

The Romanian hearsay marker *cică*

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Romanian employs a particular evidential marker that has developed from the 3rd person singular form of the verb ‘to say’ plus a complementiser, namely *cică* from (*se*) *zice că* ‘he/she says’, cf. (1):

- (1) a. Ion *cică* fumează.
Ion EVID he-smokes
‘Ion allegedly smokes.’
b. Ion *zice că* fumează.
Ion_i he-says that he_{ij}-smokes
‘Ion says that he smokes.’

This evidential adverb is typical of spoken conversation. Similar adverbs based on a verb of saying + complementiser (here called SAYC) are found in other Romance varieties, e.g. Latin-American Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, Galician, Sardinian and Southern Italian: see (2) (from Cruschina & Remberger 2008):

- (2) a. Sicilian *Dicica* Maria jè malata.
c. Sardinian *Nachi* Juanne est malàidu.
b. Romanian *Cică* Ion e bolnav.
SAYC M./J./I. be.PRES.3S ill
‘Apparently/Reportedly Mary/John is ill.’

In general, adverbs derived from the pattern lexical predicate + incorporated complementiser (PREDICATEC-adverbs) concern various interpretational domains within the left periphery, in particular evidentiality and epistemic modality, cf. (3):

- (3) Romanian
cică SAYC, *parcă* SEEMC, *credcă* BELIEVEC, *pisinică* BYSIGNC, *matincă* MEFEARC;

In this paper I discuss the syntax and the semantics of *cică* in Romanian and put forward a proposal with regard to the reconstruction of its diachronic development. This proposal is based on properties common to parentheticals and provides a valuable example model for the development of similar SayC-elements in other languages (for example, in addition to those mentioned above, Greek *lei*, Macedonian *veli*, Croatian *kaže*) and for the development of PREDICATEC-elements in general.

Cruschina, Silvio & Eva-Maria Remberger (2008): "Hearsay and reported speech. Evidentiality in Romance." In: Paola Benincà et al. (eds.): *Selected Proceedings of the 34th Incontro di Grammatica Generativa*. Padova: Unipress, 95-116.