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PhD Thesis

GRECO-LATIN TERMINOLOGY IN PRESENT ROMANIAN

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FORMATIVE

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Introduction

The Romanian language vocabulary, alike that of other modern languages, contains units that refer to old cultures languages: Greek and Latin. Striking reference, especially since, with the exception of vestiges and museum exhibits, our reality is different from that reflected by classical languages!

Our reality lies under the mark of science and technology which determine the widening of knowledge and at the same time, the appearance of perfecting the means of capturing, storing and transmitting information. During the exchange of scientific information, the specific purposes vocabulary, terminology, fulfills a decisive role. In order to decide the message in a specialized field it is essential to hold the terminological key, that is to know the terms of that field. According to this idea, terms are vehicles for the concepts which delimitate a certain field of knowledge.

A term made up of several Greek and Latin formative elements (by extension, a Greco-Latin term) may be read differently, according to the interpreter. For the general public it is the opaque word, a meaningless formula, for a classicist it is appears as a minimal text whose structure limits interpretation. Only the specialist knows the real meaning.

Since Greek and Latin culture had favored exact and humanistic sciences, because of the interest in man and nature, and having laid the basis of scientific vocabulary, the Greco-Latin vocabulary was called into use during the modern denominative process, Greco-Latin elements were revitalized in modern specialized vocabularies. This is how Greco-Latin terms passed into standard language, and classical lexical patterns became models for word formation in Romanian.

Conceptual Delineations: Greco-Latin terminology, present Romanian

Terminology, in a wide sense, has several acceptations:

- vocabulary used in a specific field
- all the terms from a specialized field
- structured set of terms
- systematic study of terms
- the science of terms
- science of the correct usage of terms

ISO standard 1087: 2000 refers to terminology in its two-fold meaning:

- a set of designations pertaining to a specialized language;
- a science studying the structure, forming, development, use and management of terminologies in various areas.

In this system of meanings, the term is a designation. In the process of communication, terms are units of knowledge and communication, indices of notions specific to scientific and technological subjects, they behave as lexical and grammatical units (words), formulae, alphanumeric codes, graphical or audio-visual symbols, various combinations. I have research terminology from the linguistic point of view, thus I have referred to terms as lexical and grammatical units.

In limiting the terminological field by using the phrase Greco-Latin terminology, I segmented the set of the subject, that is in the set of terms used by sciences, technology and arts. Terminology will designate, in the present approach, the totality of the terms used by science and technology. And the terms analyzed will be the ones containing Greek and Latin elements, following the tradition of Greek and Latin terms, constituted in the ancient languages. By extension, I will call them Greco-Latin terms. Since they are

analyzed in a modern language, the attention will be focused on terms that adopt to the Romanian grammatical system. Thus, by using the concept "Greco-Latin terminology", I will refer to structures and morphemes, to formative patterns in the language under consideration and to the totality of terms built with Greek and Latin lexical morphemes.

Why this reference? And why Greco-Latin? First of all, because there was a n influence between the two European classical languages, especially ancient Greek providing cultural terms for Latin, terms which later are accessed modern Occidental languages through Latin. Others entered directly through Hellenistic study. Second of all, because modern languages create on classical patterns, using, to the same extent, lexical elements specific to the two languages.

Methods used in researching Greco-Latin terminology

A methodological difficulty was getting terminological methods agree with linguistic methods. Terminology is a synchronic and a pragmatic subject, with a onomasiological approach, while linguistic fuses a variety of methods, applied both synchronically and diachronically. Lexicology, as a part of linguistics which terminology is often compared to, prefers, as different from the onomasiological approach of the later, the semasiological approach.

I considered present Romanian to be Romanian in all its variants and in all its stylistic segmentations used during the past decade and which inscribes itself in the general system of contemporary Romanian. With regard to the variants of present-day Romanian, I emphasize that I focus on literary Romanian, from the point of view I have preferred the written form of our literary language, as it is the space for actualizing bookish formations generally and especially terminologies.

While researching Greco-Latin terms, I have covered the following stages: excerpting Greco-Latin terms from the dictionaries and from linguistic and terminology papers, the comparison term-word, the analysis of terms in various compartments of the Romanian language, the formal analysis of terms in historical periods of the Romanian language, the structural analysis of Greco-Latin terms, the synthesis of structural characteristics, , the synthesis of semantic characteristics, formulating a hypothesis based on induction, verifying hypotheses using deduction, modeling the structure of the terms,

verifying the generating capacities of the model, mirroring the distinctive features of the terms in the present day ortho graphy, recording productive Greco/Latin elements, with or without a notional meaning.

Words and terms

Apart from the difficulties of definitions, difficulties generated especially by the visions of modern linguistics, the word is fundamental unit linguistic. It is the one connecting the language levels and also the one realizing communication.

From the linguistics point of view, the term is a word or a group of words (word phrase) used in specialized languages. In order to emphasize the structure of a term, I have made the distinction between two research levels: one of the national and not-specialized language, and another of the specific and supranational languages.

From the structure perspective, a term may be simple (made up of one word) and complex (made up of several words). Greco-Latin terms are part of the simple terms class, but in the structure of a complex term there may be another Greco-Latin terms.

Sometimes, by researching the structure of some Greco-Latin terms, by observing the way of fusing of Greco-Latin elements (morphemes) which are specialized in order to name notions specific to the present period, innovative models are identified. While researching the structure of some Greco-Latin terms, and in order to clarify the use of classical roots, I have introduced a new term: **radicula.** This is the smallest notional element (independent morpheme) detectable in the structure of some formative elements. It is a historical root, the smallest independent morpheme encountered in the structure of present day terms which appeal to the classic vocabulary while in the constituting process.

According to the existence of a radicula in the structure of formative elements, we can distinguish the notional formative elements from the dependent/affixal ones (prefixes and suffixes):
- notional elements: ceco- "blind", cefalo- "head", -cel "tumor"
- dependent/affixal elements: a-/an- "without", con-/co-/com- "with".

By comparison with the existence of some historical (classical) affixes in the structure of a notional element, we notice the simple or complex structure of notional formative elements:

- simple: col-, cola- "gum", gingiv(o)- "gums"
- developed: -colie "bladder" (-col + -ie), amio- "muscular degeneration" (a- + mio-)
- composed: oofor(o)- "ovary" (oo- +-foro-).

Depending of the number of radiculas present in the structure of a term these may be:

- monoradiculars: hormon etc.
- pluriradiculars: binary: calatiform, biologie etc.

              ternary: astrofotografie, biocenologie etc.

              quaternary: astrofotogrammetrie etc.

the semantics of terms is varied, covers reality, starting from ATOM and ending with MACROCOSM. In the religious language, the Greco-Latin terms refer also to the unseen world.

Periodization of the Romanian language based on the origin of Greco-Latin terms

The entering of Greco-Latin terms in Romanian is a prolonged process. Vehicles of this terms are, to the same extent, old and modern languages, and that is why a diachronical approach (specific to linguistics) seemed necessary.

The oriental influence (Slavonic, Byzantine Greek or Modern Greek –pre-Fanariot and Fanariot) made the Romanian language enrich with Greek terms. This influence is limited to the XIXth century and can be subdivided into two periods: until the XVIth century, when Slavonic is no longer used in the Court Chancery, and the period between the XVIth and XIXth centuries.

Starting with the XVth century, as a result of the change of cultural mentality, the occidental influence manifests in crescendo until the nowadays. For a while, it meets the Modern Greek influence, the latter being favoured geographically, politically and socially.

After a period during which terms are borrowed from Modern Greek, the attention is switched towards modern Occidental languages which had taken terms from Latin or forms them according to classical patterns. These are especially the Latin-Romance languages, alongside German, Polish, Hungarian and Russian are cited. The contribution of French as a cultural language (after 1830) is decisive. It comes to strengthen the Latin and Italian influence which had initiated the re-Romanization of the Romanian language. In the contemporary period, English which is a bearer of Greco-Latin terminology and which creates according to the patterns provided by classical languages, plays an important role.

Present day sources for the study of Greco-Latin terms

Along the thesis, I referred to various sources which allowed the research of Greco-Latin terms. I wished to submit to attention others papers, materials (also e-Books), lexicographic and terminographic papers which allow the development of present research. That is why a distinct chapter is dedicate to them.

The difficulty in marking affixes and elements of composition in the papers submitted to attention (as they appear in the linguistic studies according to various criteria) determined the proposal of their undifferentiated marking, only indicating their superclass : formative or formative element.

The Stylistic repartition of Greco-Latin terms

Starting from the existence of 5 functional styles in present Romanian, and observing the linguistic material, a stylistic repartition of Greco-Latin terms has been drafted. The largest spread belongs to the scientific style, and most of the Greco-Latin formative elements which serve to forming terms are of Greek origin. They constitute a feature of the technical-scientific style.

The present day theological style also is characterized by the wide use of Greek terms, a fact which is explained trough the oriental Christian tradition and origins. The judicial-administrative style uses well-known terms, from the Latin Vocabulary, as well as from the native vocabulary, to a lesser extent from Greek terms. In the above

mentioned styled, the lexical unit has all the characteristics of the term: monoreferentiality, stability.

While migrating to the standard language, the Greco-Latin terms are captured by the artistic and journalistic style. They are characterized both by using terms taken from the scientific, judicial or theological styles, with their paper meaning or altering their meaning in context (phenomenon called determinologization), and creating new terms characteristic of the socio-cultural life according to the patterns provided by science.

The Orthography of Greco-Latin terms

The different perspective on the two sectors of Romanian (specialized and unspecialized) leads also to manifesting some different tendencies in spelling Greco-Latin terms. Since specialized languages are frequently written, the written form is essential in the process of scientific communication. In order to facilitate this written communication, I have opted for the etymological spelling, especially where there are hesitations. But the influence of the standard language and of the phonetic spelling is strong, especially since there cannot be different norms for the same language.

The Annex *Greco-Latin formative elements* contains a list of formative elements excerpted from the studied dictionaries and papers. An innovation is introducing the term *median element* (-geo-, -pneumo-, -cardio-).

It would be interesting to follow the role of the scientific element, as well as the Greco-Latin element in Romanian in the following period.