HABILITATION THESIS

ABSTRACT

TITLE: *THE STRUCTURE OF ROMANIAN LANGUAGE IN SYNCHRONY AND IN DIACHRONY. MORPHOLOGY, SYNTAX, VOCABULARY*

HABILITATION DOMAIN: PHILOLOGY

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This habilitation thesis contains a description of my scientific achievements after the defence of my doctoral thesis (2011) and the future projects and plans to continue my research career. In the first part of the thesis, *Scientific, professional and academic accomplishments*, I presented the main studies from the last 11 years, grouped into several linguistic domains. I started with Word formation in Romanian, for which I worked the most in the last several years. The main work in this domain is the academic treaty *Word formation in Romanian*, a projected that was started at the Institute of Linguistics in Bucharest many years ago. I participated in the fourth volume of this series, titled *Nominal and adverbial Suffixes*, which will comprise 4 parts, due to the large number of suffixes and derivatives from Romanian. The first part, published in 2015, contains the suffixes which star with letters A–C, and I authored or co-authored 10 chapters: *ACEU, -ACEE* (with Elena Carabulea), p. 34–39; *-AL (-ale, -aliu, -el)*, p. 97–119; *-ALE, -ALII*, p. 119–124; *-AT^1 (-et; -atul, -ata, -aţi), -ÂT, -IT^1, -UT*, p. 357–374; *-AT^2, -IT^2 (-ită)*, p. 375–382; *-AT^3 (-atum, -ată)*, p. 382–392; *-ATĂ^2*, p. 392–394; *-Ă (-a)* (with Carmen Mîrzea Vasile), p. 443–453; *-ĂCIUNE (-ăcine, -ăciure, -ăciună / -ăcină), -ÂCIUNE, -ECIUNE, -ICIUNE, -IUNE^2 (-une, -ure)* (with Elena Carabulea), p. 454–465; *-ĂT, -ET^1 (-it)*, p. 479–486. In the final stages, I contributed to the revision of the volume. The treaty *Word formation in Romanian* comprises a rich inventory of derivatives, from the first attested texts and dialectal inventories to recent creations in the press or the internet, so that the productivity of the suffixes in all periods and in various language registers is accounted for.

In order determine the productivity of the suffixes in current language, I published three books devoted to the survey of newly attested words in Romanian, which are not yet

registered in dictionaries (including Florica Dimitrescu's *Dictionary of recent words*). The first of them is *Inventar cuvinte şi sensuri noi atestate în mediul online (ICSO[1])* [*Inventory of new words and meanings attested online*], published in 2020 at The Publishing House of the Romanian Academy, co-authored with Ana-Maria Barbu, Anabella-Gloria Niculescu-Gorpin, Carmen-Ioana Radu şi Monica Vasileanu, a small dictionary of 1400 words and meanings of which I wrote 650. The etymology of these words is very varied, but the reader can notice the large number of anglicisms (English borrowings more or less adapted) and internal creations, especially words derived with suffixes and neo-classical compounds. Our *Inventory* shows how rich suffixal derivation is in Romanian: old and neological suffixes can attach to various bases, including very recent English borrowings (*all-inclusivist, boosta, boota, bootabil, brandui, clubberiţă, copy-păstui, copywriteriţă, crack-ui* „to crack", *freelanceriţă, gameriţă, hipsteriţă, influenceriţă, promoteriţă, vloggeriţă, youtuberiţă* etc.). The second book was focused on the suffixal derivation contemporary Romanian: *Sufixele în limba română actuală. Formaţii recente* [*The Suffixes in Present-Day Romanian. Recent derivatives*], published in 2021 at Bucharest University Publishing House; it contains 1600 suffixal derivatives newly attested in Romanian in various registers, not yet registered in the dictionaries. I collected them online during 2015–2020, but many of them are older than that, some of them even from the 19th c. and the first half of the 20th c. The third book centred on the recent vocabulary was published in 2022: *Dinamica vocabularului limbii române. Mic dicţionar de cuvinte recent atestate* [*The Dynamic of the Romanian Vocabulary. A small dictionary of recently attested words*]. In ch. 1.5. of the thesis I made a synthesis of the most productive suffixes in present-day Romanian, based on the inventory from the last two books.

The second linguistic domain from this thesis in the syntax: chapters in grammars published at Oxford University Press (*The Grammar of Romanian*, 2016; *The Syntax of Old Romanian*, 2016), John Benjamins Publishing Company (*A Reference Grammar of Romanian.* Vol. 1: *The Noun Phrase,* 2013; *Adjective–Adverb Interfaces in Romance*, 2017), but also at publishing houses from Romania or in various linguistic reviews and conferences. They fall into several sub-domains: secondary predication, coordination, agreement, vocatives, clitic doubling (the topic of my postdoctoral project), specificational sentences, the genitive, the definites, adjective–adverb interfaces, negation.

The third domain is inflectional morphology, with studies related to noun morphology and pronominal morphology in the 19th c.

The second part of the thesis, *Plans for the development and expansion of my professional, scientific and academic career*, is structured around two main projects: the treaty *Formarea cuvintelor în limba română, IV. Derivarea nominală şi adverbială* [*Word formation in Romanian, IV. Nominal and adverbial derivation*], which continues with suffixes starting with *E* (the second part) and *I* (the third part), and the exploratory research *Structura complexă a expresiilor definite* [The complex structure of definite expressions], financed by UEFISCDI, no. PN-III-P4-PCE-2021-0042, coordinated by Ion Tudor Giurgea from The „Iorgu Iordan – Al. Rosetti" Institute of Linguistics. As a member of this project I will work on:

a) Double definites in Romanian;
b) Differential object marking with definites;
c) The coordination of bare singulars;

d) Article drop after prepositions in old and modern Romanian;

e) The definite article and the vocative case;

f) The use of the definite article in derivational morphology.

I have worked on some of these topics before (polydefinites, differential object marking, vocatives), the others will be explored in the next 3 years. The use of double definites in a DP refers to two types of contexts: when the determiners are different (e.g. *luna cea frumoasă* ˈthe beautiful moon') or the same (*adormirea preasfintei Născătoarei de Dumnezeu*, from Ivireanul ˈthe passing of the holy Mother of God'). The coordination of bare singulars refers to sentences such as *Mamă și fiu erau uniți în durere* ˈMother and son were united in grief'), where the lack of the definite article is allowed only in the coordinated structure. The definite article drop after a preposition must be observed in its diachronic evolution, because on old Romanian the presence of the definite article after a preposition was much more common than in contemporary language. With respect to the vocative case and definite nouns, several aspects should be looked into: the grammaticalization of *-lor* as a vocative marker, the relation between the vocatives with the ending *-e* and the vocatives with the ending *-ule* (masculine singular), the relation between the ending *-o* and definites (in the feminine singular), the competition between definite nouns and bare nouns etc. In derivational morphology, there are at least two situations where the definite article acquires a derivational value: the affix *-a* from the suffix *-ea²* (which derives masculine and common gender nouns) and the interfix *(vowel+) -l-* which is present in a large number of suffixes (*-lea, -ulea, -uleie, -ulice, -ulină* etc.).

At the end of this second part I mentioned several themes I could suggest to potential doctoral students:

Suffixes inherited from Latin – a comparative perspective

Augmentative suffixes in Romanian

Pejorative suffixal derivatives in Romanian

Compounding in contemporary Romanian

Slavic suffixes in Romanian

Diminutive derivation in contemporary Romanian. Contextual values, corpus study

The competition between suffixes, synchronic and diachronic aspects

Gender suffixes

The competition between derivation and other linguistic means („ionescian" vs. „lui Ionescu")

Back formation

Collective suffixes in Romanian

Contextual values of suffixal derivatives in Romanian