IULIU ZANNE RESTITUTUS. CRITICAL EDITION PROJECT OF ROMANIAN PROVERBS (VOL. I-X). THEORY, METHOD AND TEXTUAL APPLICATIONS

Petronela Savin, Assist. Prof., PhD, "V. Alecsandri" University of Bacău

Abstract: The present paper aims at presenting a methodological model of critical edition of the collection "Proverbele românilor din România, Bucovina, Ungaria, Istria şi Macedonia. Proverbe, zicători, povăţuiri, cuvinte adevărate, asemănări, idiotisme şi cimilituri cu un glosar româno-frances", vol I-X, by Iuliu Zanne, that may allow for the exploitation of the phraseological thesaurus in terms of the gains of current linguistics of folklore and cultural anthropology. The edition princeps of the collection or the anastatic one arouse admiration for the originality of the method and the richness of information from each separate tome, yet betraying at the same time the impossibility of efficiently using the information contained by it that has not been updated and critically approached for a century. Given this situation, realizing a critical edition of Proverbelor românilor (vol. I-X), that may imply a theoretical and methodological substantiation of the process in terms of the progress in the field of textual philology, represents the pilot episode of enacting the process of returning this phraseological circuit to the scientific research.

Keywords: methodological model, critical edition, Proverbele românilor, Iuliu Zanne

1. Introduction. Iuliu Zanne's collection *Proverbele românilor* represents the most extended phraseological corpus created so far in the Romanian culture, consisting of 10 volumes, published between 1895 and 1903 or approximately 8.000 pages of printed text. Volumes I-VII contain 18.940 types of proverbs and sayings, besides the numerous versions of these and the 4.500 additional types from the subsequent collections included in volumes IX and X. Besides these, Zanne also published Iordache Golescu's collection of dictums and exhortations, containing 16.350 types and 4.135 types of similes from the same collection, completed by popular similes (995 types) and by 1.400 folk beliefs (Ovidiu Bîrlea 1974: 325). This corpus was created by excerpting examples from 294 written sources and by correspondence with 340 volunteer reporters, most of them primary-school teachers.

The phraseological structures are alphabetically organized into 23 chapters, with the precise indication of the source and with an additional graphic sign that indicates the cultural context that the proverb belongs to, with glossing it and its versions and, in some cases, of the origin of the phrasemes or of some foreign equivalents, each volume ending with ample Romanian-French, Macedonian-French, Istro-French glossaries. The chapters are: I-II Physical nature; III About animals; IV Man and his organs; V, VI, VII About physical life; VIII, IX, X About social life; XI Historical proverbs; XII Beliefs, superstitions, customs; XIII, XIV, XV, XVI About intellectual and moral life; XVII Advice and interdictions, judgments, philosophical parables; XVIII Dictums extracted from various Romanian authors; XIX Exhortations and real words (Iordache Golescu); XX Similes (Iordache Golescu); XXI Similes in folk literature; XXII Superstitions; XXIII Supplement to chapters I-VIII.

The material's organization into "groups of ideas" situates the collection among the European innovative works of the 19th century, next to Le Roux de Lincy's *Le livre des proverbes françaises* (1859), that partially served as a model for Iuliu Zanne, P.M. Roget's *Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases* (1852), P. Robertson's *Dictionnaire idéologique de la langue française* (1859), respectively *Deutsche Sprachschatz* (1873-1877) of Daniel Sanders. Stelian Dumistrăcel (2011) finds that the first large sections of *Proverbelor românilor*, "Physical nature", "About animals", "Man and his organs", "About physical

BDD-V116 © 2014 Arhipelag XXI Press
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.216.75 (2026-11-03 01:53:45 UTC)

life", "About social life" […], "About intellectual and moral life" are easy to relate to one of the most advanced lexicographic theories in terms of the concept of "structural lexicology" formulated by Rudolf Hallig and Walther von Wartburg, and illustrated, even lexicographically, from the perspective of a "rational system of concepts" with the vocabulary of the French language, in *Begriffsystem als Grundlage für die Lexicographie* (Berlin, second edition, 1963), according to the following three sections: A. *The universe*, B. *Man*, and C. *Man and the universe*. Just like in the case of the respective systematization of the vocabulary, the structuring of Romanian proverbs by Zanne reflects the field of spirituality as an organized whole, starting from two principles from W. v. Humboldt's theory of language, also quoted by Hallig and Wartburg in the preface of their study: (1) that which may be summarized through the formula according to which the vocabulary (in our case, phraseology) is an "image of the world" transmitted to each member of a linguistic community and (2) a principle resumed especially by Saussure, that of "articulation", according to which all the expressive means of a language (respectively of a mentality) make up an ensemble, a system in which each part forms a common body with the others and is conditioned by them.

In terms of reflecting the image of the world through phraseology, the great merit of Iuliu Zanne is that of having constructed a collection articulated as a system that may reflect phraseology, on the one hand from the perspective of cultural particularity, by presenting the customs, beliefs, superstitions, historical events that the phraseological structures could have derived from and, to the same extent, from the perspective of universal thinking patterns through the numerous cases of foreign equivalences to Romanian phrasemes (the collection *Proverbele Românilor* itself started from the author's intention of creating a work of compared proverbs). These two components of the collection are even more important as they reflect the current lines of studying phraseology: cognitive linguistics that analyses the phrasemes as conceptual structures and metaphorical modes of conceptualizing the world, results of the universalities of thinking (Lakoff/Johnson 1980; Kövecses 1986; Liu 2002) and the semiotics of culture that takes into consideration the figurativeness of phrasemes mediated by "cultural taxons" based on social interaction, phenomena of material culture, intertextual phenomena, fictive conceptual domains, cultural symbols (Dobrovol'skij 1998, Teliya 1998, Piirainen 2007, Mieder 2008).

2. Problem Formulation. Iuliu Zanne's collection, awarded by the Romanian Academy from its very publishing, acknowledged as a premiere in the European space in terms of the method used and the amount of material (about which the Praguish philologist Jan Urban Jarník wrote, in 1895 that "concerning this matter also, there is something that may hardly be found in other nations perhaps even richer and with an older literature than the Romanian one"[1]) has experienced, as Otilia Hadeşan (2004) or Mugur Vasiliu (2003) argued, a reduced scientific exploitation for a century. Though often cited and reprinted in two essential anthologies, the first one at Bucharest, at Tineretului Publishing House, 1959 and the second one, vol. I-II at Cluj, at Dacia Publishing House, 2006, and also in an anastatic edition, at Bucharest, the Romanian Association for Culture and Orthodoxy "Scara", 2003-2004, the collection *Proverbele românilor* did not enjoy any critical edition so far. Far from being exploited competently and profitably for linguistics, folkloristics or anthropology, the edition princeps of the collection or the anastatic one arouse admiration for the originality of the method and the richness of information from each separate tome, yet betraying at the same time the impossibility of efficiently using the information contained by it that has not been updated and critically approached for a century.

[1] This is a confession made by Jan Urban Jarník in a letter to Ion Bianu (apud Iordan Datcu, "O restituire necesară", in *România literară*, no. 39, 2004)

BDD-V116 © 2014 Arhipelag XXI Press
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.216.75 (2026-11-03 01:53:45 UTC)

3. Problem Solution. Given this situation, realizing a project of critical edition of *Proverbelor românilor* (vol. I-X) that may imply a theoretical and methodological substantiation of the process in terms of the progress in the field of textual philology, reflected through a model of editing on the level of a sequence of the collection, represents the pilot episode of enacting the process of returning this phraseological circuit to the scientific research. This desideratum may be realized only by a thorough theoretical and methodological substantiation, the basic principles of constituting this edition being, on the one hand, to preserve the general line of projection and the original text unaltered, on the other hand to update the information from the perspective of the last century's scientific gains.

We are aware of the difficulties of such a process that are related, on the one hand, to the projection of a methodological model of an edition for which there is no correspondent in the Romanian linguistics and, on the other hand, to implementing it by providing a textual application on the level of a chapter of the collection. But it is precisely the answer to these challenges that constitute the stake of the research that we are proposing.

This project of edition aims mainly at representing the first stage of enacting the critical re-editing of the ten volumes of the collection *Proverbele românilor*, a thesaurus that is hardly accessible to Romanian researchers and even more so to foreign researchers. Adopting the principles of this process of textual philology in realizing the edition would mean a stimulation of the studies in phraseological research topics, such as semantic and semiotic aspects of phrasemes, cognitive aspects, contrastive phraseology and translation, phraseography. A significant impact would be in the space of folklore or cultural anthropology. Also, constructing such a tool of textual philology could generate models of re-editing in lexicography as well, a field that is also lacking in such tools.

4. Methodology. The methodology of this proposal is specific to a textual philology editing approach, which entails the following stages:

Fundamental research

Exploration of the scientific methods of the collection

1. Analyzing the author's way of exploiting literary sources: collections: *Pilde, povăţuiri, cuvinte adevărate şi poveşti…*, by Iordache Golescu, *Proverbele Românilor*, by I.C. Hinţescu, *Povestea vorbei,* Anton Pann, the works of historiographers and writers contemporary with the author;

2. Studying the methodology of collecting the material by direct inquiry and correspondents from Romania, Bessarabia, Bukovina, the provinces of Hungary, Istria and Macedonia;

3. Comparing the collection with the European works that partially served as a model both in terms of material organization (*Le livre des proverbes françaises*, Le Roux de Lincy – 1859), and in terms of glossing equivalent proverbs from several languages (*Histoire générale des proverbes*, de M. C, Méry – 1828, *Dictionnaire étymologique, historique et anecdotique des proverbes,* de P. M. Quitard – 1842, *Dictionnaire des proverbes français*, de Pierre de la Mésangère – 1821, *Dizionario universale dei proverbi di tutti i popoli*, de Gustavo Strafforello – 1883, *Saggio di proverbi latini illustrati*, de Atto Vannucci – 1880-1883).

Theoretical substantiation of the model of the proposed edition

1. Analyzing the reference literature in the field of European phraseology, and not only, related to the creation of the editions of the great collections and also to their exploitation;

2. Choosing the type of philological process suitable for the critical re-editing of the collection *Proverbele românilor* , that may correspond to the scientific actuality from the field of phraseology.

BDD-V116 © 2014 Arhipelag XXI Press
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.216.75 (2026-11-03 01:53:45 UTC)

Applied research

Designing the methodology of critical edition

1. Updating the text

a) adjusting the text to present orthography while maintaining the aspects of popular, regional, even dialectal color (visible in versions, quotations, even in foreign equivalences);

b) rewriting the names of authors and personalities according to the imposed tradition;

c) operating upon the mistakes indicated by the author in the erratum;

d) checking the quotations and the available references, completing the bibliographical data within brackets, where necessary.

2. Completing the text

a) indicating, by means of another letter font, the significations of the title-terms that have become opaque for nowadays' reader by resorting to the lexicographic tools of the Romanian language, to the Romanian linguistic atlases and also to studies of terminology;

b) indicating, through the same system, the semantic changes undergone by the phraseologies in the last century;

c) completing the cultural information of the collection regarding the origin of certain phraseologies with the "etymological" solutions provided by subsequent phraseological research.

3. Improving the instrumental nature of the collection

a) gathering all the phraseologies based on a certain image under the same title-word given the fact that in chapters XVIII-XXI, many of the entries are repeated due to the fact that the author completed his collection with phraseologies extracted from the cult literature to which he added the entire work of Iordache Golescu *Pilde, povăţuiri, cuvinte adevărate şi poveşti…*; also, the content of the last chapter, XXIII, Supplement to chapters I-VIII, should be entirely restructured within the first chapters;

b) maintaining the initial numbering of the phraseologies together with the new system for an easy confrontation with the editio princeps of the collection;

c) completing the collection's glossaries, Romanian-French, Aromanian-French, Istro-French, by indicating through a conventional sign the indices resulted from updating the information regarding the corpus of the collection;

d) completing the bibliographies for the Romanian language and for the Istro-Romanian and Macedo-Romanian dialects as a result of updating the information of the collection;

e) constituting an annex at the end of each volume where the title-words from each section may be alphabetically ordered and organized according to semantic nuclei, completing thus the author's organization into categories of notions and making it easier for the reader to distinguish the rational system of the concepts;

f) writing the summary and a note on the edition that may provide the reader with accurate information regarding the novelties proposed.

4. Scientific contextualization of the collection

a) writing an introductory study that may present the place of Iuliu Zanne's collection in the Romanian culture by its reception throughout a century and the possibilities of exploiting this monumental corpus in terms of the gains in the current field of phraseology, on an international level.

5. Achievement of an editing textual application

Illustration: Chapter VII, *About physical life. Foods and drinks*

a) the 1437 phraseological structures, that shall be taken as such, alphabetically, accurately maintaining all the scientific information;

BDD-V116 © 2014 Arhipelag XXI Press
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.216.75 (2026-11-03 01:53:45 UTC)

b) the text will be updated by adopting the current orthography, operating the erratum, completing the bibliographical information where necessary;

c) the text will be completed by indicating, by means of another font letter, the current signification of the terms and phrasemes according to *Dicţionarul limbii române* and the terminology recorded by the maps from the Romanian linguistic atlases: *Atlasul lingvistic român II*, new series, vol. IV, Bucharest, Editura Academiei, 1965, section F: *Bucătărie*, *mâncăruri*, *băuturi*, *alimente*, *coloniale* (maps 1033-1143); *Atlasul lingvistic român, pe regiuni. Banat*, vol. III, Bucharest, Editura Academiei, 1998 (471-491); *Atlasul lingvistic român, pe regiuni. Transilvania*, vol. IV, Bucharest, Editura Academiei, 2006 (maps 527-539); *Noul Atlas lingvistic român, pe regiuni. Moldova şi Bucovina*, vol. III, Iaşi, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University Publishing House, 2007 (maps 301-352); *Noul Atlas lingvistic român, pe regiuni. Oltenia*, vol. II, Bucharest, Editura Academiei, 1970 (maps 255-281).

d) completing the cultural information of the collection regarding the origin of certain phraseological structures with the "etymological" solutions provided by works such as: Gh. Ghibănescu, *Din traista cu vorbe* (1924-1925), Sextil Puşcariu, *Limba română. Privire generală* (1976), Iorgu Iordan, *Stilistica limbii române* (1975). Stelian Dumistrăcel, *Lexic românesc. Cuvinte metafore, expresii* (1980) and *Până-n pânzele albe. Expresii româneşti* (1997, respectively, 2001), Petronela Savin, *De gustibus disputandum… Frazeologia privitoare la alimentaţie* (2011).

e) improving the instrumental nature of the collection by gathering under the same title-word all the phraseologies based on a food image from the other chapters and creating an annex at the end of the volume where the title-words from chapter VII, *About physical life. Foods and drinks*, may be organized according to semantic nuclei of the type FOODS, DRINKS, ACTIONS, ORGANS, TOOLS and FACILITIES regarding feeding, with their subsections (for example, the nucleus FOODS would contain the categories *Edible plants and their dishes*, *Milk and dairy products*, *Honey*, *Meat and meat products*, *Egg*, *Spices*; the section *Edible plants and their dishes* may be further subdivided into *Vegetables and fruits* and, respectively *Cereals and cereal dishes*).

5. Conclusions. The object of this proposal, creating a methodological model of critical edition of the collection *Proverbele românilor* (vol. I-X), is meant to lead the way into the reintegration in the circuit of phraseological research of a work with no correspondent in the Romanian culture. It constitutes the first attempt of this type in Romanian linguistics. The elements of novelty of the model of edition derive, on the one hand, from the integrative nature of the process that relies upon conjugating the theoretical principles of text editing with the most recent phraseological researches and, on the other hand, from the project's formative nature that encourages the development of some tools of textual philology that are absent from the Romanian phraseological lexicography.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Literature

Bîrlea, Ovidiu, 1974. *Istoria folcloristicii româneşti*. Bucureşti: Editura Enciclopedică Română.

Datcu, Iordan, 2004. O restituire necesară. *România literară*, no. 39, 2004.

Dobrovol'skij, D., 1998. On cultural component in the semantic structure of idioms. In: Ďurčo, P. (ed.), *Europhras 97: International Symposium. September 2-5, 1997, Liptovský Jan. Phraseology and Paremiology*. Bratislava, pp. 55-61.

Dumistrăcel, Stelian, 1980. *Lexic românesc. Cuvinte, metafore, expresii*. Bucureşti: Editura Ştiintifică şi Enciclopedică.

BDD-V116 © 2014 Arhipelag XXI Press
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.216.75 (2026-11-03 01:53:45 UTC)

Dumistrăcel, Stelian, 2001. *Până-n pânzele albe. Expresii româneşti.* Iaşi: Editura Institutul European.

Dumistrăcel, Stelian, Hreapcă, Doina, 2011. Competenţa expresivă şi «discursul repetat» în etno- şi sociotexte: efecte ale «cunoaşterii elocuţionale» şi ale «competenţei idiomatice». *Communication Interculturelle et Littérature*, 14 (2), pp. 165-168.

Ghibănescu, G., 1924-1925. *Din traista cu vorbe*, vol. I-II. Iaşi: Tipografia Lumina Moldovei.

Hadeşan, Otilia, 2004. Un proiect naţional. *România Literară*, no. 12.

Hallig, Rudolf, Wartburg, Walther von, 1963. *Begriffsystem als Grundlage für die Lexicographie* Berlin: Akademie-Verlag (2nd ed.).

Iordan, Iorgu, 1975. *Stilistica limbii române,* Bucureşti: Editura Ştiinţifică.

Kövecses, Z., 1986. *Metaphors of anger, pride and love. A Lexical approach to the structure of concepts*. Amsterdam – Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company.

Lakoff, G., Johnson, M., 1980. *Metaphors we live by*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Liu, D., 2002. *Metaphor, culture, and worldview. The case of American English and the Chinese language*. Lanham, Maryland.

Mieder , W., 2008. *Strategies of wisdom: Anglo-American and German proverb studies*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing.

Piirainen, E., 2007. Phrasemes from a cultural semiotic perspective. In: Burger, H. et al. (Eds.). *Phraseologie/Phraseology: Ein internationales Handbuch zeitgenössischer Forschung/An International Handbook of Contemporary Research*, vol. 1. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, pp. 208-219.

Puşcariu, Sextil, 1976. *Limba română. Privire generală.* Bucureşti: Editura Minerva.

Savin, Petronela, 2011. *De gustibus disputandum… Frazeologia privitoare la alimentaţie*. Iaşi: Editura Universităţii "Alexandru Ioan Cuza".

Teliya, Veronika, Bragina, Natalya, Oparina, Elena, Sandomirskaya, Trina. 1998. Phraseology as a Language of Culture: Its Role in the Representation of a Collective Mentality. In A. P. Cowie (ed.), *Phraseology Theory, Analysis, and Applications*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, pp. 55-79.

Vasiliu, Mugur, 2003. Cuvânt asupra ediţiei. In *Proverbele românilor din România, Bucovina, Ungaria, Istria şi Macedonia. Proverbe, zicători, povăţuiri, cuvinte adevărate, asemănări, idiotisme şi cimilituri cu un glosar româno-frances*, anastatic edition, vol. I. București: Asociația Română pentru Cultură și Ortodoxie "Scara".

2. Dictionaries et atlases:

Atlasul lingvistic român II, new serie, vol. IV. Bucureşti: Editura Academiei, 1965.

Atlasul lingvistic român, pe regiuni. Banat, vol. III. Bucureşti: Editura Academiei, 1998.

Atlasul lingvistic român, pe regiuni. Transilvania, vol. IV. Bucureşti: Editura Academiei, 2006.

DA = [Romanian Academy] *Dicţionarul limbii* române I/I, letters A-B, 1913; I/II, letter C, 1940; I/III, fascicle I, D -de, 1949; II/I, letters F-I, 1934; II/II, fasc. I, J -lacustru, 1937; II/III, ladă – lojniţă (unpublished). Bucureşti: Editura Academiei.

DLR = [Romanian Academy] *Dicţionarul limbii române* (new series), tome VI, letter M (1965-1968); VII/1, letter N (1971); VII/2, letter O (1969); VIII/1-5, letter P (1972-1984); IX, letter R (1975); X/l-5, letter S (1986-1994); XI/1, letter S (1978); XI/2-3, letter T (1982-1983); XII/1, letter T (1994); XIII/1-2, letter V (V- veni; 1997; *venial–vizurină*; 2003); IV, letter L (*L – lherzolită*; 2008); V, letter L (*Li-luzulă*, 2008). Bucureşti: Editura Academiei.

Le Roux de Lincy, 1859. *Le livre des proverbes françaises*. Paris: Delahays.

BDD-V116 © 2014 Arhipelag XXI Press
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.216.75 (2026-11-03 01:53:45 UTC)

Méry, M. C, 1828. *Histoire générale des proverbes, adages, sentences, apophthegmes*. Paris: Delongchamps.

Noul Atlas lingvistic român, pe regiuni. Moldova şi Bucovina, vol. III. Iaşi: Editura Universităţii "Alexandru Ioan Cuza", 2007.

Noul Atlas lingvistic român, pe regiuni. Oltenia, vol. II. Bucureşti: Editura Academiei, 1970.

Pierre de la Mésangère, 1821. *Dictionnaire des proverbes français*, Paris: Treuttel & Würz.

Quitard, P. M., 1842. *Dictionnaire étymologique, historique et anecdotique des proverbes et des locutions proverbiales de la langue française en rapport avec des proverbes et des locutions proverbiales des autres langues*. Paris: P. Bertrand.

Robertson, P., 1859. *Dictionnaire idéologique: recueil des mots, des phrases, des idiotismes et des proverbes de la langue française classés selon l'ordre des idées*. Paris: A. Derache.

Roget, P.M., 1852. *Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases.* New York, NY: Crowell.

Sanders, Daniel, 1873-1877. *Deutscher Sprachschatz geordnet nach Begriffen zur leichten Auffindung und Auswahl des passenden Ausdrucks. Ein stilistisches Hülfsbuch für jeden Deutsch Schreibenden*, Nachdruck der Ausgabe Hamburg.

Strafforello, Gustavo, 1883. *Dizionario universale dei proverbi di tutti i popoli*. Torino: A.F. Negro.

Vannucci, Atto, 1880-1883. *Saggio di proverbi latini illustrati*, Milano: Tipografia Editrice Lombarda.

Zanne, Iuliu, 1895-1912. *Proverbele românilor din România, Bucovina, Ungaria, Istria şi Macedonia. Proverbe, zicători, povăţuiri, cuvinte adevărate, asemănări, idiotisme şi cimilituri cu un glosar româno-frances*, vol. I-X. Bucureşti: Editura Librăriei Socecu & Comp.

Zanne, Iuliu, 1959. *Proverbele românilor*. București: Editura Tineretului.

Zanne, Iuliu, *Proverbele românilor din România, Bucovina, Ungaria, Istria şi Macedonia. Proverbe, zicători, povăţuiri, cuvinte adevărate, asemănări, idiotisme şi cimilituri cu un glosar româno-frances*, anastatic edition vol. I-X. București: Asociația Română pentru Cultură și Ortodoxie „Scara", 2003-2004.

Zanne, Iuliu, 2006. *Proverbele românilor*, vol. I-II. Cluj: Editura Dacia.

BDD-V116 © 2014 Arhipelag XXI Press
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.216.75 (2026-11-03 01:53:45 UTC)