

THESES AND ANTITHESES IN LITERATURE AND LINGUISTICS

NAMES OF PLACES WITH ADJECTIVAL DETERMINERS IN THE TOPONYMY FROM MUNTENIA*

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Abstract: In the present article we intend to analyse the adjectives encompassed in the analytical microtoponyms from Muntenia. They are “requested” by both the qualities and the “faults” of a place/geographical object, but they also represent a neuter means of identification, as in the situations where their use is imposed by administrative reasons.

Our research unfolds the types of adjectives that can be met, their frequency, their relation with the partner (the entopic element) or the partners (proper or common nouns, adverbs etc.) of the denominative group, the lexical-grammatical form etc., and the establishment of the results obtained in the context of the similar researches from other geographic regions, can offer us a complete image of the displayed pattern.

Key words: toponymy, adjectives, entopic elements, structure, classification.

*Gramatica de bază a limbii române – The Basic Romanian Grammar*¹ considers the definition of adjectives from three perspectives: a) semantically – flexible words that show the features of entities and acts on the extension of the referents represented by the nouns, diminishing the referents into sub-classes; b) morphologically – characterized through flexion, according to the gender and number categories, inflectionally marked, and through the category of the intensity degrees; c) syntactically – defined by the necessity to be related to the nouns / to have a noun or a substitute of it as regent, with which they make the agreement, and that they modify semantically and syntactically.

* The article belongs to the research project *Toponimie în Oltenia și Muntenia*, of “C. S. Nicolăescu-Plopșor” Socio-Human Research Institute from Craiova; an analysis of the adjectival determiners in the toponymy from Oltenia was done in the study *Denumiri cu particularizatori adjectivali în toponimia din Oltenia*, in Silvia Pitiriciu (coord.), *Mioara Avram – In Memoriam*, Craiova, Sitech Publishing House, 2015, pp. 27-54. We consider that the research done in certain areas of the country can offer a complete image of a particular segment (in our case the adjectival one) from the denomination toponymical formula.

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¹ *Gramatica de bază a limbii române*, Romanian Academy, “Iorgu Iordan – Al. Rosetti” Institute of Linguistics, Bucharest, Univers Enciclopedic Gold Publishing House, 2010, p. 212.

With some exceptions – the absence of the degree of intensity and the possibilities to determine a noun substitute – the adjectives keep, in toponymy, the same features as in the common language from which they migrate, becoming, through honimisation, names of independent places (*Afumata* – *smoked*, *Aleasa* – *chosen*, *Aninoasa* – (approx.) *with alder trees*, *Aninosu*, *Antoneasca* – (approx.) *of Anton*, *Bulburosu* – *whirling*, *Călugăreasca* – *of the monks*, *Frumoasa* – *beautiful*, *Găunoasa* – *hollow*, *Lutoasa* – *clayish*, *Nisipoasa* – *sandy*, *Păltinoasa* – (approx.) *with sycamore maples*, *Păcătoasa* – *sinful*, *Părăginosu* – *wrecked* etc.) or more complex constitutive parts of some more complex denominative structures (*Apa Albă* – *white water*, *Balta Luminoasă* – *bright pond*, *Cotu Adânc* – *deep bend*, *Fântâna Adâncă de la Purcărie* – *the deep well from the pig farm*, *Fântâna Moțească* – *the well of the mountaneers*, *Muchia Lungă* – *long edge*, *Râpa Mare la Griniș* – *big precipice from Griniș*, *Șoseaua Militară* – *military road*, *Valea Ra su Crânguri* – *wicked valley under the grooves* etc.).

Relying on the materials encompassed in the *Romanian Toponymical Dictionary. Muntenia*², we intend, in the present article, to analyse the micro-toponyms that have in their componence the adjectival particular elements, such are those designated by the sub-group IV³: *Appellative + adjective* (with or without article, in its literary or popular form: *a*, *al/ăl*, *ăi*, *aia*, *ale/ăle*, *cel*). Such an investigation of the information can lead to the establishing of hierarchies⁴ of the determined/determinant compatibility, followed by the relations established between the two partners of the analytical denominations, along with the knowledge of the adjective inventory (to which dialect or regional elements they belong), used in certain areas, at a specific time.

At a general look, we can notice that in DTRM, there were registered (in the six volumes that we had at our disposal, in the six enumerated structures), 119 popular geographic terms. Among these, only 101⁵ present combinations with adjectives,

² There were published, under the coordination of Prof. PhD, Nicolae Saramandu, at the Romanian Academy Publishing House from Bucharest, the following volumes from this dictionary: 1 (A-B), 2005; 2 (C-D), 2007; 3 (E-J), 2009; 4 (L-M), 2011; 5 (N-P), 2013; 6 (R-T); further quoted as DTRM.

³ In *Dicționarul toponimic al României. Oltenia* – The toponymical Romanian dictionary. Oltenia (DTRO) (coordinator Prof., PhD, Gh. Bolocan), vol. I (A-B), Craiova, Universitaria Publishing House, 1993 and next, and in DTRM, the compounded micro-toponyms were classified according to the second element, on the next levels: **I.** *Appellative + Anthroponym*, **II.** *Appellative + Toponym*, **III.** *Appellative + Appellative*, **IV.** *Appellative + Adjective*, **V.** *Appellative + Preposition + Noun*, **VI.** *Appellative + Preposition + Adverb*, subdivided, in their turn, according to the gender, the number, and the case of the proper or common nouns, if they are articulated or not, what kind of prepositions and adverbs were used.

⁴ To which there are frequently added aleatory extra-linguistic factors.

⁵ Structure IV lacks the next entopic elements: *Baraju* – *dam*, *Cabana* – *cabin*, *Capu* – *cape*, *Cărarea* – *foot path*, *Coadă* – *end*, *Colțu* – *corner*, *Găvanu* – *hollow place*, *Găldău* – *puddle*, *Imașu* – *common*, *Jgheabu* – *trough*, *Nucu* – *nut tree*, *Ochiu* – *pool*, *Plantația* – *plantation*, *Platou* – *plateaux*, *Râu* – *river*, *Rigla* – *line*, *Ropina* – *pit*, *Știubeiu* – *beehive*.

and in their situation, from the point of view of the quantitative association with different determiners, they display themselves differently: there are entopic elements that selected in the process of denomination, a high number of adjectives, but also entopic elements which have scarce qualificatives.

Thus, among the 101 entopic terms, 18 are in combination with one adjective (*Casa* – house, *Căldarea* – cauldron, *Grădinile* – garden, *Grădiștea* – hillock, *Gura* – opening, *Hotaru* – boundary, *Iazu* – pond, *Izlazu* – pasture, *Japșa* – backwater, *Locuri* – places, *Oboru* – enclosure, *Odaia* – room, *Punctu* – point, *Răspântia* – crossroads, *Ruptura* – split, *Teiu* – lime tree, *Troița* – cross, *Tufele* – bushes), 16 with two adjectives (*Bariera* – barrier, *Cârciuma* – pub, *Colnicu* – hill, *Cotu* – corner, *Fundu* – bottom, *Gâlma* – hillock, *Eleșteu* – small pond, *Lotu* – lot, *Planu* – plan, *Pleașa* – flat area, *Plopii* – poplars, *Puntea* – bridge, *Târla* – sheep fold, *Tufanii* – pubescent oaks, *Țarina* – tilled land, *Țifla* – summit), nine with three adjectives (*Calea* – way, *Canalu* – canal, *Golu* – clearing, *Livezile* – orchards, *Poarta* – gate, *Privalu* – ravine, *Rovina* – mire, *Șanțu* – ditch, *Tarlaua* – strip ground), 14 with four adjectives (*Aleșteu* – small pond, *Câmpu* – field, *Cheia* – gorge, *Dosu* – backside place, *Gropile* – pits, *Loturile* – lots, *Muntele* – mountain, *Nucii* – nut trees, *Obștea* – community, *Poteca* – path, *Șipotu* – spring, *Șuvița* – stripe, *Tufa* – bush, *Tufanu* – pubescent oak), nine with five adjectives (*Grădina* – garden, *Gruiu* – hill, *Hanu* – inn, *Hoaga* – ravine, *Locu* – place, *Ograda* – court yard, *Padina* – tableland, *Poienile* – glens, *Rusca* – small place), five with six adjectives (*Crângu* – grove, *Grindu* – bank ridge, *Livada* – orchard, *Pământu* – land, *Păru* – pear tree), two with seven adjectives (*Fagu* – beech, *Moșia* – estate), two with eight adjectives (*Lunca* – water meadow, *Moara* – mill), one with nine adjectives (*Balta* – pond), four with 11 adjectives (*Crucea* – cross, *Groapa* – pit, *Linia* – line, *Muchia* – edge), four with 13 adjectives (*Fața* – front side, *Movila* – hillock, *Plaiu* – field, *Șoseaua* – road), one with 14 adjectives (*Coasta* – coast), two with 15 adjectives (*Gârla* – streamlet, *Izvoru* – spring), two with 17 adjectives (*Măgura* – hillock, *Râpa* – precipice), one with 18 adjectives (*Malu* – river bank), three with 21 adjectives (*Fântâna* – well, *Piatra* – stone, *Podu* – bridge), two with 23 adjectives (*Dealu* – hill, *Pădurea* – forest), one with 24 adjectives (*Drumu* – road), two with 25 adjectives (*Poiana* – glen, *Puțu* – well), one with 27 adjectives (*Piscu* – peak), one with 31 adjectives (*Pârâu* – stream), one with 35 adjectives (*Lacu* – lake).

We can notice that we deal with both entopic elements whose meaning is generally known (*pond*, *hill*, *road*, *stream*, *lake*, *mill*, *peak* etc.), and with appellatives specific for some limited areas (*japșă* – backwater, *pleașă* – flat area, *prival* – brook); which is a common situation, because any geographic area, which had been at some point offered an emotional touch or guiding purpose, can become a landmark for the members of a community.

As regarding their frequency, there is an inverse ratio between the number of the popular geographic terms and that of the adjectives: while the entopic elements

decrease, the number of the adjective increases. If we position these appellatives on a graded scale, we can say that its inferior position is occupied by the less known entopic elements or those presenting importance for a smaller community (*Aleșteu – pond, Casa – house, Crucea – cross, Plopii – plop trees, Poarta – gate, Poteca – path* etc.); the higher we ascend towards the superior area, the more we notice the fact that there are increasing those belonging to the basic lexis of the Romanian language, which have a higher capacity of generalisation, and can constitute, altogether, local indicators for one or more villages (*Fântâna – well, Dealu – hill, Drumu – road, Pădurea – forest, Pârâu – stream* etc.). They refer to important elements from the life of the rural society, rather vital, if we consider the last two of them, the existence of the water sources represented, nevertheless, an essential condition in the constitution and the development of the human settlements, being definitely marked at the toponymic level; either it is about running waters (valleys), stagnant waters (lakes, ponds) or dug after ones (wells⁶), their meaning, inside the community, is reflected by the high and very high number of compound places, which encompass them in their structure.

By “translating” the above information into statistic data, the situation comes as following: there have been selected 85 entopic elements under 15 adjectives, and above this number – only 16. If referring to qualificatives from this date, we can observe that the 85 entopic elements are combined with 83 adjectives, while the rest of 15, with 236. The numbers speak for themselves, demonstrating that between the determined and determiner there is an “attraction” as far as the first ones are known and, on the other side, a series of factors related to particular situations contribute in the same time to the more frequent registering of some of the structures.

If the situation, on addressing the number and the distribution of the entopic elements, is this way revealed, the analysed material allowed us, on the regards of adjectives, their classification on the next levels of frequency:

a) Adjectives selected by just one entopic element:

- Without an article: *Acră – sour (Piatra), Aeriană – airy (Puntea), Afumat – smoked (Podu), Aleasă – chosen (Moșia), Altoită – grafted (Livada), Apăsat – pressed (Malu), Arată – ploughed (Măgura), Ars – burnt (Pârâu), Ascuns – hidden (Lacu), Ascunsă – hidden (Poiana), Aspră – rough (Poiana), Astupat – plugged (Puțu), Bălțat – colourful (Lacu), Bălțată – colourful (Pădurea), Bogată – gorgeous (Poiana), Brăzdată – wrinkled (Poiana), Breaz – spotted (Malu), Bulgăresc – Bulgarian (Dealu), Călugăresc – monk (Piscu), Cățătoare – climbing*

⁶ In Oltenia, *fântâna* – well is the entopic element present in the most numerous names of places compounded with adjectives (83), but also the one that enters in the structure of the most analytical denominations (8.562), as confronted to other registered geographical terms, as we showed in the article *Denumiri cu particularizatori adjectivali în toponimia din Oltenia – Denominations with adjectival particularisers in the toponymy from Oltenia* (see supra).

(*Râpa*), *Cheală* – bald (*Măgura*), *Chinețescă* (*Moșia*), *Ciocile* – hillside (*Crucea*), *Cocoșată* – hunchbacked (*Tufa*), *Combinat* – combined (*Drumu*), *Cornească* – with cornel trees (*Pădurea*), *Costească* – on a coast (*Pădurea*), *Cotit* – winded (*Drumu*), *Creăță* – twisted (*Măgura*), *Cristalin* – crystalline (*Izvoru*), *Crucișat* – crossed (*Drumu*), *Curat* – clean (*Plaiu*), *Curățat* – cleaned (*Drumu*), *Dărâmată* – pulled down (*Piatra*), *Displicată* – split (*Groapa*), *Electrică* – electric (*Moara*), *Flocoasă* – hairy (*Măgura*), *Fofodată* (*Măgura*), *Forestier* – of forest (*Drumu*), *Forestieră* – of forest (*Șoseaua*), *Frumoase* – beautiful (*Poienile*), *Gârgăcită* – tiny (*Piatra*), *Găurită* – pierced (*Piatra*), *Găvănat* – hollowed (*Lacu*), *Gemănica* – twin (*Gârla*), *General* – main (*Drumu*), *Golașă* – barren (*Măgura*), *Golășel* – bare (*Dealu*), *Gras* – fertile (*Lacu*), *Grecească* – Greek (*Crucea*), *Gros* – wide (*Drumu*), *Împușcat* – shot (*Fagu*), *Împușcată* – shot (*Tufa*), *Înaltă* (*Naltă*) – tall (*Coasta*), *Îngrădit* – enclosed (*Lacu*), *Îngurită* (*Piatra*), *Întunecos* – dark (*Pârâu*), *Învărgată* – stripped (*Râpa*), *Ionească* (*Moara*), *Județeană* – county (*Șoseaua*), *Jugăurit* – taxed (*Piscu*), *Larg* – large (*Pârâu*), *Lăudat* – praised (*Păru*), *Lepădată* – thrown away (*Poiana*), *Liberă* – free (*Poiana*), *Lin* – smooth (*Podu*), *Luciu* – clear (*Lacu*), *Lungi* – long (*Locuri*), *Mândră* – splendid (*Poiana*), *Măruntă* – small (*Pădurea*), *Mărunți* – small (*Nucii*), *Moale* – soft (*Podu*), *Mort* – dead (*Puțu*), *Mortal* – deadly (*Puțu*), *Națională* – national (*Șoseaua*), *Ngustă* – narrow (*Poteca*), *Nebun* – mad (*Pârâu*), *Necunoscută* – unknown (*Movila*), *Negre* – black (*Poienile*), *Oprită* – preserved (*Pădurea*), *Pădure* – woods (*Gârla*), *Păpuroasă* – with bulrush (*Balta*), *Păroasă* – hairy (*Calea*), *Pietros* – stoned (*Malu*), *Pitulată* – hidden (*Poiana*), *Pleș* – patchy (*Muntele*), *Plesnitoare* – breaking (*Poiana*), *Pletos* – shaggy (*Fagu*), *Popesc* – of the priest (*Dealu*), *Pustie* – deserted (*Groapa*), *Râioasă* – scabby (*Piatra*), *Râios* – scabby (*Lacu*), *Rară* – rare (*Pădurea*), *Răsturnată* – turned over (*Poiana*), *Retezat* – severed (*Tufanu*), *Robit* – enslaved (*Dealu*), *Română* – Romanian (*Poiana*), *Românesc* – Romanian (*Dealu*), *Româno-Americană* – Romanian-American (*Moara*), *Roșii* – red (*Tufele*), *Ruginită* – rusty (*Fântâna*), *Rupt* – broken (*Malu*), *Ruptă* – broken (*Fântâna*), *Săpat* – dug (*Privalu*), *Sărac* – poor (*Lacu*), *Săracă* – poor (*Moara*), *Sârbești* – Serbian (*Grădinile*), *Sățesc* – of the village (*Drumu*), *Scăzut* – reduced (*Golu*), *Scobit* – hollow (*Malu*), *Șes* – of the field (*Plaiu*), *Șeț* – flat (*Câmpu*), *Sfânt* – holly (*Locu*), *Sfântă* – holly (*Crucea*), *Sfințit* – hallowed (*Pârâu*), *Șindrească* – of shingle (*Movila*), *Șindrilită* – with shingle (*Crucea*), *Șindruită* – with shingle (*Moara*), *Spălată* – washed (*Muchia*), *Spurcată* – filthy (*Poiana*), *Stearpă* – barren (*Bariera*), *Ștearsă* – wiped (*Muchia*), *Strâmb* –

slanting (Muntele), *Strânsă* – pressed (Muchia), *Surpată* – crumbled (Râpa), *Tăiat* – severed (Piscu), *Tămăduitoare* – healing (Fântâna), *Tătărască* – of Tartars (Fântâna), *Țigănească* – of gypsies (Linia), *Trăznită* – hit by lightning (Râpa), *Trăznit* – hit by lightning (Puțu), *Turcească* – Turkish (Movila), *Turcesc* – Turkish (Fagu), *Turtită* – flattened (Măgura), *Unsă* – smeared (Fața), *Uscat* – dry (Tufanu), *Uscați* – dry (Nucii), *Vărgată* – stripped (Râpa), *Vânăt* – bluish (Malu), *Vânăță* – bluish (Piatra), *Vânturată* – scattered (Piatra), *Văruit* – painted (Puțu), *Văsesc* (Dealu), *Vijelioasă* – windy (Râpa), *Vlăsesc* (Dealu);

- With an article: *a Deasă* – the thick (Pădurea), *aia Mare* – the big (Gârla), *al Mare* (Planu), *al Mari* (Grindu), *ale Mari* (Poienile), *ăi Bătrâni* – the old (Tufanii), *ăi Mari* (Nucii), *ăi Rari* – the scarce (Tufanii), *ăi Scriși* – the written (Plopii), *ăl Adânc* – the deep (Pârâu), *ăl Alb* – the white (Pământu), *ăl Bun* – the good (Piscu), *ăl Galben* – the yellow (Pământu), *ăl Gras* – the fertile (Lacu), *ăl Înalt* – the tall (Malu), *ăl Negru* – the black (Lacu), *ăl Strâmb* – the wry (Puțu), *ăl Strâmt* – the narrow (Drumu), *ăl Vechi* – the old (Puțu), *ăl Verde* – the green (Podu), *ăle Mari* – the big (Gropile), *ăle Mici* – the shallow (Gropile), *cel Frumos* – the handsome (Piscu), *cel Mic* – the small (Lacu);

b) Adjectives selected by two entopic elements:

- Without an article: *Adânc* – deep (Lacu, Pârâu), *Albastră* – blue (Crucea, Râpa), *Bălan* – white (Muntele, Pârâu), *Bună* – good (Fața, Fântâna), *Caldă* – warm (Fântâna, Gârla), *Comunal* – commune (Izvoru, Șanțu), *Deasă* – thick (Coasta, Pădurea), *Domnească* – of the ruler (Livada, Pădurea), *Dreaptă* – straight (Linia, Pădurea), *Găunoasă* – hollow (Măgura, Piatra), *Gol* – empty (Lacu, Piscu), *Înfundată* – isolated (Lunca, Râpa), *Lat* – wide (Piscu, Podu), *Limpede* – clear (Izvoru, Lacu), *Mănăstirească* – of the monastery (Pădurea, Moșia), *Mândru* – splendid (Piscu, Podu), *Netedă* – neat (Coasta, Fața), *Noi* – new (Livezile, Loturile), *Părăsît* – deserted (Drumu, Puțu), *Părăsîtă* – deserted (Fântâna, Poiana), *Principal* – main (Canalu, Drumu), *Principală* – main (Linia, Șoseaua), *Puturos* – stinky (Lacu, Pârâu), *Românească* – Romanian (Gârla, Linia), *Rotund* – round (Fagu, Lacu), *Rusească* – Russian (Șoseaua, Tarlaua), *Săpată* – dug (Măgura, Movila), *Sârbească* – Serbian (Fântâna, Linia), *Scrișă* – written (Piatra, Râpa), *Scurtă* – short (Groapa, Șuvița), *Șerpătească* – winding (Drumu, Padina), *Spart* – broken (Dealu, Malu), *Spartă* – broken (Moara, Piatra), *Strâmtă* – narrow (Cheia, Groapa), *Subțire* – thin (Drumu, Piscu), *Surpat* – crumbled (Malu, Pârâu), *Tăiată* – cut (Măgura, Pădurea), *Tare* – strong (Coasta, Pădurea), *Tătărăsc* – of the Tartars (Drumu, Puțu), *Țigănesc* – of the gypsies (Dealu, Lacu),

Trăznit – *hit by lightning* (Puțu, Tufanu), *Turbure* – *turbid* (Izvoru, Pârâu);

- With an article: *a Mare* – *the big* (Coasta, Fața), *ăl Bătrân* – *the old* (Făgu, Plaiu), *ăl Des* – *the thick* (Crângu, Piscu), *ăl Nalt* – *the tall* (Piscu, Puțu), *ăl Rece* – *the cold* (Izvoru, Șipotu), *ăl Scurt* – *the short* (Pârâu, Piscu);

c) Adjectives selected by three entopic elements:

- Without an article: *Adâncă* – *deep* (Gârla, Groapa, Poiana), *Bătrân* – *old* (Dealu, Pârâu, Puțu), *Călugărească* – *of the monks* (Fântâna, Moșia, Pădurea), *Comunală* – *commune* (Gârla, Pădurea, Șoseaua), *Dulce* – *sweet* (Gârla, Izvoru, Lacu), *Frumos* – *beautiful* (Dealu, Pârâu, Piscu), *Galbenă* – *yellow* (Piatra, Poiana, Râpa), *Înalt* – *tall* (Malu, Podu, Puțu), *Înfundat* – *isolated* (Grindu, Lacu, Pârâu), *Largă* – *large* (Cheia, Hoaga, Linia), *Lată* – *wide* (Japșa, Movila, Piatra), *Naltă* – *tall* (Calea, Coasta, Râpa), *Neagră* – *black* (Balta, Hoaga, Pădurea), *Puturoasă* – *stinky* (Fântâna, Lunca, Muchia), *Sărată* – *salty* (Balta, Fântâna, Lunca), *Scurt* – *short* (Pârâu, Piscu, Plaiu), *Trăsnit* – *hit by lightning* (Piscu, Podu, Teiu), *Trăsnită* – *hit by lightning* (Crucea, Piatra, Tufa);
- With an article: *ăl Nou* – *the new* (Drumu, Podu, Puțu), *ăl Roșu* – *the red* (Dealu, Drumu, Puțu), *cel Mare* – *the big* (Dosu, Lacu, Plaiu);

d) Adjectives selected by four entopic elements: *Bătrână* – *old* (Coasta, Fântâna, Ograda, Pădurea), *Boieresc* – *of the boyars* (Crângu, Hanu, Lacu, Malu), *Domnesc* – *of the ruler* (Crângu, Heleșteu, Plaiu, Puțu), *Galben* – *yellow* (Hanu, Malu, Pământu, Pârâu), *Mici* – *small* (Gropile, Livezile, Loturile, Poienile), *Nalt* – *tall* (Dealu, Gruiu, Piscu, Puțu), *Rea* – *wicked* (Coasta, Fața, Groapa, Piatra), *Rotundă* – *round* (Fața, Pădurea, Poiana, Tufa), *Sărat* – *salty* (Grindu, Izvoru, Lacu, Pârâu), *Sterp* – *barren* (Izvoru, Pârâu, Piscu, Punctu);

e) Adjectives selected by five entopic elements: *Arsă* – *burnt* (Crucea, Măgura, Movila, Piatra, Poiana), *Nou* – *new* (Aleșteu, Drumu, Lacu, Podu, Puțu), *Seacă* – *dried-up* (Balta, Fântâna, Gârla, Hoaga, Poiana);

f) Adjectives selected by six entopic elements:

- Without an article: *Boierească* – *of the boyars* (Gârla, Grădina, Moșia, Movila, Pădurea, Poiana), *Mari* – *big* (Gropile, Livezile, Loturile, Nucii, Plopii, Poienile), *Rău* – *wicked* (Cotu, Crângu, Dosu, Izvoru, Pârâu, Piscu);
- With an article: *ăl Lung* – *the long* (Dealu, Lacu, Locu, Pârâu, Piscu, Podu);

g) Adjectives selected by seven entopic elements: *Alb* – *white* (Iazu, Lacu, Malu, Pământu, Pârâu, Piscu, Podu), *Frumoasă* – *beautiful* (Coasta, Crucea, Fața, Lunca, Muchia, Poiana, Râpa), *Negru* – *black* (Dealu, Gruiu, Izvoru, Lacu, Pârâu, Piscu, Podu), *Rece* – *cold* (Fântâna, Gârla, Groapa, Izvoru, Pârâu, Puțu,

Șipotu), **Repede** – **fast** (Coasta, Fața, Muchia, Pârâu, Piscu, Podu, Privalu), **Sec** – **dried-up** (Aleșteu, Dealu, Eleșteu, Izvoru, Lacu, Pârâu, Puțu);

h) Adjectives selected by eight entopic elements: **Înaltă** – **tall** (Crucea, Fața, Fântâna, Măgura, Muchia, Pădurea, Râpa, Țifla), **Verde** – **green** (Balta, Coasta, Fața, Lacu, Movila, Padina, Piatra, Poiana);

i) Adjectives selected by nine entopic elements:

- Without an article: **Albă** – **white** (Balta, Coasta, Crucea, Fântâna, Movila, Muchia, Piatra, Poiana, Râpa);
- With an article: **ăl Mic** – **the small** (Câmpu, Dealu, Drumu, Lacu, Piscu, Plaiu, Planu, Podu, Puțu);

j) Adjectives selected by ten entopic elements: **Roșie** – **red** (Crucea, Fața, Fântâna, Groapa, Movila, Padina, Piatra, Poteca, Râpa, Țarina);

k) Adjectives selected by 11 entopic elements: **Lung** – **long** (Cotu, Dealu, Drumu, Grindu, Gruiu, Lacu, Malu, Pârâu, Piscu, Plaiu, Podu);

l) Adjectives selected by 12 entopic elements: **Roșu** – **red** (Dealu, Drumu, Hanu, Lacu, Locu, Malu, Muntele, Pământu, Pârâu, Piscu, Plaiu, Podu);

m) Adjectives selected by 13 entopic elements: **Nouă** – **new** (Cârciuma, Gârla, Linia, Livada, Lunca, Măgura, Moara, Obște, Ograda, Rusca, Șoseaua, Troița, Țarina), **Vechi** – **old** (Aleșteu, Dealu, Drumu, Fagu, Hotaru, Lacu, Loturile, Oboru, Pământu, Pârâu, Plaiu, Podu, Puțu);

n) Adjectives selected by 17 entopic elements: **Lungă** – **long** (Balta, Căldarea, Fântâna, Gârla, Grădina, Groapa, Linia, Măgura, Movila, Muchia, Piatra, Poiana, Poteca, Râpa, Rusca, Șuvița, Tarlaua), **Mic** – **small** (Canalu, Colnicu, Crângu, Dealu, Drumu, Grindu, Gruiu, Hanu, Izvoru, Lacu, Lotu, Malu, Pârâu, Plaiu, Podu, Puțu, Șanțu),

o) Adjectives selected by 19 entopic elements: **Veche** – **old** (Bariera, Casa, Cârciuma, Fântâna, Gârla, Grădina, Gura, Linia, Livada, Lunca, Măgura, Moara, Obște, Odaia, Ograda, Poarta, Rovina, Rusca, Șoseaua);

p) Adjectives selected by 20 entopic elements: **ăl Mare** – **the big** (Aleșteu, Câmpu, Dealu, Dosu, Drumu, Fagu, Fundu, Golu, Izlazu, Izvoru, Lacu, Locu, Malu, Pârâu, Piscu, Plaiu, Podu, Puțu, Șipotu, Tufanu);

q) Adjectives selected by 31 entopic elements: **Mică** – **small** (Balta, Calea, Cheia, Coasta, Fața, Fântâna, Gâlma, Gârla, Grădina, Groapa, Hoaga, Linia, Livada, Lunca, Măgura, Moșia, Movila, Muchia, Obște, Ograda, Padina, Pădurea, Pleașa, Poarta, Poiana, Puntea, Rovina, Rusca, Șoseaua, Șuvița, Târla);

r) Adjectives selected by 63 entopic elements: **Mare** – **big** (Balta, Canalu, Câmpu, Cheia, Coasta, Colnicu, Crângu, Crucea, Dealu, Dosu, Drumu, Fața, Fântâna, Fundu, Gâlma, Gârla, Golu, Grădina, Grădiștea, Grindu, Groapa, Gruiu, Hanu, Hoaga, Izvoru, Lacu, Linia, Livada, Locu, Lotu, Lunca, Malu, Măgura, Moșia, Movila, Muchia, Obște, Ograda, Padina, Pădurea, Pârâu, Piatra, Piscu, Plaiu, Pleașa, Poarta, Podu, Poiana, Poteca, Privalu, Puțu, Răspântia, Râpa, Rovina, Ruptura, Rusca, Șanțu, Șipotu, Șoseaua, Șuvița, Tarlaua, Târla, Țifla).

If we make a general calculation, 276 adjectives were selected by 101 entopic elements, according to the classification above, a qualificative was selected by one to 63 different topic appellatives. In this situation there are, at a) 169 adjectives, b) 48, c) 21, d) 10, e) 3, f) 4, g) 6, h) 2, i) 2, j) 1, k) 1, l) 1, m) 2, n) 2, o) 1, p) 1, q) 1, r) 1. The previous information, according to which, the more the number of the entopic elements decreases, the number of the adjectives increases, is also valid as regarding the determinants, only that, this time, in an inverted way: the more the number of the entopic elements increases, the more the number of the adjectives decreases. In both situations, the relation generalisation / particularisation is the one that “moves” the things one way or another. The more an appellative (entopic element, adjective) has a rather general meaning, the more frequently used it will be, and the distribution encompasses (very) wide areas; on the contrary, the appellatives (entopic elements, adjectives) that designate/describe particular cases, have both a weaker representation of their use and territorial spreading.

If the most frequent entopic elements were *Pârâu* – stream and *Lacu* – lake, the most commonly met adjectives are *Mică* – small *Mare* – big. In toponymy, these qualificatives appear in two situations:

1. In the name of the localities where the particularisers *Mare-Mic*⁷ (and their flexional forms) are used due to administrative reasons. The division of a village in two (or more) parts, from socio-economic or juridical reasons, parts that usually used to belong to the descendants of a family (or they were sold), had as a consequence, in the past, the nominal isolation, of one as confronted to the other. The simplest way to realise this thing was to attach an attribute, perceived as a separating factor, different from the similar names. In *Toponimia Românească*⁸ – Romanian Toponymy, Iorgu Iordan showed that “usually, a *N. Mare* has a *N. Mic*, the same way a *N. Nou* has, most of the times, *N. Vechi* next to it. But we do not always find the both members of these toponymic pairs. Quite often, there is just one, without any determiner next to it. In this case, most of the times, *N. Mare* and *N. Vechi* elements are missing, a normal situation, because only the later created settlement needs to be different from the anterior one through an added element to their both common name”. Nevertheless, if we analyse – in the article *Structuri toponimice antonime*⁹ – the oiconyms from *Indicatorul localităților din România*¹⁰ – *The Indicator of the localities from Romania*, we noticed that among the toponyms for which the antonymy is incomplete (meaning that there is used just one part of the antonymic pair), the ones that have in their meaning the particulariser *mare* are more frequent than the ones with *mic*.

⁷ The same as *Nou-Vechi*, *de Sus-de Jos* etc.

⁸ Bucharest, Romanian Academy Publishing House, 1963, p. 191.

⁹ Published in “Arhivele Olteniei”, New Series, no. 26, Bucharest, Romanian Academy Publishing House 2012, p. 332.

¹⁰ Ion Iordan, Petre Gâstescu, D. I. Oancea, *Indicatorul localităților din România*, Bucharest, Romanian Academy Publishing House, 1974.

Neither macro nor micro-toponymy from Muntenia (along with the one from Oltenia¹¹) can find relevance in the last part of the affirmation stated by Iorgu Jordan (“...most of the times, *N. Mare* ... elements are missing”): the determiner *mare* appears, in our material, in more cases than *mic(ă)*. Therefore, if analysing the entopic elements from q) and r)¹², we noticed that 34¹³ of them were used with the first of the adjectives, two¹⁴ with the second one and 29¹⁵ with both.

Most of the names for the places belong to the category of micro-toponymy, a space characterised through a “personal”, direct, relation between the denominator and the denominated, the first one perceiving (objectively and subjectively) and naming the geographic objects around it, according to their physical features. Among these, the dimension is one of the criteria considered in the process of denomination; especially if it also includes the attributes “tall”, “vast” etc., which are synonyms for *mare*, the dimension impresses and can prevail the other designative aspects.

In the distribution on semantic classes, the feature “dimension” holds, nevertheless, a frontal position:

a) dimension (horizontally, vertically, in depth): *Lacu Adânc, Drumu Gros, Puțu Înalt, Fântâna Înaltă, Hoaga Largă, Piscu Lat, Piatra Lată, Cotu Lung, Căldarea Lungă, Grădiștea Mare, Crângu Mic, Padina Mică, Plaiu Scurt, Groapa Strâmtă, Drumu Subțire* etc.;

b) chromatics: *Coasta Albă, Izvoru Alb, Crucea Albastră, Muntele Bălan, Lacu Bălțat, Malu Galben, Balta Neagră, Dealu Negru, Piscu Roșu, Fața Verde* etc.;

c) form: *Drumu Cotit, Drumu Cruciat, Linia Dreaptă* etc.

d) taste: *Piatra Acră, Gârla Dulce, Grindu Sărat, Lunca Sărată* etc.

e) aspect: *Coasta Deasă, Groapa Dispăcată, Pârâu Întunecos, Izvoru Limpede, Podu Moale, Coasta Netedă, Malu Pietros, Muntele Pleș, Fagu Rotund, Malu Rupt, Malu Scobit, Crucea Șindrilită, Muntele Strâmb* etc.

f) owner: *Moșia Chinețescă, Pădurea Cornească, Moara Ionească, Dealu Văsesc, Dealu Vlăsesc* etc.;

¹¹ A region in which the number of the denominations with the adjectives *mare* and *mic* is much higher than in Muntenia, and the relations between them are more obvious (see Iustina Burci, *Denumiri cu particularizatori adjectivali în toponimia din Oltenia*).

¹² The determiners that are based on adjectives that take a possessive article (*a Mică, a Mare, ai Mici, ai Mari, ai Mici, ai Mari, ale Mici, ale Mari* etc.) or a demonstrative article (*cel Mic, cea Mare* etc.) can change only the numbers, not the relation between the two qualificatives, *mare* still keeping the first position.

¹³ *Canalu, Câmpu, Colnicu, Crângu, Crucea, Dealu, Dosu, Drumu, Fundu, Golu, Grădiștea, Grindu, Gruiu, Hanu, Izvoru, Lacu, Locu, Lotu, Malu, Pârâu, Piatra, Piscu, Plaiu, Podu, Poteca, Privalu, Puțu, Răspântia, Râpa, Ruptura, Șanțu, Șipotu, Tarlaua, Țifla*.

¹⁴ *Calea, Puntea*.

¹⁵ *Balta, Cheia, Coasta, Fața, Fântâna, Gâlma, Gârla, Grădina, Groapa, Hoaga, Linia, Livada, Lunca, Măgura, Moșia, Movila, Muchia, Obșteea, Ograda, Padina, Pădurea, Pleașa, Poarta, Poiana, Rovina, Rusca, Șoseaua, Șuvița, Târla*.

g) ethnicity: *Dealul Bulgăresc, Crucea Grecească, Gârla Românească, Fântâna Sârbească, Drumul Tătărăsc, Fagu Turcesc, Linia Țigănească* etc.;

h) social position of the owner: *Grădina Boierească, Hanul Boieresc, Livada Domnească, Pădurea Mănăstirească* etc.;

i) destination/use: *Izvorul Comunal, Pădurea Comunală, Drumul Forestier, Canalul Principal, Drumul Sătesc* etc.;

j) surrounding vegetation: *Măgura Flocoasă, Balta Păpuroasă, Calea Păroasă* etc.;

k) temperature: *Gârla Caldă, Groapa Rece* etc.;

l) smell: *Fântâna Puturoasă, Lacul Puturos* etc.

m) chronology: *Livada Nouă, Livada Veche, Moara Nouă, Moara Veche, Podul Nou, Podul Vechi, Drumul Nou, Drumul Vechi* etc.

In other cases, the determiner singularises the objects from the field, from the perspective of certain occurrences in the centre of which they were at a specific point, through the interaction with the activity of people or through some physical features that other geographic formations from the nearby areas lack. These types of denominations are interesting due to the story they can tell, about the history (most of the times forgotten) of the place: *Podul Afumat, Plopii ai Scriși, Crucea Arsă, Piatra Dărâmată, Fagu Împușcat, Poiana Liberă, Movila Necunoscută, Pădurea Oprită, Poiana Răsturnată, Dealul, Robit, Locul Sfânt, Crucea Sfântă, Fântâna Tămăduitoare, Piatra Trăsniță* etc.

Not lastly, a series of particularisers was borrowed from the human register, personifying the geographical forms, investing them with both positive and negative features: *Fagu al Bătrân, Piscul al Bun, Lacul al Gras, Tufa Cocoșată, Coasta Bătrână, Fața Bună, Măgura Cheală, Măgura Creță, Lunca Frumoasă, Piscul Frumos, Puțul Mort, Pârâul Nebun, Fagu Pletos, Cotul Rău, Coasta Rea, Lacul Sărac, Bariera Stearpă, Izvorul Sterp* etc.

If we take into account the type of discussed adjectives, we can observe that they are:

1) proper: *albastru (Izvorul Albastru), bătrân (Dealul Bătrân), frumos (Poienile Frumoase), cristalin (Izvorul Cristalin), lat (Movila Lată), lung (Drumul Lung), mare (Livada Mare), puturos (Lacul Puturos), roșu (Groapa Roșie), sărat (Balta Sărată), turbure (Izvorul Turbure)* etc.;

2) participial: *împușcat (Fagu Împușcat), robit (Dealul Robit), rupt (Malul Rupt), scris (Piatra Scrisă), vărui (Puțul Vărui), spart (Moara Spartă), trăsniț (Crucea Trăsniță)* etc.;

3) derived from proper nouns: *Costească (Pădurea), Ionească (Moara), Văsească (Dealul)* etc.

In the relation between the two members of the compound element, the topic appellatives are the ones that dictate the gender, the number and the case of the determiner. Therefore, we meet adjectives in the next cases:

1) nominative – singular (*Drumu Curățat, Lacu Gras, Poiana Liberă, Pârâu Nebun, Fântâna Ruginită* etc.) and plural (*Locuri Lungi, Nucii Mărunți, Nucii Uscați* etc.);

2) genitive – singular (*Coasta a Mare, Fagu ăl Bătrân, Puțu ăl Nou, Dealu ăl Roșu* etc.) and plural (*Poienile ale Mari, Gropile ăle Mici, Câmpu ăl Mic, Piscu ăl Lung*);

Certain adjectives enter in complex toponymic structures, which encompass name of people and localities, nouns and adverbs with prepositions. In these situations, just one identifier, the adjectival one, is not enough, supplementary elements, for the location of the object on the field, being added to it:

înalt – **tall**: *Muchia Înaltă din Cucui*;

mare – **big**: *Dealul ăl Mare al Luncii, Drumul cel Mare al Târgoviștei, Drumul cel Mare al Văii, Linia Mare a Cișmelelor, Poiana Mare a Merilor, Drumul Mare al Paraschiveștilor, Drumul Mare al Podgorenilor, Poiana Mare cu Brebenei, Poiana Mare din Mijloc, Poiana Mare din Sus, Groapa Mare Valea*;

mic – **small**: *Poiana Mică a Merilor, Poiana Mică cu Brebenei, Măgura Mică la Vie*;

nou – **new**: *Linia Nouă din Bolovani*;

rece – **cold**: *Balta Rece la Poiana lui Purcaru*;

rezervat – **reserved**: *Șoseaua Rezervată a Proaspețului*;

vechi – **old**: *Crucea Veche din Deal, Crucea Veche din Răspântii, Drumul Vechi al Oilor*.

As we can observe, the qualificative *mare* is again more frequently met in toponymic structures, unlike the other adjectives.

CONCLUSIONS

Even if they are a minority, as compared to the nouns, the role of the qualificatives in the structure of the names that refer to the places, cannot be contested. They can offer detailed information about the concrete geographical reality, often through the personifying of the metaphor, exploring the imagination and the creativity of the person who observes and gives the name. The research of the toponymic structures with adjectives can offer information about the types of used particularisers and their characteristics: if they are continually active or not¹⁶ in the nowadays vocabulary, about their lexical-grammatical frequency etc.

¹⁶ For example, the adjective from the type *Chinețescă (Moșia), Cornească (Pădurea), Ionească (Moara), Văsesc (Dealul)* etc. are specific to a certain period from the history of village property evolution, not being found nowadays. (Sometimes, the semantical relation from which the toponymical formation starts, does not contain the idea of possession, but nuances correlated to it, as the belonging to a locality or to a wider geographical region – see Ion Toma, *101 nume de locuri – 101 names of places, “Viața cuvintelor”* Collection, Bucharest, Humanitas, pp. 67-68).