

Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai
Şcoala Doctorală de Studii Lingvistice şi Literare

REZUMATUL TEZEI DE ABILITARE

**TITLUL: Spoken Romanian Language. Diatopic
and Synchronic Approaches**

Domeniul: *Filologie*

Candidat:

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This work, proposed as a habilitation thesis in the field of Philology, outlines our professional and scientific path from the defence of the doctoral thesis in 2005 to the present, with a focus on our main contributions and their relevance in the research areas we have approached.

The thesis is structured into three sections. The **first section**, which occupies the most substantial place in the work, presents our scientific research activity, both individually and within national and international collective research projects carried out in the academic field. We began this endeavour with the presentation of our doctoral thesis entitled *Grammatical Time – Event Time in the Works of Max Blecher* (in Romanian, *Timp gramatical – timp evenimential în opera lui Max Blecher*), supervised by Senior Scientific Researcher Sabina Teiuș, Ph.D. habil., defended in 2005 and published in 2007 under the title *The Time of Discourse in Max Blecher* (in Romanian, *Timpul discursului la Max Blecher*), which truly served as a launching platform for our future studies, undertaken through the lens of modern methodological frameworks. The investigation of Blecherian temporality from the perspective of referential semantics, namely the way the relationship between grammatical time and event time is realised, highlighted the main feature of Blecher's discourse: *temporal uncertainty* and the *blurring of narrative levels* through the merging of real and unreal textual worlds into an 'immediate unreality', defined as a possible semantic world of *another* reality. We considered that this type of approach to Max Blecher's narrative text fully validates the modern character of his novels, which coherently integrate all the markers of the narrative formula of subjectivity, proving to be a surrealist type of prose, with constitutive elements of the modern fantastic or neofantastic (for example, the theme of non-alienating alterity).

Thus, in close connection with our interests in the field of dialectology, the reflection on textual linguistics and the analysis of literary narrative discourse offered us the opportunity to turn our attention to the analysis of *Spoken Romanian Discourse* through *pragmalinguistics*, since, in our view, a multiperspectival approach of the dialectal phenomenon is beneficial and contributes to an adequate and even innovative interpretation of linguistic facts. Our scientific concerns in the field of **dialectal pragmatics** materialised in the publication of two thematic volumes: *Dialectology and Pragmatics. Studies in the Pragmalinguistics of Dialectal Texts* (in Romanian, *Dialectologie și pragmatică. Studii de pragmalingvistică a textului dialectal*) (2018), a volume bringing together twelve studies in which we sought to illustrate, on the basis of published corpora of Romanian dialectal texts, the communicative mechanisms specific to Romanian spoken in dialects, as well as the character of certain specific aspects as 'linguistic universals', applying, methodologically, discourse analysis and conversational analysis; and

Dialectal Metalinguistic Commentary (in Romanian, *Comentariul metalingvistic dialectal*) (2025), a volume comprising ten studies in which we address, again from a pragmatic perspective, a topic less studied in the scholarly literature: the *dialectal metalinguistic commentary*, an expression of the speaker's linguistic awareness as well as of their creativity. We analysed it on the basis of material excerpted primarily from Romanian linguistic atlases, but also from collections of dialectal texts. At the same time, in line with current linguistic orientations, in this volume we considered that the study of dialectal metalinguistic commentary also encompasses aspects of *interdisciplinarity*, of a sociological, ethnological, and onomastic nature, which together shed light, in a unified whole, on the traditional vision of the universe characteristic of the Romanian archaic imaginary. Among our works on dialectal pragmatics published in recent years, we also mentioned in the thesis the study developed together with Adelina Emilia Mihali, *Semantic-Pragmatic Values of the Interjection in Dialectal Texts* (in Romanian, *Valori semantico-pragmatice ale interjecției în textul dialectal*) (2021), in which we analysed, from a semantic-pragmatic perspective and on the basis of corpora of dialectal texts as well as unpublished dialectal material, the interjection as an 'emotive marker' highlighting the Romanian language's preference for the *allocutive mode* of communication.

A second line of research is represented by ***dialectology and linguistic geography*** and primarily concerns our fundamental research activity carried out for more than 30 years within the dialectology and onomastics group at the 'Sextil Pușcariu' Institute of Linguistics and Literary History of the Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch. In this field, our main contribution is the preparation, as collaborator/co-author, of the six volumes of the *Linguistic Atlas of Romanian by Regions. Transylvania* (in Romanian, *Atlasul Lingvistic Român pe Regiuni*) (five volumes published and one in the process of completion). Using the method of linguistic geography, namely the cartographic representation of the dialectal material (its depiction on linguistic maps and interpretation from a spatial perspective), the work provides a faithful description of the speech varieties in 220 localities across Transylvania, highlighting their particularities from phonetic, morphological, and lexical points of view. Positioned between the reflection of the idiom and that of actual speech, the material in the atlas, collected through direct surveys conducted between 1968–1972, reflects not only the diatopic variety of Romanian in this area but also diastratic and diaphasic variation, that is, variation of language in relation to the speaker's status as bearer of a specific socio-historical and cultural tradition. Among the numerous studies in dialectology and linguistic geography we have published, we mentioned in the thesis: *Terms for the 'Milky Way' Based on NALR Material*

(in Romanian, *Termeni pentru 'Calea Lactee' pe baza materialului NALR*) (2018), which, through the information it provides on popular astronomical terminology, has had an impact among specialists in the field, enjoying numerous citations in scholarly works; and *Comparative Look at Romanian Dialect Surveys: From the Questionnaires of the Romanian Language Museum to the ALR I and the ALRR-Trans.* (in French, *Regard comparatif sur les enquêtes dialectales roumaines: des Questionnaires du Musée de la Langue Roumaine, à l'ALR I et à l'ALRR-Trans.*) (2020), a study which examines, on the basis of dialectal material from three documentary sources, the answers from five Transylvanian localities to questions from the semantic sphere of 'house'. The experience acquired over the years in the field of dialectology, especially as co-author of ALRR–Trans., led us to focus also on one of the diatopic varieties of Transylvanian speech, through the preparation of an individual monographic study: *Feleacu (Cluj County). A Linguistic Monograph* (in Romanian, *Feleacu (jud. Cluj). Monografie lingvistică*) (2024). Making use of dialectal material collected primarily through the researcher–informant method, the first part of this monograph, *Dialectology* (in Romanian, *Dialectologia*), is dedicated to describing the speech of this old Romanian village in the Transylvanian area, which we defined as a transitional variety between the Crișean and the Moldavian subdialects (at the western edge of the latter, together with the linguistic area of the Transylvanian Plain), characterised by linguistic elements specific to both dialectal units mentioned. The second part, *Onomastics* (in Romanian, *Onomastica*), of this volume presents both anthroponymy (from the perspective of the distinction between conventional and non-conventional anthroponyms, namely family names and given names vs. diminutives and hypocoristics, bynames and nicknames) and the toponymy of this locality,

Therefore, another line of research to which we have turned our attention is **onomastics**, our contributions in this field being closely linked to the study of Romanian spoken in dialects, since the onomastic system of a community reflects its diachronic evolution. Among the achievements in this area, we highlighted as well as, from the same perspective of the distinction between conventional and non-conventional anthroponyms, the studies *Conventional and Unconventional Anthroponyms in Romanian Dialect Texts* (in French, *Anthroponymes conventionnels et non-conventionnels dans les textes dialectaux roumains*) (2023) and, co-authored with Adelina Emilia Mihali, *Male Surnames and Nicknames in ALRR–Transylvania* (in Romanian, *Supranume și porecle masculine în ALRR–Transilvania*) (2021) and *Surnames and collective Nicknames based on NALR material* (in Romanian, *Supranume și porecle colective pe baza NALR*) (2020).

The **second section** of our thesis concerns our plans for the development of our professional, scientific, and academic career. The primary component is **research**, which shall remain centred on the fields of dialectology and linguistic geography. Within the ‘Sextil Pușcariu’ Institute of Linguistics and Literary History in Cluj-Napoca, we intend to engage in earlier projects, such as the preparation of the general index for ALRR–Trans., the editing of the field investigation journal of the dialectologist Viorel Bidian, and collaboration on dialectal material with the team of the *Dictionary of the Romanian Language* (in Romanian, *Dicționarul limbii române*). At the same time, we shall contribute to more recent undertakings, namely the editing and publication of unpublished materials from the ALR I archive, of the auxiliary materials ALR I. *Introduction* (in Romanian, ALR I. *Introducere*) and *Dialect Texts* (in Romanian, *Texte dialectale*), and of the photographic album *Photography as a Linguistic Document* (in Romanian, *Fotografia ca document lingvistic*) within the framework of the project **The Romanian Linguistic Atlas. Testimonies of Romanian Interwar Culture and Civilization** (in Romanian, *Atlasul lingvistic român. Mărturii de cultură și civilizație românească interbelică*). This latter project is being conducted under the Publishing Romania programme of the Romanian Cultural Institute and published by Hapax Editore, Italy, with completion scheduled for the end of 2025. Furthermore, in the forthcoming years, we shall continue to participate in collective national and international projects, among which: the *Treatise of North- and South-Danubian Romanian Dialectology* (in Romanian, *Tratatul de dialectologie românească nord- și sud-dunăreană*), coordinated by Acad. Nicolae Saramandu (with completion scheduled for 2028), the *Romance Linguistic Atlas* (in French, *Atlas linguistique roman*) (ALiR), and the *Atlas Linguarum Europae* (ALE). In addition to research, we shall also pursue organisational activities, remaining actively involved, together with our colleagues at the Institute, in the organisation of scientific events (symposia, conferences, workshops) as well as in the editing of collective volumes.

Our career development plans also encompass another component, namely the **didactic and formative** dimension. Beginning in 2024, we have been appointed to doctoral supervision committees within several academic and university centres in the country: Cluj-Napoca – the School of Advanced Studies of the Romanian Academy and the Doctoral School of Linguistic and Literary Studies of the ‘Babeș-Bolyai’ University, Faculty of Letters; Baia Mare – the Doctoral School of the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, North University Centre of Baia Mare, Faculty of Letters; Craiova – the ‘Alexandru Piru’ Doctoral School of the University of Craiova. This new context has provided an additional opportunity for the transfer of knowledge from the sphere of academic research to that of higher education. Accordingly, in the coming

years, an important part of our efforts will be directed, alongside research, towards the continuation of collaboration with fellows in the academic environment in the supervision of doctoral theses, by initiating and engaging doctoral candidates in research activity in the field of dialectology, namely the study of Romanian language varieties, thereby offering them the opportunity to become part of a new generation of researchers.

The **third section** of the thesis consists of the *Bibliographical References*, which include both the sources consulted and the author's works that relate to the aspects discussed in the first two sections of the habilitation thesis.