Representing scales: Degree result clauses and emphatic negative polarity items in Romanian

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- Framework: Lexical Resource Semantics
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Aims of the talk

- Integrate scalar analyses into a representational framework: HPSG syntax & LRS (Richter & Sailer, 2004) for the syntax-semantics interface;
- Discuss two phenomena for which a scalar analysis is very natural: high degree readings of finite result clause constructions and emphatic negative polarity items;
- Propose a classification of the negative polarity items that can occur in degree result clauses.

Finite result clause constructions (RCXs)

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Finite result clause constructions RCXs:

primary predication (in main clause)

+ secondary predication (in finite result clause RCI):

atât de deasă ADJ [RCI: de nu se vede om cu om]

so thick ADJ [RCI: (that) you can't see your hand in front of your face]
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(1) Dimineața e o ceață [RCX: atât de deasă, de nu se vede om cu om.]

lit.: In the morning there is a fog so thick that you can't see the closest person.

Intended: 'In the morning, the fog is [RCX: so thick you can't see your hand in front of your face'.]

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High degree RCXs

RCXs of the type **ADJ** + **finite** RCI can receive a *high degree* interpretation:

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(2) ceață [RCX: atât de deasă.ADJ fog [RCX: so thick.ADJ [RCI: de nu se vede om cu om]] [RCI: that you can't see your hand in front of your face]] ⇒ ceață extrem de deasă/extremely thick fog
```

High degree RCXs with *emphatic negative polarity items* (E-NPIs)

- (3) Dimineața e o ceață [atât de deasă, de #(nu) se vede om cu om]. lit.: In the morning there is a fog so thick that you can't see the closest person.
 - Intended: 'In the morning, the fog is [so thick you can't see your hand in front of your face].'
- (4) Ion e [așa de prost de #(nu) știe cum îl cheamă (cu buletinul în mână)].
 - lit.: Ion is so stupid that he does not know his own name (with the ID in hand).
 - Intended: 'Ion is [so stupid he can't see a hole in a ladder].'

E-NPIs

Mostly represented by *minimizer expressions* – typically denoting minimal elements on a contextually salient scale:

- (5) a. se vede om cu om/ see one's hand in front of one's facethe minimum range of visibility
 - b. știe cum îl cheamă / see a hole in a ladder
 - the minimum manifestation of one's knowledge / of one's sensitivity to details

De complementizer in degree RCXs

- Încât regular complementizer for RCIs in Romanian;
- De restricted to RCls that are associated with an emphatic result:
 - (6) Ion se îmbracă așa de elegant 'Ion dresses so elegantly'
 - a. [încât/de lumea îl admiră]'that people admire him'
 - b. [încât/#de lumea îl observă].'that people (no more than) notice him.'
- Expressions that have evolved into high-degree modifiers

 typically collocate with de and reject încât:
 - (7) a. (bucuros) [de/#încât nu se poate] (lit.: (so happy) that it cannot be) 'very happy'
 - b. (bucuros) [de/#încât mor](lit.: (so happy) that I die) 'very happy'.

E-NPIs in high degree RCXs - Tests

- E-NPI1: a (nu) vedea la un pas 'not see within a step' (lit.: not to see a step ahead) (id.: 'there is no visibility at all')
- E-NPI2: a (nu) se vedea om cu om 'not REFL see person with person' (lit.: not to see the person in one's immediate range of sight) (id.: 'there is no visibility at all')
- E-NPI3: a (nu) [te/vă] vedea 'not CL.ACC.2SG/PL I.see' (lit.: not to see sb.)

Tests

T1: Can we change the RCX into a coordination without changing the meaning of the expression?

Test 1

(8) E-NPI1 & E-NPI2

- a. E o aglomerație pe străzi în timpul grevei [de nu se vede la un pas]/ [de nu se vede om cu om].
 'There is a huge crowd in the streets during the strike.'
 (lit.:There is a crowd in the streets during the strike that one
 - (lit.:There is a crowd in the streets during the strike **that** one cannot see a step ahead/ **that** one cannot see the person in their immediate range of sight.)
- b. = E o aglomerație pe străzi în timpul grevei [şi nu se vede la un pas]/ [şi nu se vede om cu om]. (lit.: There is a crowd in the streets during the strike and one cannot see a step ahead/ and one cannot see the person in their immediate range of sight.)

Test 1

(9) E-NPI3

a. Emoțiile astea mi-au făcut foame [**de** nu *te văd*]. (CoRoLa) 'These emotions made me extremely hungry.'

(lit.: These emotions made me hungry **that** I cannot see you.)

b. ≠ Emoțiile astea mi-au făcut foame [și nu te văd].
 (lit.:These emotions made me hungry and I cannot see you.)

	T1
E-NPI1:	
(de) nu se vede la un pas	1
E-NPI2:	
de nu se vede om cu om	✓
E-NPI3:	
de nu [te/vă] văd	X

Tests

T2: Can the expression be used felicitously if the context does not permit the inference of a result relation?

Test 2

(10) E-NPI1 & E-NPI2

Mergeam pe stradă [şi nu se vedea la un pas]/ [#şi nu se vedea om cu om].

(lit.: I was walking down the street **and** one could not see a step ahead/ **and** one could not see the person in their immediate range of sight.)

	T1	T2
E-NPI1:		
(de) nu se vede la un pas	/	✓
E-NPI2:		
de nu se vede om cu om	/	Х
E-NPI3:		
de nu [te/vă] văd	X	n/a

Tests

T3: Is variation with respect to the RCI complementizer possible without a change of meaning in the expression from the result clause?

Test 3

(11) E-NPI1 & E-NPI2

E așa de întuneric afară [de/ încât nu se vede la un pas]/ [de/încât nu se vede om cu om].

(lit.: It's so dark outside that one cannot see a step ahead/ that one could not see the person in their immediate range of sight.)

'Outside is very dark.'

(12) E-NPI3

Emoțiile astea mi-au făcut foame [de/#încât nu te văd]. (lit.: These emotions made me hungry that I cannot see you.) 'These emotions made me extremely hungry.'

	T1	T2	T3
E-NPI1: (de) nu se vede la un pas	1	>	1
F_NIPI2:	1		

Tests

T4: Does the result clause construction entail the proposition in the result clause?

Test 4

T4 is intended to show what is the meaning contribution of the RCI to the overall RCX:

(13) E-NPI1 & E-NPI2

Ninge **a.** [de nu se vede la un pas]/**b.** [de nu se vede om cu om]. (lit.: It is snowing **a.** [that one cannot see a step ahead]/**b.**[that one can't see the person in one's immediate range of sight].) 'It is snowing very hard.'

Entails: **a.** Nu se vede la un pas./**b.** Nu se vede om cu om. (result reading: both **a.** and **b.** trigger the scalar inference there is no visibility at all)

Emphatic NPIs in high-degree RCXs - Test 4

(14) E-NPI3

Emoțiile astea mi-au făcut o foame [de nu te văd].

(lit.: These emotions made me hungry [that I cannot see you].)

'These emotions made me extremely hungry.'

Does not entail: Nu *te văd*. (no result reading)

The sole meaning contribution of the proposition in the RCI to the RCX is intensification – the RCI asserts high degree rather than its result reading.

E-NPIs in high-degree RCXs – Patterns

• Type 1: NPIs that are only occasionally used in result clauses and act as intensifiers; there is also a result interpretation:

E-NPI1: (de) nu se vede la un pas

 Type 2: NPIs that require a result relation, being bound to the result construction; they encode a high degree reading, while also keeping the notion of result:

E-NPI2: de nu se vede om cu om

 Type 3: NPIs that express nothing but intensification, being lexicalized into high-degree modifiers:

E-NPI3: de nu [te/vă] văd

	T1	T2	T3	T4
E-NPI1:				
(de) nu se vede la un pas	1	1	1	1
E-NPI2:				
de nu se vede om cu om	1	Х	1	1
E-NPI3:				
de nu [te/vă] văd	X	n/a	Х	Х

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Lexical Resource Semantics (LRS)

- Contraint-based underspecified semantic combinatorics for HPSG like MRS (Copestake et al., 2005)
- Semantic respresentation: expression of some standard semantic language (predicate logic etc)
- Phenomena: scope ambiguity, negative concord, gapping, projective meaning ... (Richter & Sailer, 2004; Bouma, 2003; Penn & Richter, 2005; Hasegawa & Koenig, 2011; Lahm, 2016; Sailer & Am-David, 2016; Park et al., 2018)

Lexical Resource Semantics

- Semantic meta-language for constraints
- Lexical items (words or phrasal lexical units) determine which constants and operators may occur.
 - (15) [S: Everyone [VP: didn't call]]. everyone: $\forall x (\mathbf{person}(x) \rightarrow \beta[x])$ didn't: $\neg \alpha$ call: $\mathbf{call}(x)$
- Phrases can constrain scoping: $\alpha[call(x)]$ $\beta[call(x)]$
- Readings ("pluggings"):
 - $\forall x (\mathsf{person}(x) \to \neg \mathsf{call}(x)) \qquad (\alpha = \mathsf{call}(x); \beta = \neg \alpha)$ $\vdash \neg \forall x (\mathsf{person}(x) \to \mathsf{call}(x)) \qquad (\alpha = \forall x (\mathsf{person}(x) \to \beta); \beta = \mathsf{call}(x))$

Projective meaning: At-issue, presupposions, and Cls

- Karttunen & Peters (1979); Bach (1999); Potts (2005); Tonhauser et al. (2013)
- Incorporated into LRS in Hasegawa & Koenig (2011); here following Sailer & Am-David (2016):
- projective meaning presuppositions and conventional implicatures
 (CI)– as underspecified scope
- ...with different scoping constraints
- (16) Constraints of the:

```
\begin{bmatrix} \text{Irs} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{at-issue} & x \\ \text{presupposed} & \langle \exists x (\alpha[x] \land \beta[x]) \rangle \\ \text{ci} & \langle \gamma \land (\exists x \alpha) \rightarrow (\exists ! x (\alpha[x])) \rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} & \text{(reference)} \\ \text{(existence)} \\ \text{(uniqueness)} \\ \end{bmatrix}
```

- (17) The consul of Illocutia isn't bald. (Horn & Abbot, 2013, 341)
 - a. $\exists x (\mathbf{cons}(x) \land \neg \mathbf{bold}(x)) \land (\exists x (\mathbf{cons}(x)) \rightarrow (\exists ! x \mathbf{cons}(x)))$
 - b. $\neg \exists x (\mathbf{cons}(x) \land \mathbf{bold}(x)) \land (\exists x (\mathbf{cons}(x)) \rightarrow (\exists ! x \mathbf{cons}(x)))$

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Emphatic assertion

- (18) Alex didn't see a thing.
 - $\neg \exists x (minimal-thing(x) \land see(alex, x))$
 - Krifka (1995): Background, Focus, Alternatives
 - ▶ NPI refers to a minimal amount: F =minimal-thing
 - ▶ triggers larger alternatives: $A = \{P | \mathbf{min}\text{-thing} \subseteq P\}$
 - requires to make a statement that entails all alternativesScal.Assert(B, F, A)
 - \Rightarrow NPI must be used in downward-entailing context within B!
 - Problems:
 - NPI-licensing domain not always with illocutionary force
 - Not all NPI-uses are emphatic (ever)
 - Different licensing requirements for different NPIs (Eckardt & Csipak, 2013)

Representational emphatic assert

- Reformulation of Scal.Assert as operator within a semantic representation.
- ScAs(β , ϕ , Σ) corresponds to Scal.Assert($\langle B, F, A \rangle$), with $\beta = B(F)$, $\phi = F$.
- (19) For each formula β with subexpression ϕ_{τ} and each set $\Sigma_{\tau t}$ that refers to alternatives of ϕ , $\mathbf{ScAs}(\alpha, \phi, \Sigma) \text{ is an emphatic expression, where} \quad [\![\mathbf{ScAs}(\beta, \phi, \Sigma)]\!] = [\![\beta \land \forall P \in \Sigma(\beta \to \beta')))]\!],$ where β' is just like β but with P replacing ϕ .

Representational rendering of scalar inference

(20) Maria nu vede la un pas. Maria not sees within a step

```
\begin{bmatrix} \text{Irs} \begin{bmatrix} \text{at-issue} \ \ \ \ \ \ \end{bmatrix} & \text{ScAs}(\neg \exists x (\text{min-range}(x) \land \text{see}(\text{maria}, x)), \text{min-range}, A) \\ \text{presup} & \langle \exists A (\forall P \in A(\forall x (P(x) \rightarrow \text{min-range}(x)) \land \boxed{1}))) \rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}
```

- Pragmatic theory incorporated into representational framework.
- Presupposed alternatives: not just any set, but contextually relevant alternatives as in pragmatic theories.
- No explicit negation requirement, but scale reversal effect by contrast between **ScAs** and structure of the alternative set.

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Degree semantics and result clauses (Meier, 2003)

- Degree parameter, d, for gradable adjectives
- d is an interval, denoting the extent of the property.
- (21) The room was dark. $Max(\{d|dark(d,the-room)\}) \ge standard$
 - Result clauses compare extents.
 - Modal component in the interpretation of the result clause

Abbreviated notation:

(23) ResOp $d(dark(d, the-room) : \neg \exists x(see(alex, x)))$

Result clauses

- Meier-style semantics of the result construction:
 - (24) At-issue content of the result construction: $\operatorname{ResOp} d(\alpha:\beta)$ where α contains the semantics of the primary predicate and β the semantic representation of the result clause.
- English: Result meaning is contributed by the degree particle so;
 ordinary, optional complementizer that:
- (25) The room was *(so) dark [(that) Alex couldn't see anything]. ResOp $d(\operatorname{dark}(d, \operatorname{the-room}): \neg \exists x(\operatorname{see}(\operatorname{alex}, x)))$

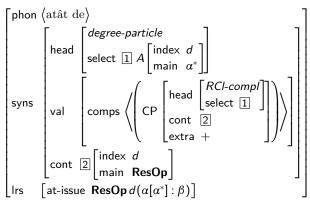
Result clauses in Romanian

- Degree particle is optional;
- meaningful variation in the complementizers de vs. încât ⇒ result meaning contributed by both, degree particle and RCX-complementizer.
- Camera este (atât de) întunecată [*(încât) Alex nu vede nimic]. (26)room the is dark that Alex not sees nothing SO 'The room is so dark that Alex doesn't see anything.' ResOp $d(dark(d, the-room): \neg \exists x(see(alex, x)))$

Lexical entry: Result complementizer

```
\begin{bmatrix} \mathsf{phon} & \langle \mathsf{de}/\hat{\mathsf{n}} \mathsf{cat} \rangle \\ \mathsf{syns} & \begin{bmatrix} \mathsf{RCI-complementizer} \\ \mathsf{select} & A \begin{bmatrix} \mathsf{index} & d \\ \mathsf{main} & \alpha^* \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \mathsf{val} & \begin{bmatrix} \mathsf{comps} & \langle \mathsf{S} \begin{bmatrix} \mathsf{main} & \beta^* \end{bmatrix} \rangle \end{bmatrix} \\ \mathsf{cont} & \begin{bmatrix} \mathsf{index} & d \\ \mathsf{main} & \mathsf{ResOp} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \mathsf{Irs} & \begin{bmatrix} \mathsf{at-issue} & \mathsf{ResOp} & d(\alpha[\alpha^*] : \beta[\beta^*]) \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}
```

Lexical entry: Degree particle



- Optionally selects RCI.
- RCI must be extraposed
- Redundant semantic contribution of particle and RCI-compl.

Derivation

```
(27) Camera este [RCX: (atât de) întunecată [RCI: încât Alex nu vede room.the is so dark that Alex not sees nimic]].
nothing
'The room is so dark that Alex doesn't see anything.'
```

- [Alex doesn't see anything]: $\neg \exists x (see(alex, x))$
- RCI-that: **ResOp** $d(\alpha : \beta)$
- RCI: **ResOp** $d(\alpha : \neg \exists x (\mathbf{see}(\mathbf{alex}, x)))$
- dark: $dark(d, \gamma)$
- so: **ResOp** $d(\alpha : \beta)$
- RCX: so dark that ...: **ResOp** $d(\operatorname{dark}(d, \gamma) : \neg \exists x (\operatorname{see}(\operatorname{alex}, x)))$
- the room: the-room
- (27): ResOp $d(\operatorname{dark}(d, \operatorname{the-room}) : \neg \exists x (\operatorname{see}(\operatorname{alex}, x)))$

Free intensifier use of result clauses

Observation 1: RCls with emphatic content can be used as intensifiers:

- (28) a. At issue: **ResOp** $d(\alpha : \beta)$
 - b. CI content of the result construction: $\exists A(\mathbf{ScAs}(\beta, \gamma, A)) \rightarrow \exists A'\mathbf{ResOp} d(\alpha : \mathbf{ScAs}(\alpha, d, A'))$
 - Contextually relevant alternatives A.
 - Whether or not the RCI-content is emphatic depends on context.
 - If the matrix predicate has an extreme result, it holds to an extreme degree (Hoeksema & Napoli, to appear).

încât vs. de

Observation 2: de requires an emphatic content in the RCI:

• de presupposes the antecedent of the extreme-degree CI

```
phon \langle \mathrm{de} 
angle
syns \begin{bmatrix} & RCI\text{-}complementizer \\ & \text{head} & \begin{bmatrix} RCI\text{-}complementizer \\ & \text{select} & A \begin{bmatrix} \text{index } d \\ & \text{main } \alpha^* \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ & \text{val} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{comps } \left\langle S \begin{bmatrix} \text{main } \beta^* \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \end{bmatrix} \\ & \text{cont} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{index } d \\ & \text{main } \text{ResOp} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ & \text{Irs} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{at-issue } \operatorname{ResOp} d(\alpha[\alpha^*] : \beta[\beta^*]) \\ & \text{presup } \left\langle \exists A \left( \operatorname{ScAs}(\beta'[\beta^*], \gamma, A) \right) \right\rangle \\ & \text{ci} \left\langle \exists A \left( \operatorname{ScAs}(\beta', \gamma, A) \right) \rightarrow \exists A' \operatorname{ResOp} d(\alpha : \operatorname{ScAs}(\alpha, d, A')) \right\rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}
```

Type 1: free, minimizer NPIs

High degree inference with minimizer NPIs!

Type 1: Tests

- Test 1: Same interpretation for conjunction (și instead of de); the meaning of the RCI-content can be inferred; no meaning change of the expression.
- Test 2: OK if there is no salient result relation.
- Test 3: Free variation between încât and de.
- Test 4: Meaning contribution of the content of the RCI to the overall RCX - lack of visibility.

Type 2: minimizer NPIs bound to result semantics

- Just as E-NPI1, but
- Collocation (Soehn, 2009): restriction to RCX.

(30) se vede om cu om

```
\begin{bmatrix} \operatorname{lrs} & \left[ \operatorname{at-issue} & \boxed{1} \operatorname{ScAs}(\phi [\exists x (\operatorname{min-range}(x) \wedge \operatorname{see}(x,y))], \operatorname{min-range}, A) \\ \operatorname{presup} & \exists A (\forall P \in A (\forall x (\operatorname{min-range}(x) \to P(x))) \wedge \gamma [\boxed{1}]) \\ \operatorname{coll} & \left[ \operatorname{lic} \left\langle \left[ \operatorname{external-cont} \operatorname{ResOp} d(\alpha : \beta [\operatorname{min-range}(x)])] \right\rangle \right] \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}
```

Type 2: Tests

- Test 1: Alternation with coordination when result relation salient in discourse.
- Test 2: ...otherwise, no conjunction.
- Test 3: Variation between *încât* and *de*, but result relation must be present.
- Test 4: Referential, result reading present.

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High degree particle

(31) Camera este foarte întunecată. room.the is very dark 'The room is very dark.'

(32)
$$\left[\text{Irs} \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{at-issue} \ \ \boxed{1} \ \ \text{ResOp} \ d(\text{dark}(d, \text{the-room}) : ScAs(\text{dark}(d, \text{the-room}), d, A))} \\ \text{presup} \ \ \left\langle \exists A(A = \left\{ d' | \Diamond \text{dark}(d', \text{the-room}) \right\} \ \land \gamma[\boxed{1}]) \right\rangle \\ \end{array} \right] \right]$$

- very triggers alternative extents that are around the standard.
- The extent d to which the room is dark is at least as high as the minimal degree of darkness that is higher than all relevant alternatives.

Fixed extreme degree result clause

- (33) Sunt [RCX: bucuros [RCI: de mor]].

 I.am happy that I.die 'I am very happy.'
 - Parallel to mixed expressives such as slurs (Gutzmann, 2011; Gutzmann & McCready, 2016)
 - (34) Dan is a Kraut.at issue: Dan is German.CI: I have a negative attitude towards Germans.
 - Analysis of (33)
 - at issue: I am very happy.
 - CI: For each predicate P, if P results in dying, then P has a very high extent.

Fixed extreme degree result clause

(35) Sunt bucuros de mor.
I.am happy that I.die 'I am very happy.'

- means die, ...which occurs in the CI only!
- collocation (Soehn, 2009): requires result-de
 - access to main clause predicate α* and extent d
 - very-assertion
- CI: there is a predicate *P*, similar to the matrix predicate and if *P* results in dying, then *P*'s extent is high.

Type 3: minimizer NPIs with purely intensifier meaning

- Analysis just like de mor.
- NPI-requirement satisfied inside the CI!
- (36) Mi-e foame de nu te văd.
 (lit.: I am hungry that I cannot see you.) 'I am extremely hungry.'

Type 3: Tests

- (37) Mi-e foame de nu te văd. (lit.: I am hungry that I cannot see you.) 'I am extremely hungry.'
 - Test 1: Incomplete meaning outside RCI, unless use of ordinary mor.
 - Test 2: N/A.
 - Test 3: Coll-requirement blocks variation between încât and de.
 - Test 4: Literal, result reading only occurs inside a conditional CI.

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Summary

- New data on Romanian result clauses and NPIs.
- High-degree readings of result clauses
- Difference between result clause complementizers (încât, de)
- Reformulation of pragmatic accounts of emphatic NPIs in a representational framework – but: different analysis for non-emphatic NPIs.
- Semantics of result clauses in a surface-oriented, constraint-based framework.
- Purely intensifying result clauses as mixed expressives with non-at-issue literal meaning.

Thank you for your attention!

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ANNEX - Other examples of E-NPIs in high-degree RCXs

- Type 1: (de) nu ai loc să arunci un ac '(that) not have space throw.SJ a needle' (lit.: (that) one does not have enough space to throw a needle), (de) nu se aude nici musca '(that) not RCL.ACC.PASS.3SG hears even fly.the' (lit.: (that) not even the fly is heard), etc.
- Type 2: E-NPI1: de nu-ți vine să dai nici măcar un câine afară din casă 'that not-CL.DAT.2SG feel.like throw.SJ even a dog out of house' (lit.: that one cannot even throw a dog out of the house); de nu-ți poți crede ochilor 'that not-CL.DAT.2SG you.can belive eyes.the.DAT' (lit.: that one can't believe their eyes), etc.
- Type 3: de nu-şi mai încape în piele 'that not-REFL anymore fit in skin' (lit.: that one cannot fit in their skin anymore); de nu se poate 'that not REFL be.possible' (lit.: that it cannot be); de nu-i vezi picioarele 'that not-CL.DAT.3SG you.see legs.the' (lit.: that one cannot see their legs), etc.