

The Romanian Presumptive Mood

The key to the Romanian *va* 'will'-Future

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TOM6

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Topics to figure out today:

**THE
ROMANIAN
PRESUMPTIVE MOOD**

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THE
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va 'WILL'-FUTURE

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- ...have something to do with evidentiality (Irimia 2009, 2010, a.o.)

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- ...encode inference... (Zafiu 2009, a.o.)
- ...have something to do with evidentiality (Irimia 2009, 2010, a.o.)
- ...have something to do with progressive aspect in Romanian

Traditional examples (1)

Friedman (1997:173-75)

- (1) Do they call you Nick the Liar?

Mi- or fi zicând.
me.Cl.DAT- will.3PL be calling.

'They supposedly do call me that.' (FUT Progressive)

- (2) Doar n- o fi având purici!
surely not- will.3SG be having fleas!

'Surely s/he doesn't have fleas!' (FUT Progressive)

- (3) Oare să fi existând strigoi?
adverb=I.wonder SĂ be existing ghosts?

'Do ghosts really exist?' (SUBJ)

Traditional examples (2)

Friedman (1997:173-75)

- (4) -**Va** **fi citit** el acest roman? -**Mă** îndoiesc.
will.3SG be read he.NOM this novel? me.Cl.ACC doubt.1SG
'Do you think it likely that he has read this novel!' 'I doubt it.' (FUT Perfect)
- (5) Zice că Ion **ar** **fi citit** deja lecția.
says that John have.AUX.COND.3SG be read already lesson.the
'S/he says that John he has read the lesson.' (COND Perfect)

Traditional examples (3)

Friedman (1997:173-75)

(6) !!!

Va / **să** / **ar** **fi ajuns** el
will.3SG / SĂ / have.AUX.COND.3SG be arrived he.NOM
până acolo?
until there?

'Has he gotten there?' (*presumptive*) (FUT/SUBJ/COND Perfect)

Actually this should read as:

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‘Has he gotten there?’ (*presumptive*) (FUT/SUBJ/COND Perfect)

Actually this should read as:

- Is it likely that he has already gotten there?
- Has he gotten there yet, I wonder?
- *Is it said/Does it seem to be the case that he has gotten there yet?

(this example assumes that COND can be used in this manner; in fact, it cannot, except in headlines, and even there, only in the affirmative)

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- FUT auxiliary + *fi* 'be' + verb-Aspect

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- (also INF conjunction + *fi* 'be' + verb-Aspect)

WHAT IS THE PLACE OF STRINGS LIKE THESE IN THE ROMANIAN MOOD SYSTEM?

The Presumptive in the Romanian mood system

The Romanian Mood system (conjugating for the verb *a cânta* 'to sing', 3SG)

(often mentioned as 'presumptive'; rarely mentioned as 'presumptive'; almost never mentioned at all)

Non-finite				Finite			
Infinitive	Gerund	Participle	Supine	Indicative	Conditional	Subjunctive	Imperative
	cântând	cântat	DE cântat	cântase cântă cânta a cântat cântă are/o să cânte /			2SG/PL only

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A cânta A fi cântat				va/o fi cântând	ar cânta ar fi cântat	SĂ cânte SĂ fi cântat	
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A cânta A fi cântat				va/o fi cântând va/o fi fost cântat	ar cânta ar fi cântat	SĂ cânte SĂ fi cântat	
A fi cântând A fi fost cântat					ar fi cântând ar fi fost cântat	SĂ fi cântând SĂ fi fost cântat	

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A fi cântând A fi fost cântat A fi fost cântând				va/o fi fost cântat va/o fi fost cântând	ar fi cântând ar fi fost cântat ar fi fost cântând	SĂ fi cântând SĂ fi fost cântat SĂ fi fost cântând	

The Presumptive in the Romanian mood system

The forms that are most commonly accepted as Presumptive are the Simple and the Progressive forms of FUT, COND, SUBJ, and (often omitted) INF:

Non-finite				Finite			
Infinitive	Gerund	Participle	Supine	Indicative	Conditional	Subjunctive	Imperative
	cântând	cântat	DE cântat	cântase cântă cânta a cântat cântă are/o să cânte / va/o cânta			2SG/PL only
A cânta				va/o cânta	ar cânta	SĂ cânte	
A fi cântat				va/o fi cântat	ar fi cântat	SĂ fi cântat	
A fi cântând				va/o fi cântând	ar fi cântând	SĂ fi cântând	
A fi fost cântat				va/o fi fost cântat	ar fi fost cântat	SĂ fi fost cântat	
A fi fost cântând				va/o fi fost cântând	ar fi fost cântând	SĂ fi fost cântând	

The Presumptive in the Romanian mood system

But there is no reason to exclude their derivatives (the Pluperfect and Pluperfect Progressive forms of the same formats):

Non-finite				Finite			
Infinitive	Gerund	Participle	Supine	Indicative	Conditional	Subjunctive	Imperative
	cântând	cântat	DE cântat	cântase cântă cânta a cântat cântă are/o să cânte / va/o cânta			2SG/PL only
A cânta				va/o fi cântat	ar cânta	SĂ cânte	
A fi cântat				va/o fi cântat	ar fi cântat	SĂ fi cântat	
A fi cântând				va/o fi cântând	ar fi cântând	SĂ fi cântând	
A fi fost cântat				va/o fi fost cântat	ar fi fost cântat	SĂ fi fost cântat	
A fi fost cântând				va/o fi fost cântând	ar fi fost cântând	SĂ fi fost cântând	

The Presumptive in the Romanian mood system

And the simple forms of INF, FUT, COND, and SUBJ can also act ‘presumptively’...

Non-finite				Finite			
Infinitive	Gerund	Participle	Supine	Indicative	Conditional	Subjunctive	Imperative
	cântând	cântat	DE cântat	cântase cântă cânta a cântat cântă are/o să cânte /			2SG/PL only
A cânta A fi cântat				va/o cânta va/o fi cântat	ar cânta ar fi cântat	SĂ cânte SĂ fi cântat	
A fi cântând A fi fost cântat A fi fost cântând				va/o fi cântând va/o fi fost cântat va/o fi fost cântând	ar fi cântând ar fi fost cântat ar fi fost cântând	SĂ fi cântând SĂ fi fost cântat SĂ fi fost cântând	

Do these forms make up another non-indicative Mood:

The Presumptive Mood			
A cânta	va/o cânta	ar cânta	SĂ cânte
A fi cântat	va/o fi cântat	ar fi cântat	SĂ fi cântat
A fi cântând	va/o fi cântând	ar fi cântând	SĂ fi cântând
A fi fost cântat	va/o fi fost cântat	ar fi fost cântat	SĂ fi fost cântat
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A fi fost cântat	va/o fi fost cântat	ar fi fost cântat	SĂ fi fost cântat
A fi fost cântând	va/o fi fost cântând	ar fi fost cântând	SĂ fi fost cântând

- with 4 different **formats**

Do these forms make up another non-indicative Mood:

The Presumptive Mood			
Infinitive	Indicative - Future	Conditional-Optative	Subjunctive
A cânta	va/o cânta	ar cânta	SĂ cânte
A fi cântat	va/o fi cântat	ar fi cântat	SĂ fi cântat
A fi cântând	va/o fi cântând	ar fi cântând	SĂ fi cântând
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A fi cântat	va/o fi cântat	ar fi cântat	SĂ fi cântat
A fi cântând	va/o fi cântând	ar fi cântând	SĂ fi cântând
A fi fost cântat	va/o fi fost cântat	ar fi fost cântat	SĂ fi fost cântat
A fi fost cântând	va/o fi fost cântând	ar fi fost cântând	SĂ fi fost cântând

- with 4 different **formats**
- and 5 different **aspects**?

Do these forms make up another non-indicative Mood:

Simple
 Perfect
 Progressive
 Pluperfect
 Pluperfect Progressive

The Presumptive Mood			
Infinitive	Indicative - Future	Conditional-Optative	Subjunctive
A cânta	va/o cânta	ar cânta	SĂ cânte
A fi cântat	va/o fi cântat	ar fi cântat	SĂ fi cântat
A fi cântând	va/o fi cântând	ar fi cântând	SĂ fi cântând
A fi fost cântat	va/o fi fost cântat	ar fi fost cântat	SĂ fi fost cântat
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A fi cântând	va/o fi cântând	ar fi cântând	SĂ fi cântând
A fi fost cântat	va/o fi fost cântat	ar fi fost cântat	SĂ fi fost cântat
A fi fost cântând	va/o fi fost cântând	ar fi fost cântând	SĂ fi fost cântând

- with 4 different **formats**
- and 5 different **aspects**?
- and 2 sets of forms **homonymous with other mood forms**?

Do these forms make up another non-indicative Mood:

The Presumptive Mood				
	Infinitive	Indicative - Future	Conditional-Optative	Subjunctive
Simple	cânta	va/o cânta	ar cânta	SĂ cânte
Perfect	A fi cântat	va/o fi cântat	ar fi cântat	SĂ fi cântat
Progressive	A fi cântând	va/o fi cântând	ar fi cântând	SĂ fi cântând
Pluperfect	A fi fost cântat	va/o fi fost cântat	ar fi fost cântat	SĂ fi fost cântat
Pluperfect Progressive	A fi fost cântând	va/o fi fost cântând	ar fi fost cântând	SĂ fi fost cântând

- with 4 different **formats**
- and 5 different **aspects**?
- and 2 sets of forms homonymous with other mood forms?

If yes, then...

...WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SAY THAT ALL THESE VERB FORMS ARE
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In what way(s) are they similar?

...WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SAY THAT ALL THESE VERB FORMS ARE
'PRESUMPTIVE'?

In what way(s) are they similar?

In what way(s) are they different?

Helping questions

(triggered by various claims in the literature)

How do these four formats behave in regard to:

- morphosyntax

Helping questions

(triggered by various claims in the literature)

How do these four formats behave in regard to:

- morphosyntax
 - Do they have the same structure?

Helping questions

(triggered by various claims in the literature)

How do these four formats behave in regard to:

- morphosyntax
 - Do they have the same structure?
- evidentiality

Helping questions

(triggered by various claims in the literature)

How do these four formats behave in regard to:

- morphosyntax
 - Do they have the same structure?
- evidentiality
 - Do they relate to the same kind of evidence?

Helping questions

(triggered by various claims in the literature)

How do these four formats behave in regard to:

- morphosyntax
 - Do they have the same structure?
- evidentiality
 - Do they relate to the same kind of evidence?
- epistemic modality

Helping questions

(triggered by various claims in the literature)

How do these four formats behave in regard to:

- morphosyntax
 - Do they have the same structure?
- evidentiality
 - Do they relate to the same kind of evidence?
- epistemic modality
 - Do they encode the same epistemic force?

Helping questions

(triggered by various claims in the literature)

How do these four formats behave in regard to:

- morphosyntax
 - Do they have the same structure?
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 - Do they relate to the same kind of evidence?
- epistemic modality
 - Do they encode the same epistemic force?
- aspect

Helping questions

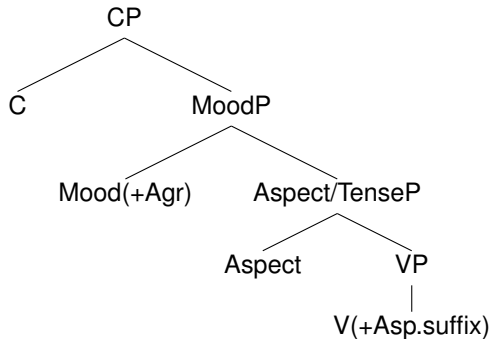
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How do these four formats behave in regard to:

- morphosyntax
 - Do they have the same structure?
- evidentiality
 - Do they relate to the same kind of evidence?
- epistemic modality
 - Do they encode the same epistemic force?
- aspect
 - Do they behave the same in regard to aspect?

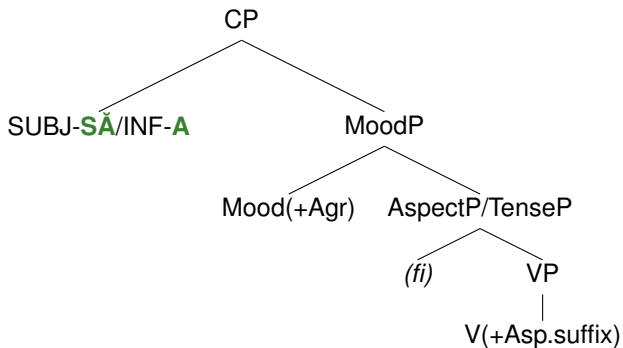
Morphosyntax

The structure of the Balkan clause (adapted from Rivero 1994:72)



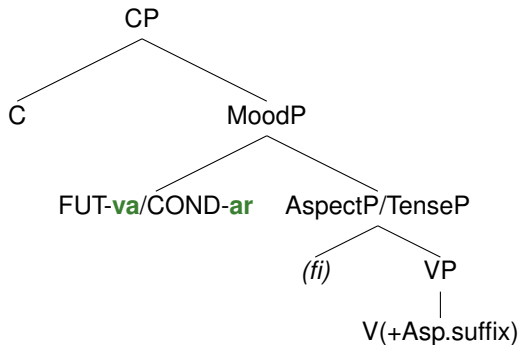
Plug in the conjunctions.

The structure for SUBJ and INF is:



Plug in the auxiliaries.

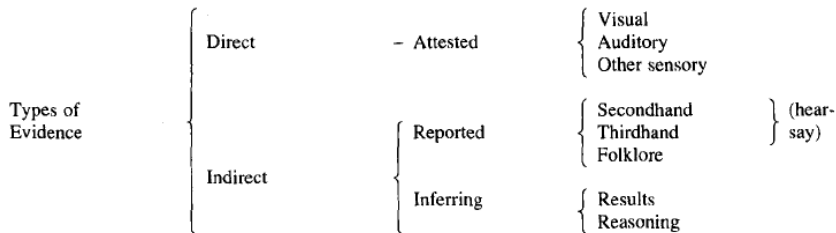
The structure for FUT and COND is:



INF, FUT, COND & SUBJ DO NOT HAVE THE SAME MORPHOSYNTACTIC
STRUCTURE.

What is evidentiality?

Figure : Willett (1988:57)'s taxonomy of evidentials



The evidential distribution of FUT, COND, SUBJ, and INF

	Direct-inferential	Ind.-reported	Ind.-inferential
FUT	yes	citation of inf.(+EV)	yes
COND	+EV	+EV	+EV
SUBJ	+EV	citation of inf.(+EV)	+EV
INF	+EV	citation of inf.(+EV)	+EV

+EV = the format needs an extra item to encode the source of evidence, e.g.
'seems' in 'She seems to be home'

The only true evidential is...

...the Future format...

	Direct-inferential	Ind.-reported	Ind.-inferential
FUT	yes	citation of inf.(+EV)	yes
COND	+EV	+EV	+EV
SUBJ	+EV	citation of inf.(+EV)	+EV
INF	+EV	citation of inf.(+EV)	+EV

...which acts as an **INFERENCE EVIDENTIAL**:

The only true evidential is...

...the Future format...

	Direct-inferential	Ind.-reported	Ind.-inferential
FUT	yes	citation of inf.(+EV)	yes
COND	+EV	+EV	+EV
SUBJ	+EV	citation of inf.(+EV)	+EV
INF	+EV	citation of inf.(+EV)	+EV

...which acts as an **INFERENCE EVIDENTIAL**:

- (7) Jane sees the light on in Amy's room. She takes this as evidence that Amy is in her room. She uses this evidence to infer:

Va fi acasă.
will.3SG be home

'She's probably home.'

FUT IS THE ONLY FORMAT THAT CAN ENCODE INFERENTIAL EVIDENTIALITY GRAMMATICALLY ON ITS OWN.

Epistemic modals and evidentiality

The light is on in Amy's room...

modal	example	force
may	A: <i>She may be home.</i>	weak
must	B: <i>She must be home.</i>	strong
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Epistemic modals and evidentiality

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- evidentiality is about **signalling that an utterance relies on some kind of information taken as supporting evidence**
- epistemic modality is about one's **degree of commitment to that evidence**

Are FUT, COND, SUBJ, INF instances of epistemic modality?

format	example	force
COND	(8) Pare că/ca.și.cum ar fi seems that/as.if have.AUX.COND.3SG be acasă. home 'It seems that/looks as if s/he were home.'	?
SUBJ	(9) Pare să fie acasă. seems SĂ be.3SG+SUBJ home 'S/he seems to be home.'	?
INF	(10) Pare a fi acasă. seems A be home 'S/he seems to be home.'	?
FUT	(11) Va fi acasă. will.3SG be home 'S/he is probably home.'	variable

Variable epistemic force (1)

Ro.FUT = may

(12) *Context: What do you think, isn't this war a complete aberration?*

O fi şi n-o fi.
will.3SG be and not-will.3SG be

'It may and it may not be.'

Variable epistemic force (2)

Ro.FUT = it is somewhat probable

- (13) *Context: X just came to see me. As we start chatting, we can hear someone singing. X asks, What's that? Now, I have two sisters who like to sing at odd times. Right now it could be either one of them, either Amy or Jamie. However, I know Jamie might be at the gym now. I speculate:*

Va fi cântând Amy.
will.3SG be singing Amy.

'It's probably Amy, singing.' [speculation]

Variable epistemic force (3)

Ro.FUT = must = probably

- (14) *Context: X just came to see me. As we start chatting, we can hear someone singing. X asks, What's that? Now, my sister Amy is always singing. I infer:*

Va fi cântând Amy.
will.3SG be singing Amy.

'It must be Amy, singing.' [inference]

Variable epistemic force (4)

Ro.FUT = Future Tense

- (15) *Context: Alice is Bob's secretary. Someone asks Alice, Where will Bob be tomorrow? Alice replies:*

Va fi la birou.
will.3SG be at office

'[Y] will be in office.'

- ...variable force epistemic modals have also been documented for other languages too e.g. St'át'imcets (Rullmann et al 2008) or Gitskan (Peterson 2008)

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- Kratzer calls them instances of '**variable upper-end degree epistemic modality**' (Kratzer 2012b:46)

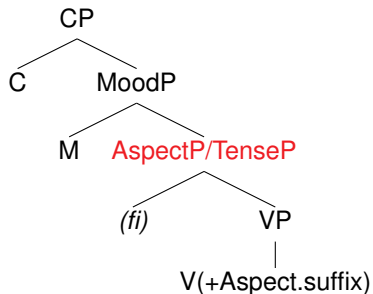
FUT IS THE ONLY FORMAT THAT HAS AN EPISTEMIC FORCE OF ITS OWN.
ITS FORCE IS **VARIABLE**.

- In Romanian, aspect forms constructed with the uninflected forms *fi* 'be' and *fi fost* 'be been' occur only in FUT, COND, SUBJ, and INF.

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- Tests of distribution, word order, and interpretation of clauses with the auxiliary *fi* 'be' show that this auxiliary occurs in contexts with **non-specific time frame** and **irrealis** interpretation, and is generally in complementary distribution with the Romanian *have* auxiliary, which appears only in contexts with definite time and realis interpretation. (Avram & Hill 2007:47)

AspectP/TenseP

Non-indicative verb forms use aspect to locate events in time!



Indicative vs. non-indicative in English & Romanian

Indicative (Past Tense)	non-Indicative (Perfect Aspect)
She was probably 5.	She must have been 5.
Avea had.3SG+IMPF probabil 5 ani. probably 5 years 'S/he was probably 5.'	Va fi avut 5 will.3SG be had 5 ani. years Lit. 'She will have been 5.' = 'I'm guessing she was probably 5.'

In Romanian, the temporal relations for non-indicative verb forms are realized via the following aspects:

- Perfective
 - 'event time included in reference time'
- Progressive
- Perfect
- Pluperfect
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- Pluperfect Progressive
 - 'reference time located in a past before another past time included in event time'

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- **Progressive aspect can prevent forward-shifting:**

(18) She must be singing. RT = nonpast (present *or* future)

The same happens with the Romanian FUT:

- (19) epistemic judgement about the present: stative predicate

Va fi acasă. / Va fi fiind acasă.
will.3SG be home / will.3SG be being home

‘She is probably home.’

- (20) epistemic judgement about the present: eventive predicate

*Va cânta. / Va fi cântând.
will.3SG sing / will.3SG be singing

‘She is probably singing (now).’

Forward-shifting is a property of...

...modals-for-the-present (Condoravdi 2002)

“The correct generalization is that modals for the present have a future orientation optionally with stative predicates and obligatorily with eventive predicates. The presence of the progressive results in a stative predicate”

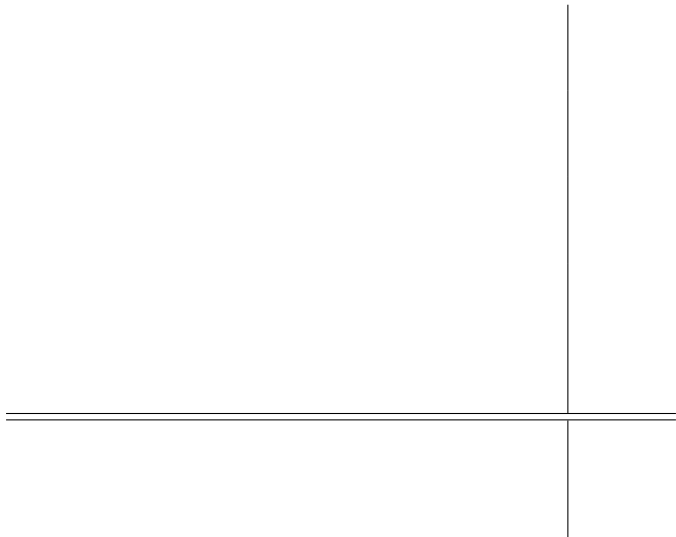
(Condoravdi 2002:11)

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- in Romanian, *fi* ‘be’ Aspect is the hallmark of non-indicative verb forms; its role is temporal
- Progressive Aspect with FUT, COND, SUBJ, and INF seems to have the same role as in the case of the ‘modals for the present’

The Romanian Presumptive Mood: Conclusions (1)



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Do FUT, COND, SUBJ, and INF have the same morphosyntactic structure?

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However,

- FUT is an evidential

>> IF WE STILL WANT A 'PRESUMPTIVE' MOOD, THEN THE ONLY FORMAT THAT QUALIFIES IS THAT OF FUT.

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The Romanian Presumptive Mood: Conclusions (2)

However,

- FUT is an evidential
- FUT is an epistemic modal
- FUT is a grammaticalized expression of inference

>> IF WE STILL WANT A 'PRESUMPTIVE' MOOD, THEN THE ONLY FORMAT THAT QUALIFIES IS THAT OF FUT.

'Indicative' FUT vs. 'Presumptive' FUT

	Indicative-FUT	Presumptive-FUT
Simple	✓	✓
Perfect	✓	✓
Progressive	✗	✓
Pluperfect	✗	✓
Pluperfect Prog	✗	✓

Homonymy?

	Indicative-FUT	Presumptive-FUT
Simple	✓	✓
Perfect	✓	✓
Progressive	✗	✓
Pluperfect	✗	✓
Pluperfect Prog	✗	✓

An Indicative *fi* 'be'-Perfect?

	Indicative-FUT	Presumptive-FUT
Simple	✓	✓
Perfect	✓	✓
Progressive	✗	✓
Pluperfect	✗	✓
Pluperfect Prog	✗	✓

An Indicative *fi* 'be'-Perfect?

But everywhere else *fi* 'be'-aspect patterns with *irrealis* verb forms...

	Indicative-FUT	Presumptive-FUT
Simple	✓	✓
Perfect	✓	✓
Progressive	✗	✓
Pluperfect	✗	✓
Pluperfect Prog	✗	✓

A unified approach?

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Indicative-FUT-Simple = Future Tense,
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FUT

The Romanian FUT auxiliary is essentially a variable-force upper-end degree epistemic modal.

1. The modal base

the facts around **an information gap at the reference time (RT)** that will be the object of inference

2. The ordering source

known facts that are brought to bear on the current facts and the current information gap

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Note: Inferential evidentiality seems to rely on observations about the world at RT. As such, it implicitly contributes to the modal base.

The denotation of epistemic ‘must’

A strong epistemic modal such as EN ‘must’ is traditionally defined as a **universal quantifier**:

$$\llbracket \text{must} \rrbracket^{w,g} = \lambda f_{\langle s, \langle \langle s, t \rangle, t \rangle \rangle} . \lambda h_{\langle s, \langle \langle s, t \rangle, t \rangle \rangle} . \lambda r_{\langle s, t \rangle} . \forall w' \in \max_{h(w)}(\cap f(w)) : r(w') = 1.$$

f = the modal base

h = the ordering source

r = the modalized statement

\max_Q = a selection function selects the best worlds (with regard to the ordering source) from any set X of worlds (in this case, $\cap f(w)$)

The RO FUT modal \neq EN 'must'

For variable-force upper-end degree epistemic modals: If an ordering gives a ranking such as

$$w_3 <_Q w_2 <_Q w_1 <_Q w_0,$$

then we can assign probability values to each of these worlds in a way that respects this ordering [Kratzer, 2012b], e.g.

$\Pr(\emptyset)=0$	$\Pr(\{w_2\})=4/15$	$\Pr(\{w_3\})=8/15$	$\Pr(\{w_2, w_3\})=12/15$
$\Pr(\{w_0\})=1/15$	$\Pr(\{w_0, w_2\})=5/15$	$\Pr(\{w_0, w_3\})=9/15$	$\Pr(\{w_0, w_2, w_3\})=13/15$
$\Pr(\{w_1\})=2/15$	$\Pr(\{w_1, w_2\})=6/15$	$\Pr(\{w_1, w_3\})=10/15$	$\Pr(\{w_1, w_2, w_3\})=14/15$
$\Pr(\{w_0, w_1\})=$ $=3/15$	$\Pr(\{w_0, w_1, w_2\})=$ $=7/15$	$\Pr(\{w_0, w_1, w_3\})=$ $=11/15$	$\Pr(\{w_0, w_1, w_2, w_3\})=$ $=15/15$

'Presumptive' probabilities

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'Future Tense' probability

The Romanian *will*-Future Tense is merely a special case of epistemic modality:

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A similar claim has been made in the literature about the Italian and the Greek Futures.[Giannakidou and Mari, 2012]

Given all the above...

...what *is* the Romanian *va* 'will'-Future Tense?

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- the FUT modal is a 'modal for the present' \Rightarrow
 - eventive predicates will undergo forward-shifting, thus landing, correctly, at a future reference time
 - the temporal location of stative predicates is ambiguous between the present and the future; disambiguation can be done via context (inserted in the semantics as a Time pronoun with information drawn from the context - e.g. from adverbs of time, from discourse, etc.)

- The Romanian Presumptive Mood (if we still want one) is limited to the **epistemic uses of the Future format**.

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- The Romanian Presumptive Mood (if we still want one) is limited to the **epistemic uses of the Future format**.
- The Romanian *will*-auxiliary is a variable force **epistemic modal**.
- The Romanian *will*-Future Tense is nothing but **a special case of epistemic modality**.

- Can we find unified accounts for all the respective uses of COND, SUBJ, and INF, too?

THANK YOU!

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