

SPORTS TERMINOLOGY IN ROMANIAN: A COMPLEX RESEARCH OF INTRA- AND TRANS-DOMAIN SEMANTIC PROCESSES

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Currently, it is difficult to imagine a more popular and admired field than that of sports. The growing popularity and fascinating spectacularity of sports competitions, the permanent appearance of new events, with new regulations, necessarily leads to the invention of new sports terms, changes of meaning, migrations from one field (discipline) to another (other) or even from one language to another.

Recently, a doctoral thesis was defended, entitled "Terminologization, determinologization and reterminologization in Romanian (based on sports vocabulary)", author: Aliona Luca, scientific coordinator: Ana Vulpe, PhD in philology, associate professor. The choice of topic for the doctoral thesis was not random at all. Mrs. A.Luca has a fairly long teaching activity: for over 20 years she has been teaching the course "Communication culture and specialized language" to the students of the State University of Physical Education and Sports, and later the subjects "Negotiation techniques and business communication in tourism", "Communication and sports language" (for students of vocational requalification courses as well). Obviously, during this period she managed to become closely familiar with the terminology of sports and related fields. She has a fairly rich and equally long experience in writing materials for scientific conferences and congresses held at SUPES and articles published in the journal "Science of Physical Culture". Thus, it can be stated with certainty that Mrs. A. Luca was already well versed in the practical part of the future doctoral thesis.

The scientific originality of the research consists in the overall description of three of the multiple processes in the semantic evolution of sports terminology in Romanian:

Terminologization, determinologization and reterminologization. These linguistic phenomena have been, each of them, the object of study of research in the country and abroad. The merit of Mrs. A.Luca lies precisely in the courage to undertake a complex analysis of the above-mentioned phenomena in all their interdependence and interconnection.

The first finding that is required, when reading the given thesis, refers to the extent of the selected material, to the variety of semantic modification procedures, to the unusual consistency in ideas, which is of interest for other terminological systems.

The very content of the thesis reflects the judiciously constructed structure and the organized character of the analyzed material, announcing a wide spectrum of problems, which are to be examined in all aspects. There is a structural symmetry of the compartments, broad or small, being arranged in such a way that one prepares the field for the next.

The introduction presents a clear, concise and convincingly argued exposition of the purpose and objectives of the research, methods, theoretical and practical importance, as well as of the possibilities of implementing the obtained results.

Section 1, "Specialized language, specialized text, specialized lexis: conceptual delimitations", which constitutes the theoretical foundation of the undertaken investigation, but also the second one, "Sports terminological system in Romanian: lexicosemantic investigations", which has a theoretical-practical character, denotes, in particular, a first-rate scientific quality, which demonstrates a vast and current bibliographic information of the author, her linguistic erudition, which is confirmed by the extensive

list of bibliographic titles at the end of the thesis. At the same time, Mrs. A.Luca shows a critical, polemical spirit when she opts for a certain theory or opinion or when she formulates her own vision, bringing very conclusive arguments.

The most important part in the production of the paper, but also the most innovative, is concentrated in the third section, "Terminologization, determinologization and reterminologization - active semantic processes in sports language", which is the centroid or the highlight of the thesis, explaining its greater volume than the other chapters. Here the author describes with great detail, based on a rich factual material, exempted from reliable bibliographic sources, as well as from the specialized press, the three semantic processes in the sports terminological system of Romanian. The semantic processes for generating new specialized lexical units are analyzed from different points of view: metaphorization, eponymization, restriction and extension of meaning, specialization of meaning, but also those that determine the influx of terms in common language, through literary, publishing, online texts etc. There are two types of meaning in semantics: referential and connotative. Mrs. A.Luca built her research by dealing with both of them, equally, capturing in the analysis of sports terminology the most subtle semantic nuances.

The main method of treating the material in this paper is the descriptive one, judiciously combined with other methods of investigation, such as: comparative analysis, semic analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction, all applied with much discernment, consistency and knowledge.

Carefully researching the phenomena of intra- and trans-domain semantic evolution in Romanian sports terminology, Mrs. A.Luca demonstrated a scientific rigor, doubled by a fine linguistic sense, a taste for detail and methodical mind. It is eloquent, in this sense, the way she applied the semic (compositional) analysis, which proved, in our opinion, very

productive and efficient in the investigation. The author demonstrates that the processes that take place in sports terminology are not independent (isolated), but are in close interaction, that they occur under the influence of both linguistic and extralinguistic factors (related to the specifics of sports). The present research represents a serious contribution to the onomasiological research of sports terminology, characterized by a maximum density of information.

All the statements and conclusions made by author are supported by indisputable arguments and evidence.

Another moment that strongly highlights the value of research is that the hierarchy and classification of terms, which was used in several compartments, are based on homogeneous, unitary criteria, and the definitions given to them throughout the paper are formulated correctly, clearly and accessible. The systematization of terms in figures and tables is also illustrative and makes it easier to understand the content. The research is also interesting from the point of view of the stylistics of the scientific text. We believe that the author has fulfilled the purpose formulated at the beginning of the research as best she can.

We would like to point out in particular that Mrs. A.Luca presented a model of editorial rate. Using an example cited in the paper, the author must be considered, rightly, a *champion of philological meticulousness*, because the thoroughness of the research undertaken and the relevance of the arguments do not allow formulating serious objections or amendments, which would aim at their essence.

Remaining in the context of sports terminology, we can say for sure that Mrs. A.Luca achieved a beautiful performance due to philological training and sustained efforts of continuous self-improvement, but also thanks to the linguistics school she took full advantage of within the Doctoral School of the State University. „Dimitrie Cantemir” under the scientific guidance of a group of most

renowned linguists from the Institute of Romanian Philology „B.P. Hașdeu” of the AMS.

The theoretical importance of the paper is indisputable, given that the semantic evolution of the specialized lexis, especially the sports one, in terms of the analyzed phenomena, could be researched later both in a national linguistic framework and in terms of internationalization of the Romanian language. The results of the research presented have a special applicative value in the sense of further elaboration of a theoretical course of Romanian language terminology (especially sports terminology), of completing dictionaries with new elements, of translating specialized

texts and, last but not least, of completing the data base of Romanian vocabulary. The accumulated material could be used in the development of a methodological guide for specialists in the field of physical education and sports and an explanatory dictionary of sports terms.

By conception, methods, structure, but also by the indisputable value, theoretical and practical, of the obtained results, the approved thesis imposes itself as an objective and convincing research in the field of sports terminology of the Romanian language, presenting, at the same time, an original methodological contribution to Romanian linguistics.