FOREIGN INFLUENCES IN FOOTWEAR TERMINOLOGY IN ROMANIAN

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Abstract

Romanian footwear vocabulary includes borrowed terms from Turkish, French, Slavic, Bulgarian, Neo-Greek, Hungarian and English. The shift from previously mentioned influences to the English influence points out the well-known direction embraced starting with the second half of the XIXth century. He terms designating footwear belong to different stylistic registers and enter various structures and phrases. Footwear can be related to certain traditions and customs specific to each country, pointing out a difference in mentalities.

Key words: *footwear, terminology, infuence, borrowing, proper names*

Résumé

Le lexique des chaussures du roumain comprend des termes de la catégorie des emprunts, mots provenant du turc, français, slave, bulgare, néogrecque, magyare, anglais. Le passage des influences étrangères antérieurement mentionnées à l'influence anglaise met en évidence la direction bien connue, soulignée à partir de la deuxième moitié du XX^{e} siècle. Les termes qui désignent les chaussures appartiennent aux divers registres stylistiques et entrent dans diverses expressions et unités phraséologiques. Les chaussures peuvent être mises en relation avec certaines traditions et coutumes, spécifiques à chaque pays, soulignant des mentalités différentes.

Mots-clés: *chaussures, terminologie, influence, emprunts, noms propres*

Emblems of civilisation, in time shoes have had not only a strictly functional role, but also advantaged those who were wearing them, shoe making turning into an industry in its own right. When analysing a "history of footwear", one can notice that the evolution of shoe shapes also varies according to the social class, thus distinguishing individuals according to their status and rank. Even if it is difficult to determine very clearly when the first pair of shoes was worn, one thing is certain: initially, the cold or

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warm climate characteristic of a certain region influenced the footwear type worn.

Nowadays, when speaking about footwear, we tend to think of the latest trends in fashion. The history of footwear, however, began sometime at the end of the Palaeolithic era. Archaeologists have proven that the use of footwear changed the shape of people's sole and toes. If in the ancient world shoes had several distinctive characteristics (shoe sole thickness and colour), which underlined the owner's class affiliation, at present there are numerous varieties of shoes. Thus, taking into consideration its purpose, there is footwear designed almost for every type of activity: party shoes, sport shoes, hiking shoes, beach footwear, etc. Laces, heels, accessories, diverse materials, they all meet the necessities, but also each person's taste. Considering the season they are destined for, footwear divides into sandals, shoes, low and high boots.

Sandals were the first type of footwear ever worn. Skilfully made by ancient Egyptians (out of papyrus leaves), by Persians (out of soft leather), sandals were also worn in Athens, Rome or Mesopotamia. In the Middle Ages, they were abandoned in favour of moccasins and high boots. As far as high-heel footwear is concerned, such shoes were worn for the first time by aristocratic women in France and Italy (Venice), starting with the XV-th century. *Chopines* were the forerunners of *stiletto* shoes.

In Romanian, footwear vocabulary includes loan words. They have been borrowed from Bulgarian, Turkish, Neo-Greek, Slavic, French, Italian, Hungarian and English. While researching on this terminology, we have consulted lexicographical works of general use and specialised reviews, as well as various fashion Internet sites.

Footwear terminology has developed from various sources:

The Turkish influence is illustrated by terms such as: *catâr*[1] (< Tk. *katyr*) "m.1. (arch.) bad footwear. 2. (reg.) down at heel boots. 3. (reg.) heelless slippers" (MDA: 402); *caracatâr* (arch.) "m. 1. ankle boot. 2. Big,

[1] The term also has other meanings: "m. a domestic animal, a hybrid as a result of mating a donkey and a mare, or a stud and a female donkey", "a stubborn person" (DEX, p. 144).

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heavy slipper" (< Tk. *qara katyr* "stupid mule", cf. MDA: 382); *ciubotă/ciobotă* "f. boot, high boot" < Tk. *cabata* (from which It. *ciabatta*, Fr. *savate*, Sp. *zapato*) which entered Romanian through Polish - *czobot*, Rs. *собот*[2]; *colceac/colceag* (< Tk. *kolcak*) "n./m. (arch.) a type of clasped boot"; *iminei* (< Tk. *yemeni*) "pointed shoes, anciently worn by peasants; shoes in the Turkish fashion, whose forepart surrounds the heel, made of morocco leather and anciently worn by boyars"; *meşi* (< Tk. *mest*) "heelless footwear, made of thin leather and anciently worn by men, over socks"; *paşmaţi* (< Tk. *paşmak*) "heelless shoes"; *pingea* (< Tk. *pence*) "f. piece of sole used to replace the fore part of the used soles (sometimes also the heels); by extension, "the fore part of the sole of the footwear, on which one treads"; *târlic*i (< Tk. *terlik*, cf. Ngr. *τερλίχι*, Alb. *terlik*, Bg. *мєрлик*) "m., pl. soft, heelless indoor slippers made of cloth or wool; (arch.) a type of shoes lined with cloth".

The **French influence** is shown by terms such as: *espadrilă* (< Fr. *espadrille*) "light footwear made of cloth, with a sole made of string or a special material"; *botină* (< Fr. *botine*) "f. (reg.; elegant) worn by women and children. 2. high boot"; *galoş* (< Fr. *galoche*, cf. Tk. *galoş*, Rs. *галоша*, *калоша*) "m. rubber footwear worn over shoes or over boots to protect them against dampness or mud"; *sanda* (< Fr. *sandale*, cf. Ngr. *σανάλιον*, from Pers. *sandal* "footwear") "summer light footwear made on leather, plastic, cloth, etc., with minimal uppers or uppers made of bands"; *mocasin* (< Fr. *mocassin*); "untawed leather footwear worn by North-American Indians"; "very soft and comfortable footwear, with a flat sole and no laces"; *şoşon* (< Fr. *chausson*; *sabot*) "m. winter footwear (made of cloth, rubber, etc.) worn over the shoes"; *sabot*[3] "m. (especially in the plural) footwear carved out of a piece of wood or made of a wooden sole and thick leather uppers".

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[2] The term also has other meanings: "(arch.) a device in which convicts' feet were fastened; (pl., arch.) delivery expenses usually paid to bailiffs bringing advices" (DEX, p. 136).

[3] The term also has other meanings: "metal protective coating fixed at the end of a pole that has to be set into the ground; component of the brake serving to decrease speed or to stop the car"; "a device fixed on a rail in order to apply the brakes on or to stop the wagons" (DEX, p. 941).

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The **Slavic influence** is illustrated by the term *opincă*[4] (< Sl. *опинки* "footwear", Sl. опєшь, *опина* "to cover", cf. Sl. *опаника* "sole", Bg. *опинък*, *опинка* cf. Srb. Cr., Slov. *opanak*, Cz. *opanky*, Rs. *опанка*, Alb. *opinge*) "f. peasant footwear made of a rectangular piece of leather or rubber, tight around the foot with leather lacings".

The **Bulgarian influence** is illlustrated in Romanian by words such as: *caracudă*[5] (< Bg. *каракуда*) "f. (arg.) shoes"; *calevri* (< Bg. *калєвра*) "m. pl. (arch.) thick, strong shoes"; *cipic* (< Bg. *чєпик*) "n. 1. knitted woolen or cloth slipper. 2. (arch.; soft) boot; shoe".

The **Neo-Greek influence** is present in terms such as: *călţun/colţun*, from *încălţa* (< Ngr. *καλτσούνι*)[6] "m. 1. (arch. and pop.) holiday footwear (similar to high boots); a woolen sock"; *galenţi* (< Ngr. *γαλότσα*) "m., pl. a type of wooden (sole) slippers".

The **Hungarian influence** is shown by terms such as: *bocanc* (< Hun. *bakancs*) "strong military or sport boot, made of leather, with a thick sole"; *cizmă* < Hun. *csizma*, cf. Alb. *tsisme*, Bg. *цизма*, Srb. *cizma*, Cz., Pol. *cizma* (DER: 210) "f. leather, rubber, stretch etc. footwear, with a top as high as or over the knee; boot".

The **Italian influence**: *gheată*[7] (< It. *ghetta* "spats") "f. footwear made of leather or synthetic materials imitating leather, covering the ankle"; *scarp* (< It. *scarpa*) "f. 1. Dancing shoe, slipper, indoor shoe. 2.Old shoe"; *stilletto*[8] (< It. *stiletto*) "a spike heel shoe".

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[4] In the singular, the term is also used figuratively: "peasantry" (DEX, p. 722).

[5] The term also has other meanings: "f. 1. Pond fish. 2.Common, unimportant people" (DER, p. 150).

[6] Cf. The Italian origins of the word (*calzone*), used in the commercial domain, probably through Ngr. καλτσούνι or Bg. ккалкун (DER, p. 140)

[7] The term has the following synonyms: "1. (rare) botină (short boot; reg.) papuc (slipper), ciubotă (boot) (Moldavia), topancă (peasant sandal) (Transylvania, Maramureş). 2. Bocanc (boot), papuc (slipper) (Transylvania), (arg.) sabot (clog)" (cf. *Dicţionarul de sinonime al limbii române*, p. 288).

[8] In fashion magazines and on fashion sites, the term used is stiletto. In Romanian, the term is polysemantic (it is registered in lexicographical works only as *stilet*): "1. A dagger with a triangular, very thin and pointed blade. 2. A small, thin and flexible metal tube, used to probe a wound or to insert a wick inside the fistula. 3. Sharp, pointed organ of some insects". MDN does not register the meaning "spike heel shoe" (p. 889).

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The **German influence**: *şlap* (< Germ. *Schlappe*) "m. flat beach/bathroom slipper, etc., with the uppers made of one or several straps"; *cioci*[9] (< Germ. *Socken* "socks") "(reg.) white woollen knee-high socks worn by inside the peasant sandals"; *pantof* (< Germ. *Pantoffel*) "m. outdoor footwear, made of leather, synthetic materials or cloth, covering the foot up to the ankle".

The **English influence**[10] is illustrated by terms such as: *sneakerşi* (< Engl. *sneaker*[11]) "light shoes, usually made of textile, having a sole made of rubber or a similar material" (cf. Webster: 1347); *loaferşi* (< Engl. *loafer*[12]) "comfortable footwear, similar to moccasins"; *peep-toe* (shoes/sandals) (< Engl. *peep* "glance" + *toe*) "open-toe shoes/sandals[13]; *flip-flop*(*s*) < Engl. *flip-flop*(*s*) "flat sole footwear with a Y-shaped strap between the big toe and the second one; *şlapi*"[14]; *slipper*(*s*)*/slipperşi* (< Engl. *slipper*) "light, comfortable footwear; slippers" (Webster: 1341). It seems that in the past,

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The *stiletto* heel, (thus named after the Italian sharp dagger) was invented by the Italian designer Roger Vivier, in order to accessorize the outfits crated by Christian Dior. Even though such shoes highlight femininity, they are considered to endanger the health of the women who wear them. Doctors often point out the dangers faced by the women who prefer this type of shoes (problems of the tendons, bone deformation, back aches). In spite of this, *stiletto* shoes continue to be popular (cf. Encyclopedia, p. 356).

[9] The term also has a figurative meaning (the variant *cioce*): "a person with immature thinking" (MDA, p. 526).

[10] Some of the terms mentioned here are based on a metaphor.

[11] The term *sneaker* was used for the first time in 1887, in *British Journal of Education.*

[12] In English, it is a polysemantic term, being used as an adjective as well: "a person who likes to idle" (Webster, p. 840).

[13] *Peep-toe* shoes started to be popular in the 1930s, being initially considered as very provocative shoes; for this reason, they were banned during WW II (cf. Encyclopedia, p. 433).

[14] Webster Dictionary registers it as a polysemantic word: "1. electronic circuit. 2. backward flip, somersault. 3. Sound made when moving back and forth. 4. (usually in advertising) a pad, containing large sheets of paper that can be easily turned over, mounted on a stand". Even though the dictionary does not register the meaning *type of footwear*, one can notice that this meaning derived from the idea of "sound made when moving back and forth" (as shown at 3).

Flip-flops started to be used in USA in the middle of the XIXth century. In 1861, a letter addressed to the editor of *The New York Times* newspaper described the shabby outfit of the troops of the 7th Regiment of Volunteers, who wore *flip-flops*. *Flip-flops* are currently sold in a variety of designs. Although the term is not registered in Romanian dictionaries, it is often used in fashion magazines.

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slippers were used to refer to the pointe shoes that both men and women used to wear at parties or other formal events. On such occasions, this type of footwear was "decorated" with various ribbons, to the extent that those worn by women looked very similar to pointe shoes (Encyclopaedia: 656).

In the case of some terms, several influences can be noticed. The following terms have a multiple etymology: *buşmachiu* (< Rs., Ukr. *басмак*) "m. (arch. and reg.) indoor shoe, slipper"; *botfor* (< Rs. *ботфорт*, Fr. *bottes fortes*, cf. DER: 110) "m. (reg.) hard top boots, creased around the ankle"; *papuc*[15] (< Tk. *papuç*, Hun. *papucs*) "m. light footwear (heelless) worn indoors; by extension, light summer shoe"[16]; *balerini* (< Fr. *ballerin/e/* It. *ballerino, ballerina*) "m., pl. female light, flat footwear, similar to pointe shoes"; *bascheți* (< Engl., Fr. *basket*) "m., pl. sport footwear looking like fabric boots with a thick sole"; *tenişi* (< Engl., fr. *tennis*[17]) "m., pl. sport footwear made of fabric, with a rubber sole".

Some terms originate from proper names, for example adidaşi, *converşi, Mary Jane*.

adidaşi "m., pl. Comfortable sport footwear (cf. *Adi Dassler*, a German company", cf. MDN: 33). Initially, the name *Adidas* combines *Adi*(< *Adolf*) and *Das* (< *Dassler*). Adolf (*Adi*) Dassler started to manufacture sport shoes in his mother's laundry, somewhere in Bavaria, when he returned from WWI. In 1924, his brother Ruolf (*Rudi*) joined his manufacture which visibly developed under the name *Gebruder Dassler Schufabrik* (*Brother Dassler shoe manufacture*). On the occasion of the

[15] The term has the following synonyms: "1. (reg.) *sandale* (Transylvania, Maramureş, Bucovina), *pantof* (Moldavia, Bucovina), *scarpă* (Banat, North of Oltenia), *şlap* (Banat, Transylvania), *şlarf*, (ach.) *babúşi*. 2. (tech.) *sabot*. 3. (bot.) *blabomic*" (*Dicționarul de sinonome al limbii române*, p. 560).

[16] It is a polysemantic term: "piece of wood placed at the bottom of a pole to enlarge its support surface"; "piece of steel fixed at the bottom of a pole to prevent it from being crushed when hammered into the ground"; "bearing holding the cable of a cable car"; "a device used when coupling an electric conductor to the clamps of an electrical installation or of an electrical apparatus by a dismountable contact"; the compound noun *papucul-doamnei* (*the lady's slipper orchid*) "a herbaceous plant with a tall stalk, long leaves and big, yellow and purple inflorescence" (DEX, p. 747).

[17] In the case of the terms *balerini*, *bascheți*, *tenişi*, the footwear borrows the name of a sport/athlete.

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1936 summer Olympic Games, Adi Dassler managed to persuade Jesse Owens to wear their sport shoes. As he won four gold medals, the two brothers' sport shoes gained reputation and became more in demand than ever. On the eve of WWII, the Dassler brothers already sold 200,000 pairs per year. In 1947, they split[18]. Rudi set up a new company, which later developed into *Puma*. In 1949, Adi patterned his new business under the trade mark *Adidas*. Later on, the acronym ***A**ll **D**ay **I** **D**ream **a**bout **S**port* was considered as explanation of the name *adidas*.

converşi (< priper name *Converse*) "sport shoes"; the term was formed by antonomasis from Martin M. Converse, the founder of the homonymous company (1908). The brand Converse become increasingly popular in the years 1914-1918, reaching its peak in 1917, with the production of the first shoes designed for basketball[19]. Although not registered in Romanian dictionaries, the term is often used in specialised magazines.

Mary Jane (< proper name *Mary Jane*) "low-heeled slippers, usually of patent leather, with a strap across the instep, worn by little girls" (Webster: 881). *Mary Janes* were initially commonly worn by children, but eventually became popular with women also. They came to be known under the name Mary Jane after the Missouri based Brown Shoe Company started to produce such shoes, naming them after Richard Outcalt's comics characters. Mary Jane was the sister of the main character, Buster Brown. At the beginning of the XXIst century, the *Mary Janes* diversified their design, the initially all-black leather being replaced with other colours cut in various shapes and adorned with applications (Encyclopedia: 1017).

Other terms, such as, *oxford*, *derby*, originate in toponyms:

oxford (< proper name *Oxford*) "1. low shoes/boots laced over the instep" (Webster: 1032). Simple in design, laced and with a flat sole, the

[18] Although both brothers joined the Nazi Party, Rudolf embraced this ideology with more enthusiasm. During the war, their split became irrevocable. Rudolf was even accused by American soldiers of having become a member of the SS. He was convinced that his brother Adi had turned him in. (Encyclopedia, p. 321).

[19] Towards the 1970s, the company lost in popularity. Initially, companies such as Adidas or Puma, then Nike and Reebok managed to attract more and more buyers, by marketing shoes with a design which appealed especially to the young generation. (Cf. Encyclopedia, p. 17).

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oxfords are a type of modern shoes typically worn by men, although women have also adopted them. They used to be worn in Europe as early as 1640, while in America they became popular only much later. By 1910, most men would wear *oxfords* on special, formal occasions. A similar type of shoes used to be common among Oxford University students, hence the name. As style developed in the XXth century, the *oxfords* became popular also because of their comfortable design. Their laces made them much easier to put on than the previous models (*buttoned shoes*). Even though men initially considered that laces made shoes look feminine, later on they discarded this preconception and started to appreciate and wear them. In time, the *oxfords* design has also diversified, becoming more modern; certain details recommend them for elegant, but also for casual and sport attires. As in the early 1900s women gained more and more rights and liberties, which led to the shaping of the new image of a modern and active woman, it turned out that the style of these shoes perfectly matched this new image. Women would wear these shoes when practising sports[20].

derby (< proper name *Derby*) "type of laced leather shoes; the tongue is made of the same type of leather used for the upper, while the sides and the lace holes touch over it". The Webster Dictionary registers it with the following meanings: "1. horse race run annually at Epsom Downs, near London; 2. a stiff felt hat with a round crown and narrow, curved brim, worn by men" (p. 389). The name apparently comes from Edward Stanley, 12th Earl of *Derby*, who initiated the organisation of these horse races. *Derby* is also the name of a town in the central area of England, but also a male name. Although Romanian dictionaries do not register the meanings related to clothing or footwear, the term is still used in fashion magazines, taken from the proper name Derby, a region in England where the famous horse races were annually run. The public of such events must have worn such hats or shoes. In Romanian, *derby* also has the following meanings: "1. Special trot or gallop race of the best three-year-old horses organised once a year. 2. Important and prestigious sports encounter of two teams, to settle

[20] An example was Amelia Earhart, the first woman pilot, who often wore this type of shoes. (Encyclopedia, p. 353).

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the ranking" (MDN: 287). The term is frequently used in sports terminology.

Functional aspects of footwear terminology:

1. Terms designating footwear belong to different stylistic registers: other forms are used, besides the literary ones (*pantof*, *sanda*, *espadrilă*, *papuc*, *gheată*, etc.): popular forms (*călțun*), regional (*botfor*, *botină*, *cioci* etc.), archaic forms (*catâr*, *caracatâr*, *colceac*, *calevri*, *paşmați*, *târlici*, etc.), regional and archaic forms (*buşmachiu*).

There are also unspecialised terms. For some, the meaning related to footwear is not mentioned, for example *catâr*, while others, such as *caracudă*, *caracatâr*, are not registered as entry words (DEX).

2. Older loan terms belonging to footwear terminology enter various phrases, syntagms or popular register idiomatic expressions. For example: *a intra cu bocancii în viața cuiva*[21] (literally *to rush into someone's life with your boots on*) "a interveni în intimitatea cuiva" (to pry); *prost ca o ciubotă*, *prost ca o cizmă* (lit. *as stupid as a boot*); (fam.) *a nu-i da* (*cuiva*) *meşii* (lit. *not to be comfortable in one's shoes*: "a nu avea curaj, a nu cuteza" (not to dare); *a-l ține* (*pe cineva*) *meşii* (lit. *to have resistent shoes*) "a fi în stare, a putea" (be able to); (reg.) *a pune cuiva* (sau *a-i da cu*) *opinca* (*în obraz*) (lit. *to put/ throw one's shoe in somebody's face*) "a păcăli pe cineva, a trage pe sfoară; a face pe cineva de ruşine" (to swindle/to embarrass someone); *c-un pantof şi c-o opincă* (lit. *wearing one shoe and one peasant's shoe*) "luat prin surprindere, nepregătit" (taken by surprise, unprepared); *a umbla cu opinci de fier* (lit. to wear iron peasant's shoes) "a umbla mult" (to walk for a long time); *pe unde şi-a spart dracul opincile* (lit. *where the devil wore out its shoes*) "departe" (far away); *a călca pe cineva pe opinci* (lit. *to step on someone's peasant shoes*) "a jigni pe cineva, a ofensa" (to hurt/to offend somebody); *de la vlădică până la opincă* (lit. *from the ruler to the one who wears peasant's shoes*) "din toate clasele sociale, toți" (everybody, all social classes); *a-i pune opinca* (*în obraz*) (lit. *to put one's shoe in somebody's*

[21] Not recorded in DFLR, this expression is frequently used (in the familiar language or slang).

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face) “a face de ruşine pe cineva” (to embarrass somebody); *a o lua* (sau *a o şterge*) *la papuc* (lit. to flee in one’s slippers) “a fugi” (to run); (fam.) *a fi* (sau *a pune*, *a ține*) *sub papuc* (lit. *to be kept/to keep someone under the slipper*) “a fi (sau a pune, a ține) sub ascultarea deplină a cuiva, a se lăsa sau a face să se lase condus de cineva” (to control someone, to allow oneself to be controlled); (rar) *a lăsa* (*pe cineva*) *la papuci* (lit. *to leave someone in his/her slippers*) “a sărăci complet pe cineva” (to make someone poor); *a da* (*cuiva*) *papucii*[22] (lit. *to hand someone his/her slippers*) “a da pe cineva afară, a obliga pe cineva să plece” (to kick someone out, to force him/her to leave); *a bate la papuc* (lit. *to hammer into one’s slipper*) “a fi risipitor, cheltuitor” (to squander); *a face pantofii* (*cuiva*) (lit. *to polish someone’s shoes*) “a curăța ghetele cuiva; a sluji cu slugărnicie pe cineva” (to curry favour with somebody); *a-i pune/a-i da pingeaua* (*cuiva*) (pop.) (lit. *to fix/ to give someone’s sole*) “a păcăli, a amăgi pe cineva” (to trick/to delude someone); *a bate banii la pingele* (lit. *to hammer one’s money into one’s sole*) “a fi risipitor, a cheltui bani pentru distracții” (to squander one’s money on parties), *a bate la papuc*, *a toca la pingea* (lit. *to hammer into one’s slipper*, *to chop under one’s sole*) “a fi risipitor, cheltuitor” (to squander) (DFLR: 67).

Sociolinguistic aspects

In Romanian, the phrases and syntagms containing terms belonging to footwear terminology usually have a negative, derogatory connotation: *prost ca o cizmă/ciubotă* (stupid/ thick as a boot), *a călca pe cineva pe opinci* (to offend someone), *a intra cu bocancii în viața cuiva* (to pry), *a lăsa pe*

[22] Rodica Zafiu mentions the expression a *da* (*cuiva*) *papucii* (to kick someone out), trying to explain it by relating it to the *papugiu* “a good-for-nothing man, a swindler” (DEX, p. 747). Used in familiar language, especially in Caragiale’s times, the word has had various explanations: “a shoe-maker”, “one who used to walk around in his slippers, at a time when wealthy people would wear high boots or at least boots”, “the thief who wears slippers so that he should not be heard” (Graur, 1975, p. 68), “a servant who would keep an eye on the slippers left by visitors in the entrance hall” (Titkin, L. Șăineanu). When slippers became “a sign of domestic intimacy”, the expression acquired the meaning of “expelling someone from the shared, intimate space” (www.ebooks.unibuc.ro).

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cineva la papuci (to ruin someone), *a face pantofii cuiva* (to curry favour with someone), *a-i pune/a-i da pingeaua cuiva* (to swindle someone), etc.

Footwear may provide information not only about the person that wears it or about how usefulness and aesthetics may combine, but also about various traditions and customs.

Even as early as the Old Testament there is information about the fact that a person used to take off his shoes and hand them to the other person, to confirm a ransom or an exchange[23].

Returning to present days, in England it is customary to throw a shoe at a person who is about to embark on a journey, as a sign of good luck. Moreover, newly weds would have a shoe attached to the car that would drive them to their honeymoon destination, so as to "take a lucky step" into their marriage and new life.

In Scotland, it is customary to throw a shoe over the house on Halloween night. The direction the shoe takes indicates the person's future travel destination.

In Romania, on the morning of Saint Nicholas Day (December 6), good, obedient children find their boots full of various gifts (sweets, toys, etc.); disobedient children will find a twig. According to another Romanian tradition, on Easter one has to wear new clothes or shoes, as a sign of physical and moral purity after fasting.

These traditions are not solely European. For example, in the Indian culture, when a person feels she/he has had a spell cast upon, she/he has to buy a new pair of shoes, in order to cast away malefic influences.

Footwear terminology is characterized by a plurality of influences. They were exerted in the Romanian language at different moments in time: the Slavic influence in the XVII-th century, the Turkish influence at the end of the XVIII-th century and beginning of the XIX-th century, the French influence in the XIX-th century, the German influence during the same period, the English influence starting with the first half of the XX-th

[23] In the old days in Israel, to agree on a ransom or an exchange, the man would take off his shoes and hand them to the other one; this would stand for proof in Israel. (cf. *Biblia*, *Vechiul Testament – Rut*, p. 285).

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century. This proves that we can distinguish between old and recent borrowings in footwear terminology. Many borrowings entering the latter category are not registered by Romanian specialized literature, but the increased use of such terms and increased footwear trade will certainly lead to their registration in Romanian dictionaries.

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ACRONYMS

DEX = Academia Română, *Dicţionarul explicativ al limbii române*, Bucureşti, Editura Univers Enciclopedic, 1996.

DER = Alexandru, Ciorănescu, *Dicţionarul etimologic al limbii române*, Bucureşti, Editura Saeculum I.O., 2002.

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