

From Phraseologisms to Discourse Traditions. Etymological and Stylistic Contributions

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Habilitation Thesis

Abstract

In my habilitation thesis, entitled *From Phraseologisms to Discourse Traditions. Etymological and Stylistic Contributions*, I presented my professional and, mostly, my scientific route, emphasizing mainly the studies and researches following my doctoral thesis in philology. Thus, I tried to highlight my evolution as a scientist and as a teacher, while also indicating the originality, relevance and actuality of my scientific contributions so far. At the same time, I proposed a realistic career development managerial plan, concerning both my research activity and my didactic activity.

In the first part (the most extended) of my habilitation thesis, I mentioned my *scientific, professional and academic achievements*. In the beginning I briefly exposed the stages of my professional development, which preceded and followed the public defence of my doctoral thesis in philology: in 2001, I graduated the Faculty of Letters, History and Theology within “The Lower Danube” University of Galați (specialization: Romanian – English); in 2003 – the master’s degree “The Theory and Practice of Texts” (at the same university); in 2006, I obtained my Ph.D. in philology (*magna cum laude*) at the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași; in 2018, at the same university, I obtained my Ph.D. in philosophy (*summa cum laude*). Between 2001 and 2007, I worked as a teacher of Romanian in secondary school and high school. In 2007 I was hired as a junior lecturer, Ph.D., at “Constantin Brâncoveanu” University of Pitești (to which I had been associated since 2006) and taught subjects connected to language/communication sciences. In 2017 I was hired as a senior lecturer, Ph.D., at “Danubius” University of Galați and later, in 2018, I became an associate professor. Thanks to my double specialization, I currently teach at this university both subjects related to language sciences and to philosophy.

In the section dedicated to my *scientific research*, I mentioned a series of contributions prior to my doctoral thesis (of those that dealt with phraseological etymology, i.e. with

discovering the origin of some Romanian idioms). My doctoral thesis in philology (publicly defended in 2006 and published in 2007), *The Phraseological Synonymy in the Romanian Language from the Integral Linguistics Point of View*, was referred to by Professor Stelian Dumistrăcel, Ph.D. (the scientific coordinator of my thesis), as a “topic proving profound comprehension of the Magister’s [= Eugenio Coseriu] thorough conception and proving its application in the analysis, *in vivo*, of the variation of expression”.

Taking phraseology in a strict sense (that is, limiting the subject-matter to idioms and set phrases, as real or potential equivalents of words), I studied, in hundreds of Romanian literary (but also non-literary) contexts, both the relation of synonymy between phraseologisms (phraseological synonymy) and the relation of synonymy between words and phraseologisms (lexico-phraseological synonymy). My research demonstrated that phraseological units behave in context similarly to words, and thus their labeling as linguistic signs is justified.

Once published, my doctoral thesis was well received by the scientific community, benefiting from two favorable reviews (one in Romanian and the other in French) and from over 20 citations and bibliographical mentions (in single authored books, as well as in Romanian and foreign academic journals). It is also included in the catalogues of some Romanian and foreign university libraries.

While in my doctoral thesis the conception on phraseology was mostly a strict one, my further researches were directed towards a phraseology in a broad sense as well, precisely towards «repeated discourse» (a term coined by E. Coseriu), which comprises in its sphere – along idioms and set phrases – famous quotations, proverbs, wellerisms etc. Influenced by the linguist Stelian Dumistrăcel, I analyzed, in many articles, the formal changes (contextually motivated) of the sentences belonging to repeated discourse, according to the four types of universal changes (“quadripartita ratio”: *adiectio*, *detractio*, *immutatio* and *transmutatio*) pointed out by Quintilian. Thus, I also envisaged the stylistic and/or pragmatic effects which these transformations bring to the different types of discourse (from the belletristic ones to the scientific, philosophical and journalistic ones). At the same time, I followed my preoccupations regarding the etymology of some Romanian expressions.

A sum of my contributions to the field of phraseology is to be found in my book, *Frazeologie românească. Formare și funcționare* [*Romanian Phraseology. Its Forming and Functioning*] (published in 2013), in which, apart from the etymological and stylistic analyses of

the (mainly Romanian) phraseological units, I also tried to offer a solid theoretical apparatus of this domain, re-evaluating some concepts (such as the concept of «multiple phraseological etymology») and proposing further distinctions or new criteria (as in the case of distinguishing between idioms and set phrases). As a separate section, the topic of repeated discourse and of its modifications is also present in the above mentioned volume. Just as the doctoral thesis, this book was equally appreciated by specialists.

Lately, my interest was directed to «discourse traditions» (a topic theorized by Peter Koch and developed by Johannes Kabatek), a notion that includes, among others, «repeated discourse», as well as a variety of linguistic phenomena established by repetition, such as functional styles and specialized languages. Considering the fact that I not only dealt with repeated discourse, but also with different classifications of functional styles (from the perspective of the history of linguistic ideas), one can conclude that I implicitly contributed to the research of this domain, which is highly relevant to the current linguistics. On the other hand, I also explicitly treated the topic of discourse traditions in some recent original articles.

In the second part of my habilitation thesis, I presented a *career development managerial plan*, indicating the directions which I would like to follow, both concerning my research activity and my didactic activity. In the near future, I aim at studying thoroughly the research topics I have approached so far – phraseology, repeated discourse, discourse traditions (from a synchronic and diachronic perspective) –, transferring to potential Ph.D. students not only my acquired knowledge, but also the interest in investigating these categories of linguistic facts. Consequently, by coordinating individual and/or collective research projects, I am convinced that all the persons involved will benefit from it, with the view to elucidating the topics under study.

In the third part of my habilitation thesis, I presented the *bibliography* associated with the content of the two previous sections, namely a bibliography which consists of specialized works, which I intend to resort to in both my research and didactic activity.