A corpus investigation of new -adă derivatives in contemporary Romanian

Mihaela Tănase-Dogaru

Abstract: The present paper looks at a productive suffix in contemporary Romanian, -adă, relying on a quantitative investigation of the corpus provided in Croitor (2021), which registers 47 new -adă derivatives having permeated journalese and the colloquial register. The paper shows that the suffix -adă in contemporary (colloquial) Romanian acts as a classifier, inducing two different interpretations: one which refers to a series of events, and a second one, which I will call the event interpretation. The distinction between the two interpretations mirrors the distinction operated on Greek numerical nouns in -ada between the SET interpretation and the HIGH number interpretation (Stavrou and Terzi 2008). The paper shows that -adă occupies the head of the Classifier Phrase and incorporates the noun by morphological merger (Matushansky 2006).

Key words: new -adă derivatives, classifiers, events.