

Differential object marking and dative arguments in Romanian

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Empirically, this talk will mainly focus on the binding interaction between direct objects and datives in Romanian, from which I develop important insights into the syntactic and semantic properties of differential object marking in Romanian. In particular, I show based on differences between the binding behaviour of different types of possessor raising constructions and regular dative arguments (lexically selected by the verb) that the differential object marking “pe” signals that an argument is a regular internal argument of the verb. The lack of “pe”-marking is then explained by various ways in which the argument deviates from the prototypical verb-argument pattern.