ASPECTS OF THE VOCABULARY IN DIMITRIE BOLINTINEANU'S WORK[1]

***Abstract**: In the 19th century, the vocabulary of the Romanian language is generally part of the literary norms. The aspects concerning the vocabulary refer to the adaptation of neologisms and the use of archaic, regional and folk terms, but also to their coexistence within the vocabulary. At this stage of the Romanian language evolution, dominated by the French influence, in Bolintineanu's work, there are to be found also Greek and Turkish words.*

***Keywords**: neologism, archaism, regionalism.*

The vocabulary of old literary Romanian language was poor, the syntax was clumsy and confusing, the morphology contained double or triple forms of the same word, without making a semantic distinction. Old literary Romanian language was intended to serve a less developed culture, primarily governed by theology.

The role of religious books printed in the old age of Romanian culture cannot be contested in what the further development of the Romanian language is concerned.

The representatives of the Transylvanian School are the ones who brought a new orientation in the Romanian culture, dominated at the time by the Phanariot sovereignty, through their linguistic, grammatical or rhetorical works to enrich the historical Latin background by introducing a large number of Romanic neologisms, which during the years replaced the Turkish and Greek words so used in the 18th century in the language of the dominant classes in Moldavia and Wallachia. A new terminology, new orthographical and orthoepic rules were required.

The initiatives of the Transylvanian School representatives were successfully continued by Ion Heliade Rădulescu and the writers who participated in the revolution of 1848 and who were grouped around the major literary journals and magazines of the time: *Curierul rumânesc, Albina românească, Gazeta Teatrului național, Curierul de ambe sexe, Alăuta românească, Foaie pentru minte, inimă şi literatură, Propăşirea, Foaie ştiinţifică şi literară, Popolul suveran, gazetă politică şi literară, Revista Carpaţilor* etc..

Alongside the development of natural sciences, the reorganization of the state and of the social life, the revolutionary generation of 1848 went further to the modernization of the Romanian language that in the 19th century receives new meanings related primarily to the differentiation of language styles.

> The glorious revolutionary generation of 1848 wrote an excellent modern literary language, their style being able to rise to the level of the old traditional literary languages in Europe. Asachi's, Negruzzi's, Alecsandri's Kogalniceanu's, Alexandrescu's, Bolintineanu's, Alecu Russo's works, the various articles printed in Transylvania by Gh. Barițiu are the testimony of the literary language development, of the collective effort in the field of literature and modern language. (Bulgăr, 1966: 24).

The Romanian press had an important role in the spread of the great number of neologisms, which were included in the Romanian language in the period of 1829-1860, and in the changing of the syntax of the literary Romanian language, especially under the influence of French language.

[1] Alina-Maria Tisoaică, University of Pitești, amtv3@yahoo.com.

BDD-A5891 © 2011 Universitatea din Pitești
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 18.97.14.86 (2026-09-16 12:41:05 UTC)

Besides press, the translations represented another channel through which new scientific, legal and administrative terms entered the language.

> Many translations have glossaries of neologisms at the end, and in the prefaces of some of them there are discussed various issues regarding the need for lexical borrowing, the adaptation of the neologisms, the development and the unification of phonetic and morphological norms of literary Romanian language and others. (Ursu, 2004: 232).

Regarding the vocabulary of the works created by the writers of the 1848 generation, it is characterized by the coexistence of several elements: neologisms, archaisms, regionalisms and popular terms.

In Dimitrie Bolintineanu's work, most of the words belong to the basic word stock which is included in the literary norm of the epoch. What marks the work of many writers of 1848, as well as that of Bolintineanu, is the presence of neologisms in the fundamental vocabulary. During this period, the Moldovian and Wallachian writers also influenced, in part, by Heliade Rădulescu's theories, chose, according to their own culture and formation, neologisms which had entered either directly from the original language (French, Italian, Latin), or by different channels, usually by the Russian one, especially in the case of the Moldavian writers.

The adaptation of neologisms was made both phonetically and morphologically and from a semantic point of view. Thus, phonetically, most of the problems of adaptation were created by the neologisms of French origin, which are the most numerous.

There is a number of neologisms that entered the Romanian language orally and these are closer to the French etymon: *capriţiile < caprices, seanţă < séance, preponderant < prépondérant, sujet < sujet, amploiat < employé, jaluzie < jalousie, ierarhie < hiérarchie.*

The neologisms that have a formal aspect: *recomendat, epohă, duh (spirit),* which although are of French origin, entered the Romanian language by Russian channel. The neologisms containing the suffix *-ie* and those ending in the suffix *-iune* are considered to belong to the Russian channel, too, the latter being in competition with the first: *acţie - acţiune, misie - misiune*. The *-ie* ending is one of the modalities of adaptation and assimilation of the neologisms of Latin origin ending in –io/-ionis, of French and German origin ending in *–ion* and of Italian origin ending in *–ion*e.

The neological nouns of Greek origin ending in *-tov* or of Latin origin ending in *-ius / -ium* were adapted to the Romanian language also by the *-ie* ending: *imperie, ministerie, consilie*, but these nouns had, even from the end of the 18th century, also variants ending in *-iu*: *consiliu, imperiu, ministeriu*, forms that remained in the modern literary language, too.

Some of these nouns are found in Bolintineanu's work also without the *-ie* or *-iu* ending: *comerţ, ofiţ, prinţip / princip, viţ* etc.

In Bolintineanu's work, there are more frequently used neologisms ending in *-iune*: *producţiunele*, *abnegaţiune*, *destrucţiunei*, *indispoziţiunea*, a fact which proves the writer's inclination towards the Italian model, towards Cipariu's theories, and sometimes towards those of Aron Pumnul.

> In terms of adaptation to a system of forms, the model often remains still the Italian language. Thus, the *-iune* ending used by Cipariu for the nouns of a Latin-Romanic origin with French correspondent ending in *-ion*, the Italian corresondent ending in *-ione*, the Latin one ending in *-io / -ionis* (*ocupaţiuni,*

BDD-A5891 © 2011 Universitatea din Piteşti
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 18.97.14.86 (2026-09-16 12:41:05 UTC)

prefațiune (it. *prefazione*), *considerațiune, observațiuni, opiniune* etc.) follows the rule lat. *ionem* > rom. *iune* (it. *ione*). (Diaconescu, 1974: 28).

For the Latin nouns ending in *-io, -ionis*, usually preceded by the consonant *t*, the adaptation to Romanian language was made either in *-ciune*, with t + i > è, or in *-țiune* with t + i > ț. The forms in *-ciune* occur sporadically in Bolintineanu, the forms in *-țiune* being more frequently used: *indicațiune, opozițiune, imaginațiune*.

> Most of these neologisms are used today with the *-ie* ending. The adaptation in *-iune* suggested by the Latinists was, at the beginning, felt as pedantic and, among other Latinist exaggerations, was for a long time the subject of some attacks and ironies from the part of the writers who supported the development of literary Romanian language in a historical and popular spirit. (Ursu, 2004: 291).

D. Bolintineanu, a partial advocate of Heliade Rădulescu's theories, uses in his texts Italian words of the type: *sorginte "sursă", în darn "în zadar", manegiare "manevrare", surfața, orizonte, santa.*

More than Italian words, Bolintineanu uses Latin words: *angel, demon, gloria, inventă, june, cadaver / cadever.*

In the novel *Elena*, there are to be found also neologisms ending in the Purist version of the suffix *-ment*, respectively *-mânt*: *evenimânt, temperamânt, complimânt, ornamântul, acompanemânt, înconvenântele, simțământele*.

The French sound *s*, the affricates *è* and *ǒ* and the palatal consonant *ġ* followed by *e, i* appear sometimes adapted by *ț*: *seanță* < fr. *séance, Franția* < fr. *France, prințipiu* < fr. *principe, soțietate* < fr. *société, proțes* < fr. *procés, danț* < fr. *danse, vițiu* < fr. *vice , sențual* < fr. *sensuel*.

The phonetic tendency of italienization is observed in such words as: *cualitate, consecuință, descuragiat, descuragietoare, încuragiată, să încuragieze, protegiată/ protegeată, coragiu, limbagiu, etagiul, pavagiul, maritagiu*, words in which Bolintineanu uses the sounds: *ĉ* for *ț*, *cu* for *c*, *ġ* for *j*, *gu* for *g* or *s* for *x*.

The form of the word *seculi* (following the Latin model) also refers to the Italian language, by associating it with the gender of the correspondent words: it. masc. *secolo*, lat. *saeculum* / *seculum* - *i*.

Among the neologisms that until 1830 - 1840 kept the digraph *ch*, being words that came from Latin, Polish, German, French or Italian, where this was pronunced *h*, in Bolintineanu's work there appear more reborrowed variants that are still used today: *caracter, haos, himeră, himeric*, although in that period they also had parallel forms: *caos, chimeră, echo.*

The neologisms of Latin-Romanic and German origin containing the prefixes *in-, inter-, intro-*, have double forms in this period: *îndignat / indignat, înteres/ interes, înteresat/ interesat, înformație / informație, împresie / impresie, încarnat / incarnat, întonau / intonau, însuflă / insuflă etc.*.

The intervocalic *x* or the one from the prefixes *ex- extra-* is written *s* or *ss*. This category also includes words that contain the prefix *stra-* (*stră-*), which has some apparitions in Bolintineanu too: *straordinar*, *straordinare*, *străordinar*. This tendency of replacing *x* by *s* can be attributed to a similarity that associates the respective neologisms with the form of the inhereted words in which the intervocalic *x* became *s* and the prefixes *ex-* and *extra-* became *s-*, respectively *stră-*: *lăsa, măsea, spulbera, spune, stoarce, strica, strămuta, străpunge* (accdg. Ursu, 2004: 281)

BDD-A5891 © 2011 Universitatea din Pitești
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 18.97.14.86 (2026-09-16 12:41:05 UTC)

Latin nouns ending in *-antia*, *-entia*, and those of Polish origin ending in *-ancja*, *-encja*, of Hungarian origin ending in *-ancia*, *-encia*, of Serbo-Croatian origin ending in *-ancija*, *-encija*, of French origin ending in *-ance*, *-ence*, of Italian origin ending in *-anza*, *-enza*, of German origin ending in *-anz*, *-enz* were adapted to the Romanian language ending in *-anță*, *-ență*. Such examples may be: *clemență, indipendență / independență, corespondență / corispondență, dipendență / dependență, regență, siguranță, speranță, violență, abondanță / abundanță, importanță, indiferență, inteligență, neglijență.*

All these neological nouns ending in *-ență* had doublets in *-ință*, which were also used by Bolintineanu: *independință, inteligință, indiferință*.

The adaptation of neologisms ending in *-tor*, be they nouns or adjectives, was made following the pattern of the inherited or derived words with the suffix *-tor*: *autor, factor, imperator, orator, protector, sculptor, senator, vizitator, actor, tutor* etc.

Similar to the nouns and adjectives ending in *-tor* / *-toriu*, are those ending in *-sor (-zor) / -soriu (-zoriu)*, neologisms that came from the Latin *-(s)sor / -sorius*, the French - *(s)seur / -soire*, the Italian *-(s)sore / -sorio*, the German *-(s)sor: agresor*, *cenzor*, *furnizor* etc.

The neological nouns of Latin origin ending in *-or / -oris*, of French origin ending in *-eur*, of Italian origin ending in *-ore* were adapted to Romanian ending in *-oare*. Under this form they appear in Bolintineanu, too: *ardoare, candoare, culoare / coloare, onoare, pudoare, savoare, splendoare* etc.

In the 19th century, these nouns had a variant in *-or: ardor, color, favor, eror, licor, onor, oror, splendor, vigor.* The noun *amor* is used by Bolintineanu also with its form *amoare*, a fact that proves the presence of some variants ending in *-oară, -oră*, but which are less representative for this writer.

In terms of morphology, the most common variations are found when establishing the gender of neological nouns. Thus, there appear the following forms which are different from the contemporary literary language (accdg. Mancaş, 1974: 42):

- neuter forms for feminine forms: *problem, color, onor, favor.*
- feminine forms for neuter forms: *o stratǎ* for *un strat*, *murmurǎ* for *murmur*.
- neuter forms for masculine forms: *individe* for *indivizi*
- masculine forms for neuter forms: *secoli*, *timpi*.
- masculine forms for feminine forms: eliți, formi, un lesped.

It is to be noted that the plural desinence *-i* of the feminine nouns with the singular in *-ă* is more frequently used in the Wallachian dialects.

The verbal forms are used by Bolintineanu both without a suffix (forms which in the contemporary Romanian language do have a suffix): *să complecte* for *să completeze*, *o devoară* for *o devorează*, *să protégé* for *să protejeze*, and with a suffix (forms which in the contemporary Romanian language do not have a suffix anymore): *circulează* for *circulă*, *să meriteze* for *să merite*, *să compromiteze* for *să compromită*.

The semantic adaptation of neologisms is based on calques, elements that in the period of transition were very frequent. There are three main types of calques:

- semantic calques: *conlucrător "colaborator"* < fr. *collaborateur, aplecare "înclinație"* < fr. *inclination, conlucra "colabora"* < fr. *collaborer, înrăurire "influență"* < fr. *influence, privire "aspect"* < fr. *regard.*
- structure calques: *desplăceri "neplăceri"* < fr. *déplaisir,* it. *dispiacere*, *simțământ "sentiment"* < fr. *sentiment, presentiment* < fr. *pressentiment*.

BDD-A5891 © 2011 Universitatea din Pitești
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 18.97.14.86 (2026-09-16 12:41:05 UTC)

- phraseological calques: *ai pietate de mine* < fr. *avoir pitié; îți cer pardon* < fr. *demander (le) pardon*; *Elena se puse la piano* < fr. *se mettre au piano*; *Toată ziua Elescu o trecu la Elena* < cf. fr. *passer la journée*.

At the language level, one can not speak about a lexical rule either in the works of the writers of 1848 or in any other period. What is to be noted is that between 1830 - 1870, regionalisms and archaisms were used by all Romanian writers.

In Bolintineanu's poems and novels there are more regionalisms specific to Wallachia: *îmbălsămit, îmsmălțat, să turbur, complângeri, căutare / cătare "privire", mumă, cată a slăbi "a încerca", baibuh, hârburile "rămăşițele", pacinaților, hârcele, franşă , hotarnicul, huleşte "înjură", a înturna "a se întoarce", soață "soție", butilci "sticle", să atriste "a întrista", trebuie a te corigea "a te corecta"* etc..

The archaisms used by Bolintineanu and by the Wallachian writers of this period are largely modern Greek or Turkish terms, elements of the passive vocabulary: *hadân, cherchează, hurioară, sarai, hadini, geamia, beghir, alcovanul, havuzu, cafazul, hanimă, padişah, ghiaură, porfîr, ciflicuri, hrăpiri, fiastri etc*..

It is to be mentioned that the vocabulary of Bolintineanu's work did not follow a single tendency that existed in the epoch, but it is more a mixture of the proposed theories, especially in terms of the adaptation of neologisms. The use of archaisms and regionalisms, although they are not normally accepted by the tendency of modernization of the language, appears in the works of the writers of 1848, and consequently in that of Bolintineanu, due to the need to express terms related to events occurring in that period or another.

Bibliography

Bulgăr, Gh., *Problemele limbii literare în concepția scriitorilor români*, Bucureşti, Editura Didactică şi Pedagogică, 1966

Diaconescu, P., *Structură şi evoluție în morfologia substantivului românesc*, Bucureşti, Editura Academiei, 1970

Diaconescu, P., *Elemente de istorie a limbii române literare moderne*, Bucureşti, Editura Universității din Bucureşti, 1974

Mancaş, M., *Istoria limbii române literare. Perioada modernă (secolul al XIX-lea)*, Bucureşti, Tipografia Universității din Bucureşti, 1974

Ursu, N.A., Ursu, D., *Împrumutul lexical în procesul modernizării limbii române literare, I, Studiu lingvistic şi de istorie culturală*, Iaşi, Editura Cronica, 2004.

BDD-A5891 © 2011 Universitatea din Pitești
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 18.97.14.86 (2026-09-16 12:41:05 UTC)