

**CRAIOVA UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF LETTERS**

**PhD THESIS**

**WPRD FORMATION IN THE NOWADAYS WRITTEN MEDIA  
– DERIVATION –  
WITHIN THE PERIOD 1990-2001**

**SUMMARY**

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Within the present paper we have proposed to study word formation by means of progressive derivation with preffixes and suffixes in the post-December written media.

There have been analysed 1130 entries excerpted from *Dicționarul de neologisme și abrevieri recente (DNAR) – Dictionary of Neologisms and Recent Abbreviations (DNRA)* by Elena Trifan/ Adrian Ioan Trifan which contains over 9,000 entries excerpted from the written media in the period 1990-2001 and which have been supported by contexts issued out the results encountered on the search engine provided by the website [www.google.ro](http://www.google.ro).

The paper is outstanding mainly due to the new, original and unique character of the studied material.

Out of the 1130 entries existing in the present paper, only 108 are registered in other dictionaries, namely DCR<sub>2</sub>, DEX<sub>2</sub> and DN<sub>4</sub>, out of which 34 are formed with preffixes and 74 with suffixes.

Neither any of the compounds formed with the preffixes: *ex-*, *ne-*, *non-*, *re-*, *inter-*, nor any of the compounds formed with the suffixes: *-er*, *-ită* are registered in the dictionaries we have consulted, namely DEX<sub>2</sub>, DCR<sub>2</sub>, DN<sub>4</sub>. 12 compounds formed with the prefix *de-*, 4 with *des-* (*dez-*), 3 with *hiper-*, 3 with *post-*, 2 each with: *ultra-*, *anti-*, *contra-*, *co-*, 1 each with: *extra-* (superlative), *supra-*, *extra-* (exteriority), *pre-*, 12 compounds each formed with the suffixes *-ist*, *-ant*, *-iza*, 8 each with *-ism* and with *-bil*, 5 with *-izare*, 4 each with *-tor* and *-ar*, 3 each with *-ac* and *-giu*, 1 each with *-aș* and *-iadă* are registered in other dictionaries.

The paper contains the following parts: *Introduction*, *Derivation with preffixes*, *Derivations with suffixes*, *Conclusions*, *General Bibliography*, *Abbreviations of quoted works*, *Abbreviations of newspapers and magazines*.

The analysis of each affix contains: a description of their history; observations on the spelling-related aspects; existing registrations of the analysed words in other dictionaries; meaning of the affix and of its compounds; semantical relations; stylistic values; morphological class; etymology and oldness of the roots; domains of the compounds and their viability.

The following categories of preffixes have been analysed: superlatives: *super-*, *ultra-*, *hiper-*, *extra-*, *supra-*, anteriority: *ex-*, *pre-*, exteriority: *post-*, negative: *ne-*, *non-*, iterative: *re-*, privative: *des-* (*dez-*), *de-*, opposition: *anti-*, *contra-*, interiority: *inter-*, association: *co-* and the following categories of suffixes: agent substantivals: *ist-*, *ar-*, *er-*, *tor-*, *el-*, *giu-*, *ac-*, *aș-*, abstracts: *-izare*, *-iadă*, (*-adă*), *-ism*, *-ită*, adjectivals: *-ant*, *-bil*, verbals: *-iza*.

In terms of morphological class to which the compounds belong, the latter are: 659 nouns (289 formed with preffixes and 370 with suffixes), 431 adjectives (308 formed with preffixes and 123 with suffixes), 49 verbs (24 formed with preffixes and 25 with suffixes) and 2 adverbs.

As far as the morphological class of the compounds is regarded, one can notice that all preffixes, apart *super-* present differences to the ones registered in FCII. For a comparative approach we shall mention first the morphological classes of the compounds after 1990 and in brackets the ones in FCII: *ultra-*: 61 adj., 11 n., 1 compound with n. value and adj. (FC n., adj.), *hiper-*: 18 n., 25 adj., 1 verb (FC n., adj.), *extra-*: 16 adj., 5 n., 1 v. (FC adj., n.), *supra-*: 18 adj., 15 n. 2 v. (FC n., adj., v.), *ex-*: 18 n., 1 adj. (v., n., adj.),

*pre-*: 9 n., 10 adj. (FC v., n., adj.), *post-*: 18 adj., 33 adj., 6 n. (FC v., n., adj.), *ne-*: 30 adj., 12 n., 1 v. (FC adj., n., v., adv., pron., conj., interj.), *non-*: 46 adj., 43 n., 1 adv. (FC n., adj.), *re-*: 22 n., 7 adj., 6 v. (FC v., n., adj.), *de-*: 25 n., 7 adj., 5 v. (FC v., n., adj.), *des-* (*dez-*): 16 n., 1 adj., 6 v. (FC v., n., adj., adv., interj.), *anti-*: 21 adj., 8 n. (FC adj., n., v.), *contra-*: 19 n., 2 adj., 1 adv. (FC n., adj., v.), *inter-*: 9 adj., 1 adv. (FC v., adj., n.), *co-*: 9 n., 1 v. (v., n., adj.).

Regarding the suffix derivation one can notice that: the suffixes *-er*, *-el*, *-giu*, *-ac*, *-aș*, *-izare*, *-iadă*, *-ism*, *-ită* form only nouns. The suffix *-ist* forms 93 nouns, 26 nouns with adjectival value and 44 adjectives; *-tor*: 21 nouns out of which 11 have both substantival and adjectival value and 15 adjectives; *-ar*: 27 nouns out of which 9 have adjectival value also; *-ant*: 35 adjectives out of which 3 have both adjectival and adverbial value and 2 both substantival and adjectival.

Overall, 612 lexical creations are formed with prefixes and 518 with suffixes.

In terms of semantics, 238 compounds are formed with superlative prefixes: 76 with *ultra-*, 76 with *super-*, 44 with *hiper-*, 35 with *supra-*, 7 with *extra-*; 133 with negative prefixes: 90 with *non-*; 59 privatives: 36 with *de-*, 23 with *des-* (*dez-*), 43 with *ne-*; 39 with posteriority prefixes: *post-*; 38 anteriority: 19 with *ex-*, 19 with *prea-*; 35 iteratives with *re-*; 34 opposition: 22 with *contra-*, 12 with *anti-*; 15 of exteriority with *extra-*; 11 interiority with *inter-*; 10 association with the prefix *co-*.

On an individual basis, decreasingly, the prefixes have the following productivity: 90 *non-*, 76 *ultra-*, 76 with *super-*, 44 *hiper-*, 43 *ne-*, 39 *post-*, 36 *de-*, 35 *re-*, 35 with *supra-*, 23 *des-* (*dez-*), 15 *extra-* „exterior, outside”, 22 *contra-*, 12 *anti-*, 11 *inter-* 10 *co-*, 7 *extra-* „very”.

A comparative analysis on the productivity of the prefixes before 1990, mentioned in FC II, and after 1990, highlights the following aspects: a) The prefix has a reduced productivity than FC: *hiper-* (FC – 115; DNRA: 44), *extra-*: (FC – 42 with all values; DNRA: 22: 7 superlatives and 15 express exteriority), *supra-* (FC – 198; DNRA: 35), *ex-* (FC- 42; DNRA: 19); b) The prefix has a very reduced productivity than FC: *pre-*: (FC: 186; DNRA: 19), *ne-* (FC – 449; DNRA: 43), *re-*: (FC – 338; DNRA: 35), *des-* (*dez-*) (FC: 395; DNRA: 23), *de-* (FC – 192; DNRA: 36), *anti-* (FC: 281; DNRA – 12), *contra-* (FC – 158; DNRA: 10), *inter-* (FC – 105; DNRA – 10), *co-* (FC – 106; DNRA – 10); c) The prefix has slightly higher productivity than FC: *ultra-* (FC- 68; DNRA – 76), *post-* (FC – 35; DNRA: 39); d) The prefix has a definitely higher productivity than FC: *non-* (FC – 26; DNRA: 90).

In terms of oldness, 2 prefixes are old: *des-* (*dez-*) inherited from Latin and *ne-* Slavic, and the others are neological: of Latin origin, by means of loans from Romance languages: *con-*, *contra-*, *ex-*, *extra-*, *non-*, *pre-*, *post-*, *super-*, *supra*, French origin: *de-*, *ultra-*, Greek origin by means of loans: *hiper-*.

Out of the 518 compounds formed with suffixes 370 are substantival, 123 adjectival, 25 verbal.

Out of the substantival compounds, 259 are formed with agent suffixes: 118 with *-ist*, 27 with *-ar*, 21 with *-tor*, 27 with *-ar*, 6 with *-er*, 9 with *-el*, 9 with *-giu*, 5 with *-aș*, 4 with *-ac*; 170 with abstract suffixes: 63 with *-izare*, 47 with *-iadă* (*-adă*), 46 with *-ism*, 14 with *-ită*.

Out of the 123 adjectival compounds, 44 are formed with *-ist*, 35 with *-ant*, 29 with *-bil*, 15 with *-tor*. The 25 verbal compounds are formed with the suffix *-iza*.

On an individual basis, decreasingly, the suffixes have the following productivity: 162 (118 nouns + 44 adjectives) with *-ist*, 63 with *-izare*, 47 with *-iadă* (*-adă*), 46 with *-ism*, 36 with *-tor* (21 nouns + 15 adjectives), 35 with *-ant*, 29 with *-bil*, 27 with *-ar*, 25 with *-iza*, 14 with *-ită*, 9 with *-el*, 9 with *-giu*, 6 with *-er*, 5 with *-aş*, 4 with *-ac*.

As far as productivity is regarded, compared as before and after 1990, a novelty is constituted by the suffix *-iadă*, which becomes very productive, followed by *-izare* and *-ar*, which is more productive than *-aş*.

Also productive are the neological suffixes, initially of Greek origin, but entered by means of loans from Romance languages: *-ist*, *-ism*, *-iadă*, *-ită*, *-iza*; Latin origin, by means of intermediary: *-ant*, *-bil*, and also old suffixes, such as: *-tor*, *-ar* (*-er*), *-el* of Latin origin, *-giu* of Turkish origin, *-ac* of Slavic origin, *-aş* with uncertain etymology: Hungarian, Slavic, local, and a substantival compound suffix, neological, format in Romanian by the suffixes *-iza* și *-re*, by attaching the abstract suffix *-re* to verbs ending in *-iza* and not attested in Romanian.

Overall, one can notice that the number of abstract compounds is higher than the material ones.

From a morphological perspective, the roots are: 676 nouns, 328 adjectives, 126 verbs, 2 numerals and 2 interjections.

The suffixe *-ar* is attached only to noun roots.

A number of 92 compounds is formed from anthroponyms: a) 81 with suffixe: 47 with *-ist*, 19 with *-ism*, 13 with *-iadă*, 2 with *-el*; b) 11 with prefixes: 5 with *anti-*, 4 with *de-*, 1 with *ex-*, 1 with *pre-*; 18 compounds are formed from toponyms: a) 12 with suffixes: 8 with *-izare*, 2 with *-ist*, 1 with *-ar*, 1 with *-iadă*; b) 6 with prefixes: 3 with *post-*, 1 with *pre-*, 1 with *anti-*, 1 with *inter-*; and 80 compounds are formed from abbreviations: a) 64 with suffixes: 47 with *-ist*, 5 with *-el*, 5 with *-izare*, 4 with *-ism*, 2 with *-ită*, 1 with *-aş*; b) 16 with prefixes: 6 with *ex-*, 6 with *anti-*, 1 with *post-*, 1 with *non-*, 1 with *re-*, 1 with *de-*.

There is a tendency that all suffixes are attached to new roots and the other way round.

The loan roots from other languages are more numerous than the ones formed in Romanian.

There are almost 573 loan roots (317 with prefixes and 256 with suffixes) and 353 are formed in Romanian (226 with prefixes and 127 with suffixes).

The suffixes *-ar*, *-er*, *-giu*, *-ac* do not attach to any root formed in Romanian.

The most numerous loans are still from French, 277, to which we add the words with multiple etymology presenting a French etimon.

The suffix *-aş* does not attach to any loan root from French.

Some of the loan roots are from non-Romance languages: Slavic, neo-Greek, Turkish, Russian, Albanese, Germana, English.

There is a preference for loan roots from English in the case of 27 compounds out of which 10 are formed with *-ist*, 3 with *non-*, 3 with *-izare*, 3 with *super-*, 2 with *post-*, 1 each with *ultra-*, *extra-*, *ex-*, *co-*, *-ar*, *-giu*.

Even if well represented the number of loan roots from English is still very low as compared to the loan ones from French.

A number of 30 compounds have roots enherited from Latin, out of which 7 compounds are formed with *-ist*, 3 with *-ar*, 3 with *-ism*, 3 with *super-*, 2 with *-extra*, 2 with *-tor*, 2 with *-aș*, 1 with *-ultra*, 1 with *-hiper*, 1 with *pre-*, 1 with *-er*, 1 with *-el*, 1 with *-izare*, 1 with *-bil*.

The roots formed in Romanian have been obtained, decreasingly, with the following prefixes: 28 with *ultra-* (20 by conversion, 7 by derivation with suffixes, 1 by derivation with prefixes), 27 with *ne-* (14 with suffixes, 2 with prefixes, 7 by conversion, 4 by mixed processes: compounding + derivation), 25 with *de-* (20 with suffixes, 4 conversion, 1 by compounding + derivation), 22 with *super-* (10 with suffixes, 1 regressive, 11 by conversion), 21 with *supra-* (11 with suffixes, 1 regressive, 8 conversion), 20 with *re-* (16 with suffixes, 4 parasynthetical), 18 with *anti-* (8 compounding, 7 with suffixes, 1 ellipse, 2 anthroponyms), 17 with *hiper-* (9 conversion, 7 with suffixes, 1 regressive), 14 with *des-* (*dez-*): (13 with suffixes, 1 conversion), 12 with *post-* (10 with suffixes, 1 conversion, 1 compounding), 8 with *pre-*: (5 with suffixes, 2 with prefixes, 1 conversion), 7 with *ex-* (3 with suffixes, 4 abbreviations), 7 with *extra-* (6 with suffixes, 1 parasynthetical), 2 with *contra-* (with suffixes), 2 with *inter-* (1 with suffixes, 1 derivation + compounding), 1 with *co-* (with suffixes) and with the following suffixes: 68 with *-ist* (56 composed, 1 with suffix, 4 common nouns from proper nouns, 7 anthroponyms), 12 with *-ism* (5 with suffixes, 7 compounding), 10 with *-bil* (6 with prefixes, 3 with suffixes, 1 parasynthetical), 9 with *-iadă* (4 derived, 5 composed), 8 with *-tor* (8 with suffixes), 8 with *-izare* (3 with suffixes, 3 parasynthetical, 1 compounding, 1 contamination), 7 with *-el* (2 with suffixes, 5 abbreviations), 6 with *-ant* (3 with suffixes, 2 with prefixes, 1 parasynthetical), 3 with *-iza* (3 with suffixes), 3 with *-ită* (2 abbreviations, 1 conversion), 1 with *-aș* (1 abbreviation).

The most numerous Romanian roots are formed by derivation, 191, out of which: 178 by progressive derivation: 165 with suffixes, 13 with prefixes, 3 regressive, 10 parasynthetical, followed by 90 formed by compounding (out of which 56 receive the suffix *-ist*), 67 by conversion, 1 by ellipse, 1 contamination, 6 roots are formed by mixed processes: compounding and derivation.

Out the composed roots, most of them are recent abbreviations.

Overall, both for the prefixes and suffixes derivation, most of the roots are negological, and 120 roots are recent, posterior to 1990. Decreasingly, the following affixes present a preference for recent roots: *-ist* (43 derived words), *anti-* (11), *-izare* (10), *ne-* (9), *de-* (9), *post-* (8), *super-* (6), *-el* (5), *-iadă* (5), *non-* (3), *re-* (2), *co-* (2), *-tor* (2), *contra-* (1), *inter-* (1), *-ar* (1), *-ită* (1), *-ant* (1). The only old affix which is attached to roots appeared after 1990 is *ne-*.

Some roots are previous to 1990, but have achieved new meanings after 1990: *ales*, *emanat*, *demarare*, *front*, *patrulater*, have passed through grounding of meaning: *decembrist*, *revoluționar* or are used with their figurative meaning: *cașcaval*, *a ciupi*, *a ciripi*, *ciolan*.

Most of the derived words are monoseminal.

All the derived words formed with prefixes are monoseminal, and out of the ones formed with suffixes only 27 are polyseminal: 7 with *-iadă*: *balconiadă*, *borcaniadă*, *ceferiadă*, *golaniadă*, *hingheriadă*, *telefoniadă*, *Universiadă*, 6 with *-ar*: *boschetar*, *bulinar*, *cuponar*, *moșionar*, *șevar*, *votkar*, 6 with *-tor*: *ciupitor*, *măcinător*,

*mâzgălitor, normalizator, siluitor, țepuitor*, 2 with *-ist*: *canalist, cotrocenist*, 2 with *-el*: *albăstreii, ceașei*, 2 with *-aș*: *schimbaș, vătraș*, 2 with *-ism*: *sereism, ungurism*.

Meaning extensions are undertaken by a small number of derived words formed with the prefix *re-*: *redemarare, repropulsa, refațadizare, reinocentare* and with the suffix *-iadă*: *golaniadă, mineriadă, telefoniadă*.

Some of the derived words develop synonymy, antonymy, homonymy, polysemy relations.

Out of the derived words formed with prefixes, the following develop semantical relations: *hiper-*: 2 pairs of synonyms, 1 pair of antonyms, *de-*: 2 pairs of synonyms, *pre-* 1 pair of paronyms, *anti-*: 1 pair of synonyms, *ne-*: 1 pair of synonyms.

All the derived words formed with negative prefixes *ne-*, *non* and with privative: *de-*, *des-* (*dez-*), apart from the ones formed by parasynthetical derivation, develop grammar antonymy relations with their roots.

Out of the derived words formed with suffixes, the ones formed with the following suffixes develop semantical relations: *-ist*: 13 pairs (series) of synonyms, 5 pairs of homonyms, 2 pairs of paronyms, *-el*: 7 pairs of synonyms, 2 pairs of homonyms, *-ar* 4 pairs (series) of synonyms, *-giu*: 4 pairs of synonyms, 2 pairs of homonyms, *-er* 2 pairs of synonyms; *-izare*: 2 pairs of synonyms, 3 pairs of antonyms, 1 pair of homonyms, *-iadă*: 3 pairs of synonyms.

The afore-mentioned semantical relations constitute one of the proofs for the lexical richness of Romanian, of its possibility to express notions as powerful as possible and to transpose the oppositions existing in the Romanian society.

Compared to the written press existing before 1990, the contemporary written media vocabulary undergoes important mutations in respect to the stylistical value of the derived words.

If until 1990 the written media vocabulary was overflowed by superlatives, after 1990 one can notice an obviously predominant depreciative connotation, ironic and depreciative-ironic, especially for the derived words formed with suffixes.

The derived words formed with the following prefixes have neutral value: *extra-* (exteriority), *ex-*, *non-*, *inter-*, *co-*; most of the derived words formed with: *pre-*, *post-*, *ne-*, *re-*, *de-*, *des-* (*dez-*), *anti-*, *contra-* have neutral value, followed by the depreciative, ironic or depreciative-ironic one.

The depreciative-ironic value is stronger for the derived words formed with superlative prefixes, which before 1990 had mainly positive and neutral connotations, because there were mostly technical and scientific words.

Within the derived words formed with superlative prefixes, *ultra-* forms the largest number of ironic derived words.

All the derived words formed with the suffixes *-ac* și *-ită* and most of the derived words formed with the suffixes *-ist*, *-ar*, *-tor*, *-el*, *-giu*, *-aș*, *-izare*, *-iadă*, *-ism*, *-iza* have a depreciative value. The positive and neutral values are present for most of the derived words formed with the suffix *-bil*, because the latter forms mainly technical and scientific words.

The same word can have more stylistic values depending on the meaning it has in the context.

Only 2 affixes provide depreciative or ironic value to the derived word, namely: *ultra-* și *-ită*, otherwise, in the other cases, the depreciative value is given by the

characteristics of the referent, the linguistic context and sometimes extralinguistic, root, the association of a new root with an old affix and the other way round, creation of new words by replacing certain elements of older words, games of words, mixing of words from different styles or combination of several processes.

Sometimes, in a context there is a sum of words formed with the same affix and all of them with depreciative value.

Out of the figures of speech, the enumeration contributes more oftenly in creating the expressive value of a word, and rather seldom the metaphor, personification, antithesis, alliteration.

A small number of derived word has figurative meaning: *revirginizare*, *clorofiliști*, *măcinător* etc. All the derived words formed with the suffix *-ită* have a figurative meaning, created by the suffix.

The analysed derived words belong to various domains: politics, military, economics, trade, literary, journalism, religion, philosophy, finances, sports, medicine etc.

Politics and social are the better represented domains because they have undergone many changes after 1990.

All the derived words formed with the suffixe *-ac* belong to the social domain.

To this respect, the present paper may consist an excellent working tool for historians and politicians, some of the politic actors active after 1990 being trackable at any time in its pages.

The derived words formed with the suffix *-ită* are in line with the current preference and trend of the Romanian language to use medical terms for expressing attitudes, pleasures, actions perceived as unhealthy.

It was difficult to include certain words in a domain and some belong to several domains depending on the meaning they have; others have migrated from a principle domain to other domains.

A novelty of the post-December written media is the strong presence of slang and of the colloquial style within its pages.

Most of the words formed with the suffixes *-giu* and *-el* belong to the colloquial style, and also some of the words formed with other suffixes, especially with *-ar*: *boschetar*, *șmenar*, *șpăgar*, *țepar*, *valutar*, with *tor-*: *ciripitor*, *ciupitor*, *țepuitor*, with *-ist*: *valutist*, *zecistă*, with *aș-*: *schimbaș*, with *ac*: *schimbac*, with *-iadă*: *balconiadă*, *borcaniadă*, *extra-*: *extramarfă* etc. Many contexts excerpted from [www.google.ro](http://www.google.ro) are written in an informal language, of great expressivity.

Words such as *șmenar* and *țepar* are formed from slang roots.

We consider that it is still early to mention how many words out of the total analysed will remain in the Romanian active vocabulary because this issue will be decided only by the level of use.

Even if many are ad-hoc creations, they are a proof of the high creativity of the Romanian language and have a strong affective and documentary value.

In time, from an overall perspective, the nowadays written media vocabulary will probably consistute the most certain and complex proof of the changes that occurred in the Romanian post-December society.