Relations actantielles, généricité et engagement énonciatif : le pronom indéfini *on* et ses correspondants roumains

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Abstract: The French pronoun *on*, stemming from the Latin noun *homo*, is considered to be indefinite, as it refers to an unspecified human agent; it can only function as subject.

Romanian speakers have difficulties in translating it or in employing it in oral or written discourse, since Romanian doesn't have a similar pronoun. Moreover, a subject pronoun is not compulsory in Romanian, since the agent of the verb can be identified by the verbal ending, as in Latin.

A comparative approach has enabled us to make a list of Romanian structures that are equivalent to the French structures with *on*. Our aim is to explain the different types of equivalence existing between the French indefinite pronoun *on* and its Romanian correspondents. In order to do so it is necessary to define the syntactic and the semantic characteristics of the contextual classes that are specific to the indefinite pronoun *on*, the actantial configuration of the French structures with *on* and of their Romanian equivalents as well as the degree of enunciative engagement or nonengagement of the agent, expressed in French by *on*. The enunciative engagement depends mostly on the type of discourse and on the intentions of the enunciator.

Key words: types of pronominal reference, actantial verbal scheme, degree of enunciative engagement, types of discourse.