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Elena-Camelia Zăbavă, *Gheorghe Bolocan: studii și articole de onomastică*,
Craiova, Editura Universitaria, 2020, 507 p. (Simona Sandu Pîrvulescu)**



Gheorghe Bolocan - one of the titans of Romanian linguistics! When saying Bolocan, one means DTRO¹! When saying Bolocan, one means the Onomastics Laboratory of the Faculty of Letters within the University of Craiova, one means UNICA BDAR²! A reference name acquired in over 40 years of scientific research activity materialized in tens of studies, articles, dictionaries.

This volume brings together some of his studies and articles, representative of the field of onomastics (toponymy and anthroponymy) with the stated intention of highlighting “[...] the fact that the works of Gh. Bolocan, of greater or lesser scope, managed to impose an original conception, a new terminology in some cases and an innovative research method in the field of toponymy and anthroponymy, by processing and interpreting the onomastic material from the diachronic and synchronic perspective simultaneously, in linguistic and extralinguistic context [...]” (p. 18).

It is not by chance that the first article included in the volume is *Derivative models in toponymy* - this article is representative of Bolocan’s constant concern for the derivation of toponyms, with an emphasis on the derivation of “diminutives in Romanian toponymy” (p. 19). A supporter of the premise that “the analysis of derivational structures in toponymy must lie at the basis of etymological analysis.” (p. 19), Bolocan devoted much of the period 1975-2000 to the authentication of this premise through large-scale scientific research. The articles *Toponymic and etymological derivation* (pp. 195-206) and *The formation of group names in Oltenia* (pp. 207-248) are evidence in this sense.

The second article included in the volume, *The toponymic dictionary of Romania*, reflects Bolocan’s intent to create a dictionary through which toponymy research can be capitalized in order to study the history of the Romanian language. While presenting the model of the dictionary and the structure of each article that will compose the dictionary, Bolocan does not neglect any linguistic/extralinguistic aspect that can bring relevant information on the linguistic facts gathered under the umbrella of toponyms. His comments on etymology are remarkable, Gh. Bolocan

¹ *Dicționarul toponimic al României. Oltenia* (‘The toponymic dictionary of Romania. Oltenia’)

² *Bază de date antroponimice a României* (‘Anthroponymic data base of Romania’)

considering that “The etymology of place names cannot and must not differ from the etymology of common words.” (p. 39). With Bolocan, etymology acquires an important status in the study of toponyms, a correctly identified status, becoming the facilitator of the reconstruction of the formal and semantic evolution of lexemes - place names: “The etymology of a toponym will have to discover (or reconstitute) both the evolution of the form and the evolution of the denotative meaning of the place name.” (p. 39). *The toponymic dictionary of Romania* is also studied in the article *Names of places in cities and their place in the Toponymic Dictionary of Romania* (pp. 101-105).

Bolocan’s concern for the Slavic languages (as sources for our language) is visible in the article *Romanian language issues in the chancellery documents prior to the 17th century*. The article highlights elements of geographical terminology (especially popular) and administrative terminology, elements that contribute to the formation of toponymic groups. Popular geographical terminology is another area that caught Bolocan’s attention. Years of meticulous scientific research led Bolocan to conclude that “[...] the existence of a toponymic group presupposes the prior existence of a term of popular geography and a toponym or anthroponym.” (p. 48). The increasing interest in popular geographical terminology is also visible by including the microtoponymic system specific to popular geographical terminology in *The entopic dictionary of the Romanian language* (pp. 61-70). The attention paid to the geographical terms involved in toponymy is also manifest in the article *The entopic system of the Romanian language and its role in toponymy* (pp. 84-89) - article in which Bolocan proposes the classification of “entopic terms” in “three distinct groups: a) general terms encountered in literary language and in most dialects of Romanian [...]; b) terms used in literary language and in some dialects, but with a different meaning; c) terms that are not found in literary language, having a strictly local distribution.” (p. 85). The classification is illustrative both for the phenomenon of the migration of terms between the specialized lexicon and the common lexicon, and for the existing semantic relations between terms. The presence of the entries under letter **B** in *The entopic dictionary of the Romanian language* (pp. 376-457) is also welcome, a fact that facilitates the “work” of linguists and young doctoral students.

The maximum exploitation of all possible sources in the scientific research initiated in the field of onomastics can also be identified in the article *Compound toponyms in Slavo-Romanian documents* (pp. 90-100), an article in which we are provided with a list of compound toponyms – the examples being extracted from Slavo-Romanian documents.

The fact that research in the field of onomastics is performed out of scientific passion is proven by covering all possible linguistic and extralinguistic aspects in the analysis of a term; thus Bolocan does not omit the analysis of the morphological

behaviour of toponyms, the volume containing representative articles from this point of view, namely: *Is there a toponymic plural?* (pp. 124-137), *On the articulation of place names* (pp. 150-158).

By approaching the field of toponymy, it was natural for Bolocan to turn his attention to the problem of stratification in toponymy, concluding that “[...] the oldest toponymic layer is represented by hydronyms [...]” (p. 57), followed by oikonoms (names of localities), toponyms with simple structure, toponyms with compound structure, diminutive-toponyms and toponyms of foreign origin (pp. 57-60). The idea is taken over and developed in the article *The category ‘group names’ in toponymy* (pp. 71-83). The category of compound toponyms is detailed in the articles: *Compound places names* (pp. 159-169) with the specification “The article studies the structure of Romanian compound toponyms according to the following pattern: a) noun + noun; b) noun + adjective.” (p. 159); *Compound toponyms: noun + de + noun* (pp. 170-178); *Compound toponyms: models with prepositions* (pp. 179-186); *Analytical toponymic structures and their reflection in documents* (pp. 254-268) - in this article, Bolocan suggests the use of the term “analytical toponymic structure”, a term that “seems to us more precise than that of compound toponym” (p. 254) because “There are no compound structures as such in Romanian toponymy.” (p. 254).

The presence of the article *Problems of hydronym standardization* (pp. 272-277), published in 1990, indicates both Bolocan’s orientation towards the theory of external terminology and his adherence to the principle of standardization of specialized languages. For Romanian linguistics, this article is a huge step forward in scientific research.

The end of the volume is covered by articles inspired by research initiated in order to develop *The dictionary of surnames in Romania* (unfinished project), mirroring the two directions: one aimed at “the research of surnames” (p. 14, pp. 335-375), “the other aimed at the analysis of first names” (p. 14, pp. 458-502).

The special analytical capacity, the synthetic capacity of Professor Bolocan, his intellectual and professional training as a complete researcher-linguist, the inclination to bring his contribution in less researched fields in Romanian linguistics, the use of multiple, various sources (both written and unwritten) of the language, are fully exploited in *The toponymic dictionary of Romania*, in *The entopic dictionary of the Romanian language*, in the numerous studies and articles dedicated to the field of onomastics.

Thousands of thanks to the authors and the entire teaching staff of the Faculty of Letters, University of Craiova, for the gate they opened for us to the hidden treasure found in the work of Gheorghe Bolocan!