

Romanian modal verb configurations and phases

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The talk addresses the syntactic properties of the Romanian modal verbs *putea* ('can, be able to') and *trebui* ('must, have to'). It is shown that their distributional and interpretative properties indicate that the modal verbs have a uniform syntactic behavior, in spite of superficially different syntactic configurations (a monoclausal configuration and a biclausal configuration) in which they appear: (i) they are subject raising verbs, which (ii) select a phasal complement. The talk will touch upon several controversial issues surrounding modal configurations: the nature of the embedded subjunctive, restructuring and verb movement, etc.