

ABSTRACT

Variety and Diversity. Intercultural, Synchronic, Diachronic and Onomastic Approaches to the German Language

Varietät und Diversität. Interkulturelle, synchrone, diachrone und onomastische Ansätze der deutschen Sprache

Motto: "*The truth will set you free.*"
(John 8:32)

PART 1.

1.1. *Habilitation thesis abstract*

The habilitation thesis, entitled *Variety and Diversity. Intercultural, Synchronic, Diachronic and Onomastic Approaches to the German Language* (Germ. *Varietät und Diversität. Interkulturelle, synchrone, diachrone und onomastische Ansätze der deutschen Sprache*), is conceived as an activity report presenting the originality and importance of my scientific results and my professional and academic achievements following the awarding of the PhD degree on September 1, 1999 (after the defence of my doctoral thesis on October 2, 1998 and the recognition of my doctoral degree on March 15, 1999), and describing the independent directions of development of my present and future professional, scientific and academic career, through which I can further support the training of young generations.

The habilitation thesis consists of two parts, each being structured in several chapters and subchapters, while the last section contains the Bibliographical References and the Appendix with supporting documents. The abstract, in both Romanian and English, is included at the beginning of the habilitation thesis.

The first part of the thesis, which is dedicated to didactic, scientific and academic achievements (chapters 1 to 3), extensively presents the directions and results of my scientific endeavours (chapter 2), as well as their inclusion and implementation in my teaching activity (chapter 1), taking into account that, in order to achieve a complex and complete academic profile, ever since the beginning of my academic activity I have focused on harmoniously combining the two personal aspects – teaching and research, practice and theory.

Throughout my university teaching career I have taught practical courses and seminars and delivered lectures in the field of synchronic and diachronic German linguistics, with a particular focus on grammar (lexicology, morphology, syntax), phonetics and orthography, German language history and

dialectology, onomastics and teaching German as a foreign language (Bachelor's degree), as well as on German language, literature and culture in the Romanian spiritual space and their interference with Romanian ones (Master's degree). I have also coordinated numerous Bachelor's and Master's degree theses in the same fields of German studies, which have sometimes been placed at the confluence with Romanian or English studies, depending on the students' specialization and thematic preferences (see chapter 2.1.2.).

In today's context, modern research distinguishes itself through diverse, state-of-the-art, well-defined research methods (e.g. the method of onomastic geography or the method of digital statistics, in addition to the already existing methods of linguistic analysis and comparative historical analysis) and is concerned with both inter- and pluridisciplinarity, inter- and multilingualism, inter- and multiculturalism, in view of achieving more precisely delimited and specialised goals. The second chapter of the first part of the thesis focuses on the research directions I have approached, the results of scientific grants – published in the form of single-authored books and scientific articles – and my own translations.

The scientific work I have carried out so far can be thematically classified into the following research directions:

1. Romanian-German-Hungarian linguistic contact and interculturality in Transylvania
2. Religious syncretism during the transition from paganism to Christianity and its reflection in folk customs and beliefs in the German and Germanic linguistic area
3. Systematics of synchronic inflectional and lexical morphology of words in German
4. Deonymisation – a way of obtaining new words and its result - deonyms (or eponyms)
5. Onomastics, as a form of analysing the origin, formation, etymology, meaning and geographical spread of proper names (anthroponyms, toponyms, dromonyms, ergonyms, ethnonyms).
6. German cultural identity manifested through the language, literature and culture of the Romanian Germans from Transylvania and from Romania in general
7. The migration phenomenon of German settlers and later of ethnic Germans (Transylvanian Saxons) from Western to Eastern Europe (12th century) and from Eastern to Western Europe (20th and 21st centuries), as well as the present-day migration of German and Romanian culture, language, literature and proper names to the highly industrialised economic areas of Europe (e.g. Germany) or America

8. The literary motif of child abandonment in German folk literature, with a focus on the fairy tales collected by the Brothers Grimm and Ludwig Bechstein
9. Representatives of contemporary lyric poetry in the Romansh language
10. Translation of literary and specialised texts from German.

My scientific research to date has included areas of linguistic research that are found at the confluence of disciplines, such as morphosyntax, lexicology, dialectology, etymology, phraseology, language history, onomastics, geolinguistics, sociolinguistics, variational linguistics, contact linguistics, culture and civilisation of the German-speaking area, history of religion and folklore, cultural sciences and migration. I have approached linguistic research from synchronic, diachronic, contrastive, comparative, intercultural and geopolitical perspectives.

The results of the research grants obtained through international or national competition, as grant holder, on the basis of a research project, were institutionally funded by the "University and Society" Foundation of the University of Konstanz (in 2007), the "Alexander von Humboldt" Foundation in Bonn (in 2000, 2011, 2014), the "Michael und Veronica Schmidt" Foundation in Bucharest (in 2022) or were supported by the "Humanitas" Publishing House in Bucharest (in 2021). These results, as well as other individual projects carried out without external funding, are reflected in single-authored books (thematic studies, linguistic studies, synthesis studies, linguistic monographs), scientific articles published in collective, occasional and homage volumes, books published by national or international publishing houses following scientific events, as well as specialised scientific journals. These projects document the research directions mentioned above and prove the originality and relevance of my scientific contributions, while also anticipating the independent development of my future research and academic career.

Thus, from a statistical point of view, since being awarded my PhD in Philology in 1999, I have written 6 single-authored books (published as follows: 1 by Demiurg Publishing House in Iași, 1 by Sedcom Libris Publishing House in Iași, 3 by Casa Cărții de Știință Publishing House in Cluj-Napoca and 1 by Leipzig University Publishing House), 2 translations (1 literary and 1 legal) published by Casa Cărții de Știință Publishing House in Cluj-Napoca, 1 article in an ISI-indexed journal, 6 articles in 3 scientific journals indexed in International Data Bases (BDI), 21 scientific articles published by international publishing houses, 42 scientific articles published by Romanian publishers recognised by The National Council for Scientific Research (CNCS) and 2 reviews; 3 articles are in the process of being published by national or international publishing houses (more specifically, articles on the surnames

Wolff – Fuchs, Klusch and Neckermann). Since 1999, I have presented papers at 5 international conferences and 36 national conferences.

As far as my academic achievements are concerned, I am of the opinion that they have been widely recognized by renowned universities in Germany, such as those in Freiburg, Konstanz, Stuttgart or Regensburg, and by prestigious German academic foundations, such as DAAD – Berlin, "Universität und Gesellschaft" – Konstanz and "Alexander von Humboldt" – Bonn, as well as by the "Michael und Veronica Schmidt" Cultural Foundation in Bucharest. Through my professional, scientific and academic activity I have also gained professional recognition, as evidenced by the 5 research grants and 5 research internships in Germany, as well as by the memberships in scientific and professional associations (I am currently a member of: 6 professional societies and affiliations, 2 Research and Excellence Centres, the scientific committee of the "Forschungen zur Volks- und Landeskunde (FVL)" journal – Sibiu and the editorial board of the "Kronstädter Beiträge zur germanistischen Forschung" journal (Braşov); I am also a former member of the scientific committee of the Congresses of Romanian Germanists in Braşov (2015) and Oradea (2018) and of the annual conferences on German studies in Sibiu (2017, 2020, 2021); in addition, I was an examining member of PhD thesis committees (6) and university teaching position competitions (8). In this context, mention must be made of my presence in national and international databases and libraries, citations (14) and reviews of my own works (9). Between 2017 and 2018 I was the chair of the Master's Thesis Committee and since 2019 I have been the chair of the Bachelor's Thesis Committee within the German Studies Department of the Faculty of Letters, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iaşi. The second part of the habilitation thesis includes the development and evolution plan of my career. In the area of teaching, I will rely on some previously written texts, which I will however develop, diversify and update with the latest specialised information. This is both valid for the courses I already teach, as well as for those that I will try to propose and insert into the teaching circuit, with a view to rethinking the teaching approach by taking into account both the current needs of the labour market and the new results of my own research.

From a scientific point of view, I will continue to pursue and deepen my research in the directions and areas of interest to which I have devoted myself, but I will make an effort to diversify and expand them, by taking a linguistic, literary and onomastic approach to other cultural spaces, with a special emphasis on the Romanian one, but also on the Scandinavian or Afro-Asian spaces (comparing or contrasting morphological systems, by paying particular attention to morphological and lexical inflectional morphemes, onomastic systems and suffixes, groups of surnames and the reasons for their appearance, onomastic geography and etymology). I will also attempt to initiate and develop linguistic themes in the field of theology (language, onomastics, phraseology) and I plan to conduct two research projects on the migration of German names

from Transylvania and Romanian names from Romania to Germany and their effects, with an additional focus on the geography of these surnames on the Romanian territory; I also intend to start a project that will identify, research and analyse German cultural elements and their interferences with the Romanian ones in the historical provinces of Wallachia, Moldavia and Bukovina (especially between the 19th and 21st centuries). Furthermore, I will continue to attend national and international conferences and present scientific articles on less explored and novel topics, and I will maintain and strengthen my personal academic relations, as well as those of the university I represent, with other universities, research centres, institutions and foundations in the country and abroad.

The rich experience I have accumulated during my academic teaching and scientific career, reflected in the directions of my research on the German language and its historical, synchronic, onomastic, geographical, socio-cultural and intercultural dimensions and materialized in original and relevant published contributions, by creating the theoretical framework and reflecting on the specialized terminology for these approaches, by guiding the research work of Bachelor's and Master's degree students, by successfully completing interdisciplinary research projects and by having my professional and scientific work recognised by renowned universities and foundations abroad – all this experience has strengthened my confidence in my ability to supervise doctoral projects and in my capacity to independently develop my own research and academic career.