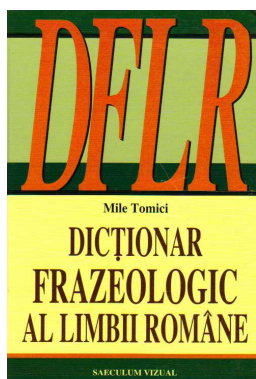
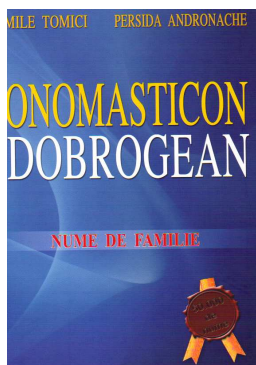


Mile Tomici, a Prolific Linguist, Fully Active at 75 Years Old



Linguists prove themselves to stand, in the human studies domain, among the most tenacious and long living researchers. Should this fact be due to the precision and accuracy that their scientific investigation usually requires? These assets are vowed to “provide” them with a status of heuristic “certitude”, which is spiritually comforting and gives them strength in terms of affectivity and moral stamina. Mile Tomici confirms this hypothesis, through his prodigious scientific activity, carried out with rectitude within some predilect domains for more than 50 years. At his 75 years old, which he has turned this year, he continues to work, with his usual professional punctiliousness and yet with a steadfast energy dedicated to it. The physical and intellectual good shape in which he is now, his proverbial appetite for work, long since famous among us who know him and his great scientific and literary projects which quietly grow on his working desk do enable us to state that he will keep doing so for many years from now on (he even takes into consideration to write an auto-biographical novel).

Mile Tomici counts among a generation of linguists which might be unique in the history of Romanian linguistics: since graduating from the Faculty till the age due for retirement, they have worked as professionals within “institute-bred scientific research”, as they used to say. Thereby, they got involved in collective projects that were rich in themes, extent and long-lasting in time. In this respect, in the case of Mile Tomici, we might mention *Dicționarul elementelor românești din documentele slavo-române* (1374-1600), *Dicționarul toponimic al României – Oltenia*, *Dicționar roman – macedonean*, *Atlasul lingvistic general slav*, *Atlasul dialectal sârb*, etc. These do constitute important contributions in domains where individual studies are useful indeed, but they still lack the necessary methodological horizon and the documentary extent which would anyway be impossible to achieve by a single working person.



Simultaneously, Mile Tomici does distinguish himself among the colleagues from his generation through realizing, in a parallel line to the one of the collective projects, some individual scientific “enterprises”, among which some are of his own soul.





He has conceived them on a large scale, with dense and detailed structures, always carrying them to their expected final form through astounding wisdom and incessant efforts. In this respect, let us mention only: the monograph in Serbian: *Govor Sviničana*, that is to say his doctoral thesis; some dictionaries: *Român – macedonean* (awarded by the Romanian Academy), *Macedonean – roman*, *Sârb – roman*, *Român – sârb*, *DicȚionar frazeologic roman – sârb*, *Onomsticon dobrogean*, *Onomastica sârbilor și croaților din România*, *Karaševci i njihov jezik*, *DicȚionar frazeologic al limbii române*. Most of these treatises amount to about 1000

pages each, some of them being structured in several volumes. (We might say that Mile Tomić did not write books, but *tomes* – some of us were joking through the argument that his name, Tomić, might have been, allegedly, derivated from the noun *tome* used for an appellative purpose, so that our fellow might have been pre-destined for the perspective of his career). Within such themes, perimeters, and in the related fields, he has also published papers approaching the linguistics theory, analysis and methodology, in which he tackles essential issues, published in dozens of books that have become references and unavoidable scientific instruments for the researchers from a highly diverse and extended spectrum, always fluid, of human sciences: dialect science, phrase science, anthroponomics, toponymy, lexicology, lexicography, palaeography, Slavonic and non-Slavonic Balkan languages, etc.

To accomplish such long-term goals, he first acquired the necessary academic training through university courses and doctoral studies in Romania, continued by specialization stages abroad, especially in Slavic language countries, where he was able to keep in touch with the current issues in Slavistics and with the ones concerning the contacts between Romanian and the Slavic languages. He dedicated most of his studies to these fields of interest and he submitted himself to a continuous process of self-perfecting.

In parallel with his research saga, he functioned as a university professor, for less time, but yet with equally fruitful results. Let us mention only that he founded a Department of Balkanology at the “Ovidius” University of Constanța, and that he mentored there dozens of doctoral students (among whom 31 are now PhD holders). Among them, some have chosen to study the Dobrudjan toponymy and anthroponomics, consequently publishing a synthesis work on the onomastics of this historical province. We hope that this achievement will soon be continued by *DicȚionarul Toponimic al Dobrogei*.

In our friend’s defining style of precision, as he writes in his CV, the retirement found him “after an active duty stage of 50 years, 8 months and 16 days”. It comes as the paramount of an impressively outstanding scientific *oeuvre*. (He is the author or co-author of 36 books, published in Romania or abroad). But it finds Mile Tomić in full action, as tenacious and steadfast in striving to achieve more important projects as we have known him for a lifetime. Let us wish him the strength he needs to carry them out to the end he foresees. It is only due to these existing intrinsic assets, able to join with a remarkable intellectual endowment, that the young boy Mile Tomić, born in



the village of Radima, County of Caraş-Severin, has professionally evolved to reach for the highest peaks in science and in his academic career, accumulating an exceptional *cursus honorum* in Romanian linguistics and in the Slavonic area.

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