

**Mihaela Munteanu Siserman, *Nume și simțuri: corespondențe semantice în configurații denominative*, Editura Mega, Editura Argonaut, Cluj-Napoca, 2015, 260 p.**

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Challenging even on the level of the paratext, Mihaela Munteanu Siserman's volume *Nume și simțuri: corespondențe semantice în configurații denominative* [Names and Senses: Semantic Correspondences in Onomastic Configurations] (Editura Mega, Editura Argonaut, Cluj-Napoca, 2015, 260 p.) reunites, as we ascertain from the *Introduction*, contributions whose common research topic is the science of names. The papers have been published by the author over the last few years, and are bibliographically updated and revised. Under the ægis of integrative onomastics, the book brings together studies that analyse the capacity of proper names to contract various determiners, on the one hand, and instances of "deonymization" (through antonomasia), on the other. For both approaches, the author employs morphological and lexical-semantic methodologies.

One can rightfully discuss the rhetoric of the chapter headings of the reviewed book, as the semantic effects can be noticed even on this (anticipative / advisory) preliminary textual positioning.

In the spirit of honesty characteristic of dedicated researchers, Mihaela Munteanu Siserman mentions, after each of the 11 studies in the book, the original bibliographical reference or the name of the scientific event on the occasion of which the paper was presented.

Upon examining the first study, *Despre câteva clase lexico-semantice de nume proprii devenite nume comune* [On Certain Lexical-Semantic Classes of Proper Names Turned Common Nouns] (p. 22–40), included in the first section of the book, i.e., *Nume proprii vs. nume comune* [Proper Names vs. Common Nouns], it becomes clear that we are reading a pocket encyclopædia (the "controlled" character of the information can be explained by the author's delimitation of the field of interest, which is, in fact, the intrinsic limitation of any research

topic). Two main concerns dominate Mihaela Munteanu Siserman's interest: **i**) to list and explain well-known common terms which "encapsulate" a proper name in their lexical-semantic structure and **ii**) to convey briefly the history of the original referent (an anthroponym or a toponym), indicating the (extra)linguistic odyssey of its lexicalization ("deonymization"). Pursuant to the statement above, the collocation *common name* following *proper name* in the title is legitimate, although the examples are "deonymized". The author portrays in balanced graphic parts the remarks related to both investigated categories (common names vs. proper names).

The fields to which the proprial "traces" identified in the examined eponyms pertain are everyday life (lexical-semantic explorations of gastronomy, clothes, accessories, and entertainment), science and technology, fauna, flora, mythology, religion, and so-called onomastic curiosities.

The reverse strategy used by the author in her approach, from eponym to source (with the source taken into consideration as a taxonomic criterion), allows for a clearer observation of the polyphonic modalities implied in the formation of the investigated nominal units. The reader is challenged to access (to update/to assimilate) a halo of correlative information (encyclopædic context), lexicographical knowledge, and data related to universal culture, meant to save the reader from a possible erroneous interpretative track (see, for instance, the explanation for the origin of the dog breed name *the Maltese*, p. 31).

The "enclosure" of a proper name (anthroponym or toponym) in a common name—a frequent process in historical languages—is reflected in the onomastic connection between a "depropriated" name and its proprial origin (anthroponyms identified in the deep structure of eponyms indicate illustrious referents,

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while toponyms mark the locative incidence of designated products/properties).

The second study in the book, *Comportament morfosintactic și funcție discursivă în cazul numelor proprii cu/fără determinanți* [Morphosyntactic Behaviour and Discursive Function in Proper Names with/without Determiners] (p. 41–66), is an analysis performed mainly from the viewpoint of logical linguistics. Mihaela Munteanu Siserman proves to have thorough knowledge of the theories regarding the semantic and referential status of proper names (following Kripke, Milner, Mill, and Kleiber) and carries out a minute examination of the values of proper names (provided by their designative property or by their purpose) in various contexts with or without determiners. The author identifies a series of discursive functions of proper names as part of certain nominal phrases, by investigating the “faithfulness” of the name of a discursive referent in relation to the reiteration of the name of the initial referent.

In the chapter dedicated to proper names without determiners (p. 43–47), it is worth noting that the author exceeds the limits of textual-discursive interpretation through grammatical remarks that reveal the researcher’s predilection for the exploitation of a language fact up to its last morphological and lexicographic potential. Useful observations can be found in the analysis of structures consisting of an appellative + a proper name. The first component of the onymic formula is considered to have the ability to confer an additional individualizing power to the proper name and indicate the relationship between name bearer and locutor. Therefore, the components of a nominal binomial become reference clarifiers, mutually contributing to the “elucidation” of the denotatum.

Determiners in proper nominal phrases (see p. 47–56: demonstrative adjectives, definite/ indefinite articles, possessives or extensive proper names) help establish reference or insert a disruption in the onymic chain *proper name – referent*, with (semantic and stylistic) consequences on the textual level. “Disembodied” proper names (Gardiner), due to the presence of an indefinite article, for instance, do not establish the referent through the relation proper name – referent, but on the level of predication, as the proper name loses (when it develops this indefinite status) “the referential value which would allow

for the identification of the referent” (p. 48). As it results from the contextual analysis, the presence of demonstratives may fulfil the following functions: referent focalization, thematic perpetuation or, on the contrary, discursive demarcation.

A special place is reserved by the author for “illustrious proper names (with or without determiners) which lead to the rupture of onymic connection” (p. 53–56). These names refer to the exemplary, metaphoric and metonymic uses within which “the modification of the initial referent aims at invoking, on the level of discourse, another virtual or real referent by establishing connections based on linguistic and cultural traditions” or “by means of direct indication of the initial referent” (p. 62).

Proper names with possessive determination (p. 52–62) contribute to the correct “reading” of textual referents. They produce various pragmalinguistic effects, such as distancing from or familiarity with the referents of possessive phrases. However, such names underline “the autonomy of the possessed objects in relation to the possessor” (p. 63).

The author motivates the title of the second section of the book, *Onomastică senzorială* [Sensory Onomastics], based on the correspondences established between different levels of onomastic knowledge (olfactory, gustative, visual, and tactile). Mihaela Munteanu Siserman reinforces the belief regarding the need to place the act of naming among other psychological activities by analysing names of perfumes, culinary products, TV shows, coins, diseases/viruses, and rulers’ nicknames.

In relation to onomastics and the sense of smell, Mihaela Munteanu Siserman investigates names of perfumes from a semiotic-linguistic perspective (*Nume proprii de parfumuri: o analiză semiolingvistică* [Names of Perfumes: A Semiolinguistic Analysis], p. 68–85). According to the author, proper names can be analysed on three levels: *the semiotic level* (“the linguistic structures according to which an object is identified”), *the pragmatic level* (as the product of a manufacturer for a potential client), and *the sociocultural level* (the cognitive effort of the intended beneficiary—who makes use of extralinguistic references—to decipher the proper name). Considering the proper name as a sign, the following categories of proper names (and subsequent subcategories) were identified: proper names with a generic component; proper names which convey

the name of the producer/the perfume house, using several mechanisms—transparent or linguistic and stylistic mechanisms. The pragmatic perspective takes into consideration the target customer, who may be explicitly mentioned or inferentially reconstituted. (For instance, the author notices that, among the feminine proper names in the corpus investigated, there is a single case in which one is able to find lexical-semantic clues regarding the identification of potential female customers, which are therefore retrievable only by comparison with the names of perfumes for men.) Perfumes are considered by the modern individual an appendix of personality, and they fulfil a social function as they are “paired” with various events in an individual’s life. Thus, the author’s classification includes *circadian* proper names; proper names related to various social-life domains (sport, recreation etc.); synesthetic proper names; proper names reiterating the names of the four primordial elements (water, air, earth, and fire); proper names conveying a toponym (the manufacturing/trading location of the fragrance); encyclopædic proper names involving an inferential journey (from a cultural, historical or social viewpoint) to accomplish the correct semantic decoding of the name; proper names evoking exemplary figures and personalities; proper names whose significance can be solved only by means of intertextuality; descriptive proper names (some of which reproduce argumentative schemes, but all containing “closed in their deep structure the unspoken true or desired, projected story” (p. 80); numeral-based proper names (which may be accounted for by placing the product in a *numerical chain* or by the subjective-affective resonance encoded in the name by the perfumer).

Most investigated proper names are objectively or subjectively motivated, as the author rightly states. The key to the correct decoding of such names is not reduced to their literal interpretation, as it involves different levels of knowledge from an extended (extralinguistic) context.

The reason behind choosing to research into the topic *Onomastica senzorialului gustativ. Nume de preparate culinare autohtone în perspectiva globalizării (interpretări onomastice și socioculturale)* [Onomastics of Taste. Names of Autochthonous Dishes in Relation to Globalization (Onomastic and Sociocultural Approaches)] (p. 86–113) must have been, as

can be deduced from the author’s statement, the richness and diversity of tastes, shapes, flavours, and colours of the ingredients and dishes in local and universal cuisine.

On reviewing the various stages of intercultural contact in Romanian culinary terminology analysed in diachrony, Mihaela Munteanu Siserman makes a classification of the terminology **i)** based on the occurrence of an onomastic component in the investigated structures, **ii)** from the lexical-semantic point of view, and **iii)** by determining the etymons. The consulted corpus comprises, on the one hand, famous sources, which have become well-established due to their age and excessive use (cookbooks). On the other hand, the corpus also consists of units of analysis collected by the author from the Internet or by directly recording product names from the appropriate commercial spaces.

The author provides a definition of gastronyms, an umbrella term which reunites names of products in Romanian gastronomy: “names given to dishes/culinary products and beverages recorded in specialized books or websites dedicated to gastronomy from an onomasiological and/or semasiological perspective, that is, in sections that register recipes according to the order in which they are served during a meal or into taxonomies of various gastronomic categories” (p. 89–90).

The specific (onomastic) component in the linguistic structure of gastronyms—according to which the taxonomy of different (sub)classes was made—has an explicit or implicit lexical-semantic structure, directly or indirectly pointing out the anthroponym or toponym included in the signifier or signified.

The anthroponyms identified in the structure of gastronyms are surnames and illustrious proper names whose presence is explicable in certain gastronomic contexts.

Gastronyms containing toponyms are grammatically distributed according to the following syntactic pattern: 1. appellative (the *generic component* ± preposition) + proper name determiner and 2. appellative + toponymized relational adjective.

Another (lexical-semantic) classification divides gastronyms into *de-toponyms* and *de-anthroponyms*; their origin also functions as a classifying criterion. The detailed analysis groups gastronyms stylistically and pragmatically into metaphorical gastronyms, pragmatic gastronyms (within this category, there are

“gastronyms expressing attitudes against economic crises”, which the author considers to be “the negative effects of consumerist societies” (p. 109) that generate financial and temporal crises), and *other semantic categories of gastronyms*.

As a general observation, Mihaela Munteanu Siserman notes the Westernization of the onomastic corpus in contemporary Romanian cuisine: “‘Tell me what you eat and I will tell you what you are’ seems to have lost its identity references in a globalized and globalizing era. Names of local culinary products are a last resort against the assault of fast food, which has an impact not only on mentalities, but also on culinary behaviour” (p. 110).

The author’s preoccupation for names in gastronomy continues in the study *Influența limbii franceze asupra numelor culinare românești* [The Influence of the French Language on Romanian Culinary Names] (p. 114–130). It aims at achieving a lexicological/lexicographic outline of the influence of the French language on the culinary Romanian word-stock.

In the semantic evaluation of the language facts, Mihaela Munteanu Siserman distributes the material according to isotopies subsumed under the following categories: names of desserts, pastry and confectionery products; names of sauces; types of meat; names of kitchen utensils.

The author points out that some of the terms have undergone changes in meaning in the borrowing language as compared to their meaning in the language of origin, either by extrapolation or by semantic conversion and/or the alteration of the signifier (due to the tendency to adapt to the phonetic and morphological requirements of the Romanian language). Other terms have preserved their original “physiognomy”. In general, Romanian culinary names originating in French preserve their initial meaning and even if various metamorphoses occur over time, they can be explained through the contact with other gastronomic ethnicities and civilisations, the change of mentalities, and the transformations in social-political and cultural life.

Invoking the long tradition of Romanian wine (the recognition of the Thracian supremacy among other regions of Europe in terms of the quality of the wines produced here), Mihaela Munteanu Siserman dedicates a paper in this book to *Names of Romanian Wines and Grape Varieties* (p. 131–150). The per-

spective of analysis is multidimensional (linguistic-structural and semantic-pragmatic), as the author investigates the relationship established between manufacturers (identifiable on the level of nominal labelling) and beneficiaries (customers/consumers).

The identified nominal structures are mostly motivated designating expressions and have been grouped into many semantic categories, as follows: names related to the ethnonym of the country of origin (sometimes the structure integrates a hydronym, an oronym etc.): *Tămâioasă românească* ‘Romanian Muscadine’, *Dunărea Albastră* ‘The Blue Danube’; names that contain appellatives meaning ‘legacy’: *Hereditas*, *Tezaur* ‘Treasury’, *Zestrea* ‘The Dowry’; names containing toponyms denoting origin: *Jidvei*, *Murfatlar*, *Târnave*, etc.—with the following sub-categories: the generic term *domeniu* ‘domain’ (singular/plural form) + toponym: *Domeniile Segarcea* ‘Segarcea Domains’; the term *moșie* ‘estate’ + toponym: *Moșia de la Tohani* ‘Tohani Estate’; names of landforms + determiner: *Dealul Mare* ‘The Big Hill’; locatives: *Beciul Domnesc* ‘The Royal Cellar’, with a particular subclass, *casa/familia* ‘house/family’ + identifying anthroponym: *Casa Isărescu* ‘The Isărescu House’, *Familia Hetei* ‘The Hetei Family’—the effects on name receivers: “familiarity, shared joy or tradition transmitted ‘from father to son’” (p. 136); names referring to cultural, mythological symbols: *Drăgaica Roșie* ‘The Red Drăgaica’, *Rusalca Albă* ‘The White Rusalca’, with various pragmatic effects—conjuring (*Balada* ‘The Ballad’, *Menestrel* ‘Minstrel’), magic (*Miracol* ‘Miracle’, *Misterium* < *mister* ‘mystery’); names evoking religious symbols: *Vin bisericesc* ‘Church wine’, *Vin liturgic* ‘Liturgical wine’, *7 Păcate* ‘7 sins’, etc.; names containing the appellative *castel* ‘castle’ [+ aristocracy] + determiner: *Castel Huniade* ‘Huniade Castle’, *Castel Jidvei* ‘Jidvei Castle’; names preserving “noble reminiscences by means of dignity or rituals of rank-related etiquette” (p. 141): *Noblesse*, *Vinul Cavalerului* ‘The Knight’s wine’ and *Wine Princess* among others.

As regards names of Romanian grape varieties, the author discusses about the existence of “semantic motivation in relation to the referent” (p. 142) based on metonymy or metaphor. The classification was made according to colour (*Negru vârtos* ‘Strong black’), the shape of the grape (*Grasă de Cotnari/Românească*, literally meaning ‘Fat Cotnari/Romanian grapes’), the presence of an eponym

or ethnonym (*Nausica, Nicorești*), synesthetic names (“cumulative structures that activate the simultaneity of multiple senses by evoking visual, auditory, olfactory, and gustative suggestions that ‘talk’ to each other”, p. 144)—*Tămâioasă (Românească)* ‘(Romanian) Muscadine’; zoomorphic/avimorphic symbols (*Cocoș* ‘Rooster’, *Sânge de Taur* ‘Bull Blood’); container/vineyard size (*Babanu* ‘The Big one’, *Miniaturi* ‘Miniatures’); circadian names (which capture the existential development sprout – ripened grapes – wine: *Mugur de viță* ‘Vine Bud’, *Floare de Toamnă* ‘Autumn Flower’); therapeutic, aphrodisiac, or euphoric effects (*Black Doktor, Erotikon*); scientific words and linguistic structures (*Nec plus ultra, Proles Pontica*); “academic brands” (*Colocviu* ‘Colloquium’).

As a general tendency, Mihaela Munteanu Siserman notices that, due to their enclosure in the specific linguistic structure, the names of Romanian wine and grape varieties in the investigated inventory indicate a strongly autochthonous image (be it real or imaginary, anthropomorphic or toponymic) that has gained the prestige of functioning as a brand for the wine product which it represents (and with which it is identified).

As regards the *onomastics of sight*, the author discusses *names of television shows in Romanian media space* (p. 151–175). The approach is not reductionist, as the designating structures are analysed not only in terms of onomastic aspects, but also from a perspective that extends the analysis towards semantics and pragmatics. Starting from the dichotomy *paleo-/neotelevision*—retrieved from French bibliography—, Mihaela Munteanu Siserman’s integrative approach classifies shows broadcast on (national and commercial) TV channels according to the thematic criterion:

- *informative television shows* (whose titles are generally organized around the noun news pre- or postposed to the name of the TV channel: *România TV News, Știrile ProTV* ‘ProTV News’);
- *economy television shows*: some observations are made on how the paradigm mutation in the Romanian economic system of the past 25 years has affected the naming of economy-related television shows; i.e., the tendency of economic Westernization is depicted on the level of the names of television shows, which either preserve

Anglicisms unaltered (*Money News*) or associate a Romanian word with a foreign (internationalized) lexeme: *Ora de business* ‘The Business Hour’;

- in the section dedicated to names of *weather forecast shows*, the author deals with the contemporary individuals’ need to have constant access to weather predictions according to which they plan a series of behaviours (choosing clothes, going on holidays, etc.);
- as regards the names of television shows dedicated to *press review*, the author goes beyond mere linguistic and onomastic de-structuring by formulating observations related to the close connection between show producers and the political party which they sympathize, along with verbal expressions (offensive language, personal attacks, etc.) conveying disagreement with those situated at the opposite end of the political spectrum;
- in the lexical-semantic structure of the names of *documentary shows* (about history, art, natural sciences, law, and economy among others) there are words that explicitly indicate the specific nature of the approached topic: *Digicult, România turistică* ‘Touristic Romania’, *Tele Arte* ‘Tele Arts’, etc.;
- the designating units/phrases used in the names of *talk shows* or *reality shows* illustrate direct reference by evoking the time slot (*Sinteza zilei* ‘Daily Summary’, *24 într-o oră* ‘24 in an Hour’) or the function that the media should fulfil in relation to the events presented (*Imparțial* ‘Impartial’, *Vorbește liber!* ‘Speak freely!’—alluding to “the undisguised attitude that the analyst should adopt as regards the commented/analysed event”, p. 165).

Due to the accuracy and thoroughness of the interpretation, worth noting are the two isotopies on which the author consolidates the designating structure of the name of a successful reality show, *Big Brother*. On the first level of interpretation, *big brother* is suggestive of an “oppressive, totalitarian system. The idea of a security camera is also reinforced by the logo of the show: the eye that supervises and sees everything” (p. 167–168). Upon a second, relational decoding, the author notices “the association in the collective mind of the significance of *big brother* [+ authority

(by means of reassignment, especially in the absence of parents), + experience in relation to the others]” (p. 168);

- post-totalitarian Romanian *entertainment shows*, as Mihaela Munteanu Siserman emphasizes, are “(financially) beneficial only for the tenderer, but not for the consumer (by watching only what they are offered, consumers gradually give up all evaluative criteria and become ‘sedated’, without reaction, because their critical spirit has been anesthetized/amputated). This form of entertainment reflects more and more accurately the particularities of tabloid press, juggling between exacerbated sexuality and erotic alcove, between the offensive and the trivial, between a wedding in the middle of the street at noon and an interview with the victim of a rape, conducted by the first reporter arrived at the scene” (p. 170);
- names of *health-related television shows* are based on the principle of transparency and contain at least a lexeme with medical meaning: *Ce se întâmplă, doctore?* ‘What’s happening, doctor?’, *Medici de gardă* ‘Doctors on call’, etc.;
- among the names of the investigated *gastronomic television shows*, worth mentioning is *Tinerețe fără bătrânețe* ‘Youthfulness without old age’, an oxymoronic structure obtained by joining the opposites of human existence, *youth* vs. *old age*, pointing out the reconstruction, by means of inference, of a conditional syntactic pattern: “If you eat properly when young, you will not have health problems in the old age” (p. 173).

The names of the television shows broadcast by various television channels (over 150) help (through semantic and structural transparency) subsume the shows under a *genus proximum*. Nevertheless, they may also hinder the foreshadowing of the content as a result of blurring the meaning of the paratextual naming structure due to the latter’s opacity (ambiguity) (see p. 174).

In *Considerații privind onomastica numismatică: numele de monede naționale* [Considerations Regarding Numismatic Onomastics: Names of National Currencies] (p. 176–188), the author employs the pre-existing lexical-semantic taxonomy (see footnote 8, p. 179) as a starting point and classifies various national currencies according to the reiteration (through translation) of those names in different languages (*dram, lari*), the trace of a reference in

the name to the material/alloy (of metals) from which the coin was made (*gulden, rupie* ‘rupee’), the meaning of the “unit of measure/weight” of the metal that served as raw material for the coin (*dinar, liră* ‘pound’), the “illustrious” name “engraved” on the obverse or the reverse of the coin (kings, emperors, rulers, and notorious personalities in a certain sphere of social life) (*bolivar, ludovic, napoleon*), the toponymic reference (state, kingdom, region) imprinted on the coin (*euro, forint, stambol*), and the various (religious, animal and other kinds of) symbols indicated by the numismatic appellative (*escudo, leu, sol*).

In the “exhausting” manner of the interpretative detail and with the accuracy of exemplary humanist researchers, Mihaela Munteanu Siserman notes that the onomastic options for the various investigated currencies result from the ethnic communities’ or sovereign’s decisions and are indicative of signification entrenched in the “national” linguistic code.

The onomastic ramifications in medical nomenclature (*Aspecte lingvistice în onomastica medicală* [Linguistic Aspects in Medical Onomastics], p. 189–204) reveals the researcher’s concern to apply the philological perspective and to use the resources of linguistic analysis even in the case of specialized languages (i.e., medical discourse), despite their multiple particularities with various functions on all the levels of language.

At the intersection of medicine and linguistics, Mihaela Munteanu Siserman proposes an interdisciplinary approach to names of *diseases, syndromes*, and *viruses*.

The onymic structures of the semantic classes identified display the following configuration:

- lexical root of scientific (Latin or Greek) origin + noun (< suffix-based derivation generating meaning): *-ree* (‘discharge, leak’: *bronhoree* ‘bronhorea’); *-ism* (‘permanent illness’: *mongolism* ‘mongolism’) (see p. 194);
- determiner + anthroponym/toponym (the discoverer of the disease/the place of incidence of the disease): *maladia Charcot-Marie* ‘Charcot-Marie tooth disease’;
- the anthroponym may indicate an “illustrious” referent: *complexul (lui) Oedip* ‘Oedipus complex’, *sindromul Stendhal* ‘Stendhal syndrome’, *sindromul “Alice în Țara Minunilor”* ‘Alice in Wonderland syndrome’;

- tropes identified in the linguistic structure: metonymy (the anthroponym substitutes the name of the disease/syndrome, e.g., *Parkinson*) and synonymy (there are different stylistic options depending on the language registers: the speaker chooses one of the variants from the synonymic series constituted based on the standard name of the disease/syndrome—e.g., *boala Biermer* ‘Biermer disease’ ≈ *anemie pernicioasă* ‘pernicious anæmia’);
- determiner + toponym (= the area of incidence of the virus/illness): *sindromul Stockholm* ‘Stockholm syndrome’, *sindromul Ierusalim* ‘Jerusalem syndrome’;
- ethnonyms (referring to the name of a nation): *gripa spaniolă* ‘Spanish flu’;
- “chromonyms” (referring to the colour identified in medical semiotics): *boala limbii albastre* ‘bluetongue disease’, *febra galbenă* ‘yellow fever’;
- medical “bestiary” (animal analogies (some of which are metaphorical) in patients’ morphopathology): *boala vacii nebune* ‘mad cow disease’, *gripa aviară* ‘avian flu’, *gripa porcină* ‘swine flu’;
- exotic, “picturesque” names: *boala mâinilor murdare* ‘dirty hands disease’ ≈ *hepatita A* ‘hepatitis A’, *sindromul copilului zgâlțâit* ‘shaken baby syndrome’ ≈ *sindromul Silverman* ‘Silverman syndrome’;
- logos, abbreviations, acronyms: CT, RMN ‘MRI’, EKG.

Mihaela Munteanu Siserman brings together in a very successful formula the scientific austerity—specific to the medical field—of the names analysed and the picturesque of the same terminology “translated” to be comprehensible for patients. In other words, the strictly specialized language is given a “transfusion” of popularization and “becomes transitive”, as it allows the deciphering of the “story” (genuine anthroponymic/toponymic reference) behind a complex of sounds otherwise “condemned” to be obscure for the nonprofessional.

In her scientific approach, the author also included collocations, proverbs, and Romanian phraseology (*Repere onomastice în structuri fixe românești. Perspective sociolingvistice și culturale* [Onomastic Markers in Romanian Fixed Structures. Sociolinguistic and Cultural Perspectives], p. 206–224) in whose semantic nucleus one can recognize the “trace” of a proper name.

In a relevant cultural, stylistic, and functional approach, Mihaela Munteanu Siserman signals the motivation of the identified onomastic structures, by discovering a relationship between the onymic references and a factual event assumed by a particular ethnolinguistic community. Moreover, the author notes the evocative function of these structures, as well as their various semantic effects: deliberate ambiguity, banter, and irony among others.

The surface structure facilitates the classification of fixed expressions according to the onomastic categories to which the constitutive proper names pertain: anthroponyms (*a fi de pe vremea lui Pazvante Chioru*, lit. ‘to be from the time of Pazvante the One-eyed’; *e țara lui papură Vodă*, lit. ‘it is Lord Bulrush’s country’; *a fi Cănuță om sucit*, lit. ‘to be Cănuță the misfit’); ethnonyms (*a lua luleaua neamțului*, lit. ‘to take the German’s pipe’, ‘to get drunk’); biblical characters and religious holidays (built mostly on the names of the Creator, Easter, and Christmas: *Domnu’ a dat, Domnu’ a luat* ‘the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away’, *la Paștile cailor* ‘at horses’ Easter’, *Crăciunul al sătului și Paștele al fudului* ‘Christmas [is] of the satiated and Easter [is] of the swagger’); toponyms (*a nimeri ca orbul în Brăila*, lit. ‘to reach something as the blind reached Brăila’); colours (*a fi/deveni negru de supărare* ‘to be/to turn black in anger’, *a fi/a se face alb ca varul* ‘to be/to become white as lime’).

With respect to the category of chromonyms, among the interpretations of the investigated structures worthy of attention is the explanation regarding the phrase *a aduna bani albi pentru zile negre* (‘to save white money for black days’; ‘to save money for a rainy day’): “The fear of ‘tomorrow’ and of being unable to make a living is ‘abolished’ by the reflex of the prudent individual to save money during good times for situations that could arise at a certain moment in life (physical, financial or other types of ‘dark days’). On the phraseological level, the situation is conveyed by invoking a structure that underlines the black/white chromatic opposition: *a strânge bani albi pentru zile negre* ‘to save white money for black days’. Through antiphrasis, the ‘reversed’ phrase creates semantic effects that are opposite to the original meaning: *Some people save white money for black days, while others save black money for white days and nights*” (p. 220).

By means of detailed notes, Mihaela Munteanu

Siserman invites readers and, at the same time, guides their comprehension towards connotative interpretations, which are the only ones that facilitate the metaphorical recovery of the denotative meaning of the explored structures.

The author's onomastic journey ends in a structural and semantic analysis of the bynames given to Romanian rulers in Wallachia and Moldavia in the Middle Ages (*Supranume ale conducătorilor (voievozilor, domnitorilor) din Evul Mediu românesc* [Bynames of Medieval Romanian Voivodes and Rulers], p. 226–246).

By joining the exegetical line in the field, Mihaela Munteanu Siserman points out the individualizing and differentiating role of bynames, in general. The byname-giver is on the side of the sovereign or opposes him.

Before explaining the anthroponymic phrases taken into consideration, the author focuses on the generic terms that precede or follow (in different thematic roles) a historical character's byname/first name/surname (or a combination of two such names). The appellatives in question, to which a lexicographical study is dedicated, include *domn* 'lord', *domnitor* 'ruler', *vodă* 'lord', and *voievod* 'voivode'.

Each of the semantic categories of bynames is illustrated, first of all, by advancing an example (which may be nominal) belonging to other historical and cultural spaces than the one announced as a research area of the study. Thus, the reader can easily notice the resemblances between the onymic systems of different ethnolinguistic civilizations, as a result of mentalities and habits that are similar on the level of psychosocial behaviour. Therefore, Mihaela Munteanu Siserman's study goes beyond methodologies that generally claim a philological approach, tending towards an integrative perspective (by including the local into the universal). History and legend (folklore) coexist with the study of the specific language fact that is lexicographically, structurally, and semantically investigated to its ultimate signified/signifying potential. Somehow, the present study has the profile of a history lecture consisting of the "story" behind the byname; based on all the aforementioned, the reader reaches *in medias rerum* the nominal history indicative of the complementary factual context.

Depending on how the circumstances (extralinguistic references) were assessed by contemporaries

or by the posterity (some of the bynames were given during their bearers' lifetime, others were given *post-mortem*), the author divides the onomastic corpus into two categories: *bynames with positive connotations* vs. *bynames with negative connotations*. Using semantic, stylistic, and pragmatic criteria, Mihaela Munteanu Siserman sketches the "portrait" of certain rulers, evoking the famous events that indestructibly "welded" them to their bynames.

Among the positive bynames, one can mention *Basarab I Întemeietorul* 'Basarab I the Founder', *Bogdan I Descălecătorul* 'Bogdan I the Dismounter'—figures whose (by)names are associated with/"translate" the founding/the creation of a "country" (establishing borders and rules for a Romanian land). Other bynames are transparent on the level of the ethnic qualifier (most often alluding to maternal origin): *Iancu Sasul* 'the Saxon', *Vasile Lupu Albanezul* 'the Albanian', *Petru Cazacul/Polonul* 'Peter the Cossack/the Polish', *Alexandru Stolnic Românul* 'Alexander Seneschal the Romanian'. In some cases, the bynames "record" the ruler's good, wise, brave nature: *Alexandru cel Bun* 'Alexander the Good', *Mihai Viteazul* 'Michael the Brave'. Bynames function as operators of differentiation in the succession to the throne of those who had the same name ("homonymous anthroponyms"). The author notes that the practice of "numbering" does not characterize the specificity of Romanian tradition (compared to France and England, where the succession to the throne was restricted by dynastic affiliation): *Petru cel Tânăr* 'Peter the Young', *Vlad cel Tânăr* 'Vlad the Young', *Mircea cel Bătrân* 'Mircea the Elder' etc. A byname may also include a religious isotopy with positive connotations (*Ștefan cel Mare și Sfânt* 'Stephen the Great and Holy', *Radu Paisie*) or with negative connotations (the betrayal of the original religion by converting to Islam: *Mihnea Turcitul* 'the Turkified'). Occupations/crafts practised before investiture are also included in the lexical-semantic structure of some rulers' bynames: *Vlad Călugărul* 'Vlad the Monk', *Mircea Ciobanul* 'Mircea the Shepherd', etc. The pleasant physique, the concern for mundane vanities, and gallantry are also written in the unconventional nominal code: *Radu cel Frumos* 'Radu the Handsome', *Petru Cercel* 'Peter Earring'. The predilection for certain culinary passions becomes a distinctive onymic marker:

*Mămăligă Vodă* ‘Lord Polenta’, *Mălai-Vodă* ‘Lord Corn flour’.

Bynames with negative connotations point out a deficient moral character, by exaggerating physical abnormalities or the way the referent managed a climate crisis that took place during his reign. All of the above are developed on the semes [+ tyranny]: *Ștefan cel Crud* ‘Stephen the Cruel’, *Aron Vodă cel Cumplit (Tiranul)* ‘Lord Aron the Fierce (The Tyrant)’, *Mihnea cel Rău* ‘Mihnea the Evil’, *Vlad Țepeș* ‘Vlad the Impaler’; [+ physical infirmity]: *Ștefan Surdul* ‘Stephen the Deaf’, *Petru Șchiopul* ‘Peter the Lame’, *Negru-Vodă* ‘Lord Black’; [+ natural calamities]: *Ștefan Lăcustă* ‘Stephen Locust’, *Papură-Vodă* ‘Lord Bulrush’, etc.

The reviewed book is a reference point in onomastic bibliography. By combining methodologies from domains that are not always explicitly complementary, this research proves to be a landmark in Romanian philological exegesis.

Having a remarkably good command of French and being a talented idiomatic interpreter (see the translations made by the author), Mihaela Munteanu

Siserman applies modern nominal reference-centred theories (the research topic of her PhD thesis) on the (anthroponymic, toponymic etc.) stock of names investigated in her latest book.

The prowess to orchestrate—under the onomastic “wand”—“rhythms” from different instruments and instrumentations is admirable and not available to everyone. As the author is highly knowledgeable about lexicology, she fruitfully correlates information in this field without missing the opportunity to “decompose” each analysed name into its immediate or distant constituents. In other words, the author is an adept of the integrative research technique, which always exceeds the initially announced mono-, bi- or tri-disciplinary approaches and goes beyond them, providing an interpretation from multiple perspectives: from the lexical and grammatical scheme of a name, through meaning (speech), to the recovery of reference (denotation). Through an effective cohabitation (and compliance) of precepts of various methodological origins, Mihaela Munteanu Siserman rebuilds in her investigations the objective or subjective history of “life in the world of names”.