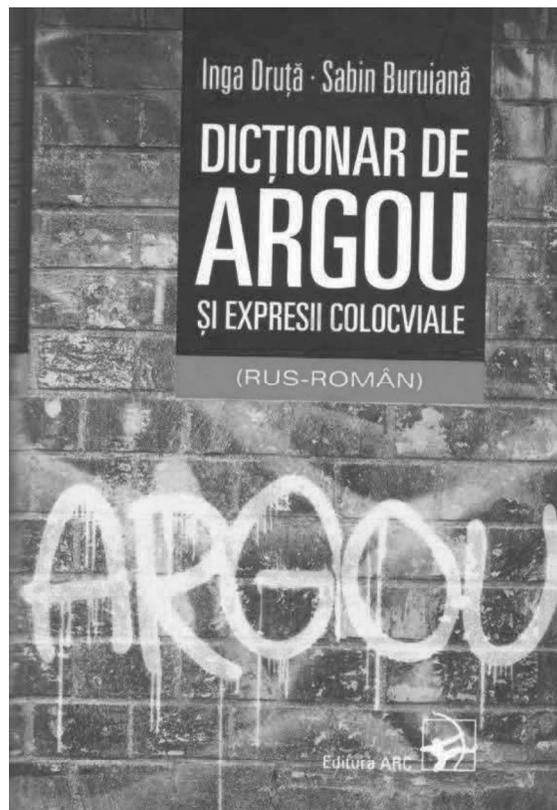


Inga Druță, Sabin Buruiană, *Dicționar de argou și expresii colocviale (rus-român)*, Chișinău, Editura Arc, 2017, 340 p. (Mariana Buciu)

A scientific researcher of international prestige at the Institute of Philology of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Inga Druță has a PhD in philology and a habilitation title, being a specialist in terminology and applied linguistics. An essential feature of Inga Druță, the researcher, is “respect for man and for linguistic truth”<sup>1</sup>, proving throughout her scientific activity a genuine sense of taming and knowing words, which she submits to her rigorous analysis.

In the process of research of different word categories, Inga Druță has accurately studied the dynamics of Romanian terminology (neologisms, current terms, technical and scientific terms, economic terms, interdisciplinary or argotic terms, etc.) in well-known works such as: *Neologismul în structura stilistică a limbii române*, 2007, *Considerații privind mișcarea lexicului actual*, 2003; *Cuvântul între semn și ambiguitate*, 2003; *Termeni și sintagme. Dicționar rus-român* (Chișinău, 2008, in collaboration), *Dicționar de termeni economici* (București, 2013-2014, in collaboration) and the coursebook *Ghidul funcționarului public* (2007, 9 editions, in collaboration).

It is known that, when a word changes its meaning, either broadening or narrowing it, either degrading or elevating it, it reaches a certain level of expressiveness. Changing the meaning of a word, placed in a new context, becomes the source of its expressiveness, removes it from the banal and conventional sphere, and adds freshness to the current linguistic landscape. Surely, for Inga Druță the argotic terms are the most expressive. In 2017, the author enriches the Romanian argotic lexicography by publishing *Dicționar de argou și expresii colocviale (rus-român)*/ ‘Dictionary of argot and colloquial expressions (Russian-Romanian)’ at the Arc Publishing House in Chișinău, in a successful collaboration with Sabin Buruiană. Moreover, unconventional languages are no longer regarded as taboo subjects, therefore a number of such works have appeared in recent years: *Dicționar de argou al limbii române*/ ‘Dictionary of argot of the Romanian language’ by George Volceanov (Bucharest 2007), *101 cuvinte argotice*/ ‘101 argotic words’ by Rodica Zafiu (Bucharest 2010), *Dicționar de argou francez-român*/ ‘French-Romanian argot dictionary’ by Ioan Matei (Bucharest 2011) or *Dicționar de argou englez-român*/ ‘English-Romanian argot dictionary’ by George Volceanov and Raluca Nicolae (Bucharest 2015).



<sup>1</sup><http://www.if.asm.md/index.php/51-inga-dru-un-nume-notoriu-n-terminologia-rom-neasc>

*Dicționar de argou și expresii colocviale (rus-român)* by Inga Druță and Sabin Buruiană, which I would like to present, dear readers, is the first of this kind, it is an absolute novelty on the editorial market in Romania and addresses both the general public and the specialists, either Romanian or foreign (philologists, linguists, lexicographers, researchers), literary translators, journalists, being at the same time a useful tool for teachers and students from the faculties in the field.

Actually, the book of Inga Druță draws attention even before studying it, as soon as you see it, either on the shelves of a library or in on-line bookshops, for at least two reasons. On the one hand, it has the format close to that of a pocket book that you would like to read as soon as you buy it, on a subway travel or in a café while you are waiting for a dear friend, anxious to share the unique novelties about the unconventional, living, argotic language that you have just found out by browsing it. On the other hand, the cover made by the graphic artist Mihai Bacinski is extremely suggestive and truthful: on a gray brick wall painted with graffiti, the word ARGOT is painted, like a yellow shout boldly streaming down from the existential *ash* and absurdity, a symbol of that rebel and non-conformist part of the modern urban world that promotes freedom of expression by any means.

From a structural point of view, the work *Dicționar de argou și expresii colocviale (rus-român)* by Inga Druță includes an *Argument*, a table of *Abbreviations*, very useful for the study, the dictionary as such with the argotic words and colloquial expressions from A to Я, according to the alphabet of the Russian language, a rich specialized *Bibliography* (works of famous Romanian and Russian linguists such as Miorița Got, Iorgu Iordan, Dumitru Irimia, D.C. Baldaev, etc.), *Electronic resources* and other *Sources* - famous Romanian authors in whose works argot made a literary career such as Eugen Barbu, Mihai Avasilcăi, Ion Gheție, Dan Lungu, Nichita Stănescu, etc.

The *Argument* is extremely interesting through the content of ideas, very well articulated with regard to the reasons and the usefulness of writing the dictionary of argotic terms. Thus, we find out that “argot has always been the vocabulary of the initiated ones” or that the great linguist Iorgu Iordan considered argot “the most important aspect of the spoken language”. Did you know when the Romanian argotic lexicography came into being? The eminent lexicographer Mircea Seche traces back its birth in 1860, when the famous publication at that time, “Nechipercea” once listed a series of argotic terms deriving from the language of the prisoners and gamblers. In the *Argument* we also read that argot is “a linguistic reality between the boundaries of communication and the freedom of the game.”<sup>2</sup> Another interesting point underlined in the *Argument* and then discovered in the pages of the dictionary is that of the close connection between the argotic language and the familiar, colloquial one: “It is known that an initially argotic phrase either disappears from the vocabulary with the passage of time, or it is adopted by a wider circle of speakers and tends to become familiar, gradually losing its argotic colour.”<sup>3</sup>

Argot is used by social groups that reinvent meanings of words in order not to be understood by others. It is preferred by interlopers, soldiers, students, commuters,

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<sup>2</sup> Inga Druță, Sabin Buruiană, *Dicționarul de argou și expresii colocviale (rus-român)*, Chișinău, Editura Arc, 2017, p. 6.

<sup>3</sup> Inga Druță, *op. cit.*, p. 6.

etc. The table of *Abbreviations* at the beginning of the book proves to be very useful throughout the reading. So we find out that *adol.* is *the language of adolescents*, *depr.* is the abbreviation of the word *depreciative*, *intl.* refers to *the slang of the underworld*, *mil.* to *the military slang*, *peior.* is the abbreviation of *pejorative*, *șc.* refers to primary and secondary school *students' language*, *glum.* means joking, etc., all of which are necessary abstractions in understanding the origin of argotic meanings.

Studying Inga Druță's dictionary from A to Я suggests that argot is actually a language *parallel* to the unanimously accepted literary language, a code unjustly placed at the periphery of language. In their note of encryption and picturesque, adventure and non-conformism, comic and playful mix, the argotic terms, like colloquial expressions give clear clues about the dynamics and mood of a society, about the existential problems, fears and anxiety, about the degree of solidarity of certain social groups, about the desire to impress of one or the other; but also about people's desire to put on a mask for protecting themselves, to give an alarm, to give colour to an often boring or hostile social environment through humour and play, to revolt through language against an unnatural social order, to uncover their own creativity and ability to create metaphors (for example: *hoață*/ 'thief' "beautiful woman", *ecologist* "vagabond", *periuță*/ 'little brush' "flatterer", *remorcă*/ 'trailer' "wife") or to simply make reality a more bearable place.

According to the dictionary, the argotic language presented by the author is divided into the language of the underworld (of theft, prison) and the language of the young people (of juvenile non-conformism).

First of all, we note that the terms from the language of offenders and interlopers are somewhat more technical and more individualized, relatively stable and based on popular language. Here are some of the argotic terms belonging to this sphere which seemed more interesting or easier to remember: *arhanghel* (interl.) means *îngerăș* (little angel), *manușu* (i.e. policeman); *avtoritet* (interl.) means *barosan*, *carete*, *ciumeg*, *rechin*, *pașă*, *reptilă* (the unofficial chief of a group of prisoners); *agneț* (interl.) means *absolvent*, *primar* (offender convicted for the first time); *agressor* means *scrai*, *donjuan*, *fustangiu* (wanton, Don Juan, lady-killer); *aghi- aghi* is *idilă*, *șustă* (idyll, love affair); *aiva!* can be translated *asarde- o!*, *topeală!* *Fugi!* (Run away!); *akvarium* has three meanings: 1. (reg.) *hammer* 2. *a glass of 100 ml* (det) 3. *burial vault* (police custody); *akademiiu* means *a avea muște*, literally 'to have flies' (criminal record); *alka* is translated (euphem.) *cititoare*, *sugativă* (drunkard, about a woman); *balgeoz* - *cașto!* cool! super!; *bali otsiuda* means *caută- mă pe afară!* *eject!* *fă pași* (Get out!); *viskarikțuiski*, *vișiki* (whiskey); *gniti* is translated *asa avea un dinte impotriva cuiva*, *a unelti*, *a umbla cu șopârle* (to bear smb a grudge, to plot); *droji/ drojki*, "cheese, money"; *dib* "boot, Ruble, corpse"; *derbaniti* (interl.) "to share the booty", (tox) "to harvest poppy or hemp"; *guten- morghen*, "matinee, morning mill" (theft from one's house in the morning); *delo* has several meanings: 1. ok! safe! (done) 2. (jokingly) disinfection (alcohol drinking). 3. (interl) parish (an area where a gang of thieves operate); *ambal* "animal (human), wardrobe, Godzilla, a mountain of a man, sturdy man"; *bacteria* (fig.) "pickle, rip" (bad character); *alles* (interl.) means *aliman*, *eșec*, *fiasco*, *gherțoi* (failure); *apofighei* means *jemanfișism*, *miserupism* (*jemanfișism* was coined based on a French jargon word coming from *je m'en fiche* meaning 'I don't care'); *Abaiaga Protiv* is translated as *Gică Contra* (a bundle of negatives).

Secondly, young people's, teenagers' language is more dynamic, more non-

conformist, more flexible, and trend-dependent. It is an inexhaustible source of informal words and expressions, but also of colloquial or familiar expressions. For young people in the Republic of Moldova, this dictionary is welcome because they know better the Russian terms and expressions given the historical conditions and know very little about the equivalent Romanian argotic terms and colloquial expressions. We mention some terms and expressions from the language of the young, of the students: *gorșok varit* “to be smart”; *gnuti dugu* (pop) “to beat about the bush, to rant on about”; *alghebroid* “the teacher of algebra”; *jandarm* “the teacher, form teacher”; *jara!* “It’s crappy! It’s lousy!”; *Aleoșa* “stupid kid, nitwit”; *balalaiki tebe!* means *o brânză! canci! cotu' și pișcotu', labele și botu'!* (nothing, nothing at all). The following terms belong to internet communication, also preferred by young people: *akkord* (computers) “a combination of three buttons Ctrl+Alt+Del”, (jokingly) the three-finger greeting; *Vinda (vindaza)* “Wind, vindoze” (Microsoft Windows); *Vinci* “hard disk”; *ghik, geek* “a glutton for ICT”, (ironically) “alien, solitary like a badger”.

By studying *Dicționar de argou și expresii colocviale (rus-român)*, you have the opportunity to enrich your own vocabulary with Romanian colloquial expressions that you did not know before: the Russian expression *pokazati nebo v almahaz* is translated as “to blow smb off”, but it may have other meanings such as: “to give smb a good dressing down, to shave smb, to tease smb unmercifully”; or a word like *baki* that can be translated as follows: 1. (interl.) onion, mill (clock) and 2. “benjamini, lovage, money, greens, vegetables” (dollars).

As I have highlighted above, the humorous, comic-ludic component is also present in the argotic language. For example, *machior* “brawler”, *ruladă* “a good thrashing”, *vampire* “very demanding teacher”; *arktika* (jokingly) “aerodrome, highway, bulb, skating rink for flies” (baldness).

At the end of the presentation, we would like to point out that in the speech of the argotic type, words *divert* their meanings and acquire others, unexpected, alive, fresh, demonstrating the force of expressiveness and the power to reinvent themselves, both of the Russian words, and of the ones belonging to the Romanian language, because the author does not provide only a single Romanian equivalent to a Russian argotic term, but she also completes impressive synonymic series. The book deserves to be studied by both specialists and the general public, because by the savour of the terms professionally presented by the two authors, it brings more energy and freedom, so necessary sometimes in the context of the complex and controversial society where we live.