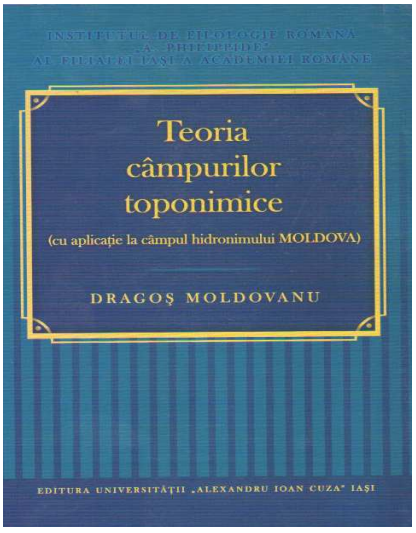
Dragoş Moldovanu, *Teoria câmpurilor toponimice* (*cu aplicaţie la câmpul hidronimului Moldova*), Iaşi, Editura Universităţii „Alexandru Ioan Cuza", 2010, 448 p. (Cristina Radu-Golea)



In his work *Teoria câmpurilor toponimice* (*cu aplicaţie la câmpul hidronimului Moldova*)/ *The Theory of Toponymic Fields* (*as Applied to the Field of the Hydronym Moldavia*), Dragoş Moldovanu, professor and researcher in the city of Iaşi, makes a synthesis of some of his own contributions over the last decades to the field of toponymy, starting from the reference work *Tezaurul Toponimic al României. Moldova/ The Toponymic Thesaurus of Romania. Moldavia* (TTRM), a vast scientific project currently in print. Differing, to a great extent, from other regional dictionaries/thesauri (Banat, Oltenia, Transylvania and perhaps, Dobrogea and Maramureş), the project on Moldavia was carefully prepared for a long time by theoretical and methodological studies, as well as partial research and auxiliary tools, whose author or sometimes co-author, was Dragoş Moldovanu. A collection of these contributions in a unitary volume is first of all useful due to the scientific value of the research they contain, and secondly, due to the fact that they were published in a low number in journals, by different publishing houses, therefore young researchers in the specialized field of toponymy did not have access to them. Even though the explicit objective of the studies and materials contained in the work was to collect and then perform the lexicographic processing of Moldavian place names, for the purpose of achieving TTRM, the scientific impact is much deeper, configuring an original view on the synchronic and diachronic interpretation of toponymy, in general (as proved by the few monographic works conceived in the spirit of this research, published lately by the author of the above-mentioned doctrine or by his research fellows).

The work consists of three complementary parts: a theoretical part (*Sincronia şi diacronia câmpurilor toponimice/ A Synchronic and Diachronic Approach to Toponymic Fields*), a practical part (*Ancheta toponimică din perspectiva teoriei câmpurilor/ The Toponymic Investigation from the Perspective of Field Theory*) and an applicative part (*Câmpul toponimic al hidronimului Moldova/ The Toponymic Field of the Hydronym Moldavia*). In relation to the structuring of common words into lexical and semantic fields, the first part deals with the definitions and features of toponymic fields, seen as sui generis structures, reflecting in the linguistic expression the assertive relations of geographic objects within a certain area. The characteristic of toponymic structures as fields mainly resides in grouping place names within a micro area around some dominating toponyms by *polarisation* (in several variants), *differentiation* (*regression*) or the transfers and influences between them, by *extension* or *integration.*

Polarisation is "the process of creating some toponymic derivatives from a

BDD-R178 © 2013 Editura Sitech
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.216.58 (2026-11-16 17:12:40 UTC)

nucleus-toponym, corresponding to the most important object of a continuous (unitary) geographic map" (p.18). For instance: *La Pătul*, *Piciorul la Pătul*, *Pârâul la Pătul*, *Dealul Pătulului* (the relationship generating polarisation is *contiguity*); *Dealul Vergilor* and *Pârâul Vergilor* (in these examples the "reason" is the common quality of the signified); *Coasta la Miroțoieni*, *Groapa Miroțoienilor*, *Curmătura Miroțoienilor*, *Pârâul Miroțoienilor* (socio-geographic polarisation).

Differentiation means, from the standpoint of professor Dragos Moldovanu, the designation of the parts of a geographic object by lexical demarcators (*Fundu Sadovei – Gura Sadovei*, *Bistrița – Bistricioara*, *Bâsca Mare – Bâsca Mică – Bâsculița*) etc. The author specifies that the *polarizing field* and *differentiating field* are frequently combined into mixed fields. A valuable and widely demonstrated assertion is that "diachronic toponymy must aim first of all to study the formation and evolution of toponymic fields" (p.25).

Starting from case studies on the reconstruction of some toponymic fields (*the old Slavic toponymic field* ****bĭrl-***, *the etymology of the toponym Cluj*, *the etymology of Bârsa/Braşov*), the author even formulates some *theorems*, which we can only agree with. For instance: "If a hydronym has a semantically unmotivated diminutive form, it allows for the reconstruction of the primitive form of the major hydronym" (p.29) – the existence of a rivulet, *Bârădzel*, indicates the previous existence of a river, *Bârlad*, even if its name disappeared, being transferred upon the locality.

Of great help are *Metodologia anchetei toponimice/ The Methodology of Toponymic Investigation* and *Chestionarul toponimic/ The Toponymic Questionnaire*, on the basis of which the material for TTRM was collected. The in-depth study on *Câmpul toponimic al toponimului Moldova/ The Toponymic Field of the Toponym Moldavia*, a revised form of previous articles, is exemplary by the description of the structure of toponymy within a major area, by *amplitude* (more than 130 derivatives), *complexity* (mixed field incorporating all structural and non-structural processes taking place in the dynamics of toponymy within that area), *productivity* (five derivation levels), *abundance of forms*, *multilinguistic character* (Romanian creations, as well as in other languages), important *historical implications* (mainly regarding the ethnogenesis of local population).

In the end, the author draws attention to the "dynamic reality" of toponymic fields, which equally contain stability elements, as well as diatopic and diachronic variables.

BDD-R178 © 2013 Editura Sitech
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.216.58 (2026-11-16 17:12:40 UTC)