GEODEMOGRAPHIC INFLUENCE ON THE DIALECTICAL LOCAL VOCABULARY IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE OF RODNA, BISTRIŢA-NĂSĂUD COUNTY

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Abstract: Situated at the tripartite border of Transylvania, Moldova (Bucovina) and Maramureş, the commune Rodna in Bistriţa-Năsăud County came to the fore through its argentiferous gold ore made to the advantage of the Hungarian kings and later, in the 18th and 19th century, to that of the Habsburg authorities. The geodemography of workforce migrations took shape in the arrival in the territory of Rodna of people belonging to different ethnies (Hungarians, Germans, Czechs, Slovaks, Polish etc.) who significantly influenced the dialectal vocabulary of Rodna. As a result of our research and investigations, we identified numerous vocabulary terms of the area, which entered the local parlance along with the settlement of these foreign ethnies in the rural space of Rodna. The identified terminology was constituted in a small dictionary.

Keywords: geodemography, Hungarian and Habsburg authorities, workforce migrations, foreign ethnies, dialectal vocabulary.

Introduction

Situated in the North of Romania and North-East of Bistrița-Năsăud county (Fig. 1), Rodna came to the fore by means of silver and gold ore mining, which, for entire centuries, was made in the benefit of Hungarian kings and later (in the XVIIth century and the first half of the XIXth century) in the benefit of the House of Habsburg, becoming a genuine "Mini-Transylvania", through its flow of mining specialist emigrants coming from nowadays Hungarian territory, Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Ukraine (the geographical area of former Galicia).

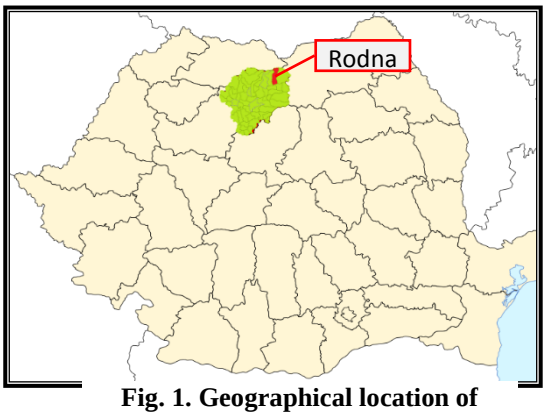


Fig. 1. Geographical location of Rodna at county and national level

A particularity of geodemography of workforce migration (mining in particular) was represented by the multiethnic, multiconfessional and implicitly multicultural structure of the migrating flows. It is important to notice that in all cataloguing actions (censuses) of the population, made either by the Habsburg military authorities during 1720-1857 or by the Hungarian ones between 1867 (when the Austro-Hungarian dualism is established) and 1910 (with the most forced and distorted census made after more than half a century of denationalizations imposed to Romanians and other non-Hungarian ethnies that were present at Rodna), Romanian native people represented the majority.

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Nationality	Nr.
Romanians	1431
Hungarians	316
Germans	249
Saxons	22
Gypsies	96
Armenians	10
Others (Slovaks, Czechs, Poles, Ruthenians, Ukrainians)	48

Fig. 2 Ethnic structure of the population at the 1850 census

We also observe the fact that the other non-Hungarian ethnies (Germans, Czechs, Slovaks, Polish, Ukrainians) were largely Hungarised, both through the policy of the Roman-Catholic church, to which they adhered because they were under a Catholic confessional environment in their mother countries, and through the assimilation policy, in exchange of certain economic and social advantages, granted by the Hungarian authorities within the Border Guard Năsăud District[1]. It is, otherwise, well-known that, for over 200 years, the Roman-Catholic church in Rodna is called the „Hungarian church". The belonging to other non-Hungarian ethnies of the above-mentioned is indicated even today by the anthroponomastics of this particular group of non-Hungarians and especially by the conscience of belonging to an ethny that their predecessors had. Consequently, in the landscape of the Rodna onomastics one may identify numerous Czech or Slovakian names (Koblicska, Konicska, Sutak, Kotlar, Policsek, , Popicska, Moraveț) Polish-Galician names (Gurszki, Ostrowszki, Terșanszki, Wiliczki,Wargoszki, Zavaszki), German ones (Bauer, Ernst, Fincer, Griober, Koșofretz, Lönhardt, Schneider, Schuller, Steixner, Stentzel, Stetz, Waldthütter), Armenian names (Ostean, Pelian) or Ukrainian (Spiciuc, Puliuc, Belaniuc)[2]. A part of them are "hidden" at the 1850 census among the 48 registered under the heading "different nationalities", but the majority of them (more than 80%) declared themselves Hungarian (a situation still valid nowadays.)

The cohabitation of the majority Romanian population with a minority Hungarian population that arrived in Rodna to work in the mines (which later gathered people of other nationalities, colonised at the mines within the empire and later Hungarised in known

[1] Mureșianu, Mircea, Influențele geodemografice asupra lexicului dialectal rodnean, Scientific presentation in the conference organized by ISJ, November 10th 1980, Manuscript, p. 2

[2] Mureșianu, Mircea, Districtul Grăniceresc Năsăudean (1762-1851). Studiu de geografie istorică, University Press, Cluj-Napoca, 2000, p. 12

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historical conditions) enabled the word exchange, especially borrowed between the two languages but also the occurrence of a significant number of words between Romanian, German and Slavic languages. Consequently, the great benefit of the flow of foreign populations (of the geodemography of workforce migrations) in particular was represented by the enriching and establishment of the local dialect, with lexical "imported" elements, a fact that granted a certain charm to the general dialect in Ardeal and the Rodna dialect in particular.

Methodological aspects

By practicing and promoting a certain local dialect, one understands, along with the study of the literary language, the "existence of certain differentiation elements, both at the level of local dialectal vocabulary and at the level of existing words that are under the print of archaic phonetics or a special one. When the two plans can be separated the temptation of keeping track of or, why not, the study of the specificity of local dialect becomes a reality.

Our first attempt goes back to the period of secondary school (1966-1970), when the Romanian language and literature teacher encouraged us to "assemble mini-dictionaries" made of words that belong to the local vocabulary ("vernacular"). It was a start, a beginning, a period during which we managed, throughout our discussions with the elderly of the village and short written questionnaires, to discover about 400 words in the local dowry.

The concerns for researching elements of dialectal vocabulary were reignited after 1979, when I graduated the Faculty of Geography at Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca and combined to the intentions to study the local anthroponomastics (in which locals and foreigners shaped a specific anthroponomastic area). This way, throughout more than three decades, until 2000, when people gave up mining, I conducted a permanent collaboration with my former Romanian language and literature teacher Bălai Emil, the one who initiated the first researches in this direction. We set the basis of surveys, oral and written investigations (based on questionnaires) being significantly helped in our endeavor by the teacher Mureșianu Silvestru, octogenarian villagers Bureacă Simion, Boldiș Floarea, Cotu Alexandru, or by retired miners such as Terșanszki Anton, Wargoski Iosif and Partene Emil. All of them allowed us to understand and analyze distinct stages of the Rodna vocabulary, the mining dialect being present in a significant percentage and quantitatively consistent.

Results and discussions

There are numerous Hungarian elements and this is, as indicated above, easy to explain. There are even words from different languages that have entered the vocabulary in Rodna through Hungarian: the terms popondecãl "thick carton" and tintã "ink", from German, bogajã, lavor, parapleu from French etc.

Among the words with Hungarian origin that people in Rodna use we may identify the following ones: acãț, alaș, aldui, ardău, arșău, astalâș, baci, badoc, bogău, barșn, bădie, beteșâg, birgăle, biticăl, boactăr, boaldă, boconc, bolderaș, bold, bolând,bondrâș, borbor, box, bucta, budigăi, canot, cantă, capău, călbaș cãpălui, căpustă, cărărabă, cănac, ceacanău, ceclie, cerebogar, ciriz, cinaș, coce, cociș, coricolabo, cormălui, cartil, credenț, culduș, cuștului, dărabă, diug, dohănaș, farto, fârtai, fărtălui, fele, feriz, fești, fideu, fidileă, fircăli, font, fuicaș, găzdușag, goiob, halău, harampauă, hașmă, hatijac, hezaș, hia, hogaș, jup, laboș, ler, lipideu, marhă, mejde, metăr, mihei, mintinaș, mnisarăș, moalfă, mocicaș, neni, ocoș, ovodă, pucilă, pcisoc, pec, pciat, pițulă, plev, pont, poplon, porodică, procuț, prăbălui, raita, reumă, rozosin,

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sanceu, săcri, sămăcișă, sămădaș, sămălui, scorbaci, sfetăr, socaci, strujac, suhă, șerbel, șogar, șoșpereț, șuștăr, șurlui, tălpăli, tăulcer, techergheu, trancalău, tromf, tulvai, țifraș, țingalău, țipeșă, țânțărim, vășcălan, videre etc.

Most of these words adapted to the phonetical and grammatical system of the Romanian language, giving birth to derivates, eespecially to words with suffixation[3]. Many of these words are not borrowed from literary Hungarian, but from the dialectal speech of the Hungarians of the place. Some of them remained unadapted to Romanian and are currently used both by Romanians and Hungarians in their Hungarian form: baci, cerebogar, cheheș, ciriz, coricolabo, credenț, gomboț, prezli, șoșpereț[4].

The German elements are present within the professional vocabulary, but they also belong to different domains and a significant number of words imposed in the mining field(see the mini-dictionary). Among the German elements present today in the local dialect, we enumerate the following: acurat, bandor, bild, binã, casinã, chit, coastăn, dozã, falț, forbã, fedăr, ferhoangăr, fest, floastăr, gais, gălendăr, hois, hozăntroagăni, lecăr, lodri, mișmaș, molnări, pantoaflă, părădaisă, penzăl, plaț, ploatăn, puțuli, rais, rățept, rigăl, ringhișpil, sățiscâ, șfebăl, șfenc, șlaier, șmucă, spațir, șpesă, șpir, șpiț, ștraifă, ștrec, ștricăni, ștrimp, șubă, țaigăl, țaignis,țucăr, țag, țurig, unșlag, vandăl, vasărvag etc.[5]

Slavic elements are also numerous in the vocabulary of Rodna. We are considering solely the dialectal terms, as well as those that might be popular in common speech, but have a distinct meaning in Rodna: bgili, blasnic, bortă, buntuzui, capciu, drug, galiță, haple, îmblăti, împcistri, jghiob, jâg, lesne, mulă, oblojî, ocărî, pașli, pocinog, porțîie, poștă, râzor, rujă, șafăr, șumandră, taroste, tălanț, ujână, veșcă, zoi etc.

Based on some words that are used today in the local dialect[6], even if some of them occur more and more rarely, we present below a mini-dictionary meant to show our endeavour[7]:

acăț- locust tree (-Hung. akàc)
àcuràt- precisely, exactly (-Germ. akkurat)
àinpruc (mining)-hole in the centre of the mining gallery where the first shot is made (-Germ. Einbruch)
àinștraih (mining)- sill timbers that divide the compartment of the well (-Germ. Einstrich)
alaș- gantry (-Hung. àllàs)
aldui- to wish something to somebody (-Hung. àldani ”to give a blessing”)
baipicăl (mining)- knife sharpened at both ends (-Germ. beide “both” +Pickel “pickaxe”)
bàndor- porch pole (-Germ. Band “link, connection” +or)
barșon- velvet(-Hung. bàrsony)
bădic- cast iron (-Hung. bàdik)
berlej- wadding (-Hung. dialect bérlés)
bgili- to whiten (materials)- (Ukr. biliti)

[3] Mureșianu, Mircea (coord.), Bălai, Emil, Bălai Rodica, Mureșianu, Leontin, *Rodna-pagini de monografie. Ipostaze istorice, geografice, lingvistice și culturale*, Ando Toyrs Publishing House, Timișoara, 1996, p. 77
[4] *Ibidem*

[55] *Ibidem*, p. 77
[6] *Ibidem*, p. 78
[7] *Ibidem*, pp. 81-94

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bgirgã- disease (-Germ. bergab)
bgirgoș- sick, ill
birgãle- ribbon boots (-Hung. bör "leather" + gala "elegant")
blizgui – to snow heavily (Ukr. blisc)
boactãr- guard (-Hung. bakter)
bold- oven vault (-Hung. bolt)
boloboc- carpenter's bench/water level (-Ukr. polubococ, Russian polubocca)
borbir- barber (-Hung. borbély)
box- shoe shine (-Hung. boksz)
bucta- to fail/flunk classes (-Hung. buktatni)
bui-to rush, to invade (-Serbian bujati)
buntuzui- to make a mess, to clutter (comparative term-Polish, Russian bunt "rebellion")
buț- 1. Tenpins failed hit 2. (mining) beam used to arm tunnels (-Germ. Butz "hit")
capãu- police officer (slang) (-Hung.. kopó)
capelã (mining)- horizontal crossbeam that supports the ceiling of the gallery (comparative term-Italian capella, Germ. Kappe)
cartuș (mining)- dynamite charge, patron (-French cartouche)
casinã- casino club (-Germ. Kasino, French casino)
cãlbaș- liverwurst (-Hung. kolbàsz "sausage")
cãpãlui- to weed (-Hung. kapàlni)
cãpustã- stewed cabbage dish (-Hung. kàposzta, Russian kapusta)
cãrãrabã- turnip (-Hung. karalàbè)
ceacanãu- stupid, simpleton (-Hung. csàkàny "axe")
ceclie- wooden skid (-Hung. csàklya)
cerebogar- beetle (-Hung. cserebogàr)
cheheș- (about horses) that coughs (-Hung. kehes "short breath")
chiblã (mining)- box used for ttransportation of materials inside the well (-Germ. Kübel "bucket, pail", Ukr. kiblja)
chinștar (mining)- state ownership (-Hung. kincstàr "treasure, thesaurus")
chit- summer jacket, without coating (-Germ. Kittel "overall, smock")
chiz (mining)- pyrites (-Germ. Kies)
cioroi- spout, tube for pouring (-Hung. csorgò " water spring")
ciriz- gluing paste (-Hung. csirix)
cociș (mining)- carrier, fetcher (-Hung. kocsis)
cocni- to bake (-Germ. kochen "to cook")
colivie (mining)- box for carrying people and materials inside the well (-Sl. kulivja)
comod (mining)- wagon used in mine for the transport of wood for arming (-Germ. Commode "chest of drawers", Ukr. comod)
corfã (mining) – cage (- Germ. dialect Korf)
coricolabo- having crooked legs (-Hung. karika "ring" +làb "leg")
cormãlui- to lead (-Hung. kormànyoz)
craișlog (mining)- safety place during ore explosions (-Germ. Krach "split" +Loch "hole")
cramã (mining)- bedroom for miners (-Germ. Kram "small shop")
crampã (mining)- hammer used for enlarging the holes for drilling (-Germ. Krampe "hook')
crușealã- black dye made of alder bark (-Ukr. krusyty "to crush")

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culduș- beggar (-Hung. koldus)
cuștului- to taste (-Hung. kòstolni)
cutãi- to dress smart (-Germ. kutten)
diug-lazy person, "parasite" (-Hung. dög "carrion")
drap –beije (-Hung. drapp)
duflaș- double (-Hung. dupla)
eclisã (mining)- piece used for patching rails/tracks (-Fr. èclisse)
faislãu (mining)- hammer used for supporting the drill (-Germ. Fäustel)
fãrtai- quarter (-Hung. fertàly)
feldor (mining)- 2-meter wide and high gallery (-Germ. Feldort "place of mining)
ferhoagãr- curtain, drape (-Germ. Vorhang)
fest- quickly, consistently (-Germ. fest "strong, consistent")
filung (mining)-cage girder (-Germ. Führung "guiding")
fioc- drawer (-Hung. fiòk)
fircãli- to scribble (-Hung. fircàlni)
foanță(mining)-oil lamp for mines (-Germ. Funzel, Funze, Funsel)
foitaș (mining)-border, clay (-Hung. fojtàs)
foitui (mining)- to load up the well (-Hung. fojtani)
forjomp (mining)- a well that exceeds 4 metres in depth (-Germ. vor "forward" +jomp)
fuicaș-one who does shallow things, reckless (-Hung. fujkàs)
gais- spirit (-Germ. Geist)
galiță- domestic animal (-Slavik galika)
gang (mining)- gold and silver ore (-Germ. Gang)
gălendăr- banister (-Germ. Geländer)
găvozd-sprag used to chap logs (-Sl. gvozdu)
găvozd- to use a sprag (-Sl. gvozditi)
gândului- to clean up (-Hung. gondozni " to take care"+ gondolni "to think")
giolgi- shroud (-Hung. gyolcs)
goiob- ballbearing (-Hung. gòlyò)
gomboț- dumplings with plum filling (-Hung. gomboc)
haple- somebody who talks too much (-Bg. Haplju)
harampauă- tongs (-Hung. harapò)
hașme- small onions used for sowing (-Hung. hagyma "onion")
hatijac-backpack, knapsack (-Hung. hàtizsàk)
hărăntui- to waste (-Hung. harantolni)
hebăl-lifting-jack (-Germ. Heber "lever")
hecempece- dogberry, hip rose (comp-Germ. Heckenrose)
hiț- in the syntagm "a da în hiț" to light (-Germ. hitze "heat")
hoamăr(mining)- hammer (-Germ. hammer)
hoher- flayer (-Hung. hóhér)
hont- udimentary wheelbarrow used for ore (-Germ. Hund "wagon")
hozontroagăni-braces, suspenders (-Germ. Hosenträgen)
hubăna- to swing, to sway (-Germ. Hub, Hübe "lifting")
hucman (mining)-mining foreman (-Germ. Huttman)
ibărsig (mining)- gallery towards the upwards horizon (-Germ. übersicht "overview")
izițăr- to speak sharply to somebody (-Germ. Exerzieren)
îmblăti- to try, to walk for a long time (-Sl. mlatiti)

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jomp (mining)- 1. the bottom side of the well with water 2. small well (-Hung. zsomp, Germ. Sumpf)
jup- bundle of corn stems (-Hung. zsup)
lăcriță- round wooden box for cheese (-Bg. rakla)
lecăr- long coat made of buckram (-Germ. Reckel, from Rökel ȚcoatȚ, Hung. rekli, lékri)
lisniț- fruit tree
lișniță-fruit
lobdă-piece of wood (-Ukr.lodva)
lodri-sledge (-Germ. Rodel)
lotholț (mining)-pieces of wood set on the walls of the gallery (-Germ. Klotz ”clog” + Holz ”wood”)
maioș- liver sausage (-Hung. màj ”liver”)
mișmaș- scam, trick (-Germ. Mischmasch)
moaflă- stupid, fool (-Hung. mafla)
patron (mining)- dynamite charge (-Germ. Patrone)
plaț- place to store wood from forestry (-Germ. Platz ”wood strorehouse”)
plebanoș- Catholic priest
ploatăn- heating plate (-Germ. Platten ”cooking machine”)
pont- fixed, point (Hung. pont)
pontoș- punctual (-pont+-oș)
poplon- blanket, counterpane (-Hung. paplan)
pòpondecăl- thick carton (-Hung. peppendeckel)
porodică- tomato (-Hung. paradicsom, -Germ. Paradeis)
pòtia-in the syntagm de-a pòtia ”in vain” (-Hung. potya)
premă- fur coating in male jackets (-Hung. prém ”fur”)
prezli- breadcrumbs (-Hung. prézli)
pustă (mining)- 1. steril, mean 2. end of a gallery, where there is no more exploitation 3. bed, bedding (-Hung. puszta ”empty, void”)
puțuli- to polish (-Germ. putzen)
raita- in the syntagm ”a umbla raita” to wander (-Hung. rajta)
rais- rice (-Germ. Reis)
rățept- recipe (-Germ. Rezept)
reumă- rheumatism (-Hung. reuma)
rigăl-door swirl (-Germ. Riegel)
rocoanță- device that prevents wood from falling down the wagon (-Hung. rakoncza)
ruc-in the syntagm ”a da un ruc” to push (-Germ. Ruck ”push”)
sămăcișă- soured milk (-Ukr. Samocisa)
sămădaș- account, expense (-Hung. szàmolàs)
sămălui- to count (-Hung. szàmolni)
scorbaci- whip (-Hung. korbàcs)
sfetăr-jersey (-Hung. szvetter)
șaht (mining)-well, pit (-Germ. Schach, Russ. Sahta ”mine”)
șerbăl- chamberpot (-Hung. serbeli, -Germ. Serbli)
șfebăl-match (-Germ. Scwebel ”sulphur”)
șfenc- in the syntagm ”a face șfencuri” to balk (-Germ. Schwenke ”swing”)
șfendăli- to put in frills (-Germ. schwenken ”to move”)
șfung- impulse, speed (-Germ. Schwung)

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șleaf- soaking wet (-Pol.szlak, Ukr. sljah)
șmucă- (mining)- ochre, rust-colored dye from gallery ore (-Germ. Schmuck ”ornament”)
șodronie (mining)- aerial ropeway with its own installation equipment
(-Hung. sodrony ”wire”)
șoșpereț- salt cracknel (-Hung. sos ”salty”+ perec ”cracknel”)
șpan (mining)- piece of wood used to clasp armings (-Germ. Span ”chip”, Spanner „stretching device”)
șpir- knack, trickery , dishonest arrangement, -Germ. Spiel ”business„)
șpirag(mining) –spiral drill for soft stone (-Germ. spiralig)
șprenț (mining)- transport installation with balance weight- the charged wagon pullsteh empty one upwards
șpuri- love child (-Germ. Spur ”remain”)
șpureancă- feminine of love child
șteamp(mining)- ore flotation (-Germ.Stamph)
ștendăr (mining)- post used to arm tunnels(-Germ. Ständer)
știmp(mining)- post supporting the wall of the gallery (-Germ. Stempel)
știol(mining)-gallery that is stuck (-Germ. Stollen)
ștrimp-sock (-Germ Strumph)
ștulf(mining)-pneumatic prop that supports the die (-Germ. Stuhl ”chair”)
șubă-skid (-Germ. Schub)
șulcă (mining)- dumpling (-Germ. Sulze ”mincemeat”)
șulțăr (mining) electricity generator
șurlui- to wash the floor with lye (-Hung. surolni)
tăulcer- funnel (-Hung. tölcsèr)
techergheu- rogue, tramp (-Hung. tekergö)
ticlazău- flat iron
tintă- ink (-Hung. tinta, -Germ. Tinte)
trancalău- stupid (-Hung. tràncàlo)
țaigăl- clock hand (-Germ. Zeiger)
țaignis- forensic report (-Germ. Zeignis)
țâmorman (mining)- carpenter who chops wood (-Germ. Zimmermann)
țâncuș (mining)- 20-30 cm chisel used for mining ore (-Hung. cinkus, -Germ. Zinke)
țifraș- beautiful (-Hung. cifra)
țingalău-bell (-Hung. csengö, Srb. cingara)
țipeșă- mint candy (-Hung. csipès)
țug-1. air flow (-Germ. Zug)
țurig-back (-Germ. Zuruck)
ujână- afternoon snack (-Sb. Uzina, Sl. uzina)
ulicarniț-someone who wanders (-lane, -Sl. ulica+ arniț)
unșlag- wet compress (-Germ. Unschlag)
unștroț(mining)-Germ. um+ Strossl ”gallery step”)
val-worry,concern (-Sl. valu)
vasarâș (mining)-draining canal along the gallery (-Germ. Wasserrösche)
vasărvag- water/hand level(-Germ. Wasserwage)
vășcălan- dustpan (-Hung. vaskalan ”iron spoon”)
vecăl- alarm clock (-Germ. Wecker)
verc (mining)- mining industry (-Germ. Werc ”factory”)

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veșcă- round wooden box used for cheese (-Ukr. Vecka)
vexăl (mining)- mine switchgear (-Germ. Wechsel)
videazon(mining)- supervisor (-Hung. vigyàzo)
vincăl- corner iron (-Germ. Winkel ”nails”)
vismerteg- water/hand level (-Hung. viz ”water”+ mérték „measure”)

Conclusions

The result of cohabitation between the Romanians in Rodna and the foreign migrating population (brought by Hungarian kings) in view of developing mining and supervising mountain transit traffic is visible in the emergence of a dialectal vocabulary that is extremely rich, interesting and varied. Our research identified an important number of dialectal words (around 1000) that had not been previsouly recorded, new meanings, unknown derivates, idioms and syntagms that are specific to the area, local dialectal ”dowry” consisting of numerous terms (over 300) in the mining area. Based on this research, we assembled a mini-dictionary made of 193 words that are and have been used consistently and thoroughly in the local speech.

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