# THE ROMANIAN WORD *TRIL*: PROBLEMS OF HOMONYMY, SYNONYMY, AND HYPONYMY. SEMANTIC CLARIFICATIONS

IULIA CRISTINA FRÎNCULESCU[1]

**Abstract.** The present article focuses primarily on the homonymous collision between the medical term *tril* – a phonetic, orthographic, and morphological adaptation of the English term *thrill* – and the common lexeme from every-day Romanian vocabulary, *tril*, the latter being a borrowing from Italian. Besides the semantic issues raised by homonymy, the study also highlights other external semantic relations, such as synonymy and hyponymy, with special reference to medical language. Cross-linguistic influence and interference between English, the nowadays international language of medicine, and Romanian, is another subject-matter tackled by the example chosen for this analysis.

**Key words:** semantic relations, medical language, English influence.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The present paper presents a case study. Starting with the homonymy of the word *tril* at two different levels – common and medical language – the study ultimately aims at surveying *tril* in medical language.

As *tril* is a borrowing from English, in view of its full explanation and clarification, the article outlines the evolution and meanings of the English source-word *thrill*, bringing to light some semantic issues in the English medical language as well. Further on, the study focuses on the clarity and consistency of the definitions and uses of *tril* in the Romanian medical literature. The article tries to discover if the Romanian term renders the meanings of the English etymon *thrill* or if it has added or dropped out meanings. It also attempts to see whether *tril* meets the criteria medical terms generally have to meet, in order to adapt and function successfully in medical language, namely accuracy, precision, clarity, concision, and semantic correctness.

And finally, this paper discusses the synonymy between *tril* and *freamăt*, an older medical term, already adapted to medical language, and by doing that, it raises questions regarding the necessity of the adoption of *tril*.

[1] "Victor Babeş" University of Medicine and Pharmacy Timişoara, Romania, cristinafrinculescu@yahoo.com.

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## 2. *TRIL* IN COMMON AND MEDICAL LANGUAGE

In the common sense, the word *tril*, a borrowing from Italian (< It. *trillo*), which entered the Romanian language either directly (cf. DEX, 1998) or by French intermediary (Fr. *trille*, cf. TLFi, 2004)[2], as specified in some dictionaries (cf. MDN, 2007; DN, 1986; DER, 2007), means a "musical ornament consisting in the rapid alternation of two notes a degree apart" (cf. DER, 2007; DEX, 1998; MDN, 2007). By extension, the word refers to the warbling, chirping of the birds that produces the same sound effects. In terms of etymology, the dictionary NODEX (2002) makes reference only to the French intermediary.

With the fore-mentioned meanings, recorded in all common dictionaries, the term *tril* does not fit the medical texts below, which describe the manifestations of several cardiovascular diseases:

(1) Anevrismul arterei carotide [...] *Simptomatologie*. O bună perioadă de timp, apare doar ca un defect estetic, formațiunea ovoidă, pulsatilă, cu ***tril***. Mai târziu, creşterea formațiunii provoacă dureri locale, tulburări de fonație, de deglutiție. În evoluție, pot să apară tulburări ale sistemului nervos, ale circulației intracraniene, amețeli, tulburări de vedere, rupturi, hemoragii [...] (Pop D. Popa, 1982: 509) ('The carotid artery aneurysm [...] *Symptoms*. For a good period of time, the ovoid, throbbing structure, with a ***trill***, appears only as an aesthetic defect. Later, the growing of the structure causes local pain, impaired phonation and swallowing. In evolution, disorders of the nervous system, of the intracranial circulation, dizziness, blurred vision, tearing, and haemorrhages may occur [...]', o.t.[3] );

(2) Anevrismul arterei subclaviculare [...] *Simptomatologie*. Formațiunea tumorală este pulsatilă şi dureroasă; pe traiectul ei se pune în evidență un ***tril***. Compresiunea exercitată de anevrism asupra plexului brahial face ca formațiunea să fie greu suportată (Pop D. Popa, 1982: 509) ('The subclavicular artery aneurysm [...] *Symptoms*. The tumoural structure is throbbing and painful; on its path a ***trill*** can be noticed. The compression exerted by the aneurysm on the brachial plexus makes the structure difficult to tolerate', o.t.);

(3) Anevrismul celiac. [...] *Diagnosticul pozitiv.* Greața, vărsăturile şi ***trilul***, prezent pe zona celiacă, indică evoluția spre ruptură. Angiografia selectivă pune diagnosticul cu precizie (Pop D. Popa, 1982: 517) ('The coeliac aneurysm. [...] *Positive diagnosis*. The nausea, the vomiting and the ***trill***, present on the coeliac area, indicate the evolution towards a breach. Selective angiography is the accurate means of diagnosis', o.t.).

In the translations above, I used the word *trill*, because this word is the correct English equivalent of the Romanian *tril*, even if *tril* is thought to render other meanings in the Romanian medical language, as will be seen on the course of this study.

According to John Lyons (1995: 70), the meaning of words can be defined as the contribution they make to the meaning of the sentence or of the text in which they occur. Taking that into consideration, the term *tril* creates ambiguities and endangers the understanding, the reception of the texts cited above, because it is difficult to imagine that a

[2] The French lexeme *trille* (with the diachronical variants: *tril*, *trill*), a borrowing from Italian, was attested as a musical term in 1618 (cf. TLFi, 2004).

[3] o.t. = own translation.

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disease may manifest itself by *trills*. A possible metaphorical extension (suppose the disease produced certain audible sounds, which resemble a trill) is not the explanation for the use of the Romanian lexeme *tril* in a specialized/medical context. On the contrary, such presumption may bring about, as will be seen further on, notional confusions.

We find the explanation for the use of the medical word *tril* in the dictionary *Dicționar medical* (Rusu, 2007), the only Romanian dictionary that records the term in question with a different sense than the usual one, namely: "perception, by palpation, of cardiovascular vibrations, usually murmurs" and with another etymology: Engl. *thrill* > Rom. *tril*. Mioara Avram (1997: 11) considers that, in order to confer the status of Anglicism to a term, it is essential to distinguish between the English and French, and rarely German, Russian, or Italian (Greek) origin, in other words the direct etymology. Therefore, she reckons that when there is no formal and/or semantic evidence, or possibly extra-linguistic information on the matter, the distinction is practically impossible and the situation must be accepted as such, the distinction being made between the Anglicisms that are certain – with unique etymology – and those with multiple etymology (cf. Avram, 1997: 11).

The medical term *tril* is therefore an Anglicism, with unique and most probably direct etymology, formed by phonetic, orthographic and morphological adaptation of the English word *thrill*. *Tril* entered the Romanian medical terminology in the mid 1980s, and has become increasingly frequent since the end of the '90s.

Romanian speakers are familiar with the English etymon *thrill*, especially by association with a derivative of the homonymous verb *to thrill*, the noun *thriller*. *Thriller* entered the Romanian language in the '70s, with no formal modifications, only with phonetic changes [trílăr, srílăr] and with the meaning "sensational story, film etc.; an exciting event" (DEA, 2001, s.v.). The lexicographic work *A Dictionary of European Anglicisms* (2001) records that:

> although *thriller* presents serious phonetic problems, this word is almost universally known, in contrast to the rare *thrill.* This is no doubt a consequence of the frequent use of *thriller* for films (advertisements and reviews). The word is recorded for the beginning of the twentieth century but became popular only from the 1950s (DEA, 2001, s.v.).

If *thriller* is recorded in almost all general Romanian dictionaries, the medical term *tril*, on the other hand, is not included in other dictionaries (either medical or general) than the specialized dictionary *Dicționar medical* (Rusu, 2007), although it has progressively acquired a wide circulation among the specialists in the medical field.

The discussion on the Anglicism *thriller* is not accidental. It is interesting that, although the two neologisms, *thriller* and *tril*, are derived from the same English base form: *thrill*, they were adapted differently in Romanian. It is highly possible that the adoption of the signifier *tril* may be the result of an orthographic confusion, of a phenomenon of interference, caused by the formal similarity between two English words: *trill* ("a tremulous utterance of a note or notes, singing of the birds, *in phonetics*: the pronunciation of a consonant, especially *r*, with vibration of the tongue or other part of the vocal organs, a consonant so pronounced", OED, 1989, s.v.) – the equivalent of the Romanian word *tril* – and *thrill* ("a subtle nervous tremor cause by intense emotion or excitement, a vibration, throbbing, sensational quality, *in medicine*: a vibratory movement, resonance", OED, 1989, s.v.).

As pointed out so far, the same word *tril* was borrowed in Romanian from two different sources: $tril_1$ "musical ornament, warbling, chirping" comes from Italian, and its homonym $tril_2$ "perception, by palpation, of cardiovascular vibrations, usually murmurs"

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comes from English. This type of homonymous collision, involving an Anglicism and an older term from the Romanian vocabulary may be dangerous from the semantic point of view. *Tril*$_1$ includes the seme [+ listening/auscultation], and *tril*$_2$ the seme [+ palpation]. The difference is particularly important in medical semiology (the branch of the medical science that is concerned with symptoms), because *auscultation* and *palpation*, along with *percussion* and *inspection*, make up the four distinct stages of the physical examination of the patient, and are not to be confused; they are part of a compulsory routine for the clinical exploration of each body system and always succeed in the same fixed, predetermined order: inspection, palpation, percussion and auscultation.

In view of a full clarification of the term *tril*, the study turns to the source-language, English, the donor of the word under consideration.

## 3. ETYMOLOGY AND MEANINGS OF THE ENGLISH SOURCE-WORD *THRILL*

The English noun *thrill*, formed by metathesis from the verb *to thirl*, a verb inherited from Anglo-Saxon, has medical meanings, attested since 1822, first in the fields of physiology and pathology: "a vibratory movement, resonance, or murmur, felt or heard in auscultation" (*Good's Study Med.*, ed. 4 I, 544: "The vibratory thrill of the pulse which has been called wiriness") (OED, 1989, s.v.).

The definition below, from the *Dictionary of Medical Terms* (Bateman et al., 2004), delimits more clearly the semantic field of the term, by the emphasis placed on the seme [+ palpation], an important seme in the disambiguation of the term: "a vibration which can be felt with the hands" (Bateman et al., 2004, s.v.).

The dictionary *Stedman's Concise Medical Dictionary for the Health Professions* (Stedman's, 2001) broadens the definition, including the association with a neighbouring concept, called *murmur* in English, and the reference to a synonymous term, *fremitus*: "a vibration accompanying a cardiac or vascular murmur that can be palpated. See also: fremitus" (Stedman's, 2001, s.v.).

The semantic relationship between *thrill* and *fremitus* raises, however, some questions. In most works and dictionaries, the two terms are considered synonyms: *fremitus* = "a vibration imparted to the hand resting on the chest or other part of the body" (Stedman's, 2001, s.v.).

OED (1989) also records the term *fremitus* as a synonym of *thrill*: *fremitus* = "*path.* palpable vibration or thrill, eg. of the walls of the chest" (OED, 1989, s.v.). The Latin word *fremitus* (with the sense of "roaring noise, murmur"), a verbal noun from the Latin verb *fremere*, was attested in the English medical language in 1879 (Khory *Princ. Med.* 47: "The fremitus is the movement which can be felt by the hands on making the patient speak") (OED, 1989, s.v.).

In other works, however, the meaning of the word *thrill* is included in that of the word *fremitus*, the two terms being related by a relation of hyponymy: "*fremitus* – vibrations or trembling in any part of someone's body, felt by the doctor's hand or heard through a stethoscope" (Bateman et al., 2004, s.v.). In *Black's Medical Dictionary* (Marcovitch, 2005, s.v.), the lexeme *thrill* expresses vibrations felt in the case of a valve heart disease and denotes types of "fremitus".

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With these comments on the semantic ambiguity concerning the words *fremitus* and *thrill*, let us go back to the discussion on the latter. The definition below provides more explanations regarding the diseases that manifest themselves under the form of vibrations perceived by palpation: "a tremor or vibration felt on applying the hand to the surface of the body. It is felt particularly over the region of the heart in conditions in which the valve openings are narrowed or an aneurysm is present" (Marcovitch, 2005, s.v.).

Although present in the vocabularies of other medical specialties (eg. pneumology, paediatrics, internal medicine), the lexeme *thrill* is specific to the vocabulary of cardiovascular medicine. It refers to certain symptoms of the cardiovascular/circulatory system diseases. I will illustrate that by the extract below, taken from the medical treatise *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine* (Harrison, 2005) (chapter "Disorders of the Cardiovascular System – Precordial Palpation"), with the Romanian version. The treatise first appeared in the United States of America and was translated in many languages, including Romanian. As often occurs in nowadays Romanian medical literature, the Romanian translator of the treatise in question is not specified, a situation that undoubtedly needs correction[4].

- ***Thrills*** are palpable, low-frequency vibrations associated with heart murmurs. The systolic murmur of mitral regurgitation may be palpated at the cardiac apex. When the palm of the hand is placed over the precordium, the ***thrill*** of aortic stenosis crosses the palm toward the right side of the neck, while the ***thrill*** of pulmonic stenosis radiates more often to the left side of the neck. The ***thrill*** due to a ventricular septal defect is usually located in the third and fourth intercostal spaces near the left sternal border (Harrison, 2005: 1306).
- Suflurile cardiace pot fi însoțite de ***freamăte***, vibrații de joasă frecvență ce pot fi percepute prin palpare. Un suflu sistolic de insuficiență mitrală poate fi palpat la apex. În cazul unei stenoze aortice, ***freamătul*** traversează palma examinatorului plasată în zona precordială, spre partea dreaptă a gâtului, în timp ce ***freamătul*** unei stenoze pulmonare iradiază mai frecvent spre partea stângă a gâtului. ***Freamătul*** unui defect septal ventricular se situează de obicei în spațiile III-IV intercostal pe marginea stângă a sternului (Harrison, 2003: 1362).

It should be noted that the term *thrill* is translated by *freamăt* in this book, an important observation for this analysis.

A conclusion of the survey of the definitions of *thrill* in the English medical literature is that English provides a clear and coherent image of the signified indicated by the signifier *thrill*: "a vibration or a tremor, perceived by palpation, generally in the region of the heart, in the case of heart diseases". The sound perceived by palpation may accompany a cardiovascular sound, perceived by auscultation, which is called *murmur* (*murmur* = "an abnormal, usually periodic sound heard on auscultation of the heart or blood vessels", cf. Stedman's, 2001, s.v.).

[4] In present-day Romania, it is almost a habit not to mention the translators of medical texts. This situation is probably due to the fact that many medical translators are professionals in the field rather than linguists/translators, assisted by physicians, as should be normal (cf. Frînculescu, 2009: 25). The cases in which linguists are actually involved in specialized medical translations are very few. In fact, in the development of the Romanian medical language, help or assistance from linguists has been minimal, due to a certain self-sufficiency on the part of physicians. Even if a translator calls upon many domains of knowledge in the translation process, the centrality of linguistic knowledge among these is in no doubt. Physicians do not possess the knowledge and skills of actual translators.

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## 4. THE WORD *TRIL* IN THE ROMANIAN MEDICAL LANGUAGE

In Romanian, the definitions of the word *tril* in dictionaries, articles and treaties are not always clear. Moreover, they can be contradictory.

Let's begin with the texts in which the meanings of the term *tril* are consistent with the English ones. Even if it has previously been established that the Romanian word *tril* is thought to render the meanings of the English term *thrill* (cf. 2), I will continue to use the correct lexical equivalent *trill* in my English translations, to point out, by a parallel with English, that there is a degree of inadequacy in employing *tril* in the Romanian medical language.

(4) Examenul obiectiv şi investigaţii paraclinice. […] palparea, în aceste situaţii, evidenţiază în zonă ***triluri***, sub forma unor vibraţii sistolice. (Pop D. Popa, 1982: 906) ('The physical examination and the laboratory investigations. [...] palpation, in these situations, shows ***trills*** in the area, under the form of systolic vibrations.', o.t.).

(5) Fistulele arterio-venoase postraumatice. […] *Semne locale.* La nivelul fistulei, palpator, se percepe ***tril*** sistolo-diastolic, continuu, cu întărire sistolică (Cândea, 2001: 298) ('Post-traumatic arterio-venous fistulas. [...] *Local signs*. At the level of the fistula, a systolic-diastolic, continuous ***trill***, with systolic strengthening, is perceived', o.t.).

(6) Sufluri pe vase – interferenţa fluxului laminar normal prin lumenul vascular poate produce vibraţii care se traduc prin ***tril*** la palpare şi un suflu sistolic la auscultaţia arterei" (Moldovan, 1993: 127) ('Murmurs on vessels – the laminar normal flow interference through the vascular lumen may cause vibrations that are translated by a ***trill*** on palpation and a systolic murmur on the auscultation of the artery', o.t.).

The first shadow appears in the medical dictionary *Dicţionar medical* (Rusu, 2007), taken as a reference work in this article, because it is the only one that records the term in question: *tril* = "perception, by palpation, of cardiovascular vibrations, usually murmurs". According to this definition, the borrowed noun *tril* refers to an action: "perception, by palpation, of cardiovascular vibrations". Thus, a semantic shift develops between the loan-word and the English etymon *thrill*, as the latter expresses a state: "vibration perceived by palpation".

After having become an action noun in the example above, in the work below the word *tril* is marked by another ambiguity, which affects the seme [+ palpation], an important seme in defining the concept, as seen before: "Anevrisme ale aortei abdominale. […] *Simptomatologie.* Boala evoluează, uneori, asimptomatic şi se descoperă întâmplător. Semnul cardinal este tumoarea abdominală pulsatilă, pe traiectul aortei, care la auscultaţie, are tril şi suflu" (Pop D. Popa, 1982: 513) ('Aneurysms of the abdominal aorta. [...] *Symptoms*. The disease progresses, sometimes asymptomatic, and is discovered by accident. The cardinal sign is the throbbing abdominal tumour, on the path of the aorta, which, on auscultation, has a trill and a murmur', o.t.).

If English makes a conceptual association between the thrill and the murmur (the thrill being the palpatory equivalent of the murmur), creating, at the same time, a distinction between them, the Romanian texts are not that clear in this regard: "Anevrismele arterei iliace şi arterei femurale. […] *Clinic*, se constată tumoare pulsatilă de diverse dimensiuni,

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având local suflu şi tril" (Pop D. Popa, vol. I, 1982: 521)" ('The aneurysms of the iliac and femoral artery. [...] *Clinically*, a throbbing tumour of various sizes is found, with local murmur and trill', o.t.).

Other works use the term *tril* as a synonym of an older term of the Romanian medical vocabulary, *freamăt*: "Anevrismele infecţioase posttraumatice. […] Anevrismele infecţioase au de obicei tendinţa la creştere rapidă. În caz că sunt palpabile se prezintă ca mase pulsatile calde, dureroase. Prezintă un suflu auscultător însoţit eventual de freamăt (tril)" (Cândea, 2001: 292) ('Post-traumatic infectious aneurysms. [...] Infectious aneurysms have usually a tendency to rapid growth. In case they are palpable, they present themselves as pulsating, hot, painful masses. On auscultation, they present a murmur that may be accompanied by a fremitus (trill)', o.t.).

The term *freamăt*, a common word, inherited from Latin (< Lat *fremitus, -ūs,* cf. Ernout and Meillet, 1959), the Romanian equivalent of the English lexeme *fremitus*, was attested in medical vocabulary in the mid-twentieth century and covers the same notional field as *tril*:

- Întocmai ca şi zgomotele, în anumite cazuri şi *suflurile cardiace* pot fi palpabile. Mai frecvent se poate palpa suflul diastolic produs de *stenoza mitrală*, ori suflul sistolic, condiţionat de *stenoza aortică* şi *pulmonară*. Laënnec, care a descris pentru prima oară acest fenomen, i-a dat numirea de "frémissement cataire", pentru a semnala că seamănă mult cu senzaţia pe care o percepem când aplicăm mâna pe spatele unei pisici care toarce. În *stenoza mitrală* freamătul se percepe în regiunea apexiană. Se simte îndeosebi foarte bine, dacă aşezăm bolnavul în decubit lateral stâng. Merită să fie amintit faptul că în stenoza mitrală foarte pronunţată uneori nu se aude suflu, freamătul însă este prezent.
  În *stenoza aortei şi a arterei pulmonare* freamătul se palpează în timpul sistolei în *spaţiul al II- lea intercostal drept şi stâng*" (Haţieganu-Goia, vol. I, 1942: 410)
- 'Just like sounds, in some cases even *cardiac murmurs* may be palpable. More frequently the diastolic murmur produced by *mitral stenosis* or the systolic murmur, conditioned by *aortic* and *pulmonary stenosis* can be palpated. Laënnec, who first described this phenomenon, named it "frémissement cataire", to indicate that it resembles much the feeling we have when we put the hand on the back of a cat that purrs. In *mitral stenosis* the murmur is heard in the apex region. It is felt fairly well if the patient sits in the left recumbent position. It is worth mentioning that in well-marked mitral stenosis sometimes no murmur is heard, but the fremitus is present.
  In *aortic* and *pulmonary artery stenosis*, the fremitus is palpated during systole in the *II$^{nd}$ right and left intercostal space*' (o.t.).

In the Romanian medical language, the common word *freamăt* acquired, by semantic calque, specialized meanings, developed originally in French, by metaphor. First used by a French physician to describe a new concept in medicine, the French word *frémissement* ('quivering, rustling, quaking, tremor') was translated by *freamăt* in Romanian, while English chose to take as such a Latin term: *fremitus*. The model, however, remains French.

Since *freamăt* is a term already adapted to medical language, in use for more than seven decades, its definition in the dictionary *Dicţionar medical* (Rusu, 2007) is clearer and more comprehensive than that of its more recent synonym *tril*:

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vibrație fină percepută la palpare, omologă de cele mai multe ori suflurilor intense, cu tonalitate joasă, sau huruiturilor. Tipuri: 1) freamăt carotidian, în stenozele aortice 2) freamăt hidatic, în chistul hidatic 3) freamăt pectoral, vibrațiile corzilor vocale transmise prin bronhii parenchimului pulmonar şi peretelui toracic 4) freamăt pericardic, produs prin frecarea foiţelor pericardice rugoase, ca în pericardita fibrinoasă (Rusu, 2007, s.v.) ('fine vibration perceived by palpation, often homologous of intense, low-pitched murmurs, or rumbles. Types: 1) carotid fremitus in aortic stenoses 2) hidatic fremitus in hidatic cyst 3) pectoral fremitus, the vocal cords vibrations transmitted through the bronchi to the lung parenchyma and the chest wall 4) pericardial fremitus, produced by the rubbing of the pericardial rough layers, as in fibrinous pericarditis', o.t.).

The semantic relationship between the two Romanian lexemes: *freamăt* and *tril* takes over the ambiguities of the relationship between the English words *fremitus* and *thrill*. In most works, *tril* and *freamăt* are synonymous, but the semantic extension of the term *freamăt* is greater than that of the word *tril*. Like its English etymon, *thrill*, the Romanian lexeme *tril* is encountered especially in cardiovascular terminology, in phrases like: *tril anevrismal, tril sistolic, tril diastolic, tril aortic* etc. ('aneurysmal trill, systolic trill, diastolic trill, aortic trill', o.t.).

The term *freamăt* is preferred as a Romanian equivalent of the English lexeme *thrill* in important Romanian books, translated from English, such as the already cited medical treatise *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine* (Harrison, 2005), of which I make a representative selection:

(7) a. A systolic ***thrill*** is often palpable at the cardiac apex, the LV is hyperdynamic with a brisk systolic impulse and a palpable rapid-filling wave, and the apex beat is often displaced laterally (Harrison, 2005: 1394).
b. Un ***freamăt*** sistolic este adesea palpabil la apex, ventriculul stâng este hiperkinetic cu un impuls sistolic energic şi o undă a umplerii rapide palpabilă, şi şocul apexian este adesea deplasat lateral (Harrison, 2003: 1452).
(8) a. A systolic ***thrill*** is generally present at the base of the heart, in the jugular notch, and along the carotid arteries. In patients who do not have marked pulmonary emphysema, a thick chest wall, thoracic deformity, or heart failure, the absence of a systolic ***thrill*** suggests that the AS is relatively mild (Harrison, 2005: 1397).
b. În general, este prezent un ***freamăt*** sistolic la baza cordului în fosa suprasternală şi de-a lungul arterelor carotide; uneori acesta se poate palpa numai în expir, pacientul stând aplecat în față. La pacienții care nu prezintă emfizem pulmonar important, perete toracic gros, deformare toracică sau insuficiență cardiacă, absența unui ***freamăt*** sistolic sugerează că stenoza aortică este relativ uşoară (Harrison, 2003: 1455).
(9) a. Frequently, a pulsatile mass is palpable, and a ***thrill*** and bruit lasting throughout systole and diastole are present over the fistula (Harrison, 2005: 1489).
b. Frecvent, la nivelul fistulei poate fi palpată o masă pulsatilă şi se constată un ***freamăt*** şi un suflu pe toată durata sistolei şi diastolei (Harrison, 2003: 1546).
(10) a. A grade I murmur is so faint that it can be heard only with special effort; a grade IV murmur is commonly accompanied by a ***thrill***; and a grade VI murmur is audible with the stethoscope removed from contact with the chest (Harrison, 2005: 1308).
b. În timp ce suflul de grad I este atât de slab, încât se aude numai cu o maximă concentrare, suflul de grad IV se asociază de obicei cu prezența ***freamătului***, iar cel de grad VI se aude chiar fără stetoscop (Harrison, 2003: 1364).

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(11) a. In patients with ostium primum defects, an apical ***thrill*** and holosystolic murmur indicate associated mitral or tricuspid incompetence or a ventricular septal defect (Harrison, 2005: 1385).
b. La pacienții cu defecte tip ostium primum, un ***freamăt*** apical şi un suflu holosistolic indică insuficiența mitrală sau tricuspidiană asociată sau un defect septal ventricular (Harrison, 2003: 1438-1439).
(12) a. In most adults with this anomaly, pulmonary pressures are normal and a gradient and shunt from aorta to pulmonary artery persist throughout the cardiac cycle, resulting in a characteristic ***thrill*** and a continuous 'machinery' murmur with a late systolic accentuation at the upper left sternal edge (Harrison, 2005: 1386).
b. La cei mai mulți adulți cu această anomalie, presiunile pulmonare sunt normale, dar un anumit gradient şi un şunt dinspre aortă către artera pulmonară persistă pe parcursul ciclului cardiac, determinând un ***freamăt*** caracteristic şi un suflu continuu „de maşinărie" cu o întărire tardiv în sistolă, parasternal stâng superior (Harrison, 2003: 1440).
(13) a. The clinical diagnosis is supported by a left parasternal lift and harsh systolic crescendo-decrescendo murmur and ***thrill*** at the upper left sternal border, typically preceded by a systolic ejection sound, if the obstruction is valvular (Harrison, 2005: 1387-1388).
b. Diagnosticul clinic este susținut de un suflu sistolic de ejecție aspru şi întărit parasternal drept şi de un ***freamăt*** pe marginea stângă superioară a sternului, precedat caracteristic de un zgomot sistolic de ejecție, dacă obstrucția este valvulară (Harrison, 2003: 1442).
(14) a. A diastolic ***thrill*** is frequently present at the cardiac apex, with the patient in the left lateral recumbent position (Harrison, 2005: 1391).
b. Un ***freamăt*** diastolic este frecvent prezent la apex, în special dacă pacientul se află în decubit lateral stâng (Harrison, 2003: 1449).

As seen before, some original Romanian works choose to use alternatively the word *freamăt* and the more recent *tril* (cf. 4). But in the following examples, *freamăt* is preferred:

(15) Suflurile intense (de la gradul IV în sus) se însoțesc frecvent de ***freamăt*** (Moldovan, 1993: 123) ('Intense murmurs (from grade IV above) are frequently accompanied by a ***fremitus***', o.t.);
(16) ***Freamăt*** diastolic apexian, în stenoza mitrală; ***freamăt*** sistolic apexian, în insuficiența mitrală;
- ***freamăt*** sistolic bazal, în stenoza aortică;
- ***freamăt*** sistolic parasternal stâng şi în spațiul II - III, în stenoza pulmonară;
- zgomot I palpabil în regiunea apexiană, în stenoza mitrală (vibrația mitrală) (Moldovan, 1993: 114) ('Diastolic apex ***fremitus*** in mitral stenosis; systolic apex ***fremitus*** in mitral insufficiency;
- baseline systolic ***fremitus***, in aortic stenosis;
- left parasternal systolic ***fremitus*** and in the II$^{nd}$ - III$^{rd}$ intercostal space, in pulmonary stenosis;
- sound I palpable in the apex region, in mitral stenosis (mitral vibration)', o.t.);

(17) ***Freamătul*** sistolic în focarul pulmonarei este rar (Moldovan, 1993: 168) ('Systolic ***fremitus*** in the pulmonary area is rare', o.t.).

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## 5. CONCLUSIONS

This article has proved that, even though the medical term *tril* cannot be considered an error, it represents a source of terminological and notional ambiguities. These ambiguities are mainly determined by the relation of homonymy between the medical word *tril* and the common lexeme from every-day Romanian vocabulary, *tril*, as well as by a certain semantic shift from the original meanings of the English etymon *thrill*. Moreover, the definitions of *tril* in medical dictionaries, articles and treaties are not always clear, but often contradictory.

Secondly, the study has shown that the medical term *tril* is a relatively recent doublet of an older and functional term in medical language, *freamăt*. To quote Mioara Avram (1997: 13), the almost usual classification of lexical Anglicisms into necessary and useless or "luxury" borrowings may be subjective and risky at the same time, as necessity varies with the individuals and in time. However, Anglicisms that are doublets (synonymous variants) of older Romanian terms, therefore adapted orthographically, phonetically, semantically, and morphologically, can be considered useless.

As medical language, like all special languages, is in an endless quest for semantic precision, notional systematisation, and formal economy (Kocourek, 1982: 41), the reduction of synonymy and polysemy should be a priority. Linguistic variation is not a goal for medical language, quite the contrary, synonymy should be reduced.

Taking all that into consideration, we may conclude that the adoption of *tril* by the Romanian medical language is unnecessary, because it may alter the message in oral and written medical communication.

There are undoubtedly many other aspects in the contemporary Romanian medical language that are worth pursuing, provided that linguists and physicians join forces. This specialized language deserves more attention, as it has not been enough studied for at least two decades, proof of which would be the few references we find on the matter. This article has tried to forward a practical method for the analysis of particular cases of medical terms. Such an analysis could be applied to the correction of other linguistic ambiguities or even errors in medical language, which may have a serious impact on medical communication and eventually on medical practice.

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