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Abstract

Linguistic identity through sociocultural, onomastic and culinary practices

The thesis *Linguistic identity through sociocultural, onomastic and culinary practices* is a succinct and documented presentation of the scientific results that I have obtained after 2004, when I was awarded the PhD title in the field of Philology. In accordance with current legislation, we have included directions for future research and development. The work aggregates the main directions of my didactic and scientific activity over the last twenty years, consisting of studies and articles published in national and international journals, some of which is a meritorious and original element of my activity, considering that the area of scientific interest revolves around the cultivation of the Romanian language. My passions from adolescence for correctness in writing and expression, history and name origin have materialized, after years of reading, in the main fields of research and scientific interest: literary language, socio-onomastics and studies on identity in its various forms: linguistic, onomastic, culinary, identified in social practices viewed both diachronically and synchronically, which places the present thesis in a broad interdisciplinary field.

Part I. Scientific, professional and academic achievements

My academic itinerary and scientific results are recorded since obtaining the bachelor's degree (1995), in Philology (at the University of Bacău, Faculty of Letters and Sciences, specialization Romanian Language and Literature-French Language and Literature), followed by the PhD in Philology (granted by "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University from Iași) (2004), attending master's courses, and participating in continuous training courses for didacticians (2012, 2013).

In my professional activity, I have taken most of the steps of a career in higher education. At the moment I am an associate professor at the Faculty of Letters, Department of Romanian language and literature and communication sciences, where I was employed in 1996 as an assistant.

I have always considered that life in a community, no matter what type, means involvement and dedication, which is why my involvement in the life of the institution where I work has been a proactive one. I was deputy head of the department, then head of the department and now I am the director of the department, the third term in a row. At the same time, I am also a member of the University Senate and of the Council of the Faculty of Letters, an internal evaluator of study programmes, responsible for study programmes and year advisor.

My teaching load includes courses and seminars both from the field of the Romanian language, for which we have published didactic materials for bachelor's students (course notes, 5 as author and 4 as co-author): *Limbă română contemporană (Morfologie)* [Contemporary Romanian Language (Morphology)], *Elemente de analiză gramaticală* [Elements of grammatical analysis], *Limbă română* [Romanian Language], and auxiliaries: *Istoria limbii* [History of language], *Introducere în filologia comparată a limbilor romanice* [Introduction to comparative philology of Romance languages], *Normativitatea limbii la scriitorii români* [Normativity in the language of Romanian writers], to which are added the materials proposed for the master's studies, which are circumscribed within my areas of interest: *Limbaje prin literatură* [Languages through literature], *Patrimoniul și identitatea culturală* [Heritage and cultural identity].

During the 27 years of my university career, I participated in the organisation of numerous scientific events, both national (*Academic Dialogues*) and international, activities for conferring the title of *doctor honoris causa*, which allowed me not only to interact with reputed scientific personalities and colleagues, but also to develop my organisational skills. The inter-university experience was accumulated through collaborations with colleagues from other university centres in the country in ongoing projects (Iasi, Suceava, Cluj, Timișoara), but also through the teaching and monitoring mobilities for academic staff conducted through Erasmus Plus (two mobilities in Poland at "Adam Mieszkiewicz" University of Poznan, in 2013 and 2019).

My scientific interest, after obtaining my doctorate (2004), concerned the study of the Romanian language from an inter and (trans)disciplinary perspective in a causal relationship with the social, cultural, onomastic practices and representations identified in the Romanian space, which gave me the opportunity of bringing to attention and formulating hypotheses and answers in topical areas such as culinary linguistics, literary language, heritage and cultural identity.

During my academic career, especially during the postdoctoral period, the research I undertook and which materialised in books and studies published in prestigious magazines centred on the cultivation of the Romanian language, linguistic representations from the Romanian space, starting from the idea that communicative practices are constitutive of the culture of everyday life and that language is a tool rather than a mere mirror of predetermined social realities, and that identity always involves a project (Bauman, 1996), and our project for the last twenty years (2004-2024) was to identify and value various facets of the Romanian linguistic identity that can be found at the level of sociocultural, onomastic, culinary practices.

My scientific contributions relevant to the field of language studies are organised into three areas of interest:

1. **Literary language studies** represent the field of research assumed by the doctoral thesis *Studiu lingvistic asupra Cazaniei mitropolitului Varlaam* [A Linguistic study on Metropolitan Varlaam's Kazania], continued through part of the didactic courses *Limba literară* [Literary Language] and *Normativitatea limbii la scriitori români* [Normativity of the Language of Romanian Writers], which resulted in two books in which I applied the model of analysis proposed by professor Vasile Arvinte: *Considerații lingvistice asupra prozei lui Mihail Sadoveanu* [Linguistic considerations on Mihail Sadoveanu's prose] and *Considerații lingvistice asupra Povestirilor lui Vasile Voiculescu* [Linguistic considerations on Vasile Voiculescu's stories].

2. **Studies of semiolinguistics and applied onomastics.** The original articles within these interdisciplinary fields have brought me international recognition by being accepted for publication in ISI rated journals (*The European Legacy: Towards New Paradigms*, *Philologica Jassyensia*) or periodicals of prestigious professional societies (*Onoma*, *Journal of International Council of Onomastic Sciences*). The concerns for onomastics and the fascination for the extraordinary creativity that manifests itself in this field, as well as the interest in linguistic fashion and cultural influences, were disclosed in a volume of which I am co-author: *Creativitate onomastică în spațiul cultural românesc* [Onomastic creativity in the Romanian cultural space], Alma Mater Publishing House, Bacău, 2022, ISBN 978-606-527-692-5.

3. **Culinary linguistics studies** are the result of my concerns in this new field in the Romanian space. The element of originality that recommends me is both of a purely theoretical nature, through the published studies, through the introduction of the culinary linguistic phrase, also found in the international specialized literature, in an article published in 2023, in the volume

Gastronomia în textul (non)literar-o abordare interculturală [Gastronomy in the (non)literary text - an intercultural approach], ISBN 978-9975-62-591-3, Chisinau, 2023, p.123-131, but also of a practical-applicative nature through the field investigations conducted as a member of two projects: the project financed by UEFISCDI, PN-III-P2-2.1-BG-2016-0390 *Digitalizarea patrimoniului cultural alimentar. Regiunea Bacău –eCULTFOOD* [The Digitization of the food cultural heritage. Bacău region – eCULTFOOD], financing contract no. 126 BG/2016 (2016-2018), coordinator, "Vasile Alecsandri" University from Bacău, partners, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University Iași, Economic Agent, Cultural Association "Art-Traditions-Heritage without Borders and the project *Colecție digitală a patrimoniului alimentar românesc și transfer spre societate (FOODie)* [Digital Collection of Romanian food heritage and transfer to society (FOODie)], PN-III-P2-2.1-PED-2019-5092. Field investigations, transcriptions of the collected corpus, 8 published articles and 10 participations in conferences, symposia and round tables crown my contribution in this innovative and interdisciplinary field.

Up to this moment I have published 4 authored books, 7 chapters included in books, 4 studies published abroad as author (Italy, Poland, Republic of Moldova) and 3 as co-author (England, Italy, Sweden), co-author of 2 works published in ISI indexed journals, 3 (author and co-author) in Proceedings ISI, 31 papers in BDI-indexed journals and volumes of some scientific events. Participation in conferences, symposia, round tables and colloquiums is an important part of my scientific activity, quantified in: 4 participations abroad and 30 as author and co-author in the country.

The relevance and impact of the research results can be analysed taking into account the following data:

- The books are included in the databases of some libraries in the country (Central University Library "M. Eminescu" Iasi, BAR, Central University Library Lucian Blaga Cluj, BNR), as well as in recognized international databases, such as Worldcat and KVK.

- Most of the articles are published in journals that are included in international databases. Among the most prestigious, I can mention: Thomson Reuters, Scopus, ERIH+, CEEOL, SCIOPI, EBSCO, Index Copernicus, Fabula.

- 13 citations in books and articles published in the country and abroad with ISBN and ISSN and 25 bibliographic references.

The results of the research within the projects in which I participated were materialized as manager of two international projects (*ReSaurSE* and Europe Direct Bacău) and as a member in a number of six projects implemented in or through "Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacău.

Among other aspects of my activity that ensure my visibility and international recognition, I consider that it is worth mentioning my affiliation to the Centre for Textual Exploration and Language Action (CETAL), from the Faculty of Letters, "Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacău and my . Since 2017, I have been a co-editor of *Cultural Perspectives. Journal for Journal for Literary and British Cultural Studies in Romania* (CETAL research centre journal), ISSN 1224-239X, a journal indexed BDI in Scopus, ERIH+, MIAR, DOAJ, EBSCO, C.E.E.O.L. Index Copernicus, BHI - British Humanities Index, Scipio etc. An important element is also my membership in certain scientific associations that give me the opportunity to interact with the best specialists in the fields of scientific interest: AROSS (Romanian Association of Semiotic Studies) (2006); The Romanian Philological Sciences Society, Bacău branch; ASER (Romanian Association of Ethnographic Studies) since 2017.

Through my activity in the field of literary language, I managed, first of all, through my doctoral thesis, to provide a linguistic description of a basic Orthodox text, an exceptional achievement and with serious consequences in the evolution of the Romanian literary language, by going through a varied bibliography, from a diastratic and diatopic point of view, in a presentation that brings together the various points of view from which Varlaam's *Cazania* was perceived in Romanian culture. Secondly, I wanted to make accessible the "capital" problems of literary Romanian by transposing them into an algorithm designed to make available to philological students, teachers who teach Romanian language and literature, a tool for analysing literary texts: *Limba română literară: repere de analiză* [The Romanian language literary: guidelines of analysis]. I extended the Arvintinian model on some canonical authors in the volumes *Considerații lingvistice asupra Povestirilor lui Vasile Voiculescu* [Linguistic Considerations on Vasile Voiculescu's Stories] and *Linguistic Considerations on Mihail Sadoveanu's Prose* [*Considerații lingvistice asupra prozei lui Mihail Sadoveanu*] through the analysis on linguistic levels and onomasiological fields.

Linguistic and sociocultural identity studies undertaken as an author or in collaboration have brought me extraordinary professional satisfaction and added visibility at an international level (through a study in co-authorship on a representative element of Romanian identity in an

ISI-rated journal). The studies of anthroponymy and toponymy with the theoretical basis of the contributions of Vasile Arvinte (2002, 2008) and Oliviu Felecan (2013) also helped me to understand the connection between the history of the place and the "face" of the name, because deciphering a denominative unit is not only a matter of etymology. Toponymy and anthroponymy were and are subject to the times, influenced by social, political and cultural phenomena. The acceptance to participate in international conferences and the subsequent publication of articles in journals indexed in reputable databases reinforced my conviction that onomastics still deserves full attention, and contemporary society will continue to provide us with sources of inspiration.

One of my most important contributions to the linguistic landscape is represented by the studies of "culinary linguistics", a concept that I proposed on the occasion of participating in a conference in the Republic of Moldova. I came to this realisation following the experience gained in field investigations (participation as a member of two important projects), along with the theoretical component, by going through a vast and varied bibliography in the field of culinary discourse, cookbooks, "kitchen literature" (Lupescu:2000, Milică:2017, Neț:2019, Savin:2012, etc.), motivated by the activities within projects and the participation in the dissemination of the results obtained on the occasion of the conferences, of the round tables whose subject was food. The subjects addressed in the nine published works and twelve presentations at various scientific events, all of which have food as a common point, circumscribed by a rich specialized literature in the last twenty years, have shown me that it is possible to testify to a strong interest in Romanian culinary linguistics at present.

Part II. PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND ACADEMIC CAREER DEVELOPMENT PLANS (directions of research/teaching/practical applications and probable courses of action for their implementation)

For the completion of the professional, scientific and academic career development plan and the directions of research/teaching/practical applications and probable ways of action for their implementation, we had in mind the two important directions:

1. Directions of the scientific research activity for the continuation of which I propose research in the fields of: literary language, semio-linguistics, applied onomastics and culinary linguistics and the valorisation of research through studies and volumes.

2. The directions of the didactic activity in the university will be continued by further promoting the cultivation of the Romanian language, the Romanian literary language, the elements of heritage and cultural identity through fundamental and optional courses with the most modern approach to meet the educational requirements of the new generations of students (Z, Alpha) or whatever other types will appear.