

TURKISH LEXICAL ELEMENTS IN NICOLAE BĂLCESCU'S WORKS

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Abstract

In Bălcescu's works, specialized vocabulary is well represented. The lexical elements indicate names of dignities and military ranks, weapons, common jobs, specific social and political dignities and legal and administrative terms. Through the use of specific lexical borrowings from the Turkish language the author reconstitutes various facts of the Ottoman Empire which had an influence on the Romanian Principalities.

Key words: *specialized vocabulary, lexical borrowing, neologism, archaism, Turkish word*

Résumé

Le vocabulaire spécialisé est bien représenté dans les œuvres de Bălcescu. Les éléments lexicaux indiquent les noms des dignités et des rangs militaires, des armes, des emplois communs, les dignités sociales et politiques spécifiques et les termes juridiques et administratifs. Grâce à l'utilisation des emprunts lexicaux spécifiques de la langue turque l'auteur reconstitue les faits divers de l'Empire ottoman qui ont eu une influence sur les Principautés roumaines.

Mots-clés: *vocabulaire spécialisé, emprunt lexical, néologisme, archaïsme, mot turc*

1. The Turkish influence was manifest in the Romanian language in two distinct stages, related to the historic events in the Romanian Principalities. The first layer of borrowings is constituted by the words assigned to the Turkish-Tartar population in Danube-Carpathian regions: the Pechenegs, who at the end of the 9th century settled in Moldavia and Eastern Wallachia, and in the 10th and 11th centuries - invaded Dobrudja and Transylvania¹, and the Cumanians who in the 11th century came to the north of the Black Sea. Many Romanian linguists (O. Densusianu, Al. Philippide, S. Pușcariu, L. Șăineanu and others)² were concerned with the Pecheneg and Cumanian influence. The second layer of borrowings began in the 16th century, with the invasion of the Osmanli Turks in the Balkan Peninsula, and continued for almost five hundred years until the mid-nineteenth century. Many Turkish elements entered the Romanian language during the Phanariot epoch. They are spread over the Daco-Romanian linguistic territory, in Wallachia and Moldavia, in Transylvania and

¹ The Pechenegs were defeated in Transylvania by King Ladislaus (1088) and in the south of the Danube, by the Byzantines. Those who remained lived with the Romanians and were later assimilated.

² O. Densusianu, *Histoire de la langue roumaine*, I, p. 379-385; Al. Philippide, *Originea românilor*, II, p. 350 sqq.; S. Pușcariu, *Limba română*, I, p. 314-316; L. Șăineanu, *Influența orientală*, p. XV-XIX.

Banat. Of these, many have fallen into disuse. Some words that have been preserved, have been subject to extensions of meaning (*balama* “hinge”, *lichea* “toady”, *tertîp* “trick”) or acquired an ironic, pejorative meaning (*babalâc* “old geezer”, *crailâc* “philandering”, *pișichier* “crafty person”). With these words, Romanian also borrows Turkish suffixes (*-lâc/-lic*, *-giu*, *-iu*). In current Romanian, borrowings from Turkish are literary archaisms, popular and colloquial terms.

2. N. Bălcescu becomes part of Romanian culture and historiography through a heterogeneous work which brings together historical, political and economic writings militating for a social and political reform of the Romanian Principalities, for the achievement of national unity. He has a modern view on history, but also in the overall approach of national historiography as a science. His work is a “historical problem”, a kind of stylistic and ideological synthesis that relies on national and foreign chronicles, on historical documents, acts and testimonies (this can be illustrated by the work *Românii supt Mihai-Voievod Viteazul*)³.

3. In the common lexicon of Bălcescu's writings, there are fewer Turkish elements of the second period, words that relate to matters of domestic life: *acaret* “annex, outbuilding” (< Tk. *acaret*): „meremeturi la *acareturile* lor după moșie” (II, 147)/“repair and maintenance works for the *outbuildings* on the estate”; *calabalâc* “belongings”, obs. (< Tk. *kalabalyk*): „prefăcură în cenușă tot *calabalâcul* lor” (III, 156)/“they turned all their *belongings* to ashes”; *ciomag* “club” (<Tk. *čomak*, *čumak*): „îl armară numai cu darde și *ciomege*” (III, 275)/“they armed him with darts and *clubs*”; *mucalîtlâcuri*, obs. (<Tk. *mukallitlik*) “words”, “stories”, “jokes” (MDA, 640): „amator de danț și muzică, de vorbe de duh, ba încă și de *mucalîtlâcuri*” (III, 24)/“he loved dance and music, words of wisdom, even *jokes*”. They are archaic, popular elements, abstract nouns or names of objects, human settlements.

4. In Bălcescu's historical writings, **military terminology** is rich: *aga* “second military commander; police prefect” < Tk. *aga*: „cu vreo câțiva din *agalele* cele mai însemnate” (III, 37)/ “with some of the most important *agas*”; *beșliu*, obs. “Turkish cavalry corps, serving as gendarmes and royal couriers” < Tk. *beşli*: „două căpitanii de *beşli*” (I, 139)/“two detachments of *beşlii*, (Turkish couriers and gendarmes led by a captain)”; *catarag* “Cossack militia troop”, cf. Tk. *catamak* “to hit with a spear”: „cazaci martalogi și cazaci *cataragi*” (I, 60)/“Cossack martalogi (frontier guards) and Cossack *cataragi* (militia troops)”; *cumbara* < Tk. *kumbara* “cannonball”: „Mortarierele se numea pive și obuzurile *cumbarale*” (I, 145)/“The mortars were called pive and the shells were called *cumbarale*”; *culoglu* < Tk. *kuloğlu* “infantryman”: „împreună cu o mie ianiceri și o mie *culogli* drept garnizoană”/“together with a thousand janissaries and a thousand *culogli* (infantrymen) as garrison”; *hangeli*, obs. *hanger* “yataghan” < Tk. *hanger*: „platoșe, *hangeliuri*, săcuri” (III, 244)/“breastplates, *yataghans*, axes”; *ianicer*, var. *ienicer* < Tk. *yeniçeri*: „mulțime de *ianiceri* și arendași turci” (III, 199)/“a lot of *janissaries* and Turkish lease-holders”; *iuzbașa/ iuzbașă* “commander over a hundred soldiers” < Tk. *jüzbaşy*: „Fustașii, de care erau numai 100, sub *iuzbașa* de fustași” (I, 51)/“The lancers, who were only 100 in number, under the command of a *iuzbașa*”; *lipcan*, obs. “(In the Middle Ages in the Romanian Principalities) a soldier of Tartar origin who was part of the body of troops commanded by the great seneschal or chief magistrate” < Tk. *lipkan*: „*Lipcarii* 1000, sub marele

³ Cf. *Dicționarul literaturii române de la origini până la 1900*, p. 89.

postelnic” (I, 51)/“There were 1000 *lipcani* (Tartar soldiers) under the command of the great seneschal”; *martaloc*, var. *martalog*, in the syntagm *cazaci martalogi* (“tax-exempted servants who were part of a body of militia guarding the borders”) <Tk. *martaloz*: „cazaci *martalogi* și cazaci cataragi” (I, 60)/“Cossack *martalogi* (frontier guards) and Cossack cataragi (militia troops)”; *sărdar*, var. *serdar* [(In Wallachia and Moldavia, in the 17th-18th centuries) royal dignitary who was the commander of the army, especially consisting of horsemen] < Tk. *serdar*: „călărima *sărdarului* de mazili” (I, 52)/“the horsemen led by a *serdar* (the cavalry commander)”; *seimen*, obs. “(in the old organization of the Romanian Principalities in the 17th and 18th centuries) a person who was part of a body of mercenary foot soldiers armed with flintlock guns, whose main duty was to guard the royal court” < Tk. *sedmen*, *seyman*: „*Seigmenii* sau *segbanii* agești, de care era în fiecare târg câte patru sau cinci, iar în Iași, zece, supt aga...” (I, 139) /“The agas mercenaries with flintlock guns, the *seigmeni* or *segbani*, were four or five in each market town, and ten in Iași, under the rule of an aga...”; *serascher*, var. *seraschier* “(In the Ottoman Empire) the supreme commander of a Turkish army” < Tk. *serasker*: „dându-i titlu de *serascher*, cu vreo câțiva sangiaci din oștile Rumeliei” (III, 119)/“giving him the title of *serascher*, and a few sanjaks of Rumelia’s armies”; *spahiu*, obs. “soldier in the cavalry corps of the Ottoman Empire’s army in the Middle Ages, who was recruited from the ranks of the military aristocracy” < Tk. *sipahi*: „ceauși și *spahii*” (III, 34)/“ceauși (Turkish lower functionaries) and *spahii* (military aristocrats)”; *tabie*, obs. “military camp” < Tk. *tabiya*, Bulg. *табия*, Serb. *tabija*: „acolo ridicară nemții o *tabie* între râu și sat” (III, 294)/“the Germans built there a *tabie* (military camp) between the river and the village”; *topciu* “artillery soldier” < Tk. *topçi*: „un *topciu* (tunar) numit Ibraim pașa” (III, 86)/“a *topciu* (artilleryman) called Ibraim Pasha”.

The high number of borrowings in military terminology is due to elements of Turkish origin: *aga*, *beșliu*, *catarag*, *cumbara*, *culoglu*, *ghiulea*, *hangel*, *ianicer*, *iuzbașa*, *lipscan*, *martaloc*, *sărdar*, *seimen*, *serascher*, *spahiu*, *topciu*. Some of the military terms have obsolete forms: *beșliu*, *hangel*, *iuzbașa*, *spahiu* etc. They are represented only by older variants: *ianicer*, *martaloc*, *sărdar*, *serascher*.

One can distinguish in the semantics of military terms: names of dignities or military ranks: *aga*, *culoglu*, *ianicer*, *iuzbașa*, *martaloc*, *sărdar*, *seimen*, *seraschier*, *spahiu*, *topciu*; weapons: *cumbara*, *ghiulea*, *hangel*. There are also obsolete terms, unlike current terms (especially those originating in Romance and non-Romance languages, internal creations).

5. Socio-political terminology holds an important place in Bălcescu’s work: *beilerbei* “general governor of a province in the Ottoman Empire” < Tk. *beylerbeyi*: „Haidar pașa, *beilerbeiul* Capadochiei” (III, 71)/“*Beilerbei* Haidar Pasha, the general governor of Cappadocia”; *caimacam*, obs. “person with the rank of deputy of a Turkish dignitary” < Tk. *kaymakam*: „Hafiz pașa fu îndată depărtat din slujba de *caimacam*” (III, 268)/“Hafiz Pasha was immediately removed from the office of *caimacam*”; *capigiu*, obs. *capugiu* “sultan’s special envoy in the Romanian Principalities mainly empowered to replace the prince” < Tk. *kapuğu*: „noul vizir porni pe chihaiioa *capigiilor*, Ahmet aga” (III, 68)/“the new vizier sent the chihaiia of the *capigii* (the inspector of the sultan’s special envoys), Ahmet aga”; *capuchihaea*, var. *capuchehaia* (“representative or diplomatic agent of the Romanian rulers at the Sublime Porte”) < Tk. *kapu kehiasy*: „vistierul Ion, ce era *capuchihaea* al țării” (II, 21)/“treasurer Ion,

who was the *capuchihaea* of the country (the diplomatic agent of the Romanian ruler at the Sublime Porte)”; *ceauș*, obs. “person with the rank of Turkish lower functionary, usher at the court, who transmitted orders in the entire empire” < Tk. *çauş*: „nu întârzie a trimitte în Ardeal un *ceauș* spre a trata de pace” (III, 197)/“without delay, he sent to Ardeal a *ceauș* (a Turkish lower functionary) to begin peace negotiations”; *chihaia*, var. *chehaia* “inspector of the vizier or pasha, responsible for the inspection of his court” < Tk. *kehaya*, *kyaya*: „noul vizir porni pe *chihaia* capigiilor, Ahmet aga” (III, 68)/“the new vizier sent the *chihaia* of the capigii (the inspector of the sultan’s special envoys), Ahmet aga”; *cihodar*, obs. “servant of a Turkish dignitary” < Tk. *çokadar* “footman, servant”: „După aceștia urmează boerii cei din lăuntru, după cum se numesc, adică: vistiernicii, paharnicii, *cihodarii*, medelnicerii” (I, 142)/“They are followed by the domestic boyars, called: treasurers, cupbearers, *cihodari* (servants), medelniceri (stewards) ”; *deftedar*, obs. “financial controller of the vizier or of a pasha” < Tk. *deftedar*: „Noul mare vizir adună îndată la divan pe toți vizirii, pe muftiul, pe cadiascheri, pe nisangiu, pe cei patru *defteri*” (III, 56)/“The new great vizier reunited for a divan all the viziers, the mufti, the military judges, the nisangiu (keeper of the seal), the four *defteri* (financial controllers)”; *divan* < Tk. *divan*: „se va cerceta și hotărî de *divanul* domnesc” (II, 9)/“the ruler’s *divan* shall investigate and decide”; *hasnadar*, var. *haznatar*, obs. “treasurer” < Tk. *haznatar*: „slujba de *hasnadar*” (III, 37)/“the office of *hasnadar* (treasurer)”; *isnaf*, obs. “guild” < Tk. *esnaf*: „clerul său, *isnafurile* (corporațiile) orașului” (III, 232)/“the clergy, the *isnafuri* (corporations) of the town”; *mazâl*, reg. *mazil* “cavalryman” < Tk. *mazul*: „Pe *mazâli* îi supuse la o stare” (II, 152)/“The *mazâli*, the cavalymen, had to face a situation”; *nisangiu*, obs. “Turkish high official in the Ottoman Empire, charged with drafting documents, appointing and using the imperial seal” < Tk. *nişance*: „Noul mare vizir adună îndată la divan pe toți vizirii, pe muftiul, pe cadiascheri, pe *nisangiu*, pe cei patru *defteri*” (III, 56)/ “The new great vizier reunited for a divan all the viziers, the mufti, the military judges, the *nisangiu* (keeper of the seal), the four *defteri* (financial controllers)”; *olac* “special courier who carried, usually on horseback, messages or news around the country and abroad” < Tk. *ulak*: „sosiră acolo *olaci* la împărat” (III, 268)/“The *olaci* (the messengers) came there to see the emperor”; *pașalâc* < Tk. *pașalik*, Serb. *pašaluk*: „*pașalâcul* Maraș” (III, 37)/“the *pashalic* of Maraș”; *sangeac* “territorial division in the Ottoman Empire, a subdivision of a pashalic”, obs. < Tk. *sancak*: „*sangeacul* Lipei” (III, 27)/“the *sanjak* of Lipa”; *seiz* “(In the Romanian Principalities) a person subordinated to the comis (supervisor of the ruler’s stables) who was in charge with looking after the horses of the ruler or boyars” < Tk. *seyis*: „înaintea lui opt *seizi* duceau de frâu opt cai” (III, 232)/“before him eight *seizi* (stable men) were leading the horses by the reins”; *sultan*, obs. < Tk. *sultan*: „*sultanul* Mustafa, împodobit cu cunoștinți literale” (III, 53)/“*Sultan* Mustafa, adorned with literary knowledge”; *vezir*, obs. *vizir* (“title given to high officials in the Ottoman Empire, whose duties were similar to those of a minister today”) < Tk. *vezir*, cf. Fr. *vizir*: „un *vezir* vestit în războaie” (III, 24)/“a *vizier*, famous in wars”.

Medieval historical atmosphere is created through the use of several borrowings from Turkish: *beilerbei*, *caimacam*, *ceauș*, *chihaia*, *cihodar*, *deftedar*, *hasnadar*, *isnaf*, *mazâl*, *nisangiu*, *olac*, *pașă*, *raia*, *sangeac*, *sultan*, *taxidar*. Semantically, socio-political terminology indicates social and political processes and phenomena of the 16th-19th centuries. Most terms refer to persons holding social and/or

political office: *caimacam*, *capigiu*, *capuchihaea*, *ceauş*, *chihaia*, *cihodar*, *mazâl*, *nisangiu*.

6. Legal and administrative terminology is equally present in Bălcescu's writings: *cadiascher* "Turkish military high official, with the duties of a military judge" < Tk. *kadiasker*: „va veni la Bucureşti un *cadiascher*" (III, 34)/"A *cadiascher* (a military judge) will come to Bucharest"/*cadischer*, var.: „*cadischerii* sunt judecătorii armiei" (III; 34) /"the *cadischeri* are the judges of the army"; *ceauş*, obs. "a person with the rank of Turkish lower functionary, usher at the royal court" < Tk. *çauş*: „*ceauşul* Mohamed" (III, 27)/"the *ceauş* (usher) Mohamed,"; *ferman*, var. *firman* ("order issued by the sultan, appointing or banishing the governors and rulers depending on the Ottoman Empire" < Tk. *fermân*: „făgăduieşte d-a nu slobozi niciodată vrun *ferman*" (II, 9)/"promise you will never give a *ferman*"; *hasnadar*, var. *hasnatar* ("treasurer") < Tk. *haznatar*: „slujba de *hasnadar*" (III, 37)/"the office of *hasnadar* (treasurer)"; *hاتیşerif* "order or decree issued by the office of the Sublime Porte to the high officials of the empire and the ruler of Wallachia, with the seal of the sultan, to be enforced accordingly" < Tk. *hatti-şerif*: „prin mai multe *hاتیşerifuri*" (II, 10)/"through several *Hatti-Sheriffs* (Sublime Porte decrees)"; *hati-humaium*, var. *hatihumaium* ("Hatti-Sheriff") < Tk. *hatti humayum*: „Iată *hati-humaium* din anul 1393" (II, 8)/"Here is the *hati-humaium*, the Sublime Porte decree of the year 1393"; *sened*, var. *sinet*, obs. ("document", "charter", "note of hand") < Tk. *senet*: „în *senedul* de la Balta" (II, 177)/"in the *document* of Balta"; *şeyh* < Tk. *şeyh*, Fr. *cheik*: „vezirii, *şeycii*, legiştii şi prezidenţii cancelarii stătură acolo" (III, 52)/"the viziers, *sheikhs*, law drafters and presidents of the office stayed there"; *vechil* < Tk. *vekil*: „Nimeni din alegători nu va putea a-şi trimite *vechil* în Adunările atât primare, cât şi alegătoare" (II, 20)/"None of the voters will manage to have a *bailiff* in both primary and elective Assemblies".

Legal and administrative terminology consists of borrowings and internal creations. Romance borrowings prevail, especially from French. Borrowings from other languages are few; the following are of Turkish origin: *ferman*, *hاتیşerif*, *hati-humaium*, *sened*. Semantically, legal and administrative terms designate processes, phenomena, features, documents: *ferman*, *hاتیşerif*, *hati-humaium*, *sened*; persons holding legal and administrative office: *cadiascher/cadischer*, *şeyh*.

7. Xenisms⁴ have a different distribution in the writings of Bălcescu. Turkisms have a significant share, especially in historical writings: *cadiascher* "Turkish military high official, with the duties of a military judge" < Tk. *kadiasker*: „va veni la Bucureşti un *cadiascher*" (III, 34) /"A *cadiascher* (a military judge) will come to Bucharest"/*cadischer*, var. *cadiascher*: „*cadischerii* sunt judecătorii armiei" (III; 34)/"the *cadischeri* are the judges of the army"; *capigiu*, obs. *capugiu* "Sultan's special envoy in the Romanian Principalities mainly empowered to replace the prince" < Tk. *kapuğu*: „noul vizir porni pe chihaiăoa *capigiilor*, Ahmet aga" (III, 68)/"the new vizier sent the chihaiă of the *capigii* (the inspector of the sultan's special envoys), Ahmet aga"; *capuchihaea*, var. *capuchehaia* "representative or diplomatic agent of the Romanian rulers at the Sublime Porte" < Tk. *kapu kehaiasy*: „vistierul Ion, ce era *capuchihaea* al ţării" (III, 21)/"treasurer Ion, who was the *capuchihaea* of the country (the diplomatic agent of the Romanian ruler at the Sublime Porte)"; *chihaia*, obs. *chehaia* "inspector of the vizier or pasha, responsible for the inspection of his court" <

⁴ Cf. MDA, vol. I, II, III, IV.

Tk. *ke haya, kyaya*: „noul vizir porni pe *chihaiaoa* capigiilor, Ahmet aga” (III, 68)/“the new vizier sent the *chihaia* of the capigii (the inspector of the sultan’s special envoys), Ahmet aga”; *cumbara*, obs. “cannonball” < Tk. *kumbara*: „Mortarierele se numea pive și obuzurile *cumbarale*” (I, 145)/ “The mortars were called pive and the shells were called *cumbarale*”; *culoglu*, obs. “infantryman” < Tk. *kuloğlu*: „împreună cu o mie ianiceri și o mie *culogli* drept garnizoană” (I, 201)/“together with a thousand janissaries and a thousand *culogli* (infantrymen) as garrison”; *deftedar*, obs. “financial controller of the vizier or of a pasha” < Tk. *deftedar*: „Noul mare vizir adună îndată la divan pe toți vizirii, pe muftiul, pe cadiascheri, pe nisangiul, pe cei patru *defteri*” (III, 56) /“The new great vizier reunited for a divan all the viziers, the mufti, the military judges, the nisangiu (keeper of the seal), the four *defteri* (financial controllers)”; *ghimie*, obs. “ship” < Tk. *gemi*: „ambarați în niște *ghimii* turcești” (IV, 93)/“on Turkish *ships*”; *haraciu*, var. *haraci* < Tk. *haraç*: „vor fi scutiți de *haraciu*” (II, 8)/“they will be exempt from paying *haraciu* (taxes)”; *hatiserif* “order or decree issued by the office of the Sublime Porte to the high officials of the empire and the ruler of Wallachia, with the seal of the sultan, to be enforced accordingly” < Tk. *hatti-şerif*: „prin mai multe *hatiserifuri*” (II, 10)/“through several *Hatti-Sheriffs* (Sublime Porte decrees)”; *hati-humaium*, var. *hatihumaium* (“Hatti-Sheriff”) < Tk. *hatti humayum*: „Iată *hati-humaium* din anul 1393” (II, 8)/“Here is the *hati-humaium*, the Sublime Porte decree of the year 1393”; *iuzbaşa* “commander over a hundred soldiers” < Tk. *jüzbaşy*: „Fustaşii, de care erau numai 100, sub *iuzbaşa* de fustaşi...” (I, 51)/“The lancers, who were only 100 in number, under the command of a *iuzbaşa*”; *şavana*, var. *şabana* “long, expensive garment” < Tk. *şebane*: „Ei era învâstmâtați, pe vremea lui Ștefan cel Mare, cu *şavanale*...” (I, 141) /“At the time of Stephen the Great, they wore *şavanale* (long, expensive garments)”; *topciu* “artillery soldier” < Tk. *topçi*: „un *topciu* (tunar) numit Ibraim paşa” (III, 86)/“a *topciu* (artilleryman) called Ibraim Pasha”.

Most xenisms are military terms, legal and administrative terms and, more rarely, economic terms.

8. In Bălcescu’s writings many non-Romance elements, particularly borrowings from Hungarian, German, Turkish, as well as Slavic elements, are old, popular and became part of the basic word stock. Older military terms come from Turkish, others are of French origin; socio-political terms are borrowed from Romance languages (French, Latin, Italian), but also from Turkish, Slavic, neo-Greek; legal and administrative terms are mainly borrowed from French, but also from neo-Greek and German. Another feature of terminology is interdisciplinarity: some socio-political terms are close to the philosophical or historical ones, whereas some administrative terms interfere with the social ones. The borrowings pertaining to the common vocabulary have the ability to develop new meanings faster. In order to preserve semantic precision, for new concepts Bălcescu introduces French elements in the Romanian text. Enrichment of the Romanian language means enrichment of the register of xenisms (Frenchisms, Turkisms, Germanisms). Synonymy is marked by one or several lexical units, by French equivalents. This shows that the lexical norm is still fluctuating in the 19th century, when literary language was in a full process of modernization.

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