

# MAKING UP TOPONIMICAL PATTERNS. THE CASE OF THE UPPER JIJIA AREA

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## Abstract

The present research focuses on gathering and sorting information about the toponymy of the Upper Jijia Area, Botoșani county, with application especially on the geographical area of the Albești, Broscăuți, Cordăreni, Corlșăteni, Hilișeu-Horia, Lunca, Răuseni, Todireni, Trușești, Vorniceni and Ungureni villages. The diversity of the toponymic terms determined the organization of a glossary of entopic terms from which we here transpose some fragments that reflect this aspect.

**Keywords:** *anthroponyms, appellatives, etymology, toponymic polarization, compose toponymic structures, entropic terms.*

## 1. TOPONYM CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF TOPONYMIC POLARIZATION

In our efforts to analyse the composed toponymic structures of the Upper Jijia Area, we drew attention to the way in which some researchers consider toponyms according to certain criteria with which correlations were made during the social evolution of each community of speakers. Therefore, Gh. Bolocan names a series of toponyms classifying them with the help of appellatives, anthroponyms and of other toponyms (BOLOCAN, 1993). Everything that takes place at the level of toponym transfiguration, “the name transfer” is precisely something that can be observed in identifying the formation means of the composed toponymic structures, where a designated toponym can represent the basis for forming other names of geographic areas. According to Dragoș Moldovanu, “toponymic polarization” (MOLDOVANU, 2014) regarded as “a name transfer” by Gh. Bolocan (BOLOCAN, 2009) (“when a toponym is the basis of other place names,” according to Adelina Emilia Mihai, *The toponymy of the Vișeu Valley. Semantic classification*),

appears as “a creation process for some toponymic derivatives from a core-toponym” for which Vlad Cojocaru considered that it is very important for a researcher in his effort to research the formation of toponyms to establish for sure “the polarizer” and “the polarization direction” (COJOCARU, 2005). Iorgu Iordan speaks about a classification of toponymic names in “topographic, social, historical and psychological” (IORDAN, 1963) and it is later on emphasized in various scientific communication contexts that in the formation of composed structures “toponyms fulfil a series of functionalities which derive from the fact that a toponym may generate in its vicinity other linguistic representations of other geographic realities with the help of a mechanism” which mainly uses the toponymics (as Iorgu Iordan calls them) in its correlational movement and, in his opinion, “they describe the form or the exterior aspect of the place,” “present the nature of the field belonging to that respective locality or in its vicinity,” “a presentation of the place,” “the position of the place according to the cardinal directions, the altitude of the soil or with regard to the neighbouring localities,” the so-called “topographics,” alongside which he theorizes “the toponymics, historical and psychological.” Secondly, “the toponymic fields” can be generated by every core toponym and can manifest themselves at the level of expression through “equipollent and privative” oppositions. Therefore, the toponymic categories (cremonyms, hydronyms, phytonyms, hydronyms, hodonyms, horonyms, oiconyms, oronyms, pedionyms, and telmatonyms) crystallize in their semantics the consciousness of the speakers’ belonging to the geographical spaces they know very well and name them accordingly. The observations of the toponymic

researchers made us aware of the fact that a toponym represents for its speaker the status of his geographic identity best described by successive phenomena fixed in the evolution history of the local toponymy through “toponymic fields,” “toponymic categories” and “toponymic derivatives.” They all represent the result of a complex permanent adaptation process of the speakers from one community to the inherent social, economic, historical, territorial and psychological transformations.

### *History, geography and toponymy*

Considering the Upper Jijia Area, based on the results of the local linguistic surveys and of the historical, demographic and administrative documents, we noticed a permanent uniformization tendency of the terms which refer to the configuration of the geographic space in accordance with recent transformations. We identified toponyms which present some recent local landmarks, with the help of the following names of fields: *Călugăra* (field, Răuseni), *Cărămidărie* (field, Corlăteni), *Ceargău* (field, Hlipiceni), *Cepărie* (field, Hlipiceni), *Coadă Bălții* (agricultural field, Lunca), *Coasta Bolniței* (field, Hlipiceni), *Coasta Corcească* (field, Trușești), *Coasta Crucii* (field, Ungureni), *Coasta Durnești* (field, Ungureni), *Coasta Frăsinei* (field, Trușești), *Excadron* (field, Hlipiceni), *Fața Satului* (field, Albești), *Hârtopul Horlaca* (agricultural field, Lunca), *Hârtopul Odăii* (field, Ungureni), *Imașul Ciuleienilor* (field, Ungureni). These aspects prove that there is a permanent correlation between toponymy and the social and economic development and that there is a need to designate every geographic habitat by the belonging community of speakers.

## **2. GLOSSARY OF ENTROPIC TERMS FROM THE UPPER JIJIA AREA**

We shall now present a series of entropic terms, geographic appellatives which represent the basis of toponym formation in the Upper Jijia Area. The presentation takes place alphabetically with the help of Romanian dictionaries and it uses explanations regarding the etymology, meaning and the existing variants in the composed toponymic structures.

**BAHNĂ:** f.n. (from Ukrainian. *bahno*) “swampy place, pod (according to Ciorănescu, DELR, p.69) (CIORĂNESCU, 2007)”. “Swampy place covered with grass, rush or reed” reg. “bahniță (< бaхнa)” (according to DEXI, p. 185 (DEXI, 2007); a regionalism used in Moldova and Bukovina. Toponyms present in the Upper Jijia Valley: *Bahna Gafencu* (field in Hilișeu-Horia village), *Bahna Sloboziei* (field in Slobozia village), *Bahnă* (field in Lunca village), *Bahnei* (creek and valley in Trușești village), *În Bahnă* (field in Vorniceni village), *La Bahnă* (heal and field in Albești village). From an etymologic point of view the word *bahnă* is explained by the Explanatory Dictionary of the Romanian Language, p.69, as such: “From rut. *bahno*, pol., rus. *bagno*, having the same root as the German *Bach* “creek” (Cihac (CIHAC, 1870), Berneker; DAR)”; According to the DAR dictionaries and Candrea (CANDREA & DENSUSIANU, 2006), the word is also associated with the following interpretations: “dirty, rotten as stagnant water, stinky.” According to DSLR (SECHE & SECHE, 1999), p. 53, the synonyms for the word “*bahnă*” are: *puddle, swamp, morass*.

**BALTĂ:** f. n. (from sl. *blato*; cf. alb. *baltë*) “1. swamp. 2. the Danube’s floodplain. 3. pond. Mr., megl. *baltă*, istr. *bote*. (According to DELR, Ciorănescu, p. 75); “1. permanent standing water, with specific fauna and vegetation; 2. a body of water forming a river (in which one can bathe or wash); rainwater collected in a hollow; pit (small) with water, mud” (According to NDULR, p. 166); “1. large part of the meadow, in which the flood water stagnates a lot, sometimes all year round with temporary or permanent moorings, with ravines, having a rich aquatic vegetation and a specific fauna; 2. standing water stretch; floodplain area, with places where water stagnates (According to. DEXI, p. 190); according to the documentary sources regarding the origin of this word we noticed certain contradictions about the language from which it stems. First of all, we start from the premise that the origin of the word *baltă* is uncertain according to the following two theories: the first one, developed by J. Kurylowicz (KURYLOWICZ, 1964) presented the following forms: Lithuanian *balà*, sl. *blato*, celt. *Palta* which derive from an Indo-European root “*bal-*”, from which the other forms

“balton” and rom. *baltă*, alb. *baljtë*, lom. *palta*, triest. *paltan*, piem. *Pauta* derive; the other theory implies the existence of the following forms: sl. *blato*, bg. *blato*, ceh. *blato*, pol. *bloto*, rus. *boloto*, a theory shared by Franz Miklosch, Robert Roesler and Al Philippide. The toponyms registered in the Upper Jijia Area are the following: *Balta Arsă* (forest in the Hilișeu-Horia village), *Balta Jijia* (pond in Albești village) and *La Bălți* (hill in Ungureni village).

COASTĂ: f.n. (< lat. *costa*, -ae); “slope, bluff, sloping part of a height” (According to NDUR, p. 329); (lat. *costa*, -ae) “sloping surface of a height; edge of a continent, an island, etc. through which they come in contact with the ocean or the sea” (According to DEXI, p.389); the toponyms registered in the researched area are the following: *Coasta Bolniței* (field, Hlipiceni); *Coasta Corcească* (field, Trușești); *Coasta Crucii* (field, Ungureni); *Coasta Durnești* (field, Ungureni); *Coasta Frăsinei* (field, Trușești); *Coasta Hatu Mare* (field, Todireni); *Coasta Hârtopul Horlaci* (field, Lunca); *Coasta Holmul Deasupra Huciului* (field, Todireni); *Coasta Humăriei* (field, Trușești); *Coasta Humăriei* (field, Trușești); *Coasta Jijiei* (field, Ungureni); *Coasta “La Vie”* (field, Trușești); *Coasta Livezii* (field, Lunca); *Coasta Luncuța* (field, Lunca); *Coasta Magaziei* (field, Hlipiceni); *Coasta Missir* (field, Hlipiceni); *Coasta Morii* (field, Ungureni); *Coasta Morii* (field, Vorniceni); *Coasta Morii* (pond, Vorniceni); *Coasta Palatului* (field Trușești, Albești); *Coasta Pietroasa* (field, Ungureni); *Coasta Ponori* (field, Sulița); *Coasta Prisăcii* (field, Trușești); *Coasta Râpoasă* (field, Trușești); *Coasta Robului* (field, Trușești); *Coasta Săliștii* (field, Ungureni); *Coasta Sloboziei* (field, Trușești); *Coasta Surinelor* (field, Trușești); *Coasta Tâlpoaiei* (field, Lunca); *Coasta Viei* (field, Trușești); *Coasta Velniței* (field, Vorniceni); *Coasta Vladiuc* (field, Trușești).

COLINĂ: f.n. (< fr. *colline*) “elongated relief form smaller than the hill (200-500 m), ellipsoidal in shape, smooth at the top, with strongly sloping slopes, which has a slightly undulating peak and inclined in the direction of the rivers that surround it” (According to DEXI, p. 398); “relief form smaller than the hill (and devoid of steep areas)” (According to NDULR, p. 337); the following toponyms are registered here: *Colina Puturosul*, a hill situated in the north of Mășcăteni village, with the appearance of a hill, a place for grazing.

COT: n.n. (< lat. *cubitus*, -i) “place, part where a road, a valley, a water, etc. it suddenly changes direction; turning, turning; meander (of a flowing water); small peninsula near a water; depression in the bank of a water” (According to DEXI, p. 458); “turning, river or road bending” (According to Scriban, DLR, p. 355); “place where a change of direction is made, a turn (on roads, running waters etc)” (According to NODEX); there is one registered toponym, *Cotu Nou*, which represents a neighbourhood in Răuseni village.

DĂLMĂ: f.n. reg. (< *dâmb*+*gâlmă*) “1. relief shape with the appearance of a small elongated hill; 2. pile of stony earth; 3. place where two valleys join” (According to NDULR, p. 428); in other words, and according to the information offered by NDULR we speak about a mound-like relief form having the shape of a gully; the toponyms present here are the following: *Dâlma lui Ouatu* and *Dâlma lui Șendreanu*, fields in Albești village.

DEAL: s.n (< s. veche дѣлъ) “positive landform, which appears as an elevation of the earth’s crust (with an altitude between 200 and 800 meters), dominated by slopes, lower than the mountain and higher than the hill, resulting from some uplifting movements or through the fragmentation of low plateaus” (According to DEXI, p. 510); from sl. *dělŭ* “elevation of the Earth’s crust lower than the mountain (between 200 and 800 m)” (According to NDULR, p. 429); “relief form representing a height between 200 and 800 m” (According to DELRA, p. 213); “from sl. *dielŭ*, ground elevation not exceeding 300 meters” (According to Șăineanu, DULR, p. 193); “magpie, lower than the mountain” (According to Scriban, DLR, p. 393); “hillock, a form of relief like a ridge of earth” (According to Ciorănescu, DER, p. 281); the toponyms registered in the Upper Jijia Area are the following: *Dealul lui Anton* (hill, Ungureni); *Dealul lui Buzilă* (hill, Trușești); *Dealul Cobicenilor* (hill, Hlipiceni); *Dealul Cobicenilor* (mound, Hlipiceni); *Dealul Coșare*, (hill, Broscăuți); *Dealul Coșare* (new village, Broscăuți); *Dealul Cozancea* (mound, Lunca); *Dealul Crăciuneni* (mound, Todireni); *Dealul Crucii* (village, Vorniceni); *Dealul Crucii* (mound, Vorniceni); *Dealul Crucii* (creek, Vorniceni); *Dealul Crucii* (valley, Vorniceni); *Dealul Crucii* (pond, Vorniceni); *Dealul Crucii*

(hill, Lunca); *Dealul David* (hill, Hlipiceni); *Dealul lui Eșanu* (hill, Albești, Todireni); *Dealul Garariu* (mound, Trușești); *Dealul lui Vasile Jitaru* (hill, Trușești); *Dealul Împărătesc* (hill, Vorniceni); *Dealul Împărătesc* (hill, Ungureni); *Dealul lui Lupașcu* (hill, Albești); *Dealul lui Mandachi* (hill, Hlipiceni); *Dealul lui Matei* (hill, Hlipiceni); *Dealul Mihăiasa* (mound, Răuseni); *Dealul lui Onofrei* (hill, Todireni); *Dealul din Podiș* (hill, Corlăteni); *Dealul Prisăcii* (mound, Albești); *Dealul Răchitei* (mound, Hlipiceni); *Dealul Răzeșilor* (hill, Lunca); *Dealul Sărata* (mound, Albești); *Dealul lui Ștefan Turcu* (hill, Albești); *Dealul Tălpoaiei* (mound, Lunca); *Dealul Todirenilor* (mound, Albești); *Dealul lui Vasilică* (hill, Ungureni); *Dealul lui Vârlan* (hill, Vorniceni).

DUMBRAVĂ: f.n. (< sl. *donbrava*), “young and sparse forest on straight ground” (According to NDULR, p. 520); “< sl. *дѣрѡва*; young and not very dense forest; forest grown on the bank of a water; oak forest” (According to DEXI, p. 614); “1. tree forest, especially oak; 2. small forest in a straight place; slv. *Dōbrava*, from *dobŭ*, tree” (According to Șăineanu, DULR, p. 224); the toponyms registered here are the following: *Dumbrava* (mound, Albești); *Dumbrăvii* (hill, Albești); *Dumbrăvii* (forest, Hilișeu-Horia); *Dumbrăvii* (hill, Hilișeu-Horia); *Dumbrăvii* (hill, Trușești); *Dumbrăvii* (valley, Trușești); *Dumbrăvii* (field, Trușești); *Dumbrăvița* (creek, Hilișeu-Horia); *Dumbrăvița* (valley, Hilișeu-Horia).

FÂNTÂNĂ: f.n. (lat. *fontana*); “construction in the form of a cylindrical or prismatic pit (with cobbled walls), dug into the ground to the level of a layer of water, with guides around it, which serves to supply drinking water to rural areas, well; construction of wall, stone, etc., which houses a source of water coming through the pipe and which serves to distribute it or as a decorative architectural element (in parks, on streets, etc.)” (According to DEXI, p. 738); “1. spring 2. well” (According to Ciorănescu, DER, p. 330); the toponyms registered here are the following: *Fântâna lui Anița* (Hlipiceni); *Fântâna lui Apostol* (reference point, Todireni); *Fântâna Bordeienilor* (Albești); *Fântâna lui Brânzei* (reference point, Trușești); *Fântâna Bucan* (Lunca); *Fântâna Buciuman* (Todireni); *Fântâna La Burlacu* (Todireni); *Fântâna lui Teodosie Călugăru* (reference point, Albești); *Fântâna lui Chihăiță* (Todireni); *Fântâna Ciobanului*

(reference point, Albești); *Fântâna lui Codiță* (teren, Cordăreni); *Fântâna lui Codiță* (fântână, Cordăreni); *Fântâna de la Coșarine* (Hlipiceni); *Fântâna Cucoanei* (Hlipiceni); *Fântâna lui Dădăeși* (Albești); *Fântâna Donicioaiei* (Trușești); *Fântâna lui Drughe* (Hlipiceni); *Fântâna lui Eșanu* (reference point, Todireni); *Fântâna Hidrei* (reference point, Răuseni); *Fântâna Iasencu* (Todireni); *Fântâna lui Nicolae Iordache* (punct de reper, Todireni); *Fântâna La Lutărie* (reference point, Todireni); *Fântâna lui Mardu* (Albești); *Fântâna Măriuța* (Trușești); *Fântâna Dascălului Mitipescu* (Todireni); *Fântâna lui Mititelu* (Hlipiceni); *Fântâna Mocanului* (Lunca); *Fântâna lui Nechita* (Albești); *Fântâna lui Păiuș* (Ungureni); *Fântâna Petra* (reference point, Albești); *Fântâna Precupeței* (reference point, Hlipiceni); *Fântâna Rotarului* (reference point, Todireni); *Fântâna La Scutelnicu* (reference point, Todireni); *Fântâna lui Ștefan Turcu*; *Fântâna lui Teodosie Călugăru*, (Albești); *Fântâna lui Ștefan Turcu* (Hlipiceni); *Fântâna lui Țibichi* (Hlipiceni); *Fântâna lui Țucuş* (Albești); *Fântâna Ulucilor* (reference point, Hlipiceni).

GÂRLĂ: f.n. (< old sl. *гърло*; cf. bg. *гърло*) “1. (smaller) watercourse in the meadow of a river, which has a permanent or temporary flow; branch, arm of a larger running water; 2. elongated depression in the meadow of a flowing water which, covered by water, connects a river to surrounding lakes or ponds” (According to DEXI, p. 807); “1. small running water; branch, water arm; 2. narrow, elongated depression, filled with water, in the meadow of a running water that connects a lake or a pond” (According to NDULR, p.662); August Scriban mentions in DLR, when he offers the definition for *stream* several etymological sources from Slavic, Bulgarian and Ruthenian that converge to the same meaning, namely river mouth and river arm; the toponyms registered on the Upper Jijia Area are not very numerous, but they are illustrative in this respect: *Gârla Morii* (valley and field in Trușești and Todireni villages), *Gârla Țiganului* (valley and creek Hilișeu-Horia village) and *Gârlele Morii* (field in Albești village).

GRIND: n.n. (< old sl. *града*, bg. *гредѡ*) “low hill; portion of land raised by alluvial deposits” (According to NDULR, p. 692); “1. Positive landform resulting from alluvial deposits of flowing water (in plains and deltas) or of the sea

(along shores); 2. (reg.) a higher place; 3. (reg.) small hill" (According to DEXI, p.826); non-floodable alluvial land on the banks of the Danube and of other rivers (on it are houses and even villages)" (According to Scriban DLR, p. 576) (SCRIBAN, 1939); "higher strip of land in floodplains of water resulting from alluvial deposits" (cf. DELR, p. 360); Iorgu Iordan says that this term is explained by Tiktin as "by elevation, dune (in water), sandbank, meanings that fit very well with the nature of the places therefore named" (According to IORDAN, *Romanian toponymy*, p.30); the toponyms registered here are the following: *Grindul Livezilor* (hill, Albești village), *Grindul Livezilor* (mound, Lunca village), *Grindului* (hill and creek in Ungureni village), *La Grind* (field in Ungureni village).

GRUI: n.n. (< lat. *grunium*) "(reg) 1. Hill top. 2. Hill coast. 3. Small hill. 4. Hill, mound (According to. DEXI, p. 828); "(reg.) eminence, hill, mound" (According to NDULR, p. 694);

Regarding the meaning of the word *grui*, Iorgu Iordan states, in *Romanian Toponymy*, that it represents "a not very big hill on a plain, a nice hill, a hill coast"; "a conical mountain" (According to IORDAN, *Romanian toponyms*, p. 30); there are very few recorded toponyms following our research: *Gruiu* (hill and mound Trușești village) and *La Gruu* (field in Trușești village).

HÂRTOP: n.n. (< old sl. *врѣтъпъ, врѣтопъ*) "1. Hollow, road pit; 2. Long, deep hollow in the shape of a precipice, formed by water" (According to DEXI, p. 864); "1. hollow, pit, cradle. 2. hollow made by water. 3. cave (According to NDULR, p. 709); Iorgu Iordan states in *Romanian Toponymy* the following aspects referring to the meaning of the word *hallow*: "Por., p. 32, *hallow*, "valley in a semicircle, deep, without branches, with fast and grassy ribs"; *vîrtop* "clogged place with potholes that prevent water from leaking"; [...] "barrow, cave" (According to IORDAN, op. cit., p. 30); the toponyms registered in the villages from the Upper Jijia Area are the following: *Hârtop* (creek, Ungureni); *Hârtop* (valley, Ungureni); *Hârtop* (hill, Hilișeu-Horia); *Hârtop* (mound, Trușești); *Hârtopul Bobulești* (creek, Albești); *Hârtopul Căldării* (creek, Todireni); *Hârtopul Căldării* (valley, Todireni); *Hârtopul lui Ciulei* (valley, Ungureni); *Hârtopul Cracalia* (valley, Hlipiceni); *Hârtopul lui Curcuță* (valley, Vorniceni); *Hârtopul La Frăsinei*

(valley, Albești); *Hârtopul Găvanu* (field, Lunca); *Hârtopul Horlaca* (agricultural field, Lunca); *Hârtopul Limbăului* (valley, Cordăreni); *Hârtopul Mic* (hill, Albești); *Hârtopul Mic* (mound, Albești); *Hârtopul Morii* (hill, Trușești); *Hârtopul Morii* (creek, Trușești); *Hârtopul Morii* (valley, Trușești); *Hârtopul Morii* (valley, Ungureni); *Hârtopul Odăii* (hill, Ungureni); *Hârtopul Odăii* (field, Ungureni); *Hârtopul Oilor* (creek, Albești); *Hârtopul Oilor* (valley, Albești); *Hârtopul Oilor* (field, Albești); *Hârtopul Olarului* (valley, Ungureni); *Hârtopul La Prâsnei* (creek, Albești); *Hârtopul Prâsnei* (valley, Albești); *Hârtopul la Prâseni* (field, Albești); *Hârtopul Rediu* (creek, Codăreni); *Hârtopul Rediu* (valley, Cordăreni); *Hârtopul lui Toader a Ilenii* (valley, Corlăteni); *Hârtopul Ulmilor* (valley, Ungureni); *Hârtopul Vacilor* (creek, Vorniceni); *Hârtopul Vacilor* (valley, Vorniceni); *Hârtopul Vatafului* (valley, Ungureni); *Hârtopul lui Vârlan* (valley, Vorniceni); *Hârtopul Vișini* (creek, Todireni); *Hârtopul lui Voitic* (valley, Cordăreni); *Hârtopului* (creek, Ungureni); *Hârtopului* (valley, Ungureni); *Hârtopului* (hill, Trușești).

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

With regard to the local toponymy from the Upper Jijia Area, we consider that the permanent correspondence of the major toponymy with the names of places belonging to the minor toponymy is extremely important, the name thesaurus has to be preserved and perpetuated in the consciousness of future generations. Younger speakers have to be trained in order to distinguish between the importance of preserving the local specificity through the power of expression of place names and the defining nature of a unique identity assigned to those particular places. There is no name of a geographic space, no matter if it is more or less important in the local conscience, which does not become part of the natural belonging process to the natural thesaurus of the "absolute major toponymy," as Dragoș Modovanu used to call it.

The minor toponymy represents the unique manifestation identity of the conscience of belonging to a regional community, to the people of which it is part of and of the manifestation of the subconscious integration in the major

toponymy of the regional speakers and the belonging of a major relative toponymy.

It is indisputable that the manifestation of the linguistic facts regarding the choice of place names is essentially the result of defining the uniqueness of the cultural and intellectual identity of a local community in relation to the national dimension of their manifestations.

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