

Figement et grammaticalisation dans l'expression *era să spun / să zic* 'j'allais dire' en roumain

Fixedness and grammaticalization in Romanian *era să spun / să zic* 'I was going to say'

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Abstract: The article deals with the relation between lexicalization and grammaticalization in the pragmatic phraseological unit *era să spun / să zic* 'I was going to say' in Romanian. The analysis of its syntactic configurations and that of its semantic-pragmatic interpretations, as they appear in two contemporary corpora (CoRoLa and Romanian Web 2016), provide elements for an approach to the emergence of the metalinguistic marker *era să spun / să zic*. It is the avertive use (something is about to happen without this happening) of the structure “*era* + subjunctive of the verb *a spune / a zice*” that is at the origin of its metalinguistic discursive use: by avoiding saying something which has nevertheless been said the speaker intends to comment on his/her own discourse.

Keywords: lexicalization, grammaticalization, *era să spun / să zic*, metalinguistic marker, avertive meaning