival domain), and it can be expressed through a variety of categories (adjective phrases, prepositional phrases, possessive phrases, relative clauses, adverbial phrases a.o.). The current volume presents research on traditional nominal modifiers (such as adjectives) and free relatives (nominal modifiers which attach to an apparently null head), as well as secondary predicates (a special type of event modification) and classifiers (a special type of nominal modification).

In “Resultatives with stative roots”, Monica Alexandrina Irimia investigates resultative verbal complexes from Mandarin Chinese and their possibility to occur with statives. While previous research argues that there is a restriction on resultative secondary predicates (Dowty 1979, Levin & Rappaport Hovav 1995), Monica Alexandrina Irimia proposes multiple diagnostics which show that, unlike in English, in Mandarin Chinese, these constructions can be built from stative roots. However, not all states are allowed, but only those with a complex internal structure, involving a causative head or a scalar change, e.g. *be tired*, *be worried*, *be in a seated position*, etc., which allow the progression of the state through the degrees of a scale until its highest point.

In “On silent COLOR in Romanian”, Mihaela Tănase-Dogaru builds on Kayne (2005) to argue for the presence, in Romanian, of a silent qualitative classifier noun COLOR in structures such as *Masa e COLOR verde* ‘table-DEF is COLOR green’, which becomes visible in sentences such as *Masa e de culoare verde* ‘table-DEF is of color green’. She adds the silent noun COLOR to other previously proposed silent nouns in Romanian: NUMBER, AMOUNT and TYPE (see, for instance, Tănase-Dogaru 2008, 2009).

In “Adjective orders in English and Romanian: An experimental investigation”, Daniela-Gabriela Trușcă and Adina Camelia Bleotu investigate experimentally the order of quality, size and color adjectives in British English and Romanian through a Likert

scale acceptability judgment task employing sentences containing sequences of two adjectives. The authors show that, while native British speakers judge as natural sequences of two adjectives which observe the order quality > size > color such as *beautiful big family* or *tiny blue butterfly*, native Romanian speakers judge as natural both sequences which observe and sequences which do not observe this order (*familie frumoasă mare* ‘big beautiful family’ vs *familie mare frumoasă* ‘beautiful big family’, *fluture micuț albastru* ‘blue tiny butterfly’ vs *fluture albastru micuț* ‘tiny blue butterfly’).

In “How are size, age, shape, and color adjectives ordered in English and Romanian? An experimental investigation”, Adina Camelia Bleotu and Amalia Luciu investigate experimentally whether native British English and native Romanian adult speakers observe the General Adjective Hierarchy size > age > shape > color (Scott 2002). Participants were tested with a forced choice task, where they had to choose the best between two sentences: one containing a sequence of two adjectives congruent with the general hierarchy (*Mary has a big old bed*, *Maria are un pat vechi mare*), and one containing the reverse sequence of adjectives, incongruent with the General Adjective Hierarchy (*Mary has an old big bed*, *Maria are un pat mare vechi*). The authors find that while British English speakers have a strong preference for congruent adjectives orders, Romanian speakers are more flexible in their ordering. These findings suggest that Romanian is not a mirror of English in terms of ordering adjectives, as previously assumed by cartography (Cinque 1994, 2010) for all Romance languages, but rather a free adjunction language (see also Cornilescu & Cosma 2019).

In “Romanian free choice free relatives: A comparison with subtriggered free choice sentences”, Mara Panaitescu focuses on the semantic and pragmatic properties of Romanian free choice free relatives (FC-FRs). The author argues that the quantificational force of FC-FRs in Romanian is definite, and that, in parallel to determiner free choice inferences, the distribution of Romanian FC-FRs falls under three categories: (i) auto-licensing, i.e. subtriggering (LeGrand 1975), a saving mechanism observed for free choice in episodic contexts; (ii) licensing by a non-generic modal operator; (iii) licensing by a generic or habitual operator. The three types of contexts differ in universality effects: serial, parallel and atemporal universality.

The current issue hopes to advance research in the domain of modification, shedding light on a number of key issues (constraints on secondary predication, silent modification, constraints on ordering modifiers, modification of apparently absent heads).

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