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Summary

THE DIALECTS FROM THE CODRU AREA

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THE DIALECTS FROM THE CODRU AREA

Keywords: *Codru area, dialects, linguistic aspects, dialectal investigation, phonetic transcription, the lexicon of Codru area, folkloric particularities, onomastics.*

This doctoral thesis, entitled *The Dialects from the Codru Area*, reveals a comprehensive perspective of the dialects and codrenian folklore, also outlining an overview of the geographical and historical framework in which the examined localities have developed and evolved. Thus, we have proposed to highlight the specificity of these dialects and writing the life stories of these people. We have chosen to create our own corpus of texts, guiding the informants to relate the significant events they experienced individually or that took place in the community. In this regard, we have followed the sequence of life stages: birth, childhood, educational opportunities, agricultural work, relationship with the community or with God, wedding, family life, the pressure and wisdom of old age.

The geographical area we are referring to includes the localities around this peak, being a "spiritual core" that has brought together a community of people with a common language and conservative dialectal elements.

The delimitation was made according to the criterion of belonging in the people's consciousness, taking into account the ethnographical aspects specific to this area: dialect, traditional costumes, traditions, customs, beliefs, superstitions etc. Thus, the isoglosses that delimit the Codru area cannot be accurately established by linguists or ethnographers because the inhabitants' perception of the delimitation of the area is different and towards the periphery of the region, not all the people identify themselves with the lingvistic and folkloric particularities of this area.

However, the eastern limit of this land is considered by the locals to be the Someş Valley – that separates it from the Chioar ethnographic area, in the south it intersects with the Sălaj Meadow and in the west with the Sătmăr Plain. From an administrative point of view, the Codru

area extends over 3 counties: Satu Mare, Maramureş and Sălaj and the 3 polarizing centers are the cities Satu Mare, Baia Mare and Cehu Silvaniei.

Although several authors and researchers, from different spheres of activity, have illustrated this ethnographic area in various volumes and monographs of some localities, I considered to be necessary to carry out a study that includes both the unitary dialectal and folkloric particularities, as well as some of the inherent differences that exist, especially, between the two parts of this peak. From a linguistic point of view, the Codru area has not been researched in its entirety, and, in dialectological studies, these localities are included in the Crişean subdialect along with other distinct dialects.

The dialect survey was carried out during July - August 2020, and October-April 2020-2021, in the area, according to the methods and principles of dialectal material collection. We have interviewed 55 people from 15 localities: Asuajul de Sus, Babta, Băiţa de sub Codru, Bicaz, Ciuta, Corund, Homorodul de Sus, Nadiş, Oarţa de Sus, Ortiţa, Poiana Codrului, Socond, Soconzel, Tămăşeşti, Urmeniş. The method used was the conversation directed towards thematic texts, the informants being informed of their audio recording and giving us their consent. We have also used the method of direct observation (free texts), listening to people's stories about topics they showed interest in. In addition, we have also applied direct questioning, following the model of the Romanian Linguistic Atlas Questionnaire, through questions such as: "What is the name of the household annex where corn is stored?" For example, the following terms were recorded as answers to this question: *coş* (Soconzel), *coş de mălai* (Socond, Homorodul de Sus), *coştéi* (Asuajul de Sus), *cotárcă* (Poiana Codrului).

In the end, we have chosen 34 subjects whose stories were phonetically transcribed, the selection being made according to coherence, spontaneity, expressiveness and the importance or complexity of the information, but we have used all the material collected. Thus, the list of informants includes 8 people in the 20-39 years old category, 10 people between 40 and 65 years old and 16 people over 70 years old. Of these, 17 are female and 16 are male.

The selection of localities was made according to the criterion of age, their folklore specificity or the large share (almost absolute in some localities) of people of Romanian ethnicity. These principles have been chosen in order to identify the linguistic peculiarities of the dialects spoken in this area and to obtain stories with folklore themes – a subject that the inhabitants of these lands speak about with pathos and special attachment. We have also

followed a uniform distribution of the chosen localities in this area. In each village surveyed, we have contacted the priest or the mayor, and they recommended informants who fully or partially enframe in the following criteria: to be born and have grown up in that locality, to be of Romanian ethnicity - as well as family members, to not have lived in other localities, to fit in one of the following age categories: 20-39 years old, 40-65 years old and over 70 years old, to not have higher education.

However, due to the lack of people who could comprise all these criteria, we have also interviewed a few people born in neighboring localities (which belong to Codru) or from the same commune, but who have lived in the surveyed locality for several years. Thus, we were able to observe whether there are any different linguistic particularities in neighboring villages, very close from a territorial point of view. On the other hand, considering the very small number of young people living in Romanian villages and not finding young people everywhere who did not live in the city at least during high school, some of the interviewed people, especially from the first age category (20-39 years old), came into contact with the urban environment during their high school years.

The age categories have been chosen for tracking both the almost authentic speech of the elderly, as well as the influences that occurred in the language with the transformations of society after the Romania's 1989 Revolution. In each of the three specified age categories, we have proposed to include both female and male people, in order to gather narratives from various fields of activity. Thus, in order to obtain a study as relevant as possible, we have interviewed up to 6 people from a surveyed locality.

The questionnaire used has two parts: general questions about the informant and the locality surveyed (name, surname, age, school attended, occupation etc.) and questions from various areas of social life to create the corpus of texts (e.g.: "What were your childhood games?", "What can you tell us about the army?" etc.).

In order for the information obtained to be comparable with that in the linguistic atlases in order to identify any linguistic transformations or evolutions that occurred in the time interval between the surveys conducted (where the surveyed localities coincide), we were guided by the questions of the *Romanian Linguistic Atlas Questionnaires I, II* and the *Questionnaire of the New Romanian Linguistic Atlas*.

The corpus of phonetically transcribed texts includes **thematic texts** and **free texts**. The first category presents stories about village life (the dance at the barn, the hemp picking, the war weaving, living conditions, customs, traditions, superstitions etc.) or about current village life (customs preserved to this day, traditional costumes, festivals, celebrations etc.). In order to ensure the relevance of the analyzed linguistic phenomena, we have applied similar questionnaires to all subjects. Thus, we have found that some particular linguistic aspects are uniformly spread in all surveyed localities and other phenomena appear only in some parts of the studied area. Among the subjects, we have recorded individual differences arised for various reasons: environment, school, technology, passions etc.

The second category of texts presents personal life stories, recollections, current or past events from the village world. These free texts are not directed or imposed, avoiding interventions and letting the informants talk about what they want.

Before the current interview, there was a stage of preparation and information of the subject regarding the purpose of the questionnaire and the requirement to speak as naturally as possible, as spoken in the locality. Elderly people over 70 years old are more relaxed and do not hesitate to express themselves using the inherited dialect, although, sometimes, we have noticed some neologisms in their vocabulary. In contrast, the young people, in front of the phone that records them, are more reluctant to use specific terms. They mention them, but often make observations regarding their use (e.g., "that is what we say here"). However, the presence of strangers, the recording device and the emotions that the subjects felt influenced their expression to some extent, some of them having a tendency to hesitate or refine their language.

Being conceived as a dialect monograph, our work is based on the rich linguistic and folkloric particularities of the studied area, these being in a close interdependent relationship.

The present study begins with the motivation for choosing the theme and the structural part, which compose the *Introduction*, it is followed by the *Lists of acronyms*, *Abbreviations* used and the *List of figures and images*. Also, in the introductory part of the work, we have mentioned and we have described the *Bibliographic incursions*, the approach of the *Dialectal survey*, the presentation of the *Surveyed localities* and the *informants*, the *List of abbreviations of the names of the informants* and the aspects related to the *Phonetic transcription* of the texts.

Structurally, our work is composed of two parts.

The first part includes three chapters that describes the geographical and historical-social framework of this area, providing information regarding the *geographical and ethnographic delimitation*, *the significant landmarks of local history* and the specific *folkloric particularities*: the popular costume, the layout of houses and households, the representative traditions and customs, folkloric events and other cultural emblems of the Codru area.

In the **sphere of folklore**, we have noticed that the representative elements (popular costumes, traditions, customs) have not been preserved to a great extent, the development and evolution of the society being the main reason for this. If in the first decade after the Romania's 1989 Revolution, people were more open to change and modernization, without granting much attention to the folklore landscape, things took a different turn at the beginning of the third millennium, when the inhabitants of this area tried to revalue these elements, in a process of awareness of the importance of the historical past. Of all the folklore emblems, the people show a high interest in the popular costume. Its durability is due to a long and difficult process of creation, detailed in this first part of the work.

The terminology of these pieces is, for the most part, unitary, but we have also pointed out the polysemy of some terms used with different meanings from one locality to another and the geographical proximity to another ethnographic area attracts influences on the idiom.

In addition to the description of the popular costume and its terminology, we have granted a special attention to other folkloric elements: the layout of the houses and traditional households, the traditions, customs, wooden churches, monuments and vestiges from this area.

The second part of the study is the most extensive, being structured in seven chapters dedicated to the essential compartments of the language: *Phonetics, Morphosyntax, Topics, Lexicon, Modalities of expression, Word formation processes, Onomatology*.

The phonetic system of the Codru dialect is highlighted by a set of specific particularities of the Crișean subdialect, some common with the other dialects, others found only in this dialectal area. Thus, the present work illustrates, by example, the phonetic phenomena characteristic of the Codru area.

Compared to other dialects, this one presents fewer specific morphosyntactic features. In this regard, we have highlighted the most representative morphosyntactic particularities of this idiom, according to the traditional classification of parts of speech.

From the lexical point of view, our work contains the origin of words, recorded synonymous series, similarities and distinctions between ALR I, NALR - Crișana and the current dialect survey and a list of terms grouped by semantic fields.

In the last three chapters of this part, we have focused on some ways of expression, on the processes of word formation and we have outlined the representative aspects related to the anthroponomy and toponymy of the area.

The final part of our work includes the *Conclusions* regarding the recorded folklore particularities and linguistic phenomena, the *Bibliography* consulted, *The corpus of phonetically transcribed texts* and *those collected from local folklore*, the *Annexes* and the *Glossary of representative dialectal terms* for this idiom.

The dialects from the Codru area are characterized by the vitality of linguistic particularities and many terms considered archaic, which is why we have focused our attention on this dialect variety.

In conclusion, our monographic research highlights both the linguistic and folkloric aspects of the studied area, as well as the fact that these idioms are, for the most part, unitary, with conservative dialectal elements, which confer specificity to this region.

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