**Cristian Moroianu, *Etimologie şi lexicologie românească. Convergenţe sincronice şi diacronice*, Bucureşti, Editura Universităţii din Bucureşti, 2015, 447 p.**
**(Silvia Pitiriciu)**




The book of Cristian Moroianu, a well-known professor at the University of Bucharest, stands for an etymological and lexical study of great interest to both Romanian and Romance linguistics. It contains an introduction to the topic and 35 articles analyzing 100 Romanian etymological doublets.

The preliminary information, preceding the analysis as such, is presented in a personal, slightly didactic style, which yet clarifies many notions relating to etymology and history of language.

In the process of formation and evolution of words, the inherited elements have functioned together with words originating in the languages that linguistic communities had contacts with. Interlinguistic exchanges took place in a direct, oral and popular manner, as well as through literary, historical, political, religious writings, etc. Thus, the inherited lexical and phraseological stock was enriched with these elements. Many words have enlarged the vocabulary of the Romanian language since ancient times, from scholarly Latin, from Romance languages (Italian, French, Spanish), from Slavic languages (Russian, Polish), from Turkish, Hungarian, Modern Greek, by cultural means, through administration and political contacts.

While considering some etymological concepts, the author clarifies the relationship between the etymon and the multiple origin of words. A word "can only be borrowed from a single direct etymon, belonging to a single language. The multiple origin of a word is however an obvious reality especially in a language like ours, which has seen relations and connections, either simultaneous or successive, with different languages. This problem is old and at the same time topical and should ... be understood on several levels. It is represented by the entrance of two or more etymons with the same meaning, from various direct external sources, but with only one original etymon". (p. 19-20) On the other hand, an etymon can be taken over by one or several speakers from two or more culturally related languages. In this competition, the most frequent variant in literary language imposes itself. The same etymon may be taken over through popular or cultured borrowings.

The phenomenon of etymological doublets, present in all languages, takes various forms in Romanian: lexical forms, affixes and affixoids; inherited elements; inherited and borrowed elements; loan translations, etc.

The comments on etymological doublets consist in specifying the common Latin etymon and its family at the popular and/or cultural level, providing lexical and etymological details of each component (inherited words, borrowings, calques), their



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lexical families, phraseologisms. For instance: *alb, albă şi album* (p. 39-47), *arină şi arenă* (p. 53-55), *aspru[1] şi aspru[2]* (p. 69-73), *băşică şi vezică* (p. 75-79), *ie, linie şi lenjuri* (p. 219-229), etc. What caught our attention is the detailed and transparent analysis of each word presented as etymon, derivative, borrowing, calque. The author operates easily with all data indicating the origin of the discussed words in Romanian and Romance languages, as well as other languages with which Romania came into contact. Consistent explanations accompany the words presented so that, by the analysis he performs, the author manages to outline the route that the words followed in Romanian, the etymological and semantic connections with elements of other languages, comparisons of forms, semantic evolutions or loss of meaning, etc. The analysis also makes a clear distinction between inherited words, borrowed words and calques. The lexical families and phraseological units strengthen the place occupied by the words referred to in the vocabulary of the Romanian language, offer clues on the productivity of derivatives. In each lexical record the author discusses the situation of words in literary language and common, oral language. The index of words (p. 355-447) materializes the origin in Romanian of words from different languages, attested or unattested elements.

The author proves to be a professional in dealing with etymological and lexicographical elements, he uses the comparative method in presenting words synchronically and diachronically, he expresses personal opinions concerning the lexical, semantic and phrasal component of words and, impliedly, the evolution of the Romanian vocabulary in a Romance context. The merit of the author resides in the fact that he treats words as elements of a lexical family, phraseological family respectively. Thus, the one who studies an element of the main word stock, for example, can associate the age of the word with the derivative capacity and a set of expressions created around it.

The book represents a unique linguistic material, helping to clarify many concepts and revealing the passion and rigour with which Cristian Moroianu studies important elements of lexicology and etymology of the Romanian language.



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