

# THESES AND ANTITHESES IN LITERATURE AND LINGUISTICS

## TERMS THAT REFER TO LAND OWNERSHIP AND ITS DELIMITATION, IN THE FIELD OF TOPONYMY\*

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**Abstract:** Theoretically, toponymy has the availability to assume any word of a language, as a consequence of the onymisation process; the condition that must be observed is that it should be found, at some point, as the centre of attention within a community, which invest it with the function of topic landmark. The subject matter of the article is represented by the category of terms that refer to the ownership of the land and its delimitation; they are to be analysed from the perspective of their toponymic materialisation.

**Keywords:** toponymy, transfer, land, ownership, delimitation.

Toponymy, in its quality of witness of the human existence, cannot be, nowadays, but a science with a strong heteroclite character, which helped the mingling of the most diverse appellatives, names of people and places, shedding light on varied aspects: physical characteristics of the land, socio-economic or administrative context, ethnic and social categories, ownership or kindred relationships etc. – all these regarded statically or on the move, according to the perspective from which the information was analysed: synchronically or diachronically.

The names of places reflect the important moments/facts from the material and spiritual life of the people (especially those from the rural communities), with impact in the conscience of a community: traditions, customs, beliefs, occupations, etc. Others, “evoke the long time ago happened events or occurrences. ...depict the social, fiscal or juridical condition of the dwellers. There are many topic names that denote the physical, geographic and natural particularities of the land...”<sup>1</sup> or “... represent words and forms seldom used in the actual language, or long renounced at, forgiven, disappeared”<sup>2</sup>. In other words, the totality of the names of places can

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<sup>1</sup> Anatol Eremia, *Reglementarea și ocrotirea toponimiei naționale*, in “Limba Română”, no. 1-2, 2008, Chișinău, p. 159.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibidem*.

be considered “a real *archive*, based on which there can be reconstructed sequences from the local or general history of the people that occupy the topic denominated territory”<sup>3</sup>.

Starting from this role, of historical archive, our investigation considers the synchronic analysis of the toponymy based on terms that refer to the land ownership and its delimitation, as it has been recorded in Oltenia and Muntenia; the paper is to be supplied by the two dictionaries, realised for the respective regions: *Dicționarul toponimic al României. Oltenia* (DTRO)<sup>4</sup> – *The Romanian Toponymic Dictionary. Oltenia* and *Dicționarul toponimic al României. Muntenia* (DTRM)<sup>5</sup> – *The Romanian Toponymic Dictionary. Muntenia*.

To begin with, we optioned for the alphabetical presentation of the information excerpted from the mentioned sources, later on, making observations, whenever necessary.

**ales** – adj. *ales*<sup>6</sup> “separated, divided” (substantivization): *Aleasa* [estate v. Talpa-Grăzile c. Talpa-TR];

**artéa, artéle** – “strip of land that delimitates the individual plots”: *Artele Lungi* [strip of land from the bank of Jiu v. Preajba c. Malu Mare-DJ];

**batic** – from *embatic* “form of leasing a property, on long term, while the leaseholder benefited by all the rights of ownership”: *Batic* [locality v.c. Țânțăreni-GJ], *Batice* [place v. Piscani c. Brădești-DJ];

**completare** – “adding of plots at appropriation”: *Completările* [place v. Damian c. Sadova-DJ];

**comun** – “farming land, given to the peasants in 1864”, “agricultural land, with plots, given in 1864”, “shared land”: *Comuna* [place v.c. Breasta-DJ];

**coroană** – “monarchy; at the appropriation from 1922, the villagers received land from the Crown Domains: *Coroana* [place v.c. Amărăștii de Jos-DJ];

**cosac** – “parcel of steeply divided land”: *Cosacu* [village c. Bucovăț-DJ; hill v.c. Bucovăț, v.c. Podari, forest v. Cârlikei c. Bucovăț, stream v.c. Bucovăț-DJ];

**delimitare** – “boundary, limitation, frontier, extremity, edge of a portion of land”: *Cureaua Delimitărilor* [v. Tămășești c. Bălești-GJ], *Delimitarea* [place v. Moara Mocanului c. Leordeni-AG], *Delimitările Cuza* [place v. Ciupa Mânciulescu c. Rătești-AG], *În Colțul Delimitării* [v.c. Gușoieni-VL], *În Delimitare* [v.c. Baia de Fier-GJ; place v.c. Ceptura-PH], *În Delimitări* [v.c. Săulești-GJ];

<sup>3</sup> Ion Toma, *101 nume de locuri*, Bucharest, Humanitas Publishing House, 2015, p. 73.

<sup>4</sup> Coordinator Professor Gh. Bolocan PhD, vol. 1 (A-B), Craiova, Universitaria Publishing House, 1993 and next.

<sup>5</sup> Coordinator Professor Nicolae Saramandu PhD, vol. 1 (A-B), Bucharest, Romanian Academy Publishing House, 2005 and next to vol. 6 (R-Ț), 2015.

<sup>6</sup> The explanations have been taken from the dexonline platform (accessed in the period 16–30.03.2017), from *Micul Dicționar Academic* (MDA), Bucharest, Univers Enciclopedic Publishing House, 2002, and from the two toponymic dictionaries, the explanation from the latter ones being gathered from field investigations.

- delimitate** – “land given at appropriation”: *Dumilitate* [place v. Puțuri c. Castranova-DJ];
- despărțire** – “boundary”: *La Despărțire* [place v. Potelu c. Ianca-OT];
- dram** – “indivisible right of the freeholders, in the mountainside area, similar to the place used by a sheep to graze during the summer”: *Dreamuri* [place v. Gureni c. Peștișani-GJ];
- dric** – “parcel of forest”: *Dricurile Tăiate* [place v. Boboiești c. Ciuperceni-GJ];
- falcă** – “narrow strip of arable land”, “old measuring unit for the agricultural surfaces”: *Fălci* [meadow v.c. Amărăști-VL], *Fălcile* [estate v.c. Bărbătești-VL], *Fălcile Cotorogii* [estate next to v.c. Bărbătești-VL], *Fălcile din Bărbătești* [estate v.c. Bărbătești-VL], *Fălcile lu Ion Giubega* [estate v. Urșani town Horezu-VL];
- întreială** – “the third part”: *Întreiala* [part of estate v. Peretu c. Osica de Sus-DJ];
- jug** – “surface of land on which there could be done the ploughing, with a couple of oxen”: *Jugu Ursului* [glen v. Slatina c. Nucșoara-AG], *Juguri* [village c. Padina-BZ];
- jurebie** – “long and narrow piece of land”: *Jurebia* [arable land v. Lăngești c. Lunca Corbului-AG];
- lab** – “field, flat piece of land”: *Labu* [arable land v. Stupărei c. Mihăiești-VL];
- lege** – “land given to the villager, by law”: *Legea Crivii* [arable land v. Criva s. c. Vârvoru de Jos-DJ], *Legea Veche* [arable land v. Criva v.c. Vârvoru de Jos-DJ];
- leguire/leguiuit** – “farming surface given to the villagers by law”, “land obtained through appropriation” / adj. *leguiuit* (through substantivization): *Leguirea* [place v.c. Perișor-DJ; v.c. Vădăstrița-OT; strip ground v.c. Galbenu-BR], *Capu Leguirilor* [v.c. Cerăt, v. Padea c. Drănic, t. Segarcea-DJ], *Drumu Leguirii* [v. Geangoiești c. Dragomirești-DB], *Drumu Leguirilor* [v.c. Brastavățu-OT], *Drumu Leguiitelor* [v. Cioroboreni c. Jiana-MH], *Fântâna di la Leguirile Portărenilor* [v. Giurguța v. Portărești c. Giurguța-DJ], *În Capu Leguirilor* [v.c. Cerăt-DJ], *În Legiuri* [t. Băilești, v. Basarabi t. Calafat, v.c. Galicea Mare, v.c. Giurguța, v.c. Grecești, v.c. Lipovu, v. Dobridor, v.c. Moțăței, v.c. Rast-DJ; v. Mogoșești c. Dragomirești-DB], *În Leguirile Dâlgii* [v.c. Calopăr-DJ], *La Legiuri* [v.c. Botoșești-Paia, v. Foișor c. Drănic-DJ; v. Izimșa c. Obârșia de Câmp, v. Drincea c. Punghina, v.c. Vânători-MH; v. Reșca c. Dobrosloveni-OT], *Leguirea de Jos* [arable land v. Mărăcinele c. Perișor-DJ], *Legiuri* [strip ground v. Neajlov c. Motreni-DB; place, hills, forest v. Batoți v. Deveselu c. Deveselu-MH], *Leguirile Bătrâne* [v.c. Cerăt-DJ], *Leguirile de Jos* [v.c. Giubega-DJ], *Leguirile de la Tufar* [v.c. Cerăt-DJ], *Leguirile de la Vale* [v.c. Maglavit-DJ], *Leguirile de Sus* [v.c. Giubega-DJ], *Leguirile din Vale* [v. Booveni c. Drănic-DJ], *Leguirile lu Cuza* [v.c. Giubega-DJ], *Leguirile Oltene* [place v. Olteni c. Lucieni-DB], *Leguirile Vechi* [v. Belcin c. Calopăr-DJ; v. Plăviceanca c. Studina-OT], *Leguiitele* [place v. Cioroboreni c. Jiana, v. Punghina v. Satu Nou c. Punghina,

- v. Braniștea v. Goanța c. Vânători-MH; t. Piatra-Olt-OT; forest v. Satu Nou c. Pungghina-MH], *Terenurile Legiurilor* [strip ground v. Geangoiești c. Dragomirești-DB], *Măgura din Legiuri* [v. Crușovu c. Brastavățu-OT];
- litră** – “three quarters of an acre”: *Tarlaua de la Litre* [c. Giurgăța-DJ];
- lot** – “portion of land owned or offered for ownership”: *Dealul Loturilor* [v. Comanca t. Băile Olănești-VL], *Lotari* [part of a village v.c. Mărcineni-AG], *Lotași* [part of a village v.c. Mărcineni-AG], *Lotașii Buciumeni* [part of a village v. Valea lui Alb c. Vulturești-OT], *Lotașii Lotărași* [part of a village v.c. Topana-OT];
- masă** – “unitary surface made of several areas of farming land”: *Masa Mare* [arable land v. Pitulași c. Malovăț-MH];
- mejdina** – “balk, boundary, frontier (between two fields, properties)”: *Mejdina Mătcii celei Vechi* [place v. Ionești c. Buzoiești-AG];
- parcelă** – “boundary portion of land” [place v. Cosmina de Jos c. Cosminele-PH], *Parcela Bălțoiu* [place v.c. Cocorăștii Mislii-PH], *Parcela Bâlgă* [forest v.c. Telega-PH], *Parcela de sub Obreață* [place v. Bănești c. Sălcioara-DB], *Parcela Drăgușin* [forest v.c. Telega-PH]; *Parcela Groziceanu* [forest v.c. Telega-PH], *Parcela Nouă* [glen v. Valea Roșie c. Mitreni-CL], *Parcela Savu* [forest v.c. Telega-PH]; *Parcela Voicheci* [place v.c. Filipeștii de Târg-PH], *Parcele* [place v.c. Băiculești-AG; part of village, arable land v. Ghirdoveni c. I. L. Caragiale-DB];
- parchet** – “delimited surface of land, partially or entirely deforested”: *Parchetu* [forest v.c. Cerașu-PH], *Parchetu Bătrâna* [hill side v.c. Lerești-AG], *Parchetu Ciucurescu* [forest v. Cheia c. Măneciu-PH], *Parchetu Tămașului* [forest department v. Bărăști c. Cicănești-AG];
- pământenire** – “to settle in, to establish oneself in a place; to appropriate”: *La Pământenire* [v. Piscu Sadovei c. Sadova-DJ];
- pătrime** – “agrarian measuring unit”: *Pățimea* [place v.c. Giurgăța, v.c. Izvoare, v.c. Perișor, v. Tunarii Noi and Tunarii Vechi c. Poiana Mare, c. Radovan, v. Săcui c. Teasc, v. Criva c. Vârvoru de Jos, arable land v.c. Piscu Vechi-DJ; forest v. Bobu c. Scoarța, grazing field v.c. Săcelu-GJ; place v.c. Breznița-Ocol-MH; v.c. Bucinișu, v. Tudor Vladimirescu and Vârtop t. Corabia, v. Potelu c. Studina, v.c. Vișina, v.c. Vlădila-OT], *Pățimi* [arable land v.c. Seaca de Câmp-DJ], *Pățimile* [arable land v.c. Grojdibodu-OT], *Suhatu Pățimei* [grazing field v. Vârtop t. Corabia-OT], *Tarlaua de la Pățime* [v.c. Giurgăța, v.c. Goicea-DJ], *Tarlaua Pățime* [c. Radovan-DJ];
- pogon** – “piece of land, half of a hectare”: *Pogoanele* [mountain v.c. Brăduleț, arable place v. Neajlov c. Rătești-AG; part of village v.c. Bărăganu-BR; hayfield v.c. Măgura, village c. Pogoanele, village c. Țintești, arable place v. Maxenu c. Țintești, commune-BZ; hayfield v. Pucioasa-Sat t. Pucioasa, pasture c. Runcu, place v. Gheboieni c. Tătărani-DB; arable place v.c. Borcea, district m. Slobozia-IL; arable place v. Grădiștea c. Boldești-Grădiștea, hill v.c. Brebu,

forest v.c. Brebu, v. Poiana Vărbilău c. Vărbilău, hayfield v.c. Cerașu, valley s. Prăjani t. Slănic Prahova-PH], *Pogoanele Arabuloaia* [hayfield v.c. Crângurile-DB], *Pogoanele Ciupitu* [hayfield v.c. Glodeanu-Sărat-BZ], *Pogoanele din Crivăț* [arable place v.c. Amaru-BZ], *Pogoanele din Deal* [arable place v. Luciu c. Mihail Kogălniceanu-IL], *Pogoanele din Vale* [arable place v.c. Cerașu-PH], *Pogoanele Filcea* [place v.c. Cerașu-PH], *Pogoanele Mari* [arable place v. Sărățeni c. Balaciu-IL], *Pogoanele Mici* [arable land v. Sărățeni c. Balaciu-IL; hamlet c. Țintești-BZ], *Pogoanele Noi* [field v.c. Bordușani-IL], *Pogoanele Vechi* [arable land v. Lacu Rezii c. Însurăței-BR; arable land v.c. Amaru-BZ; place v. Malu Roșu c. Armășești-IL], *Pogonari*<sup>7</sup> [hamlet c. Dormărunt-IL], *Pogonăreasca* [arable land v. Maxenu c. Țintești-BZ], *Pogonu cu Frasinu* [place v. Vernești-BZ], *Pogonu Lung* [place v. Călinești c. Florești-PH], *La Pogoanele Jumătate* [t. Corabia-OT];

**prisos** – “extra farming land of the landlord that he leased to the peasants”: *La Prisos* [v. Cerna-Vârf c. Isverna-MH], *Prisosu* [mountain, spring v.c. Baia de Fier-GJ, estate v. Batoți c. Deveselu-MH], *Prisosu de Pogoane* [arable place v.c. Obârșia-OT], *Prisosu-Delimitări* [arable place v.c. Gura Motrului c. Butoiești-MH];

**pristos** – variant for *prisos* “extra farming land of the landlord that he leased to the peasants”: *Pristoasa* [hill v. Poiana c. Turburea, arable place v. Izvoarele c. Gruia-GJ], *Pristoase* [forest v.c. Bălești, arable place v. Hăiești c. Săcelu-Gj; arable place v. Ghioroiu-VL], *Pristoasele Mari* [arable place v. Cârciu c. Văgiulești-GJ], *Pristoasele Mici* [arable place v. Cârciu c. Văgiulești-GJ], *Pristos* [road v. Galeș c. Brăduleț, hill, arable place v. Bârlogu c. Negrași, arable land v. Fâlfani c. Stolnici-AG; valley v. Glodu Petcari c. Chilii-BZ], *Pristosu ăl Mare* [arable land v. Strâmbeni c. Suseni-AG], *Pristosu ăl Mic* [arable land v. Strâmbeni c. Suseni-AG], *Puțu din Pristos* [v. Bârlogu c. Negrași-AG], *Tarlaua Pristos* [v. Fâlfani c. Stolnici-AG], *La Pristos* [v. Pârnu Roșu c. Costești-AG; v.c. Bolintin Vale-GR; v.c. Tătulești-OT];

**regulament** – “portion of land delimited according to regulations”: *Regulament* [farming land v. Boteni c. Conțești-DB], *Regulament-Pădure* [strip ground v. Ziduri c. Odobești-DB];

**repartiție** – “distribution, division, repartition”: *În Repartiții* [v.c. Urzicuța-DJ];

**rest** – “part remained after the repartition of an agrarian surface”: *Rest* [village c. Lupșanu-CL], *Resturile* [plots v. Spătărei c. Furculești-TR], *La Rest* [v. Băduleasa c. Putineiu-TR], *La Rest la Baba Ana* [v. Mihai Viteazul c. Vlad Țepeș-IL];

**rezervă** – “portion of forest in which the grazing is forbidden”: *Rezerva* [pasture v. Căpățâneni-Pământeni c. Arefu-AG; grazing field v.c. Bistreț, place in the

<sup>7</sup> Group name *pogonari* (from *pogonar* “farm worker paid according to the number of the worked acres”) (MDA).

forest v. Zăval c. Gighera, arable place v. Robăneștii de Jos c. Robănești-DJ], *Rezerve* [strip ground v. Frasinu c. Cornești-DB; arable place v.c. Bârca, v.c. Moțăței-DJ], *În Rezervă* [v.c. Budești-VL];

**ristos** – \*ristos, cf. *pristos*, variant for *prisos* “extra farming land of the landlord that he leased to the peasants”: *Ristosu* [valley v.c. Dobrești-AG];

**sfert**<sup>8</sup> – “each of the four equal parts in which can be divided a whole number”: *În Sferturi* [v. Piscu Sadovei c. Sadova-DJ];

**stânjen** – “old unit of measure for length”: *Stânjeni-Ghenoiu* [place v. Drajna de Jos c. Drajna-Ph], *Stânjenii lui Grigorescu* [place v. Poseștii Pământeni c. Posești-Ph], *Stânjenii Oprului* [place v.c. Bordușani-II], *Stânjenii pe Buză* [place v.c. Jegălia-II], *Stânjenii Viilor* [place v. Bărbuncești c. Tisău-Bz], *Stânjeni-Scurta* [estate v. Tohani c. Gura Vadului-Ph];

**tablă** – “portion of seeded land”: *La Tablă* [s. Slănic c. Aninoasa, v. Valea lui Enache c. Băiculești, v.c. Domnești-AG; v.c. Braniște-DB; v.c. Vărbilău-PH; v.c. Ștorobăneasa, v. Tomulești c. Toporu-TR], *La Table* [v. Beuca c. Drăcșănei-TR];

**tovărășie** – “association”: *Tovărășia* [village c. Miloșești-IL] (part of the c. Miloșești – IN 1956), *Tovărășiile* [pond v.c. Afumați-IL];

**trăsură** – “surface of land with a length of over 36 metres; boundary line between two properties”: *Trăsura* [part of a village, orchard v.c. Ocnița-DB];

**trup** – “wide stretching of land, which makes one plot; an estate”: *Mihăiești cu Trupurile* [forest v.c. Băbeni-VL], *Trupu Anica* [forest t. Băicoi-PH], *Trupu Bășău* [estate c. Cosminele-PH], *Trupu Boncu* [estate c. Cosminele-PH], *Trupu Bortosică* [estate v. Cornu de Jos c. Drăgănești-PH], *Trupu Bragagiu* [strip ground v.c. Mănești-PH], *Trupu Capu Câmpului* [estate t. Breaza-PH], *Trupu Ceair* [estate v. Mărginenii de Sus c. Dărmănești-PH], *Trupu de Pădure Ceret* [forest v. Zlotești c. Tătărăștii de Jos-TR], *Trupu Fânari* [estate v. Crivina c. Gorgota-PH], *Trupu Găldău* [strip ground v.c. Mănești-PH], *Trupu Turbatu* [forest t. Breaza-PH], *Trupu Vlădenilor* [estate-DB], *Trupu Zahana* [forest v. Negoiești c. Brazi-PH];

**valma** – from *valmă*, cf. *vălmășie* “form of common ownership and exploitation of a surface of land”: *Valma* [arable land v. Popânzălești c. Drăgotești-DJ];

**vălmășie** – see **valma**: *Învălmășii* [arable plots t. Băilești-DJ].

According to their meaning, we can classify the previous appellatives in terms that aim the following aspects:

a) delimitation, separation of two properties: *ales*, *artea*, *artele*, *delimitare*, *despărțire*, *mejdina*;

b) leasing of the land: *batic*, *lot*, *prisos*, *pristos*, *ristos*;

<sup>8</sup> Old form, “money tax, representing the fourth part of a tribute, which was paid four times a year” (dexonline).

c) appropriation: *completare, coroană, delimitate, lege, legiuire, pământenire, regulament, repartitie;*

d) types of parcels (form, destination): *cosac, dric, jug, jurebie, lab, parchet, rest, rezervă, tablă;*

e) rights on the land: *dram;*

f) dimension/fragmentation of property: *întreiala, litră, masă, parcelă, pătrime, pogon, sfert, stânen, trăsură, trup;*

g) common exploitation of the land: *comun, tovărășie, vălmășie, valma.*

The inventory includes, as it can be noticed, both words that are part of the agrarian terminology (*mejdină, pogon, stânen* etc.), along with borrowings from other fields of the vocabulary (*falcă, jug, trup* etc.), and terms that gain signification in the historical context (*coroană, lege, legiuire* etc.). Nonetheless, our object of interest, in the present article, is the toponymic materialisation of these lexical units. There can be noticed, from this perspective, that the information imposes a tridirectional approach: a) structure, b) origin, c) frequency.

a) From the point of view of the internal organisation, *the denominations* can be classified according to two typologies:

1. *Simple* (forms of singular or plural, underived or derived<sup>9</sup>, feminine or masculine): *Aleasa, Batic, Batice, Completările, Comuna, Coroana, Cosac, Delimitarea, Dumilitate, Dreamuri, Fălci, Fălcile, Fânari, Întreiala, Juguri, Jurebia, Labu, Legiuirea, Legiuri, Legiuitele, Lotari, Lotași, Lotărași, Parcele, Parchetu, Pătrimea, Pătrimi, Pătrimile, Pogoanele, Pogonari, Pogonăreasca, Prisosu, Pristoasa, Pristos, Regulament, Rest, Resturile, Rezerva, Rezerve, Ristosu, Tovărășia, Tovărășiile, Trăsura, Valma.*

2. *Analytical.* Most of the terms recorded in our inventory are engaged in composed toponymic structures, in which the syntactic connections are made through the nominative constructions (*Parcela Bălțoiu, Parcela Drăgușin, Parcela Savu, Parchetu Ciucurescu, Pogoanele Ciupitu, Trupu Anica* etc.), of the synthetic genitive (*Cureaua Delimitărilor, Dealu Loturilor, Fălcile Cotorgii, Legea Crivii, Stânenii Oprului, Suhatu Pătrimei, Trupu Vlădenilor* etc.) and analytical genitive (*Fălcile lu Ion Giubega, Legiuirile lui Cuza, Stânenii lui Grigorescu*, etc.), or the accusative with prepositions (*În Sferturi, La Tablă, La Table, În Colțul Delimitării, În Delimitare, În Delimitări, La Despărțire, În Capu Legiuirilor, În Legiuri, În Legiurile Dâlgii, La Legiuri, La Pământinire, La Pogoanele Jumătate, La Prisos, La Pristos, În Repartiții, Tarlaua de la Pătrime, Prisosu de Pogoane, Măgura din Legiuri, Mihăiești cu Trupurile* etc.). It is well known the fact that, nowadays, the names of places have become simple orientating marks. Yet, if in the case of those formed with the genitive and the accusative it is visible the motivation of the occurrence (the expression of possession or the mentioning of the place where the object is), the nominative have

<sup>9</sup> In just one case the derivation takes place in toponymy – *Pristoasa* (GJ) < *pristos* + *suf. top. - a* –, in the others (*Fânari, Lotari, Lotași, Lotărași, Pogonari, Pogonăreasca*) it occurs at the level of the common language or in anthroponomy (the last name).

become impersonal and is lacking expressivity, due to the fact that “the disappearance of the item leads to the modification of the denominative relation: in *Moara lui Conachi*, *Odaia lui Manolache* or *Slobozia Străjescului* the genitive indicates a relation of possession; in *Moara Conachi*, *Odaia Manolache*, *Slobozia Străjescu* the nominative indicates a onymical relation, through which the name of the person becomes the name of the socio-geographic object (*moară*, *odaie*, *slobozie* – mill, room, independent portion of land), the same as a label. The syntagms lose their initial transparency, become abstract – a process parallel to the progressive loss of motivation for the simple, personal or descriptive names”<sup>10</sup>.

In general, the grammatical characteristics of the topic names (gender, number, case), along with their structure (more or less complex) are used for the depiction of an extremely precise physical reality that exists within a community. Besides the possession and localisation, the particularities of the geographical objects (*Artele Lungi*, *Dricurile Tăiate*, *Legea Veche*, *Legiuirile Bătrâne*, *Legiuirile Vechi*, *Masa Mare*, *Parcela Nouă*, *Parchetu Bătrâna*, *Pogoanele Mari/ Mici*, *Pogoanele Noi/ Vechi*, *Pogonu Lung*, *Pristoasele Mari /Mici*, *Pristosu ăl Mare / ăl Mic*), or their placement on the region, according to certain geographic landmarks – up/down, hill/valley (*Legiuirea de Jos*, *Legiuirile de Jos*, *Legiuirile de la Vale*, *Legiuirile de Sus*, *Legiuirile din Vale*, *Legiuirile Oltene*, *Pogoanele din Deal*, *Pogoanele din Vale*) represent, nonetheless, important aspects encompassed in the denomination of the places.

On addressing the position occupied within the toponymic structure, the terms analysed here are both determinants (*Legiuirile de la Tufar* etc.) and determined (*Fântâna de la Legiuirile Portărenilor* etc.); in the first case, *Legiuirile* constitutes the centre of the structure, while, in the second one, the term of interest is *Fântâna*, and *Legiuirile (Portăreilor)* represents its geographic coordinate.

b) *Origin*. The penetration of the terms referring to land property, and its delimitation, in the category of names of places, is made through the onymical conversion, without formal modifications, it is transplanted into toponymy (*Parchetu*, *Pătrimea*, *Pogoanele* etc.). In some analytical toponymic structures, the terms still preserve the statute of common name (*Cureaua Delimitărilor*, *Dealul Loturilor*, *Tarlaua Pătrime*, *Tarlaua Pristos*), while in others they have suffered the phenomenon of toponymization (*Drumu Legiuirii*, *Suhatu Pătrimei*, *Puțu din Pristos*). Their positioning on one side or another (appellative vs. toponym) in establishing the etymology of these names of places, is not an easy process, the solving of each case requiring a *sui-generis* analysis.

c) *Frequency*. Three of the presented toponymic structures show a higher frequency, than the other denominations. They are based on the terms *legiuire/legiuit*

<sup>10</sup> *Introducerea at Tezaurul toponimic al României. Moldova*, vol. II. *Mic dicționar toponimic al Moldovei (structural și etimologic)*, Part I, *Toponime personale* (under the supervision of Professor Dragoș Moldovanu, PhD), Iași, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University Publishing House, 2014, p. XIV.



(24<sup>11</sup>), *pogon* (16) and *trup* (14). The explanation relies in the fact that, on one side, the laws that granted rights on the land, for the villagers, were of great importance in the life of the rural community, and, on the other side, in their general character of words, known on a certain area. The reduced frequency of the other toponyms stays in the fact that some of them had in their componence appellatives that are less known, only with local use (*artea*, *cosac*, *lab* etc.), and other are the result of some isolated situations: *pristos* (10), *parcelă* (9), *delimitare* (6), *stânjen* (6), *falcă* (5), *lot* (5), *parchet* (4), *prisos* (4), *rest* (4), *rezervă* (3), *batic* (2), *jug* (2), *lege* (2), *regulament* (2), *tablă* (2), *tovărășie* (2), *ales* (1), *artea* (1), *completare* (1), *comun* (1), *coroană* (1), *cosac* (1), *delimitate* (1), *despărțire* (1), *dram* (1), *dric* (1), *întreială* (1), *jurebie* (1), *lab* (1), *litră* (1), *mejdină* (1), *pământenire* (1), *repartiție* (1), *ristos* (1), *sfert* (1), *trăsură* (1), *valma* (1), *vălmășie* (1).

Regarded from this historical perspective, as “pieces” of the socio-economic Romanian picture, from the macro-dimension point of view, we could compare the names of places presented beforehand with some lexical flashes that faithfully reconstitute the image of a complicated past, in which the land ownership and its clear delimitation were essential aspects in the life of the villages.

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<sup>11</sup> The number represents the registered toponyms.

