

The writer easily passes from one author to another, who are allotted restricted or extensive space. Thus, a special place and proper space is granted – it could not have been otherwise! – to Dante and *La divina commedia*. The apparent meanders of the creative process are ordered and disciplined, in accordance with his explicit or implicit consciousness.

A long experience concerning philology, interpretation and analysis, commentary and applied thinking provides an efficient methodological strategy, especially where Steiner does not benefit from clear expositions about the way creation evolves. Steiner's methodology is functional especially in what is implicit.

Not less important, philosophy is present. Steiner's old pieces of writing especially devoted to the theory of culture (*Bluebeard's castle*), to philosophy (*Heidegger, masters and disciples*, and so on). So, philosophy is present in this approach in the same measure as literary theory and criticism.

On the whole, *The grammars of creation* is a baroque, mixed piece of writing, in which genres interfere, epochs communicate and methods interfere with each other. Without being an original work, not even a work of reference, *The grammars of creation* has the merit of having pursued one of the most subtle and difficult themes of culture in its whole complexity.

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**Adelina Emilia Mihali, *Toponymy from Maramureș region. Vișeu upper valley, Cluj-Napoca, Mega Publishing House, 2015, 256 p.***

The paper submitted by Mrs. Adelina Emilia Mihali is part of a series that provides a contribution to knowing and preserving our toponymical inventory unaltered, by presenting a monograph of the names of places recorded in the settlements Borșa, Moisei and Vișeu de Sus, “an area less examined” (p. 18) in this respect, but whose importance is related to the historical moments in this region's past and to its linguistic, ethnic, and socio-economic characteristic features.

About the objective that generated the book (initially a PhD thesis) – “the wish to complete the studies of Maramureș toponymy” (p. 17) in the context of an increasing interest in this type of researching and of highlighting the region's language and history – as well as about the stages of carrying it out, the lady author succinctly speaks in the *Introduction* (pp. 17-20). Then, in *Brief outline of toponymy researches* (pp. 21-30) she goes on to introduce us in the topics of the approached subject; she starts from a few theoretical aspects (the defining of the concepts used in the domain) and then continues by reviewing Romanian research on place names from the beginnings up to the present. From this survey one can notice the gradually growing interest in toponymy, a wide range of historians and geographers being involved in this activity. But the prominent part in interpreting the facts is played by the linguists, the names of places being firstly elements of vocabulary.

*The Research methodology* (pp. 31-33) represents the second chapter of the paper. A most detailed analysis of a region's toponymy requires both interdisciplinary knowledge (of geography, history, ethnography, dialectology, semantics, etc.) which the lady author proves to fully master and also the usage of several methods of research. The methods used by Mrs. Adelina Emilia Mihali in order to gather and process the local material were of the following types: linguistic, geographical, comparative-historical and cartographic; she made investigations on the ground, using as sources of information persons selected on pre-established criteria and also appealed for the data provided by the maps of Borșa forest administrative zone, the tourist maps, the classified list and plan of the streets as well as the farming registers of the settlements included in the research.

The III<sup>rd</sup> chapter – *Geographical and historical considerations* (pp. 43-54) – has been, in fact, subdivided into the following: 1. Geographical aspects (location, neighbourhood, approaches,

characteristics features of the land forms, climate, vegetation, places of interest, economic evolution, occupations, etc.), 2. Historical considerations (the official documentary testimonial of the settlement, owners, remarkable moments in its history), 3. The origin of the oiconims (the forms in which they were attested in various documents throughout the centuries, theories about names etymology). The three settlements are minutely described with regard to all the stated aspects.

*Glossary* of the place name (pp. 55-175) is the most substantial chapter of the book. Each toponym constitutes a separate article, in the following set-up: the type of the named object, location, etymology. The phonetic transcription, for which the author opted in order “to capture the exact pronunciation of the toponyms” (p. 19), enables the comparison between the dialectal form and the official one, remarkably catching the local specific character.

The analysis of the information recorded in the *Glossary* is carried out in the next section: *Classification of toponyms* (pp. 176-221). The lady author takes into consideration the three aspects: semantics, typology and etymology.

The semantic criterion determined the division of the material into two subdivisions: a) place names derived from appellatives (the most part of the indigenous terms refer to land forms, hydrography and vegetation, taking into account the mostly mountainous zone in which the three settlements are situated), b) place names derived from proper nouns – Christian names (through function change, transformations or associations) and toponyms (the transfer of name from a geographical entity to another situated nearby). Regarding typology, the presented place names fit into two patterns: simple and compound. Their detailed analysis sets forth the interrelationship of the three compartments of language: lexic, anthroponomy and toponymy. The toponymical layers – Romanian, Old Slavic, Magyar, Ukrainian and German – found in Borșa, Moisei and Vișeu de Sus represent the object of the last criterion of analysis, the etymological one.

The work ends with *Language characteristic features* (pp. 222-227), a short chapter which presents the phonetic, morfo-syntactic and lexical characteristic features of Maramureș dialect and the way in which these are present in the local toponymy, followed by *Conclusions* (pp. 228-230) and *Bibliography* (pp. 231-245).

Through the analysed material and the etymological solutions proposed, Mrs. Adelina Emilia Mihali's book easily finds a place among the significant works on toponymy, contributing to the turning to good account of the plentiful and various information, which often risks being lost, due to the modification of the area's geomorphological aspect.

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**Georgeta Ghionea, *The history of the urban banks in Oltenia in statistical data and correspondence (1880-1948)*, Târgoviște, Cetatea de Scaun Publishing House, 2015, 451 p.**

A paper dedicated to the history of the urban banks in Oltenia during the period of the years 1880-1948, – from the founding of the National Banks of Romania and until the setting up of the totalitarian socialism – is welcome. It comes to enrich the fact of getting familiar with the banking system and the ways through which the financial institutions, either branches of the National Bank or of other central banks, either bigger local banks or smaller ones had supported, through their very mission, the effort of modernizing the economic life in this part of the country.

The paper is judiciously structured in five chapters, to which the list of the documents and statistics, the introductory study and the bibliography are added. It not only has the task of completing the few historiographical information now available concerning the chosen subject, but also equally represents