

MINOR AND MAJOR TOPONYMY. THE CASE OF THE UPPER JIJIA AREA

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Abstract

Our research focuses on the dominant aspects of the minor and major toponymy which form the basis of the toponymy of the Upper Jijia geographical area.

Keywords: *major toponymy, minor toponymy, diachrony, synchrony, microtoponymy, macrotoponymy.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The linguistic research in the field of toponymy has to take into account the fact that speakers from the geographical area designated by the Upper Jijia Valley, a territory belonging to Botoşani County, preserve and share with future generations, as their conscience dictates, a series of terms that make up the major toponymy of places or macrotoponymy, as we have noticed that certain hydronyms generated in the minor toponymy or microtoponymy certain oiconyms or hodonyms or oronyms, thus forming a wider range of important geographical landmarks for the local community of speakers. Therefore, it was noticed that the "Broscăuţi" toponym is, in fact, an oiconym, a village in Broscăuţi parish, Botoşani County; through *polarization*, hydronym, Broscăuţi Brook, a right tributary of Jijia, west from Broscăuţi village; through *polarization*, pedionym, *Broscăuţi Plateau*, a plateau in the south of Broscăuţi village; through *polarization*, *hodonym*, *The Broscăuţi Road*, a road to the village of Broscăuţi from the town of Dorohoi; through *polarization*, a toponymic landmark, *The Broscăuţi Barrier*, *patronym*, *broscăuţani*, *broscăuţan* (BUTNARU et al., 2014; HAJDEU, 1976).

1. According to Dragoş Moldovanu "the maximum value toponyms were called major or macrotoponyms, whereas those with a minimum value – minor or microtoponyms. When value is associated with the geographical space occupied

by the people, we deal with a major absolute toponymy; when it is established taking into account a certain area (zone, province) we deal with relative major toponyms (MOLDOVANU, 2010)." In the Upper Jijia Valley the major and minor toponyms form the terminology which bears the imprint of their value in the collective consciousness: in Albeşti village the major toponymy is comprised of the following oiconyms: *Buimăceni, Hulub, Jumătăţeni, Măscăţeni, Petreşti, Şătrăreni, Truşeşti, Coştiugeni, Crăciuneni, Stăneşti, Jijia, Tudor Vladimirescu, Corceşti, Dubiceni, Mereşti, Petreşti, Potlogeni, Satul Nou*; the following terms belong to the sphere of minor toponymy: *Cotul lui Nagâţ, Pe Toloacă, În Pod, La Ostrov, Malul Jijiei, La Urzicărie, La Biserică, La Şendreanu, La Iaz, Dealul Miereşti, Sudul Satului, Vestul Satului, Faţa Satului, Movila Mare, Capul Pădurii*; in Broscăuţi village, the major toponyms represent important landmarks for the inhabitants, such as the hydronyms *Ghilauca* (pârâu), *Bezera* (brook), *Croci-Uluci* (pond) the oronyms *d. Tătarca, d. Muschişoara, d. Lupului, d. Buliga, d. Ghilăuca, d. Anistoroaiei*, the pedonym *Broscăuţi*, the oiconyms *Trestiana, Căcaina, Stracova, Cobâla, Carasa, Dimăcheni, Matieni, Miclăuşenii Anastasiului, Miclăuşenii lui Moţoc, Miclăuşenii Mironescului, Berhometele, Slobozia, Trebujeni* and the toponyms *În Podiş* and *La Movilă* belong to the micro-toponymic category of the Broscăuţi village (BOLOCAN, 1978; HACQUET, 2002).

1.1. In Cordăreni village there are geographical landmarks from the category of the major toponymy: the oronyms *d. Holm, d. Parincu, d. Costăchel, d. Piscu*; the hydronyms, the *Ibăneasa, Vedeanu, Trei Țepoai, Ratoşului* brooks; the oiconyms *Cordărenii Gafencului, Ghinghioaia lui Galu, Şipotenii Mânăstirii, Cordărenii Mânăstirii*,

Dumenii Cristei, Livenii lui Sofian, Livenii Vârșăroaiei, Popenii Cristei, Popenii lui Curt, Popenii Mavrodin, Popenii Mironescului, Cracalia, Dumeni, Grivița, Liveni Vârnav, Grivița Nouă, Grivița Veche, Vârgolici, Prosia, Grivițele, Ghimghioaia al lui Iosif Galanau, Slobozia, Cordărenii al Afenduloaiei and the terms *La Siliște, Templul Săsesc, La Sărături, Dealul Pășcu* belong to the minor toponymy. On the territory of the Corlăteni village, the major toponymy is characterised by the oronyms, the *Morii, Ghiciușcile, Biciurești, Odăii, Ciobanului, În Cioate, Lipovenilor hills*, of the hydronyms, the *Muscalului, Putreda, Hârtopului, Valea Lui Ion, Tălpeni, Lipovenilor* and *Borsea* brooks, the oiconyms *Carasa, Podeni, Vlădeni, Fărceni, Miclăușenii, Lozenii, Borcea*, the terms belonging to the minor toponymy which emphasize some archaeological traces of habitation on territory of the village: *Dealul Cetății, La Prisacă, Pe Țarină, Dealul Viei, Cărămădărie, Costișa Morii, La Stadole, Vatra Satului, Movila, Siliștea Veche (La Opust), Valea Godinescului* (GONȚA, 1986; GROZA, 2004; IONIȚĂ, 1981).

1.2. On the territory of the Hilișeu-Horia village the major toponymy presented certain variations also due to the coercion of the population from the hearth of the village. Therefore, the administrative documents mention the following geographical landmarks: *the oronyms, the Bour, Podiș, Colnic, Săliștei, Pietrosu, Tărinței, Urda, Urlei hills; the hydronyms, the Jijia and Buhai brooks* and the oiconyms which represent the names of villages that existed and still exist on the territory of the Hilișeu-Horia village: *Corjăuți, Galați, Hilișeul-Gafencului, Hilișeul lui Curt, Hilișeul lui Vârnav, Hliboca, Mărtineni, Pomârla, Pomârleni, Hilișeu-Cloșca, Hilișeu-Crișan, Iezerul, Hilișăul al lui Teodor Curt*, as well as terms belonging to the minor toponymy: *Mălăiște* (on the Pietrosul hill, west from Pitrosul hamlet), *The Bortoasa Mound, La Movilă, Urieșu's Tomb* (DRĂGANU, 1928; GIURESCU, 1966; IORDAN et al., 1974).

1.3. On the territory of the Hlipiceni village the major toponymy is formed of the names of the most important geographical landmarks for its inhabitants: *the oronyms Pogoroaia, Podiș,*

Vulturul, Livada, Răchita and Dana; the hydronyms Jijia, Sitna, Păiușeni; the oiconyms Vlăiceni (the former name of the Hlipiceni village), *Dragalina, Victoria, Cobiceni, Frăsineni* and terms from the minor toponymy, traces of old habitation: *La Movilă, Pe Podiș, La Fărcășanu, Moara Veche, La Sondă, Movile, Odaia lui Mihai Grecul* (hamlet), *Odaia Veche* (CONEA, 1960; CONEA, 1993).

1.4. The Răusenii village especially drew our attention because it is a locality documented since 1425 " ... lower, in Răusăni, on Jijia river there is Miclea's house..." (COSTĂCHESCU, 1931) and which evokes a series of geographical landmarks, used in communication even today; first of all, there are the landmarks of the surroundings of the Răusenii village, the hydronyms *Pogorăști, Răusenilor, Păiușenilor, Recea, Rupturii, Grecii, Doinei, Broaștei and Ioanei*, which indicate a highly developed hydrographic network, the oronyms, the *Pogoroaia, Hultur, Ciorgău, Răusenilor, La Livezi, Pârlita, Comândăreștilor hills*, which form the hilly relief of the Răusenii village and the oiconyms *Răuseni, Doina, Rediu, Pogorăști and Stolniceni*, the villages which form the parish. This territory present a major interest from an archaeological point of view and that is why some of the numerous names which can be included in the minor toponymy are preserved even today: *La Odaie, Movila Răuseni, Movila Rădulescu, La Ruptură, Gârla Morii, Murăreni, Movila Ursu, În Ponoare, La Cimitir, Stația CFR, Valea Doinei, Călugăra, Malu Galben, Vatra Satului, În Cot la Moară, La Gârlă, În Ponoară, Cotul Nou, La Lutărie, Ciargău, La Bolniță, Nord de Sat, La Hultur, Movila lui Țițu*, as well as other oiconyms which indicate former villages on the territory of the Răusăni, such as: *Comândărești, Berhoiești, Huseni, Priporeni, Slobozia Răuseni, Vlăiceni, Murăreni, Vidra* (COJOCARU, 2005; IORDAN, 1983; IORDAN, 1963; MOLDOVANU, 1978).

1.5. A variety of entopic terms can also be found as geographical landmarks on the territory of Sulița village, classifying itself according to *the major toponymy*, preserved throughout time, and *minor toponymy*, which was formed on the basis of nicknames and entopics. Therefore, the major toponymy is comprised of the oronyms, the *Cozancea, Velnița, Coasta Ponori, Păducel, Dracșani,*

La Vie, Dolinei; Moga și Cheliș hills, the hydronyms, the *Sitna and Burla, Hurjui, Valea Seacă and Cozancea, Dolinei and La Păr* brooks and the *Dracșani* and *Sulișoiaia* ponds. The administrative documents mention numerous geographical landmarks in connection with *Sulișta* village, representing the former hamlets which belonged to it or were incorporated in it, the oiconyms *Mahalaua, Tg. Sulișta, Miletinul, Târgul, Sulișta, Sulișoiaia, Todireni, Bâznoasa, Blândești, Cerchejeni, Dracșani, Lunca, Shitul Cozancea, Stroești, Talpa, Zlătunoaia Mare, Zlătunoaia Mică, Cheliș, Șoldănești* and some former villages *Bozieni and Brănești*. The following archaeological landmarks can be included in the minor toponymy of the locality from the point of view of attesting the traces of old dwelling on the territory of the village: *La Țintirim, Vatra Satului, Dl. Chișcului, Est de Iaz, Bahna* (BORZA, 1968; MOLDOVANU, 1985; MOLDOVANU, 1970).

1.6. The *Todireni* parish from *Botoșani* county presents the following landmarks, taking into account the relationship between the major and the minor toponymy: the relief of the village has a hilly aspect and is represented by the oronyms, the *Moara Borcilei, Holm, Huci, La Bordei, Pârloage, Movila Onofrei, Cernești, Todireni, Țocului, Răchitei* hills, the hydronyms, the *Sitna, La Cișmele, Coșerele Grecului, Cozancei, Zlătunoaia, Ioanei, Jijia, Gard* brooks and the oiconyms, the geographical landmarks recorded in the both the old and recent administrative documents, which represent villages that once belonged to the parish or were subsequently incorporated into it: *Cobicenii Gușerescului, Cobicenii lui Catichi, Cobicenii lui Cristea, Cobicenii Nicolau, Cernești, Comândăreștii Noi, Comândăreștii Vechi, Crăciuneni, Jumătățeni, Gârbești, Iurești, Pogorâști*, as well as the terms belonging to the minor toponymy which represent landmarks of old traces of habitation: *Malul Negru, Vatra Satului, Curtea Veche, La Pod, Dl. Depozitelor, Nordul Satului, Dl. Cotului, Sud-Est de Sat, Valea Siliștea, Borcila, Dl. Curții, Lupăria Neamțu, Ochiul Alb, Movile* and oiconyms, former villages on the territory of *Sulișta* parish: *Feredeieni* (former village near the *Cernești* village), *Ceirul* (former village in the north side of the *Todireni* village), *Movileni* (former village near the *Todireni*

village), *Siliștea* (former village near the *Cernești* village, documentary attested in 1772 by the Old Map of Moldova) (BULGĂR & CONSTANTINESCU-DOBRIDOR, 2005; CANTEMIR, 1956; MOLDOVANU, 1972).

1.7. The *Trușești* parish present a hilly relief, whose geographical landmarks are named by oronyms assigned to the hills in the vicinity of the parish: *Cătărcii, Buhăceni, Ciritei, Ciolpani, Ionășeni, Ponor, Costuri* and crossed by brooks designated by the hydronyms *Ciolpani, Găinăria, Drislea, Ionășeni*. The oiconyms *Trușești, Buhăceni, Drislea, Ionășeni* and *Păsăteni* name the villages which today are part of the *Trușești* parish. These terms belong to the major toponymy of *Trușești*, indicating their durability during the historical, social and demographic evolution, also reflected by the existing data in the administrative documents and historical chronicles. On the other side, archaeological research mention that there are traces of old habitation on the territory of *Trușești* parish, through the old hamlets or villages whose geographical landmarks are named within the minor toponymy, with the help of descriptive, personal and psychological toponyms: *Țugueta, Movila din șesul Jijiei, Pe Cuha, La Capac, Cantonul CFR, Vatra Satului, La Gruia, La Tudorache, La Dâmboc, Holm, Via Donicioaiei, La Lutărie, Dl. Frăsinești, La Siliștea, La Pivniță*. The oiconyms *Bursumeni* (former village near the *Hulub* village), *Costești* (former village near the *Drislea* village), *Lețcanii* (former village near the *Păsăteni* village), *Rogojeni* (former village in the south-west part of the *Ionășeni* village), *Zgâriata* (former hamlet in the eastern part of the *Guranda* village), *Schit Cozancea* (former village in the *Trușești* village) represent former villages or hamlets, some of them currently incorporated in the villages of *Trușești* parish (BREBAN, 1992; BUTNARU, 2011; MOLDOVANU, 1985).

2. A very complex representation of major toponymy is illustrated by the *Ungureni* parish, due to a diverse relief and of a large number of villages. Therefore, on its territory there are four rows of hills, having the following oronyms as geographical landmarks: *Armanului, Stâni, Părului, Ulmi, Ponoare, Budăi, Hârtopul Odăii, Răchiții, Stâni, Viei, Coasta Săliștei, Călmuşu,*

Epureni, Vorniceasa, Holmului, Jianu, Grind, Frasinului, Căldărușa, Glodului. The hydrographic network is designated by the hydronyms *Ibăneasa, Grindului, Săvescu, Iazurilor, Părului, Pietroasa, Odăii, Uicului, Ulmii, În Pârloagă, Livezii și Săliștei.* The villages which comprise the Ungureni parish are named using the oiconyms *Ungureni, Călugărenii Noi, Călugăreni, Mândrești, Tăutești, Borzești, Durnești, Plopenii Mici, Plopenii Mari, Mihai Viteazul, Epurenii și Vicoleni* (BUREȚEA, 1994; MOLDOVANU, 1979 -1980; MOLDOVANU, 2010; MOLDOVANU, 1985).

2.1. Archaeological research indicated geographical landmarks of old traces of habitation on the territory of the parish, represented with the help of terms belonging to the minor toponymy: *Gara Borzești, La Iaz, Movila lui Prâsneac, La Țiclău, Pe Holm, Imașul Ciuleienilor, Hârtopul Odăii, Podul lui Anton, Dealul lui Anton, La Fermă, Vatra Satului.*

2. CONCLUSIONS

During this research of the specific habitat of the Upper Jijia Valley, we noticed that there is an interdependence between the specific compartments of toponymy in general and of the one specific to a designated geographical area, and this proves the fact that the major and minor toponymy represent a unitary whole of toponymy, as an important study branch of linguistics. If we refer to Dragoș Moldovanu's classification regarding the manifestation of the language facts specific to "the major toponymy", which we must always analyse taking into account its relationship with "the minor toponymy," it states the fact that in the researched rural areas together with the historical, economic and political transformations some profound social changes also occurred, which led to the gradual disappearance of the communities which still conserve the traditions of the rural settlements in close correlation with the old toponymic names (MOLDOVANU, 2010). The disappearance of the members of a traditional community who still preserved the ancestral habits implicitly leads to a shift in the way in which the community relates with the old names in exchange for newer ones. Therefore, our

research had as a priority the fact that preserving the old names from the local toponymy hoard in the national hoard implies a synchronous approach of those that will appear later so that the old names are part in a diachronic way in the history of the cultural and intellectual evolution of the traditional village.

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