

THE SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION OF HYDRONYMS IN BANAT

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ABSTRACT

Almost all names of places (therefore of bodies of water) originate in simple appellatives, even if today some of them have no connection with the place they name. Hydronyms which express a characteristic of the soil, of the landscape can be divided in two groups: those referring to the proper river bed, the banks and those referring to the nearby soil. Some hydronyms remind of names of animals (savage or tamed). Within the names of the hydronyms in a certain area it is used the vegetation (derived from appellatives which aim at wild plants or the ones cultivated by people).

People have named places by means of anthroponyms, probably also because of the geo-morphological bareness of the territory. One can distinguish several categories of hydronyms derived from anthroponyms.

Key words: *hydronyms, appellatives, anthroponyms, flora, fauna*

The semantic analysis of hydronyms in the bodies of water subjected to attention in this article confirms not only the ancientness of the Romanian element in this region, but also the indisputable unity of the Romanian toponymy in general, as an expression of the unity of our language. The second criterion in the analysis of hydronyms consists in the genetic stratification: pre-Indo-European toponyms (hydronyms), then Indo-European (Thracian, Scythian, Latin, German, Slavic, Byzantine), also Turkish (cumane, pecenage, Turkish, osmanlii), Magyar, German (*săsești* and Swabian). As a consequence of such an analysis, it can be noticed again the ancientness of the population on this territory and the national linguistic unity. The category of the Romanian toponyms (implicitly of hydronyms)-that is of toponyms given by the Romanians, regardless of the linguistic origin of the terms that lie at the basis of the toponyms- is the most numerous. "This category includes: a) toponyms (or appellatives) from the lexical vocabulary with Thracian origin (Dacian): *Bunget, Gruî, Mal (Bank), Pârâu (Brook)* (mentioned both as toponyms and appellatives);

b) toponyms from the lexical vocabulary with Latin origin: *Vale (Valley)*;

c) toponyms from the lexical vocabulary with Slavic origin: *Poiana (Glade), Lunca (Meadow), Dumbrava (Grove)*;

d) toponyms from the lexical content of a Magyar origin: *Ogașu, Sălașul (Binacle)*;

e) toponyms from the lexical content of a Turkish origin: *Ciobanul (The Shepherd)*;

f) toponyms derived from the anthroponomy of diverse origins: *Romanian, Slavic, magyar, pecenego-cumane*)¹. The third criterion of toponyms (hydronyms) of a certain geographical area is morpho-syntactic, used extensively by the structuralist linguists.

However, taking into account the fact that “the semantic analysis and classification of toponyms point out new linguistic phenomena, [...] determine the condition according to which the topical names appeared, reveal numerous facts, valuable not only to the history of the language but also to the history of the people”² and that on the basis of the semasiological criterion it can be established the ancientness of hydronyms, we have chosen to use in this article, almost exclusively the semantic criterion in the analysis of a great number of hydronyms.

1. *Particularities of the water course*

Hydronyms which express:

a) **length** (dimension/size):

▪ by nounizing adjectives: Ro. **lungă** (**Lunga**) En. long, rom. **scurtă** (**Scurta**) En. short;

▪ by adjectival determiner: Ro. **Mare** (En. **big**)/**mic(ă)** (En. **small**) (*Apa Mare, Afinaru Mare, ~ Mic, Aninoasa Mare, ~ Mică, Balta Mare, Bârnele Mari, ~ Mici Bălana Mare, ~ Mică, Bega Mare, ~ Mică, Begheiu Mare, ~ Mic, Belentinu Mare, ~ Mic, Beregsău Mare, Băltacu Mic, Bucurosu Mare, ~ Mic, Bucurușu Mare, ~ Mic, Camena Mare, ~ Mică, Căluga Mare, ~ Mică, Chichiregu Mare, ~ Mic, Crivaia Mare, ~ Mică, Crovu ăl Mare, Foarfeca Mare, ~ Mică, Frăsinetu Mare, ~ Mic, Gârliștea Mare, ~ Mică, Georza Mare, ~ Mică, Goana Mare, ~ Mică, Hoza Mare, ~ Mică, Ilișava Mare, ~ Mică, Jarca Mare, Jarțașita Mare, Jgheboasa Mare, ~ Mică, Lacu Mare, ~ Mic, Lindina Mare, ~ Mică, Modușu ăl Mare, ~ ăl Mic, Obârșia Văii Mari, Ogășelu al Mare, Ogașu Mic, Pârâul Vâna Mică, Valea Mare, ~ Mică*); Sl. **mala** “mică” (En. small) (**Mala, Mala Bara, Mala Voda**); Ro. **lat(ă)** (En. broad) (**Balta Lată**); Ro. **larg(ă)** (En. wide) (*Izvoru de la Valea Largă, Lunca Largă*); Ro. **subțire** (En. thin) (*Pârâul Subțire*); **lung(ă)** (En. long) (*Blidara Lung, Grebla de la Râu Lung, Izvoru Lung ~ de la Balta Lungă, Ogașu Lung*); **scurt** (En. **short**) (*Bârzu Scurt, Blidara Scurt, Ogașu Scurt*);

▪ by augmentative suffix: Ro. -oc (**Băltoc**); -ac (**Băltac**);

by diminutive suffix suf. diminutival: Ro. -ița³ (*Bărzăvița, Fântânița*), -icioara (*Bistricioara, Bărzăvicioara*), -el (*Apa Prigorelului, Idigel, Izvorele, Izvorel, Lăpușnicel, Mureșel, Năidășel, Nădrăgelu, Ogășelu, Ogășele(le)*),

¹ Ion Conea, *Monografia geografică a R.P.R. I*, cap. *Toponimia. Aspectele ei geografice*, București, Editura Academiei, 1960: 73-74; 73-74.

² See Anatol Eremia, *Nume de localități. Studiu de toponimie moldovenească*, Chișinău, Editura Știința.

³ See Adela Stancu, „Toponime diminutivale”, în *Studii și Cercetări de onomastică*, nr. 7, Editura Universitaria, Craiova, 2002: 195-211.

Pe Ogășele, Ogășelu al Mare), -aș (Izvoașe, Izvoaș), -eș (Lăculeșu, Lăculeșe), -ișoara (Loznișoara), -uș(a) (Hidecuș, Fântănuș), -ica sau -ici (pl.) (Fântânic); -ioara (Fântănioara), -ea or -ele (pl.) (Fântănele); Sl. -ica (Glavița, Sumița).

b) **form**: scr. **kriv** “strâmb, oblic, curb”(En. “oblique, slanting”) – Criva, Crivaia, Ro. **cârn(ă)** “strâmb(ă)” – Cârna, Ro. **curmeziș** (En. crossways) „transversal, pieziș” (En. *transverse, slanting*) – Curmeziș, Ro. **strâmb** “cotit, întortocheat” (En. *tortuous, sinuous*) – La Strâmbu, Balta Strâmbii.

2. Water characteristics:

Hydronyms which express:

a) **colour**: Ro. **alb** (En. *white*) – Ogașu Pietrele Albe, Râul Alb, Valea Albă, Sl. ***Belareka** “white river” – Belareca, Ro. **albeală** (En. *whiteness*) – Albeala, Ro. **verde** (En. *green*) “de culoare verde” (En. “having a green colour”) – Verdea, Ro. **negru, -ă** (En. *black*) – Apa Neagră, Izvoru la Balta Neagră, Ogașu Negru, Valea Neagră, Lacu Negru, vernacular from the pre-Indo-European **ner-*, *nar-*, *nor-* “acqua sorgiva” – Nera, Nergana, Nergăn, slavice version of the (vernacular) old **Dierna, Tierna, Tsiernensis** (Cerna “Neagră”, Apa Cernii, Cernele, Cernet); Sl. **čurnŭ**, fem. *čurna* “negru” (En. *black*) – Cerna-Bora, Ciornobora, Ciornovăț, Ro. **roșu** (f.) (En. *red*) – Apa Roșie/Valea/Apa Roșie, Ogașu Roșu, Lacu Roșu, Ro. **galben** (En. *yellow*) – Ogașu al Galben; hibrid Sl. + Ro. – Bistra Roșie.

b) **sound (noise)**: vernacular **șipot** (En. *spring*) – Apa Șipotului, Izvoru Șipot, Ro. **clocot** (En. *bubbling*) – Clocot, Ro. reg. **bolboros** – Bolboros, **borău** – Borău, Borăile, **borăitoare** – Borăitoarea; Ro. **urlătoare** (En. *howling*), < lat. *ULULARE*, - La Urlătoare; Ro. **clocotiș** (< *klokotŭ*) – Clocotișu; bg. scr. **bobot** – Bobot, Bunar la Bobotu Mare, Ogașu Bobotului (Șumița < temă Sl. *šum-*).

c) **smell**: lat. ***PUTEOSUS** (Balta Pucioasă, Izvoru Pucios, Lacu Pucios), (Ogașu Bășinii);

d) **taste**: (Balta Sărată), Ro. **sărătură, -i** (En. *salty*) “meadow with salty soil” (Sărături), Ro. **slatină** “humid salting, with water swamps”/Ser. **slatina** (Slatina, Obârșia Slatinii), Ro. **acru, -ă** (En. *sour*) (Apa Acră), Ro. **salin(ă)** (En. *salt*) (Apa Salinului), (Obârșia Slătincii), (Slătinic, Ogașu Slătincului);

e) **temperature**: Sl. **studenŭ, -a** “rece”(En. *cold*) (Studena, Ianculov Studena), Sl. **toplŭ, f. topla** “cald(ă)” (En. *warm*) (Topla, La Topla, Toplița), Ro. **cald** (En. *warm*) (Izvoru Cald);

f) **whirl, movement**: Sl. **brŭzŭ** “repede”(En. *quick*) (Bârzu, Bârzava), Sl. **bystrŭ** “repede” (En. *quick*) and “limpede” (En. *clear*) (Bistra), Ser. **klokotič** “gâlgâitor” (En. *gurgling*) (Clocotici), Sl. **ljut, -a** “repede”(En. *quick*) (Luta), Hun. **Sebes** “iute, repede, grăbit” (En. *quick, fast, swift*) (Sebeș);

g) **quantity, water volume**: Hun. **száraz** “sec” (En. *dry*) (Săraz), Ro. **sec, seacă** (En. *dry*) (Secu), (Bruznicu Sec, Feroaga Seacă), Sl. **gladŭnŭ**

“flămând, sec” (En. *hungry, dry*) (*Gladna*), Ro. **mortăreț, moltăreț** (< *mort* + *-ăreț* En. *dead*+ *-ăreț*) En. “dead branch of a river” – as appellation, it is used in a compact area (the south-west of Arad county, the west of Timiș county, the north-west of CS county (*Moltăreț, Moltărețu Bătrân ~ Nou, Mortăreț(u)*)¹, bg. **pustinja** (*Pustiū*), et. nec. **sterp** (En. *barren*) (*Pârâul Cracul Stărp*), Ser. **suška** “dry soil; safe from the outflow of the Danube” (*Șușca*).

Most of these hydronyms are, at their origin, appellatives. They are, at their basis, nounized adjectives (most of them) or nouns. There are many situations in which the characteristics of the water bodies are expressed by means of structures made of one native item accompanied by an adjectival attributive adjectival or by one native item accompanied by a nounized adjective, as in the example above.

3. Characteristics of the environment.

A. Hydronyms which express a characteristic of the soil, of the landscape can be divided in two groups: those referring to the proper river bed, the banks and those referring to the nearby soil.

a) **Hydronyms derived from appellatives which express a characteristic of the river bed or the river banks:** Sl. **glâboka** “deep” (*Glimboca*), Ro. **surduc** “narrow valley” (*Surduc*), Ro. **gârliște** “a place where a river gets divided into small brooks which are spread into the meadow” (*Gârliște*), Ro. **grădiște** “natural hillock caused by erosion, in the meadow of a river or in the middle of a puddle” (*Grădiște*), scr. **luda bara** “crazy marsh” (*Luda Bara*), Ro. **măgură, -i** (*Măguri*), bg. **močur** “marsh” (*Mociur*), Ser. **smolnița** “soil with crude” (*Somonita*).

a”) **The river bed is described by means of a structure made of a native item followed by a noun (with or without a determiner):** *Pârâul Trei Gropi, Valea Răstoaca, Balta fără Fund, Ogașu cu Trei Pereți, Groapa Copaciului* or **by an adjective:** *Ogașu Afund, ~ Găunos, ~ Rău, ~ Urât, Fundu Izvorului; Pârâul Afund; Valea Afundă; Izvoru Înfundat*. It can be shown the ancientness of the river bed of a hydronym (the structure *hiron. +new/old*): (*Bega Veche, Begheiu ăl Bătrân, ~ Bătrân, ~ Nou*).

b) **Hydronyms derived from appellatives which express a characteristic of the land nearby:** Ro. **șes, șesă** “plane, flat” (*Șasa*), Ro. (inv.) **pârlog, pârloage** “soil which is not ploughed, celery” (*Pârloagele*), Ro. **pleș** (< Sl. **plěši** “without vegetation”) (*Pleșa*), Ro. **topilă** (< bg., scr. **topilo** “restricted area in a river bed loc, used for melting hemp”) (*Topila*), (*Topenia*), Sl. **gora** “mountain” (*Prigor*), Sl. **put** “road” (*Putna*), Sl. **Ravina** (< v. Sl. **ravínŭ** “planus”) (*Ranica/Ramna*), Hun. **kopasz** “bald” (*Copăș(u)*), Hun. **pest** “cave” (*Peștiș*).

¹ Viorica Goicu, *Note de toponimie bănățeană*, în „Caietul Cercului de Studii”, II, Timișoara, 1984: 54.

There are included the appellatives which refer to any rise of land, flat surfaces, valleys, with or without water.

b") **The characteristic of the land nearby is described by means of a structure** made of a native item followed by a noun (with or without a determiner): *Apa de la Baie*, ~ *de la Dealu Negru*, ~ *Răpșagului*, *Arteaza din Livezi*, *Balta Livezii*, *Gârla de sub Margine*, *Gârla Valea Poienii*, *Ieruga de sub Râpi*, *Izvoru la Balta Neagră*, ~ *la Livada Bicilor*, ~ *de la Lunca cu Alune*, ~ *de la Grădină*, ~ *de la Valea Largă*.

B. Hydronyms which express a characteristic of the soil (geological composition) Ro. **cremene** "hard rock" (*Cremeni*), Ro. **sărătură** "meadow of salty soil" (*Sărături*), Ro. **slatină** or Ser. **slatina** (*Slatina*), (*Rusca*), Ro. **piatră/pietriș/pietros(ă)** En. **rock/gravel/stony** (*Izvoru de la Piatra Albă*, ~ *de la Pietriș*, ~ *de Piatră*) (*Ogașu Petrișului*, ~ *Pietrosii*, ~ *Pietrele*, ~ *Pietrosu*), Ro. **var** (< Sl. **varŭ**)/Ro. **varniță** (< bg., scr. *varnica*) (*Ogașu Varului*, *Izvoru de la Varniță*), Ro. **lut** En. clay (*Izvoru Lutului*), Sl. **kamenica** "isolated rock; quarry" (*Camenita*), scr. **stanovit** "entrenched" (*Stanovit*), bg. **nasip** (*Izvoru de la Nisip*).

C. Hydronyms referring to fauna:

Some hydronyms remind of names of animals (savage or tamed) "Into the rivers and on their banks there live many savage animals, which leads to their names becoming the names of the rivers. The names of the tamed animals given to rivers is due to the frequent use in the process of raising animals"²:

a) Ro. **căprioară** (< lat. *capriola*), En. **deer** "the female of the roebuck" (*Căprioara*; *Căprioara*, *Căprioarișca*), Ro. **lup**, Lat. **catella** (*Căteaua*), En. **wolf** (*Lupu*), Ro. **știucă** En. **pike** "predatory fish in freshwater" (*Știuca*), Sl. **vrănŭ** "raven" (*Vraniu*), Ser. **šuška** "sapphire" (*Șușca*), Hun. **hodos** "a place with beavers" (*Hodoș*), Ro. **breb** (*Brebu* – on this term and other two appellatives, G. Vâlsan has reconstituted the area inhabited by three animals which are today extinct), Ro. **găină** En. **hen** (lat. **gallina**) (*Găina*), **golumb** En. **pigeon** (*Golumb*), **iapă** En. **mare** (*Iapa*), **mânzat** En. **foal** (*Mânzatu*), **corb** En. **raven** (*Corbu*).

b) **Hydronyms made of a native item and a noun in the N, sg. or pl., accompanied or not by a determiner:** *Ogașu Viezur* (En. *badger*), ~ *Fluture* (En. *butterfly*), ~ *Ilileci*/**made of a native item and a noun, whether in the G, or the Acc, preceded by a preposition:** *Ogașul Albinelii*, *Baia Vulturilor*, *Balta Cerbului*, *Ogașul Cerbului*, *Valea Lupului*, *Pârâu Caprii*, *Adăpătoare de oi*, *Ciurău Caprii*, *Fântâna Cucului*, ~ *Lotrului*, *Gura Găinii*, ~ *Mieilor*, ~ *Văii Cerbului*, ~ *Lupului*, *Izvoru de la Cucu*, ~ *Gâștelor*, ~ *Găinii*, ~ *Mânzului*, ~ *Mățului*, ~ *Mieilor*, ~ *Țiparului*, ~ *Ursului*, ~ *Vulpii*, *Lacu Cerbului*, *Ogașu Brebului* (Gh. Vâlsan reconstructs the area inhabited by

² Marius Oros, *Cu privire la unele determinative din toponimia românească*, în LR, XII, nr. 1/1964: 244.

three wild animals extinct from the country's territory, on the toponyms derived from the appellatives: *breb*, *bour*, *lotru*), ~ *Cocoşului*, ~ *Corbului*, ~ *Lupului*, ~ *Măţului*, ~ *Albinii*, ~ *Cailor*, ~ *Cerbului*, ~ *Corbului*, ~ *Lupilor*, ~ *Mielului*, ~ *Mierlii*, ~ *Porcilor*, ~ *Ursului*, ~ *cu Raci(i)*, *Valea Calului*, ~ *Cânelui*, ~ *Lupilor*, ~ *Lupului*, *Balta de la Bicărie*, ~ *de la Pescărie*, ~ *Tăoñului*.

D. Hydronyms referring to flora:

a) Hydronyms derived from appellatives referring to flora (vegetation)

- derived from names of the plants without any modification: Ro. **agriş** En. gooseberry "shrub from the plant family of Saxifragaceae" (*Agriş* – Tm; *Agreş* - CS), *Alunu*, Ro. **carpen** "tall shrub" (*Carpenu*), Ro. **curpen** "sprout of wild grape" (*Curpenu*), Ro. **ciotorog** "log" (*Ciatorogu*), Ro. **chichireg** "small bush" (*Chichireg*), Ro. **gai** "grove" (*Gaiu*), Scr. **mrčina** "weeds" (*Mercina*, *Mecina*), Bg., Scr. **rakita** "species of willow" (*Răchita* – CS), Ro. **salcie** "species of tree" (*Salcia*), Ro. **corn** En. corneal tree (*Corni*), Ro. **şuşară** "boscage" (*Şuşară*), Ro. **stânjeni** En. fathom (< Bg. **stă(n)žen**) "a unit for measuring the depth of water, equal to six feet or about 1.8 metres" (*Stânjeni*), Ro. **călină** "the fruit of the guelder rose" (*Călina*), (*Copaci*), Ro. **gorun** En. durmast "subspecies of oak tree" (*Gorunu*, ~ -i), (*Măceşu*), Ro. **mătrăgună** En. laurel "poisonous herbaceous plant" (*Mătrăguna*), (*Frasinu*), Sl. **Liša** "lichen" En. lichen (*Lişava*), Sl. **Sina** "hay field" (*Sinicoş*), Ro. **aluniş** En. nut grove (*Suliniş*).

- with **R o m a n i a n** suffixes, which express the idea of smallness, collectivity, characteristic (-ioara, -inioara, -oasa, -ar, -el, -aş, -iş, -eţ): Ro. **corniş** "place of corneal tree" *Corniş*, *Arinişu*, *Brădet*, *Cânepioara*, *Ceretu*, *Cernet*, *Cireşel*, *Cireşina*, *Ferigar(u)*, *Frasinetu*, *Frăgar*, *Frăgăriţa*, *Păroasa*, *Leordişu*, *Mercinioara*;

- with **S l a v i c** suffixes (-ov, -ica, -ar(i), -ova, -ovac, -n(a), -ište) scr. **Klada** "log, trunk" (*Cladova*), Sl. **Lipa** "linden tree" (*Lipari*), Sl. **Loza** "grape" + -ina (*Lozna*), Scr. **Nanovište** "place with mint" (*Nanovište*), Scr. **Rakita** *Răchitova* - TM), Scr. **Repa** "sugar beet" (*Repaş*), Ser. **Šestār** "mountainous region", "thicket", (reg.) "the 16th part of a forest destined to annual cut" (*Šištárovăţ*), Sl. **Cerŭ** "sky" (*Ţerova*), scr. *Tramna*, **travna** "herb" (*Tramnic*), bg. **Orah** "walnut tree" (*Oraviţa*); Hungarian (-j-d-ia, -ik, -oş): Hun. **Gyertyán** "hornbeam" (*Gherteamoş*), Hun. **Nyír** "birch tree" (*Nereghiş*), (*Găvojdia*); compound: Hun. **Szil** "elm tree" + **ágy** "river bed", that is "brook with elm trees"³ (*Silagiu*).

³ Gustav Kisch, *Siebenbürgen im Lichte der Sprache*, Hermannstadt (Sibiu), 1929: 131, apud Remus Creţan, Vasile Frăţilă, *Dicţionarul geografic, istoric şi toponimic al judeţului Timiş*, Timişoara, Editura Universităţii de Vest, 2007: 23; Iorgu Iordan, *Toponimia românească*, Bucureşti, Editura Academiei, 1963: 104.

Within the names of the hydronyms in a certain area it is used the vegetation (derived from appellatives which aim at wild plants or the ones cultivated by people).

b) **Hydronyms made of one native item and a noun in the N, sg. or pl., accompanied or not by a determiner:** *Ogașu Gutâni, Pârâul Breg, ~ Carpenul ~ Ceretu, ~ Copaci, ~ Frasinu, ~ Gherteamoș, ~ Gorunu, ~ Nanoviște, ~ Nereghiș, ~ Semița, ~ Silagiu, Valea Plopi, ~ Răchita/made of a native item and a noun whether in the G, or the Acc preceded by a prep.:* *Apa Bobului, Balta cu Rășini, Canalul din Viile cele Mari, Groapa Copaciului, Izvoru cu Aluni, ~ de la Lunca cu Alune, ~ de la Pădureț, ~ de la Teiușu, ~ de la Trestie, ~ de la Trestii, ~ de la Vii, ~ de Lemne, ~ din Agreș, ~ din Copăcele, ~ din Cornet, ~ din Poiana Bradului, ~ din Salcă, ~ Gorunului, ~ Holdelor, ~ Ibâlcinii, ~ în Pădure, ~ la Grădină, ~ la Aluni, ~ Mușchiului, ~ Prunelor Bistrițe, ~ Rădăcinii, ~ Scoarței, ~ Socilor, ~ Viilor, ~ Zăvoaielor, La Anină, La Pruni, Lacu cu Nuferi, Leofălprună, Ogașu Alunului, ~ Calinii, ~ Cerățului, ~ Ferigarului, ~ Ferigoasii, ~ Șumiții, ~ Țărovii, ~ Rugetului Mare, ~ Mic, ~ Valea Viilor, ~ Bradului, ~ Carpenului, ~ Cărpinișului, ~ Ceretului, ~ Cânepii, ~ Cornetului, ~ Cornilor, ~ Fânețului, ~ Frasinului, ~ Gârniții, ~ Goronetului, ~ Gorunului, ~ la Goruni, ~ Gorunului, ~ Molidului, ~ Pădurețului, ~ Perilor, ~ Porâmbului, ~ Prunilor, ~ Răchiții, ~ Rogozului, ~ Rugului, ~ Rugilor, ~ Sălcii, ~ Socetului, ~ Trestii, ~ Tufii, ~ Târsului, ~ Ulmului, ~ Vărzării, ~ Vâlcii, ~ cu Cireși, ~ cu Bruscani, ~ cu Corni, ~ cu Fagi, ~ cu Iarba, ~ cu Mesteacăn, ~ cu Mura, ~ cu Pasuiu, ~ cu Plopi, ~ cu Pruni, ~ cu Salca, ~ cu Soci, ~ cu Stânjeni, ~ cu Tei, ~ cu Trestii, Pârâu cu Fagu, Valea Prunilor, ~ Sălcii, ~ Scăiușului.*

4. Other categories

A. Hydronyms derived from purely hydronymic appellatives:

- **simple:** Ro. *iezer* (< Sl. *jezerŭ*) “deep lake” (*Hezeriș* – popular form of *lezeriș*), Ger. *Bächel* “small brook” (*Behela*), Ro. *borugă* “gulch” (*Boruga*), *potoc* „brook” *Potoc*, Ser. *șopot* “spring, waterfall” (*Șopot*), *Tău, Vână*, Hun. *viz* “water” (*Vizma*), *gârliște* “where a river gets divided into small brooks which are spread into the meadow” (*Gârliște*), *Ieruga, Moravița, Timiș, Bega, Dunăre, Mureș*, Sl. *Mâtnic* (< Sl. *mâtinikŭ* < s. Sl. *mâtinŭ* “dirty, turbid water”) (*Mâtnic*).

- **compound:** *Valea Potoc, ~ Isvoare, ~ Izvorului; Pârâul Vâna, ~ Ogașul, ~ Mociur, ~ Ieruga, ~ Ieru, ~ Breg, ~ Balta; Ogașu Știubei, ~ La Ciuciur, ~ La Lacu, ~ cu Apă, ~ Vârtejului, ~ Vălaielor, ~ Știubeiului; Balta Apă, ~ Bării, Pârâului.*

B. Hydronyms derived from other hydronyms (all compounds with adj. *mic(ă)* (En. *small*), all derivatives by dimin. suf. *-ița, -ioara*, etc. (see above): *Rudăria Mică, Bârzăvița (Bârzava), Borlovița (Borlova), Hididei, Gigelu (Hideg), Lăpușnicel (Lăpușnic), Loznișoara (Lozna), Moravița (Morava), Mureșan (Mureș), Olănelu (Olanu), Sebeșel (Sebeș)*, etc.

C. Hydronyms derived from names of towns, cities, villages:

Hydronyms are formed either by means of transfer of names from the names of the places they cross, or from the names of the places where they flow.

a') Names of the places may appear in the name of the water. Hydronyms formed by means of transfer from the names of the places are: *Birchiș* (oicon. Birchiș), *Bulza* (oicon. Bulza), *Bunea* (oicon. Bunea Mare), *Chelmac* (oicon. Chelmac), *Ciclova* (oicon. Ciclova), *Cladova* (oicon. Cladova), *Clopodia* (oicon. Clopodia), *Corbul* (oicon. Corbul), *Doman* (oicon. Doman), *Domașnea*, *Fădimac* (oicon. Fădimac), *Fizeș* (oicon. Fizeș), *Gladna* (oicon. Gladna), *Homoșdia* (oicon. Homojdia), *Icui* (forma Ro. a oicon. Ikus), *Igrîș* (oicon. Igrîș), *Iosifalău* (oicon. Iosifalău), *Lăpușnic* (oicon. Lăpușnic), *Nermed* (oicon. Nermed), *Remetea* (oicon. Remetea Mare), *Rudăria* (oicon. Rudăria), *Sintar* (oicon. Sintar), *Zăbaț* (oicon. Zăbaț), *Vărădia* (oicon. Vărădia), *Brebu* (oicon. Brebu Nou), *Slatina* (oicon. Slatina-Timiș), *Armeniș* (oicon. Armeniș), *Bucoșnița* (oicon. Bucușnița), or as a nounal attributive of the native item: *Canalul Lanca-Birda*, *Pârâul Turnului*; by association with a hydronym: *Bega Poieni*, *Bega Luncani*. There are situations in which the second term is the name of a village in the G: *Apa Bucovii*, ~ *Canicii*, ~ *Jitinului*, *Balta Slatinii*, ~ *Nicolințului*, *Izvoru Bigărului*, ~ *Borlovii*, *Obârșia Bolvașniții*, ~ *Slatinii*, *Ogașu Foroticului*, ~ *Macioviții*, ~ *Canicii*.

a") Generally, the name of a body of water ended in *-ești* cannot be imagined without a name of a village ended in *-ești* or a group name in *-ești*. Even if these condition disappear, does the body of water keep its name?⁴ For this reason, the presence of a hydronym ended in *-ești* is the proof of a settlement ended in *-ești*: ***Pogănești*** (oicon. Pogănești). The presence of the collective suffixes prove the existence of a human collectivity: *-ani*: ***Pădurani*** (oicon. Pădurani), ***Jupani***, ***Șurgani***, *-eni*: ***Măureni*** (oicon. Măureni), ***Zădăreni*** (oicon. Zădăreni), ***Slăveni***. Names of bodies of water in *-easca*, *-anca* are derived entirely from the names of villages: ***Hăuzeasca*** (oicon. Hăuzești), ***Birdanca*** (oicon. Birda), ***Zoldiana*** (oicon. Zolt), ***Peceneaga***, ***Poneasca*** (name of a body of water suffixed in such a way as to express whether a body of water which crosses the village having the same name (***Poneasca***), or a body of water which springs from a place having such a name, therefore the two are not homonyms. By means of other suffixes from the name of the place: ***Brezovița*** (Brezova), ***Bucovița*** (Bucova), ***Belenicia*** (Belentinu), ***Munișel*** (Mâtnic), ***Năidășel*** (Naidăș), ***Sălbăgel*** (*Săldăbagi), ***Pogăniș/Pogănici*** (Remetea-Pogănici), ***Sadovița*** (Sadova), ***Căpriorișca*** (Căprioara).

Analyzing the hydronyms which come from the places they cross or from the mountains and the hills nearby or from other places, we have to observe that "only the small bodies of water receive such names, because

⁴ *Dicționarul toponimic al României. Oltenia*, Craiova, Editura Universitaria, I-V, 1993-2000: 6.

they are usually connected only to one main place or one main relief form. The larger bodies of water, which cross numerous places and relief forms, do not receive such names, unless by chance”⁵.

It is well-known the fact that the names of the bodies of water are much older than the names of the places, but there sometimes exist both historic and linguistic facts which prove the fact that hydronyms haven't always been the starting point from which the places were named, but the latter were transferred to water. “Most times, if in a limited area, more objects have the same name, the centre of dispersal is the name of the village, from which the name of the town, of the monastery are derived...”⁶

D. Hydronyms derived from toponyms (names of hills, mountains, places): scr. *glavica* “the top of the hill, hillock” (*Glavița*), Sl. *gora* “mountain” (*Gorova*), Ro. *față* “the part of the hill oriented towards the Sun” (*Fața*), Ro. (*Grădiște*), Ger. *Reizenberg* “attractive mountain (hill)” (*Reisenberg*), *Prigor*, *Stâlp* (Vf. *Stâlp*), *Valea Baciului* (*Șaua Baciului*), *Balmeșu*, *Naiba*, *Rugi*, *Igazău*, *Semenic*, *Zlagna*, *Cuntu*, *Valea Padeșului*, *Valea Bordului*, *Măneasa*, *Godeanu*, *Arsanca*, Ro. **Coșava** “name of the wind” *Coșava*, reg. *dal* “hill” + suf. *-uk* (*Gelug*), Ser. *belū*, *-a* “alb(ă)/En. white” + *breška* “small hill” (*Belobreșca*). It is important to understand this phenomenon of naming the bodies of water by terms which express positive relief forms: the hill, the backside, the front side; it helps to set exactly the one semantic element which gathers around it all other terms in a toponymic field, furthermore it contributes to the placement in territory of geographical objects.

E. Hydronyms of cultural, historic and possessive sense (which belong to a more recent layer) „ may contribute to letting us know historical and social aspects which have disappeared in time”⁷, certifying for example the settlement in the area of some populations, such as: Romanians (*Ogașu Românului*, ~ *Român*), Pemii (*Izvoru lu Pem*, ~ *Pemilor*), Pecenegii (*Peceneaga*) Oltenii (i.e. people living in the Romanian province called Oltenia) (*Olteana*), Germans (Ro. *nemții*) (*Ogașu Nemțoicii*, *Arteza dintre Nemți*), Serbian (*Ogașu Sârbilor*), Hungarians (Ro. *ungurii*) (*Ogașu Ungurului*), Gypsies (*Ogașul Țiganului*, ~ *Țiganilor*, ~ *Țigănesc*), Ardelenii (i.e. Romanian people living in Ardeal, a Romanian province) (*Pârâul Ardelenilor*).

1. Hydronyms derived from appellatives which express constructions, administrative units, measurement units, religious objects: Ro. *vatră* En. hearth (*Vetre*), Hun. *remete* “anchoret, monk” (*Remetea*), Ro. *săliște* “ruins of an ancient village” (*Săliștiuța*), Ro. *odaie* “house in a rural area, isolated from the village” (*Odăile*), Ro. *tărie* “re-

⁵ Viorica Florea, *Cum au luat naștere numele de apă*, în *Lucrările Simpozionului de toponimie*, 1965: 73.

⁶ DTRO, I, *Introducere*: 5.

⁷ Viorica Florea, *art. cit.*: 73.

enforcement made on a river bank, so that the water does not damage” (Tăria), Ro. **casă**, En. house (Căsuța Roșie), Valea **Satului**, ~ **Comiatului**, ~ **Crucii**, ~ **Birtului**, Pârâul Satului, ~ **Toba**, ~ Comiat, ~ **Ograda**, Ogașu Podului, ~ la Cruce, ~ de la Odaie, ~ de la Ogradă, ~ de la Hotar, ~ cu Țevi, ~ cu Poiețile, ~ cu Firizu, ~ cu Drumu, ~ cu Bere, ~ cu Crucile, ~ Scărilor, ~ Punților, ~ Roții, ~ Morii, ~ Plațurilor, ~ Mănăstirii Nemțești, ~ Mormântului, ~ Măgăzării, Baia Tineteului, Balta de la Pescărie, ~ de la Podu al Mic, ~ Mănăstirii, Baraca, Spăia, Cherăstău, Clopodia, Scărița, Bistricioara Orășenilor, etc.

2. Hydronyms derived from anthroponyms:

Hydronyms formed from an anthroponym present a special situation, in the sense that the large bodies of water are considered common property, that of an entire community, therefore cannot bear the name of a single person (as opposed to a village, for example, where a person, usually its founder, gives the name of the village), while the names of smaller bodies of water can be derived from anthroponyms. They either cross the property of a certain person, or the flowing point is near a property. It is also true that „the origin of the hydronym which derives from the name of a person does not always indicate a relation of property”⁸. People have named places by means of anthroponyms, probably also because of the geo-morphological bareness of the territory. One can distinguish several categories of hydronyms derived from anthroponyms:

a) hydronyms formed from masculine anthroponyms in the N.: **Axin**, **Băcin** (Baciu), **Beg**, **Bei**, **Biniș** (Bin(e)a), **Birchiș** (cf. Birtea), Bratonea, (Brebu) **Bucurovăț** (Bucur), Buda, **Budinic**, **Bunea**, **Carani** (cf. scr. Karan), **Cărlionțu**, **Cinca**, **Ciolt** (Hun. Csolt), **Cociohat** (Cocea), **Cornea**, **Cuntu**, **Dicșan**, **Dobroslavăț** (scr. Dobroslav), **Doman**, Drăganu, **Ducin**, **Ducinoiu**, **Feneș**, **Frăsincea**, **Gârdoman**, **Giucosin** (scr. Đukos), Glăvan, **Godeanu**, **Golumb**, **Gosta**, **Iercici** (scr. Jerco), **Iosifalău** (Hun. Jozsef), **Jitin** (cf. Jitin, Jitea), **Labășinț** (bg. Labo), **Lalașinț** (scr. Laloš sau Laleša), **Luchin** (Sl. Lukin), **Lupu**, **Măcițaș**, **Miclăuș**, **Micotă**, **Micoș**, **Mihoc**, **Miniș** (cf. Minea), **Murgilă**, **Nandraș** (Nandru), **Nădrag**, **Osiac**, **Stoiconic** (Ro. Stoica), **Zmogotin**. The hydronym may be composed of a native item and an anthroponym in the N: *Pârâul Miniș*, *Izvoru Cioba*, *Valea Andrei*, ~ *Jarca*, *Ogașu Dămian*, ~ *Goicu*, ~ *Marcu*, ~ *Micluț*, ~ *Nicloae*, ~ *Pușcaș*, etc.

b) hydronyms derived from feminine anthroponyms in the N, which have at their basis a male anthroponym: **Bălășina** (Baloșin), **Băloasa**, **Bodovița** (Sl. Bod(o)), **Bucurindia** (Bucur(in)), **Călina** (Călin), **Chizdia** (Hun. Keszi), **Ciclova** (Sl. Cicl(e), Ciclu), **Ciopa** (*Ciop), **Cureșița** (cf. Cureșu), **Galațca** (Sl. Gal), **Gutunia** (Gutun), **Homoșdia** (*Hamoș), **Năndreasca** (Nandra from Nandru), **Ștefania**, **Valea Ursoane** (pop., from

⁸ *Ibidem*: 74.

Ursu). There is also a category of hydronyms derived from feminine anthroponomy in the N: **Dognecea** (cf. Dokna), **Fiaca**, **Roica**, **Rozalia**.

c) hydronyms derived from masculine anthroponomy in the G: *Auraru*, *Bejanu*, *Bleoju*, *Bobu*, all belonging to some structures: *Apa Auraru(lui)*, etc.

Most of them are part of structures of the native items type and masculine anthroponomy in the G:

- enclitic: *Valea Baciului* (Baciu), *Valea Lupului*, *Tăul Ursului* (Ursu);

- proclitic: **Arteza** *lu Hencheș*, ~ *lu Lupu*, **Artezu** *lu Achim*, ~ *lu Ioviță*, **Balta** *lu Pișta*, **Ogașu** *lu Achim*, ~ *lu Adam*, ~ *lu Chiriac*, ~ *lu Cincu*, ~ *lu Dicu*, ~ *lu Dincu*, ~ *lu Drăgan*, ~ *lu Drăgilă*, ~ *lu Gavrilă*, ~ *lu Jitu*, ~ *lu Lazăr*, ~ *lu Neagu*, ~ *lu Ninu*, ~ *lu Andrei*, ~ *lu Anghel*, ~ *lu Anițu*, ~ *lu Bali*, ~ *lu David*, ~ *lu Doman*, ~ *lu Domaschin*, ~ *lu Dumitru*, ~ *lu Eftimie*, ~ *lu Filip*, ~ *lu Firău* ~ *lu Fodor*, ~ *lu Gheorghe* ~ *lu Ghiocel*, ~ *lu Ghiță*, ~ *lu Gioca*, ~ *lu Giorz*, ~ *lu Guran*, ~ *lu Ion*, ~ *lu Iorgovan*, ~ *lu Iosiv*, ~ *lu Iovan*, ~ *lu Isac*, ~ *lu Jurca*, ~ *lu Ledăru*, ~ *lu Lucaci*, ~ *lu Marcu*, ~ *lu Marina*, ~ *lu Marius*, ~ *lu Măceș*, ~ *lu Măgăț*, ~ *lu Măran*, ~ *lu Mărie*, ~ *lu Meilă*, ~ *lu Meza*, ~ *lu Miclău*, ~ *lu Micuci*, ~ *lu Moaca*, ~ *lu Moise*, ~ *lu Moldovan*, ~ *lu Murgu*, ~ *lu Mustață*, ~ *lu Neagoie*, ~ *lu Otiman*, ~ *lu Pană*, ~ *lu Pavăr*, ~ *lu Pecină*, ~ *lu Petru*, ~ *lu Pârlău*, ~ *lu Pârvan*, ~ *lu Pățu*, ~ *lu Pornică*, *Fântâna lu Achim*, ~ *lu Adrian*, ~ *lu Alexa*, ~ *lu Alisie*, ~ *lu Amza*, ~ *lu Andri*, ~ *lu Anton*, ~ *lu Arcal*, ~ *lu Arpad*, ~ *lu Aurel*, ~ *lu Avram*, ~ *lu Bacea*, ~ *lu Badiu*, ~ *lu Baldu*, ~ *lu Ban*, ~ *lu Barbu*, ~ *lu Băciuț*, ~ *lu Băiluță*, ~ *lu Bălaci*, ~ *lu Bălaure*, ~ *lu Băs*, ~ *lu Bebi*, ~ *lu Becă*, ~ *lu Belințan*, ~ *lu Benga*, ~ *lu Beșilău*, ~ *lu Bilan*, ~ *lu Bilea*, ~ *lu Biraș*, ~ *lu Bircoș*, ~ *lu Birișu*, ~ *lu Bâdea*, ~ *lu Bâgu*, ~ *lu Blăjuț*, ~ *lu Blidan*, ~ *lu Bliloiu*, ~ *lu Boamfă*, ~ *lu Boamfel*, ~ *lu Boancă*, ~ *lu Bob*, ~ *lu Bobară*, ~ *lu Bocu*, ~ *lu Bogatu*, ~ *lu Bogdan*, ~ *lu Boianu*, ~ *lu Boja*, ~ *lu Bojoju*, ~ *lu Boran*, ~ *lu Borcilă*, ~ *lu Borcoș*;

- plural: *Fântâna lu Bălănești*, ~ *lu Bălintoń*, ~ *lu Bărdoń*, *Ogașu lu Brătońi*, *Balta Crăieștilor*, ~ *Voreșilor*.

d) hydronyms derived from **nicknames**: *Barheș* (cf. Barhaș), *Buhui* (cf. Buhă), *Buzad*, *Copăș* (Hun. Kopasz), *Gozna* (scr. Goznea), *Lupac* (Lupu), *Moșcodinu* (Moș Codin), *Pogănești* (Pogan(u)), *Sârbu*, *Sintar* (Sintaru), *Stăpâniș* (Ro. Stăpânu), *Vădana*, *Beiu*, *Beu*, *Ogașu lu Pistrițu*.

e) hydronyms derived from terms of **endearment**: *Icui* (cf. *Iko* from *Ilijia*, *Ivan*), *Vicinic* (Ser. *Veća*, de la *Velimir*), *Timișel* (affluent of river *Gladna*, affluent of river *Bega*; < *Tim* from *Timotei*; in CS county there was a family by the name of *Timișel* < diminutive of *Timiș*⁹), *Șucu* (*Nășucu* < *Naș* (< *Ionaș*) + *-ucu*), *Jarca*.

Quite rarely, within the structure of a hydronym there are both the family name and the surname, for a higher precision: *Ogașu lu Avram Moza*, ~ *lu Danciu Ștefan*, ~ *lu Gheorghe Jăța*, ~ *lu Adam Fluxă*, ~ *lu Adam*

⁹ Vasile Ioniță, *Contribuții lingvistice. Onomastică. Lexicologie 1*, Timișoara, Editura Eurostampa, 2002: 108.

Neamțu, ~ lu Adam Papuc, ~ lu Petru Moise, ~ lu Anghel Nicolae, ~ lu Avram Drilea, ~ lu Frili Andres, ~ lu Avan Biaș, ~ lu Andrei Tămaș.

Other hydronyms derived from name of persons are: *Fântâna lu Moș, lu Moș Dănilă, ~ lu Nenea, ~ lu Baba Danca, ~ lu Baba Doca, ~ lu Baba Lica, ~ lu Baba Sara, Valea Coccoanei.* As it can be noticed, they appear more often in structures in which the first term is an appellative which expresses an artificial spring: *fântână* (En. *fountain*) for example.

F. Hydronyms transferred to other geographical objects:

Although the names of the bodies of water do not possess a specific structure, it can be stated that it is certain the situation in which we are dealing with a hydronym, especially when we know its etymology and when we can establish a correspondence between the geographical object and its name. There is a category of hydronyms which are homonyms with the names of the places (or other toponyms) and, as a consequence of their semantic analysis, it can be observed the fact that they are anterior to the latter:

- **names of places** (*Știuca, Calova, Glimboca, Luncavița, Putna, Șopotu, Bârzu, Mocerîș, Cladova, Secaș, Vizma, Hezerîș, Gârliște, Clocotici, Nermed, Vălișoru, Vălișoara*); derived from the Slavic appellatives referring to water, humidity¹⁰: *Bârz, Bârza, Berzásca, Críváia, Crívina, Crívina de Sus, Crivobára, Clocotici, Luncávița, Morávița, Potóc, Pútna, Réșîța, Réșîța Mică, Stúdena, Stámora Germană, Stámora Română, Tópla, Toplét, Vódnic, Zlătîța.*

- **names of hills, mountains** etc.: *Cioaca Bălții, ~ Fântâna Grozii, ~ la Fântâna Băiașului, ~ Lacului, Coasta Fântâni, ~ Izvorului, ~ Râului, Cracu cu Trei Izvoare, ~ dintre râuri, ~ Izvorului, ~ Măgura, Culmea Bălților, ~ Lacului, ~ Știubeiului, Curmătura cu Tău, ~ Ogașului Mare, Dealu Izvorului, ~ Ogașului, ~ Ogașu Barbului, ~ Potoc, ~ Potocului, ~ Vâni, ~ Văii, ~ Vălișorii, Dosu Jgheabului, ~ Râului Lung, ~ Văii Mari, ~ Văii de Pești, Dubochi Potoc, Dunga Iarcului, ~ Lacului, Ducinu cu Apă, Dugacica Bara.*

Almost all names of places (therefore of bodies of water) originate in simple appellatives, even if today some of them have no connection with the place they name. "The study of toponymy as a system is conditioned by the deep knowledge of the vocabulary of a language¹¹".

¹⁰ Vasile Frățilă, *Oiconime de origine slavă în Banat, în Probleme de filologie slavă*, XV, Timișoara, Editura Universității de Vest, 2007: 164-170.

¹¹ Gheorghe, Bolocan, Elena, Șodolescu-Silvestru, *Dicționarul entopic al limbii române, în Studii și Cercetări de onomastică*, nr. 1/1995: 67.

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