

**Contributions to the Study of Old Romanian:  
The Philology and History of the Romanian Literary Language  
Emanuela-Cristina Timotin**

Abstract

The present thesis summarises my main research achievements, except from those deriving from my doctoral research, and describes several projects I am unfolding at the moment.

Most of my research has been carried out both in the Philology Department of the Institute of Linguistics of the Romanian Academy and in other institutions, such as *École Pratique des Hautes Études* and “The New Europe College” Institute of Advanced Studies. The Institute of Linguistics also hosted two research team projects financed by the Ministry of Education, which I led after the defence of my PhD dissertations.

My (interdisciplinary) research usually relies on old Romanian texts, which I myself have often edited or studied with respect to the history of literary Romanian.

Two similarly structured chapters, 2 and 3, respectively, dealing with the results of my research and my ongoing projects represent the core of this thesis. Each of them has two parts: one concerns the old Romanian texts I have edited or intend to edit, the other one presents my contributions to the history of literary Romanian.

In chapter 2, I present the various texts I have edited. They are apocryphal texts (*The Tree of the Cross; The Letter of Christ Fallen from the Sky; The Life of Adam and Eve*; the narrative about Melkizedec in *Palaea historica; The Report of Pilate; The Dream of the Virgin*); post-Byzantine apocalyptic writings (*The Vision of Sophiani; The Vision of Kir Daniel*); liturgical fragments (*The Prophetologion*); moralistic writings (*Sindipa the Wise; The Life of Aesop; The Story of Ahiquar*); historical texts (e.g. a *Life of Scanderbeg* translated from Italian; the first part of a *Universal History* translated from German; a text describing the ceremonies at the coronation of the Holy Roman Emperor), etc. Recently I have paid special attention to versified texts, such as *The Lamentation of Adam When He Was Cast Out of Paradise*; the epitaph of a young prince; old Romanian poems written in the Latin alphabet (whereas contemporary literature has been written mainly in the Cyrillic alphabet).

Some of these research results are to be completed in the future (3.1.), when I aim to finish the thorough analysis dedicated to the *Lamentation of Adam When He Was Cast Out of Paradise*, to publish a book on the *Dream of the Virgin*, a comprehensive study on the Romanian tradition of the pseudo-Athanasian narrative about Melkizedec, and to present a yet unknown Romanian text, *The Lamentation of Eve When Adam and She Were Cast Out of Paradise*.

My research in the field of the history of literary Romanian focuses on three problems: old Romanian literary dialects, the modernisation of literary old Romanian, and the normalisation of literary Romanian (2.2., 3.2.). I have approached the problem of old Romanian literary dialects whenever I had to establish the region where its scribe came from. I paid special attention to the evolution of the literary dialect of Banat, too. The writings of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Romanian translator Vlad Boțulescu, who wrote his works in exile, will also serve me as an instrument for understanding to what extent the expatriates' language stops developing and becomes archaic.

Vlad Boțulescu's translations from Italian and German were extremely important to evaluate the Italian influence on literary old Romanian and the viability of the neologisms he used. The study of the glosses which often appear in all his translations proves that he was aware of the fact that he used a modern vocabulary, possibly unknown to his readers, and that he tried to create corresponding terminologies, one formed by well-known Romanian literary words of South-East European origin, the other formed by neologisms of West European origin. Vlad Boțulescu is the first important translator from German. A detailed study of his German translation will shed light on the German influence on the Romanian vocabulary.

The issue of language standardization raises the question of linguistic features which are specific to a certain period of literary Romanian. In the future, my purpose is to analyse the reasons why various Romanian words inherited from Latin were used exclusively in literary old Romanian and the context in which specific meanings faded into oblivion.