# DENOMINATIONS BASED ON FEMININE NAMES
# IN THE TOPONYMY FROM OLTENIA AND MUNTENIA[*]

**Iustina BURCI**[**]

**Abstract:** In toponymy, numerous place names are derived from anthroponyms. Most are male anthroponyms. This is explained by the fact that for a long time, men have been the focus of family life and society. Only in the absence of man (duet o death, military service, etc., for long periods of absence, in general), or when he entered, through marriage, in the wife's family, the whole family yielded to woman's name.

In this article, we intend to analyze the extent and form in which the female anthroponyms are now encountered in Oltenia and Muntenia.

**Keywords:** femanel anthroponyms, structure, transfer, toponymy.

Subsequent to the appellatives, the anthroponyms represent the second most important source for the emerging of toponyms. Either with or without formal modifications, simple or part of a complex or analytical structure, people's names, in toponymic function, are frequently met both in macro-toponymy, and, especially, in micro-toponymy. Moreover, at the countryside, the percent of the toponyms that appeared from anthroponyms is rather high. "This represents the natural consequence of the fact that the most important elements of a village are the people, therefore their names mark the different parts of the settlement, in order to make a difference between them"[1].

In the past, the reason for the occurrence of many of these names denoting places, depended on the socio-economic and family relations that, at some point,

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[**] 2nd Degree scientific researcher, PhD, "C. S. Nicolăescu-Plopşor" Institute for Research in Social Sciences and Humanities of the Romanian Academy, Craiova; Email: iustinaburci@yahoo.com

[1] Ion Toma, *Toponimia Olteniei*, Craiova, The Reprography of the University from Craiova, 1988, p. 63.

existed inside the community (of ownership, origin, marking of a collectivity existence etc.), along with the relations between its members (neighbouring areas, destination, different circumstances etc.), sometimes "based on facts or situations impossible to be actualised (today – a/n) without any documents"[2]. All these and, furthermore, the fact that the person who played the role of the head of the family and could carry on his activity, both inside and outside it, was the man, were entirely reflected in the names of the places: the masculine names are preponderant as regarding all the toponymic structures.

If the man had obligations outside the family too (taking care of the administrative, political, military etc. affairs of the community), the statute of the woman was an inferior one from the juridical point of view[3], the role being one limited, for a long period of time, strictly inside the boundaries of the household; as a proof, the small number of women who were mentioned in documents[4], but also in the way they were mentioned, such is in relation with their father's name and, later, their husband's, observing the rule that "… the common name of the kin, along with the individual to whom the belonging is shown, is chosen on the line of male origin"[5].

Nevertheless, we meet situations in which the supporter of the family, the beneficiary of a princely document of allotment is a woman, usually a widow. In such cases, the members of the family use her name. Referring to the way in which it was given the name of the family group, when the father was missing, and his position was replaced by the mother, Iorgu Iordan showed that: "The children's family name could be their mother's first name, without any formal modification, the same as in the situation when the father's name was given: *Ilinca, Maria* etc. ..."[6] or "… the suffixed mother's name: to the husband's first name, there was added a feminine suffix in order to show the presence of a woman. For example: *Mântuleasa, Dobriţoaia* etc. At first, these names had the form of the genitive case: *of Mântuleasa, of Dobriţoaia* etc. Being rather difficult to use, they were changed into the form of the direct case (nominative), much easier to operate with.

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[2] Idem, *Etimologia toponimică. I. Elementele româneşti*, in "Studii şi Cercetări de Onomastică" (SCO), no. 4/1999, Craiova, Universitaria Publishing, p. 21.

[3] Being considered unable to perform works that involved physical strength and developed intellectual capacity.

[4] Internal documents, having a private character, are the inheritance documents, the wills, the sale-purchase agreements, those involving the judging of disagreements etc. The women used to have in the past, too, the right to ownership: usually, after marriage, they used to receive their share of inheritance. The remaining parts of this system can also be seen today in toponymy: *Partea* (the lot of …) *Ilenei, Partea Ilincăi, Partea Stanei Gurguiasa* etc. In the boyars' families, the girls were put in possession of land when they got married and the estates – that they had at their disposal, according to the situation: they could decide to keep, sell or donate them – often took the names of the landladies.

[5] Şt. Paşca, *Nume de persoane şi nume de animale în Ţara Oltului*, Romanian Academy Publishing, 1936, p. 74.

[6] Iorgu Iordan, *Dicţionar al numelor de familie româneşti*, Scientific and Enciclopedic Publishing, 1983, p. 13.

Sometimes, the genitive was preserved, but without the Romanian article *a*, which is the word *of* in English, and without the final *i*: for example, *Boculesi* originates from *a Boculesii*"[7].

Although from the quantitative point of view, they are much fewer than the masculine ones, it does not mean that they are less valuable. For this reason we are approaching them in the present article. At the end, we are going to notice that they hold a significant position for the history research and for the evolution of our denominative system, altogether mirroring the way in which the involvement of women in the Romanian society has been gradually changing.

We based our research on the information excepted from two toponymic dictionaries: those of Oltenia[8] and Muntenia[9] regions. They record both the present names of places, due to field enquiries, and those registered in historical, geographical and administrative sources, having access, in this manner, to an extremely rich studying material.

For the beginning, we can declare that the typology of geographical objectives, with feminine names[10], is a rich one. Numerous ponds, churches, fields, communes, hill peaks, hills, fishponds, commons, thermal water springs, isolated households, slums, estates, hillocks, mountains, ruts, forests, streams, parts of villages, glades, paths, villages, precincts, valleys, dales, riverside coppices etc. from our country have such names. Some of them got their names directly, other, indirectly, through trans-onimisation (when there are present, on a relatively small space[11], several forms of relief with identical names).

As regarding the typology of the inventoried feminine names, it can be detailed according to the next diagram: – I. *First names*, II. *Surnames*[12], III. *First names + Surnames* –, followed by few comments made about them.

I. *First names*:

A. **Simple**: *Albinuşa* (Gj[13]), *Anicuţa* (Vl), *Anuţa* (Ot), *Augustina* (Ot), *Aurora* (Mh), *Bogdana* (Gj), *Brânduşa* (Dj, Gj, Mh, Vl), *Catalina* (Tr), *Catinca* (Db, Ph),

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[7] *Ibidem.*

[8] *Dicţionarul toponimic al României. Oltenia* (coord. prof. Gh. Bolocan, PhD), vol. 1 (A-B), Craiova, Universitaria Publishing, 1993 and next.

[9] *Dicţionarul toponimic al României. Muntenia* (coord. prof. Gh. Saramandu, PhD), vol. 1 A-B), Bucharest, Romanian Academy Publishing, 2005; vol. II (C-D), 2007; vol. III (E-J), 2009; vol. IV (L-M), 2011; vol. V (N-P), 2013.

[10] The same for the masculine ones.

[11] In Bumbeşti-Jiu from Gorj County, a mountain, a stream, a forest, a sheepfold and a field are named *Dumitra*. The name was transferred from the mountain to the other forms of relief.

[12] Nowadays, all the Romanian surnames are masculine, no matter the gender or the form they have (*Dumitru, Dumitra, Dumitrică, Dumitrica, Dumitreasa, Dumitroaiei* etc.). Nevertheless, originally, some of them were feminine sur/names. We consider these ones in our article.

[13] I kept abbreviations counties in the two mentioned toponymic dictionaries.

*Catrina* (Ag, Br), *Călina* (Dj, Vl), *Cârna*[14] (Dj, Gj, Mh), *Cârstiana* (Vl), *Cârstina* (Ag), *Chiajna* (Gj, Mh), *Chiriţa* (Gj, Vl), *Chiţa* (Br, Gr), *Chiva* (Il), *Chivuţa* (Gj), *Coca* (Vl), *Constantina* (Dj), *Cosmina*[15] (Ph), *Constanţa* (Dj), *Costandina* (Dj), *Dana* (Db), *Dara* (Vl), *Daria* (Db), *Despina* (Ph), *Dăiana* (Gj), *Deia* (Gj), *Dia* (Dj), *Diana* (Vl), *Didina* (Dj), *Diţa* (Bz), *Dona* (Vl), *Dora* (Ph), *Dospina* (Gj), *Draghina* (Mh, Ot), *Drăghina* (Mh), *Drăguţa* (Tr), *Dumitra* (Gj), *Dumitrăşcuţa* (Vl), *Duşa* (Gj), *Elena* (Cl), *Elis(z)abeta* (Mh, Tr), *Eliza* (If), *Eufrosina* (Vl), *Floarea*[16] (Ag, Br, Gj, Vl), *Florica* (Ag, Br, Bz, Cl, Dj, Gr, Mh, Ot, Tr), *Floricica* (Bz), *Frosa* (Gj), *Gafiţa* (Ph), *Galiţa* (Mh), *Gherghina* (Dj, Gj, Vl), *Guica* (Ot), *Iana* (Dj, Gj), *Ileana* (Bz, Cl, Dj, Gr), *Ileniţa* (Il), *Ilinca* (Gj), *Ilincuţa* (Gr, Mh), *Iliuţa* (Vl), *Ilona* (Gj), *Ioana* (Mh), *Ioniţa* (Gj), *Irina* (Vl), *Ivana* (Gj), *Lala* (Ag, Dj, Mh), *Leanca* (Db), *Leanţa* (Tr), *Lecsindra* (Tr), *Lia* (Gj), *Liana* (Vl), *Lica* (Vl), *Lucia* (Br, Tr), *Macaria* (Gj), *Ma(ă)crina* (Br, Bz), *Maliţa* (Ag, Db), *Mara* (Db), *Marcela* (Dj), *Marga* (Gj, Mh, Vl), *Margareta* (Tr), *Margarita* (Ot), *Marghioala* (Gj), *Maria* (Ot, Vl), *Marica* (Ag, Gj), *Maricica* (Vl), *Marina* (Ag, Gj), *Ma(ă)rioara* (Bz, Vl), *Mariţa* (Dj, Gj, Ot, Ph, Tr, Vl), *Marta* (Db), *Maruşca* (Vl), *Mădălina* (Vl), *Măndica* (Il), *Mărica* (Gj), *Măriuca* (Vl), *Ma(ă)riuţa* (Bz, Cl, Db, Gj, Gr, Il, Ot, Tr), *Mica* (Dj, Gj), *Milica* (Dj), *Milioara* (Vl), *Miţa* (Ag), *Miţica* (Ph), *Nasta* (Dj, Gj, Vl), *Nastasia* (Dj), *Nădiţa* (Ag), *Năsturica* (Gj, Vl), *Neacşa* (Ag, Dj, Ph, Vl), *Neaga* (Ag, Bz, Tr, Vl, Gj), *Negoiţa* (Bz), *Negoslava* (Ph), *Negruşa* (Br), *Negruşca* (Il), *Nica* (Gj), *Nona* (If), *Oana* (Ag, Bz, Dj, Gj, Ot), *Odrica* (Dj), *Olea* (Ag, Db, Vl), *Olga* (Vl), *Oleniţa* (If), *Olimpia* (Bz), *Opriţa* (Gj, Mh), *Panaghia* (Db), *Parasca* (Ph), *Paraschiva* (Cl, Gj), *Păpuşa* (Ag, Gj, Vl), *Pătruţa* (Dj, Vl), *Păuna* (Ag, Db, Dj, Gj, Il, Mh), *Petra* (Gj, Mh), *Profira* (Db), *Rada* (Dj, Gj, Mh, Ot), *Rădiţa* (Ot, Vl), *Răduţa* (Gj), *Răfăila* (Dj), *Safta* (Dj), *Sanda* (Vl), *Sara* (Gj), *Săvătia* (Ot), *Sida* (Vl), *Sinca* (Vl), *Slăvuţa* (Gj), *Smaranda* (Dj), *Stana* (Gj), *Stanca* (Dj, Gj), *Stăncuţa* (Gj), *Sulfîna* (Dj), *Şerbana* (Vl), *Ştefana* (Vl), *Tica* (Gj), *Tita* (Dj), *Tiţa* (Vl), *Tofia* (Ot), *Tolia* (Gj), *Tudosia* (Mh), *Tutana* (Dj), *Valica* (Dj), *Vica* (Gj), *Vlăicuţa* (Dj), *Voica* (Mh, Vl), *Voislava* (Dj).

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[14] Referring to some toponyms with feminine anthroponymic base, Emilian N. Bureţea showed that names as "*Cârna, Creaţa, Ianca* etc., we do not consider they could be regarded as having their origin in the corresponding feminine anthroponyms, but, moreover, in the anthroponyms *Cârnu, Creţu, Iancu*, formed with the toponymic suffix *-a*, which has a possessive value, the initial meaning of the name being, as a consequence, the one of «the estate, the pool or the settlement (village) of a person called *Cârnu, Creţu, Iancu*»" (*Contribuţii la studiul toponimiei româneşti*, Craiova, Universitaria Publishing, 1995, p. 88). Therefore, it is not necessary to analyse each singular toponym, in order to identify its origin, an activity which is not always easy to perform.

[15] The toponym can have as a basis a feminine first name and, in the same time, a masculine one, with the suffix *-a* (*moşia lui Cosmin*) (the estate of Cosmin).

[16] The toponym *Floarea* (along with *Floricica*) can have double etymology: from the anthroponym, or from the homonym common noun (*flower* in English).

B. **Complex structures**:

– *entopic term + nominative first name*: (the hayfield) *Fâneața Marina* (Ph); (the estate) *Moşia Bianca* (Ph), ~ *Suzana* (Ph), ~ *Simona* (Ph); (the hillock) *Movila Sultana* (Cl); (the islet) *Ostrovu Paraschiva* (Cl); (the forest) *Pădurea Bălaşa* (Db), ~ *Ileana* (If), ~ *Mara* (Db), ~ *Rada* (Ag), ~ *Bogdana* (Il), ~ *Bogdănița* (Ph), ~ *Brânduşa* (Db), ~ *Domnica* (Ph), ~ *Florica* (Bz); (the stream) *Pârâu Dochia* (Ph), ~ *Catrina* (Ag), ~ *Dumitrana* (Vl), ~ *Ioana* (Gj), ~ *Tina* (Ag); *Podu Jana* (Tr), ~ *Măriuţa* (Cl); (the glen) *Poiana Catarina* (Ph), ~ *Cârstina* (Ph), ~ *Cristiana* (Ph), ~ *Stana* (Ph), ~ *Zinca* (Ph), ~ *Chira* (Db), ~ *Voica* (Ag); (the well) *Puţu Despina* (Db) etc.

– *entopic term + genitive first name*:

1. with enclitic article: (the inn of …) *Hanu Ilinchii* (Db), ~ *Soricăi* (Ag); (the lake of…) *Lacu Puichii* (Tr); (the apple trees of…) *Merii Despei* (Db); (the mill of…) *Moara Marandei* (Bz); (the nut tree of…) *Nucu Dinei* (Ph); *Odaia* (the room of…) *Florii* (Tr); (the tableland of…) *Padina Măndichii* (Tr); *Partea* (the lot of…) *Ilincăi* (Bz), ~ *Margăi* (Tr), ~ *Neacşei* (Bz), ~ *Oanei* (Db), ~ *Stancăi* (Ag, Bz, Ph), ~ *Stanei* (Bz), ~ *Stoianei* (Bz); (the pear tree of…) *Păru Caliţii* (Tr), ~ *Păunii* (Db), ~ *Stanii* (Tr); (the forest of…) *Pădurea Marghioalei* (Db), ~ *Ioanii* (Ag); *Pârâu Chirei* (Bz), ~ *Frusinei* (Ph), ~ *Măgdălinei* (Vr), ~ *Muşei* (Vl), ~ *Angelicăi* (Ag), ~ *Auricăi* (Vl), ~ *Diţii* (Ag), ~ *Dobriţei* (Vl), ~ *Floricăi* (Ag), ~ *Genicăi* (Ag), ~ *Linicăi* (Ag), ~ *Mandii* (Ag), ~ *Mioricăi* (Bz), ~ *Viorelii* (Ag), ~ *Zmarandei* (Ag); (the burnt place of…) *Pârlitura Gherghinei* (Db); (the rock of…) *Piatra Anei* (Db), ~ *Frusinei* (Ph), ~ *Lalei* (Ag), ~ *Rădiţei* (Ag); (the hill peak of…) *Piscu Dochiei* (Bz), ~ *Didiţei* (Ag), ~ *Mădiţei* (Ag); *Pivniţa* (the cellar of…) *Măndicăi* (Ph); (the footbridge of…) *Podu Cristinei* (Db), ~ *Ancuţei* (Tr), ~ *Smarandei* (Ph); (the glen of…) *Poiana Antoanei* (Ph), ~ *Călinei* (Ph), ~ *Dafinei* (Ag), ~ *Radei* (Ag), ~ *Albei* (Ag), ~ *Drăguşei* (Db), ~ *Gherghinei* (Bz), ~ *Ghinei* (Ag), ~ *Joiţei* (Ag), ~ *Miţei* (Ot), ~ *Monei* (Ag), ~ *Nanei* (Ag), ~ *Uţei* (Db), ~ *Zamfirei* (Ag); (the path of…) *Poteca Anetii* (Ag); (the plum trees of…) *Prunii Catrinei* (Ph), ~ *Floarei* (Ag), ~ *Leanchii* (Db); (the well of…) *Puţu Ancuţei* (Il), ~ *Floarii* (Bz), ~ *Ileanii*[17] (Tr), ~ *Mandii* (Db), ~ *Marghii* (Db), ~ *Neaghii* (Ph), ~ *Smarandei* (Ph), ~ *Tinchii* (Bz), ~ *Urâtei* (Ag) etc.

2. with proclitic article: (the ash tree of…) *Frasinu lu Lina* (Ot); (the glade of…) *Poiana lu Gherghina* (Mh, Vl); (the well of…) *Puţu lu Ivana* (Tr), ~ *lu Maria* (Db), ~ *lu Safta* (Db), ~ *lu Tudora* (Br), ~ *lu Vera* (Il), ~ *lu Zamfira* (Ag) etc.

II. *Surnames*:

A. **Simple** (formed with different suffixes, from the husband's name[18]): *-easca* – *Aniţeasca* (Mh)*, Benguleasca* (Gj)*, Călineasca* (Gj, Vl)*, Davideasca* (Vl)*,

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[17] Sometimes, the first names differ in the way they form the genitive: *Floarii / Floarei, Ileanii / Ilenii, Margăi / Marghii, Măndicăi / Măndichii* etc., or by phonetism: *Zmarandei / Smarandii*.

[18] The situations should be analysed differently and individually, because the inherited properties (especially the estates) can form their names through suffixation, from that of their owner.

*Panaiteasca* (Bz), *Paraschiveasca* (Vl), *Pârvuleasca* (Gj), *Petreasca* (Ag, Db, Dj, Ph, Tr), *Salomireasca* (Ot), *Şerbăneasca* (Gj, Vl); **-oaica** – *Armăşoaica* (Gj), *Băgioaica* (Dj), *Bărboaica* (Gj), *Cristinoaica* (Mh), *Dănoaica* (Dj, Vl), *Diţoaica* (Vl), *Dobroaica* (Dj), *Oncioaica* (Gj), *Predoaica* (Dj, Mh), *Tomoaica* (Gj); **-easa** – *Bogdăneasa* (Vl), *Călineasa* (Vl), *Chirculeasa* (Dj), *Cârnuleasa* (Ot), *Dăneasa* (Gj, Vl), *Diaconeasa* (Dj), *Dumitreasa* (Dj), *Surduleasa* (Mh), *Şerbăneasa* (Vl), *Todoreasa* (Gj); **-oaia** – *Albinoaia* (Vl), *Aricioaia* (Vl), *Avrămoaia* (Gj), *Băcănoaia* (Dj), *Bălănoaia* (Gj), *Băloaia* (Vl), *Băluţoaia* (Gj, Ot, Vl), *Bărboaia* (Vl), *Brânzoaia* (Vl), *Călinoaia* (Vl), *Chiriţoaia* (Dj, Ot), *Dragomiroaia* (Dj, Ot), *Răduţoaia* (Gj), *Turcoaia* (Dj); **-anca** – *Brătăşanca* (Vl), *Deleanca* (Vl), *Pârscoveanca* (Dj), *Piersăceanca* (Vl), *Săceleanca* (Gj); **-oasa** – *Băcioasa* (Dj), *Băloasa* (Dj, Vl); **-aia** – *Stănaia* (Dj) etc.

    B. **Complex structures**:

    – ***entopic term + nominative surname***: (the forest) *Pădurea Niculeasca* (Bz), ~ *Andreiasca* (Ph), ~ *Buzeasca* (Tr), ~ *Cantacuzeanca* (Ag), ~ *Călinoaia* (Db), ~ *Ioneasca* (Ag), ~ *Marineasca* (Db), ~ *Silveastra* (Db); (the glen) *Poiana Săvuleanca* (Vl), ~ *Stănculeasa* (Ag); ~ *Ştefănoaia* (Db); (the ravine) *Privalu Dinuleasca* (Br); (the plum trees) *Prunii Mateoaia* (Ph); (the well) *Puţu Ştefănoaia* (Ag) etc.

    – ***entopic term + synthetic genitive surname***: (the alder trees of…) *Aninii Popeascăi* (Gj); (the hill peak of…) *Piscu Şerbănesei* (Ph), ~ *Stăniţoaiei* (Ag); *Poiana* (the glen of…) *Bădulesei* (Ag); (the pear tree of…) *Păru Marionoaiei* (Bz), ~ *Turcioaei* (Db); (the well of…) *Puţu Pandeloaiei* (Ag) etc.

    III. *First name + Surname*.

    A. **Simple**[19]: *Cătălina Scurtu* (Tr), *Mica Ţiganca* (Ph), *Stanca Gropileanca* (Vl) etc.

    B. **Complex structures**:

    – ***entopic term + first name + surname***: *(in nominative)*: (the plateau) *Podişu Sanda Bucuroaia* (Ph), (the glen) *Poiana Dina Ţiganca* (Ag) etc.;

    – ***entopic term + first name in genitive + surname in nominative***: (the inn of…) *Hanu Elenchii Cârlănoaia* (Db); (the lot of…) *Partea Anei Găteşoaia* (Bz), ~ *Ilenei Muşulea* (Bz), ~ *Neagăi Oloaga* (Ag); (the well of…) *Puţu Floarii Ciolan* (Ph), ~ *Leanchii Stăncilă* (Db);

    – ***entopic term + first name in genitive + surname in genitive***: (the lot of…) *Partea Ilincăi Clorascăi* (Vr); (the hill peak of…) *Piscu Dumitrei Boieroasei* (Ot); (the well of…) *Puţu Anghelinii Badii* (Tr) etc.

    – ***entopic term + article + first name + surname***: (the lane of…) *Linia lu Anghelina Perşinaru* (Bz), (the nut tree of…) *Nucu lu Ioana Dima* (Il ); (the foot bridge of…) *Puntea lu Lina Riţa* (Db); (the well of…) *Puţu lu Anca Mihalache* (Il),

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[19] We inserted here the names formed from first name + surname, without other supplementary elements.

~ *lu Angelina Perşinaru* (Bz), ~ *lu Ileana Lunga* (Br), ~ *lu Ilinca Ţiganca* (Ag), ~ *lu Ioana Gândac* (Il), ~ *lu Veta Ionescu* (Ph) etc.

The examples presented above allowed us to make the next observations:

- The simple feminine first names entered into the toponymy through transferring, with the same form as the baptising names had. These are:

– with their proper form: *Aurora, Chiajna, Dăiana, Diana, Dospina, Elisabeta, Eufrosina, Floarea, Ileana, Ilinca, Ioana, Iolana, Irina, Liana, Marcela, Marghioala, Maria, Mădălina, Nastasia, Neaga, Olga, Paraschiva, Safta, Smaranda, Tudosia, Voica* etc.

– diminutives: *Anicuţa, Anuţa, Florica, Ilincuţa, Ioniţa, Marica, Maricica, Mariţa, Măriuca, Măriuţa, Maruşca, Milica, Milioara, Rădiţa, Slăvuţa, Stăncuţa, Vlăicuţa* etc.

– hypocoristic names: *Coca, Dara, Deia, Dia, Dona, Duşa, Frosa, Lala, Lia, Lica, Marga, Mica, Nasta, Nica, Olea, Sanda, Sida, Tica, Tita, Tiţa* etc.

Some of them are formed from the masculine names (*Bogdana, Constantina, Constandina, Dobriţa, Dumitra, Macaria, Neacşa, Opriţa, Pătruţa, Petra, Răfăila, Şerbana, Ştefana* etc.), while other come from nick-names (derived or not) that are extremely old, as people's names, in our anthroponomy: *Albinuşa, Brânduşa, Cârna, Năsturica, Păpuşa, Sulfina* etc.

From the point of view of their origin, the first names cited above are, generally, either laic Slavic names (*Cheajna, Deica, Neaga, Olga, Rada, Stana, Stanca, Voica, Voislava* etc.), or laic Romanian names (*Brânduşa, Floarea, Năsturica, Păpuşa, Păuna* etc.) and ecclesiastic Romanian names (*Despina, Elisabeta, Ioana, Irina, Maria, Marina, Paraschiva, Todosia* etc.).

- In the complex structures, the sur/names can be combined with popular geographical terms (with or without prepositions), and with simple or complex prepositions too. From the point of view of the internal composition, the first pattern selects, syntactically, two modalities of expression: either with the help of the nominative case, or with the genitive. The nominal formulas are more rigid in their construction, being rather formal, while the genitive ones are closer to the popular way of expression.

Moreover, when observing the composed toponyms, formed with the help of genitive – synthetic or analytical (with possessive article, *a, al, ± lui*) –, we notice that it actually represents the old popular formula of denomination, according to which the establishing of an individual's identity was done, by relating it to the person recognised as the head of the family. Being either in one of the hypostasis or another – of dependency or official supporters of their households – the women were "caught", nominally, in many of these structures, which have been preserved since nowadays in the toponymy. Here are several of the examples classified, this time, according to the relations inside the family group:

– a masculine person is related to a feminine one: (the clearing of…of…) *Curătura lui Mihai al Ioanei* (Vl); (the beehive of…of…) *Ştiubeiu lu Gicu Stanchii*

(Gj), ~ *lu Ion al Dinii* (Mh), ~ *lu Ion al Stanii* (Gj), ~ *lu Melache al Aniţî* (Mh), ~ *lu Nicu Bălaşii* (Mh), ~ *lu Oane al Ioanei* (Vl); (the forest of…of…) *Pădurea lu Dumitru a lui Mihai al Mândri*[20] (Gj), ~ *lu Nicolae a lu Maria* (Gj); (the cellar of…of…) *Pivniţa lu Niţă al Vetii* (Gj); (the spring of…of…) *Pârâu lu Gheorghe al Anii* (Gj), ~ *lu Petru Ioanii* (Gj), ~ *lu Voicu Anghelinii* (Gj); (the place of…of…) *Plaţu lu Mărin al Floarii* (Mh); (the footbridge of…of…) *Podu lu Radu Păunii* (Vl); (the glen of…of…) *Poiana lu Ion a Maricăi* (Vl); (the land of…of…) *Pomostu lui Dumitru Catrinii* (Ag); (the well of…of…of…) *Puţu lu Gheorghe al lu Ion al Radii* (Tr), ~ *lu Marinică al Savinii* (Cl), ~ *lu Petru al Fănichii* (Gr) etc.;

– a feminine person is related to a masculine one: (the commons of…of…) *Islazu Gherghiţei Sandului* (Ot); (the beehive of…of…) *Ştiubeiu Linii lu Florea* (Gj), ~ *Leanii lu Albéi* (Dj); (the well…of...) *Puţu Frusina lu Vasile Radu* (Db), ~ *Stanii lu Iordan* (Il); (the vineyard of…of...) *Via Măriei lu Păun* (Gj); (the lane of…of…) *Uliţa lu Ioana lu Cică* (Dj), ~ *lu Veta lu Chesan* (Mh) etc.;

– a feminine person is related to another feminine one: (the land of…of…) *Ocina*[21] *Neacşei a Leroaei* (Bz), (the hill peak of…of…) *Piscu Rusandrii Dinii* (Gj); (the glen of…of…) *Poiana Linii Catrinii* (Ot); (the well of…of…) *Puţu Saftii Anii* (Db), (the beehive of…of…) *Ştiubeiu Floarii Păunii* (Gj) etc.

• The formula becomes even more complex when there are introduced factors on addressing the location or the direction, expressed with simple or complex prepositions: (at…'s of…) *La Dumitru Smarandii* (Db), (spring from…of…) *Pârâu de la Niţă al Tiţii* (Ag), (around the corner, at…of…) *Pe Colţ la Maria lu Nae* (Ph), (around the corner, at…of…) *Pe Colţ la Ţaţa Vasilica a lui Morărică* (Ph), (on the lane, at…of…) *Pe Uliţă la Ţoi al Vetii* (Vl), (nearby the footbridge of…) *Pe la Pod pe la Sabina* (Ag), (nearby…'s place, up the hill) *Pi la Ioşculeasca în Dial* (Vl), (the footbridge from…of…) *Podişca de la Miţa lui Păun* (Tr), (the footbridge from…of…) *Podu dă la Gheorghe al Voichii* (Ag), (the glen from…of…) *Poiana de la Maria Smarandei* (Ag), (the glen from…of..) *Poiana de la Mărioara lu Matei* (Ag), (the well from..of…) *Puţu de la Anica Circăloii* (Ag) etc.

In most of the prepositional constructions (either simple or complex), the feminine anthroponym already fills the position of toponym, before the adding of the preposition ([at] *La Niculeasa* – Tr, *La Norica* – Bz, *La Olimpia* – Tr, *La Miţa Mustăcioaia* – Ag, [in] *În Cârjoaia* – Ag, *Pe Eliza* – Bz, [on] *Pe Popeasca* – Ag, *Pe Mălina* – Ag, *Pe Safta* – Dj etc.) or is a part of a more complex structure[22] ( [at the pool at…of…] *La Baltă la Nae al Saftii* – Dj, [the forest from the hill peak

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[20] The identification can continue up to the third generation (the anthroponym *Savu Sandu Ghenea Iorgu,* for example, gathers the first name of the person, *Savu*, then, the first name of the father, *Sandu*, the grandfather, *Ghenea*, and the great-grandfather, *Iorgu*).

[21] In few cases, the names are not followed by the entopic term: *Mioara Viţulesei* (Ph), *Oprica Voichii* (Ag).

[22] Where there can be joined two simple prepositional structures or entopic terms followed by prepositions.

of…] *Pădurea din Piscu Dochiei* – Bz, [on the filed at…of…] *În Plai la Marina Radului* – Db, [the layland round the wall of lady…] *Pârloaga de la Zidu Doamnei Neaga* – Bz, [around the corner at….'s] *În Cot la Profira* –Tr, [on the estate of…] *Pe Moşia lu Elena Ciutuleasa* – Il etc.), in which there is also used as a toponym, anterior to the process when the other elements had been merged.

• Some toponyms – yet reduced in number and variety, as comparing to the ones presented above – were formed from the feminine names that emerged from the appellations that were showing the ethnic and the social belonging, or indicating the profession: *Poiana Unguroaica* (Ph) (the glen of the Hungarian woman); *Pârâu Călugăriţa* (Ag) (the spring of the nun), ~ *Principesei* (Ag) (…of the princess), ~ *Preotesei* (Ag) (…of the clergyman's wife), ~ *Olăresei* (Ag) (…of the potter woman), ~ *Oltencii* (Ag) (…of the woman from Oltenia); *Pădurea Domnişoarei* (Ph) (the forest of the miss), ~ *Domniţei* (Ph) (…of the lady) etc. The statute of the proper noun is going to be established here after the investigation of each situation; this is due to the fact that the toponymy registers numerous similar cases, in which there is a common noun on the second place – *Piatra Jupânesei* (Bz) (the rock of the boyar's wife); *Pietrele Doamnei* (Ph) (the rocks of the lady), ~ *Fetei* (Bz, Vr) (…of the girl); *Plaiu Croitoresei* (Db) (the field of the dressmaker); *Podu Doamnei* (Gr) (the footbridge of the lady), ~ *Jupânesei* (Ph) (…of the boyar's wife); *Poiana Doamnei* (Bz, Ph) (the glen of the lady), ~ *Preotesei* (Ph) (…of the clergyman's wife), ~ *Reginei* (Ph) (…of the queen) etc. – and not an athroponym.

• Another category (also reduced in volume) of anthroponyms present in toponymy, is made of feminine nicknames, which became surnames later: *Bălaia* (Dj) (the fair-haired woman), *Beteaga* (Vl) (the crippled woman), *Cioanta* (Mh) (the one-handed woman), *Ciorâca* (Dj, Mh) (the crowish-looking woman), *Coţofana* (Dj, Vl) (the magpie woman), *Coţofanca* (Mh) (magpie-looking woman), *Oarba* (Dj, Ot, Vl) (the blind woman), *Şchioapa* (Vl) (the limping woman), *Şchiopana* (Gj) (the lame woman) etc. They entered into the anthroponimy "thanks" to the person's deficiency, and into the toponymy, probably due to her attendance to a happening/event that led to the transfer of the nickname towards a specific place.

• Few toponyms are based on anthroponymic constructions, which include terms that express the kinship or the addressing names: *Piscu Mătuşii Floarea Meleroaia* (Vl) (the hill peak of aunt…), *Dealu Mătuşii Floarii* (Vl), *Baba Floarea* (Vl) (grandma…), *Baba Ioana* (Mh) (grandma…), *Baba Lupa* (Dj) (grandma…), *Baba Nedela* (Dj) (grandma…), *Baba Neta* (Gj) (grandma…), *Baba Opriţa* (Dj) (grandma…), *Baba Rada* (Dj) (grandma…), *Baba Stana* (Dj) (grandma…), *Pădurea Baba Nastasia* (Il) (the forest of grandma…), ~ *Baba Ana* (Il) (grandma…); *Pădurea lu Coniţa Stănculescu* [s. Beneşti c. Bălceşti-Vl] (the forest of lady…); *Pârâu Baba Dobroaia* (Bz) (spring from grandma…), *Podu lu Baba Iovana* (Dj) (the footbridge of grandma…), *Puţu Ţaţei Păuna* (Ph) (the well of aunty…) etc.

• There are situations when the name was simplified, through the loss or the renouncing to one of the terms: for example, in the village of Ociogi, the commune of Brâncoveni (Olt), a place is named *Rachirii* (from *Rachira*); the form of genitive indicates the fact that at some point there was also an entopic term[23] that, in time, was omitted.

• The feminine anthroponyms enter into the toponymy through the masculine group names or patronyms. Therefore, we came across, in the analysed material, with names as *Ancuţeşti, Anuţeşti, Catrineşti*. In these cases, the family was constituted around a woman – *Anca, Anuţa, Catrina* – whose first name all the successors related to. Other toponyms got their names from a masculine anthroponym, derived from a feminine one *Săftoiu* (Gj), *Dealu Saftu* (Ag) (the hill…), *Dealu Brânduşu* (Mh) (the hill…), *Lazu Frusinoiu* (Ph) (the clearing…), *Catrinoiu* (Bz), *Golu Catrinoiu* (Ph) (the layland…).

The more frequent the names – feminine, in our case – are, the bigger the chances to enter into the trans-onimisation become. Nonetheless, the mentioned criterion is not a decisive one. In toponymy, there are also present factors that relate to "socio-historic aspects, among which the form of property might play the essential part"[24], to the degree of participation of the women in the life of a community, to their position inside the family and, not at last, many toponyms (especially micro-toponyms) can appear by chance[25]. However, as the situation evolved and the social circumstances changed, "there is not present anymore, as it used to be, a relation of filiation between the founder of the village and its dwellers, or one of property between the landlord and estate, but it is respected a member of the family, a friend etc. [26]. Not being considered the juridical and economic relations, the gender, such is the civil status of the "godfather" does not matter anymore"[27].

The studying of the feminine anthroponyms presents great interest nowadays, for at least two reasons: their presence/absence reflects the role and the place that the women had, during certain periods of time, inside the family and the society, fact that ought to caught the attention of the sociologists; if we consider the history and the evolution of the personal denomination, we can observe the extent and the form of their participation to the shaping of this system. Moreover, the toponymy preserved names that display the past occupation of women and, from this point of view, the ethnography should also have an interest in.

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[23] In *Nume de locuri din Banat* (Timişoara, Facla Publishing, 1982, p. 99), Vasile Ioniţă showed that certain toponyms were formed, in an initial stage, from at least two members: "In time, there was used only the determinant, the appellative remaining implied (Village of) *Cireşu*, (Village of) *Cuptoare* etc.; (Valley of) *Strâmbă*, (Mountain of) *Ţarcu* etc.".

[24] Ion Toma, *Toponimia Olteniei*, p. 65.

[25] There is a certain occurrence, after which the sur/name of a person is associated with that specific place.

[26] Iordan, I, *op. cit.*, p. 177.

[27] *Ibidem*, p. 177.