

L'état de grammaticalisation des formes colloquiales *o fi* du mode présomptif roumain. Regard diachronique

The grammaticalization of the colloquial future forms *o fi* as part of the Romanian presumptive mood. A diachronic view

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Abstract: This paper presents a diachronic study of the grammaticalization of the colloquial future forms *o fi* in Romanian by means of a quantitative analysis. Five variables are used to measure the degree of grammaticalization of the above-mentioned forms in a corpus of 18 million words divided into four diachronic stages: Old Romanian (16th-18th centuries), Modern Romanian (19th century-mid 20th century), Contemporary Romanian (end of the 20th century-21st century). The results show a stabilisation of the epistemic use for Modern and Contemporary Romanian as well as a highly significant decrease in the overall use of the colloquial future forms in Contemporary Romanian. The enunciative mechanism of the colloquial future forms enable contextual meanings such as that of *concessive*, *reportative* and *reinforcement* usage. We argue that the emergence of these values is due to the increase of generic variation in Modern and Contemporary Romanian.

Key words: presumptive mood, future tense, colloquial future, epistemic value, concessive value, diachronic analysis, quantitative analysis, Old Romanian, Modern Romanian, Contemporary Romanian.