# ANGLICISMS AS PRODUCTIVE BASES IN THE FORMATION OF NEW ROMANIAN DERIVATIVES

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**Abstract**: This study reveals one of the complex aspects of current lexical dynamics i.e. the anglicisms productivity and their ability to adapt, partly or totally, to the Romanian phonetic and spelling, property highlighted by their participation as the basis for new language derivatives in Romanian.

**Keywords**: anglicisms, assimilation, derivation by suffixes.

The dynamics of today's language is revealed, first of all, by the lexical domain, through the cascade of borrowings, of which a significant number come to fill in a "lexical void", and also through the internal creations that prove its own capacity of forming new words, using the internal means of word formation (derivation, compounding, conversion).

The object of the present study is represented by the newly created words, obtained through derivation and which have as a basis the anglicisms[4] taken over by the Romanian language beginning with the year 1990. Although the anglicisms have been considered a dangerous invasion which destroys the language and makes it ugly, however, we should remember that this sociolinguistic phenomenon is seen in connection with the globalization process[5], to which our country adheres as well, the English language being seen as "the language of globalization, of international business, politics and diplomacy, of computers and of the Internet".[6] Yet we must not forget that to abusively use these words, spread especially by the

[4] For anglicisms we have used Mioara Avram's definition: "a linguistic unit (not only a word, but also a formant, phraseological expression, sense or grammatical construction), and even a type of pronunciation or/and of writing (including the punctuation) of English origin, regardless of the territorial variant of the English language, so including the American English as well, not only the British one" (Avram 1997: 11).
[5] Stoichițoiu-Ichim, 2006a, p. 8.
[6] Ibidem.



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postdecembrist mass-media can lead to linguistic snobbism, to errors in expression or even to misunderstandings concerning the meaning. At the same time, we know that the Romanian language has the ability to sieve its borrowings in time, keeping and assimilating only those considered "necessary" from a referential and/or stylistic viewpoint.[7]

One of the forms of assimilation of the anglicisms is their participation as derivative bases for the new Romanian lexical creations.[8] We will classify them according to the significance of the word resulted following the derivation, so:

**1. Agent names (in a broad sense), derived using the suffixes:**

**-ar**: *bişniţar* "a person that does some insignificant business, which is most often dishonest" < *bişniţă* (variant of the English word *business* "afacere"), *DEX*; *blogar*[9] "person who opened a blog" < *blog*" (*web* + *log*) = "special sites under the form of diaries, with messages arranged in an inversed chronological order, containing personal comments on actual events, impressions, travel notes, mixed with links towards other sites considered by the author(s) to be interesting", www. *jurnalismonline*.ro; *joggingar* "someone who practices jogging" < *jogging*, Avram 1997: 25; *mitingar* "participant in a meeting" < *miting*, Stoichiţoiu-Ichim, 2006a, p. 145; *snecar* "someone who sells in a snack bar" < *snack*[10] (pron. *snec*), *MDTA*, Avram 1997: 25;

**-aş**: *uslaş* "member of USLA" < *USLA* [Special Unit of antiterrorist fight], *R. lit.*, 1/1994, p. 2;

**-giu** (**-agiu, -angiu**): *blogangiu* "someone who opened a blog on the internet" < *blog*, Zafiu in *R. lit*., 10/2007, p. 14; *sponsoragiu* "person who sponsors" < *sponsor*, *Minisat*, 11 nov. 2001; Avram, 1996, p. 288;

**-ist**: *bloghist* "person who opened a blog" (specialist in blog) < *blog*, *E. Z.*, 8 mart. 2005, p. 9; *chatist* "someone who discusses on chat" < *chat*, *www.itzone.ro*; *computerist* "computer specialist and computer owner" < *computer*, *A. C.*, 3/2007, p. 6; *emtivist / MTV-ist*, "presenter of a musical

[7] Stoichiţoiu-Ichim, *op.cit*, p. 24.
[8] We have dealt only with the noun and verbal formations, as they are more frequent in today's language picture.
[9] It is the equivalent of the anglicism *blogger*, which has as variants in Romanian the forms: *bloger*, *blogher* and *blogăr*.
[10] *Snack* is the truncated form obtained from the compound of English origin *snack bar* "local specializat în gustări".



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TV channel", Stoichițoiu-Ichim 2006b: 211; *fitnessist* "person who practices fitness", www.*getfit*.ro; *gossipist* "journalist in charge of a rubric concerning the private life of VIPs" < *gossip columnist*, Stoichițoiu-Ichim 2001: 91; *hardist* "specialist in hardware", *A.*, 25 apr. 2004; *hip-hopist* "hip-hop interpreter", *DALR*$_1$; *IPS-ist* [ipesist] "working for IPS" < *IPS* [Internet Service Provider], *Adev.*, 5 febr. 2003, p. 5; *I.T.-ist* [aitist] "IT specialist" < *I.T.*, "Pentru un salariu mult mai mare decât în România, *IT-iştii*, inginerii…îşi pot găsi destul de uşor un loc de muncă în Germania, în Anglia sau chiar în SUA." *Cot. s.*, 18 oct. 2006, p. 1; *laptopist* "person who uses a laptop or laptop owner" < *laptop* [pron. leptop], www.*ceeol*.com; *mitingist* "someone who organizes meetings" < *miting*, *Adev.*, nr. 332, mart., 1993, p. 1; *NATO-ist* "NATO member" < *NATO* [Engl. *North Atlantic Treaty Organization*], *DNAR*; *netist* "someone who navigates on the internet", *D. v.*, 28 oct.-3 nov. 2005, p. 20; *oengist* "person who is part of an NGO" < *ONG* [Organizație Nonguvernamentală], "*22*", 7-13 febr. 2006, p. 6; *ozenist* "UFO specialist" < *OZN* (unidentified flying object), www.*litere.uvt*.ro; *playboyist* "one who appears in the Playboy magazines" < *playboy*, www.*aep*.ro; *popcornist* "popcorn eater", www.*fanclub*.ro; *punk-ist* "extravagant young man in point of clothing and makeup" < (fashion) *punk*, *J.*, p. 69; *sefist* "person who believes anything" < *S.F.* (*science fiction*), (informal); *softist* "software specialist" < *soft*, "*Softiştii* lansează un vaccin antivirus", *E. Z.*, 24 sept. 2003, p. 9; "Deloc binevenită ar fi şi reimpozitarea salariilor *softiştilor*", "*22*", nr. 813, 2005, p. 4; *topist* "someone who makes up a top" < *top* (classification of preferences especially concerning shows, music, etc.), *forum.softpedia.com*; *trendist* "a young person who likes to be fashionable" < *trend*, *J. N.*, 30 apr. 2007, p. 6. Certain formations can be considered occasional and joking creations: *helloist, O.K.-ist* Avram 1997: 29, *OK-ist* < *O.K.*, (title of a magazine belonging to "Ion Barbu High School", whose motto is: "Be ok-ist, love and be loved"), www.*ionbarbu*.3×.ro, *lovestorist* etc.;

**-tor**: *procesator* "person or unit that processes products/information" < *a procesa*, *TVR i.*, 30 ian. 2007;

**2. Abstract formations derived using the suffixes:**

**-enie** (**-oşenie**): *kitschoşenie* "valueless low-quality object" < *kitsch*, *A. C.*, 40/2005, p. 32; *vipoşenie* "persoană foarte importantă" < *VIP* [vip] = Engl. *very important person*, *DALR*$_2$;



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**-iadă**: *lideriadă* "leaders' protest" < *lider*, in Stoichițoiu-Ichim 2001: 25;

**-ism**: *blogism*[11] "the phenomenon of producing blogs" < *blog*, Zafiu in *R. lit*., 10/2007, p. 14; *bodyguardism/badigardismul* "despre Ion Iliescu ca salvator al naţiei şi protector al celor bătuţi de soartă" dar şi "meseria de bodigard" < *body-guard / bodigard, DCR2,* "O nouă ideologie: «*badigardismul*»", *R. lit*., 23/2003, p. 2; *hackerism* "atitudine, comportament caracteristic" (characteristic attitude / behavior) < *hacker*, "Ministerul Comunicaţiilor va legaliza *hackerismul*", *Minisat*, 24 iul. 2003; *mitingism* "pleasure of organizing and participating to meetings" < *miting*, *DNAR*; *sefism* < *S.F*. [sefe], *DALR1*; *yesmenism* "attitude of the obedient politician, always agreeing with what his boss says" < *yes man*, "De aceea, liderii săi se comportă ca atare – nici unul nu iese din logica strâmtă declasantă a *yesmenismului*" *Cot*., 18 oct. 2006, p. 19; *yuppie-sm* "specific behavior of a successful young man" < *yuppie*, "Cât despre domnii Roman şi Ionescu, *yuppie-smul* lor se reduce, în mare parte, la vestimentaţie şi la retorică", *R. lit*., 14/1992, p. 2; *zegism* < z(ero) e(conomic) g(rowth), *creştere economică zero* + *-ism*, *MDN*;[12]

**-ită**: *liderită* "the disease of wanting to be a leader" < *lider, R. lit.* 10/1992, p. 2; "Există o boală a tuturor partidelor care se numeşte "*liderita*". Din 1990 încoace, fiecare a vrut să fie preşedinte, şef de partid, de organizaţie judeţeană", www.zoot.ro; *mitingită*, Avram, 1997, p. 26; *ozenită* "imaginary disease of those who imagine they have seen UFOs" < *OZN*, *DNAR*;

**-re**(**-izare**): *brokerare* "brokers' action" < *broker, DCR2*; *cosmetizare* "the action of masked embellishment of an image, etc." from *a cosmetiza* (< Engl. *cosmetize*), "PSD-ul apelează atunci la măsuri de *cosmetizare*, la revopsirea faţadei după formula practicată în regimul comunist: a 'vitrinei' care ascunde o realitate", www.*formula-as.ro*; *focusare* < *a focusa* (to direct one's attention towards a special thing),

[11] With its synonym *bloggerism* < *blogger* (a behavior specific to blog-users), Zafiu in *R. lit*., 10/2007, p. 14.

[12] In today's language we have recorded as a specific tendency the increase of the derivatives in *-isme*, which develop concrete meanings unlike the formations in *-ism*, which are abstract in nature: *billgate-isme* „cuvinte şi construcţii de origine engleză" (words and constructions of English origin) < *Billgate*, „Şi uite aşa, celebrului "furculision", care ne-a transformat în ţară francofonă, i-au luat locul *billgate-ismele* şi *entertainment-ismele*. Statisticile deceniilor viitoare ne vor lămuri în ce măsură vom deveni anglofoni." www.*dilemaveche*.ro; *MTV-isme* < *MTV* „Şi noi ne-am săturat de *MTV-ismele* puştanilor născuţi sub zodia imperialismului", *DC*, 2000; *sefisme* „rubrica SF." < *SF*, *DC*, '96.



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"Totuşi există… şi *focusare* comportamentală, iar asta inclusiv în păturile populaţiei de rând", *Alt*., nr. 18, aug. 2007, p. 5; *formatare* from *a formata* (Engl. *to format*), (to prepare a support to receive information in a given format), www.roportal.ro; *internetizare* "extension of the informatics network by means of the internet" < *internet*, *DC*, 2003; *marketizare* "marketing strategy which supposes a market enlargement process" < *market*, "Polirom creează piaţă pentru debutanţi şi pare din ce în ce mai interesantă de scriitori din toate generaţiile pe care îi promovează agresiv şi cu o excelentă *marketizare.*" *R. lit.*, 23/2005, p. 31; *printare* from *a printa* (Engl. *to print*) "to take a document out of a computer using a printer", *Pliant Carrefour* (offer of February 1-14, 2006); *procesare* from *a procesa* (Engl. *to process*), used in informatics in the sense of "processing signals recorded on magnetic band by means of a processor"; *procesare*[13] "Incendiu la o fabrică de *procesare* a cărnii." *J. N.*, nr. 3090, 2003, p. 2; *scanare* from *a scana* (Engl. *to scan*) "to explore by means of a scanner", "*scanare* progresivă", *Pliant Carrefour* (offer of February 1-14, 2006); *setare* from *a seta* (Engl. *to set*) "to install a computer's hardware or software", www.*clopotel*.ro; *updatare* from *a updata* (< Engl. *to update* "to modernize a work, an achievement etc. ", *J. N.*, 21 nov. 2005, p. 22; "Filmul tratează viaţa reginei Marie-Antoinette atât prin unghiul de abordare a istoriei, cât şi prin '*updatarea*' epocii." *R. l.*, 25 mai 2006, p. 10; *upgradare* from *a upgrada* (Engl. *to upgrade*) "to install a newer version", *forum.softpedia*; ***virusare*** from *a virusa* "to contaminate the computer with diverse viruses that have destructive effects", www.fanclub.ro; *webizare* "extension of the web system" < *web*, *DC*, '99;

**3. Motional formations derived using the suffixes:**

**-ă**: *body-guardă/ body-gardă* or *badigardă* < *body-guard*[14] (Avram 1997: 24, Stoichiţoiu-Ichim 2001: 102), *designeră* < *designer* [pron. *dizainăr*], *L. online*, 22 oct. 2005; *fană* "fiery admirer" < *fan*, "Mihai Trăistariu cu greu a putut face faţă *fanelor* isterizate." *A.*, 2 iul. 2006;

[13] In this example, the verb extends its area of reference to the agro-alimentary domain, in the sense of "processing a product by means of specific processes („prelucrare a unui produs prin procese specifice").

[14] DOOM recommends two forms, respectively *bodyguard* (anglicism) [pron. *bodigard*/*badigard*], and the Romanianized one, according to the pronunciation *bodigard*.



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*hairstylistă* < *hairstylist* [pron. *herstilist*][15], *hipyotă* "non conformist young lady in point of appearance and behavior" < *hipiot*, *DCR2* (the feminine form appears as well in DOOM); *homeless-ă*[16] "person without shelter" < *homeless* [pron. *hăŭmles*], *R. lit.*, 51-52/2005-2006, p. 24; *internaută* "person who goes to the internet frequently" < *internaut*, *DOOM*; *lideră* < *lider*, Avram 1997, p. 24; *manageră* < *manager*, www.*mediafax*.ro; *masterandă* "someone who graduated from a master degree" < *masterand*, *R. lit.*, 25-31 ian. 2006, p. 9; *missă* < *miss*, Stoichițoiu-Ichim, 2006a, p. 46; *outsideră* < *outsider* [*aŭtsaĭdăr*], Stoichițoiu-Ichim, 2001, p. 102; *playboystă* < *playboyist* [pron. *pleĭboĭst*], *DC*, 2002; *top-modelă*[17] *PTV.*, 13 nov. 2006;

**-iță**: *barmaniță/bărmăniță* "a woman who sells in a bar" < *barman*, *R. lit.* 11/2005, p. 4; *blogeriță/bloggeriță/blogheriță* < *bloger / blogger / blogher* "a person who communicates by means of the blog", Zafiu in *R. lit*., 10/2007, p. 14; *brokeriță* < *broker* "someone who works in the stock market business intermediating the conclusion of commercial contracts between seller and buyer or certain services", www.*forum*.ro; *cameramaniță* "a woman who uses the camera during broadcasts, reports etc." < *cameraman*, *A. C.*, 3/2007, p. 15; *cowboy-iță* "woman who takes care of the cows on a farm" < *cowboy*, *DC*, 2002; *digeiță/DJ-iță* "woman who takes care of the musical program in a discotheque" < *DJ*, *Atomic*, 17 dec. 2003; *E. Z.*, 14 nov. 2005, p. 28; *făniță*[18] "fiery admirer" < *fan*, *DC*, 2002; *gangsteriță* < *gangster* "Ricky (Jennifer Lopez) este o fată rea, o adevărată *gangsteriță*." *cinema.acasa*.ro; *gheimăriță (*< *gameriță*), *hacheriță* Stoichițoiu-Ichim, 2006a, p. 46; *killeriță* "woman paid to kill" < *killer*, *J. N.*, 10 mart. 2005, p. 24; *manageriță* "woman who administrates a sportsman or a teams' interests" < *manager*, *A.*, 25 mart. 2005; *playboiță* "elegant attractive young woman, appealing to men, who lives a fun life in night clubs" < *playboy*, *DC*, 2002; *rangeriță* Stoichițoiu-Ichim, 2006a, p. 46; *rockeriță* "rock singer, interested in rock music" < *rocker*, *A. C.*, 19/2004, p. 28; *songwriter-iță* "compozitoare" < *songwriter*, *Bravo* nr. 4, 2001, p. 4; *striperiță* "dancer in a

[15] The truncated form *stylistă* appears as well "Cabinet de estetică angajează: *stylist/ă* cu salariu supermotivant, garantat, cosmeticiană". *R. l. p.*, 2 aug. 2007, p. 7.
[16] Stoichițoiu-Ichim record the formal formation *homleşi* for "boschetari" (2001: 100).
[17] For the invariable *top-model* (introduced in DOOM), the colloquial language prefers a clear distinction for the feminine form, which was obtained using the motional suffix.
[18] The lexical element *făniță* (doubled by its synonym *fană*) implies as well an affective, touching note, which makes us attribute to this example the two semantic values of the suffix *-iță* (motional and diminutival value).



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night club" < *striper*, *DC*, 2003; *VJ-iță* "woman who deals with video projections" < *VJ*, "În urmă cu un an şi jumătate, fosta *VJ-iță* a MTV-ului a renunțat definitiv la televiziune în favoarea actoriei…" *E. Z.*, 26 oct. 2005, p. 24;

**4. Diminutive formations derived using the suffixes:**

**-aş**: *lideraş* < *lider*, Stoichițoiu-Ichim 2001: 29;

**-el**: *blogărel* < *blogar* "Pentru că îți poate atrage antipatii şi în condițiile în care eşti un *blogărel* mititel, care îşi doreşte o creştere sănătoasă" *artistu.voce*.ro;

**-uț**: *bloguț* < *blog*, Zafiu in *R. lit.*, 10/2007, p. 14; "integrarea României într-un *NĂTUȚ* de consolare", *Adev.*, 10 iun. 1996, p. 1 (in Stoichițoiu-Ichim 2001: 29);

5. collective formations and formations designating the place, derived using the suffixes:

**-ăraie**: *mitingăraie* "a large number of meetings" < *miting*, Avram 1997: 26; *vipăraie* "a large group of VIPs" < *VIP*, *DALR*$_2$;

**-ărie**: *fast-foodărie* "specialized place where people can eat fast-food products" < *fast-food*, *A.*, 23 mart. 2003;

**-ie**: *hamburgerie* < *hamburger* "place where someone can eat this food", www.*cbg.uvt*.ro;

6. Other formations derived using the suffixes:

**-an**: *gipan* "maşină mică de campanie", from *jeep*, angl. [pron. *gip*] < sigla *GP* (general purpose), *prodan.ablog*.ro;

7. Verbs formed by means of derivation using the suffixes:

**-a**: *a bipa* (a da un) *bip* + *-a* (to beep), *Mdc*, p. 5; *a body-guarda* < *body-guard* + *-a*, *DCR*$_2$; *a clicka* "a da un click" (to click), www.*supliment.polirom*.ro; *a downloada*, *A. C.*, 3/2007, p. 16; *a gugăli* < *to google* "Internet search motor", *R. lit.*, 29/2004, p.14; *a marketa* (to market) "Cel de față însă e un *adventure fantasy*, care e *marketat* drept cel mai scump film", *Alt.*, nr. 18, aug. 2007, p. 23; *a mitinga* "ne *mitingasem*", *DC*, 2000; *a softa Mdc.*, p. 5;

**-i**: ***a blogări*** "cuvântul care *blogăreşte*", *A. C.*, 3/2007, p. 5; *a joggingi*, *a mitingi* Avram 1997: 25; *a killări* Stoichițoiu-Ichim, 2006a, p. 52;

**-iza**: *a manageriza*, *a* (*mass*)*mediatiza*, *a mcdonaldiza* Stoichițoiu-Ichim, 2006a, p. 53-54;



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**-ui**: *a bipui* (a da un) *bip* + *-ui*, www.*hanuancutei*.ro; *a blogui* www.*rostiri*.ro; *a brandui* "Spionii *branduiesc* țara", *R. lit.*, 26 mai 2006, p. 14; *a chatui* (verbal formation encountered very often in the language of the Internet users) < *chat* + *-ui* "poetul Emil Brumaru *chatuieşte* infatigabil cu june poetese", *R. lit.*, 6/2007, p. 5; *a drincui* [Engl. (*to*) *drink*], *a draivui* [Engl. (*to*) *drive*], Avram 1997: 18; *a netui* < *Net* "Am *netuit* şi-am bloguit minute bune", www.*dob*.ro; *a se rebrandui*, *R. lit.*, 26 mai 2006 p. 4. To these formations we can add those recorded by Stoichițoiu-Ichim (2006a, p. 52): *a linkui, a searchui, a semesui, a switchui, a talkui* etc.

Also, for most of the verbs mentioned above, the adjectivized participial forms can be encountered as well: *branduit, cosmetizat, focusat, logat, mediatizat, mcdonaldizat, printat, procesat, scanat, updatat, upgradat, virusat* etc.

**Conclusions:**

Concerning the English bases of formation, most of them are borrowed with their English form, and are not adapted graphically or phonetically to the demands of the Romanian language: *fast-foodărie, gossipist, hairstylistă, homeless-ă, playboyist, yuppie-sm, songwriter-iță, a switchui, a talkui* etc. This linguistic fact makes it practically impossible for them to be accepted in the literary style of our language. Others are totally or partially assimilated: *badigardism, bişniţar, lideraş, manageriza, mitingist, printare, scanare, softist, trendist, upgradare* etc., which increases their chance to remain part of the Romanian language. This is proven by the fact that some of the examples mentioned above have found a place in a dictionary for general use (DEX, $DCR_2$, DEXI).

At the same time, we can observe that the most productive lexical formations resulted following the derivation process are agent names, motional names, abstract names and verbs, and concerning their appearance and propagation, an extremely significant role goes to the press and especially to the internet. This fact is revealed as well by the specialized languages that created new words starting from anglicisms: politic-administrative, economic, artistic, informatic.

Even if some of the new words excerpted in this study can be classified as *luxury derivatives*, namely less necessary derivatives, being used only for stylistic reasons or to amaze the interlocutor, however such formations have a value of "diagnosis" for the tendencies of the actual



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language.[19] So, we can notice the tendency to distinguish the feminine by means of specific marks (motional suffixes), even though the resulting formations belong rather to the colloquial, familiar register; the enrichment of the list of first conjugation verbs, with formations derived using the suffixes ***-a*** and ***-iza***; the constitution of some micro- or macro- lexical families during a relatively short lap of time (for example, the word family of the anglicisms *lider, miting*[20] and *blog*[21]); the productiveness of acronyms as derivative bases and, last but not least, the formation of synonymic dublets or triplets starting from the same basis: *blogar – blogangiu – bloghist, fană – făniță, manageră – mangeriță, a bipa – a bipui, a mitinga – a mitingi* etc.

Because of their advantages: precision, breviloquence, expressiveness, international circulation,[22] to which we can add their use as bases for the Romanian formations, anglicisms manage to get integrated and to have a well-defined place in our language, being preferred especially by young people and publishers.

## Lista de abrevieri

*A.* – „Antena 1" Bucureşti, post particular de televiziune, anul I: 1993.
*A. C.* – „Academia Cațavencu", săptămânal, Bucureşti, anul I: 1991.
*Adev.* – „Adevărul", cotidian, Bucureşti, anul I: 1989.
*Alt.* – „Altitudini", revistă lunară, anul I: 2006.
*Atomic* – canal de televiziune, anul I: 1999.
*Cot.* – „Cotidianul", cotidian, Bucureşti, anul I: 1991.
*Cot. s.* – supliment al *Cotidianului.*
*DALR$_1$* – Maria Dumitrescu, *Dicționar de abrevieri ale limbii române* 1990-2002, Editura Semne, Bucureşti, 2000.
*DALR$_2$* – Maria Dumitrescu, *Dicționar de abrevieri ale limbii române* 1990-2002, Editura Agata, Botoşani, 2002.
*DC.* '96 – Maria Dumitrescu, *Dicționar de cuvinte recente,* Botoşani, Editura Agata, 2006.

[19] Dimitrescu, 1995, p. 172.
[20] Avram, 1997, p. 26.
[21] Zafiu, 2007, p. 14.
[22] Stoichițoiu-Ichim, 2006a, p. 33.



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*DC.* '99 – Maria Dumitrescu, *Dicţionar de cuvinte recente*, Bucureşti, Editura Semne, 2000.
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