

“VASILE ALECSANDRI” UNIVERSITY OF BACĂU
Faculty of Letters

**The Shaping of Linguistic Identity:
Interdisciplinary Perspectives**

The abstract of the habilitation thesis

Domain: Philology

PhD Associate Professor Nadia-Nicoleta MORĂRAȘU

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PhD Associate Professor Nadia-Nicoleta Morărașu

“Vasile Alecsandri” University of Bacău

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The habilitation thesis entitled *The Shaping of Linguistic Identity Interdisciplinary Perspectives* describes the scientific and professional achievements obtained after being awarded the doctoral degree in Philology, in 2007, as well as my future directions of professional, scientific or didactic development.

In my position of academic, I recommend myself as an explorer of languages, who attempts to identify and use effectively bridges and junctions among different fields of research. In other words, I am not interested in investigating the dynamics of English language by confining it within strict disciplinary boundaries to the purpose of my ultra-specialisation. Consequently, instead of a plea in favour of interdisciplinarity *per se*, my thesis provides a mapping of some viable research directions that I have constantly followed in my personal academic itinerary, by adapting well-established theories and models and proposing new ones, under the “cover” of identity theories.

In **Part B-i**, I shall pave the scientific path of my achievements from the postdoctoral period, detailing the research directions in which I have favoured the enrichment of scientific inspiration through diversification of research beyond disciplinary boundaries. My contributions to three main research areas – identity studies, linguistic studies and translation studies – will indicate their overlapping and criss-crossing paths.

The most enduring concern in my interdisciplinary journey was the indissoluble relation between language and identity, which is found in my interpretation of the concept of linguistic identity. Therefore, section I.2.1. refers to identity studies based on the language of identity construction vs. studies of the identity of languages in specific contexts. I have started from personal identity disclosed in autobiographical accounts and scholarly identity projected in online communities to broaden the scope of my investigations towards the linguistic construction of identities. My research areas subsumed to identity studies include narrative identity shaped through the language of names, social identity constructed discursively through social types and stereotypes and, last but not least, national, ethnic and gastronomic identities marked by context-bound cultural practices and expressed linguistically by syntagmatic combinations, phraseological expressions and onomastic

devices.

The second research direction that also gives prominence to interdisciplinarity in the approach to languages is supported by some solid pillars of linguistic studies and related disciplines such as onomastics, stylistics, phraseology, sociolinguistics and applied linguistics. The most original contributions I have brought to the development of knowledge in these fields refer to the onomastic sciences. In fact, the recognition of my major interest in onomastic studies by my colleagues was strengthened by my membership in the international community of specialists in onomastic sciences (confirmed by my membership of ICOS, International Council of Onomastic Sciences, since 2008), the publication of a co-authored article in the prestigious journal *Onoma* (2011) and my participation in the ICONN4 International Conference in Baia Mare and the 26th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences in Debrecen in 2017. In exploring the language of names, I have covered a diverse range of research lines, such as name-related terminology, phraseology of names, stylistics of literary names, etc. In addition to this, through the recent publication of a completely original bilingual (English-Romanian) lexicographic material dedicated to onomastic terminology (*English-Romanian Dictionary of Name-related Terms/ Dicționar englez-român de termeni referitori la nume*), I am confident that I have contributed to the expansion of the terminological inventory in this field.

Given that I have succeeded in identifying new research-worthy paths to explore, my scientific approaches to the field of phraseology are also of interest. The inclination towards multi-perspective methods in examining specific linguistic phenomena. Thus, after having studied the grammatical category of comparison contrastively in my diploma thesis, I have adopted a stylistic approach to similes as phrasemes and corpus-based orientations in the investigation of comparison-based rhetorical figures. Section I.2.2.2 illustrates the mechanisms by which the transition can be made, in a scientifically documented manner, from phraseological to poetic comparisons within the same lexicographical framework. The methodology used in conducting the research in *A Dictionary of Similes: from Phrasemes to Tropes* can be applied in dealing with other topics, and the result is a useful teaching tool for students interested in models of creative use of language resources.

Placed at the confluence between language and literary studies, my research in stylistics (materialised in the book *The Stylistic Identity in English Literary Texts*) described in section I.2.2.3 enriched models of linguistic analysis of literary texts by envisaging stylistic identity as formed of three components – authorial identity, textual identity and readership identity, each with relevant linguistic features and specific markers.

The third direction, translation studies, developed in section I.2.2.4 relies on cross-linguistic approaches and corpus-based analyses which proved practical usefulness in solving problems raised by specialised translations.

The prolificacy of my entire research work was ensured by the well-planned management of my projects and the constant dialogue and collaboration, with colleagues of similar orientations regarding identity and name studies. All the research directions further described are reflected in my publications, which include scientific books and articles, written individually or jointly, didactic materials authored, coordinated or edited along the years, thematic issues of scientific journals, book reviews and communications in national/international scientific events. Therefore, through my entire professional activity I have gained recognition among the academics, proven by affiliations to scientific/professional associations or research centres, citations or presence in databases and libraries in the country and abroad.

In view of demonstrating my managerial and organizational abilities, I shall refer to my position of project coordinator of “Europe Direct Bacau Information Centre”, held for the past four years, which enabled me to manage the relationship with the institutional partners of “Vasile Alecsandri” University of Bacău, from the European level (administrative services of the European Commission and of the European Parliament) to the regional and local levels (Bacau County and Bacau Municipality). Taking into account the special nature of this project which is unique in the Romanian academic landscape, I addressed efficiently both the communication with all the institutions involved (administrative institutions, educational institutions, non-governmental organisations etc.) and the research component, due to my adaptability and capacity for transfer of knowledge in the field of official communication. At the faculty level, I have also developed my skills to guide young researchers by coordinating the activities of a student scientific circle, the specialised practice of master’s students and by leading editorial teams for collective publications.

The second part of my thesis has more extensive coverage than the first, on account of the fact that I considered that exposing once again all the facets of my scholarly identity in a projection of future activities at all levels might be deemed as redundant. Therefore, **Part B-ii** includes my professional, scientific and didactical career development plan, indicating mainly the research areas that I intend to address in my future work and outlines the topical issues associated with them. The main orientation will continue to be towards interdisciplinary scientific areas in which I can engage in individual and collaborative applied research.