POLYNUCLEAR TOPONYMIC FIELDS. ILLUSTRATION BASED ON MDTM$_{1-2}$

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Abstract

The *toponymic field* defines a denominative structure developed around a *nucleus*, designating in the denominator's view the object of maximum (socio-geographical) importance in a micro-area, to which one or more *derivate toponyms* are subordinated, through a *polarization* relation, names that designate geographical objects of secondary importance in the immediate vicinity of the nucleus. Although such structures are generally *mononuclear*, there are also situations where the elements of a toponymic field have to be subordinated to several nuclei, a solution that conveniently explains relationships that are established between seemingly unrelated toponyms, but which designate contiguous geographical objects. In the latter case, we are talking about *polynuclear toponymic fields*.

Key-words: *toponymy*, *toponymic field*, *polarization relation*, *toponymic nucleus*, *derivate toponyms*

Résumé

Le *champ toponymique* définit une structure dénominative développée autour d'un *noyau*, désignant dans la vision du dénominateur l'objet de la plus haute importance (sociogéographique) dans une micro-zone, à laquelle sont subordonnés, par une relation de *polarisation*, plusieurs *dérivés toponymiques*, qui désignent des objets géographiques d'importance secondaire à proximité du noyau. Bien que ces structures soient généralement *mononucléaires*, il existe également des situations dans lesquelles des éléments d'un champ toponymique doivent être subordonnés à deux ou trois noyaux, solution qui explique aisément les relations établies entre des toponymes apparemment non liés, mais qui désignent des objets géographiques situés dans le voisinage. Dans de tels cas, on parle de *champs toponymiques polynucléaires*.

Mots-clés: *toponymie*, *champ toponymique*, *polarisation*, *noyau toponymique*, *dérivés toponymiques*

Micul dicţionar toponimic al Moldovei (structural şi etimologic)[The Brief (structural and etymologic) Toponymic Dictionary of Moldova] is the result of a project developed by the Department of Toponymy within "A. Philippide" Institute of Romanian Philology of Iaşi. The initiator and coordinator of this dictionary was the late toponymist, professor doctor Dragoş Moldovanu, who proposed the approach to Moldavian toponymy from the perspective of an analogy between the organization of toponymic fields and the structuring of a toponymic map of a micro-area based on oppositions that imply the existence of a common element and of one or more differentiating elements. Related to toponymy, the outcome of this approach based on opposi-

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tions is the *toponymic field*[1], defined as a denominative ensemble organized around a *nucleus* which designates, from the denominator's perspective, the object of outmost (socio)geographical importance in a continuous area. One or more toponyms designating contiguous geographical objects of secondary importance are subordinated to this nucleus.

Whenever the elements of a lexical field are connected by means of opposition relations based on their semantic context, the relationships between the components of a toponymic fields target the importance of the designated geographical objects, as well as their contiguity in the respective micro-area. In the absence of a lexical signification, the function of the toponyms is no longer to signify, but merely to identify the reality designated by means of a *toponymic content.* Despite being rather controversial[2], this concept is represented by the association between an articulated entopic term, which refers to the class the denominated geographical object belongs to, and an attribute expressing the characteristic considered by the denominator as being the most relevant in the attempt to individualize the referent among the geographical objects of the same type: *Dealul Mare* vs. *Dealul Morii [The Big Hill vs. The Mill's Hill]*, *Pârâul Negru* vs. *Pârâul Sărat [The Black Brook vs. The Salty Brook]*, *Poiana cu Cetate* vs. *Poiana Teiului [The Fortress Clearing vs. The Linden Tree Clearing]*, *Valea Rece* vs. *Valea Seacă [The Cold Valley vs. The Dry Valley],* etc.

One or more determined elements designating geographical objects that belong to different classes are subordinated, by means of a unilateral dependence relationship, to the nucleus-toponym, the unique determiner within the toponymic field. This type of structuring of the toponymic fields, based thus on oppositions established between a nucleus-basis and one or more *toponymic derivates* (similar to the oppositions existing between the lexical bases and derivates) is called *polarization*[3].

The toponymic fields of a polarizing type are mostly mononuclear. Besides the polarizing element, they may have one

Dealul Neicului / Neicu's Hill[4] → *[Satul] Neicul* / *Neicul [Village]*

[Pârâul] Ruginoasa / Ruginoasa [Stream][5] → *[Satul] Ruginoasa* / *Ruginoasa [Village]*

+*[Satul] Posadnicii / Posadnici [Village]*[6] → *Valea Posadnicilor* / *Posadnici Valley*

or several subordinated toponyms, of which some may become, in turn, nuclei for secondary toponymic derivates:

Dealul Năzărioaia / *Năzărioaia Hill*[7] → *Valea Năzărioaiei* / *Năzărioaia's Valley*

→ *[Satul] Năzărioara* /

[1] This concept, called "onomastic field" (*Namenfeld*), was discussed in 1934 by Wilhelm Will, who classified the names of a series of castles and monasteries according to their lexical meaning. Still in relation to the lexical field, Wilhelm Kaspers equals the two concepts, namely onomastic fields and "notional fields" (*Sinngruppen*). For a more detailed perspective on this topic, see Moldovanu, 2010: 9-20.

[2] For details, see Moldovanu, 2010: 11-14.

[3] Moldovanu, 2010: 18.

[4] MDTM1: 284.

[5] MDTM1: 354.

[6] MDTM1: 334.

[7] MDTM1: 281.

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[Satul] Galbeni / Galbeni [Village] [8]	*Năzărioara [Village]* → *+Schitul de la Galbeni / Galbeni Hermitage* → *Dealul Galbeni / Galbeni Hill* → *Pârâul Galbeni / Galbeni Stream* → *Păduricea Galbeni / Galbeni Small Forest*	
Valea Pechei / Pechea's Valley[9]	→ *[Satul] Pechea / Pechea [Village]*	→ *+Odaia Pechea / Pechea Cattle Farm* → *Dealul Pechei / Pechea's Hill*
Dealul Păltinișului / Păltiniș' Hill[10]	→ *Pârâul Păltinișului / Păltiniș' Stream* → *[Satul] Păltinișul / Păltiniș [Village]*	→ *Fânațul Păltiniș / Păltiniș'Hayfield* → *Drumul Păltinișului / Păltiniș'Road* → *Pasul Păltiniș / Păltiniș Pass*

Therefore, one of the toponymist's tasks is to accurately establish the direction of polarization, the so-called *secondary etymology*[11], which reveals and explains the dependence relationship of each toponymic derivate towards its polarizing nucleus. This approach is facilitated by historical and geographical documentation, yet it requires from the toponymist a very good understanding of the "laws" governing the popular and cultivated place denomination system, since these laws can impose a certain nucleus[12] upon a toponymic structure.

However, there are cases when the trajectory of the toponymic polarization process cannot be established beyond any doubt, because findings indicate that the same anthroponomical or appellative base, following derivation with various suffixes, can result in two or more toponyms which designate different geographical objects belonging to the same micro-area and which become, in turn, nuclei for autonomous toponymic structures. In such cases we may speak of a *polynuclear toponymic field*[13].

[8] MDTM$_1$: 181.

[9] MDTM$_1$: 318.

[10] MDTM$_2$, ms.

[11] *Secondary etymology* differs from *primary toponymic etymology*, which aims at identifying the designation relationship between the nucleus-toponym and the designated geographical object (see Moldovanu, 2014: X).

[12] In the popular place denomination system, streams often take their names from the mountain or hill in their vicinity, the names of meadows become nuclei for names of hills and according to a third such rule, the foot of a hill or mountain is named after the respective hill or mountain it belongs to. In the cultivated toponymic system, which was applied in geography starting with the second half of the 19th century, meadows are named after the hills they are situated on, whereas mountains or hills, as well as the foot of a mountain or hill are named after the streams in their vicinity.

[13] Moldovanu, 2014: XI.

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For instance, the name of Stanislav *Rotompan*, a boyar mentioned in various documents in the period 1387-1412, constitutes the basis for two nuclei, namely the oronym *Movila lui Rotompan / Rotompan's Hillock* and the place name *Rotopăneştii*, a precise filiation being impossible to establish[14]. The name of the feudal landlord *Liuban* Stravici generated, on the one hand, the place name *Ibăneşti* and, on the other hand, independently, the hydronym *Ibăneasa*[15], both names subsequently developing their own toponymic fields.

This binuclear toponymic structure, containing exclusively elements of Romanian origin, occurs very often in the toponymy of Moldova:

- *Brăieştii* (oikonym) – *Brăiasa* (hydronym), both nuclei resulting through derivation from the name of the boyar *Brae*[16],
- *Gostileştii* (oikonym) – *Gostileasa* (hydronym, with the version *Pârâul Gostileascăi / Gostileasca's Stream*), originating from the name of the feudal landowner *Gostilă*[17],
- *Burleştii* (oikonym) – *Burla* (name of standing water), based on the name *Burlă*, attested for the first time in the phrase *Heleşteul lui Burlă / Burlă's Pond*[18],
- *Mândreştii* (oikonym) – *Valea Mândra / Mândra's Valley* (hydronym), derived from the name of the judge Ivan *Mândrul*[19],
- *Vornicenii* (oikonym) – *Vorniceasa* (hydronym), originating from the name of the boyar Ivan *Dvornicul*[20],
- *Docanii* (oikonym) – *Docăneasa* (oikonym), originating from the name *Docan*[21] etc.

Toponymic fields with three nuclei can also be identified: the family name *Oance*, for instance, occurs with a toponymic function both in the phrase designating a place name *Slobozia Oancii / Oancea's (tax-free) Village* and the oronym *Dealul Onciul / Onciul Hill* (which, in turn, is the polarizing element for the place name *Onciul*), but it also represents the anthroponomical basis for the place name nucleus *Onceşti*[22].

Oance
- → *Slobozia Oancii / Oancea's Village*
- → *Dealul Onciul / Onciul Hill*
  - → *[Satul] Onciul/ Onciul [Village]*
    - → *Iazul Onciul / Onciul Pond*
    - → *Pădurea Onciul / Onciul Forest*
- → *[Satul] Onceştii / Onceşti [Village]*

[14] In turn, the place name attracts through polarization a toponymic reference, *Curtea Rotopăneşti / Rotopăneşti Court*, a hydronym, *Gârla de la Rotopăneşti / The Backwater in Rotopăneşti*, and a phytonym, namely *Pădurea Rotopăneşti / Rotopăneşti Forest* (MDTM1: 353).

[15] Although the collective suffix *-eşti* secures the role of toponymic nuclei for personal place names, the *Ibăneasa* form has not resulted through regressive derivation from *Ibăneşti* (case in which it would have had the form *Ibăneasca*), being formed with the motional suffix *-easa*, which provides the agreement with the entopic term *vale* [valley] (MDTM1: 224-226).

[16] MDTM1: 60.

[17] MDTM1: 197.

[18] MDTM1: 70.

[19] MDTM1: 263.

[20] MDTM1: 449.

[21] MDTM1: 135.

[22] MDTM1: 289.

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The name of Stanciu *Săcuiul*, attested even since 1491 in the hydronymic phrase *Pârâul Secuiului / Szekler's Stream*, represents the starting point for two other toponymic nuclei, namely the place name *Secuienii* and the hydronym *Secuia*[23].

Secuiul → *Pârâul Secuiului / Secuiul Stream*
→ *[Satul] Secuienii / Secuienii [Village]*
→ *[Pârâul] Secuia / Secuia [Stream]* → *[Satul] Secuia / Secuia [Village]*
→ *Dealul Secuiei / Secuia's Hill*

The Ukrainian influence upon Moldova's toponymy, manifested after the period 1000-1100[24], is rendered visible by the existence of binuclear toponymic fields that are either exclusively Ukrainian or have Ukrainian formative elements in one of the nuclei. In order to exemplify the first situation we can mention the name *Cepel*, of Slavic origin, which represents the anthroponomical basis for both nuclei of the corresponding toponymic field, respectively for the place name *Ceplinții*, formed by derivation with the Ukrainian collective suffix *-inci*, and the hydronym *Ceplenița*, formed by derivation with the Ukrainian compound suffix *-nica* < *-ĭn-ica*[25]. The name *Bene*, attested in a Slavonic document of 1490 in the phrase *Casa lui Bene / Bene's House*, formed two toponymic nuclei with Ukrainian suffixes, namely the hydronym *Benia*, formed by derivation with the possessive suffix *-ja*, and the oronym *Benschi*, where the adjectival suffix *-skij* provides the agreement with the masculine entopic term *horá* or *horb*[26]. Equally complex is the toponymic structure based on the Slavic appellative **rokyta*, which is subject to double derivation: on the one hand with the suffix *-ov*, resulting in the nucleus hydronym *Răcătău* (< v. ukr. *Rokytow(a)* "with wickers"), and on the other hand with the patronymic *-janin* (*-ĕnin*), used with the archaic plural form *-jane* (*-ĕne*), and resulting in the nucleus place name *Răcăciune* (< **Rokičene* "Răchiteni")[27].

In MDTM$_{1-2}$ one can also identify *mixed* binuclear fields, when only one of the nuclei is of Ukrainian origin. For instance, for the hydronym *Pârâul Coșca* / *Coșca Stream*, the indicated etymon is an old Ukrainian derivate of the proper name *Košo* with the hydronymic suffix *-ka*. The second nucleus of the toponymic field under analysis, specifically the place name *Coșeștii*, is a Romanian derivate from the anthroponym *Coșa* with the collective suffix *-ești*.

Polynuclear toponymic fields are also formed by place names with a double tradition that appeared in Moldova as a result of the Slavic-Romanian symbiosis. This type of toponymic structure unifies two place formations that share the same anthroponomical/ appellative base while being derived with suffixes corresponding to each of the languages that come into contact, any relation of subordination being thus annulled. As opposed to mononuclear fields, where names with a double tradition can be identi-

[23] MDTM$_1$: 370.
[24] Ivănescu, 2000: 445.
[25] MDTM$_1$: 82-83.
[26] MDTM$_1$: 40.
[27] MDTM$_2$, ms.

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fied, but they are related to the same referent[28], in this case the corresponding toponyms refer to distinct geographical objects, each of them subsequently becoming polarizing elements for their own bigger or smaller toponymic structures. The Romanian place name *Rânghileşti*, for instance, was used for a while in parallel with its Ukrainian correspondent *Rângăuţi*, derived with the suffix *-owci*, both originating from the Slavic anthroponym *Ringo*. It is possible for the two place names to have initially designated the same village; however, starting from 1786 they were attested as designating different administrative units: *Rângăuţi* (the county of Dorohoi) and, in its immediate vicinity, *Rânghileşti* (the county of Iaşi). Consequently, in MDTM1 the two village names are processed as distinct nuclei within the same field, each having independent toponymic derivates[29]. The form *Dragova* also dates from the bilingual Slavic-Romanian period, designating a hydronymic nucleus with several autonomous toponymic derivates within the field developed from the name of Dragoş[30]. The other nucleus is the Romanian name of a field, namely *Câmpul lui Dragoş / Dragoş' Field* which, by extension, ends up designating a micro-area belonging to the former county of Bacău including approximately 22 villages. Thus, the Ukrainian version resumes the Romanian root *Drag-*, to which it adds the possessive suffix *-ova*, which agrees with the entopic term *dolina* [valley][31].

Despite the fact that generally the toponymic fields processed in MDTM1-2 are mononuclear, the analysis indicates situations when the elements of such a toponymic structure must be subordinated to several nuclei, a solution often adopted in order to provide a convenient explanation for the equality relationships established between toponyms related to the same anthroponomical/appellative base, which are apparently not related, yet which designate contiguous geographical objects.

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[28] Rom. *Falcău* - Ukr. *Falkiv* (MDTM1: 160); Rom. *Baineţ* - Pol. *Baince* (MDTM1: 20); Rom. *Bădeuţii* - Ukr. *Badewci* (MDTM1: 27); Rom. *Hudeştii* - Ukr. *Hudinţi* (MDTM1: 214); Rom. *Rădăuţii* - Slv. *Radovţi* - Pol. *Radowcze* or *Radowice* - Ukr. *Radiwci* (MDTM1: 341), etc.

[29] MDTM1: 347-348.

[30] This may refer to either the first voivode of Moldavia or Dragoş Viteazul [Dragos the Brave], the chief magistrate of the Neamţ Fortress in the period 1401-1408.

[31] MDTM1: 148.

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