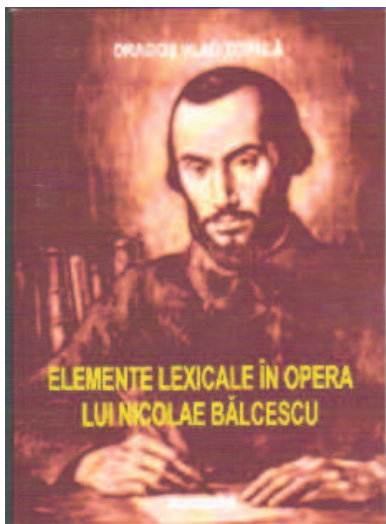


**Dragoș Vlad Topală, *Elemente lexicale în opera lui Nicolae Bălcescu*,
Craiova, Editura Sitech, 2014, 152 p. (Iustina Burci)**



Characterized by a strong expression of national consciousness in all Romanian provinces, the 1848 period aimed not only at social and national emancipation, or the hard fight for the achievement of the Union, but also at the modernization of literature under the influence of European romanticism, as well as the creation of a single literary language.

The work of Nicolae Bălcescu – an outstanding militant of the forty-eighters and, at the same time, a historian, sociologist, philosopher, artist constantly concerned with the stylistic and architectural expression of his works and with establishing an orthography and a supradialectal literary language – bears, naturally, the mark of this period of social and cultural effervescence. So far,

however, as the author of the reviewed book confesses in the *Introduction*, the contribution of Nicolae Bălcescu's writings, particularly in the lexical field, "has only been estimated", being "summarily presented in several course books on the history of the Romanian literary language". (p. 6) Therefore, while approaching the text analysis method, he aimed to make in this monographic study an analysis of the lexical items occurring in the historical, political, economic writings, in the correspondence, and in *The Romanians under Prince Michael the Brave*, all belonging to the great forty-eighter and being contained in four volumes - critical editions by G. Zane and Elena G. Zane – published under the aegis of the Romanian Academy between 1974 and 1990.

Thus, after we become familiar, in the *Introduction* (p. 5-12), with the complex profile of Nicolae Bălcescu, the writer, Mr. Dragoș Vlad Topală structures his work on several levels, depending on the selected lexical material: 1. *Loans* (p. 13-46), 2. *Calques and internal formations* (p. 47-60), 3. *Terminology* (p. 61 -102), 4. *Problems of adaptation of neologisms* (p. 103-113), 5. *Other lexical elements* (p. 114-138).

As far as the first chapter is concerned, after a few theoretical clarifications regarding the notions of *re-Latinization*, *re-Romanization*, *Romance Westernization*, the author classifies, based on the etymological solutions offered by *Micul Dicționar Academic*, the loans found in the work of Nicolae Bălcescu. Most of them come - in the spirit of the time - from French (*ambție, aventurier, bulevard, competent, condescendent, conduită, dezavua, eventualitate, ostilitate, personifica, simpatiza, stereotip*, etc.) or have Latin-Romance origin (*abundență, apatie, califica, consecvență, degrada, divergență, emulație, extraordinar, generos, intervenție, modest, onoare, pretext, resemnare, utilitate, vitalitate*, etc.). They are closely followed by words with Latin and Romance, as well as non-Romance origin (*analitic, catastrofă, inițiativă, ocazie, sinteză*, etc.), then Slavic (*boală, calic, duh, obște, potop, slujbă, stavilă*, etc.) and, to a lesser extent, by appellatives from Latin (*aproba, artă, breviar, produce, sacru*, etc.), Italian (*bătălie, dispreț, revistă*, etc.), Turkish (*acaret, calabalâc*, etc.),

Modern Greek (*furtună, mânie*, etc.) and Hungarian (*chezaș, mistui*, etc.). Each section contains comments on the type of lexemes that were borrowed: nouns, adjectives, verbs; abstract or concrete; literary, old, regional forms etc.

The next chapter – *Calques and internal formations* – brings together, in the former part, the calques identified by the author in the writings of Bălcescu (*neprieten, compătimire, dezmădula, imbarca* etc.), whereas in the latter, more substantial part, it presents in detail the internal formations he used. Unlike *compounding*, which counts several examples (*altcevași, amănunt, încai, totdeodată*), *suffixation* and *prefixation* [with formants of different origin – Latin (*argumentare, ajutora, adevəri, datorință, românime, defăimător, strâmbătate, adunanță, înșelăciune, lăcrămos; împăciuire, dezbate*), Slavic (*despărțenie, îndărătnic, cetățean, îngăduială, completui; neatârnaire*), Thracian (*mișelesc, ticăloșește*), Hungarian (*prieteșug*), created on Romanian ground (*istoricește, defăimat, favorizat, ostenit*) or with multiple etymology (*crâncenie, trușăș, solidaritate, fugar; prejudecată*)] are much better illustrated.

A complex personality, with concerns in different fields, Nicolae Bălcescu uses a rich vocabulary in his writings, combining modern terms and “specialized archaisms”. They are approached by Mr. Dragoș Vlad Topală in the third chapter of his book - *Terminology* -, dividing lexemes into the following classes: a) military terminology (*aga, armistițiu, batalion, capitula, cumbara, lipcan, obuz, soldat*); b) social-political terminology (*abdica, anarhie, capugiu, consul, exploatator, gubernie, lude, minoritate, parlament, proletar, republica, tiranie, unitate*); c) legal-administrative terminology (*abolție, cadiascher, catagrafie, dosar, legitimitate, rezidență, subadministrator*); d) historical terminology (*cuțovlah, fanariot, istoric*); e) philosophical terminology (*argumentație, existență, individualitate, speculație*); f) religious terminology (*catolic, chinovie, creștinătate, dogmă, mitropolit, sacrament*); g) terminology of economics (*avans, beneficiu, dajdie, fiscal, haraci, monopol*). The appellatives within each class are analyzed from the standpoint of their origin (borrowed, created on Romanian ground), phonetism, morphology and semantics.

The last section of this chapter is devoted to terminological units that appear in the above-mentioned areas. Here, the author provides a detailed classification according to structures and lexical classes: noun + adjective (*constituție democratică; administrație română; industria agricolă*), adjective + noun + adjective (*obșteasca Adunare națională*), (noun +) noun in G±adjective (*adunarea poporului; actul vânzării; monopolul proprietății*), noun + preposition + noun ±adjective (*alianțe pentru viitor; decretul de amnistie; mijloace de indemnizare*), noun + adjective + preposition + noun (*lege votată de parlament; rentă plătită în lucru*), etc.

In *Problems of adaptation of neologisms*, the author identifies at both phonetic and morphological level, several features of neologisms used in the writings of Bălcescu: substitutions of vowels (*abundantă*), consonantal dissimulations (*amărunt*), gender switch (*armistiție*), old plural forms (*atestaturi*), the use of suffixed forms for the present tense of the indicative mood (*afirmez*), etc.

The last chapter reunites appellatives which, according to lexicographical sources, are put into circulation by the great forty-eighter. They include internal creations (*anevoință, crâncenie, românizat*), loanwords from Turkish (*cadiascher, culoglu, hatișerif, topciu*) or French (*anarșie, confiență, dezavua, memoar, rezona*), xenisms (*armata lui e en dérouté*), as well as forms adapted to our vocabulary, some

corresponding to the current rules of the language (*anarhic, candidatură, disculpa, financiar*), some others adapted to the Romanian orthoepic and spelling rules (*aborda, amnistie, anturaj, broşură, contesta, persistenţă*).

Under the influence of the French language, the neologisms used by Nicolae Bălcescu (as, indeed, the writers of the time), contributed to the “modernization and unification of the vocabulary of literary language”. (p. 137) This is the recurrent idea of the book, also well defined in the *Conclusions* by pointing out the characteristics of the vocabulary used in his writings (some of them including: doubling archaisms or older terms in language by neologisms, indicated in brackets).

Dragoş Vlad Topală offers us, along with the publication of this book, a comprehensive study on the lexical elements in the work of Nicolae Bălcescu, a ‘must’ for any person who wants to gain a deeper insight into the stages of the development of our literary language.