

## A Spanning Account of Denominals in English and Romanian

The aim of this paper is to provide a novel account of denominals in English and Romanian in a framework that considers that lexical insertion targets spans rather than terminal heads (as Distributed Morphology does) or phrases (as nanosyntax does). Following Svenonius (2012, 2014), one can define a *span* as a complement sequence of heads in an extended projection, a very simple example being the lexicalization of the span  $\langle v, V, \text{Neg}, T \rangle$  as *don't* in English. I would like to claim that a similar account can be provided for theme denominals such as denominals *dance/ dansa*, location denominals such as *corral/ adăposti* ('shelter') a.o.

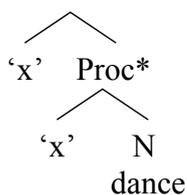
Spanning is an extremely innovative model which claims that there should be an elimination of redundant labels (Brody 2000). Given that it is the case that heads select phrases, and phrases are projections of heads, it is legit to assert that heads in fact select heads, and one can equate X with XP, using the same label, moreover dismissing intermediate projections. According to Brody's (2000) Mirror Theory:

(1) *Word Mirror*: The syntactic relation 'X complement of Y' is identical to an inverse-order morphological relation 'X specifier of Y' (where the latter gives rise to the morphological structure [X [Y] linearized from left to right)

Mirror Theory thus provides a direct linearization mechanism which eliminates head-movement from the system, linearizing specifiers to the left of heads (*already go*) and heads to the left of complements (*go-ne*). Rather than resorting to head movement, one can now simply say that a spans spells out at a certain height, which is indicated by Brody (2000) by means of the diacritic @. In addition, to indicate that a certain head forms a word with the head below, Ramchand (2014) makes use of the diacritic \*.

The spanning framework can provide an elegant account of denominals in English and Romanian, as one can assume a single word lexicalizes a span, a complement sequence involving N, V and v  $\langle N, V, v \rangle$ . Starting from Ramchand's analysis of verbs (2008), in the case of the denominal verb *dance*, one can construct the following representation:

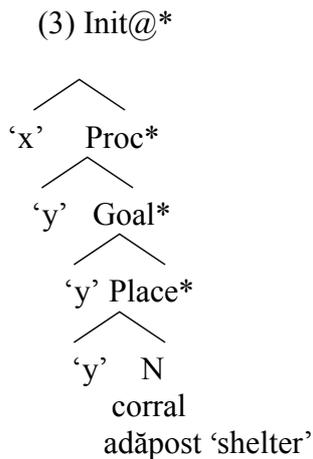
(2) Init@\*



*Linearized as x [N Proc Init].*

At L-Match (lexical match), this structure gives rise to the item  $\langle \text{dance } -\emptyset -\emptyset \rangle$ . A similar analysis is applied to Romanian, with the only difference that denominals in Romanian have a different form than the nouns, exhibiting an additional thematic vowel. L-Match will give us  $\langle \text{dans-a-}\emptyset \rangle$ .

In the case of location verbs, one can construct the following structure:



Linearized as  $x [N Place Goal Proc Init] y$

At L-Match (lexical match), this structure gives rise to the item  $\langle corral -\emptyset-\emptyset-\emptyset-\emptyset \rangle$  in English,  $\langle adăpost-\emptyset-\emptyset-i-\emptyset \rangle$  (shelter) in Romanian.

In conclusion, the spanning model provides an economical analysis of denominals, constituting a viable alternative to an incorporation/ conflation account (Hale & Keyser 2002) which resorts to movement and a path to be further explored.

#### References

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