

Abstract of the Habilitation Thesis

Poetics and Comparatism

in the Analysis and Interpretation of the Literary Text

My professional, scientific and academic evolution presented in this thesis starts with the defence, in 2000, of my PhD thesis, *Arta literară la Marin Preda. Structuri narrative și tematice (Literary Art in Marin Preda's Works. Narrative and Theme Structures)*. Published under the title *Marin Preda sau despre complexele creației (Marin Preda or about the Complexes of Creation)* by "Aurel Vlaicu" University Press in 2002, the book underlines the virtues of this great post-war Romanian writer's works. My PhD thesis takes the structuralist-narratological approach, while also employing methods of psychoanalytic criticism, psychocriticism or the theory of communication, with the intention to reveal the relation of adequation between the signified and the signifier, demonstrated in masterpieces.

My academic tenure at the "Aurel Vlaicu" Faculty of Humanistic and Social Sciences of Arad, where I became first Lecturer (2003) and then Associate Professor (2006), has given me the possibility to extend my professional interests in studying literature. I am part of a challenging, interdisciplinary department. I teach *Comparative and Universal Literature, Stylistics, and Literary Theory*. I have also taught *Children's and Young Adult Literature*, first at the Teachers' College, then at the Faculty of Educational Sciences, Psychology and Social Sciences. Since 2010, I have also taught courses which I have suggested for the Master's degree programme "Language and Literature. Current Tendencies" (*Images of Femininity in the Heroic Epic and Introduction to the Modern Theory of the Narrative*) or the doctoral school (*Directions and Movements in Literary Criticism*, since 2013). My teaching activity is based on the specifics of my position, but it also includes specific teaching methods with a view to training the teaching staff continuously. This involves developing study programmes, organising examinations for teachers of Romanian language and literature (to obtain their permanent

teacher certificates or level 2 and level 1 teaching certificates) and lectures and seminars within the Teacher Training Department Programmes.

My research activity, like my teaching activity, follows two large directions: the theoretical approach of a literary text and the hermeneutical studies developed from the comparatist approach.

At the literary theory level, I have elaborated my opinions in two books: *O teorie a literaturii (A Theory of Literature)* and *Poetica genurilor literare (The Poetics of Literary Genres)*. Their revised and enlarged editions were published by Institutul European in 2008 and 2009. These books provide a personal manner of organising the general issues raised by the study of literature and literary discourse which is encoded by an architextual tradition and eventually leads to a process of negation of this tradition itself. My constant approach has been to place the text (literary, non-literary or borderline texts) in the force field of the pragmatic relationships that it develops. The analysis of the relationship between the text and its substructures was completed by placing the text at the level of cultural / literary dialogue in which the theory of the text meets comparatism. In the same area of interests, my study entitled *Literatura pentru copii și tineret dincolo de „story” (Literature for Children and Young Adults Beyond the “Story” – Casa Cărții de Știință, 2007)*, aims at granting theoretical support to a literary genre that even specialists considered marginal, belonging to mass literature and interpreted it based on underestimating prejudices. In addition, I have attempted a renewal of the scientific approach of the discipline called Children’s Literature, by including in it contemporary works that match the interests and preferences of today’s children and adolescents and that reflect the educational reality of the syllabus and textbooks for primary, secondary and even high-school education. The book was very successful and was included among the references of the syllabus of the Faculty of Educational Sciences and the exams taken for various teaching certificates.

My research in comparative literature revolved around certain moments, not only subjective, but also significant, that have marked the evolution of world literature from antiquity to the present. Such moments are dealt with in detail in the book I published at Casa Cărții de Știință in 2013, *Eseuri de literatură universală (de la Cântarea cântărilor la Doris*

Lessing) – *Essays on World Literature (from the **Song of Songs** to Doris Lessing)*. The selected works (*Song of Songs, One Thousand and One Nights*, Omar Khāyyam, Gabriel García Márquez, Marin Preda, Doris Lessing), are milestones of literary visions and writing styles, able to reveal the processual character of the literary phenomenon, the continuity of human trauma and nostalgia, as well as the imaginary intuitive dialogue of the great writers.

Eroica și Erotica. Eseu despre imaginile feminității în eposul eroic (Heroic and Erotic. An Essay on Patterns of Femininity in the Heroic Epic – Pro Universitaria 2013) was a long-term research project. Parts of it were published starting with 2008. It is a first in the field, an ample work of comparative literature and history of mentalities, based on archetypology and gender studies, which analyses the feminine – masculine relationship in a generic selection of texts – the heroic epic of male writers from its Homeric beginning to post-modern literature. The higher stake of the research was to develop, on the background of a narrative pattern that enabled the clear delineation of gender constructs, the evolution of the models of the human being torn between two tensions: social assertion, in terms of the prevalence of a community-induced Weltanschauung, and personal achievement, on the small scale of individual history, a tendency that started in the 19th century, only to negate archetypes firmly in the 20th century, as a reflex of rejecting the idea of belonging and macrosocial constraint.

My scientific activity (eight books, two of which were revised and enlarged, eighteen studies published in internationally acknowledged periodicals, eight studies published in academic annals and scientific journals, six studies in specialised journals) also includes participation in many international and national conferences during which I have had the opportunity to deal with professional challenges and disseminate my results.

Other landmarks of my research activity are the following: member and coordinator of the Romanian-language team participating in the “New Learners in New Europe” international project (Socrates Lingua II type) and the POSDRU Projects entitled “Quality, Innovation and Communication within the System of Continuous Training of Higher Learning Teaching Staff” and “Quality and Leadership in the Romanian Higher Education System”; founder and editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Humanistic and Social Studies*, a journal registered in eight international

databases; organiser, advisor and editor of the volume of the international symposium “Research and Education in an Innovation Era” of “Aurel Vlaicu” University of Arad.

My academic career development plan has a didactic and a scientific dimension. The former involves a course on world literature meant to create a historical perspective of the literary phenomenon seen from an up-to-date generic and theme sections, interdisciplinary and pluridisciplinary courses for the Master degree. The latter has three main goals: 1. to compile a *Dictionary of Romanian Feminine Prose* in co-operation with other researchers, a possible CNCS grant-supported project; 2. *the problems of creating and interpreting a literary discourse seen from inside the gender patterns* – a project that will most likely lead to a study on the textual constructs of the masculine / feminine imaginary and on the hermeneutical “gender” constructs; 3. the problems of the *social modelling of sexual identity*, namely the investigation of the relationship between gender and sex in the feminine representations found in the works of the main female writers of the 20th century and the present.