Preliminaries to a Typology of Romanian Multilingual Dictionaries[1]

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0. Introduction

Romanian multilingual dictionaries are the most heterogeneous category of dictionaries. Most of them are supervised by specialists in different scientific and technical fields and contain an inappropriate linguistic and lexicographical treatment of terms. Romanian dictionary production is quite rich, but the analysis is just beginning, multilingual dictionaries being the least known and researched category of dictionaries. A project dedicated to Romanian multilingual dictionaries aims to evaluate these works by discovering the stages of their development, and by identifying and describing their representative types. This article summarizes the object, the limits and the difficulties of the proposed research, the criteria and the stages outlined above, and some preliminary arguments for a typology of the Romanian multilingual dictionaries.

1. A project dedicated to Romanian multilingual dictionaries

1.1. Object and limits of research

The project "Romanian Multilingual Dictionaries. History and Typology"[2], developed between January 2016 – November 2017, at the Institute of Romanian Philology "A. Philippide" (Iaşi), proposes a pioneering research, and represents the first step in the inventory and the evaluation of these works, using linguistic and lexicographical criteria. In order to determine the object of this research and to establish the corpus for analysis, the next selection criteria are used: the dictionaries in question must be elaborated and edited in at least three languages (according to

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the narrow meaning of *multilingual dictionary*), they must have Romanian as source language or target language, and they must be printed.

The research involves the exclusion of: bilingual dictionaries (according to the wide meaning of *multilingual dictionary*), polyglot dictionaries for children, multilingual conversation guides, and multilingual terminology databases (electronic resources). The sources employed in the process of identifying the corpus of this research are: reference works in the domain of Romanian lexicography (v. Seche 1966, 1969, Canarache 1970, Lupu 1999), electronic catalogues[3] provided by the university and academic libraries, relevant bibliographies of the Romanian language (the updated bibliography of the thesaurus dictionary of the Romanian language, and the bibliography of Romanian linguistic works, annually published in "Limba română"). The warning message for the right evaluation of the *Lexiconul de la Buda*:

> s-a insistat prea mult asupra caracterului de dicționar poliglot […] trecându-se cu vederea faptul că importanța primordială a lucrării stă în aspectul ei explicativ și etimologic (Seche 1966: 32),

applies to the evaluation of all Romanian multilingual dictionaries. The multilingual character is essential, because it integrates the works into the examined category, but it is not sufficient. The true value of these dictionaries resides in the linguistic and lexicographical treatment of the lexical material.

1.2. Elements of difficulty

The prejudice that many multilingual dictionaries, mostly published in the last half-century, are practically useless (cf. Seche 1969: 317), with little linguistic and lexicographical value or none at all, is the first element of difficulty in undertaking such research. This lexicographical sector has become a favorite domain for amateurs, used by certain individuals and institutions for personal glory, a network for the fast attraction of institutional collaborations and funding. Even when made by scientists, many of the multilingual specialized dictionaries do not exceed the level of parallel lists of terms, available exclusively for insiders (ex.: a mycological dictionary in six languages: Romanian, Latin, French, English, German, Russian). On top of these, the increasing interest in building multilingual terminology databases leads to a decreasing interest for printed dictionaries. The second difficulty concerns the gathering of the bibliography, especially the identification of "hidden" dictionaries, with opaque titles, which incorporate a multilingual component (ex.: *Dicţionar medical*). Also, documentation is difficult in the case of some very old dictionaries which appeared in a limited edition or have not been preserved, and are only mentioned in other writings (ex.: *The Romanian – German – French – Latin dictionary* of Paul Iorgovici). The macrostructure of these dictionaries, sometimes intended for a very specialized audience, the irresponsible selection of sources for word lists and for translations, the absence of indexes or bibliographies constitute an impediment for the documentation work, the interpretation of the collected data and the reconstruction of the bibliographical context. Despite the mentioned difficulties, these dictionaries must be rediscovered and evaluated in a unified manner.

[3] http://rolinest.edu.ro/

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2. Stages of Romanian lexicography

In the first and, so far, the only history of Romanian lexicography (Seche, 1966, 1969), there have been established three stages in the development of the field from the beginning until the second half of the twentieth century (v. Pricop 2014: 28–29). We mention the following significant moments of multilingual lexicography, as stated in the cited monograph. The first stage begins with the bilingual (Slavic-Romanian) glossaries used in the process of translation of the first Romanian texts of the sixteenth century and ends before the publication of the lexicon from Buda. Most lexicographical works carried out in this early period are bilingual and multilingual. The first known lexicographical work with polyglot character, otherwise the first trilingual dictionary, *Dicţionarul latin – român – maghiar*, dates from the late seventeenth century and early eighteenth century (about 1687–1701). The first trilingual list (Latin, Romanian, Hungarian) of names of plants belonging to Benkő József is printed in 1783 in the pages of a Hungarian magazine. It is followed, in 1793, by the trilingual (German, Latin, Romanian) dictionary of Anton Predetici Nasodi, *Dictionarium trium linguarum. Germano-Latina et Daco-Romana*, preserved in manuscript. Also, in the last decade of the eighteenth century, the linguist Paul Iorgovici wrote the first dictionary in four languages (Romanian, German, French, Latin), but the manuscript was lost. Nicolae Iorga found another trilingual dictionary of the same period (Seche 1966: 19). Samuil Micu realized, in 1806, a Latin – Romanian – German – Hungarian dictionary, followed in 1808-1810 by George Şincai‘s Latin – Romanian – Hungarian – German Dictionary. In 1822-1825, at the initiative of the Bishop Ioan Bobb, it is published the Latin – Romanian – Hungarian Dictionary, the first printed lexicographical work of great proportions (Seche 1966: 28-29).

The second stage begins with the first Romanian explanatory, etymological and multilingual dictionary, published in 1825 in Buda, and ends around 1870-1880, when important changes took place in the international scientific and technical context. During this period monolingual and bilingual lexicography gain ground, and we can talk about an independent multilingual lexicography (the chapter entitled *Lexicografia poliglotă*, Seche 1966: 63-68). The development of Micu and Şincai works culminates with the publishing, in 1825, of the *Lexiconul de la Buda*, with its original title *Lesicon romanescu – latinescu – ungurescu – nemţescu*, “cel dintâi dicționar explicativ și etimologic al limbii române care a văzut lumina tiparului” (ibid. p. 32). These dictionaries originate from Transylvania, the influence of the Latinist cultural movement being evident by the presence of Latin, which often has the status of source language. Seven more multilingual dictionaries are printed, bringing two major changes: the presence of French and the use of Romanian as source language. The dictionaries in question are: the manuscript of a German – Romanian – French dictionary supervised in 1826-1827 by V. Cantemir, an adjusted French – Greek – Romanian dictionary from 1835, belonging to Gheorghe Apostol Scalistera, the trilingual Romanian – Latin – Greek dictionary from 1844 written by Gr. Papadopol, the Romanian – Latin – German – French Dictionary, conceived by D. Pisoni after the pattern of the lexicon of Buda, the French – Romanian – German Dictionary of Cattarigh follows in 1865, and the Latin – Romanian – French

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vocabulary of Josafat Snagoveanu in 1867. A botanical dictionary having as pattern the polyglot specialized vocabularies appears in 1847 and is reprinted in 1858 in „Foaie pentru minte, inimă şi literatură". The third phase of the multilingual lexicography includes the lexicographical achievements of the late nineteenth century until 1969, the year in which the first monograph dedicated to Romanian lexicography (Seche 1969) is published. In this period, an increasing individualization of dictionaries is registered. The monolingual ones have the most important place among this category of written works, followed closely by bilingual dictionaries (bilingual bibliography, Seche 1966: 285–316). Unfortunately, we witness the decline of the multilingual dictionaries (the one-page subchapter entitled *Dicționarele poliglote*, Seche 1969: 317–318).

3. Achievements of Romanian multilingual lexicography

To get an overview of the achievements of Romanian multilingual lexicography from its beginning to the present day, we have to sum up the information about the listed dictionaries (see above) and complete it with the information gathered from digital catalogues belonging to the Romanian university and academic libraries (Bursuc 2014: 29–30). The beginning of the multilingual Romanian lexicography is landmarked by the first trilingual dictionary (1687-1701), published at the beginning of the eighteenth century, purchased by the Italian count Luigi Ferdinando Marsigli (Seche 1966: 9), hence the name *Lexiconul marsilian*, edited in 1930 by the Italian Romanist Carlo Tagliavini, the trilingual glossary, *Nomina vegetabilium*, of Benkő József, which also represents the beginning of the study of Romanian botanical terminology (Chivu 2014), and the first dictionary in four languages, unfortunately not preserved, of Paul Iorgovici, probably written towards the end of the century.

Following the great desire for printing multilingual dictionaries of the early nineteenth century, Obradovici announces the printing of a "slovar" in 1805 in German, Serbian and Romanian for military use, probably an unrealized project. From the first quarter of the nineteenth century date three multilingual dictionaries and the well-known *Lexiconul de la Buda*, all of them being hybrid dictionaries, both multilingual and explanatory (Canarache 1970: 33). Since 2011–2013, there is an electronically processed edition of this lexicon supervised by young researchers from Cluj (Tamba: 2014). Starting with the next half century, seven multilingual dictionaries are recorded. In 1890, a brief Latin – German – Romanian – Ukrainian (Ruthenian) inventory of plant names from Bucovina appears in Cernăuți, followed, in 1897, by a Romanian – Russian – Bulgarian – German military lexicon, the last preceded in 1877 by another military dictionary (Canarache 1970: 30). In the first half of the twentieth century, the development of the multilingual dictionaries continues. The first edition of the famous botanical vocabulary written by the botanist Zach. C. Panţu is published în 1906, followed in 1929 by the second edition. There are two such dictionaries which appear în 1926: The German – French – Romanian Mineralogical, Petrographic Vocabulary by N. Cantuniari and the first French – German – Italian – English – Romanian Technical Dictionary signed by Virgil Gh. Coman. Technical lexicography debuts with this kind of

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dictionary, frequentely accompanied by a multilingual component, which, eventually, comes to monopolize the multilingual dictionaries. Hence, there are published: a forestry technical dictionary in Romanian, French, German, English, Italian, Hungarian, Russian in 1936 and a vocabulary of nautical terms in 1943 in five languages: Romanian, English, French, German, and Italian. But the most significant achievements of technical lexicography are the two editions of the *Lexiconul tehnic român*, the first published 1949–1956 and the second from 1957–1968, whose polyglot character cannot be overlooked. The number of multilingual dictionaries increases in the second half of the twentieth century (especially after 1969), doubles even, generally covering the specialized vocabularies belonging to the diverse and new scientific and technical disciplines. Some references should be mentioned in this brief history: the multilingual etnobotanic dictionary of Romanian folk plant names, published in 1968 by the great botanist Alexandru Borza, the multilingual botanic dictionary of Coloman Váczy from 1980 and the Romance dictionary of print and broadcast media from 1981. The scientific and technical progress and the development of terminologies are often cited by the authors as the main reason for the great number of multilingual dictionaries published in this period. The twenty-first century Romanian lexicography generally moves forward to computerization, which involves not only the use of informatic tools in the editing process, but also the use of digital dictionaries. The number of online multilingual terminology databases increases. However, there are still a lot of printed multilingual terminology dictionaries (for example some lexicons of computer terms). The circulation of information and the recent Romanian and European historical events (ex.: Romania joining the European Union and the United Nations Organization) determined, at the beginning of this century, the publication of multilingual dictionaris in many domains: economy, administration, law, army etc.

4. Chronologically bounded prototypes

In the English lexicography, the emphasis on the history and the theory of dictionaries is obvious in the equally divided interest between multilingual dictionaries and their typology. Two prototypes are pointed out: the polyglot dictionary, developed in the sixteenth century after the pattern of the reedited *Il Calepino* (Canarache 1970: 18–19, cf. Conside 2008: 289), and the multilingual terminology dictionary, developed in the context of international standardization (D.LEX, s.v. *multilingual dictionary*). A dictionary about the Romanian lexicography does not exist and the Romanian linguistic dictionaries offer little information about multilingual dictionaries (M.D.LINGV., s.v. *dicționar*, DȘL, s.v. *dicționar*). All the same, the exhaustive presentation of the multilingual dictionaries published between 1700–1870, practically during the first two stages of the entire Romanian lexicography, finishes with the next conclusion:

> Așa cum fusese ea concepută, ca sistem de echivalențe în mai mult de două limbi la nivelul întregului vocabular, lexicografia plurilingvă încetează practic să mai producă ceva, de pe la 1870 încoace (Seche 1969: 317).

In few keywords, the profile of the polyglot dictionary is: system of equivalences, which includes the entire vocabulary, in at least two languages.

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Without any reference to dictionaries from the period between 1870 and 1969, the importance of multilingual terminology dictionaries is emphasized in association with „dezvoltarea fără precedent a științei și tehnologiei, îmbogățirea permanentă a terminologiilor speciale" (Seche 1969: 317). This time, the profile of multilingual specialized or terminology dictionary is sketched. Thus, one can draw the conclusion that this phenomenon can be seen as a paradigm shift, which, in the Romanian lexicography, offers the opportunity to identify two stages delimited by two prototypes: the polyglot dictionary of the common vocabulary and the multilingual terminology dictionary.

5. Conclusions

Polyglot dictionaries published in the eighteenth and nineteenth century have an indisputable documentary value: they are language monuments, containing the first mentions of many words and meanings. Some multilingual terminology dictionaries published in the twentieth century appear in the updated bibliography of academic dictionary of language, having a documentary and a purely theoretical value, serving to clarify concepts whose names are considered opaque by the authors of the thesaurus dictionary of Romanian language). To what extent each of the two prototypes are used in the process of writing dictionaries, and also to what extent the two interfere with each other (first lists of names of plants or recent dictionaries of Romanian language for foreign students), represent aspects that will be cleared during this research.

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Abstract

The Romanian multilingual dictionaries, made by specialists from various science fields, are very different, unequal in terms of linguistic and lexicographical treatment. This research project aims to study these dictionaries determining the stages of development and the significant types. To the brief history of four centuries, we can restore some periods in the three major stages of development of Romanian lexicography as a whole. There is a correlation between the two prototypes identified in the international lexicography, and also a paradigm shift originating in the late nineteenth century, signaled by the linguist Mircea Seche. In conclusion, we can talk about two main stages and two prototypes in the Romanian multilingual lexicography: polyglot dictionary and multilingual terminology dictionary. This research project will investigate the prototypes and will examine the typology of Romanian multilingual dictionaries.

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