

**STSM project:** *Contrast connectives in Romance languages. Mapping similarities and differences between Romanian and Italian* (Reference: ECOST-STSM-IS1312-140916-079180)

Iasi, 8 October 2016

## Short Term Scientific Mission Report

Dear Members of STSM Committee,

I am extremely pleased to inform you that I have successfully carried out my Short Term Scientific Mission at the University of Genoa, Italy, under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jacqueline Visconti. Owing to the STSM grant awarded to me within the COST Action Number IS1312 (Reference: ECOST-STSM-IS1312-140916-079180), I had the opportunity of furthering my work on the research project *Contrast connectives in Romance languages. Mapping similarities and differences between Romanian and Italian* and of clarifying several important issues relative to the understanding and interpretation of contrast connectives in the languages at hand.

My scientific mission took place within the timeframe specified in my application, 14-28 September 2016. During my stay in Genoa, Dr. Jacqueline Visconti recommended and offered me full access to the databases, corpora, and libraries available to the university staff (e.g. the corpus of *La Repubblica* newspaper articles, the corpus of old Italian – *Opera del Vocabolario Italiano*, the library of the DIRAS Department), and she was kind enough to arrange for me several meetings with academics from her university and from the University of Turin.

As a result, I had the opportunity to discuss my research and to exchange ideas with Professor Lorenzo Coveri, who has been teaching courses of Italian linguistics and the history of the Italian language, as well as with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Micaela Rossi and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Anna Giaufret from the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures at the University of Genoa, with whom I talked about the behaviour and importance of connectives in the process of translation. On 26 September 2016 I also attended a lecture held by an invited guest at the University of Genoa, Dr. Manuel Moreira Silva from the Porto Accounting and Business School of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto. My STSM also included a one-day visit at the University of Turin (23 September 2016), where I met Professor Davide Ricca, a scholar who has specialized in historical and typological linguistics, and who provided me access to the university library and recommended several books of interest for my research (e.g. *Coordination Relations in the Languages of Europe and Beyond* by Caterina Mauri).

As specified in my application for this grant, even if I am interested in all contrast connectives, my research during this mission focused mainly on the two Romanian adversative connectives that do not have a direct equivalent in the other Romance languages, i.e. *iar* – a conjunction with uncertain origins said to mark cases of “weak” contrast, and *ci* – used with a negative Arg1 to signal correction relations. The activities carried out in Genoa, the corpora and the bibliographical references I was able to consult there helped me elucidate to a great extent the status of these two connectives in my own language as well as in comparison to the other Romance languages and English. For instance, my discussions with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jacqueline Visconti

confirmed my hypothesis that *iar* is a highly polysemous/multifunctional connective in Romanian, since it may signal several types of relations, and not just cases of “weak” contrast as described in the literature. A previously unnoticed feature – highlighted in comparison with Italian and which has not been mentioned in any of the studies published so far on this matter – is the fact that in many of the relations it signals *iar* has a consecutive (temporal) dimension. This seems to suggest an evolution from the temporal to the contrastive similar to that discussed by Cuenca & Visconti for the Italian *anzi* and Catalan *ans*. Moreover, as discussed with both Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jacqueline Visconti and Professor Davide Ricca in Turin, in some cases *iar* does not even signal a contrast, but serves as a purely additive (positive) connective that does nothing but foreground the new argument it introduces. An important result of my scientific mission in Genoa was the insight that *iar* might have both Latin (the possibility of its having derived from the Roman *\*ea hora* or *e ora* was confirmed by both Jacqueline Visconti and Davide Ricca) and old Greek origins (the connectives  $\kappa\alpha\iota$  as well as the particle  $\kappa\alpha\iota$  share some similar traits with *iar*). This hypothesis deserves further investigation.

The insights as well as all the bibliographical references I acquired during my STSM at the University of Genoa under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jacqueline Visconti have proven to be very useful for my ongoing research. They will be put to use in a prospective article on the annotation issues raised by Romanian contrast connectives that I intend to submit to the journal *Revue Romane*, in a planned joint study with Professor Maria Josep Cuenca and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jacqueline Visconti on contrast connectives in Romance languages as well as in the future events organised within the TextLink Action.

**Dr. Sorina Postolea**

