



ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ
ȘCOȘĂ

Anexa nr.6

HABILITATION THESIS

ABSTRACT

TITLE: CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HISTORY OF OLD ROMANIAN CULTURE AND LITERARY ROMANIAN LANGUAGE. STUDIES IN ROMANIAN LEXICOLOGY

Habilitation Domain: **Philology**

Author: **Maria Istrate**

Contributions to the History of Old Romanian Culture and Literary Romanian Language. Studies in Romanian Lexicology presents the primary scientific achievements accomplished throughout my professional career following the attainment of the PhD title, as well as ongoing research projects or those planned for the coming years. The work is structured into two significant parts: *Scientific and Professional Achievements*, and *Research Directions*.

The activity I carried out after completing my doctoral studies continued the directions outlined since joining the literary language and philology department of the "Iorgu Jordan – Al. Rosetti" Institute of Linguistics of the Romanian Academy. It involved editing old Romanian texts and studying them philologically and linguistically, and diversified through the attention given to the etymological aspects of the Romanian vocabulary.

Broadly speaking, the three main coordinates of my activity are: editing old texts in individual or collective works, researching the Romanian language and literary Romanian language in general, and the lexicon of old Romanian writings in particular, and Romanian lexicology. This work is structured according to these main areas.

The section A, entitled *Philology: Editing Old Romanian Texts* presents the texts I have edited and relevant aspects extracted from studies devoted to them. At the beginning of my career, I benefited from the guidance of Ion Gheție and Al. Mareș, who successively led

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the philology and literary language department of the Institute of Linguistics. Until the passing of Ion Gheție in 2004, I was entrusted with the philological and linguistic editing and study of three seventeenth-century manuscripts within the collection of *Cărțile populare / Folk Books* overseen by Ion Gheție and Al. Mareș. These editions, carried out in parallel with the preparation and writing of the doctoral thesis, marked my evolution as a philologist and opened paths for me to deeply study old Romanian literature. Later, under Al. Mareș's guidance, I edited several texts, either fragmentary or complete, alongside my colleagues from the literary language and philology department, published in the *Crestomația limbii române vechi. Vol. al II-lea (1640–1715) / Chrestomathy of Old Romanian Language, Volume II (1640–1715)* (2019).

The research dedicated to the oldest version of the novel *Barlaam and Josaphat*, conducted within a postdoctoral scholarship program carried out by the Romanian Academy from 2011 to 2013, resulted in the volume *Reflexe ale medievalității europene în cultura română veche. Varlaam și Ioasaf în cea mai veche versiune a traducerii lui Udriște Năsturel / Reflections of European Medievalism in Ancient Romanian Culture: "Barlaam and Josaphat" in the Oldest Version of Udriște Năsturel's Translation*, published in 2013, as well as several articles dedicated to specific issues of the writing.

Research internships conducted during inter-academic exchanges organized by the Romanian Academy in libraries and research institutes in Warsaw, Moscow, and Sofia, as well as those related to the postdoctoral scholarship, conducted in the United Kingdom at the University of Manchester, Bodleian Library in Oxford, and the British Library, were of great benefit in preparing the text editions and associated studies.

An important component of my research activity was the investigation of Slavonic influence on literary Romanian, as presented in the section B, *Contributions to the History of Literary Romanian Language*. The studies I have published in this direction consider both theoretical aspects and, especially, the applied aspects of Slavonic influence, which play a crucial role in the vocabulary of old literary Romanian. The most important work I have published in this regard is *Influența slavonă asupra limbii române / The Slavonic Influence on the Romanian Language*, a book released in 2017. Additionally, an e-book format appeared in 2023. Prior to this work, I have published several articles in which I analyzed

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certain Slavonic-origin terms, or discussed more general aspects, such as the distinction between Slavonic loans and Old Slavic ones, the vitality of Slavonic loans, and the semantic evolution of Slavonic loans.

The preparation of the doctoral thesis under the guidance of Professor Teodor Hristea facilitated my familiarization with the tools necessary for lexicological and especially etymological studies. The volume that capitalizes on the doctoral thesis, entitled *Calcul lingvistic în limba română (cu specială referire la scrieri beletristice din secolul al XIX-lea) / Loan Translations in Romanian: With Special Reference to Nineteenth-Century Literary Writings*, constituted the first monograph dedicated to this mixed phenomenon of enriching the Romanian vocabulary within Romanian linguistics. The work was highly appreciated by specialists and was awarded the „Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu” Prize by the Romanian Academy in 2008. From then until now, I have written several studies that complement the research initiated through the doctoral thesis, focusing on linguistic loan translations recorded in writings of the old era or those appearing after the nineteenth century. These have been presented in this work in the chapter C, entitled *Studies in Romanian Lexicology*.

As a general rule, each section within the part entitled *Scientific and Professional Achievements* is preceded by a list of the books and articles I have published in that field. References to the specialized works I consulted are typically included in the text, enclosed in parentheses, and included in footnotes only in cases where additional clarifications were needed. I deemed it appropriate that for some examples I retained in the thesis, I also provide attestations of these examples in the writings of the era in which they circulated.

In the second part of the thesis, *Research Directions*, I included a presentation of ongoing short-term and long-term projects that I intend to carry out. These projects are structured according to each domain they belong to: *Studies in the History of the Romanian Language*, *Lexicology Studies*, and *Editions of old Romanian texts*.

My professional activity also involved collaboration with the Faculty of Letters at the “Petroleum and Gas” University in Ploiești, where I taught courses and seminars on Romanian Vocabulary, Semantics, and Etymology from 2000 to 2004, and with the Faculty of Letters at the University of Bucharest, where I taught a seminar on the history of literary Romanian language. Additionally, at the Faculty of Letters in Ploiești, I supervised



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undergraduate theses. These aspects, along with those arising from scientific and professional achievements, demonstrate my abilities in coordinating a doctoral thesis, the reason for composing and defending this thesis.

A list of possible doctoral thesis topics that I could supervise was included before the list of sources from which I extracted the analysed examples and the list of bibliographic works, abbreviated throughout.

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