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**PH.D THESIS**

**Morphosyntax of adjective in the 17<sup>th</sup> century  
(Abstract)**

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Key words:

Adjective, adjectival locution, morphology, syntax, grammatical category, gender, number, case, comparison and intensity degree, adjectival group, regent, adjunct, syntactic function, adjectival attribute, predicative name, supplementary predicate, predicative complement of object, circumstantial complement, order of words, dislocation, adjectival ellipsis, diachrony, origin, Latin language, Romanian language, evolution, ancient age, religious text, secular text, trends, Romanian grammar.

In the work called *Morphosyntax of adjective in the 17<sup>th</sup> century*, I presented one of the flexible figures of speech, the adjective, in the evolution of Romanian language, in a diachronic study, following the origin of Romanian adjective and the configuration of this class of words, by resorting mainly to religious and secular texts from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, period when the Romanian language had another appearance.

In the ancient age, the Romanian language did not benefit from a well-outlined system of norms and was characterised especially by the style of church books.

The purpose sought in the drawing up of this work was to highlight that based on analysis of language facts, related to a certain temporal interval, stages of formation of Romanian language can be formed and they are justified by its different aspects in certain historical moments.

In order to persuade the reader of the evolution of Romanian language, the differences recorded between the aspect of current language and the aspect of ancient age, I resorted to a corpus formed by texts published in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and limited the number of examined phenomena, by referring especially to aspects related to only one figure of speech, the adjective, linguistic fact which was insufficiently investigated so far. The texts selected for the application of scientific research act are a few of the writings of the age, we examined both church books, chronicles and legal-administrative works.

The extracts from certain works, under the form of quotations, based on which I made appreciations on the language facts subject to analysis, have the role of putting the reader in direct contact with the texts appeared in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Thus, anyone who reads a fragment of an old Romanian text, be it of religious or secular nature, cannot but notice the existence of often surprising differences in contrast with the norms of current Romanian language.

The current Romanian language and the ancient Romanian language represent stages of a single process, different aspects of a single cultural language.

In the work elaborated, I illustrated the aspect of adjective class, embodied by the writings of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and regarding the content of work, it is organised in three chapters.

In the first chapter, I presented general aspects regarding the adjective as flexible figure of speech, morphology of adjective and its syntax and I highlighted the differences noticed between the illustration of this morphological class by the authors of traditional grammar and the authors of recently appeared grammar works.

As for the definition of adjective, there are a few differences between the traditional grammar and the current works of Romanian grammar. The authors of modern grammars use a more suitable word than the one used by authors of traditional grammar in connection with the

role of adjective. They claim that it „attributes” features to objects, not just ”expresses” features, because the adjective individualizes the object called by the determined noun. Also, the authors of modern grammars resort to an integrative method of analysis of adjective, considering that both the semantic side and morphological and syntactic sides are equally important, the syntactic side proves the need for adjective to relate to a noun.

As for the flexion classes, the traditional grammar authors identify only two categories of variable adjectives, by taking into account only their forms in singular nominative, while the authors of modern grammars divided the adjectives in three flexion classes, taking into account their forms in nominative, singular and plural.

The authors of current grammar works avoid the structure of *articulate adjective*, used in traditional grammar, in favour of structure: *the article is attached to adjective*, because the article refers in fact to noun, regardless whether the article appears included in the form of noun or the form of adjective.

As for the expression *comparison and intensity degrees*, I considered that it is timely, considering that the gradation of a feature of an object is achieved sometimes in relation to other objects or the object itself, and other times, without such a relation, it shows the usual uncomparing manifestation of feature or the maximum manifestation of the object feature.

In traditional grammar, we cannot identify the interest of linguists for groups of words from the statement, so that the notion of *adjectival group* is inexistent. In modern grammars, we can see the preoccupation of linguists for the connections established between words, thus we can discover information about the *adjectival group*, the quality of adjective as group centre but also its determinants.

The evolution of the linguistic study is a real phenomenon, which is proven by the more than comprehensive list of syntactic functions of adjective drawn up the more recent works of Romanian grammar, compared to the one offered by the traditional grammar. We can see that the number of syntactic functions of an adjective identified in the current works is almost double compared to the number of syntactic functions from traditional grammar.

Another element of novelty in connection with adjective represents the order of words in a sentence. Unlike the traditional grammar in the current Romanian grammar works, there appears a classification of adjectives depending on the place occupied by them compared to the determined word. There are adjectives with free order of words, adjectives with fixed order of words (adjectives with postnominal regime, respectively adjectives with ante-noun regime) and adjectives with relative order of words.

Another phenomenon which appears only in modern Romanian grammar works is the "adjectival ellipsis", linguistic phenomenon which consists of reduction of a sequence by suppressing a word or a syntagma, the suppressed term can be semantically recovered by context. We can identify, in this case, elliptical structures of adjectives or adjectives which concentrate the meaning of a whole linguistic structure.

The second chapter contains issues related to the evolution of adjective from origins until the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and certain particularities of this morphological class, detached from texts appeared in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

In order to follow the evolution of adjective, I performed a diachronic study by which I submitted to your attention issues related to the Latin origin of adjectives and the first forms of adjectives in Romanian language.

As for the adjective in Romanian language, it follows in general the structure of adjective from the Latin language, but we can identify also a few differences resulted from the evolution process of Romanian language.

In its transfer from Latin language to Romanian language, the adjective does not keep three endings, but has only two of them, because it restructures the category of gender in noun class with which it is accorded: neutral adjective has in singular identical form with the masculine, and in plural, it has identical form with the feminine.

In Latin language, just as in Romanian language, the morphemes of number and case of adjective followed the noun flexion.

The comparison category records a few differences between Latin language and Romanian language. In Latin language, the comparative knows two forms: one synthetic (formed by suffix) and another analytical or periphrastic, formed by an adverb, while in Romanian language, we cannot encounter the synthetical form of comparative degree. In relation to superlative degree, we can state that in Latin, it has two forms: one synthetical, created by suffixes, and rarely by prefixes, and another one, periphrastic, created by adverbs and in Romanian, the superlative appears especially with analytical forms; the few synthetical forms, are obtained most of them by prefixes, and very rarely, by suffixes.

The syntax of the first Romanian texts is different, depending on the type of texts: translated or not translated. The syntax of Romanian texts translated imitates the syntax of Slavonic text or Hungarian text, and the syntax of not translated texts is specific to Romanian language, but is completed by stereotypical expressions, taken from Slavonic texts.

The Romanian texts which circulated in the 16<sup>th</sup> century illustrate the type of letters, sales agreements, donation acts, testimonies and religious texts.

Some adjectives encountered in texts which belong to the 16<sup>th</sup> century present certain differences compared to their form from the current Romanian language.

The differences noticed in the comparative study on adjectives from 16<sup>th</sup> century and those from the current literary Romanian language are present at radical of an adjective level, at flexion level and at formation of comparison and intensity degrees.

In the third chapter, I presented a few general views of adjectives in Romanian language of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and I illustrated morphological and syntactical particularities of adjectives in religious and secular texts from this century.

At the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the emancipation of the old Romanian writings appears, by its orientation to secular themes and by taking its distance from Slavonic models.

In close connection with the general development of the Romanian society, the two components of written culture, the church literature and secular literature, show the evolution of literary Romanian language compared to the previous century, because the expression is more carefully elaborated and the reception of the text is more spontaneous.

By analysing the adjectives in religious writings and in secular texts, we noticed a few morphological and syntactic particularities regarding this figure of speech, which we wrote down in the drawn-up work, and for example, here are a few of them.

The adjective *nou* does not have the form *nouă*, or in plural, the form *noi* in feminine gender, the singular number, but is encountered with the forms: *noao*, *noaă*, *noă*, *noo*, phenomenon explained by the fact that these forms are closer to the etymological form *nouus*.

The indefinite pronominal adjective keeps the short unarticulated form *une* in feminine, plural number, in some contexts, instead of the form *unele*, and sometimes, in feminine and in masculine, singular number, the indefinite adjective is used with the short form *vro*, respectively, *vrin*.

We also notice the non-realization of accord in gender and number in certain proper adjectives, with determined noun, which attests the hesitant use of grammatical categories, in Romanian language of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The non-realization of accord in gender and in number takes place in certain demonstrative pronominal adjectives, compared to determined noun; instead of feminine singular form of adjective, the masculine plural form appears.

Certain adjectives are encountered with invariable form depending on number; the singular form is identical with plural form, and some proper variable adjectives with three flexion forms have sometimes in feminine plural form the form of an adjective with four flexion forms, keeping the inflexion *-e*.

The demonstrative pronominal adjectives have the tendency not to accord with the determined noun, in genitive and dative cases.

In vocative case, some adjectives have different forms from those from the current language, the adjective does not accord in number and in gender with the determined noun. The adjective keeps the etymological inflexion of vocative, the accord is achieved in the syntagma.

The adjectives or adjectival locutions which are in post-position to the determined noun are often accompanied by the adjectival demonstrative determinant *cel, cea, cei, cele*.

In ancient Romanian, the adjective appears often accompanied by the definite article, regardless of its place in relation to the noun: before or after the noun. This is explained by the inexistence of a rule for the definite article to accompany the adjective.

The absolute superlative degree is encountered with soldered forms and with non-soldered forms in the composition of which there are morpho-lexical marks (adverbs *prea, pre*). This degree is formed by the adverb *foarte*, by ellipsis of proper adjective which is inferred only from the context.

Another method of forming the absolute superlative is the postposition of formant adverb *foarte* to the adjective, form which is considered a norm of the age, the formant appears sometime detached from the accompanying adjective. Also, the absolute superlative degree of adjectives is illustrated by its expressive forms.

The equality comparative formed in the current Romanian language with the marks *tot așa de, tot atât de, la fel de* does not appear in the old Romanian language texts.

The expression of inferiority comparative is carried out in the old Romanian texts, even if there are no specialised grammatical means in this respect. Such constructions which illustrate the inferiority comparative imply the existence of adjective in superiority comparative, the adjective has negative form.

The great variety of methods in which the comparison and intensity degree are expressed proves the low degree of grammaticalization of this kind of structures from the ancient time.

Some proper adjectives, some pronominal adjectives (interrogative, relative, indefinite) and some participial adjectives have a different radical in the old texts from the radical of adjectives in the current language.

The contamination of Romanian language with the Hungarian language is a phenomenon specific to the old epoch, which is proven by the presence of adjective *hiclean* in certain statements.

The demonstrative pronominal adjective which is in anteposition to the regent noun is often accompanied by the deictic particle *a*, considered *pronominal amplificative*.



We often encounter the old forms of demonstrative pronominal adjective, with the new forms used nowadays, which proves the inexistence of a norm in relation to the admitted forms of this kind of adjective.

Another form which does not exist in the current Romanian language, but encountered in the 17<sup>th</sup> century is the negative pronominal adjective, in singular number, with unsoldered form, which is explained by its similarity with the etymological form.

Other aspects presented in our work are: numeral with adjectival value, noun formation by adjective and the quality of regent of adjective in the adjectival group.

In syntax, the differences which appear are not related to the type of texts, translated or original, but the language used in texts, the language spoken specific to letters and the written language used in cult literary texts. The foreign influences in syntax appear also in original texts, not just in those translated, but also in the writings of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The spoken language is characterised by a popular syntax, given by *anacolutha*, accords made by meaning, not grammatical and by elliptical constructions.

The evolution of syntax of texts from the 17<sup>th</sup> century consist especially of perfection of the syntactic expression both at sentence level and at phrase level.

The syntactic functions frequently fulfilled by the adjective in texts of the 17<sup>th</sup> century are: adjectival attribute, predicative name, supplementary predicative, predicative complement of object, circumstantial complement of time and circumstantial complement of cause.

From the point of view of order of words in a sentence, adjective can occupy the position behind the noun or can be before the determined noun.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, we encounter two directions of written expression: one, in which we preserve the habits of writing from the previous century, and another one, in which they are replaced with new models encountered in the loans from the Neo-Greek, Turkish, French, Italian and Russian languages.

The changes in morphology are not many, because this domain of language is quite stable; however, there is a higher trend of adjectives to accord with the determined noun, the adjective *roşu* was imposed with this form in the norms of Romanian literary languages, the other form, *roşiu*, appeared only sporadically and in very few texts, and the forms of negative adjective *nice un* and *nice o* are not frequently encountered in the writings of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The syntax of texts from the 18<sup>th</sup> century records an evolution process by perfection of syntactic relations in the sentence.

The most frequent syntactic functions of adjective in the texts that appeared in the 18<sup>th</sup> century are: adjectival attribute, predicative name and supplementary predicative or predicative complement of object.

At the end of each chapter, we formulated a set of conclusions detached during and after the study of this morphological class, by illustrating its behaviour in the Romanian writings and especially in the texts of the 17<sup>th</sup> century in relation to the current Romanian language norms.

In our work called *Morphosyntax of adjective in the 17<sup>th</sup> century*, we presented the theoretical aspects of adjective, we illustrated the behaviour of this figure of speech in the writings of old epoch and we outlined certain issues regarding the adjective in texts which belong to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, also highlighting the evolution process of Romanian language.