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Fundamental Structures with Reflexive Pronoun in Dative in Romanian

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ABSTRACT: This paper focuses on the problem of the functioning of the reflexive pronoun in dative in addition to the verb. Based on a substantial corpus, the paper refers to the delimitation of its functions, values and nuances, as well as the various fundamental structures in which it appears. Three constructions with their afferent structures are described, from which it appears that the reflexive dative works in two hypostases: 1) the subcategorization of the verb, receiving the thematic role of recipient or beneficiary and the syntactic function of indirect complement and 2) the double subordination - to the verb and to a noun in the structure. That is, it does not occupy a position of subcategorization of the verb, but acquires a possessive meaning from this noun and fulfills the function of possessive complement, a function without a thematic role.

KEYWORDS: Reflexive Pronoun, Clitic, Dative, Actant, Thematic Role, Reciprocity Value, Possessive Value, Syntactic Construction

I. INTRODUCTION

According to its definition, the reflexive pronoun "evokes (= represents) in speech the participants in the act of communication and simultaneously reflects the referential identity between two actants involved in the act of predication" [1] .The reflexive pronoun is morphologically, syntactically and functionally heterogeneous.[2]. Morphologically, the reflexive pronoun is characterized by a defective paradigm, having forms only for 2 cases - dative and accusative: "a) The dative is used when the subject and the indirect object are one and the same person. In this case, the action of the predicate verb is carried to the benefit of the subject: Omul harnic își face iarna car și vara sanie (The industrious man makes his sledge in winter and his chariot in summer); b) The accusative is used when the subject and the direct object are one and the same person, which means that the action of the verb-predicate is reflected on the subject itself: Adesea cel care ajută pe altul se ajută pe sine (Often the one who helps another helps himself)". [3]. See also: [4]. [5], [6]. It has two series of forms: accentuated and unaccented (clitic). It does not mark the distinction according to gender and number. It has forms only for the 3rd person. For the first and the second persons, the forms of the personal pronoun are used, acquiring a reflexive value when marking the identity of the subject with the indirect or direct object. Syntactically, the reflexive pronoun "participates in the actantial relations of the verb (...) or is associated, through the verb, with one of its complements". [7]. In other words, the reflexive pronoun manifests itself, from a syntactic point of view, in relation to the verb and its complements, occupying one of the subcategorization positions of the verb. Functionally, the reflexive plays an important role in the communication process, giving the speaker the opportunity to choose from several possible marks in order to express a certain function. And, finally, it should be emphasized that "the reflexive pronoun does not have its own reference (it does not refer by itself), but gains it through anaphoric mechanisms". [8]. A higher degree of precision and rigor in explaining the heterogeneity of the reflexive pronoun in Romanian is found in an extensive and well-documented paper, authored by Andra Şerbănescu. [9].

The present paper focuses on the problem of the functioning of the reflexive pronoun in the dative next to the verb, with a delimitation of its functions, values and nuances, as well as the various fundamental structures in which it appears. The late Mioara Avram mentioned that "Dative accented forms are rarely used in contemporary language" [10]., so we will pay more attention to the clitic. The primary purpose of this paper is not only to identify and describe the structures in which the reflexive pronoun appears in the dative, but especially to illustrate them with examples, excerpts from the language material selected for the project "Fundamental Structures of the Romanian Language" which the Grammar Sector of the Institute of Philology "Bogdan Petriceicu-Haşdeu" is currently working on. For reasons of space, occasionally, we will illustrate just with phrases, without the nominal subject: a construi o casă, a face temele (to build a house, to do one's homework). Unlike the reflexive pronoun in the accusative, for which the derivative, intransitive / transitive

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value, the participation in the actantial derivation process and the functioning as a grammatical morpheme of diathesis count [11], the reflexive pronoun in the dative develops other values. It can be: a) an argument / actant of the verbal center, being part of the list of valences of the verb; b) a means for additional rendering of the value of reciprocity; c) a means for additional rendering of the possessive value. The possessive value is actualized both next to verbs and next to nouns and adjectives.

II. REZULTS

Accordingly, the reflexive pronoun in the dative is used in fewer constructions. As already established in the specialized works, the reflexive in the dative appears in 3 types of constructions:

1) Constructions in which the reflexive in the dative marks the referential identity between the subject and the indirect object: a-şi alege o profesie (to choose a profession for oneself), a-şi crea un nume (to create a name for oneself), a-şi permite anumite excese (to allow oneself certain excesses), a nu-şi refuza nimic (not to refuse oneself anything) etc. In these constructions, the verb expresses an action that is performed to the benefit of the subject, and the reflexive in the dative is used with its reflexive value proper, participating in the verbal center subcategorization position, matrix position, object position. The dative reflexive has a syntactic function, governed by the verb, namely the function of indirect complement: the clitic -îşi, -şi: El îşi este sieşi primul duşman (He is his own first enemy). This is shown through the phenomenon of doubling with the accentuated form: sieşi (to oneself / one's own). It is also used with transitive verbs with consumed transitivity (either by an accusative or propositional noun), with or without other complements. The vast majority of verbs govern an indirect complement expressed by reflexive pronouns in dative in different structures.

(Note Here and below the symbols in the diagram represent the following syntactic functions: S - subject; Pr. - predicate; I. c. - indirect complement; D. c. - direct complement; Prep. c. - prepositional complement; D. obj. c. - direct object clause; Circ. c. - circumstantial complement).

S+I. c.+Pr.+D. c.: a-si aminti numele cuiva (to remember someone's name), a nu-si aminti trecutul (not to

remember the past), *a-şi crea clientelă* (to create a client base for oneself), *necazuri* (bringing troubles upon oneself), *o reputație bună* (to build a good reputation for oneself), *o situație* (to create a situation for oneself), *a-şi imagina ceva* (to imagine something), *a-şi interzice orice bucurie* (to forbid oneself any joy), *orice plăcere* (any pleasure), *a-şi imputa ceva* (to impute something to oneself), *a-şi însuși o descoperire* (to attribute to oneself a discovery), *un drept* (a right), *un titlu* (a title), *a-şi dobândi cunoștințe* (to acquire knowledge), *o limbă străină* (a foreign language); *a-şi însuși un principiu* (to adopt a principle), *părerea cuiva* (an opinion), *punctul de vedere al cuiva* (a point of view), *a-şi închipui lucrurile altfel decât sunt* (to imagine things differently than they are), *a-şi cumpăra mobila* (to buy oneself furniture); *a-şi nota ceva* (to note something for oneself), *a-şi permite excese* (to allow oneself excesses), *lux* (luxury), *a-şi permite mult* (to permit oneself a lot); *a nu-şi permite familiarități* (not to allow oneself familiarity), *a-şi reproșa ceva* (to blame oneself for something). *S + I. c. + Pr. + D. c. + Prep. c./ Circ. c.: a-şi crea probleme din ceva* (to create problems for oneself out of something), *a-şi păstra provizii pentru iarnă* (to keep supplies for oneself for the winter), *a-şi trage cearṣaful peste cap* (to pull one's sheet over one's head), *pălăria peste față* (hat over one's face), *un pulover peste cap* (a sweater over one's head).

S + I. c. + Pr. + Prep. c.: a-și aminti de un profesor (to remember a teacher), de un prieten (a friend), de părinți (parents), a-și aminti de trecut (to remember one's past), de anii de școală (one's school years), de tinerețe (one's youth), de o treabă urgentă (an urgent job), de o întâmplare (a situation), a-și reveni din uimire (to recover from amazement), din surprindere (from surprise), din leşin (from fainting), din moleşeală (from lethargy), din stres (from stress), din amorțeală (from numbness), din amețeală (from dizziness), din starea de somn (from sleepiness).S + I. c. + Pr. + D. obj. c.: a-si dori să plece într-o călătorie (to want to go on a journey), a-si imagina că a câstigat la loto (to imagine that one has won the lottery), a-si permite să achizitioneze ceva (to allow oneself to buy something), să folosească ceva (to use something), să bea o bere (to drink a beer), a nu-si permite sa astepte (not to allow oneself to wait), a-si reprosa că nu a luat o notă mai mare (to reproach oneself that one did not take a higher grade). Constructions in which the reflexive pronoun in the dative acquires an additional meaning of reciprocity: a-şi da referințe unul altuia (to give references to each other), a-şi multumi reciproc (to thank each other), a-şi spune viața (to tell each other one's life), a-şi uni destinele (to join each other's destinies), a-şi uni soarta cu cineva (to join one's destiny with another's), a-şi zâmbi unul altuia (to smile at each other). In [1]. it is mentioned that "Most verbs that participate in constructions with reflexive meaning can also participate in constructions in which the reflexive pronoun acquires an additional value of reciprocity. (...) The reciprocity meaning reflects a symmetrical relationship between the actants involved in the action or state expressed by the verb: Dan şi Ion îşi dau bună ziua. (Dan and Ion say hello to each other). Ana şi Corina şi-au corectat lucrările una alteia. (Ana and Corina corrected each other's papers). Ele /Fetele şi-au corectat lucrările una alteia. (They / the girls corrected each other's work)". In these bi-actantial constructions, the action is performed to the benefit of / to the disadvantage of the actants implied by the verb, which have a double role. This means that each indicates that the action of the verb extends simultaneously or alternately towards the other participant, i.e. it combines the subject and object hypostases of actions, with different directions. The condition imposed syntactically is that the subject (expressed either by a noun or by a personal pronoun) be multiple or plural. Ion şi Maria (Prieteni/ Ei) îşi spun păsul unul altuia (Ion and Maria (Friends / They) tell each other their issues). Therefore, "Irrespective of the case form, the reciprocal reflexive clitic has a pronominal status of double substitute, simultaneously replacing two nominals in the primary structure. (...) The pronominal clitic occupies, depending on the case (accusative or dative), the position of direct or indirect complement. Like any complement, it participates in the phenomenon of doubling, the pronominal groups (each other / the other) appearing with an emphasis and disambiguating role in constructions with doubling". [7].

 $S+I.\ c.+Pr.+D.\ c.:$ Ana şi Maria îşi trimit bileţele la cursuri. (Ana and Maria send each other notes during the classes). Ana şi Maria îşi împrumută bani. (Ana and Maria lend each other money). Soţii îşi reproşează trădarea. (Husbands blame each other for betrayal. Prietenii îşi strâng mâinile (Friends shake each other's hands).

S + Pr. + I. c.: Prietenii își zâmbesc. (Friends are smiling to each other). Ei își sunt dragi unul altuia. (They care about each other). Nu-și vorbesc unul altuia (They don't talk to each other). In symmetrical structures with a multiple subject, it is allowed to change the order of the actants: Ana îi împrumută bani Mariei. vs Maria îi împrumută bani Anei (Ana lends money to Maria. vs. Maria lends money to Ana).

Constructions in which the reflexive pronoun in the dative acquires an additional possessive meaning: a-şi apăra interesul (to defend one's interest), a-şi achita taxele (to pay one's taxes), a-şi antrena mintea (to train one's mind), a-şi deschide o prăvălie (to open one's own store), a-şi controla comportarea (to control one's own behavior), a-şi exprima părerea (to express one's opinion), a-şi povesti pățania (to tell one's own story). In these constructions, only the unaccented form of the reflexive pronoun is operative: își / -și, which has a double subordination – to the verb and to a determining noun from the respective structure [12]. According to GALR, II, it does not occupy a position of subcategorization of the verb, being "attracted from outside the group, coming from a NG-complement directly subordinated to the center verb (interesul lui (his interest)". [7]. In other words, the possessive meaning is not governed by the verb, but by a noun which has the same reference as the subject. Izabela Celmare, in a very well-argued study of Romanian clitics, mentions in this connection the following: "Clitics (...) carrying an additional value (+ poss) have a different status from their objectual correspondents; even if they are arguments, they are inserted in ArgPoss and make a ternary co-indexing chain, whose center is a Nominal" [13]. We agree with this view, provided that the argument status of the possessive clitic in the dative remains open to discussion.

The additional possessive meaning can be proved through "the possibility of repeating the clitic in the dative through using a form of genitive or a possessive adjective". [14]: A-şi exprima dezamăgirea (sa). (To express one's (own) disappointment). A-şi controla furia (sa). (To control one's (own) anger). Fiecare îşi pregăteşte tema (lui). (Everyone prepares one's (own) homework). The possessive and the genitive often remain unexpressed: Copilul îşi ia cărțile şi pleacă la şcoală (The child takes his books and goes to school). In [1]. it is mentioned that the possessive reflexive is a syntactic anaphora that marks the referential identity between the subject and the semantic "attribute" of the direct complement (rarely, of the prepositional complement), fulfilling the syntactic function of possessive complement." It should be noted that, in the context we are discussing, until the appearance of GALR there were fluctuations regarding the syntactic function of the reflexive clitic in the dative: pronominal attribute or indirect complement [See: 15, 12]. After the publication of GALR, it was established that the syntactic function of the reflexive pronoun in the dative after the verb is that of possessive complement, a fact considered advantageous by certain specialists [12]. The reflexive pronoun in the dative with a possessive value appears in a triactantial structure, with a verb and a noun that constitutes a certain completion of the verb:

S + Pr. + Poss. c. + D. c..: a-şi bea şi mințile, banii, salariul (to drink one's mind, money, salary), a-şi controla reacțiile (to control one's reactions), ținuta (one's posture), a-şi exprima părerea, acordul, îndoiala, compasiunea, regretul, gratitudinea, sentimentele, compătimirea, simpatia, satisfacția, surprinderea, dorința, rugămintea, voința (to express one's opinion, agreement, doubt, compassion, regret, gratitude, feelings, gratitude, compassion, sympathy, satisfaction, surprise, desire, request, will), a-şi găsi chemarea, vocația (to

find one's calling, vocation), a-si gusta cafeaua (to taste one's coffee), a-si îndeplini o obligație, o speranță, un vis, scopul, norma de lucru, angajamentele (to fulfill one's obligation, hope, dream, goal, task, commitments), a-si înfrânge teama, furia, o pornire, instinctele, sentimentele (to overcome one's fear, anger, impulse, instincts, feelings), a-si împlini obligatiile, promisiunile, datoria, cuvântul, visul (to keep one's obligations, promises, duty, word, dream), a-si lăuda admiratorii (to praise one's admirers), a-si neglija responsabilitățile, serviciul (to neglect one's responsibilities, one's job), a-și pierde sănătatea, cumpătul, memoria, controlul, eficacitatea, prospețimea, forța, cunoștința, credința, valoarea (to lose one's health, temper, memory, control, effectiveness, freshness, strength, consciousness, faith, worth), a-și prezenta demisia, scuzele (to present one's resignation, one's apologies), a-si păstra calmul, cumpătul, stăpânirea de sine (to keep one's calm, temper, cool), a-si reface viata, reputatia, fortele, sănătatea, puterile (to restore one's life, reputation, strength, health, powers), a-si retrage cuvintele, o pretentie, o declarație, paza (to withdraw one's words, one's claim, statement, vigilance), asi risipi viata, tineretea, bănuielile, îndoielile, frica (to waste one's life, one's youth; to dispel one's suspicions, doubts, fears), a-si ruina sănătatea (to ruin one's health), a-si schimba numele, adresa, domiciliul, slujba (to change one's name, address, address, job), a-si scoate mănusile, cizmele, pălăria (to take off one's gloves, boots, hat), a-si stăpâni mânia, supărarea, lacrimile, o pornire, emotiile (to control one's anger, grudge, tears, impulse, emotions), a-si suci glezna (twisting his ankle); a-si trăda tovarășii, patria, țara (to betray one's comrades, homeland, country), a-ti tine respirația, cuvântul, promisiunea (to hold one's breath, word, promise), a-și umple buzunarele (to fill one's pockets), a-si vizita pacienții (to visit one's patients).

S + Pr. + Poss. c. + D. c. + Prep. / Circ. c.: a-şi găsi refugiul în băutură, în droguri (to find one's refuge in drinking, in drugs), a-şi găsi consolare în ceva (to find one's solace in something), a-şi încărca memoria cu prea multe amănunte (to load one's memory with too many details), a-şi lua copilul în brațe (to take one's child in one's arms), a nu-şi lua ochii de la cineva sau ceva (not to take one's eyes off someone or something), a-şi manifesta disprețul față de cineva (to show one's contempt for someone), a-şi obosi ochii cu cititul (to tire one's eyes with reading), cu lucrul de mână (with handicrafts); a-şi plasa banii într-o afacere (to invest one's money into a business), a-şi petrece vacanța în Miami (to spend one's vacation in Miami), a-şi păstra receptivitatea la ceva (to maintain one's receptivity to something), a-şi pune pe spate un şal (to put a shawl on one's back), a-şi scoate din deget un spin (to take a thorn out of one's finger), a-şi spăla rufele murdare în public (to wash one's dirty laundry in public), a-şi sprijini afirmațiile pe dovezi serioase (to found one's claims on serious evidence), a-şi strivi degetul în uşă (to crush one's finger in the door), a-şi toca banii, averea cu chefurile (to waste one's money, one's fortune on one's pastimes), a-şi șterge lacrimile cu batista (to wipe one's tears with a handkerchief), a-şi șterge mâinile cu un șervet (to wipe one's hands with a napkin) a-şi ține părerile pentru sine (to keep one's opinions to oneself), a-şi ține capul în mâini (to hold one's head in one's hands).

 $S + Pr. + Poss.\ c. + I.\ c.:\ a\ nu-şi\ crede\ ochilor\ şi\ urechilor\ (to\ not\ believe\ one's\ eyes\ and\ ears),\ a-şi\ pune\ capăt\ suferinței/zilelor/vieții\ (to\ end\ one's\ suffering\ /\ days\ /\ life). <math>S + Pr. + Poss.\ compl. + Prep.\ compl.:\ a-şi\ căuta\ de\ casă,\ de\ copii,\ de\ ale\ sale\ (to\ look\ after\ one's\ home,\ children;\ to\ mind\ one's\ business),\ a-şi\ plânge\ de\ milă\ (to\ feel\ sorry\ for\ oneself),\ a-şi\ punta\ de\ grijă\ (to\ look\ after\ oneself),\ a-şi\ vedea\ de\ sănătate\ (to\ take\ care\ of;\ see\ health),\ a-şi\ vedea\ de\ treburi\ (to\ attend\ to\ one's\ own\ affairs).$ The reflexive pronoun in the dative with possessive meaning is engaged at the syntagmatic level in a relation with a nominal that expresses:

Inalienable possession (over a part of the body, a moral, intellectual property, an affective state): a-si acoperi fața cu mâinile (to cover one's face with one's hands), a-şi antrena mintea, mușchii, urechea (to train one's mind, muscles, ear), a-si ascunde adevăratele convingeri, emoțiile (to hide one's true beliefs, emotions), a-si cere drepturile (to claim one's rights), a nu-si putea ascunde fericirea, euforia (to not be able to hide one's happiness, euphoria), a-si destăinui cuiva sufletul, inima, intențiile, necazurile, emoțiile, ura, dragostea (to reveal one's soul, heart, intentions, troubles, emotions, hatred, love to someone), a-şi controla furia (to control one's anger), a-si manifesta supărarea, sentimentele, entuziasmul, atașamentul, surpriza, indignarea, simpatia pentru cineva sau ceva (to show one's anger, feelings, enthusiasm, attachment, surprise, indignation, sympathy for someone or something), a-si mânca sănătatea (to consume one's health), a-si musca limba, buzele, degetele, mâinile (to bite one's tongue, lips, fingers, hands), a-și obosi capul, inima (to get one's head, heart tired), a-și odihni mintea, picioarele, creierul (to rest one's mind, feet, brain), a-și opri lacrimile (to stop one's tears), a-și organiza viața (to organize one's life), a-și pierde vocea, silueta, mândria (to lose one's voice, figure, pride), a-și pieptăna părul, barba (to comb one's hair, beard), a-si recunoaste greselile, păcatele, vina (to admit one's mistakes, sins, guilt) a-și reprima sentimentele, ura, dragostea, a-și retrăi viața, trecutul (to repress one's feelings, hatred, love, to relive one's life, one's past), a-si retine lacrimile, plânsul, sentimentele (to hold back one's tears, crying, feelings), a-si rezema coatele de masă (to rest one's elbows on the table), a-si roade unghiile (to bite one's nails), a-şi satisface gustul, o plăcere (to satisfy one's taste, pleasure), a-şi sprijini capul în mâini

(to rest one's head in one's hands), a-si stăpâni sentimentele, o patimă, nemulțumirea, durerea, entuziasmul, energia, exuberanța, plânsul, bucuria, furia, dezamăgirea, nervii, înflăcărarea, ardoarea, indignarea, râsul (to control one's feelings, passion, dissatisfaction, pain, enthusiasm, energy, exuberance, crying, joy, anger, disappointment, nerves, excitement, ardor, indignation, laughter), a-si suci mâna, piciorul, gâtul, degetele;a-si sterge ochii de lacrimi (to sprain one's hand, foot, neck, toes, to wipe one's tears from one's eyes), a-şi şterge fața, sudoarea, transpirația (to wipe one's face, one's sweat, one's perspiration), a-și toci simturile (to dull one's senses), a-și tine gura (to keep one's mouth shut), a-și umfla nările pieptul (to flare one's nostrils, puff out one's chest), a-si umple burta (to fill one's belly). Alienable possession (over a thing, a being or attributions and obligations): a-si aborda seful (to approach one's boss), a-si achita taxele (to pay one's taxes), a-si actualiza imaginea de profil (to update one's profile picture), a-și agăța haina în cuier (to hang one's coat on a hanger), asi aranja lucrurile în dulap (to arrange one's things in the clothes press), a-si găsi perechea, o ocupație în timpul liber (to find one's partner, one's hobby for the free time), a nu-si găsi mănușile (to not find one's gloves), a-și îndeplini atributiile (to perform one's duties), a-si înfrânge inamicul (to defeat one's enemy), a-si jertfi fiica (to sacrifice one's daughter), a-si lăsa valiza la gară, în biroul de bagaie (to leave one's suitcase at the train station, in the luggage office), a-si mânca averea (to consume one's fortune), a-si neglija obligatiile, copiii (to neglect one's obligations, one's children), a-si ocupa locul, scaunul (to occupy one's place, one's chair), a-si odihni calul, trupele (to rest one's horse, one's troops), a-si părăsi iubitul, iubita (to leave one's lover), a-si pierde rangul social, locul, postul, prestigiul, puterile, bunul nume, mandatul, slujba (to lose one's social rank, place, position, prestige, powers, good name, mandate, job), a-şi pune paltonul, pălăria, un şal pe umeri (to put on one's coat, hat, shawl on one's shoulders), a-si păstra valabilitatea, avantajul (to maintain one's validity, one's advantage), a-şi petrece vara în chefuri, concediul cu familia (to spend one's summer partying, one's holiday with one's family), a-si respecta clienții (to respect one's customers), a-si retrage candidatura, oferta, propunerea (to withdraw one's candidacy, offer, proposal), a-si reclama drepturile (to claim one's rights); a-si schimba proprietarul, locuința, locul de muncă, adresa, religia, atitudinea, concepțiile (to change one's landlord, living place, workplace, address, religion, attitude, views), a-şi stăpâni câinii, caii (to hold one's dogs, horses), a-și turna complicii (to snitch on one's accomplices), a-și trăda prietenii (to betray one's friends); a-și ține cuvântul, o făgăduială, angajamentele (to keep one's word, a promise, one's commitments), a-și umple buzunarele, punga (to fill one's pockets, one's bag), a-si vinde complicii, prietenii (to sell one's accomplices, friends).

III. CONCLUSIONS

Although the reflexive pronoun in the dative has a limited scope of functioning compared to the reflexive pronoun in the accusative, it is still quite widespread in the language. As the examples in the corpus underlying this study show, the reflexive pronominal clitic in the dative is used in 10 distinct structures, fulfilling the syntactic function of indirect complement and possessive complement. In the first two constructions, the reflexive dative is involved in the verb's actance relation. Having an actantial role governed by the verb, the reflexive in the dative occupies, at a syntactic level, a position of subcategorization of the verb (that of indirect complement). In the third construction, the possessive meaning is not directed by the verb. The reflexive clitic in the dative involved in these structures has a double subordination - to the verb and to a nominal in that structure, i. e. it does not occupy a position of subcategorization of the verb, it comes from a nominal group subordinate to the center verb and has the syntactic function of direct complement. The dative reflexive acquires a possessive meaning from this nominal and fulfills the function of possessive complement, a function without a thematic role. Taking this fact into consideration facilitates the delimitation of the meanings of polysemantic words. For example, the difference between a-si impune o regulă de conduită (to impose oneself a rule of conduct) and a-si impune ideile, autoritatea, voința, pretențiile (to impose one's ideas, authority, will, claims) becomes clear, if one takes into account the aspects mentioned above.

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