University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters

Phd Thesis

Raluca- Iulia Dăneț (Grigorescu)

Aspects of the feminine gender in the current Romanian language

Abstract

The thesis entitled "The feminine in the current Romanian language" treats   the feminine in the current Romanian language, focusing on motional suffixes. The last part of the thesis brings to the forefront the way we should address to women and the way we should talk about   women.

The thesis has a synchronic nature, but presents a diachronic aspect highlighted in the second and third part.

The thesis has three parts:

I. Motional suffixes.

II. Feminine names of professions in current Romanian language.

III. The way we should address to women and the waywe should talk about women.

In the first part we define motional suffixes using the DEX and then we dedicate them two chapters: Motional suffixes that form the feminine and motional suffixes that form the masculine.

In the first chapter I enumerate motional suffixes that help the formation (making) the   feminine;   for   each   suffix   I   gave   examples   of   derivative   words.

Motional suffixes that help the building of the   feminine are: *-ă; -că ; -easă; -esă, - eză ,-iță;-oaică*. In addition, there are other suffixes that might be considered motional suffixes when they differentiate the masculine-feminine gender: *(-tor)/-toare; (-ist)/-istă; -el/-ică;-ina,-ie.*

I quoted the references I used for a better documentation: Fischer, I.,1989, pag. 42-43, Irimia, D., 2004, p. 45, 47; GALR, Vol 2008, p.67; Hristea, Th., 1984, pag. 72- 73,

Coteanu, I. (coord), Bidu - Vrânceanu, A., vol II 1975, p.142-187, FCLR, 2007, pag.78 - 197, Ciobanu, E., 1959, in SMFC, Vol, p.137-143.

I classified the suffixes as follows:
1). semantic content:
    - suffixes that have a motional value – *ă* , - *easă*.
    - suffixes that have a motional value and may have and other values: *-că, -eză, -iță, -oaică, (-tor)/-toare, (-ist)/-istă.*
2.) morphological class that results after attaching the suffixes to the root:
- substantival suffixes *-ă, -că, -easă, -iță, -eză*;
- suffixes that may have a substantival and adjectival value *(-tor)/-toare; (-ist)/-istă.*

The second chapter treats the motional suffixes that help the building of the masculine. I used the same references and I also used a paper that treats into detail this suffixes: Popa, Eleonora, 1967, *Sufixe motionale pentru formarea masculinului* în SMFC, VOL. IV, pag.163-176.

I observed that the motion suffixes that help the building of masculine are less studied than the suffixes that help the building of feminine.

The masculine has not this own suffixes. The suffixes used to build the masculine can have various values.

1.) augmentative suffixes: *-oi, -an, -ău*
2.) diminutive suffixes: : *-el, -ior, -aş.*
3.) suffixes that have both augmentative and diminutive value : *-ete, -oc/og, -og.*
4.) suffixes that have agent value: *-ar, -tor.*

The second part treats the motion suffixes which help the building of name of feminine professions. I selected from the suffixes that build the feminine form only those suffixes that build names of professions, relying on my capacity of native speaker and using the materials that build the corpus of this work. I examined the suffixes *-ă, -easă, -iţă, -eză, -tor/-toare, -ist/-istă)* (the suffixes *-tor/-toare, -ist/-istă* have motional value).

I excluded the motional suffixes like *-că, -esă, -oaică,* because they do not help to build name of professions.

I illustrated various derivatives in functional styles (belletristic, scientific, publicistic) in order to determine their frequency in various kinds of texts.

To determine the frequency in belletristic style I chose two novels published by Rodica Ojog - Braşoveanu after 1990 and entitled " *Crimă prin mica publicitate*" and "*Anonima de miercuri*" (see the references).

I didn't find name of feminine professions in scientific texts (medicine, physics, mathematics, etc.,) . In the book of Pavel Coruţ "*Către culmile succeselor"* (see references) which is "a manual that popularizes the success in life" as the author states, I found many examples. This is a beletristic book but differs from the aforementioned novels. It can also be regarded as a scientific book because has the following features: character sober, the style is realistic, clear, without of figures of speech, the exposure is accuracy.

For the publicistic style I used the notices 2007/2008 taken from the newspaper "România Liberă" (see then references). I also used DTPA..

I build a corpus (see the end of the thesis) with all the derivatives – name of professions selected from the above mentioned materials and can be found at the end of work.

The second part of the thesis is entitled "The feminine of name of professions" and has nine chapters. Each chapter corresponds to the studied suffixes 1.) *The suffix –ă;* 2.)*Tthe suffix –iţă;* 3.) *The suffix –easă*; 4.) *–eză;* 5.) *The suffix* 6.) *Professions that have only feminine; 6. loan words; 7.) the suffix (–tor)/-toare; 8.) The feminine of devices and tools (build with the suffix –toare); 9.) The suffix (– ist)/ -istă.*

For each suffix I analyzed : the origin of the suffix, certification (if it was available), the root the suffix attaches, the presence of the derivatives in the corpus, current and past productivity, the frequency of the suffix in the corpus, the semantic content.

To get certification, the origin and the past productivity I used FCLR; the words etymology can be found in DEX (except a few words whose etymology is not present in DEX and consequently is taken from DTPA).

For the semantic content of suffixes I used FCLR and Coteanu, I. , Bidu- Vrânceanu, A., Vol.II, 1975.

To identify the presence of the derivatives in dictionaries I used The Tiktin dictionary, DA, DLR, DLRC, DEX.

In each chapter I enumerated all words that are present in the above mentioned dictionaries and that represent names of feminine professions derived with the suffix: for example in the chapter that is dedicated to the suffix *–ă,* I enumerated all names of professions derived with this suffix that I found in the books of R.O.Braşoveanu, P.Coruţ and in România Liberă. If a derivative was interesting I indicated how is used. I could observe the frequency in text. The most of them are present in publicistic style.

I imitated the definitions from DEX in some cases: for new words, for less known words or if I referred to definitions. For new words, for borrowed words, which are not present in DEX or in a dictionary I used the definitions from DTPA.

I also found words (particularly for the suffix *–ist*) that are neither present in DTPA nor in DNAR : *vipistă, shopistă*, etc. I tried to explain the words, relying on   my capacity of native speaker of native and on the context in which they are used..

To prove the productivity of the suffixes *(–tor)/-toare and (–ist)/-istă*

that have motional value, I selected from DI all the derivatives of names of feminine professions formed with the help of suffixes and then I included in corpus of the end of thesis.

Because in DI the derivatives are only indicated and the examples are not present, I looked for in DA and DLR their usage context. I searched the web in case I didn't find examples for derivatives in DA and DLR .

I excluded the words in case I didn't find examples.

I took the definitions from DEX.

A chapter was dedicated to the suffix *–toare* (which has instrumental value) choosing from DI all the derivatives build with this suffix and illustrating the derivatives and then using DA/DLR. In case of need I used the web. I didn't take into account the derivatives for which I found not examples.

Regarding the suffix *(–ist)/-istă*, besides the name of feminine professions from DI, I selected from the PhD of Elena Trifan derivatives which represent form for the feminine.

This new words became part of the Romanian Language after 1990 and fit the social, political, military, journalist domain and are included in a corpus that may be found at the end of the thesis.

I found the usage context by searching the web I excluded the words in case I didn't find examples.

The definition of the words is taken from the work of Elena Trifan which has used DNAR.

In fulfilling this part of thesis I dealt with following issues:

First of all, is the certification issue. A lot of words one can get the certification from the Tiktin dictionary. In case the word is not contained in Tiktin dictionary one need to consult DA/DLR in order to find a quoted example and then to deduce the year. I didn't find for all words the year of becoming part of language.

The second difficulty I met with is the non-certification of the feminine form in the dictionaries; unfortunately, dictionaries attach the feminine near the masculine, the existence of masculine form does not indicate the usage of feminine.

The third issue concerns the unclear and wrong definitions from DEX. These definitions are contained in an appendix at the end of this work in order to improve the forthcoming dictionary

The etymology of the words are taken from DEX. I note that some of them are wrong.

The third part of the thesis is dedicated to the way one talk to /about women, referring to the age of persons, the social status, the job they have, as well as the pragmatic context. All this issues are discussed in four chapters.1). Reference to first name and surname; 2). Addressing means; 3). Addressing means for girl/woman used in the colloquial language; 4). The woman and her jobs.

In the first chapter I studied the baptismal name/ first name and surname, trying to find out the way this words are used in various communication contexts that are chosen from various social environments.

I presented some examples that arise in direct and indirect speech.

The second chapter is devoted to some words that are used in the current language: *doamnă, cocoană/coană, damă, madam/madamă, tovarăşă, muiere, domnişoară, domniţă, duduie, duducă.* Also I studied some addressing means borrowed from foreign languages: *signora, lady, madame*, *miss.*

I discussed every expression and I presented their meanings in the current language and in the early language.

To exemplify the meanings of a expression in the current language, I reproduced some examples taken from the colloquial language and from the novels of Rodica- Ojog Brasoveanu. To exemplify the meanings of a expression in the early language, I used DA/DLR and DLRC to take the examples.

The third chapter deals with the   addressing forms used in the colloquial language for feminine persons. This addressing forms depict the all- round education of the speakers.

The current language has a lot of   picturesque addressing forms for feminine persons, that we can meet in the direct and indirect speech: *scumpo, iubito, dragă, fetiţo/fetiţă, fată, fătucă, soro, gagico, etc.*

I discussed in detail every word and I indicate their context of usage.

I also studied some words and expressions that define social classes for women.. For example, for the word prostituata I found the following addressing forms: *curvă, japiţă, paraşută, paţachină, piţipoancă, pupăză, putoare, teleleică, vampă.* For each of these forms I indicated an example. For most of words the context is taken from the colloquial language. I also used the novels of Rodica - Ojog Brasoveanu to choose some impressive examples.

The fourth chapter entitled *"The woman and her jobs"* brings to the forefront various communication situations that we find in direct and indirect speech.

Every situation takes into account the relationship between the discussion partners, their age, the social status etc. The most examples from this chapter are taken from the colloquial language.

At the end of the thesis I wrote the general conclusions.