ENVIRONMENTAL TERMINOLOGY: GENERAL ASPECTS

Alina DĂNILĂ, PhD student
University of Craiova

Abstract

This study highlights the general aspects of what we call *environmental terminology*, viewed in the entirety of terms that are present in many scientific disciplines. Environmental terminology is of real interest in the linguistic research of the contemporary period. The lexical family, semantic field, phrases created around the term *environment* denote that the field of the environment is constantly expanding.

Key-words: *terminology, environment, concept, generic name, specialist term*

Résumé

La terminologie de l'environnement, regardée dans son ensemble, représente l'un objet d'un réel intérêt dans le domaine des recherches linguistiques de la période contemporaine. Ce travail se propose de mettre en évidence les aspects généraux du concept d'*environnement*, à travers les domaines où il est présent.

Mots-clés : *terminologie*, *environnement*, *concept*, *nom générique*, *terme de spécialité*

1. Introduction

A natural consequence of the modernization of our society is the continuous development of all scientific areas in order to keep up with international innovations. A large number of new notions appeared in the Romanian language, which led to the increasing interest in the study of terminology. This permanent enrichment of the Romanian vocabulary is supported by the flexibility and hospitality that characterize this language compartment, substantially subject to change. Environmental terminology, seen as a set of terms specific to science, is increasingly attracting the researchers' interest, a fact favoured by global changes in recent years.

The study of terminology appears as necessary due to the development of all branches of science and their specialization, and the emergence of innumerable new notions. From this point of view, we agree with E. Pavel and C. Rucăreanu that terminology is a dynamic science which is constantly developing and improving[1].

While analysing the concept of *terminology*, the linguist Georgeta Ciobanu distinguishes several meanings of the word: "the grouping of terms that represent the system of concepts in a certain field", "the publication in which the system of concepts in a certain field of specialty is represented by terms" [2].

Lexicographic works record many borrowings and internal creations, but usage shows that many of these are still uninventoried; that is why we consider research on contemporary vocabulary more than necessary.

The analysis of environmental terminology is of linguistic interest and can be

[1] Pavel, Rucăreanu, 2001: 16.
[2] Ciobanu, 1998: 11.

BDD-A28506 © 2018 Editura Sitech
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.42 (2026-11-15 20:52:13 UTC)

made from multiple perspectives (semantic, morphological, stylistic-functional, etymological). The very concepts of the environment represent research items for specialists and for linguists. The information from different fields of science, geography, chemistry, biology, technology correlates to form a unitary whole that we generically call *environment*. The lexeme *environment* is known to a broad mass of speakers, due to frequent use over time. The lexical family, the lexical field and a significant number of phrases created around this term denote that environmental terminology is in a full process of development and use.

The terms that make up the semantic category of the environment are characterized by diversity, the fruitful result of some lexical, semantic, grammatical and/or figurative processes. The naming process is fully motivated, in line with the evolution of society at the global level. Along with other categories of words, the lexemes belonging to environmental terminology contribute to the diversification of the Romanian language vocabulary, offering a rich and diversified research basis.

The delimitation of the environment as a field is supported by the establishment of national and international bodies with environmental concerns, such as: the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change of Romania, the National Agency for Environmental Protection, the National Environmental Guard, international bodies: the European Environment Agency, the European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET), the Environment Council (part of the Council of the European Union), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Intergovernmental Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the World Nature Organization (WNU), etc.

2. The concept of environment

The environment, viewed as a whole, is a vast field of activity, representing "all natural factors and those created by human (anthropic) activities, which determine in a close interaction the conditions for human existence and the development of society. The expression *surrounding environment* is considered to be a pleonasm, therefore only the term *environment*[3] is used within the scope of this field. The Law on environmental protection defines the environment as "all natural conditions and elements of the Earth: a) air, water, soil, and subsoil; b) all layers of the atmosphere; c) all organic and inorganic materials as well as living beings; d) interacting natural systems comprising elements from "a" and "c", including the resulting historical, cultural, and aesthetic values" [4].

In Romanian lexicography, the lexeme *mediu* ('environment') is defined as follows: "(ecol.) a complex resulting from the combination of landscape conditions, geological structure, climate, soil, vegetation, waters, etc., in which organisms live (…); (ecol.) syn. medium, ecological medium, medium for life, all physical, chemical, climatic, biological factors with which an organism comes into contact"[5]. The unity between the organism and the environment is expressed synthetically by the interaction between living matter and primary inorganic nature (abiotic factors). The first definition is common and captures the meaning of the term environment as the surrounding nature, including specific factors and conditions. In the specialized

[3] https://legeaz.net/dictionar-juridic/mediu-inconjurator
[4] Law no.137/1995.
[5] DEM, 219.

BDD-A28506 © 2018 Editura Sitech
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.42 (2026-11-15 20:52:13 UTC)

definition there is a clearer reference to the organism-environment relationship, by phrases that highlight the fields involved and emphasize the interdisciplinary character of the environment field.

The concept of environment is thoroughly and minutely defined in a specialized paper: "The totality of the constituent elements, either living or non-living, of the ecological factors (agents) of a physical, chemical, biological, social, or anthropogenic nature from a place (space, habitat, biotope), with which an organism (system of organisms) is in contact, is influenced (directly or indirectly) by them and, in turn, interacts with them (the environmental factors), forming the necessary adaptive qualities. (...)"[6]. The scientific definition of the environment therefore reveals the complexity of the studied term and field, the latter being regarded as a unit integrating biotic and abiotic factors.

The environment is a complex system in which various elements interact (physical, chemical, climatic, biological factors) in order to create a spatial and temporal unity in which organisms can develop, this interpretation justifying the interdisciplinary character of the domain under analysis. The identification of some semantic features specific to the domain contributes to the establishment of the latter's independence. Starting with these features, significant conceptual-semantic classes within the domain can be delineated in point of highlighting some key concepts. After researching specialized texts and dictionaries, we determined the following semantic features that individualize environmental terminology: it designates factors, processes, actions; it denotes organisms and human activities (the natural and artificial environment); it reflects environmental changes (natural and anthropic); it shows the interrelations of the component elements; it indicates solutions to combat adverse effects on the environment.

3. Syntax. Semantics

The term *mediu* ('environment'), inherited from the Latin *medium*, is part of numerous names in the sphere of environmental terminology, in different structures and contexts:

a. generic name (*mediu*) + adjectival determiner: *mediu înconjurător/* 'surrounding environment', *mediu natural/* 'natural environment'*, mediu poluat/* 'polluted environment'*, mediu construit*/ 'built environment' (man-made buildings and facilities)*, mediu ecologic/* 'ecological environment'*, mediu sănătos/* 'healthy environment'. For instance:

„La Mitsubishi, luăm măsuri pentru a reduce impactul pe care maşinile noastre îl au asupra *mediului înconjurător*."/ 'At Mitsubishi, we take measures to reduce the impact our cars have on the *surrounding environment*' (https://www.mitsubishi-motors.ro/environment/, 02.05.2018, *Datoria noastră față de mediul înconjurător*);

„*Mediul natural* - element fundamental al activității economice - nu este evidențiat ca atare în conturile economiei românești."/ 'The *natural environment* - a fundamental element of economic activity - is not evidenced as such in the accounts of the Romanian economy' (http://www.rasfoiesc.com/business/economie/Mediul-natural-element-fundame77.php/, 15.09.2016, *Mediul natural - element fundamental al activității economice*);

[6] EE, 244.

BDD-A28506 © 2018 Editura Sitech
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.42 (2026-11-15 20:52:13 UTC)

„Personal, cred că mediul şi sănătatea sunt organic interconectate: nu putem fi o societate sănătoasă, cu oameni sănătoşi dacă trăim într-un *mediu poluat*, la fel cum un mediu curat ne poate asigura o baza bună şi durabilă.”/ ‘Personally, I think environment and health are organically interconnected: we can’t be a healthy society, with healthy people if we live in a *polluted environment*, just as a clean environment can provide us with a good and sustainable basis’ (https://florianbodog.wordpress.com/2014/06/12/un-mediu-curat-poate-asigura-baza-pentru-sanatatea-noastra/, 12.06.2014, *Un mediu curat poate asigura baza pentru sănătatea noastră*);

„Știi care sunt legăturile dintre *mediul construit* și starea fizică și afectivă a celor ce îl utilizează? Ai explorat vreodată aspectele care influențează calitatea vieții în orașul tău? Poți să spui dacă o zonă a orașului are toate facilitățile necesare locuitorilor săi? Îți poți da seama de ce un loc îți place și altul nu? De ce unele locuri sunt apreciate de ceilalți, dar nu și de tine?”/ ‘Do you know the links between the *built environment* and the physical and emotional state of those who use it? Have you ever explored aspects that influence the quality of life in your city? Can you say if a city area has all the amenities necessary for its inhabitants? Can you figure out why you like one place and not another? Why are some places appreciated by others, but not by you?’ (https://www.de-a-arhitectura.ro/urban-up-mediu-construit-pentru-liceeni/, 29.11.2017, *Urban Up! Mediu construit pentru liceeni)*;

„*Mediul ecologic* este legat într-o măsură important de mediul natural. El reprezintă, printre altele, condițiile ce determină interrelațiile dintre organismele vii și mediul lor de viață.”/ ‘The *ecological environment* is connected to a great extent with the natural environment. It represents, among other things, the conditions that determine the interrelationships between living organisms and their living environment’ (http://www.asociatia-profesorilor.ro/mediul.html/,3.01.2012, *Mediul*);

„Dreptul la un *mediu sănătos* este un drept fundamental, un drept al fiecărei persoane dintr-un stat, care-l consacră legislativ, în condițiile actuale, este firesc ca orice persoană să poată pretinde să trăiască într-un mediu sănătos nepoluat.”/ ‘The right to a *healthy environment* is a fundamental right, a right of every person in a state, which enshrines it in the legislation, under the current circumstances, it is natural for any person to claim to live in an unpolluted environment’ (http://revista.universuljuridic.ro/dreptul-la-un-mediu-sanatos-este-un-drept-fundamental/, 19.12.2017, *Dreptul la un mediu sănătos este un drept fundamental*).

b. specialist term + generic name (*mediu*) as a determiner (noun in the Genitive with or without a preposition and noun in the Accusative with a preposition): *anomalia mediului/* ‘environmental anomaly’ (changes with harmful effect on the environment), *calitatea mediului/* ‘environmental quality’*, igiena mediului/* ‘environmental hygiene’ (measures to protect the natural habitat)*, protecția mediului/* ‘environmental protection’*, impact asupra mediului/* ‘impact on the environment’*; accident de mediu/* ‘environmental damage’ (material and/or human damage produced within the natural environment), *criză de mediu/* ‘environmental crisis’ (environmental disruptions caused by climate change and inappropriate human intervention), *probleme de mediu/* ‘environmental issues’. For instance:

„Se spune că, *anomalia mediului*, frecventă în ultimii ani, este cauzată în primul rând de acumularea în atmosferă a gazelor cu efect de seră, emise de industriile poluante și datorită despăduririlor masive.”/ ‘It is said that the *environmental anomaly*, frequent in recent years, is primarily caused by the accumulation in the atmosphere of

BDD-A28506 © 2018 Editura Sitech
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.42 (2026-11-15 20:52:13 UTC)

greenhouse gases emitted by polluting industries and by massive deforestation' (http://www.cuvantul-liber.ro/news/101487/61/Anomaliile-climatice-i-despaduririle/, 13.01.2018, *Anomaliile climatice și despăduririle*);

„Agenția pentru Protecția Mediului Mureș (APM) este reprezentantul în teritoriu al Ministerului Mediului, Pădurilor și Schimbărilor Climatice, având atribuții de elaborare avize, autorizații, de monitorizare a *calității mediului*, de urmărire a modului de administrare a ariilor protejate."/ 'The Environmental Protection Agency of Mureş (APM) is the representative in the territory of the Ministry of the Environment, Forests and Climate Change, having the role of elaborating opinions, authorizations, *environmental quality* monitoring, and monitoring of the management of protected areas' (http://www.zi-de-zi.ro/2016/01/01/calitatea-mediului-unitatea-de-masura-a-activitatii-apm/, 01.01.2016, *Calitatea mediului, unitatea de măsură a activității APM*);

„Un mediu curat este esenţial pentru sănătatea umană şi bunăstare. Totuşi, interacţiunile dintre mediu şi sănătatea umană sunt extrem de complexe şi dificil de evaluat. Aceasta face ca utilizarea principiului precauţiei să fie extrem de utilă. Cele mai cunoscute impacturi asupra sănătăţii se referă la poluarea aerului înconjurător, la calitatea proastă a apei, în general, la *igiena mediului* insuficientă."/ 'A clean environment is essential for human health and well-being. However, the interactions between the environment and human health are extremely complex and difficult to assess. This makes the use of the precautionary principle extremely useful. The best known impacts on health relate to ambient air pollution, poor water quality, in general, poor *environmental hygiene'* (https://www.eea.europa.eu/ro/themes/human/about-environment-and-health/, 08.09.2016, *Despre mediu și sănătate*);

„Considerăm că *protecţia mediului* înconjurător este o provocare importantă de management şi depunem eforturi pentru a înţelege cu exactitate care este influenţa activităţilor, produselor şi serviciilor companiei noastre asupra mediului."/ 'We believe that *environmental protection* is an important management challenge and we strive to understand exactly the influence of our company's activities, products and services on the environment' (www.thk.com/03.06.2013*, Protejarea mediului*); „*Protecția mediului* și menținerea unei prezențe competitive a UE pe piața mondială pot merge mână în mână, iar politica de mediu poate juca un rol esențial în crearea de locuri de muncă și stimularea investițiilor."/ '*Environmental protection* and maintaining a competitive EU presence on the world market can go hand in hand and environmental policy can play a key role in job creation and investment stimulation' (https://europa.eu/ european-union/ topics/environment_ro/, 20.03.2012*, O creștere ecologică*);

„Există anumite aspecte legate de impactul negativ asupra mediului, cand se pot evacua accidental în mediu substanţe/emisii cu acţiune poluantă in condiţii de funcţionare anormale sau în cazul executării lucrărilor de mentenanţă sau dezvoltare RED."/ 'There are certain aspects relating to the negative impact on the environment when accidental release of polluting substances/emissions can happen in abnormal conditions or during the performance of maintenance or development works in the power distribution network' (https://www.electrica.ro/activitatile-grupului/distributie/ impact-asupra-mediului/,01.03.2015, *Impact asupra mediului*);

„Trei persoane au murit, 60 au fost rănite, iar alte două sunt date dispărute, în urma unui *accident de mediu*, după ce aproximativ 700.000 de metri cubi de reziduuri chimice, scurse dintr-un rezervor avariat, au inundat luni satul Kolontar, din vestul Ungariei."/ 'Three persons died, 60 were injured, and two were missing following

BDD-A28506 © 2018 Editura Sitech
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.42 (2026-11-15 20:52:13 UTC)

environmental damage, after about 700,000 cubic metres of chemical waste, drained from a damaged reservoir, flooded the village of Kolontar in the west of Hungary' (http://www.greenpeace.org/romania/ro/campanii/Toxic/activitati/grav-accident-de-mediu-n-unga/, 05.10.2010, *Grav accident de mediu în Ungaria*);

„*Criza de mediu* va fi şi mai mare decât criza financiară. Numai că, în cazul mediului, nu avem voie să aşteptăm până ce criza va izbucni."/ 'The *environmental crisis* will be even greater than the financial crisis. But in the case of the environment, we are not allowed to wait until the crisis breaks out' (http://ziarullumina.ro/criza-de-mediu-mai-grava-decat-cea-financiara-42558.html/, 30.06.2009, *Criza de mediu, mai gravă decât cea financiară*);

„Organismele Modificate Genetic (OMG) continuă să reprezinte una dintre cele mai mari *probleme de mediu*, având grave implicaţii sociale şi economice."/ 'Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) continue to represent one of the biggest *environmental issues* with serious social and economic implications' (https://www.totb.ro/bilant-de-ziua-mediului-ce-a-mai-suferit-natura-in-ultimul-an/, 05.06.2013, *Bilanț de Ziua Mediului: Cele mai grave probleme cu care se confruntă România*);

c. the generic term (name) *mediu* is substituted by other terms (names) within the same semantic sphere: *acțiune antropică/* 'anthropic action' (human action on the environment)*, aer poluat/* 'polluted air'*, biocarburanți/* 'biofuels'*, biodiversitate/* 'biodiversity'*, dezvoltare durabilă/* 'sustainable development'*, echilibru ecologic/* 'ecological balance'*, ecomorfoză/* 'ecomorphosis' (modification of morphological characters of plants under the influence of environmental factors), *eficiență ecologică/* 'ecological efficiency'*, etichetă verde/* 'ecolabel, green label' (certification mark for identifying products that do not affect the environment)*, încălzire globală/* 'global warming', natural reserve, climate change, green space*, poluare/* 'pollution'*, resursă regenerabilă/* 'renewable resource'*, rezervație naturală/* 'nature reserve'*, schimbare climatică/* 'climate change'*, spațiu verde/* 'green space'. For instance:

„*Acțiunea antropică* asupra vegetatiei și faunei este variată ca intensitate și ca mod de manifestare. Pe de o parte s-a produs restrângerea arealelor, scăderea efectivelor de animale și în cazuri extreme dispariția unor specii."/ '*Anthropic action* on vegetation and fauna varies in intensity and mode of expression. On the one hand there was a restriction of the areas, a decrease in the number of animals and in extreme cases the disappearance of some species' (https://geohyper.wordpress.com/2011/12/17/influenta-factorului-antropic-asupra-raspandirii-organismelor-vii-tipuri-de-areale-21-11-2011/,17.11.2011,*Influența factorului antropic asupra răspândirii organismelor vii)*;

„Conform unui studiu realizat în 2016 de Organizația Mondială a Sănătății (OMS), 92% din populația lumii respiră un *aer poluat*."/ 'According to a study conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2016, 92% of the world population is breathing *polluted air*' (http://www.greenpeace.org/romania/ro/campanii/schimbari-climatice-energie/poluarea-aerului/, 20.05.2016, *Poluarea aerului*);

„Diminuarea rezervelor mondiale recuperabile de hidrocarburi fosile şi majorările succesive ale prețului barilului de țiței, ca urmare a crizei petrolului, au creat premise favorabile abordării altor surse pentru obținerea de combustibili. Astfel, au apărut preocupări pentru fabricarea de *biocarburanţi* din materii prime regenerabile (biomasă)."/ 'The diminution of global recoverable reserves of fossil hydrocarbons and the successive increases in oil barrel prices as a result of the oil crisis have created

BDD-A28506 © 2018 Editura Sitech
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.42 (2026-11-15 20:52:13 UTC)

favourable conditions for approaching other sources of fuel. Thus, there are currently concerns for the production of *biofuels* from renewable raw materials (biomass)' (http://www.caleaeuropeana.ro/biocarburantii-%E2%80%93-forma-atipica-de-energie-regenerabila/, 14.12.2011, *Biocarburanții, formă atipică de energie regenerabilă*);

„*Biodiversitatea* cuprinde varietatea genelor, a speciilor şi a ecosistemelor care constituie viaţa pe pământ."/ '*Biodiversity* includes the variety of genes, species, and ecosystems that constitute life on earth' (https://www.eea.europa.eu/ro/themes/biodiversity/about-biodiversity/, 31.08.2016, *Despre biodiversitate*); „*Dezvoltarea durabilă* a fost gândită ca o soluție la criza ecologică determinată de intensa exploatare a resurselor și degradarea continuă a mediului."/ '*Sustainable development* was conceived as a solution to the ecological crisis caused by the intensive exploitation of resources and the continuous degradation of the environment' (http://www.anpm.ro/dezvoltare-durabila/, 21.07.2014, *Dezvoltarea durabilă*);

„Mari dereglări ale *echilibrului ecologic* provoacă tăiatul necontrolat, neplanificat, anti-ecologic al pădurilor."/ 'Major disturbances of the *ecological balance* cause uncontrolled, unplanned, anti-environmental cuts in forests' (http://www.enciclopedia.biz/2017/01/echilibrul-ecologic.html/, 01.01.2017, *Echilibrul ecologic-Enciclopedia naturii*);

„Având în vedere tulburările economice din ziua de azi, provocările ecologice în curs de desfășurare și presiunea de a contribui la o planeta mai sustenabilă, un nou standard internațional ISO pentru aplicarea evaluării *eficienței ecologice* la sistemele de produse are un enorm potențial pe scara mondială."/ 'Given the current economic turmoil, the ongoing environmental challenges and the pressure to contribute to a more sustainable planet, a new international ISO standard for applying the *ecological efficiency* assessment to product systems has an enormous potential on a global scale' (http://www.consultanta-certificare.ro/stiri/iso-14045-evaluarea-eficientei-ecologice-sistemelor-produse.html/, 17.09.2012, *Mai puține deșeuri, mai multe rezultate*);

„*Eticheta verde* care se poate aplica pe majoritatea produselor şi serviciilor românești, ușurează accesul companiilor pe piața unică europeană."/ 'The *green label* that can be applied to most Romanian products and services, facilitates companies' access to the single European market' (https://www.money.ro/eticheta-verde-creste-profitul-afacerii/, 15.06.2008, *Eticheta verde crește profitul afacerii*);

„Fenomenul de *încălzire globală* nu este nicidecum ceva nou pentru planeta noastră. Dimpotrivă, perioadele de temperaturi foarte ridicate şi cele glaciare alternează conform unui ciclu pe care oamenii de ştiinţă sunt încă departe de a-l înţelege, dar a cărui existenţă e sprijinită de dovezi din ce în ce mai numeroase."/ 'The *global warming* phenomenon is nothing new to our planet. On the contrary, the periods of high and glacial temperatures alternate according to a cycle that scientists are still far from understanding, but whose existence is supported by more and more evidence' (http://stiintasitehnica.com/ incalzire-globala-rapida/, 08.06.2017, *Încălzirea globală e mai rapidă decât s-a estimat*);

„*Poluarea* este una dintre principalele probleme cu care se confruntă omenirea la momentul acesta"/ '*Pollution* is one of the main problems faced by mankind at this time' (http://bunadimineata.ro/de-dimineata/informatii-interesante-despre-poluare/, 29.07.2014, *Informații interesante despre poluare*); „În prezent există multe surse de energie considerate *resurse regenerabile* și prietenoase cu mediul. Acestea sunt mai curate și cu siguranță mai ieftine."/ 'There are currently many sources of energy considered as

BDD-A28506 © 2018 Editura Sitech
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.42 (2026-11-15 20:52:13 UTC)

environmentally friendly and *renewable resources*. These are cleaner and certainly cheaper' (http://www.ziare.com/mediu/energie-regenerabila/10-surse-de-energie-regenerabila-1131743/, 05.11.2011, *Surse de energie regenerabile care ne vor salva viitorul*);

„România are în prezent peste 10 parcuri naționale în cadrul cărora se găsesc numeroase rezervații naturale. Diferite de altele prin unicitate și frumusețe, rezervațiile Biosferei Delta Dunării, cea a Cazanelor Mari și Cazanelor Mici și Rezervația marină 2 Mai sunt de departe cele mai spectaculoase *rezervații naturale* de la noi din țară."/ 'Romania currently has over 10 national parks with numerous natural reserves. Differing from others by uniqueness and beauty, the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserves, the Big Cauldrons and the Small Cauldrons and the 2 Mai Marine Reservation are by far the most spectacular *nature reserves* in our country' (http://blog.hotelguru.ro/topul-celor-mai-frumoase-rezervatii-naturale-din-romania/,10.01.2017, *Topul celor mai frumoase rezervații naturale din România*);

„Vremea va înregistra schimbări majore, în România următoarelor două decenii. Secetă accentuată, valuri puternice de căldură vara şi creşterea intensităţii precipitaţiilor în celelalte anotimpuri sunt principalele *schimbări climatice* cu care se va confrunta ţara noastră."/ 'The weather will record major changes in Romania for the next two decades. Increased drought, strong summer heat waves, and increased rainfall in other seasons are the main *climate changes* our country will face' (http://www.gandul.info/stiri/cum-se-va-schimba-vremea-in-romania-in-urmatorii-20-de-ani-avertismentul-lansat-de-climatologi-12421986/, 07.04.2014, *Cum se va schimba vremea în România în următorii 20 de ani*);

„Pe zi ce trece, zonele verzi se împuținează. Practic, se atentează la sănătatea noastră. Calitatea vieții cetățenilor este afectată în mare măsură de problemele de mediu. Iar *spațiile verzi*, pe lângă rolul estetic pe care îl au, contribuie în mod esențial la atenuarea poluării atmosferice."/ 'With every day that passes, the green areas are fewer. Practically, our health is being assaulted. The quality of citizens' lives is affected, to a large extent, by environmental issues. And *green areas*, in addition to their aesthetic role, contribute essentially to mitigating air pollution' (http://jurnalul.ro/vechiul-site/old-site/suplimente/editie-de-colectie/spatiul-verde-7740.html/, 20.11.2006, *Spațiul verde*).

Most syntagmatic structures are recorded in specialized dictionaries. For example, DEM includes: *arie protejată/* 'protected area' (p. 93), *calitatea mediului/* 'environmental quality' (p. 214), *nișă ecologică/* 'ecological niche' (p.574), *încalzire global/* 'global warming' (p. 351), *protecția mediului/* 'environmental protection' (p. 702), *resursă regenerabilă/* 'renewable resource' (p. 804). At present, in the field of the environment, the lexemes created with the elements *bio-* "life"[7] (*biodiversity, biodegradation*) and *eco-* "environment" [8] (*ecosystem, ecomorphosis*) are widely used. Noteworthy are the observations of the researchers Adrien Hermans and Andree Vansteelandt on the *eco-* element: "A large number of terms are created on the basis of the adjective *ecological*, which becomes *eco(-)* by truncation. This truncated form has become a compounding element with full rights in the environmental field. The element plays a role comparable with a compounding element of Greek or Latin origin. In fact, *eco-* has a Greek origin (*oikos*, "house"), but has experienced semantic

[7]bio-, -biotic, -biozã , "life"< *Fr. bio-, biotique*, *-biose, cf. Gr. bios*, MDN, 168

[8] eco- - ecéu "house, environment", "property, goods" < Fr. *éco-,* cf. *Gr. oikos*, MDN, 164.

BDD-A28506 © 2018 Editura Sitech
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.42 (2026-11-15 20:52:13 UTC)

evolution. The compounding element refers to the concept of *environment* in general and not just to the idea of *house*, as would be etymologically imposed" [9].

In environmental terminology, similar to other terminologies, the metaphor is present in such phrases as: *apocalipsă ecologică/* 'ecological apocalypse' (disasters that affect the natural environment), *„înverzirea" energeticii/* 'greening of energy' (gradual transition from conventional energy to ecological energy), *bumerang ecologic/* 'ecological boomerang' (unexpected consequences of an environmental change), *energie „dulce"*/ 'sweet energy' (non-polluting energy), *pădure turmentată/* 'turbid forest' (a metaphoric name for a forest with crooked, crossing trees), *ploaie de sânge*/ 'blood rain' (rain drops containing dust with iron oxides brought by high winds from neighbouring deserts). The adjective *green* has a wider use, being understood as a synonym for *ecological*: *arhitectură verde/* 'green architecture' (an environmentally-friendly way of building), *casă verde/* 'green house' (dwelling built and used in a responsible way towards the environment), *industrie verde/* 'green industry' (activities based on the principle of protecting the natural habitat), *tehnologie verde/* 'green technology' (ecological ways of obtaining different forms of energy, protecting the environment). Another meaning, however, occurs in the phrase *cod verde*/ 'green code' of the series of terms that designate various meteorological phenomena: *cod verde*, where, in the paradigm of weather codes, *cod verde* means the absence of dangerous meteorological phenomena ("no dangerous meteorological phenomena are predicted"). In other words, in the field of the environment, the adjective *green* acquires several meanings: a. which has the colour of the leaves, of summer vegetation[10]; b. "environmentally friendly, ecological": *green energy, green product*; c. (meteo), "no dangerous meteorological phenomena".

In usage, these metaphorical phrases occur in such contexts as:

„Rusia se topește, Amazonul se usucă, SUA au înregistrat un record in 2011 la capitolul pagube economice în urma dezastrelor naturale din 2011. Cât ne costa *apocalipsa ecologică* de la nivel mondial, aflat intr-o dinamică din ce in ce mai alarmantă?"/ 'Russia is melting, the Amazon is drying up, in 2011 the US got a record on economic damage from natural disasters. How much does the world's *ecological apocalypse*, in increasingly alarming dynamics, cost?' (http://www.ziare.com/articole/apocalipsa+dezastre+naturale/, 08.08.2011, *Lumea, mai aproape de apocalipsa ecologică*);

„Soarele reprezintă cea mai importantă sursă de *energie dulce* pentru omenire."/ 'The sun is the most important source of *sweet energy* for mankind' (http://www.casa-construct.ro/articole/energia-solara-sursa-inepuizabila-3.html/, 02.03.2007, Energia solară- sursă inepuizabilă);

„*Arhitectura verde*, cunoscută şi ca design verde, este o arhitectură sustenabilă. Arhitectul sau designerul „verde" încearcă să protejeze aerul, apa şi pământul prin alegerea unor practici şi materiale de construcţie ecologice."/ '*Green architecture*, also known as green design, is a sustainable architecture. The "green" architect or designer tries to protect air, water and land by choosing ecological building practices and materials' (https://remixshop.com/blog/ro/ce-este-arhitectura-verde/,16.05.2017, *Ce este arhitectura verde?*);

„GreenTech Film Festival este primul festival de filme documentare dedicat

[9] DEX, https://dexonline.ro/definitie/mediu/
[10] DEX.

BDD-A28506 © 2018 Editura Sitech
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.42 (2026-11-15 20:52:13 UTC)

tehnologiei verzi, care s-a desfășurat în această toamnă în București."/ 'GreenTech Film Festival is the first documentary film festival dedicated to *green technology* that took place in Bucharest this autumn' (http://www.revistabiz.ro/societatea-consumerista-fata-fata-cu-natura/, 01.11.2017, *Societatea consumeristă, față ân față cu natura*);

„Eu insist pe faptul că o *casă verde* înseamnă în primul rând beneficii legate de confort și calitatea vieții…"/ 'I insist on the fact that a *green house* means first of all benefits related to comfort and the quality of life' (http://m.rfi.ro/mediu-88593-vrei-sa-iti-faci-casa-verde/,26.07.2016, Vrei sa îți faci casa verde?); „Vine Apocalipsa? Tocmai a fost anunțată o*, ploaie de sânge*!"/ 'Is the Apocalypse coming? A *blood rain* has just been announced!' (https://www.google.com/amp/s/teotrandafir.com/news/vine-apocalipsa/, 05.04.2016, *Vine Apocalipsa*?); „*Codul verde* înseamnă că nu sunt prognozate fenomene meteorologice periculoase. Codul verde nu indică nicio precauţie particulară pentru perioada imediat următoare, dar nu implică o vreme frumoasă sau lipsa apariţiei în următoarele zile a unor fenomene meteorologice periculoase ce pot perturba diverse activităţi."/ 'The *green code* means that no dangerous meteorological phenomena are predicted. The green code does not indicate any particular precaution for the immediate period, but it does not imply fine weather or the absence of dangerous meteorological phenomena in the coming days, which may disturb various activities' (https://www.libertatea.ro/stiri/stiri-interne/care-este-semnificatia-codurilor-de-culori-pentru-atentionarile-meteorologice-735996/, 29.06.2017, *Semnificația codurilor meteorologice*); „România îşi va asuma o ţintă de energie regenerabilă în jurul valorii de 35% pentru anul 2030, însă producţia de *energie verde* în noile capacităţi nu ar mai trebui subvenţionată."/ 'Romania will assume a renewable energy target of around 35% for 2030, but *green energy* production in the new capacities should no longer be subsidized' (https://www.digi24.ro/stiri/economie/energie/tinta-ambitioasa-de-energie-verde-stabilita-pentru-2030-914736/, 18.04.2018, *Țintă ambițioasă de energie verde stabilită pentru 2030*);

„Programul „Inovare în *industria verde*" este un program de dezvoltare a afacerilor având drept scop creșterea competivității intreprinderilor verzi, inclusiv ecologizarea industriilor existente, inovarea și dezvoltarea spiritului antreprenorial verde."/ 'The "Innovation in the *green industry*" program is a business development program aimed at increasing the competitiveness of green undertakings, including the greening of existing industries, innovation and development of the green entrepreneurship spirit' (http://www.finantare.ro/programul-inovare-in-industria-verde.html/, 23.07.2014, *Inovare în industria verde*).

4. Etymology

As for the origin of the terms, we can say that most of the phrases are loan translations from English[11]: E. *global warming* – R. *încălzire globală*, E. *sustainable development* – R. *dezvoltare durabilă,* E. *ecolabel* – R. *etichetă ecologică*, E. *green technology* – R. *tehnologia verde*; the loan translation from English *environmentally friendly –prietenos cu mediul* is very familiar; loan translations from French[12]: Fr.

[11] For the presentation of these terms we consulted Collin, Ph., *Dicționar de ecologie și mediu înconjurător: englez-român.*

[12] For the presentation of these terms we consulted Le Petit Robert - *Dictionnaire alphabetique et analogique de la langue française*, 2011.

BDD-A28506 © 2018 Editura Sitech
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.42 (2026-11-15 20:52:13 UTC)

action anthrophique – R. *acțiune antropică,* Fr. *industrie vert* – R. *industrie verde,* Fr. *ecologique* – R. *ecologic,* Fr. *ressource* – R. *resursă.*

The following terms are borrowings from French: *aditiv/* 'additive'*, arhitectură/* 'architecture'*, biodiversitate/* 'biodiversity'*, energie/* 'energy'*, ecomorfoză/* 'ecomorphosis'*, ecosystem/* 'ecosystem'*, industrie/* 'industry'*, (mediu) ecologic/* 'ecological environment'*, (mediu) construit/* 'built environment'*, spațiu/* 'space'*, apocalipsă/* 'apocalypse'*, (arie) protejată/* 'protected area'*, igienă/* 'hygiene'*, tehnologie/* 'technology'*, accident/* 'accident'*,* as well as from English: *biocarburant/* 'biofuel'.

5. Conclusions

The purpose of this study was to reveal the lexico-semantic features of the concept of *environment*, with wide use in various disciplines. Syntagmatic terms constitute a significant category through which the meanings of the domain can be more or less identified. The lexical family, lexical field and a significant number of phrases created around the term *environment* mean that environmental terminology is in a full process of development and use. Many terms, regardless of structure (simple, compound units, phrases), are borrowings and loan translations from French and English. Languages of wide international use play an important part in promoting scientific terms.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ciobanu, Georgeta, *Elemente de terminologie,* Timișoara, Editura Mirton, 1998.

Collin, Ph., *Dicționar de ecologie și mediu înconjurător: englez-român*, București, Editura Universal Daisi, 2001.

DEM= Constantin Pârvu, *Dicționar enciclopedic de mediu,* vol. I –II*,* București, Editura Regia Autonomă Monitorul Oficial, 2005.

DEX= Academia Română, *Dicționarul explicativ al limbii române*, ediția a II a, București, Editura Univers Enciclopedic, 1996.

EE= Ion Dediu, *Enciclopedie de ecologie,* Chișinău, Editura Știința, 2010.

MDN= Florin Marcu, *Marele dictionar de neologisme,* București, Editura Saeculum, 2000.

Pavel, Eugeniu, Rucăreanu, Costin, *Introducere în terminologie,* București, Editura AGIR, 2001.

***Le Petit Robert, *Dictionnaire alphabetique et analogique de la langue française*, texte remanié et amplifié sous la direction de Josette Rey-Debove et Alain Rey, Paris, 2016.

SOURCES

http://stiintasitehnica.com/incalzire-globala-rapida/.

https://www.google.com/amp/s/teotrandafir.com/news/vine-apocalipsa.

https://www.mitsubishi-motors.ro/environment.

http://www.rasfoiesc.com/business/economie/Mediul-natural-element-fundame77.php.

https://florianbodog.wordpress.com/2014/06/12/un-mediu-curat-poate-asigura-baza-pentru-sanatatea-noastra.

https://www.de-a-arhitectura.ro/urban-up-mediu-construit-pentru-liceeni.

http://www.asociatia-profesorilor.ro/mediul.html.

http://revista.universuljuridic.ro/dreptul-la-un-mediu-sanatos-este-un-drept-fundamental.

BDD-A28506 © 2018 Editura Sitech
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.42 (2026-11-15 20:52:13 UTC)

http://www.cuvantul-liber.ro/news/101487/61/Anomaliile-climatice-i-despaduririle.
http://www.zi-de-zi.ro/2016/01/01/calitatea-mediului-unitatea-de-masura-a-activitatii-apm.
https://www.eea.europa.eu/ro/themes/human/about-environment-and-health.
www.thk.com.
https://www.electrica.ro/activitatile-grupului/distributie/impact-asupra-mediului.
http://www.greenpeace.org/romania/ro/campanii/Toxic/activitati/grav-accident-de-mediu-n-unga.
https://www.totb.ro/bilant-de-ziua-mediului-ce-a-mai-suferit-natura-in-ultimul-an.
http://ziarullumina.ro/criza-de-mediu-mai-grava-decat-cea-financiara-42558.html.
https://geohyper.wordpress.com/2011/12/17/influenta-factorului-antropic-asupra-raspandirii-organismelor-vii-tipuri-de-areale-21-11-2011.
http://www.greenpeace.org/romania/ro/campanii/schimbari-climatice-energie/poluarea-aerului.
http://www.caleaeuropeana.ro/biocarburantii-%E2%80%93-forma-atipica-de-energie-regenerabila.
https://www.eea.europa.eu/ro/themes/biodiversity/about-biodiversity.
http://www.anpm.ro/dezvoltare-durabila.
http://www.enciclopedia.biz/2017/01/echilibrul-ecologic.html.
http://www.consultanta-certificare.ro/stiri/iso-14045-evaluarea-eficientei-ecologice-sistemelor-produse.html.
https://www.money.ro/eticheta-verde-creste-profitul-afacerii.
http://stiintasitehnica.com/incalzire-globala-rapida.
http://bunadimineata.ro/de-dimineata/informatii-interesante-despre-poluare.
http://www.ziare.com/mediu/energie-regenerabila/10-surse-de-energie-regenerabila-1131743.
http://blog.hotelguru.ro/topul-celor-mai-frumoase-rezervatii-naturale-din-romania.
http://www.gandul.info/stiri/cum-se-va-schimba-vremea-in-romania-in-urmatorii-20-de-ani-avertismentul-lansat-de-climatologi-12421986.
http://jurnalul.ro/vechiul-site/old-site/suplimente/editie-de-colectie/spatiul-verde-7740.html.
http://www.ziare.com/articole/apocalipsa+dezastre+naturale.
http://www.casa-construct.ro/articole/energia-solara-sursa-inepuizabila-3.html.
https://remixshop.com/blog/ro/ce-este-arhitectura-verde.
http://www.revistabiz.ro/societatea-consumerista-fata-fata-cu-natura.
http://m.rfi.ro/mediu-88593-vrei-sa-iti-faci-casa-verde.
https://www.google.com/amp/s/teotrandafir.com/news/vine-apocalipsa.
https://www.libertatea.ro/stiri/stiri-interne/care-este-semnificatia-codurilor-de-culori-pentru-atentionarile-meteorologice-735996.
https://www.digi24.ro/stiri/economie/energie/tinta-ambitioasa-de-energie-verde-stabilita-pentru-2030-914736.
https://www.digi24.ro/stiri/economie/energie/tinta-ambitioasa-de-energie-verde-stabilita-pentru-2030-914736.

BDD-A28506 © 2018 Editura Sitech
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.42 (2026-11-15 20:52:13 UTC)