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## A new perspective on Romanian weak NPIs

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Monica-Mihaela Rizea  
*Solomon Marcus Center for Computational Linguistics*  
monicamihaelarizea@gmail.com

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This paper revisits the issue of the licensing conditions of weak negative polarity items (NPIs) in strict negative concord (NC) languages and of their assumed competition with n-words, from the perspective of Romanian. I will deal with the contexts where two n-words co-occur in a clause [n-word<sub>1</sub> + \*(NM) + FiniteVerb + n-word<sub>2</sub>; \*(NM) = obligatory negative marker]. Fălăuş (2008) argues that in these contexts *vre*-NPIs (e.g.: *vreun* (masc.)/*vreo* (fem.) ‘any’) win the competition with n-word<sub>2</sub> in a NC language, because the latter would trigger an ambiguity between double (DN) and single negation (SN) as in (1) (see Iordăchioaia 2010).

Based on a corpus analysis, I will argue that, in fact, when an n-word precedes the NM, weak NPI licensing requires the same pattern as DN in Romanian: i.e., a denial interpretation with marked intonation as in (2); see also Iordăchioaia (2007) on marked intonation with *vre*-NPIs and no n-word. This excludes the hypothesis that *vre*-NPIs are used instead of an n-word to convey the typically unmarked SN/NC reading, against DN:

- (1) **Niciun student \*(nu) a citit nicio carte.**  
*no student NM has read n-word book*  
‘No student read no book.’ (denial, marked intonation, DN)  
‘No student read any book.’ (\*denial, unmarked intonation, SN)
- (2) **NIciun stuDENT \*(nu) a citit vreo carte.**  
*no student NM has read vre-NPI book*  
‘No student read any book.’ (denial, marked intonation, SN)

I will also show that the only case when the speaker is forced to replace the n-word with a *vre*-NPI to avoid the ambiguity with DN and convey a SN reading is that when denial targets the subject position.

**References:** • Fălăuş, A. M. (2008): Is there any negative polarity in Romanian? *Bucharest Working Papers in Linguistics* X, 5–20. • Iordăchioaia, G. (2007): A Case of Negative Polarity in Romanian. *Revue Roumaine de Linguistique*, LII, 195–209. • Iordăchioaia, G. (2010): *Negative Concord with Negative Quantifiers*. PhD Thesis, University of Tübingen.