MODALITY, SUBJECTIVITY AND DISCURSIVE WORLDS IN ROMANCE LANGUAGES

ABSTRACT

The paper Modality, subjectivity and discursive worlds in Romance languages, proposed for the Habilitation Certificate, outlines, in its first part, my scientific, professional and academic trajectory after having obtained the PhD degree (in 2007) in Romance linguistics, which has focused around three directions, somehow complementary to one another.

A first direction is the study of classical languages (i.e. Latin language), globally characterized through the detailed approach of issues of Latin linguistics (morpho-syntax of noun phrases, the semantic and syntactical functioning of areas of verbal tenses in classical and late Latin, etc.), and, especially, through the attempt at repositioning such aspects in the light of recent theories proposed by Western classical linguistics. This approach resulted in a range of studies and articles presented in various scientific conferences in the country or abroad or published in scientific journals, as well as the monograph Noțiuni de morfosintaxă a limbii latine. Grupul nominal, Universitaria, Craiova, 2007 [2010].

The second research direction – which I personally consider a milestone in my scientific development – is the one that began with the PhD dissertation Expresarea potențialului și a irealului în latină, franceză și română (coordinated by Professor Maria Iliescu), subsequently extended and “refined” within the postdoctoral project Viitorul și condiționalul în limbile române. Abordare morfosintactică și categorizare semantică din perspectivă diacronică.

The PhD dissertation is the first diachronic and contrastive detailed study on the means of expressing the potential and unreal/counterfactual cognitive values in classical and late Latin, French and Romanian, primarily helping clarify such notions in scientific literature (at a noematic and terminological level), as well as morpho-syntactic and semantic aspects in the history of each analysed language.

The postdoctoral dissertation (published at the Universitaria Publishing House in 2013) does not focus on the study of archetypal cognitive values, but on the investigation of the semantic meaning actualised by the two prospective areas of verbal tenses (Romance future and conditional) at a discursive level. We are again dealing with a doubly focused (cross- and intralinguistic) study, a pioneering approach in relevant scientific
literature, as well as a first simultaneous and comprehensive research on future and conditional in Romanian language.

Besides these two fundamental works on the semantics and functioning of certain areas of verbal tenses (conjunctive, future, conditional) in Romance languages seen in synchrony, diachrony, as well as contrast, we have also mentioned here two other studies, published in ISI-refereed journals, that helped us define, based on our own analysis frame, the semantic and syntactic status of conditional in French language (Popescu 2013a), and presumptive in Romanian language respectively (Popescu 2009).

The third research axis was achieved within two grants devoted to lexical borrowings from French into Romanian (undertaken during 2009-2011 and 2014-2015 respectively at the University of Craiova), where I mainly dealt with the semantic analysis of Gallicisms in Romanian language and the issue of “multiple etymology”. The research developed within these projects resulted in two major studies that I drew up as a single author, one being published in an ISI-refereed journal of the Romanian Academy (Popescu 2013c), and the other one in a prestigious foreign publishing house (Popescu 2013d). I also participated in drawing up studies and volumes in collaboration with project team members: a semantic typology of Gallicisms in Romanian language published in Revue de Linguistique Romane (ISI journal), two monographs, Dicționarul de împrumuturi lexicale din limba franceză în limba română (DILF 2009) etc.

A fourth research direction – devoted to the study of discursive markers in Romance languages – has begun to develop lately. A first study on this topic, drawn up within an international project and recently published at Oxford University Press, in the volume (Chiara Ghezzi / Piera Molinelli, coord.), Pragmatic Markers from Latin to Romance Languages, is the one regarding the semantic and pragmatic functioning of the lexemes atunci and alors.

As for my professional activity, it consists of teaching classes and seminars on Latin linguistics, general and Romance linguistics, pragmatics and communication sciences, drawing up high quality teaching materials that support student training, as well as guiding and coordinating students and young researchers. All these are completed by a focus on teacher training, a constant keystone in my continuous training, i.e. various extra-curricular activities that aim at developing the students’ transversal and scientific competences.

My academic profile is also enhanced by the cooperation with reputed specialists in the previously described research fields, within two nationally funded grants and two international projects, or by the affiliation to outstanding professional associations in the country or abroad.
Likewise, the publication of four ISI articles (three as a single author, one in collaboration) in significant national (*Revue roumaine de linguistique*) and international journals (*Revue de Linguistique Romane* sau *Zeitschrift für Französische Sprache und Literatur*), as well as a high number of scientific studies in prestigious international publishing houses (Oxford University Press, de Gruyter, etc.) is an implicit form of recognition of my research activity and of the impact of the achieved results.

Moreover, my citation in the works of reputed scholars (such as Rodica Zafiu, Gabriela Scurtu, Didier Bottineau, Romana Timoc-Bardy, Corine Rossari, etc.) and the favourable reviews of my works represent a direct criterion for the assessment of my professional activity in the Romanian and international academic environment.

The second part of the work outlines the research directions of my future career project, which globally focuses on: developing research competences in philology and communication sciences; continuous training and development of teaching skills; enhancing the visibility of all academic activities.

Finally, the third part of the work presents the main bibliographical sources that have been used frequently for developing my scientific, professional and academic trajectory.