



ULBS

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PhD THESIS

THE EXPRESSIVENESS OF POPULAR LANGUAGE IN THE NINETEENTH- CENTURY ROMANIAN OUTLAW NOVEL

SUMMARY

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bandits, corpus, expressiveness, graphic representation phonetics, lexical item, linguistics, outlaws, popular language, narration, semantic field, spelling, stylistics, word flexion.

Motivational and methodological introduction

Our doctoral thesis is based on the expressiveness of language in the corpus of novels under analysis. If it had been oriented towards the expressiveness of language, elements that were not socially interpreted would have been analyzed and the research should have been undertaken separately, to observe the conditions of use of optional language formulae in one situation or another. The purpose of our research is to validate the hypothesis regarding the existence of the expressiveness of the nineteenth-century outlaw folk language because it is an aspect that has not yet been explored in relation to Romanian outlaw novels, according to the research done and the bibliography studied.

By noting specific things from novels published in the Romanian literary territory of novels with an outlaw theme from the nineteenth century the meanings of words were deciphered. Our paper deals only with the linguistic aspects of the text, although the valorization of the referent is also highlighted by the iconic representation, present in digitized novels, most of the time, to attract readers. Regarding the types of analyses we propose, we consider it appropriate to articulate the quantitative-qualitative relationship, for the purpose of describing and interpreting lexical specifics. Our research, based on measurable elements, but where the quantitative approach is accompanied by the qualitative one ("using number to make sense", according to Damon Mayaffre), interprets the results obtained by returning to the text and the statement context. Analysis by IT means (reading and concordances programs) of the corpus, in Romanian, allows linguistic specifications to be identified.

The motivation of the research is both theoretical – the intention to investigate the outlaw corpus at the lexical level, semantic, orthographic and syntactic, as well as practical: our research on language structuring with popular valences. The actuality of our work is determined, first of all, by the fact that the popular language of Romanian outlaw works has not been so far the subject of extensive research in Romanian linguistics. This, on the one hand, on the other hand, it should be noted that neither does the comparative perspective of analyzing novels with and about outlaws from the Romanian cultural space it has not materialized in linguistic studies. In other words, The actuality of our research derives from the linguistic aspects studied comparatively, by computer means. We aim for the following objectives, aimed at some of the

characteristics of this type of language: specifying the terms constituting a representative corpus of the language of outlaws; the description of outlaw inventory at lexical, semantic, orthographic and syntactic levels; Customization of existing analysis tools in DLS (digital literary studies) on the diachronic varieties of the Romanian language; an indication of the extent to which popular language is influenced by social context; explaining the expressiveness of popular language. The method used in research is synchronic and comparative, following the analysis of the linguistic means involved.

The structure of the paper includes the introduction, the five chapters, followed by conclusions for each chapter, the outlaw glossary, the concluding remarks, and bibliographic references.

The first chapter of the paper specifies the motivation of the investigation, the purpose of the research and the objectives we have set, the analyzed corpus, the editing mode of the linguistic data used for the thesis and the methodology of the work. Description of the corpus, methodology and tools of work brings up elements of reflection on our methodological options for working on corpus. When I assert that the language of the authors of works with and about outlaws in the nineteenth century is popular, I am thinking of that aspect of our language that opposes its cult aspect. The analyzed works were created in an era when these two aspects of the Romanian language were distinguished from each other, both in terms of vocabulary itself (without the main fund of words), as well as phraseology (in the broad sense of the term, that is, syntactic constructions and stylistic formulas). The starting point of the present research were the novels digitized within the project „ASTRA Data Mining: Muzeul Digital al romanului românesc din secolul al XIX-lea”, the examples extracted accompanied by contextual illustration: C. Boerescu, „Aldo și Aminta sau Bandiții” (1855), N.D. Popescu, „Iancu Jianu, căpitan de haiduci” (1873), N.D. Popescu, „Miul haiducului” (1881), N.D. Popescu, „Tunsul haiducului” (1881), D.D.P., „Grozeav, mare haiduc național” (1882), N.D. Popescu, „Bujor haiducului” (1882), Panait Macri, „Ioan Tunsu, căpitan de haiduci” (1887), N.D. Popescu, „Iancu Jianu, zapciu de plasă” (1887), Ilie Ighel, „Banditul Simion Licinski” (1890), Ilie Ighel, „Moartea banditului Simion Licinski” (1891), G. Rădulescu, „Banditul Rîureanu sau un Țănger în infern” (1891), Th.M. Stoenescu, „Drăgușin haiducului” (1892), N.D. Popescu, „Boierii haiducilor” (1892), Ilie Ighel, „Tâlharul Fulger” (1892), Ilie Ighel, „Dragoș, hoțul Tecucilor” (1892), N.D. Popescu, „Radu Anghel” (1893), Th.M. Stoenescu, „Corbea” (1893), N.D. Popescu, „Tâlhăriile banditului Mihale Bunea” (1894), G. Baronzi, „Mina Haiduceasa, fata codrilor” (1894), Simeon Bălănescu, „Blestemul” (1894) și „Sfârșitul blestemului” (1895), Panait Macri, „Haiducul Țandură” (1894), C.P., „Tâlharii Tecuciului, Tutovei, Putnei, Bacăului și Covurluiului” (1895), Panait Macri, „Bostan, haiduc de peste Milcov” (1899). The fact that the texts did not survive their appearance proves not only that the level of Romanian literary expression was still low, but especially since this form of fiction was foreign to the authentic Romanian soul. It was an important period that had to be crossed so that Romanian literary language could reach the artistic stage it was preparing to reach through the great classics.

Quantitative and qualitative approach in corpus linguistics establish the coordinates of our research in the following chapters of the thesis. Corpus based language facts approach is specific to realistic linguistic analyses, because, we

believe, this is based on real data and does not apply to manufactured examples to justify a study or theory. In this regard, we join the opinion of Bénédicte Pincemin (1999, „Diffusion ciblée automatique d'informations”), which considers the corpus to be the task of descriptive linguistics which observes its regularities. Hence the goals we set ourselves in our work, are to describe the outlaw inventory at lexical, semantic, orthographic and syntactic levels to demonstrate that the expressiveness of popular language is implicit and predominantly functional-linguistic, starting from quantitative and qualitative corpus-based study. We note that working on a computer-processed corpus for research purposes involves an adaptation of linguistic data.

Entitled *The Outlaw in the Novels*, Chapter II of our thesis, brings up a social phenomenon which manifested itself over several centuries and the types of heroes who acquire a new moral profile; themes, ideas, which lead to the configuration of fighters. Banditry played a very important role in the era of popular uprisings of nineteenth-century national liberation. In our country, outlaws have manifested themselves as a force which triggered the fear of looters and oppressors, but also the admiration of the people. Presenting the path of each protagonist in the analyzed novels but also their deeds, a division into two categories was made: novels about outlaws and novels about bandits. Thus, the first category includes: C. Boerescu, „Aldo and Aminta or The Bandits”, N.D. Popescu, „Iancu Jianu, County Leader”, N.D. Popescu, „Iancu Jianu, Captain of the Outlaws”, N.D. Popescu, „The Outlaw Miul”, N.D. Popescu, „Tunsul, the Outlaw”, D.D.P., „Grozea, Great National Outlaw”, N.D. Popescu, „The Outlaw Bujor”, Panait Macri, „Ioan Tunsu, Captain of the Outlaws”, N.D. Popescu, „Boyard Outlaws”, Th.M. Stoenescu, „The Outlaw Drăgușin”, G. Baronzi, „The Outlaw Mina, the Girl from the Woods”, C.P., „The Bandits from Tecuci, Tutova, Putna, Bacău and Covurlui”, Panait Macri, „The Outlaw Țandură”, Panait Macri, „Bostan, the Outlaw from Across the Milcov”; and in the category of novels about bandits or robbers are: Ilie Ighel, „Simion Licinski, the Bandit”, Ilie Ighel, „The Death of Simion Licinski, the Bandit”, G. Rădulescu, „The Bandit Rîureanu or an Angel in Hell”, Ilie Ighel, „Fulger the Thief”, Ilie Ighel, „Dragoș, the Thief from Tecuci”, N.D. Popescu, „Radu Anghel”, Th.M. Stoenescu, „Corbea”, N.D. Popescu, „The Robberies of the Bandit Mihale Bunea”, Simeon Bălănescu, „The Curse” and „The End of the Curse”.

The lexical field representative of the geographical area of each novel was analyzed by analyzing the data represented quoting repetitive phrases or words. In Chapter III for each representative conceptual-semantic field, based on language data explored and analyzed, we made a comparative table with the inventoried items and the number of occurrences recorded in each text, and after that we calculated the corresponding percentages. In the next stage of our study, these linguistic data, inventoried for each conceptual field, have been brought together in a summary general table and comparative graphics for the entire corpus, using Excel computer program. Our research, based on controllable and quantifiable lexical elements aims to observe the degree of similarity (by graphical representation) and whether there are significant lexical differences (by calculating lexical distance), as for the thematic microstructure "outlawry", of the 24 novels analyzed. The obtained lexical tables provide only reading grids because the interpretation of the data belongs to us. No matter how sophisticated the search tools are and however automated the

investigative techniques used, the intervention of the researcher remains essential for interpretation.

The approach perspective in Chapter IV concerns language generating new meanings, and these take the form of artistic images through which writers' thinking is communicated. Stylistic analysis goes beyond linguistic analysis, since it does not stop at the phrase as a unit of communication, but goes beyond the limits of the sentence, taking as its object of analysis the text viewed in context. In outlaw novels the emphasis is not on character evolution, mere puppets in the sequence of events sometimes romantic or melodramatic, but falls upon scenes in the history of outlaw heroes. The construction is didactic and conventional to the maximum, particularly illustrative of this stage, still insufficiently developed, of prose.

Conclusions

Knowledge of the history of outlawry, its purpose and results, can still be an example today of the spirit of fighting for a just cause, of the bravery that characterized the outlaws. The aesthetic substance of popular language in outlaw novels presents expressive zonal formulations; a lexicon with many plastic and evocative qualities; a metaphorical, symbolic system and a specific rhetorical system based on repetition. The analyzed writers imitated, sometimes even plagiarized each other having no prejudice about the desire to achieve uniqueness. And yet they are original precisely because they did not seek originality at any cost. The fact that these texts later become important sources of enrichment of artistic expression is proof of their importance in the complicated process of development of literary language and differentiation of its stylistic variants and peculiarities.

Our approach falls within the field of lexicometries and allows us to compare with computerized means lexicon used in *outlaw thematic microstructure*. The processing of the corpus allowed to determine quantitatively (by statistical measurements), but also qualitative (by exploiting context and lexical confrontation of thematic sections), in order to observe if the hypothesis of the existence of expressiveness in the popular language of the Romanian outlaw novel is verified. Our research, based on quantifiable elements (note the number of occurrences in the text, but also percentages for the respective expressions), but where the quantitative approach is accompanied by the qualitative one, interpret the results obtained by returning to the text and the statement context. We consider that quantitatively - qualitatively articulation is relevant, that we carry out in our study, with the aim of describing and interpreting practical peculiarities that highlight the expressive dimension of language.

In our view, following the research carried out, we notice that a complex analysis identifying and interpreting the role of evaluative parts of speech and sentence, with a valorizing role, In Romanian outlaw novels, it has not yet been elaborated. Moreover, no specific lexical elements based on a corpus were analyzed. Both the study support and the methodological approach represent an original perspective in our research.

Our research conforms to current trends that support the interdisciplinary character of pragmatics, since it also mobilizes the working tools used in other disciplines of language study.

Our contribution, within this doctoral thesis, consists of proposing a model of analysis focusing only on the linguistic approach to the text, starting from the above-mentioned theoretical frameworks, to highlight specificities that contribute effectively

to construct the meaning of the message of this information tool and, implicitly, to the realization of pragmatic finality.

We believe that the use of IT tools has allowed us to give more visibility to quantitative, valid, and pertinent results, to insert them into the qualitative approach. It should be noted that computer programs, assisting the work of the researcher with automated analysis and statistical calculations, have gained notoriety in current language research, in general, however, the methodological choices and interpretation of the results belong to the researcher.

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