



ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ
SCOSAAR

Anexa nr.6

REZUMATUL TEZEI DE ABILITARE

TITLE: *The Romanian Language in Synchrony and Diachrony. Onomastics and Lexicography*

The field of habilitation: **Philology**

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ABSTRACT

The Habilitation Thesis *The Romanian Language in Synchrony and Diachrony. Onomastics and Lexicography* represents the synthesis of my academic and research activity in the field of onomastics and lexicography, conducted over two decades within the Department of Toponymy at the "Alexandru Philippide" Institute of Romanian Philology, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch, as well as my plan for the development of my academic and university career.

After outlining the main stages of my professional training in the first few pages, I presented my scientific research activity up to the submission of my doctoral thesis, a phase that coincides with the beginnings of my specialization in onomastics and lexicology.

My doctoral thesis, titled *Toponymy of the Neamț River Basin*, supervised by Prof. Dr. Eugen Munteanu, was based on a rich toponymic and entopic material collected both from the researched area through direct field surveys, using maps and questionnaires, and from archives or volumes of documents, historical, geographical, or linguistic monographs. A special chapter is dedicated to etymological issues, where I proposed alternative solutions for the controversial etymologies of place names like *Ozana*, *Mănăstirea Secul* vs *Xeropotam*, *Mihăețul*, *Săscuța*, and others. The toponymic material from the researched area is presented as a structural dictionary, whose lexicographic entries include definitions, synonyms, attestations, and etymologies, contributing to the understanding of the toponymic structures in the area and illustrating the filiation relationships between toponyms and nearby socio-geographical objects. The review of the book *Toponymy of the Neamț River Basin* and its citation in articles, toponymic dictionaries, and doctoral theses testify to the value of the analyzed toponymic material.



ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ
ȘTIINȚELOR

In the chapter entitled *Research Activities Following the Submission of the Doctoral Thesis*, I presented the main topics addressed in my studies, developed around the following benchmarks: field research vs documentary and specialized research, synchrony vs diachrony.

Research in the field of Romanian onomastics is a natural continuation of my concerns before the submission of my doctoral thesis, as well as ongoing training in this direction. Conducting field surveys in predominantly Roman Catholic villages resulted in a rich collection of toponyms, which I observed both synchronically and diachronically, following the evolution and characteristics of toponymy in the surveyed areas through documentary attestations. These areas are located in a bilingual zone, sometimes active (Romanian – the official language – and the Ceangău dialect – now used only in informal communication by older residents). The result was toponymic (and in a few cases, anthroponymic) studies included in village monographs created by multidisciplinary teams, benefiting primarily the residents of those villages, who could understand the importance of onomastics for the community's identity.

Other onomastic research focused on the synchronic and diachronic observation of complex toponymic structures, formed through the processes of *polarization* and *differentiation* theorized by Dragoș Moldovanu. Solving issues of toponymic etymology, aiming to identify the toponymic motivation, has been and remains one of the most challenging tasks in toponymic research. Using bibliographic sources and information from documents, I undertook etymological investigations for toponyms such as *Cacica* (in an article co-authored with Ana-Maria Prisacaru) and *Bârnova* (in an article co-authored with Dragoș Moldovanu), and I identified numerous oiconymic etymologies by cross-referencing information from cadastral records and documents. The same methodology for identifying the toponymic origin was applied to the etymological paragraph of the *Small Toponymic Dictionary (Structural and Etymological)*, parts 1 and 2, in which I am a co-author.

Some of my research has focused on the study of so-called "twin villages" along the Prut River, which formed a single village or estate before the Prut became a border. By following attestations in collections of documents, dictionaries, maps, or other sources, I established connections, supported by the same toponymic origin, for about 30 such pairs of oiconyms or minor toponyms that demonstrate the territorial and linguistic unity of the Romanians.

Several articles capture the synchronic, diachronic and diastratic variation of *popular vs official*, the two levels of Romanian toponymy being documented both through information collected from the field and from published or unpublished documents, maps, and monographs. The two types of



ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ
ȘTIINȚELOR

denomination, which reflect different models of knowledge, are expressed in oppositions such as *concrete vs abstract*, *part vs whole*, *low perspective vs high perspective*, and *popular term vs neologism*.

Folk knowledge is also reflected in the act of denomination through the use of lexical or toponymic metaphors, resulting from the speaker's observation of similarities between landforms and various objects, body parts, or imaginary beings, through a process of qualification and classification. The study of stylistically expressive toponyms shows how speakers perceive space and the criteria by which they assign names to places.

My participation as an author or collaborator in the writing of various dictionaries (*Small Toponymic Dictionary of Moldova*, *Illustrated Explanatory Dictionary of the Romanian Language*, and *Dictionary of Astronomical Terms: Phenomena, Cosmic Objects, and Constellations*) represents important milestones in my research activity, as the creation of a lexicographical work involves essential and complementary actions of documentation, systematization, and structuring of information, along with the need to adhere to rigorous editorial standards.

Regarding the study of astronomical terminology, the diachronic, synchronic, and diastratic observation of terms designating various times of the day highlighted the evolution of terms at the scientific level and the richness and lexical diversity at the popular level, the result of the imagination of the Romanian language speaker, reflected (socio)linguistically.

Since the fields of onomastics and lexicography have overlapped in my work in terms of drafting toponymic dictionaries, and due to the interdisciplinary nature of onomastics, some subsections intersect or correlate.

In my career development plan, I aim to continue research in the fields of onomastics (collecting unpublished information through field surveys or from documents preserved in archives, studying onomastics from a synchronic, diachronic, diastratic, and sociolinguistic perspective, and participating as an author in the writing of toponymic dictionaries). I will persevere in the study of astronomical and geographical terminology, which presents undeniable scientific interest and remains insufficiently explored. With respect to my teaching activities, I intend to continue guiding students in specialized internships, participating in doctoral advisory committees, and, if granted the habilitation certificate, I aim to supervise doctoral theses in the fields of onomastics and terminology.