Cercet. Șt. III dr. Aurel-Dinu MOSCAL
Institutul de Filologie Română „A. Philippide" – Filiala Iași a Academiei Române

FROM LEXICAL AND GRAMMATICAL SEMANTICS TO THE
PROBLEM OF PROPER NAME SEMANTICS AND POETICAL SEMANTICS

Summary of the Habilitation Thesis

The thesis proposed for habilitation in Philology presents my professional and scientific development and also my contribution and the relevance of the published works to the sub-domains approached by now. The thesis has two parts, being preceded by preliminary considerations on my professional evolution, research and didactic activities.

The presentation of my scientific activity emphasises first the contributions brought in the PhD thesis (*Teoria câmpurilor lexicale. Cu aplicație la terminologia populară a formelor de relief pozitiv / The Theory of Lexical Fields Applied to the Popular Terminology of Positive Relief Forms*, coordinated by prof. Eugen Munteanu, and also guided by prof. Dragoș Moldovanu) and the relevant works to the research directions specified in the title of the habilitation thesis: lexical semantics, grammar semantics, the problem of the proper name semantics, poetic semantics.

(1) In the PhD thesis I thoroughly analysed the history of the concept 'lexical field', namely the origin, difficulties and finality of all the attempts to determine the structure of the vocabulary up to nowadays studies. The contribution of the thesis is the clear-cut distinction between two general directions: the traditional direction, identified in Jost Trier's and Leo Weisgerber's works (previous to the structural semantics and which, diachronically researching an onomasiological field, demonstrates the semantic interdependence of the constituent terms) and the modern direction, identified in E. Coseriu's works (elaborated within the structural semantics frame, developing and surpassing it, but having as an objective the identification of types of relationships among the terms that form a lexical field). The results obtained within the modern direction and applied in the PhD thesis should be employed in the lexicographical treatment of the terms belonging to a lexical field as well as in computational linguistics, which may use them in the automatic processing of translation. These aspects, excepting the last one, have been studied thoroughly and illustrated in studies following the PhD thesis publication.

Regarding the lexical semantics research, I also underlined my significant contributions: co-author of five volumes in *Monumenta linguae Dacoromanorum. Biblia 1688* series

(coordinated by prof. Eugen Munteanu and awarded the prise "Diploma meriti causa" by "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iaşi), where I contributed to the morphological and semantic analysis of the vocabulary; author of the chapter *Sémantique du roumain* (in *Manuel de linguistique roumaine*, coordinated by prof. Wolfgang Dahmen and prof. Eugen Munteanu), where I presented a short history of semantics in Romania, followed by a synthetic description of historical and variational semantics of Romanian language; author of the study *L'étymologie du roum.* sein *(var.:* săin*,* sărin*) "gris"*, in „Revue de linguistique romane" – a significant contribution to the history of Romanian, namely the identification of an inherited Latin element; member of the project *Dictionnaire Étymologique Roman* (DÉRom, Nancy), coordinated by prof. Éva Buchi and prof. Wolfgang Schweickard.

(2) The theory of proper name and the problem of proper name semantics and translation are discussed in an extensive chapter within the monograph *Practici de traducere a numelor proprii în scrisul românesc premodern (1780–1830) / Proper Names in the Romanian Premodern Writing (1780–1830): Translation Practices*. In this chapter, following the analysis of the philosophical theories on the proper names "meaning" – theories which influenced the linguistics of the proper name – I distinguished between "associative meaning" and "etymological meaning", both specific to the proper name regarded as a linguistic entity. In reality, the translation of names means the translation of the etymological (transparent) meaning. Some other aspects regarding the meaning of the proper name are discussed both in the PhD thesis and in the study *Numele propriu la Eugenio Coseriu / The Proper Name in Eugenio Coseriu's View*.

The toponymic lexicography and etymologies represent an essential part of my research activity. The participation to *Micul dicţionar toponimic al Moldovei / Small Toponymic Dictionary of Moldavia* (coordinated by prof. Dragoş Moldovanu and awarded the prise "Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu" of the Romanian Academy) and other studies on toponymy have as background a thorough knowledge of the history of Romanian, the toponyms formation processes and the phenomena resulted from bilingualism and linguistic contacts, and also their connection to data from close domains such as history and geography.

(3) The third research direction, the grammatical semantics, is represented by studies on the status of the linguistic predicate. The definitions of the predicate (related to the subject), the verb (through lexical meaning) and the copulative verb (as a "linking element") follow Aristotle's logic perspective and are oriented towards the designated extra-linguistic reality, not towards the linguistic reality. I have approached this theme firstly at the less general level, that of the copulative verb, in *Logique et grammaire dans la définition du verbe copulatif*, where I

presented the copulative verb's role as the main element (due to the complete information of the ̈grammatical tense ̈) of the nominal predicate when regarded from a linguistic, not logical perspective. In *La théorie de la prédication entre logique et linguistique*, I have approached the problem of the predicate and, partially, of the verb, showing that the grammars define the predicate based on logic-ontological views and that such a definition cannot comprise the different ways of expressing linguistic predication (not only the logical propositions). Many linguists mentioned this idea, but they did not investigate it further.

(4) The poetic semantics direction of my research is represented by studies of Mihai Eminescu's poetic semantics. The privileged method is the internal critic. The main objective was identifying the conceptual representations specific to certain realities and the ways these representations are rendered through words (through proper, latent, or metaphorical meaning). This approach facilitates access within the universe of Eminescu's creation, as one can see in the studies *Note despre reprezentarea timpului în lirica eminesciană / Notes on Time Representation in Eminescu's Poetry* and *„Pal/palid" ca epitet metaforic în poezia lui Eminescu / "Pale/ Pallid" as a Metaphorical Epithet in Eminescu's Poetry*.

The final section of the first part points out to the relevance and significance of my leading scientific research, presenting the complementary research activities (translations from German, editions) and synthesising my academic activity (lectures at international scientific meetings, organising scientific meetings, activities carried out as a project member or leader).

The second part of the thesis displays my scientific career development plan. In this regard, I intend to continue collaborating in the projects in which I am already involved: *Toponymic Dictionary of Moldavia* (Department of Toponymy, Institute of Romanian Philology ̈A. Philippide ̈), *Dictionnaire Étymologique Roman* (DÉRom, ATILF) and *Proper Names Translation Practices in Romanian Writing*. I will also develop the research directions mentioned above: the linguistic status of the proper name, the stratification of Moldavian toponymy, the linguistic status of the predicate, the Romance terminology of salt. I will continue the research on lexical semantics in the direction of applying the analysis of lexical fields in lexicography and automate translation, by collaborating with specialists in these fields. Also, I will continue the research in the field of poetic semantics, paying particular attention to Mihai Eminescu's lyrics.

8.12.2020

CS III dr. Dinu Moscal