

Alina Gioroceanu, *Terminologia greco-latină în româna actuală. Recurs lingvistic asupra termenilor cu etimon greco-latin*, Craiova, Editura Aius, 2014, 217 p. (Radu Pașalega)



The present work was originally the theoretical side of a doctoral thesis defended in 2005. This fact means that it was scientifically supervised by a mentor and it was the author's best ever opportunity to officially prove herself as a professional. Let us point out how she did that. The *Preamble* is an attractive historical survey obviously meant for the *captatio benevolentiae* attempt (p. 5-18). A quotation from Reinheimer Râpeanu 2001 underlines the quasi-infinite diversity of the Latin terms used, chosen from all of its *strata* and historical periods (p. 14). The author's perspective is tightly updated: "Employed sometimes abusively and bearing different values in various domains of science, *information* appears in some current theories as an ontological item, an essential parameter of whatever (physical) system. Should it be or not

treated as quantified knowledge, from present sciences we do retain the definition of information as *a measure of order* (p.6). It is also important to notice the fact that the scientific model invoked by the author is Linné, the botanist, instead of a no matter how famous linguist! (p. 15-16) The author describes the types of sources she studied and makes some important comments: "Aiming particularly at a synchronic and functional approach, our purpose has been to render dynamic the relationship between linguistics and terminology" (p. 19), and: "From what has been presented above we may extract a remark: the lack of homogeneity in the taxonomies of the Greek&Latin formative elements leads to contradictory descriptions in the general and specialized dictionaries" (p. 26). Therefore the author implicitly benefits from the greatest possible freedom in her own investigation!... She also wishes in general to "simplify the explanations" (p. 27). "In its classical sense, terminology is a synchronic and pragmatic discipline with an onomasiological approach, while linguistics combines a variety of methods, applied in both synchrony and diachronic analysis. Lexicology, a part of linguistics with which terminology is often compared, prefers the semasiological approach, unlike the latter's onomasiological choice. Therefore, our goal has been to always verify linguistically, for motivational reasons, the terms advanced by terminology" (p. 30). The author relies upon *hypothesis* and *deduction* as valid methods for her search (Popper, 1984): among such cases is "the existence of certain innovations in denomination" (p. 30). On page 35, the author enumerates the successive steps chosen in the elaboration of the present work. She is always keen on embracing the freshest investigative methods ("I would point out especially the studies in cognitive linguistics. The absoluteness of the relationship, which is intrinsic to formal systems, also leads to the presentation of language as a system of formulas, this perspective being as well adopted by the current formal grammars".) (p. 36, footnote 7) But she does not innovate by herself: in the present work she accurately summarizes the present status of the matters she approaches. Five

chapters of various dimensions continue this tome. In the first, she quotes the definition of the term *value* by Saussure: "(...) it expresses better than any other word the essence of reality, which is also the essence of language, namely the fact that a form does not signify something but has a certain value, here is the essential aspect" (p. 37). She also evokes L. Groza's principles able to identify the "etymon" (p. 39-40). A language should be seen both as: "a network of evolving relationships" and "a dynamical semiotic system" (p. 38). The task of the *morphemes* is "to structure the linguistic information" (p. 44) and the "etymon" is "a linguistic sign, a source for another linguistic sign" (p. 46-47) and: "From this large perspective, we will start from presupposing that whatever sign-unit of the language has one or more etymons (...)" (p. 46). The author presents Wüster's theories, but assigns only "an instrumental role" to terminology as a discipline, though it is an "interdisciplinary" one (p. 48-56). Between terminology and lexicology the differences are clearly established (p. 56-61). So are the essential features of a specialized language (p. 61-66). The current trends about forming words in the Romanian language are then objectively presented (p. 67-68). The second chapter is a historical and documentary survey upon the influx of foreign terms in Romanian since Antiquity. It is attractive to read and didactically valuable (p. 69-93). On page 92 there is an interesting line from Gh. Chivu: "From the 15th century on, through the initiating of a *change in the cultural mentality*, until the current stage the Western influence has manifested itself in crescendo". Chapter III is a rather technical one, pointing out at first the similarities and differences which exist among the notions of *word*, *term* and *concept*. The discussion upon theoretical matters is elevated and consequently very instructive (p. 94-106). The author finds a remarkable solution for explaining these facts to common people: "In the relational triangle *word-term-concept*, the *term* is a border element, a transparent medium habilitated to transmit (often through metaphorical mutations) some conceptual dimensions" (p. 106). Then comes a surprisingly classical part (p. 106-114), then some attractive theoretical points and quotations related to the *scholarly composition* procedure (p. 114-132). As an illustration of the theories presented above, they are (finally!) applied to the Greek&Latin terms (p. 132-155). The author devises a remarkable strategy on this occasion. The tome's studied object is carefully not approached until all of the possible theoretical grounds of the study have been duly established. Most of the discussed terms belong to the medical speciality. Chapter IV is dedicated to the current functional styles existing in the current Romanian language and, consequently, to the Greek&Latin terms which have been integrated by each of these styles. Of course, the theoretical discussion about the styles' definitions and the features of each of them is impressively rigorous, though mixed influences among them are fruitfully possible. The examples provided are rich in potential references and connections (p. 156-185). An incredibly brief Chapter V is dedicated to the *orthography* of the terms concerned (p. 186-190) since orthography is used only as an inciting pretext for further theoretical debates which should have been continued. *Instead of conclusions* the author continues, briefly but steadily the classical line in the study of the so-called *Humanities*. Apart from its official academic interest which is a fully achieved *desideratum*, the present work is attractive because it illustrates the balance of a talented scholar between two "spheres of influence" which are equally appealing for her: the most ancient side of the classical world and the most innovative side of scientific investigation. She has indeed achieved a remarkable equilibrium between them.