Supine causatives in Romanian
Elena Soare Univ P8 & CNRS SFL
COCOA seminar April 5 2024

In this talk I will explore the structure and interpretation of *da* 'give' and *pune* 'put' supine causatives in Romanian. Causative meanings in Romanian can be conveyed by structures like (1) and (2) where the verbs *da* 'give' and *pune* 'put', are followed by the supine (a participial form with a particle/preposition).

(1)   E toamnă. Mi-au dat de scris. (Romanian poet Bacovia)
        Is fall. (They) gave me to write
(2)   M-au pus la curățat.
         (They) put me to clean

I show that the two constructions have different properties in terms of syntax and semantics. More particularly, only the *pune* 'put' construction forces actuality entailment.

(3)   a. Mi-au dat de scris dar nu am scris.
           They gave me to write but I didn't write
        b. *M-au pus la curățat dar nu am curățat
           They put me to clean but I didn't clean

I will connect this with differences in terms of syntax (biclausal vs. monoclausal construction) and in terms of semantics (temporal vs. spatial). *Da* 'give' comes with a biclausal structure (shown by extraction facts and double adverbials). Besides, its semantics is forward-oriented and connected with choice. *Pune* 'put' comes with monoclausal structure (the lower domain is a PP), and entails that someone is put in an abstract location where, if nothing changes, the event is going to take place (no choice allowed), hence the actuality entailment.

References
Copley, B., 2018. "Dispositional causation", *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 3(1): 137. doi: https://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.507
Ciutescu, E. 2018. Defective causative and perception verb constructions in Romance. A minimalist approach to infinitival and subjunctive clauses. Doctoral dissertation, Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona.
Harley, H. 2008. On the causative construction. In Handbook of Japanese Linguistics, edited by Shigeru Miyagawa and Mamoru Saito. pp. 20-53, Oxford: OUP.
Huțanu, M. & Țâra, G.B. 2012. Observații asupra construcțiilor cauzative analitice în limba română. In Quaestiones Romanicae. Lucrările Colocviului Internațional Comunicare și cultură în Romania europeană (ediția I), Szeged, JATEPress : 389–394.
Iliescu, Maria. 1993. Le factitif roumain. Revue Roumaine de Linguistique, 38 : 297–305.
Martin, F. 2023. The Syntax of Causatives in the Romance Languages. To appear in Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Linguistics.
Soare, E. 2002. Le supin roumain et la théorie des catégories mixtes. Doctoral dissertation, University of Paris 7.
Uşurelu, C. 2005. Categoria factitivului în limba română. Editura Universității din București.