

Marinuşa Constantin, *Creativitatea lexicală în limba română veche* [*Lexical creativity in the old Romanian language*], Preface by Petre Gheorghe Bârlea, “Muzeul Literaturii Române” Publishing House, Aula Magna Collection, Bucharest, 2017, 319 p.

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The book *Creativitatea lexicală în limba română veche* [*Lexical creativity in the old Romanian language*], a valuable contribution to diachronic lexicology, signed by Marinuşa Constantin, a member of the teaching staff at “Valahia” University of Tîrgovişte and at the Department of Romanian Language, Culture and Civilization of the Polytechnic University of Bucharest, was published at “Muzeul Literaturii Române” Publishing House, in the *Aula Magna* Collection, initiated by the literary critic and historian Lucian Chişu and it is intended for young researchers in the field of philology.

Based on the author’s doctoral research, the book has a preface written by Professor Petre Gheorghe Bârlea, who was the author’s scientific supervisor. Being focused on the analysis of some aspects of prefixal derivation from the old stage of the Romanian literary language, performed with modern linguistic methods and tools, the importance of the work is revealed to us from several perspectives.

Firstly, the study focuses on one aspect of derivational morphology, *delocution* (or *delocutive derivation*, as Florica Dimitrescu calls it, or *post-locutionary derivation*, according to Theodor Hristea), a branch of prefixal derivation. It is seen from the *constructivist* perspective, based on the *associative-stratified model* (proposed by French linguist Danielle Corbin, in *Morphologie dérivationnelle et structuration du lexique*, vol. I–II, Tübingen, 1987) and applied to several linguistic materials excerpted from diverse religious and secular texts, belonging to the first two stages of evolution of the Romanian literary language (1532–1640, respectively 1640–1780), accepted as such by most specialists.

Secondly, we are dealing with a type of diachronic research, carried out on a very rich lexical material, excerpted from the current dictionaries of

the Romanian language and from a large number of texts, originals and translations, from the above mentioned period, and concerns a phase from the evolution of the language that still needs detailed research.

Thirdly, the complexity of the tackled topic must be underlined, given that “the research is, in essence, an analysis of delocution from an etymological, logical-semantic, stylistic-functional perspective, with an emphasis on the logical-semantic aspect” (*Introduction*, p. 19), also aiming at the “confirmation of the so-called «generative derivational competence»” (*loc. cit.*), extremely necessary in the process of lexical creativity and examining “the establishment of a system of the hierarchical mechanism of delocution” (*ibid.*, p. 20), which is based on the prefixes *a-*, *de-* and *în-*.

A complex topic also requires a complex approach methodology. The author uses a wide range of methods, techniques, and tools. Among the research methods, which, in the opinion of the signatory of the preface, “definitely represent (...) the most significant” element of added value (p. 6), the main place is occupied by the descriptive method, associated with the constructivist perspective we have talked about. These have as background the morphological and semantic principles assumed by the chosen research model, but also that of analogy, which is present especially in the remodeling of verbal paradigms. The phonetic principle is added to these, being necessary in order to explain some changes in the form of the derivative word in relation to the base (see the case of *inflori* / *bloom*). The research is performed in diachrony, which involves the use of some aspects of the comparative method related mainly to chronology and frequency. The author also uses the functional analysis, which allows

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the reduction of different variants of a derivative to an invariant, and, less so, to onomasiology, the main objective being not the exhaustive classification of notions. The analysis grids are adapted to the religious and secular texts on the basis of which the research is carried out.

Seen as a whole, the book is a harmonious construction, appropriate to the theme and logically following the stages of the research. The five-chapter structure preceded by a necessary *Introduction* and succeeded by *General Conclusions* and *Bibliography* responds to the objective needs required by the complexity of the issues under discussion. The work ends with the very useful *Index of Affixes* and *Index of Words*, organized by language of origin, which emphasize its scientific destination and facilitates the reader's access to the rich number of analyzed forms, which, as Professor P.Gh. Bârlea notices, "constitutes an already valuable source of information for future studies of vocabulary, historical grammar, dialectology, comparison, stylistics, mentality theory, etc." (*Preface*, p. 9).

In *Introduction*, the author argues her choice of the topic, presents the structure of the book, the state of the research, the methods, the selection of terms and makes the appropriate terminological clarifications. Regarding the state of research, there are valuable national and international contributions regarding derivation with prefixes in general (see, in addition to the contributions of Danielle Corbin, the work of Mark Aronoff in 1976, *Word Formation in Generative Grammar*, Cambridge, the already classic *Formarea cuvintelor în limba română* [*Word Formation in Romanian*] (FCLR) or the 2007 volume, coordinated by Magdalena Popescu-Marin, on word formation in the 16th and 17th centuries). At the same time, we can notice the lack of Romanian research from the perspective of the Corbinian model or of an analysis of the metaphorical process, of the type proposed for the verbs derived with the prefixes *în-* and *a-*.

Chapter I, entitled *Derivation from a constructivist perspective*, presents the theoretical framework for the analysis of the phenomenon of delocutive derivation. More precisely, several ways of interpreting this process, in the manner of D. Corbin, are present since the old stages of the Romanian literary language, through the *derivational competence*. This is related to the relationship between form and meaning

within the *constructed word* (where its compositional meaning is conditioned by the relationship between the predictability of its lexical meaning and its morphological structure). The author insists on the rules of "word construction (RCC), which act systematically both at the base and in the constructed word, assuming the existence of categorial, semantic-syntactic and morphological operations" (p. 69), as well as on the rules of semantic construction of words (RCSC, in the work).

In the second chapter, *A-₁, de-₃, în-₁ with value of pre-verb, preposition, prefix*, the value with which these formants are used is discussed and specified, taking into account the "problem imposed by the grammatical homonymy of the words *a*, *de* and *în* from the perspective of the lexico-grammatical functions which the three elements inherited from popular Latin fulfil, namely, preposition, pre-verb and prefix, restricting the sphere of analysis to the perspective of the pre-verb-prefix relation" (p. 21–22). "Some aspects related to the theory of the 'preverb' concept, respectively, to the semantic classes and functions exercised by this particle, in the diachronic and synchronic plan" are highlighted (*ibid.*, p. 22).

In the fundamental third chapter, *Aspects of delocution in the old literary Romanian language*, which constitutes the center of gravity of the book, the transition to the research applied on the corpus established by the author is made. It compiles an inventory of postlocutionary derivatives with the prefixes *a-*, *de-* and *în-*, from the main old texts of the 16th–18th centuries. The inventory takes into account the specialized categorial relationships existing between the lexico-grammatical themes and the mentioned prefixes, the delocutive derivation patterns and their degree of productivity.

The author observes the mechanisms that ensure the continuity of the terms attested in the first period and the construction of others, which require the development of all the compartments of the language, especially lexicology and morphology: "The phenomenon of delocution, often found in texts of the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries, provides information on the shaping of logical-semantic and morphological patterns which act systematically and hierarchically within the lexicon" (p. 102).

Chapter IV, entitled *Logical-semantic patterns of derivatives with a-₁ and în-₁*, represents an approach

to delocutive derivation from a logical-semantic and syntactic perspective. Thus, the author follows the conceptual values expressed by the affixes *a-*, *de-* and *în-*, in relation to the themes to which they are attached, and makes a distinction between the subtypes of eventive verbs, depending on the [*dynamic*], [*change*] semes.

The fifth chapter, *Verbs derived with în- with a metaphorical evolution*, combines the figures of narration theory proposed by the μ Group in *General Rhetoric* with the perspectives of cognitive theory on metaphor, launched by G. Lakoff and M. Johnson in *Metaphors We Live By*, delimiting a semantic micro-field of metaphors with *în-*.

Following this complex approach, Marinușa Constantin reaches some exceptionally important general conclusions, in the context of diachronic linguistics, in general, and of the study of the old Romanian literary language, in particular.

The following aspects are to be noticed: the productivity of delocutive derivation in old Romanian texts, where the prefix *în-* is preferred in a large number of denominative verbs, adjectives and parasynthetic nouns (554 occurrences); certain aspects of the dynamics of the language in the old period, in both categories of texts—religious and secular—prefixed and nonprefixed forms from the same basis being used in parallel; the process of evolution and refinement of our literary language in its old phase, from the competition of prefixed and nonprefixed forms to the use of derivatives with *în-* and *a-* for stylistic and prosodic reasons, by Dosoftei and Cantemir; the expression of the logical-semantic values of the derivatives with *în-*, which is done according to the parts of speech which constitute the basis; the difficult dissociation between the eventive and the causative value of some verbs (especially,

eventive reflexive), in the old Romanian texts; the generative analysis to which the verbs derived with *în-* can be subjected, thus observing the application of some rules of prelexical transformation, in which most often the primary verb *a deveni* / *to become* appears; the polysemy of nouns and adjectives derived with *în-*; the predominance of ontological metaphors, etc.

The bibliography, divided into categories of sources, is very rich, appropriate to the topic and updated, and the author constantly proves throughout the book that she knows how to use it intelligently, precisely because of the appropriate selection and critical acquisition of concepts and theories. Moreover, the richness of the documentation and the good appropriation of theories and models are also reflected in the clear, flowing and precise textual expression.

Finally, it is worth emphasizing that the work not only identifies, describes and analyzes, scientifically and professionally, old language facts through modern theories, thus constituting a landmark in the diachronic study of our language, but it also opens new directions of research, new opportunities for study and reflection, primarily for lexicologists and lexicographers, who are consequently forced to revise or complete the etymology of certain terms. The author herself aims to follow the process of delocutive derivation in the periods of modern and contemporary Romanian language. This kind of research would also be possible at the Romance languages comparison level. In addition, the book is a valuable and useful working tool for students and teachers in the field of philology, as well as for the general public who is interested in the development of the Romanian language.