TOPONYMS OF DOLJ COUNTY

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Abstract

The analysis of Dolj county toponyms concerns the structure, the behaviour of entopics, as well as homonymy. The grammatical aspects (articles, plural forms) and the origin of certain toponyms are important for the study of the Romanian language and for marking foreign influences in the south of the country. The comments on the social characteristics of ethnonyms highlight the documentary value of Dolj county toponyms.

Key words: *structure, toponym, compound, derivative, entopic*

Résumé

Par l'analyse de la structure des toponymes de Dolj on a mis en évidence la composition, la dérivation avec des suffixes, l'homonymie, les entopiques, la graphie. Les observations relatives aux caractéristiques sociales des ethnonymes sont importantes pour la valeur documentaire des toponymes de Dolj. Dans le cadre des composés, le plus grand nombre d'occurrences est détenu par les toponymes formés des substantifs et d'adjectifs. Les aspects grammaticaux (l'articulation, les formes de pluriel) et l'origine de certains toponymes sont importants pour étudier la langue roumaine et pour marquer les influences étrangères au Sud du pays.

Mots-clés: *structure, toponyme, composé, dérivé, entopique*

The research of toponyms from various angles is important for the history and evolution of the Romanian language, for acquiring better knowledge of its vocabulary and etymology. It equally involves the relationship between literary language and popular language, dialects. Iorgu Iordan mentions the fact that "the place names of a certain region can be structured from different standpoints, according to the preoccupations of the one researching them. The way they come into being, as well as the role they play in the life of a people are of great interest to geographers, historians, ethnologists and linguists"[1]. Several linguists have been concerned with toponymy-related issues: Iorgu Iordan, Al. Graur, Ioan Pătruț, Ion Toma, Ilie Dan[2].

Toponyms are differentiated according to several criteria:

1. according to their structure – simple toponyms: *Basarabi*, *Bâlta*, *Bârca*, *Bechet*, *Bechet* (*Orodel*), *Beharca*, *Bogea*, *Brânduşa*, *Breasta*, *Bujor*, *Busu*, *Calafat*, *Calopăr*, *Carpen*, *Catane*, *Cârna*, *Celaru*, *Cetate*, *Chiaşu*, *Ciutura*, *Cornu*, *Cotu*, *Criva*, *Desa*, *Dioşti*, *Frasin*, *Gabru*, *Gaia*, *Ghighera*, *Giubega*, *Gogoşu*, *Goicea*, *Golenți*, *Hunia*, *Izvoare*, *Izvor*, *Jiul*, *Lazu*, *Lânga*, *Leşile*, *Leu*, *Livezi*, *Mârza*, *Moşna*, *Motoci*, *Murta*, *Nedeia*, *Nisipuri*, *Ocolna*, *Ohaba*, *Palilula*, *Poienile*, *Prapor*, *Preajba*, *Puțuri*, *Rast*, *Salcia*, *Sărata*, *Schitu*, *Secu*, *Segarcea*, *Sopot*, *Teasc*, *Teiu*, *Unirea*, *Vela*, *Zănoaga*, *Zăval*[3].

[1] Iordan, 1963, p. 104,

[2] See Bibliography.

[3] See Bolocan, Șodolescu-Silvestru, Burci, Toma, 2009, I, p. 55, 57, 129, 152, 166, 178, 191, 287, 301, 310, 336; II, p. 11, 12, 31, 75, 87, 102, 134, 350, 355.

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Some are homonyms of common names: *Brânduşa*, *Bujor*, *Cetate*, *Ciutura*, *Cornu*, *Cotu*, *Frasin*, *Izvor*, *Leu*, *Prapor*, *Unirea*.

Morphologically, they have a plural form: *Basarabi*, *Catane*, *Dioşti*, *Golenți*, *Izvoare*, *Leşile*, *Livezi*, *Motoci*, *Nisipuri*, *Puțuri*.

The article is marked in the following examples: *Bâlta*, *Bârca*, *Beharca*, *Bogea*, *Breasta*, *Cârna*, *Criva*, *Desa*, *Gaia*, *Ghighera*, *Giubega*, *Goicea*, *Hunia*, *Lânga*, *Mârza*, *Moşna*, *Murta*, *Nedeia*, *Ocolna*, *Ohaba*, *Palilula*, *Poienile*, *Preajba*, *Salcia*, *Sărata*, *Segarcea*, *Vela*, *Zănoaga*.

The article is not marked in: *Busu*, *Celaru*, *Chiaşu*, *Gabru*, *Gogoşu*, *Lazu*, *Schitu*, *Secu*, *Teiu*.

2. Toponyms derived with the suffix *-aş*: *Tălpaş*; *-an*: *Cârstovani*; *-ean*: *Boureni*, *Câmpeni*, *Coşereni*, *Coşoveni* , *Ghindeni* , *Italieni*, *Jieni*, *Moşneni*, *Ostroveni*, *Roşieni*, *Spineni*, *Ungureni*, *Văleni*; *-et*: *Făget*, *Prunet*; *-ar*: *Podari*; *-ați*: *Afumați*; *-oaia*: *Argetoaia*, *Drăgoaia*, *Pietroaia*, *Ursoaia*; *-oi*: *Bărboi*; *-eanu*: *Bobeanu*; *-at*: *Căciulatu*; *-ui*: *Cetățuia*; *-eşti*: *Albeşti*, *Brădeşti*, *Căciuleşti*, *Călineşti*, *Cernăteşti*, *Drăgoteşti*, *Floreşti*, *Gârleşti*, *Mogoşeşti*, *Negoeşti*, *Pieleşti*, *Pometeşti*, *Popeşti*, *Româneşti*, *Tatomireşti*, *Urecheşti*, *Veleşti*; *-easa*: *Popeasa*; *-an*: *Gropanele*; *-ire*: *Înfrățirea*; *-ura*: *Întorsura*.

Toponyms derived with diminutive suffixes: *-aş(i)*: *Cioroiaşi*, *Murgaşi*; *-el*: *Almăjel*, *Ştefănel*, *Giorocel*; *-ele*: *Ciocănele*, *Fântânele*; *-ei*: *Călugărei*, *Cârligei*, *Moțăței*, *Puținei*; *-ice*: *Comănicea*; *-icior*: *Bucovicior*; *-ița*: *Cornița*, *Giurgița*, *Gogoşița*, *Urdița*; *-eț*: *Pisculeț*, *Busulețu*; *-işoara*: *Viişoara*; *-şor*: *Plopşor*, *Luncşor*; *-uța*: *Sălcuța*. Some derived toponyms describe the form or outward aspect of the place: *Cărligei* (< *cârligi*), *Ostroveni*, *Pisculeț*. Some others evoke the nature of the land belonging to that locality or its vicinity: *Brădeşti*, *Călineşti*, *Cornița*, *Făget*, *Plopşor*, *Prunet*, *Sălcuța*. *Adâncata* (it comes from *Adânc*), *Albeşti* (derived from *Alba*) show a characteristic of the place.

The following toponyms show a property relation: *Căciulatu*, *Căciulăteşti*, *Moşneni*; the inhabitants' occupations: *moreni* (*moară* 'mill' > *moreni*), *Podari* (the persons who levy the tax for crossing a bridge); the toponyms *Călugarei* (cf. *călugar* 'monk'), *Popeasa*, *Popeşti* (cf. *popă* 'priest' > *Popa*) make reference to the representatives of the Church.

Comănicea (cf. *Cumani*), *Italieni*, *Ungureni* are ethnonyms; psychological toponyms: *Afumați*, *Puținei*. Morphologically, *Călineşti*, *Negoeşti*, *Româneşti* are social toponyms with the plural form in *-eşti* or *-eni*; different suffixes are added to the same base to form: *Căciulatu*, *Căciulăteşi*, *Drăgoaia*, *Drăgoteşti*, *Popeasa*, *Popeşti*.

3. Compound toponyms, with different structures:

a) noun (N) + noun (apposition): *Botoşeşti Paia*, *Castrele Traiane*, *Domnu Tudor*, *Horezu Poienari*, *Moțăței Gara*, *Plopu Amaraşti*, *Râsnicu Oghian*, *Viişoara Moşneni*.

b) noun + adjective: *Apele Vii*, *Balta Verde*, *Bistrețu Nou*, *Brădeştii Bătrâni*, *Catanele Noi*, *Cioroiu Nou*, *Ciupercenii Noi*, *Ciupercenii Vechi*, *Galicea Mare*, *Georocu Mare*, *Lăcrița Mare*, *Lăcrița Mică*, *Malu Mare*, *Piscu Lung*, *Piscu Nou*, *Piscu Vechi*, *Poiana Mare*, *Predeştii Mici*, *Râşnicul Bătrân*, *Tunarii Noi*, *Tunarii Vechi*, *Ungurenii Mici*, *Urzica Mare*, *Valea Mare*.

Within these constructions, one can notice the category to which adjectives belong. Thus, there are adjectives indicating property (*mic* 'small', *mare* 'large', *nou* 'new', *vechi* 'old', *bătrân* 'old', *lung* 'long'): *Lăcrița Mică*, *Lăcrița Mare*, *Ciupercenii*

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Noi, *Ciupercenii Vechi*, *Piscu Lung*. These adjectives have different occurrences: *mare* has 7 occurrences, *nou* has 6, *mic* has 3 occurrences. The adjective *verde* 'green', accompanying the toponym *Balta* is a chromatic epithet.

c) noun + noun (G): *Gura Racului*, *Gura Vaii*, *Piscu Sadovei*, *Poiana Fântânii*, *Siliştea Crucii*, *Valea Fântânilor*, *Valea Lungului*, *Valea Stanciului* (old, popular genitive with the article in a post-position), *Valea lui Pătru* (a genitive in its literary form).

d) noun + the preposition *de* + noun in the accusative: *Preajba de Pădure*, *Seaca de Câmp*, *Seaca de Pădure*, *Smadovicioara de Secu*, *Teascu de Deal*.

e) noun + noun (G) + the preposition *de* + adverb (with concatenated determinations): *Valea Muierii de Jos*.

f) nouns + the preposition *de* + adverb: *Amărăştii de Jos*, *Amărăştii de Sus*, *Balota de Jos*, *Balota de Sus*, *Bodăieştii de Sus*, *Leamna de Jos*, *Leamna de Sus*, *Lipovu de Jos*, *Marotinu de Jos*, *Marotinu de Sus*, *Măceşu de Jos*, *Măceşu de Sus*, *Preajba de Jos*, *Răcarii de Jos*, *Răcarii de Sus*, *Răchita de Jos*, *Răchita de Sus*, *Robăneşti de Jos*, *Robăneşti de Sus*, *Şimnicu de Jos*, *Şimnicu de Sus*, *Vârvoru de Jos*.

The distinction is made by an adverb preceded by the preposition *de* in pair toponyms: *Amăraştii*, *Balota*, *Leamna*, *Marotinu*, *Măceşu*, *Răcarii*, *Răchita*, *Robaneşti*, *Şimnicul*.

Toponymy is therefore important for the study of the history and language of a people. The toponyms under analysis illustrate the features of the dialect of Dolj county, in the region of Oltenia.

Onomasiological classification: of a total of 210 toponyms, the noun *Valea* is predominant with six occurrences (*Valea Fântânilor*, *Valea Lungului*, *Valea Mare*, *Valea Muierii de Jos*, *Valea Stanciului*, *Valea lui Pătru*), *Piscu* with four occurrences (*Piscu Lung*, *Piscu Nou*, *Piscu Sadovei*, *Piscu Vechi*), *Răchita* with two occurrences (*Răchita de Jos*, *Răchita de Sus*).

The distinction between homonymous toponyms, names of villages, by adding common names, is rare: *Cetăţuia* (*Cioroiaşi*), *Cetăţuia* (*Vela*).

Given the vicinity influences, the following toponyms are of Slavic origin: *Breasta* (< *brěstŭ*, 'elm' *ulm*), *Călineşti* (< *Kalin* a person's name), *Cernăteşti*, *Lazu*. The toponyms *Gabru* (< *Gaber* 'hornbeam'), *Hunia* (< *Hunija* 'funnel'), *Bucovicior*, *Ciocănele* are of Bulgarian origin; there are fewer toponyms of Hungarian origin: *Almăjel* (< *alma* 'apple').

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