THE FOREST TERMINOLOGY IN ROMANIAN AND A SUI-GENERIS ANTONYMY: *DESIŞ* AND *RARIŞTE*

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Abstract

This paper outlines the linguistic monograph of two lexical items belonging to the forest terminology in Romanian – *DESIŞ* (1. THICKET, DENSE FOREST; 2. A PLACE IN A FOREST WITH A DENSE GROWTH OF TREES) and *RARIŞTE* (1. SPARSE FOREST; 2. A PLACE IN A FOREST WITH A SPARSE GROWTH OF TREES), implicitly establishing a *sui-generis* antonymy in the much larger framework of this Romanian popular terminology, which is extremely rich and varied. The analysis focuses on the geographical distribution of these terms, their synonymic series, as well as classes of related terms (by suffix or by etymology) – as recorded in two of the most important linguistic atlases of Romania, namely ALRR and ALR.

Key words: *terminology, Romanian* (*language*), *pădure/ forest, synonyms, geographical distribution*

Résumé

Dans cet article, nous esquissons la monographie linguistique de deux termes appartenant à la terminologie de la forêt en roumain – *DESIŞ* (1. FORÊT ÉPAISSE; 2. LIEU DANS UNE FORÊT OÙ LES ARBRES SONT *NOMBREUX*) et *RARIŞTE* (1. FORÊT RARE; 2. LIEU DANS UNE FORÊT OÙ LES ARBRES SONT *RARES*), en établissant ainsi, implicitement, une sorte d'antonymie *sui-generis* dans le cadre beaucoup plus large de cette terminologie populaire roumaine, très variée et d'une richesse exceptionnelle. Notre but est d'étudier la répartition géographique de ces termes, la série des termes équivalents, la classification des éléments lexicaux selon leurs suffixes et leur étymologie, en utilisant deux des plus importants atlas linguistiques de la Roumanie: ALRR et ALR.

Mots-clés: *terminologie, roumain, pădure/ forêt, synonymes, répartition géographique*

The Romanian forest terminology is one of the oldest and richest terminologies. One of its most important chapters deals with "types of forests"; we have selected two sui-generis antonyms *desiş* (thicket, dense forest) and *rarişte* (sparse forest) in order to illustrate the lexical-semantic richness, as well as the morphemic and dialectal variety of this terminological field.

DESIŞ/THICKET, DENSE FOREST

Various dictionaries and regional glossaries (see Bibliography) record this term along with the following definition: **1.** "group of small trees, shrubs, weeds; *in a broader sense*: young and very dense forest"; **2.** (Biharia, Gârda Seacă – AB; Tudora – BT; Poiana Mărului – BV; Zoreşti – BZ; Şuşca – CC; Băneasa – CT; Amărăşti, Bratovoieşti, Calopăr, Melineşti – DJ; Albeni, Săuleşti, Stăneşti – GJ; Umbrăreşti –

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GL; Beriu, Bucureşci, Burjuc – HD; Ceacu, M. Kogălniceanu – IL; Husnicioara – MH; Spineni – OT; Roşia – SB; Mănăstirea Humor, Valea Banc – SV; Neatârnarea – TL; Orbeasca de Sus – TR; Berbeşti, Boroşeşti, Frânceşti, Mitrofani – VL; Oşeşti – VS) "dense and obscure forest, made up of trees of various kinds" (*Dicţionarul entopic al limbii române*).

The word *DESIŞ* is formed by derivation with the collective suffix ***-iş*** from the Romanian adjective ***des*** (which, in its turn, comes from the Latin word *densus*). In most dictionaries and glossaries, we can find three synonyms formed by suffix change: *des**et**, des**ime*** (*deş**ime***) and *des**işte***.

deset s.n., pl. *desete*: **1.** "desiş" (Porucic; Rotaru, Oprescu); **2.** (Crăciuneşti, Poienile de sub Munte – MM) "land covered by vegetation, by trees of various kinds"; etymology: Romanian adjective ***des*** + collective suffix ***-et*** (*Dicţionarul entopic al limbii române*);

desime s.f., pl. *desimi*: **1.** "desiş"; **2.** (Gârda Seacă, Şugag – AB; Criş, Criva, Ştei, Vaţa de Jos – HD; Selişte – SB) "dense and obscure forest, made up of trees of various kinds"; etymology: Romanian adjective ***des*** + collective suffix ***-ime*** (*Dicţionarul entopic al limbii române*);

desişte s.f.: (Nehoiu – BZ) *desiş*; etymology: Romanian adjective ***des*** + suffix ***-işte*** (*Dicţionarul entopic al limbii române*);

deşime s.f.: (Tilişca – SB) "dense and obscure forest, made up of trees of various kinds"; etymology: Romanian adjective ***des*** + collective suffix ***-ime*** (*Dicţionarul entopic al limbii române*).

Another very important instrument for the researcher interested in the forest terminology is *Atlasul lingvistic roman pe regiuni* (ALRR). In the volume consecrated to the historical provinces of Wallachia and Dobrudja, one can find a lot of useful information. For instance, the linguistic map n^{o}. 407, question [1295]: "*How do you call a place in the forest where there are so many trees that one can barely walk through*?"

There are two main answers which cover almost entirely the above-mentioned linguistic map: *desiş*, *desişuri* (with the local phonetic variants *deşiş*, *deşişuri*, *deşâş*, *deşâşuri*) [°677, °708, °710, °722, °723, °725, °730, °797, °803, °804, °808, °822, °823, °826, °837, °840, °846, °849, °886, °888, °893, °984, °896]; *pădure deasă/ dense forest* [°671, °673, °689, °709, °711, °714, °716, °720, °733, °735, °749, °751, °753,°769, °814, °816, °823, °873, °893, °899].

Another relatively frequent answer is the word *desime* (with the local phonetic variants *deşime*, *deşâme*) [°702, °794, °796, °799, °839, °847, °875, °877, °884].

Other answers are both rare and isolated. Yet, they make up quite an impressive list of popular words, which clearly demonstrates the richness of the Romanian popular vocabulary: *tuferiş* [°675], *tufiş* [°681], *stufiş*, *stufişuri* [°717, °857], *stuf*, *stufe* [°824], *târşăriş*, *târşărişuri* [°734], *ţăcăriş* [°777], *hăţiş*, hăţişuri" [°750, °752, °756, °813, °839, °847] (with variant *hăţaş*, *hăţaşuri* [°746], *rediş* [°758], *hâgi*, *hâgiuri* [°811], *mărăciniş* [°825], *mărăcini* [°771], *leasă*, *leş*(*i*) [°780, °805], *zăvoi*, *zăvoaie* [°704, °776], *colnic*, *colnici* [°818], *crâng*, *crânguri* [°815], *buşag*, *buşaguri* [°801], *bugeac*, *bugeacuri* [°848].

As far as the lexical structure of the words is concerned, our list is made up of two classes: **a)** underived words (base words or root words); **b)** words formed by derivation with the collective suffix ***-iş***.

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As far as the etymology is concerned, these words are borrowed either from Old Slavic, or from Slavic languages spoken in neighbouring countries, and also from Turkish, while others in this list are expressive formations or have unknown etymology.

Some answers are more complex: usually a collocation (noun + adjective). Trying to be more precise, some subjects reduplicate the adjectival determiner: *pădure dosnică, deasă/ thick, isolated forest* [°717], *pădure uriaşă, seculară/ huge, old forest* [°699], *părdure virgină, surdă/ virgin, deafened forest* [°890].

Other answers: *pădure lăstărită/ brushwood* [°707], *lăstar des/ thick offshoot* [°819], *pădure mare/ large forest* [°696, °756], *pădure bătrână/ old forest* [°834, °897], *pădure tânără, lăstari/ young forest, offshoots* [°854], *boşchet dă copaci/ bush* [°774], *deşime dă codru/ thick woods* [°821], *codru dă pădure deasă/ woods, thick forest* [°766].

If the *dimensions* of *desiş*/*the dense forests* are generally agreed on (*pădure mare/large, huge forest*), with regard to the *age* of the forest the answers are more numerous, but divergent:

a. [pădure] *seculară/ old* forest

b. [pădure**]** *tânără, lăstărită/ young* forest; *lăstar/ offshoot, lăstari/ offshoots*.

In *Atlasul lingvistic român*, the 2nd volume, *G – Pădurărit*, one can find the linguistic map n°. 586, [question 6362 – *DESIŞ*], where the answers given by the subjects fall into two groups: **a)** synonyms derived from the same base word, by suffix change: *des**iş*** (with local phonetic variants) [°182, °219, °386, °414, °514, °531, °551, °605, °682, °728, °791, °876, °987], *des**et*** (with local phonetic variants) [°260, 279, °334, °346, °353], *des**ime*** (with local phonetic variants) [°36, °64, °76, °250, °537, °574]; **b)** other words: *sâhlă* [°365], with the phonetic variant *ţâlhă* [°833], *higi, higiş* [°784], with the phonetic variant *hâgi* [°723]; *crâng* [°812], *smidă, smidăraie* [°551] (etymology uncertain), *stufiş* [°872, °928].

Sometimes, the answer is a rellevant collocation: most often, pădure *deasă/ dense forest* [°27, °102, °105, °136, °141, °228, °310, °705], but also tufă *deasă/ sense shrub* [°29], *cerăt des/ dense growth of trees* [°272], *lăstar des/ dense offshoot* [°762], *tot crâng de mărăcini/ brambles* [°848], *desiş de pădure/ thicket* [°886].

If *DESIŞ* illustrates the "dense forest", semantic group *RARIŞTE* illustrates the "sparse forest" semantic group, which is equally important for the Romanian forest terminology.

RARIŞTE/SPARSE FOREST

Dicţionarul limbii române gives the following definition for *RARIŞTE* "loc (într-o pădure) unde copacii sunt rari"/ "place (in a forest) with a sparse growth of trees". The word is formed by derivation from the base word (adjective) ***rar****/rare, sparse* with the collective suffix ***-işte***.

In *Dicţionarul limbii române* as well as in other lexicographic works, we have found the following synonymic series: *alesătură, dumbrăveală, ierişte, răret, răr*ime, *răriş, răriştiţ*, *răritură, rărătură, tufăriş*.

Unlike *tăietură, arsură, jarişte, laz* or *runc* which all express a complete deforestation (the degree of clearing is maximal) or *poiană, colnic, golişte, limpeziş, luminiş, ochi* which all express a well-defined clear space in the middle of a forest (the degree of clearing is medium), the words that make up the synonymic series of *RARIŞTE* express *a certain distribution of the growth of trees, but not its complete*

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absence (so the degree of clearing is minimal).

In *Atlasul lingvistic român pe regiuni* (ALRR), the volume dedicated to the provinces of Wallachia and Dobrudja, one can find the linguistic map n°. 409, question [1297]: "*How do you call a place in the forest where trees are not thickset, but rather sparse*?"

There are three answers that make up significant lexical areas on the map: *răritură*, *rărituri*, *răriş*, *rărişuri* and the collocation *pădure rară/sparse forest*.

Out of the word family of the Romanian adjective *rar/sparse, rare*, one can find several synonyms of *RARIŞTE* on the linguistic map n°. 409: *răr**işte*** [°677, °682, °686, °730, °764, °817, °859, °861], *răr**iş***, *rărişuri* [°763, °775, °782, °783, °806, °808, °851, °858, °863, °884], *rări**tură***, *rărituri* [°674, °678, °687, °816, °820, °831, °844, °852, °853, °874, °878, °880, °882, °883], *răr**ime***, *rărimi* [°792, °796, °810, °860].

One can also find two collocations: *pădure rară/ sparse forest* [°706, °762, °773, °799, °812, °819, °823, °827, °830, °833, °871, °873, °876, °881, °883, °889, etc.], with the variant *pădure mai rară/ even sparser forest* [°807, °811, °814, °818, °829, °835, etc.] and *pădure rărită/ thinned out forest* [°673, °679]. It is interesting to note that, whereas the first collocation describes a natural phenomenon, the second implies human intervention.

There were isolated answers such as *dumbravă* (meaning "young and sparse forest") [°713, °815, °849].

So far, we have only mentioned those terms which are logically connected to the question asked by the linguistic field researcher. But there are many answers suggesting that some subjects provide definitions of their own for some words and these are quite different from those recorded in dictionaries. There is some logical implication in the question, namely – the forest is not thick, but the growth of trees is sparse: **1.** there *are* trees; **2.** the degree of clearing is *minimal*.

Despite that, many subjects use words which imply the *absence* of trees: *poiană*, *poieni*, *poiene/ clearing* [°704, °756, °757, °758, °760, °765, °777, °781, °837, °838, °841, °843], *luminiş*, *luminişuri/glade* [°716, °717, °752, °779, °822], *limpezâş*, *limpezâşuri/ glade*) [°748, °776], *gol*, *goluri/ treeless space inside a forest* [°735, °747], *gol de pădure/ clearing* [°743], *goliş*, *golişuri/ treeless space inside a forest* [°873, °893].

A special class of forest-related words and collocations is represented by *tautological constructions*, typical of Romanian popular and regional language, and therefore impossible to translate: *răritură dă pădure* [°710], *pădure cu răritură* [°696].

Certain answers suggest a modern lexical influence – namely, that of modern forestry: *pădure izolată, cu arbori izolaţi/ isolated forest, with isolated trees* [°711] or *teren cu arbori rari/land covered by a sparse growth of trees* [°698].

By contrast, some other isolated answers are poetical to the highest degree: *pădure răzleaţă/scattered forest* [°695], *cărare/ narrow path* [°834] or at least expressive *maidan*, *maidanuri/waste land* [°867].

In *Atlasul lingvistic român*, 2nd volume, *G – Pădurărit*, one can find the linguistic map n°. 588, question [6371] "Cum îi ziceţi la partea aceea din pădure unde copacii sunt rari?"/ "How do you call that part of the forest with a sparse growth of trees?" As expected, the collocation *pădure rară/ sparse forest* is the most frequent answer, recorded in all historical provinces of Romania: Transylvania [°95, °102,

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°105, °157, °182, °284], Moldavia [°531, °605], Banat [°2, °29], Oltenia [°876], Wallachia [°723, °928], Dobrudja [°987].

Other answers – nouns formed by derivation from the adjective *rar*: *rarişte* [°192, °784], with the phonetic variant *răriște* [°64, °219, °228, °235, °279]; *răritură* [°272, °334, °682], *răriş* [°53, °130, °791, °833], *răriştiş* [°762], *rărime* [°36, °172], all of them meaning "a forest with a sparse growth of trees". One word does not fit into this semantic series, namely *tufăriş* (a collective noun derived from the Romanian word *tufiș/bush*) [°848].

Although the Romanian forest terminology is famous for its impressive "linguistic echoes" in toponymy and anthroponymy, there is only one toponym related to *RARIŞTE – Rariştea* (CT). As one can easily see from these two linguistic monographs, the forest terminology is one of the oldest, most fruitful and linguistically relevant popular terminologies in Romanian.

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