



ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ
SCOSAAR

Anexa nr. 6

REZUMATUL TEZEI DE ABILITARE

**TITLUL: Hypostases of Linguistic Variation in Romanian Language
(Diatopic & Diastratic Variation)**

Domeniul de abilitare: *Filologie*

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This work, proposed as a thesis for habilitation in the field of Philology, presents my professional and scientific path up to the present time. As a consequence, the focus of this thesis lies on my main contributions and their importance in developing the directions of research approached until now, mainly pertaining to the concept of «linguistic variation». The volume is structured in two parts, preceded by some preliminary considerations in which I have briefly showcased the defining elements of my training course, with the aim of outlining the general framework of my professional development during the approximately 25 years of scientific activity.

The first part begins with specifying the key moments of the professional training, starting with the undergraduate studies, passing through the doctoral ones and ending with the postdoctoral experience. This overview of my training continues with the evocation of the university teaching experience that I had from the position of associate lecturer staff, first at “Ștefan cel Mare” University in Suceava (1998–1999), and then at “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University in Iași (2015–2019), institution where I taught the second year students of the Master’s Module “General and Romanian Linguistics” of the Faculty of Letters, the *Sociolinguistics* course and seminar.

The presentation of the scientific research activity, which occupies the most extensive portion of this first part, begins with the description of the theoretical and methodological components, as well as with exhibiting the results of the doctoral thesis, entitled *The ludic-agonal dimension of human language*, which was held in 2007, under the coordination of the Ph.D. professor Maria Carpov and received the *magna cum laude* distinction. The entire epistemic approach developed within the doctoral thesis gravitated around the major terms of *language* and *game* and, more precisely, it stressed the relationship of *analogy* that can be established between them, in the direction of an integrative approach to human language. The comparative argument of the two operational concepts was supported by the *intuition* that they are organized and operate based on principles with multiple structural similarities, which means that, at the level of the depth configuration, they meet and even become interoperable. This idea was the main motivation of the investigative effort that I undertook for over seven years, after which I managed to understand in a much more adequate way the principles that govern the forms of concretization of human language, both in diachrony, at the level of historical languages, and in synchrony, with preponderant everyday verbal exchanges.

On a scientific level, there were two research directions in which I specialized over time: dialectology and sociolinguistics, both having as their main objective the study of linguistic

variation (diatopic, respectively, diastratic variation), a fact that conferred a relative methodological and epistemic unity of my investigative approach when considered as a whole.

In the field of dialectology, the main contributions consist in computerization of the editing of regional Romanian linguistic atlases, as fundamental research projects of the Romanian Academy. In this sense, in 2005 we created, in collaboration with computer scientists from Iași, a software to help us in this direction (*ALRMaps*), which represented a premiere at the national level and one of the first such achievements at the international level. It was awarded with the *Octav Mayer Award* of the Iași Branch of the Romanian Academy for 2006. We continued this innovative approach in the field of geolinguistics through the *Audiovisual Linguistic Atlas of Bucovina* project (ALAB – <https://www.philippide.ro/alab/>), developed with the help of two successive fundings, won through the UEFISCDI competitions. The atlas constituted a premiere at the national level and represented one of the first multimedia atlases at the international level. Finally, a last project that carries forward the innovative spirit of the academic center in Iași in the field of linguistic cartography, and which I am currently coordinating, is entitled the *New Romanian Linguistic Atlas, by regions. Moldavia and Bucovina – linguistic resources in electronic format* (eNALR-MB). It started in 2022 and it integrates the development of a multimedia platform. This project will contain, in addition to the printed volumes in scanned version, a “sound map” through which will allow access to representative audio files for Moldavian dialects from the archive of the *NALR. Moldavia and Bucovina* project. Users will be able to consult this audio database and will have the means to observe and filter by several variational parameters, such as the age of the subjects, their gender, the topic addressed in the interviews, etc.

In the field of sociolinguistics, I have mainly specialized in the sociolinguistics of migration, a relatively new direction of research whose main point of interest is the complex relationship between language and the process of migrant’s adaptation to the ecosystem (of cultural, social and/or economic nature) of the destination country. As a coordinator or member of several research projects, I have carried out numerous field surveys in destination countries of Romanian migration, such as Italy, Spain, France, Germany and Canada. Following the analysis of the corpora of life histories thus constituted (approx. 150 interviews), I coined and theorized a new concept for the qualitative research of the migration phenomenon in my recent works: that of “migraphy” (Olariu 2017; Olariu 2024), based on a composite term (*migraphy* < *migration* + *biography*), which tries to attribute epistemic autonomy to those life histories obtained in a migration context, as being

a separate genre of narratives whose identity is placed at the intersection between the “small” and the “big stories”.

The second research direction in the field of sociolinguistics, represented by the sociolinguistics of minorities, took shape in parallel with the development of the *Audiovisual Linguistic Atlas of Bucovina* (ALAB) project. Here, an important component was the documentation of the (socio)linguistic traits specific to the main minority communities in the targeted area (Bucovina): Hutuls, Poles, Ukrainians and Lipovan Russians. In this context, we followed some aspects related to the sociolinguistic behaviour of the minorities in an alloglot environment, their linguistic imaginary, the importance of the demolingistic component for the linguistic vitality and loyalty of these communities etc.

The scientific research management represents another component of the professional activity, in which I have been involved especially since 2007, when I was invited to become a member of the Scientific Council of the “Alexandru Philippide” Institute of Romanian Philology. This institutional management type took on new shapes in 2014, when I became coordinator of the Department of Dialectology and Sociolinguistics and when I obtained the Project Manager Certificate, following a specialized course accredited by the National Qualifications Authority (ANC). Regarding this last aspect, I mention that the experience in institutional management was developed in parallel with the one specific to the management of research projects financed from extrabudgetary funds, which I have coordinated since 2010 (three projects with national funding and one with European funding). Furthermore, these two types of scientific management are completed with the one related to editorial projects (editor-in-chief of the magazine “*Philologica Jassyensia*” – <https://philologica-jassyensia.ro/>, a publication included in the prestigious Clarivate Analytics – ESCI database and rated category A by CNCS in 2020).

Last but not least, besides being an associate lecturer at the universities of Suceava and Iași, the didactic component of my professional activity also includes another formative aspects. Firstly, such an endeavor implies the involvement in the specialized practice of a series of students from the Faculty of Letters of the University “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” from Iași. Secondly, the task involves the participation in the *Academia Altfel* [“The Different Academy”] programme (<https://acadiasi.org/academia-altfel/>). Hence, I have held more than 20 conferences in the schools and high schools from Iași county during the last 10 years, with the aim of popularizing the results of academic research (*Open Science & Citizen Science*). As for the specialized practice of the students from Iași, I organized it within the Department of Dialectology and Sociolinguistics at the

“Alexandru Philippide” Institute, where they were involved in preliminary operations specific to the drafting of linguistic atlases, in parallel with the participation in some meetings organized in order to familiarize them with the epistemic and methodological foundations characteristic of dialectology, geolinguistics and sociolinguistics.

In the second part of the habilitation thesis, the professional career development perspectives are presented, on two main components: research and didactic activity.

Regarding the research activity, it will remain focused on the two fields to the development of which I have mainly contributed in the last 20 years of activity: dialectology & geolinguistics, on one hand, and sociolinguistics, on the other. The main dialectology project I will be involved in during the coming years will be that of the elaboration of the *Treaty on Romanian Dialectology*, which will take place under the coordination of academician Nicolae Saramandu, during the period 2024–2028. Geolinguistics will continue to be the main point of interest in my professional activity. In addition to the continuation of some older projects: a) publication of *NALR. Moldova and Bucovina* series volumes (vol. VI and VII) and b) the development of the multimedia platform of the *Audiovisual Linguistic Atlas of Bucovina* (ALAB), I will allocate a sustained effort to the coordination of the recent digitization projects of Romanian geolinguistics that I initiated in the academic center of Iași: a) *NALR. Moldova and Bucovina – linguistic resources in electronic format* (eNALR-MB) and b) transliteration and digitization of the *Moldovan Linguistic Atlas* (ALM). In the case of sociolinguistics, the main objective is to publish a *Corpus of Romanian Migraphies*, which is going to include fragments from interviews conducted since 2007 in countries such as Italy, Spain, France, Germany and Canada, fragments relevant enough to exemplify the complex issue of the contemporary migratory process.

Finally, the development of the didactic component of my professional activity will follow the two directions already mentioned above: a) the organization within the Department of the specialized practice of a series of students from the universities with which the “Alexandru Philippide” Institute of Romanian Philology has concluded collaboration agreements; b) involvement in the specific actions of the *Academia Altfel* project, through which a wide-scale dissemination of academic research results is targeted among students in pre-university education. In addition, starting in the fall of 2024, I have been involved in the advisory committees for PhD students at “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University in Iași and “Vasile Alecsandri” University in Bacău. This new context represents another opportunity for knowledge transfer from the academic research area to the university education field.