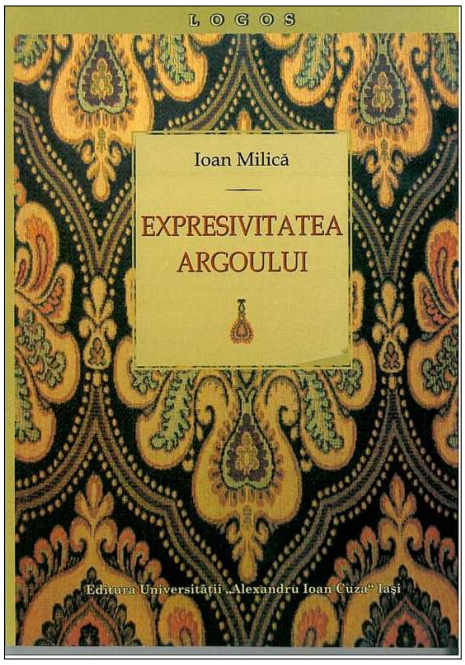
Ioan Milică, *Expresivitatea argoului*, Iaşi, Editura Universităţii „Alexandru Ioan Cuza”, 2009, 352 p. (Cristina Radu-Golea)



Mr. Ioan Milică’s book, *Expresivitatea argoului/ The Expressiveness of Slang*, is an ample and complex study on slang as a linguistic phenomenon. The conclusions are interesting and worth taking into account by specialists considering that the author “realizează o analiză substanţială a argoului în comunicarea lingvistică şi în comunicarea literară”/‘makes a consistent study of slang terms used both in everyday language and in literary style’, as late Professor Dumitru Irimia PhD states in his *Preface* (p. 7).

The book is structured into five chapters (1. *Ipostazele metalingvistice ale unui cuvânt marginal/The Metalinguistic Aspects of a Marginal Word*, 2. *Schiţă de istorie a cercetării argoului românesc/A Short Research History in the Domain of Slang* 3. *Stilistica argoului în conversaţiile şcolarilor/Students’ Slang Stylistics*, 4. *Stilistica argoului în comunicarea prin intermediul internetului/Slang Stylistics and Internet Communication* 5. *Stilistica şi poetica argoului în textul literar/Slang Stylistics and Poetics in Literary Texts*). In his *Final Observations/Observaţii finale*, Mr. Ioan Milică makes some comments on his endeavour: “revizuirea critică a unora din cele mai importante ipoteze referitoare la identitatea argoului a avut rolul de a separa elementele pertinente şi valoroase de consideraţiile conjuncturale şi simplificările metodologice ocazionale, cu scopul de a integra într-o concepţie relativ unitară diversele opinii ştiinţifice reprezentative pentru evoluţia ideilor referitoare la identitatea lingvistică şi la potenţialul expresiv al faptelor de limbă argotice”/‘the critical revision of some of the most

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important hypotheses referring to slang identity had the role of separating the pertinent, valuable elements from conjunctural assumptions and occasional methodological simplifications, in order to integrate into a relatively unitary conception the various scientific opinions that are representative from the perspective of the ideas referring to the linguistic identity and expressive potential of slang terms as linguistic facts’ (p. 336). Thus, the author proves that he can master a vast lexical corpus and also “the instrument” necessary for analysis and synthesis, since the whole presentation is very rigorous.

Being convinced, that in case of literary texts “language is not merely a vehicle used by the writer to express the world he is imagining or that he relates himself to, but, at a certain moment and in a certain way, it becomes a text structuring principle due to the complex nature of signification relations established by the constituent signs” (p. 266), Mr. Ioan Milică selects the next texts to analyse the phenomenon of slang: *Cânticele ţigăneşti* by Miron Radu Paraschivescu, Dan Lungu’s short stories and Mihai Avasilicăi’s texts, grouped in the volumes *Fanfan, rechinul puşcăriilor/Fanfan, the Prison Shark* and *Borfaşii secolului XX/Twentieth Century Crooks*. In literature, slang is the product of a lucid filtration and attentive artistic evaluation which have undeniable effects on the plane of readers’ understanding. Therefore, the author evinces the relations among language components and gives illustrative examples in this respect, taking into account expressiveness primarily, as the book title states.

Mr. Ioan Milică’s book is an ambitious project and its solid ‘architecture’ highlights the lucid, rigorous and balanced demonstration of the way in which slang is perceived in relation to grammar, semantics, stylistics and poetics. Even if not included in the series of research works which “study the history of the slang” (p. 338), Ioan Milică’s book represents an important contribution to slang analysis, allowing further approaches of the phenomenon.

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