

HABILITATION THESIS

A.2. Summary

This habilitation thesis aims to take a brief overview of the main scientific and academic achievements that I have recorded in the period after obtaining the title of Doctor of Philology, i.e. between 2002 and 2014. I have also described an outline of the development of my future career as a researcher and, since 2011, as manager of the linguistic and literary-historical research conducted at the Institute “Sextil Pușcariu”. My favorite areas of research, on which I have constantly focused in this period, comprise philology and textual criticism, along with the study of literary language and onomastics. My scientific approach has been marked, over several decades, first of all by field investigations on old books of national cultural heritage. This direct contact with the prints and manuscripts, some of them unknown, others hidden in different libraries placed in churches or private collections, was meant to instill a true worship for bibliophile values. I actually consider that the philological studies could not be conceived otherwise than through a permanent comparison with the original versions, with the reality of medieval texts, still insufficiently deciphered. My career as a researcher started in 1975, at the Museum of Deva, and continued without interruption, since 1980 and to date, at the Institute of Linguistics and Literary History of Cluj. My humanistic research gravitated therefore around these coordinates: the study of ancient texts and the toponomastic study, the first component becoming, from a certain moment on, predominant.

The thesis is divided into several sections, with reference to some of the publications in which the results of my doctoral and postdoctoral research were disseminated. First, I have reviewed the textologic researches of this period, several of which represent an extension of my doctoral studies, with a focus on identifying the patterns that formed the basis of Romanian biblical texts. The priority research directions are outlined as follows: 1. Philological contributions to the enrichment of the bibliophile patrimony; 2. Theories of interpretation of the biblical sources; 3. The editing of I. Budai-Deleanu’s poetic writings; 4. Research on the toponymic Romanian thesaurus. The second section is devoted to my plans of career development, with a description of the main projects: 1. Encyclopedia of Old Romanian Literature; 2. The Bible in Romanian culture; 3. Preliminaries on a history of Romanian textual criticism. The final bibliography completes the critical apparatus of this

radiography of my philological research, either the already completed one, or the research in progress, and, last but not least, the scientific activity in state of project.

The publication, in 2001, of the volume – originally a doctoral thesis – entitled *Book and Press in Bălgrad (1567–1702)* was the end of a phase of thorough research of the Romanian printing in the 16th century, up till the 18th century. The multidisciplinary angle prevailed in my research, which combined the historical, the philological and the linguistic approaches at the same time. An important aspect of my research activity was the study of the technique and art of printing, these being factors which allowed a revived interest for the Cyrillic books in the medieval and then in the early modern Romanian space.

The direct exploration of the bibliophile heritage, achieved with the tools of the philologist and those of the linguist, has resulted in the identification of further unknown printings, analysed as part of the essential contributions made to the old Romanian bibliography. Moreover, the publication, in 2007, of the volume *Between Philology and Bibliophily* reinstated in the scientific circuit several notable discoveries, designed to broaden the spectrum of our knowledge of ancient Romanian libraries. At the same time, I have focused on annotations, seemingly insignificant, which appear on the tabs of old prints, and on those manuscript notes which suggestively reflect the structures of the collective mind. I have argued that texts of this kind can be perceived not only as historical documents, but also as language documents.

The dissociations on several issues regarding biblical sources, already present in some chapters of the doctoral thesis from 2001, acquired a significant part in the configuration of the philological studies that I published in the following years. In my book entitled *Between Philology and Bibliophily* I analysed the sources of the Bible from Blaj, after I had been the philological coordinator of its new edition. I also succeeded to demonstrate the clear existence of other Western sources, along with the main model of the Bible in Bucharest. The status of the Slavonic pattern and the gradual transition to the Latin pattern in the Romanian translations of the Bible throughout the 16th century up until the 18th century are thoroughly analyzed in several of my studies, some of which being gathered in my book *The Text Archeology* (2012), and also in another study, entitled *Les sources de la traduction du Nouveau Testament de 1648*, published in “Synergie Roumanie” (Revue du GERFLINT), 2012, no. 7, p. 305–324, and most recently in the article *The Slavonic model versus the Latin model in the Romanian biblical texts*, appeared in “Dacoromania”, XIX, 2014, no. 1, p. 82–98. The parentage of biblical texts is closely followed by comments, interpretations of parallel versions and enlightening textual analyses

The editing of literary writings or of specialized scholarly texts remained constant in my philological concerns in recent years. I can invoke here the following titles: Nicolae Drăganu, *History of Transylvanian Romanian Literature from its Origins to the Late Eighteenth Century. Histoire de la littérature roumaine de Transylvanie des origines à la fin du XVIIIe siècle*, Cluj, Publisher Clusium, 2003 (published in collaboration with our late college professor, Octavian Șchiau), and Ioan Pătruț, *Studies of Romanian Onomastics*, Cluj, Publisher Clusium, 2005. A special mention deserves the critical editing and the publishing of Ion Budai-Deleanu's writings, in collaboration with Professor Gheorghe Chivu, in 2011, in the collection "Fundamental Oeuvres", under the patronage of Romanian Academy and of the National Foundation for Science and Art.

The extensive research on the Romanian toponimic area from the inter-Carpathian space was materialized by the publication, in 2006, of a first volume of *The Toponymic Treasure of Romania. Transylvania*. This important scientific work, supervised and prefaced by me, comprises other volumes as well, which are now ready to be printed.

A recognition of the scientific and scholarly value of some of my research activity has been confirmed through significant distinctions, such as the Award "Timotei Cipariu" of the Romanian Academy, which I received for the philological coordination of the jubilee edition of the Bible of Blaj in 2000, and the Prize "Perpessicius" for critical editions, offered by the National Museum of Romanian Literature in 2011.

Among the scientific projects that I am presently working on, I mention only three, that have arrived to various stages of completion: first, *The Encyclopedia of Old Romanian literature*, developed under the direction of Professor Gh. Chivu. I am the author of dozens of articles for this encyclopedia and I have also assumed the task of the scientific revision of the volume. Then, I am involved in authoring a commented anthology of parallel comparative texts, entitled *The Bible in Romanian culture*. The third project consists of a historiographical analysis on the Romanian philological and textual criticism from the nineteenth century until today.