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The Vocabulary of Romanian Language from a Lexicological and Lexicographical  
Perspective  
Abstract

I graduated from the “Philology – History” section of the “Mihai Eminescu” High School in Buzău in the year 1989. Between 1989 and 1994, I studied at the Faculty of Philology, where I majored in “Romanian Language and Literature – Latin Language and Literature”, having obtained a graduation average of 9.95. I continued my specialization in linguistics by graduating the “Historical Grammar” Postgraduate Program at the Faculty of Letters in the year 1995, with an average of 10. During my Master’s degree studies, I also held practical courses of Latin at the Faculty of Letters, which was, thus, my first didactical experience. In the same schoolyear (1994-1995), I successfully competed for the position of research assistant at the “Iorgu Iordan – Alexandru Rosetti” Institute for Linguistics of the Romanian Academy, where, on the one hand, I acquainted myself with the diachronic study of Romanian language and, on the other hand, I started my lexicographical activity, since I had the opportunity to contribute to the completion of *Dicționarul de împrumuturi latine în limbile române*, published in 2004 at the Academy’s Publishing House. In the year 1995, I successfully competed for the position of graduate assistant at the Department of Romanian Language of the Faculty of Letters at the University of Bucharest, where I subsequently went through the steps of a university teaching career: assistant lecturer (1998 – 2004), senior lecturer (2004 – 2009), and associate professor (2009 – 2016), holding seminars and, later, practical and theoretical courses of Contemporary Romanian, History of Romanian, Lexicology and Etymology. Between 2000 and 2003 I was exchange lecturer at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy of the University of Padua, where I simultaneously was associate lecturer at the Romanian Institute of Culture and Humanistic Research in Venice between 2001 and 2002. I enrolled in my PhD studies in the year 1996, titling my thesis “Etymological Doublets and Triplets in Romanian” (coordinated by Professor Theodor Hristea), which I defended in the year 2002, publishing it three years later, at the Publishing House of the University of Bucharest. In 2005, I successfully competed for the position of Scientific Researcher at the “Iorgu Iordan – Alexandru Rosetti” Institute for Linguistics of the Romanian Academy, at the Department of Etymology, which I have been coordinating since 2012.

After defending my doctoral thesis, I continued my scientific activity in two main directions. On the one hand, in the field of lexicology, I was interested in studying Romanian literary language from the time of its constitution, unification and modernization and to its current stage from the point of view of its lexical and grammatical structure (particularly its inherited elements), from that of the external sources (especially the Latin and Romance ones, which contributed – simultaneously and successively – to the configuration of today’s vocabulary) and, not least of all, from that of the internal and mixed means of lexical enrichment and reorganization. On the other hand, in the field of lexicography, I was equally

interested in emphasizing both the relations between words and the relations between forms and contents. The element that both areas of research have in common was – and still is – etymological research.

Concerning my lexicological research, I took part in over 50 conferences, congresses and symposia, with contributions that reflect my areas of interests in the field of semantics, etymology (internal, external and mixed), literary language etc. The most representative (by means of later citations) of my scientific papers, all of which have been published either in the proceedings of said conferences or independently: *Un aspect al calcului lingvistic în limba română* 2002/2003, *O abordare etimologică a substantivizării adjectivului. Substantivele feminine* 2004/2005, *Latinitatea „ascunsă” a limbii române* 2005, *Împrumuturi sinonimice cu aceeași origine. Sinonimia etimologică* 2005/2006, *Aspecte ale influenței italiene în „Peregrinul transilvan”, de Ion Codru Drăgușanu* 2007/2008, *Derivarea prin substituție de afixe. Sufixe neologice* 2008, *Derivarea prin substituție de afixe. Sufixe substantivale vechi* 2008/2009, *Substituția sufixală și substituția finalei considerate ca sufix. Privire comparativă* 2009/2010, *Derivatele românești recente între lingvistică și extralingvistică* 2011, *Contribuția modelului adjectival moștenit la îmbogățirea și modernizarea limbii române* 2013, *Sufixele moștenite: omonimie sau polisemie?* 2012/2013, *Sinonimie sau paronimie? Studiu de caz: dubletele derivate în -ie și -ism* 2013/2014, *Sinonimia internă: un tip sui-generis de sinonimie analizabilă* 2014/2015, *Doublets étymologiques d’origine française empruntés en roumain* 2015 etc. In addition to these, within the confines of linguistics journals both from Romania and abroad, as well as in the Annals of the University of Bucharest and several honorary volumes, I have pursued converging research directions: the etymological approach of semantic relations (*Paronimi, sinonimi e omonimi etimologici* 2003, *Paronimia etimologică în limba română* 2005, *Sinonimele „derivate” între regresie și falsă regresie* 2013 etc.), inner and mixed means of lexical enrichment (*Probleme de etimologie internă. Derivarea cu sufixe* 2006, *Completări lexicografice la etimologia multiplă mixtă* 2007, *Etimologia multiplă internă, între certitudine și posibilitate* 2010, *Aspecte ale analogiei lexico-semantică în limba română. Studiu de caz: pune(re) < lat. ponere* 2012 etc.), the constitution and the evolution of the literary language (*Etapele evoluției vocabularului literar românesc în epoca modernă* 2009, *Importanța modelului verbal moștenit în configurarea limbii literare moderne* 2012 etc.), the matter of Romanian neologisms (*Neologismele limbii române între tradiție, modernitate și actualitate* 2014) etc.

As for the application of my previous research, I have published three books on the history of the language and on lexicology: *Lexicul moștenit – sursă de îmbogățire internă și mixtă a vocabularului românesc* (2013), in which I emphasized the contribution of the inherited lexical model to the entrance and adaptation of loanwords and linguistic calques; *Etimologie și lexicologie românească. Convergențe sincronice și diacronice* (2015), in which, following a theoretical synthetization of the sources and means of enrichment that the Romanian vocabulary has, I offered several lexical and etymological records that show the entrance and the formal and semantic evolution of over 100 Romanian etymological doublets, all of which are discussed within the confines of their own lexical and etymological families, with a particular emphasis on the analogical relations between the components; *Motivarea formală a relațiilor semantice. Sinonimia analizabilă* (2016), in which I discussed the formal

and etymological criteria that are required in approaching semantic relations, most notably synonymy.

As for my lexicographical research, I have published, as a single author, *Dicționar etimologic de antonime neologice* (2008), which was later described as “a first in Romanian lexicography” (Cristinel Munteanu). It is by working in this direction that I joined – as coauthor and member of the revision committee – the collective that is charged with the *Dicționarului etimologic al limbii române*, whose first two volumes have already been published (vol. I, letters A and B, 2011/2012 and vol. II, part I, from “C” to “ciz”, 2015) and which is considered to be one of the Romanian Academy’s “priority programs”. In addition to the aforementioned publications, I have also published several works dedicated to various connected or derived aspects of my lexicographical activity (*Valorificarea lexicologică și lexicografică a relațiilor semantice* 2009, *Structura DELR. Motivarea principalelor opțiuni lexicografice și etimologice* 2011, *Contaminația și analogia lexicală din perspectiva DELR* 2010/2012 etc.).

The main directions of my professional and scientific activity are the following: (a) continuing the research concerning the formal motives behind semantical relations in general and antonymy and paronymy in particular, by following (based on the model of analyzable synonymy) the realization processes, the relations between affixes/affixoids and their lexical bases, the role of analogy, semantical evolution etc.; (b) opening a research direction in order to study the so-called “constructed lexicon”, an area that has already had a tradition in French and Italian lexicology for some decades now; (c) my continued activity in coordinating and completing the etymological dictionary of Romanian, which is a both a work of synthesis and, on the other hand, of lexicological and lexicographical conception.

As to the perspective of coordinating doctoral theses, I would take the vast and generous field of Romanian lexicology into consideration, while also giving it a natural extension into the Romance one, so as to contain – in an integrative vision – the following research fields: (a) the constitution and the modernization of literary Romanian, seen both in synthetic form and from the point of view of the contribution of several authors (scholars or writers) who have not been given enough (or any) attention until now; (b) the dynamic of the vocabulary of contemporary Romanian, in its various forms; (c) redefining or creating new specialized concepts or linguistic fashions; (d) the linguistic reflection of contemporary literary currents (the linguistic evaluation of writers from the modern and postmodern generations); (e) reevaluating and emphasizing the relations (be they etymological or non-etymological) between words and showing the way in which they influence each other on a formal and/or semantic level, by following the effects of these mutual influences on a structural level; (f) the means of “resistance” of our language, which will be evaluated in an ampler Romance context, in conjunction with the phenomenon of linguistic globalization etc.

The subjects that are to be proposed and assumed should concern the direct and very strong relation between man and society, in the various stages of socio-historical and cultural evolution that have existed until now. The changes in the contemporary language, both in quality and quantity, did not appear *ex nihilo*, but rather by imitating and integrating linguistic fashions that are more or less consistent, but nonetheless explicable. The researcher of modern Romanian should understand and also make others understand what the complex causes of the current dynamics of language so as to be able to show its naturalness in a world

with increasingly disputable linguistic borders. This would be helpful in subtly managing the means to adapt and arrange the new linguistic acquisitions based on pragma-stylistic criteria, which would then circumscribe their limits and show that it is indeed possible and tolerable that they be hosted by a language whose existence and history should remain vital in defining its speakers.