

Greek Lexicography – a Component of Classical Philology. State of the Art and Perspectives

Abstract

The thesis summarizes the main scientific achievements since my PhD thesis in 2007. The various scholarly contributions are circumscribed to the field of Classical Philology, with a greater interest in Greek vocabulary.

My teaching and research experience spans more than 25 years. My specialization includes teaching courses in Greek literature (Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic) and practical courses on authors such as Aristophanes and Thucydides. In the area of Latin, I teach morphology and authors such as Caesar, Catullus and Tacitus.

Part of my research was concretized in a monograph dedicated to the poet Theocritus (*Hellenistic Poetry. Theocritus. Idylls*), in which I analyzed, from a linguistic and a literary point of view, all the surviving poems of this author. I have also devoted a study and a commentary to Aristophanes' *Acharnians*.

In terms of scientific articles and conferences, I have focused my research in recent years on contributions to the history of lexicography, such as "From Glosses to Dictionaries: The Beginnings of Lexicography" or "Le concept d'étymologie dans les premiers lexicons grecs. Continuité ou rupture avec les dictionnaires étymologiques modernes?".

More research was focused on the works of Thucydides, Aristophanes, Menander, Marcus Aurelius, Herondas and Theocritus. In several articles I have focused on detailed issues related to the culinary vocabulary in ancient Greek, as a continuation of the topic covered by my doctoral thesis (*Culinary Vocabulary in Ancient Greek and Latin. Pastry Products*) and by the monograph dedicated to Apicius' culinary treatise (*De re coquinaria*). Among these articles, I mention here "Cuisiner «en grec», manger «en latin». L'usage du grec dans les recettes culinaires du latin tardif", " Le grec en latin : des mots grecs attestés seulement en latin. Étude de cas : *De re coquinaria* d'Apicius".

The main project in which I invested my energy after 2010 consists in creating the *Greek-Romanian Dictionary* („Dicționar grec-român”) (DGR), designed in twelve volumes, of which six have already been published (Vol. II • B – Γ, 2012; Vol. V • Z – H – Θ – I, 2013; Vol. I • A, 2015; Vol. III • Δ, 2017; Vol. IV • E, 2021; Vol. VI • K, 2024).

In the present thesis I describe the available dictionaries dedicated to the Greek language in the Romanian culture so far, in comparison with the Greek lexicographical tradition in other Western cultures. I also present the differences in vision, as well as the novelties introduced by this dictionary at an international level (new interpretations, new meanings not found in other Western dictionaries, etc.).

In compiling the *Greek-Romanian Dictionary* (DGR), we followed five steps, four of which are digital and one exclusively human:

- 1) Identifying a digital database (*Thesaurus Linguae Graecae*), containing the digitized texts of the thirty authors that have been indexed and used to compile the DGR;
- 2) Identifying a suitable search engine (*Diogenes 3.2.0*), capable of accessing the digitized database;
- 3) Choosing and adapting a lexicographic software (*tlTerm: Terminology Management Software*) to host the whole project, able to undergo improvements and updates over time;
- 4) Creating a database of editions and translations of Greek authors for an easy, almost exclusively digital access to the bibliography;
- 5) The human factor: analyzing each passage to be integrated into the corpus of the GRD and composing the lemmas.

The fundamental rule followed in creating the DGR was that meanings are established and examples selected by primary analysis of the texts, through a fresh reading of the authors in the digitized editions previously determined. The interpretation of each word is made in accordance with the wider context in which it appears, in order to identify the best equivalences. The translations, faithful to the original, is nonetheless consistent with the natural expression in Romanian. I show the importance given to standard inflectional forms of words, irregular forms, the use of acronyms and abbreviations, the proper abbreviation system for authors and literary works, and explain the authors' decision to publish the DGR in several volumes.

Making the dictionary basically means cataloguing the thirty authors, determining their meanings and choosing the most appropriate examples to illustrate them. They represent the core of Greek literature and cover almost a thousand years of Greek language. They are also representative because they involve the most important dialects and literary genres; experience proves that these authors, for didactic, aesthetic, and other reasons, are the most widely read over the centuries. DGR tries to cover all the words and meanings present in their works.

I then describe in detail how we actually create the lemmas for eight out of the thirty authors (Homer, Hesiodus, Sappho, Aeschylus, Pindar, Thucydides, Aristophanes, Theocritus), commenting on the bibliography we commonly have at hand, on the edition or editions we use, the translations we consult (with emphasis on those available in Romanian), the commentaries and the existing (western) dictionaries. I illustrate with examples the presence of each author in the DGR and the specific problems in each case, emphasizing, each time, the differences between the DGR and the other existing dictionaries.

Last but not least, I describe my interest in the Latin language, mirrored both by my teaching and my research activity in recent years, as well as my concern for promoting classical languages in the secondary school system.

In the final section I briefly present my professional development project for the next years, which includes the continuation of the *Greek-Romanian Dictionary* (with three directions: 1. revision of the volumes already published; 2. digitization of the dictionary for various devices; 3. compilation of the remaining volumes 7-12), translations (Thucydides, Dionysius of Halicarnassus, Aristophanes, Sophocles), a monograph dedicated to Thucydides in relation to today's world and a practical syntax based on Thucydides' text.