

From Coranic Arabic to Colloquial Arabic

-Linguistic studies-

- habilitation thesis -

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In this habilitation thesis entitled “**From Koranic Arabic to Colloquial Arabic – Linguistic Studies**” which I propose for the purpose of obtaining the habilitation to supervise doctoral students as is required in the methodology, I survey my scientific, professional and academic interests (part I) as well as my career progress perspectives in these three fields (II).

Thus, with respect to my scientific interests, I firstly explain the choice of topic I made for my doctoral thesis (Issues in translating the Coran into Romanian). I justify it in the light of what was relevant to the topic at that time in Romania, where there was a lack of any study in Koranic Arabic at a time when, after 1990, the interest in the study of the Coran came to know unprecedented heights. I also explain that this research on the Koranic text and on the issues that its translation into Romanian raises opened for me wider research avenues on Classical Arabic, beginning with the great Classical Arabic grammar works written by the Arabic grammarians, such as al-Ḥalīl (718-786), Sibawayhi (760-796), etc. Of particular importance was also the publishing of my translation of the Coran into Romanian in the year 2000, followed by a series of translations from the classical Arabic literature, introduced by specialized studies and accompanied by a significant critical analysis.

With respect to Arabic dialectology, I mention my monograph *L’arabe parlé à Mardin – monographie d’un parler arabe “périphérique”*, (Editura Univerității din București, 2007) which is a major contribution to knowing one of the least studied variety of colloquial Arabic, namely the one spoken in South East Turkey, in Mardin. The phonetic, phonologic, morphologic and syntactic analysis of this dialect is based on a corpus of data collected by me in Mardin throughout a period of seven years. The analysis is also based on knowledge of other languages spoken in the area and with which Arabic is in permanent contact, such as Kurdish and Turkish. The book was very well received by the specialists in Arabic dialectology in the great European, American and Arabic academic centres, thanks both to the quality of the research and to the fact

that it covers a white spot on the Arabic dialects map. Having this work as starting point, in May 2007 there took place in Bucharest a colloquium dedicated to peripheral Arabic dialects which was attended by the most famous specialists in the world. I mention that the General Assembly of the International Association of Arabic Dialectology which was held at the end of the 10th edition of the conference and which took place at the University of Doha, Qatar in November 2013 decided that the 11th conference will take place at the University of Bucharest.

As for my **teaching interests**, I firstly present those of teaching languages (teaching, editing and publishing of teaching material, teaching projects). I then describe the courses in Arabic Linguistics which I taught at the Department of Arabic Language and Literature, the general Linguistics courses which I taught for the Department of Oriental Languages and Literatures, as well as perspectives on their improvement and adjustment. I also list the societies/ associations/ centres/ institutes of which I am a member. I present my editing work and my translation of some essential works pertaining to the Arabic Islamic thought, my activity as reviewer, completed projects as well as projects in progress, my participation in various supervisory committees, conferences, organization of colloquia, activity member in doctoral defence boards.

With respect to my **academic activity**, I mention my position as coordinator of the Department of Arabic Language and Linguistics. In this capacity I developed undergraduate as well as masteral course curricula. I also list the universities with which I signed Erasmus agreements (Cadiz, Cizre, Gazi-Ankara), as well as national institutions (the Romanian National Library, Radio România Internațional etc.) with which I signed protocols for the extra-curricular activity of our masteral students for the purpose of them getting familiarized with these institutions for future employment.

II. With respect to my career development, I am pursuing the following:

- 1.** On the scientific front, I will continue my research on the Mesopotamian dialects of Iraq, Turkey and Syria. In the near future, I will publish a monograph on the spoken Arabic of Baghdad which is based on a corpus collected by me during 2000-2016 and which focuses on syntax, since at the moment there are only few works dedicated to this field. Also, I plan to investigate other peripheral Arabic dialects and I specifically refer here to those spoken in Iran, in the Khorasan region, which were signalled by some dialectologists, but which were not published in any descriptive grammar work so far. I also plan that together with my future doctoral students and in collaboration with the

Gazi University in Ankara (with which we already have a signed agreement) as well as in collaboration with other universities in Turkey, to build a detailed map of the Arabic varieties spoken in South East Turkey and to publish a dictionary.

2. On the teaching front, I will continue teaching the courses I am currently teaching, after I will have applied some modifications consisting in the introduction of dialectal elements for the students' early familiarization with the diglossia that exists in the Arabic world. I will place a greater focus on the Arabic dialectology courses and I will introduce besides the Baghdadi variety other varieties such as the ones spoken in Damascus and in Cairo. I aspire that the school of Arabic dialectology in Bucharest which is now renowned worldwide will live on through the works produced by future students, masteral as well as doctoral, whose dissertations I will supervise. As for literary Arabic, I will continue to teach the current courses and I will also publish a textbook of literary Arabic syntax stemming from my many years of teaching this subject matter.

3. On the academic front, in my capacity as coordinator of the Department of Arabic, I will sign many agreements (of the Erasmus, Erasmus+ type, etc) for undergraduate, masteral and doctoral student exchange programs. I will continue the current priority of acquiring essential works of Arabic studies for the library of the Centre of Arabic Studies, either in print or in electronic format. Also, in the next while, together with my colleagues in the Department, I plan to correlate our practical courses in Arabic with the provisions of the *Common European Framework of Reference for Foreign Languages*, so that the students in Arabic at the University of Bucharest be able to obtain the translator/ interpreter permit in order to work anywhere in the European Union.