

**Ph.D. Associate professor  
Ioana Valentina Murăruș  
University of Bucharest  
Faculty of Letters**

**UT LINGUA POESIS**  
***Research Approches to Romanian Stylistics, Rhetoric and Pragmatics***  
***Summary of the Habilitation Thesis***

This habilitation thesis synthetically presents my contribution to the field of Romanian linguistics and proposes a career development plan. The books and articles which I have elaborated throughout several decades deal with the following areas of interest: poetics, stylistics, discourse analysis, rhetoric, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, ethnic imagology, the didactics of Romanian as a foreign language, and lately, lexicology (recent colour terminology in Romanian). The thesis comprises 121 pages and it is divided into four chapters: **I. The summary of the thesis. II. Scientific, professional and academic achievements. III. The didactic and scientific career development plan. IV. Selected bibliography according to interest areas.** The habilitation thesis is dedicated to my former professor Ion Coteanu, member of the Romanian Academy, aiming at continuing the tradition of the Bucharest school of stylistics.

**Chapter II** has 10 large divisions which systematically record my scientific contributions to various fields and research areas. In **the 1<sup>st</sup> subchapter** I briefly described the stages of my academic career preceding the award of the Ph.D. degree, and laid stress on two important moments: the publication of my first scientific articles during my academic studies or immediately after graduation (1977-1980) and the accomplishment of my Ph.D. thesis while I was a guest lecturer to the University of Amsterdam (1996-1999). In **the 2<sup>nd</sup> subchapter** I broadly presented the content of my Ph.D. thesis published under the title *Nichita Stănescu – the Lyrical Subjectivity. The Poetics of Enunciation* (Bucharest, Univers Publishing House, 2000). This work defined my profile as a researcher, delineated an area of interest to which I have constantly returned (the poetics and stylistics of the literary text), and illustrated my option for an integrative methodological framework, at the crossroads of linguistics and literary studies. The **3<sup>rd</sup> subchapter** underlined the originality and relevance of my Ph.D. thesis by offering a selection from the reports of the Ph.D. committee members (Eugen Negrici, Sorin Alexandrescu, Mihaela Mancaș, Gabriela Pană-Dindelegan), critical mentions (14) and records in the national and international databases. (7). In **the 4<sup>th</sup> subchapter** I made reference to the six articles based on my doctoral research. The **5<sup>th</sup> subchapter** comprises 12 subdivisions summing up the directions of my subsequent scientific work. In **5.1.** I offered an overview of my two books published in 2007 and 2017 respectively. The book entitled *Stereotypy and Expressiveness – from the Colloquial Language to the Poetic Text* (Bucharest, The University of Bucharest Publishing House, 2007; 7 critical mentions, 14 records in Romanian and foreign libraries) points out the “prefabricated” dimension of style, usually under-researched in stylistics, and its dynamic relationship to innovation. The book entitled *Specialized languages, texts and contexts*

(Bucharest, The University of Bucharest Publishing House, 2017) explores, on the contrary, the stylistic diversity (the teenagers' slang, the language of poetry, the oral registers, the parliamentary language, the language of journalism, the culinary language, the slogans of street protests etc.), conditioned by a multitude of socio-cultural contexts and by the conventions of the discourse genres. The main goal of the book was to illustrate this diversity by means of a minute analysis of novel and large corpora. **Subdivision 5.2.** encompasses a range of articles focused on the language of poetry. In **5.2.1.** I made reference to an extensive study dealing with the interference of stylistic registers in the Romanian neomodernist poetry. **5.2.2.** presents my research on intertextuality, illustrated by the poetry of Grigore Vieru (syntactic and prosodic patterns borrowed from folklore) and the sonnets of Vasile Voiculescu, a complex case of literary symbiosis with Shakespeare's work, which enabled me to study the different facets of this phenomenon (architextuality, hypertextuality, the intertextuality of the series of sonnets viewed as a macrotext). **5.2.3.** summarizes my large studies devoted to the figurative language of poetry, in which I approached the comparison in Nichita Stănescu's work (a rhetorical perspective) or the metaphors of body and self (a cognitive perspective). Under **5.2.4.** I included my research on the graphic design of the Romanian (neo)modernist and postmodernist poetry, which had in view the page design, the innovations of the textual body, the figurative design of the text (the calligramme), the expressive value of typography and punctuation in comparison to the relevant achievements of the visual poetry of the world. **Subdivision 5.3.** brings together my articles investigating the pragma-stylistic traits of oral language. **5.3.1.** refers to a couple of analyses of the syntactic clichés used in the popular and colloquial registers of the Romanian language. **5.3.2.** presents my study on hyperbole in colloquial Romanian in which I propose a comprehensive taxonomy of the linguistic patterns of this figure of speech (thought). In **5.3.3.** I summarized a study which analyzes, from a rhetorical and cognitive perspective, the metaphorical connotations of the food terms in the oral registers of the Romanian language. In **subchapter 5.3.4.** I presented my recent research on a less studied topic, namely self-deprecations and self-insults in colloquial Romanian. The goal of this research was to describe the pragmatic function of a particular class of self-centered expressive speech acts in various interactional contexts, their sequential location in conversation, the linguistic structures in which they are embedded (exclamatory, interrogative and assertive structures), as well as the specific discourse markers of emotion (topicalisation of derogatory words, intensifiers, hedges, a.o.) characteristic of spoken Romanian. The study described under **5.3.5.** focuses on the slogans used in street protests from a multidisciplinary perspective (pragma-stylistic, rhetorical, sociological, anthropological, ethnological) which enabled me to understand the functions of language in a broad socio-political, economic and cultural context. I approached another aspect of orality in an extensive research (70 pages), i.e. the slang of the adolescents as it is rendered in the novel of Ovidiu Verdeș (**5.3.6.**). In order to describe the structure and the functioning of this sociolect created by the writer, I made a thorough lexical inventory of the adolescents' language, I analyzed the figurative level of the vocabulary, as well as several aspects of the socio-pragmatic behaviour of the characters. In **5.3.7.** I presented a recent analysis of the interference / overlapping of oral and the cultivated registers of Romanian in the diary of a homeless child. **Subdivision 5.4.** comprises three articles

dealing with the parliamentary language, more specifically with the offensive and violent strategies directed against the political opponent (**5.4.1.**, case study: Corneliu Vadim Tudor) or with the strategies of self-defense and the promotion of a positive self-image (**5.4.2.**, case study: Elena Udrea, Varujan Vosganian). In **subdivision 5.5.** I included an article which analyzes the expressiveness of the culinary language, more specifically the structure and the semantics of nominal metaphors enclosed in the names of dishes. **Subdivision 5.6.** makes reference to an article dealing with the stylistics of proper names used in a satirical journal (*Academia Cațavencu*). Besides the oral aspect of the proper names or the antonomasia, which are widely spread devices in the present-day Romanian press, the nicknames, the pseudonyms (the fictional signatures of the journalists) and the onomastic ludic creation represent the distinctive brand of *Academia Cațavencu* journal. În **subdivision 5.7.** I presented the results of three analyses of the recent trends in Romanian colour terminology. The changes in this field are influenced by foreign models (especially of British-American origin) in the era of informational globalization: the multiplication of compound colour names (loan translations) in comparison to the traditional derivative system (the adjectival suffix –iu), the multiplication of invariable adjectives of foreign origin, a wide range of patterns for the indirect designation of colours. **Subdivision 5.8.** comprises four articles on the ethnic stereotypes reflected in the historical material of the Romanian language. These studies adopt a novel perspective subsumed under the larger sphere of cultural studies, relating language to the history of mentalities and social representations. In **subdivision 5.9.** I discussed two extensive researches conducted in 2001-2002 and 2016 on the policies for the protection of the linguistic human rights of the national minorities in Romania. **Subdivision 5.10.** presents my contributions to the field of didactics of Romanian as a foreign language, both at a theoretical level, and at practical one (didactic auxiliaries). In **subsection 5.11.** I included two volumes co-edited by myself in Romania and abroad, and in **5.12.** I mentioned my articles dedicated to language topics, published in the cultural press. I specify that, in all subdivisions numbered from **5.1.** to **5.12.**, I included pieces of information about the originality and the relevance of my research (critical citations, records in databases / national and international libraries). In **subchapter 6,** I mentioned the scientific conferences and colloquia in which I took part, and in **subchapter 7,** I described the 8 research grants and national or international projects in which I participated as a member. **Subchapter 8** indicates my affiliation to a number of professional associations and research centers, **subchapter 9** describes my didactic activity at the University of Bucharest or as a guest lecturer to European universities (University of Amsterdam, University of Pisa). In the same subchapter I also included data regarding my collaboration with the Romanian secondary educational system. **Subchapter 10** presents my implication in the academic management and my contribution to the consolidation of the community of the Faculty of Letters. **Chapter III** comprises my didactic and scientific development plan, and **chapter IV,** a bibliography organized in accordance with my areas of interest.