

SIMPLE TOPONYMS WITH FEMININE ANTHROPONOMIC BASE IN THE TOPONYMY FROM OLTENIA *

Iustina NICA BURCI**

Abstract: Most of the place names, originating from anthroponyms, have a masculine form. This is explicable, if we consider the fact that the men occupied the central place in the family life and in society. Only in their absence (due to their death, leaving to army etc., generally, their missing from home), or when the man entered, through marriage, in the woman's household, the entire family would relate, on this instance, to the name of the latter.

The present article endeavours the analysis of the simple toponyms from the region of Oltenia that are based on feminine names.

Keywords: anthroponomic index, feminine names, transfer, toponymy.

From the totality of existing places (in our case, but not only), a great number of them are formed on an anthroponomical basis – surnames, names, nicknames – as an expression of the ancestral connection “between the man and the earth, a connection that has been formed within some long historic and social processes”¹. The establishing, from the denominative point of view, of the relation of belonging, between the founder of a village and its dwellers, or that of proprietorship, between the landlord and the estate he used to own; it was one of the processes after which the numerous villages/parts of villages and estates received the name of the founder or that of the proprietor.

Thus, “a village would take its name, in most of the cases, either from its master, its founder, who, oftentimes were the same person: the person who would found a village became, rightfully, that is, owing to the force of circumstances, its «master». Frequently, their place would be taken by the owner of the estate on which the village was settled, which took place rather late, when the legal notion of land ownership started to suffer essential modifications, due to the increasing

* The present article is part of the research project *Dicționarul toponimic al României. Oltenia. Indice antroponimic* of “C. S. Nicolăescu-Ploșșor” Institute for Research in Social Studies and Humanities from Craiova.

** 2nd Degree Scientific Researcher, PhD., “C. S. Nicolăescu-Ploșșor” Institute for Research in Social Studies and Humanities from Craiova, of the Romanian Academy; E-mail: iustinaburci@yahoo.com

¹ V. Ioniță, *Nume de locuri din Banat*, Timișoara, Facla Press, p. 116.

power of the boyars' class. Finally, in a closer to our times age, any person who would play a role in the life of the village could borrow their names to it"². The phenomenon is thus manifested with a special intensity especially in micro-toponymy, a space in which "an endless multitude of topic denominations"³ originate from the names of people. Gheorghe Bolocan was also noticing that "some places at the border of a commune or a village come from anthroponymy or the joining of the appellatives with different names of people"⁴, while Ion Toma was affirming that "the villages use a very high percent of toponyms, originated from anthroponyms. This is the natural consequence of the fact that the most significant elements of a village are the people, consequently, their names mark the different parts of the villages, in order to differentiate them"⁵.

For Oltenia, the space of our analysis in the present article, the involvement ratio of the anthroponymy, in forming the toponyms, was established at the percent of 49.2%⁶ from the total denominations with substantival origin (anthroponyms, appellatives, toponyms), which demonstrates that, in the process of denomination, "it is not the relief that should be considered defining..., but other factors, ... related to social-historical aspects, among which the form of proprietorship that might have an essential role"⁷.

The fact that, at present, it is being made⁸ an index of the Romanian anthroponymy, as it is registered in the toponymy from Oltenia, gives us the possibility to observe the amplitude of the phenomenon. Thus, for this reason specifically, there is to be selected for analysis, in the present work, a limited segment of denominations, those that present, from the constitutive point of view, simple structures, and, as origin, feminine names.

This segment actually suffers a double limitation: the first, because of the author, the second, from historical and social reasons that forbade/restrained, for a long time, the participation of the women to the life of the community they belonged to. Owing to the fact that the woman administrated exclusively the house and the household, her involvement in the public life being a right obtained rather late, anthroponomy and, implicitly, toponymy, registers today significantly fewer feminine names and surnames. The archive documents captured this situation perfectly. Thus, before 1600, the women were mentioned only in private internal

² Iorgu Iordan, *Toponimia românească*, Bucharest, Academia RPR Press, 1963, p. 155.

³ *Ibidem*, p. 154.

⁴ Gheorghe Bolocan, *Dicționarul numelor de familie din România*, in "Studii și cercetări de onomastică" (SCO), no. 2, Craiova, 1996, p. 7.

⁵ Ion Toma, *Toponimia Olteniei*, Craiova, University of Craiova Reprographic, 1988, p. 63.

⁶ Idem, *Baza antroponimică a toponimiei din Oltenia*, in "Dacoromania", serie nouă, VII–VIII, 2002–2003, Cluj-Napoca, p. 188.

⁷ Idem, *Toponimia Olteniei*, p. 65.

⁸ Based on *Dicționarul toponimic al României. Oltenia* (DTRO) (coordinator prof. Gh. Bolocan, PhD) it was issued at Craiova, Universitaria Press, in seven volumes: vol. I (A–B), 1993, 414 p.; vol. II (C–D), 1995, 428 p.; vol. 3 (E–Î), 2002, 283 p.; vol. 4 (J–N), 2003, 309 p.; vol. V (O–R), 2004, 337 p.; vol. 6 (S–Ț), 2006, 284 p.; vol. 7 (U–Z), 2007, 329 p.

documents, such are inheritance documents, wills, sales and purchase agreements, the pronouncing a judgement, “only in that section that refers to the proper content of the document”⁹. The fact that the women were legally inferior to men can be deduced not only from the reduced frequency of their mentioning in the civile documents, but from the manner they used to be mentioned, most often through relating to the person that was the head of the family (except for the case they were the head).

Until the 16th century, most of the women were usually registered with just one denomination¹⁰ (an individual one, a name, an appellative or an andronym) – *Alba, Agrișca, Anghelina, Ana, Anușca, Barba, Brândușa, Buna, Calea, Călina, Cătălina, Creața, Dafina, Despina, Dobrița, Dochița, Drăgușa, Dumitra, Elena, Eufrosina, Ileana, Irina, Malea, Maria, Marta, Măgdălina, Mușata, Nastasia, Neaga, Olenca, Oprișca, Paraschiva, Păuna, Rada, Răduța, Rusca, Safta, Sanda, Slavna, Sofica, Sora, Stana, Tudora, Urăta, Varvara, Voica, Voichița, Voiva; Albotoae, Apostoloae, Bădeasa, Bărbuleasa, Bucureasa, Comăneasa, Costăchioae, Dănciuleasa, Dimitreasa, Dobromireasa, Ignătoae, Iosifoae, Lăzăroae, Lupuleasa, Măneasa, Mihăileasă, Nănuleasa, Neagomireasa, Negoiasă, Oneasa, Oproae, Petreasa, Predoaie, Slăvileasca, Stroiăsa, Trifoae, Ursoae, Vlăduleasa, Voineasa, Zbieroăia etc.* –, and only a small number have double names: *Agafie Ciolpăneasa, Ana Lucoae, Ana Plăxoae, Anghelina Țănțăroae, Anușca Frunteșoae, Calea Borcioaia, Mădălina Moțocoae, Mărica Miculcoe, Mușa Oncioae, Nastasia Oproae, Stana Măndeasca, Todosia Tăbucioae, Todosia Samoileasă, Tudora Borșoae, Tudora Ghinoe etc.*

From the social point of view, the woman bears, throughout her life only her name. The other element of her denominating formula is represented, officially, first by her father's name, and then by her husband's¹¹, to which there were added the suffixes: *-oae (-oane), -easă, -easca, -eanca*], according to the rule that “... the common name of the kin, as well as of the individual to which it belongs, is chosen on the line of the male descendancy”¹². Nonetheless, there are situations in which the family provider or the beneficiary of a princely document of proprietorship was a woman (most of the times, she was a widow). In such cases, the successors used her name. Referring to the manner in which the name of the family group was formed in the situation in which the father was absent, and his role was taken by the mother, Iorgu Iordan shows that: “The children's surname could be the name of the mother, without any formal alteration, similarly to the situation when the father's name was used: *Ilinca, Maria etc. ...*”¹³, or “... the mother's name ... was suffixed: to the name, which was oftentimes the name of the husband, there was

⁹ Corneliu Reguș, Aspazia Reguș, *Antroponimia feminină din documentele interne. Sec. XIV–XVI*, in SCO, no. 1/1995, Craiova, Universitaria Press, p. 143.

¹⁰ The examples were taken from Corneliu Reguș, Aspazia Reguș, *op. cit.*

¹¹ I. Coteanu, *Morfologia numelui în protoromână (româna comună)*, Bucharest, 1969, p. 140.

¹² Șt. Pașca, *Nume de persoane și nume de animale în Țara Oltului*, Bucharest, 1936, p. 74.

¹³ Iorgu Iordan, *Dicționar al numelor de familie românești*, Bucharest, Scientific and Encyclopedic Press, 1983, p. 13.

added a feminine suffix, to show that it was of a woman. For instance: *Mântuleasa*, *Dobrițoaia* etc. In the beginning, these names had a genitive form: *a Mântulesei*, *a Dobrițoaiei* etc. Being rather inconvenient, it was resorted to the form of the direct case (the nominative), much easier to handle. Sometimes, the genitive was preserved, but without the beforehand article and the final *i*: *Boculesi*, for example, was, originally, *a Boculesii*¹⁴.

Thus, the element of denomination to which it was made the reference for establishing the filiation, could be a name (*Anița*, *Sanda*, *Simina* etc.), an andronym appellation (*Iordăchioaia*, *Manoleasa* etc.), but also the name of a profession or a nickname (*bucătăriță*-cook, *ciubotăriță*-shoe-maker, *cârciumăriță*-inn-keeper, *pâslăriță*-felt maker/seller etc.).

In the actual toponymy from Oltenia, there is a rather high number of geographic elements – ponds, churches, fields, hill-tops, hills, fish ponds, commons, mineral water springs, isolated dwellings, slums, hillocks, mountains, track paths, forests, parts of villages, glades, paths, villages, pastures, valleys, glens, riverside coppices etc., belonging both to the macro-, and especially the micro-toponymy, which have, at their base, feminine anthroponyms. They occur both in the names of simple places (derived or underived), and analytical. The entire inventory will be analysed when the Anthroponomic Index has been finalised. Here are few examples:

1. Simple toponyms – made of one word, derived with suffixes (*-easca*, *-oaica*, *-easa*, *-oaia*, *-eanca*, *-oasa*, *-ița* etc.) from feminine and masculine names or underived ones); some of them are appellatives or nicknames: *Albinoaia* (VL), *Anițeasca* (MH), *Aricioaia* (VL), *Armășoaica* (GJ), *Avrămoaia* (GJ), *Avrămoaica* (DJ), *Baroana* (DJ, GJ), *Băcănoaia* (DJ), *Băcioasa* (DJ), *Bădoaica* (OT), *Băgioaica* (DJ), *Bălana* (VL), *Bălănoaia* (GJ), *Băleasa* (GJ, OT), *Băloaia* (VL), *Băloasa* (DJ, VL), *Băluțoaia* (GJ, OT, VL), *Bărboia* (VL), *Bărboia* (GJ), *Blidărița* (GJ, OT), *Benguleasca* (GJ), *Beteaga* (VL), *Bogdăneasa* (VL), *Brânzoaia* (VL), *Bunica* (DJ), *Călineasa* (VL), *Călineasca* (GJ, VL), *Călinoaia* (VL), *Cârnuleasa* (OT), *Chirculeasa* (DJ), *Chirițoaia* (DJ, OT), *Cioanta* (MH), *Ciorâca* (DJ, MH), *Ciorăpăreasa* (DJ), *Cojocărița* (MH), *Coțofana* (DJ, VL), *Cristinoaia* (MH), *Dăneasa* (GJ, VL), *Dănoaia* (DJ, VL), *Dăscălița* (DJ), *Dăscăloaia* (GJ), *Davideasca* (VL), *Deleanca* (VL), *Diaconeasa* (DJ), *Dițoaia* (VL), *Dobroaia* (DJ), *Dragomiroaia* (DJ, OT), *Dumitreasa* (DJ), *Oncioaia* (GJ), *Pădureanca* (DJ), *Pârscoveanca* (DJ), *Pârvuleasca* (GJ), *Piersăceanca* (VL), *Portăreasca* (OT), *Predoaia* (DJ, MH), *Preoteasa* (VL), *Răduțoaia* (GJ), *Săceleanca* (GJ), *Salomireasca* (OT), *Sărdăreasca* (VL), *Șerbăneasa* (VL), *Șerbăneasca* (GJ, VL), *Străchinoaia* (VL), *Surduleasa* (MH), *Todoreasa* (GJ), *Tomoaia* (GJ), *Tufănoaia* (MH), *Turcoaia* (DJ), *Turturoaia* (VL) etc.

2. Analytical toponyms. There were identified the following structures:

– entopic + genitive case name (with article placed ante or post): *Baraca Angelicăi* (VL), *Casa Ancuțai* (DJ), *Casa Băzoaicii* (VL), *Ciutura Anii* (DJ), *Coasta Anicăi* (GJ), *Conacu lu Axinia* (MH), *Cureaua Anișoarei* (GJ), *Dealul*

¹⁴ *Ibidem*.

Andreoaiicii (GJ), *Dealul Radei* (GJ), *Drumul Anghelini* (MH), *Ocina Sorei* (OT), *Ogașu Catalinei* (GJ), *Ogașu Neacșei* (DJ), *Ograda Mariei* (VL), *Pădurea la Florica* (DJ), *Pădurea Smarandei* (MH), *Pârâu Bălașii* (GJ), *Pârâu Preotesii* (VL), *Plașu Casandrii* (MH), *Poiana Brânzânoaiei* (MH), *Poiana Ilenii* (GJ), *Poiana la Gherghina* (MH, VL), *Poiana Mărioarei* (DJ), *Rampa Floricăi* (OT), *Scofa Liei* (DJ), *Scorborișu Mătușii* (MH), *Scorușu Cucoanei* (GJ), *Siliștea Dobrei* (GJ), *Știubeiu la Anica* (GJ), *Țarina Liței* (MH), *Teiu Cârstoiei* (GJ) etc.;

– entopic + nominative case name: *Pârâu Rădița* (MH), *Piscu Nicolita* (DJ), *Vadu Mărica* (GJ), *Siliștea Dobra* (MH) etc.;

– entopic + accusative case name, accompanied by simple or composed prepositions: *Drumul di la Baba Ioana* (MH), *Cotu de la Bălășoica* (DJ), *Pârâu de la Năsturica* (VL), *Piscu de la Via Ioanei* (GJ), *Podu de la Berbecoia* (DJ), *Podu de la Bogdăneasa* (Ot), *Podu de la ai Chiții* (VL), *Podu de la Anghelina* (DJ), *Podu la Nastasăia* (VL), *Ulița de la Sârboica* (Ot), *Ulița de la Spânoica* (DJ), *Ulița de lângă Anastasăia* (GJ), *Valea de la Floricuța* (DJ), *Vâlceaua de la Anghilina* (VL);

– Toponyms that keep the old denominating formula, in which:

a) a masculine person relates to a feminine one: *Căsoaia la Pătru Dobriș* (VL), *Cișmeaua la Nae al Mandii* (DJ), *Curătura lui Mihai al Ioanei* (MH), *Știubeiu la Gicu Stanchii* (GJ), *Pădurea la Dumitru a lui Mihai al Mândri* (GJ), *Pădurea la Nicolae a lui Maria* (GJ), *Pivnița la Niță al Vetii* (GJ), *Pârâu la Gheorghe al Anii* (GJ), *Pârâu la Petru Ioanii* (GJ), *Plașu la Mărin al Floarii* (MH), *Podu la Radu Păunii* (VL), *Poiana Ion a Maricăi* (VL) etc.;

b) a feminine person relates to a masculine one: *Balta Mărinii la Tănase* (OT), *Cișmeaua Mării la Ghiță* (VL), *Drumul Mării la Boacă* (MH), *Știubeiu Linii la Florea* (GJ), *Via Măriei la Păun* (GJ), *Ulița Florica a lui Gugul* (DJ), *Ulița la Ioana la Cică* (DJ) etc.;

c) a feminine person relates to another feminine one: *Știubeiu Floarii Păunii* (GJ), *Poiana Linii Catrinii* (OT);

– toponyms in which feminine persons appear, whose formula of denomination is complete, expressing relative degrees or relations between the members of the community: *Piscu Floarei Meleroaiei* (VL), *Pădurea Propr. Eliza Popescu* (DJ);

– complex toponyms that combine many cases – (here) the accusative and the genitive: *Podu de la Nae a lui Sanda* (MH), *Podu la Nae al Anglițăi* (GJ).

If the complete image of the feminine participation to the forming of the place names from Oltenia is not yet available, nevertheless, there can be analysed fractions of this presence. In the present study, there are approached those toponymic denominations that are based on feminine names, representing separate records in DTRO, in future studies being analysed the names resorting from appellatives and nicknames – simple, registered in the componence of the composed structures, or those present as different core articles.

Furtheron, there is presented, alphabetically, the material exempted from DTRO, accompanied by information that establishes the nature of the denominated object, its localisation and its origin:

- top. *Albinușa* – stream, glade t. Târgu Cărbunești (GJ). Etym. (Etymology)
 pn. (person's name) *Albinușa*;
- top. *Anicuța* – mineral water spring t. Băile Olănești (VL). Etym. pn. *Anicuța*;
- top. *Anuța* – stream v.c. Cezieni (OT). Etym. pn. *Anuța*;
- top. *Augustina* – valley v. Tabaci c. Vulpeni (OT). Etym. pn. *Augustina*;
- top. *Aurora* – village c. Cujmir, commune (MH). Etym. pn. *Aurora*;
- top. *Bogdana* – track path, forest v. Pinoasa c. Câlnic (GJ). Etym. pn. *Bogdana*
 (or p. *Bogdan* + suff. -a “a lui Bogdan”);
- top. *Brândușa* – village c. Bistret; slum, church m. Craiova; stream v.c. Măceșu de Sus (DJ); hillvs. Bârzeiu c. Berlești; hill top, path v. Fântânele c. Urdari (GJ); valley t. Baia de Aramă; valley v. Dobra c. Bălăcița; estate v. Balta Verde c. Gogoșu (MH); valley v. Rusănești c. Fărtățești (VL). Etym. pn. *Brândușa*;
- top. *Călina* – valley, forest v. Prejoi v. Seculești c. Bulzești; pond, pasture v. Căciulătești c. Dobrești (DJ); part of village, forest v.c. Cernișoara; part of village v. Văratici c. Costești; village c. Costești; village c. Prundeni; commune; hill v. Călina c. Prundeni; valley v. Bătășani v. Mărgineni c. Valea Mare (VL). Etym. pn. *Călina* (or the appellative *călin* “wild bush”);
- top. *Cârna* – village, estate c. Goicea; commune; pond v. Măceșu de Jos (DJ); village t. Târgu Cărbunești (GJ); stream t. Strehăia, v. Băltanele c. Greci (MH). Etym. pn. *Cârna*;
- top. *Chiajna* – valley v. Tâlvești c. Drăguțești (GJ); hill top v. Gârbovățu de Jos c. Corcova; hill v.c. Corlățel; hill v. Almăjel c. Vlădaia (MH). Etym. pn. *Chiajna*;
- top. *Chivuța* – hill v. Șiacu c. Slivilești (Gj). Etym. pn. *Chivuța*;
- top. *Coca* – stream v. Armășești c. Cernișoara (VL). Etym. pn. *Coca*;
- top. *Constantina* – glen, forest v. Piscani c. Brădești (DJ). Etym. pn. *Constantina*;
- top. *Constanța* – village c. Breasta (DJ). Etym. pn. *Constanța*;
- top. *Costandina* – glen v. Valea Muierii de Jos c. Melinești (DJ). Etym. pn. *Constandina*;
- top. *Dara* – place v. Olănești t. Băile Olănești. Etym. pn. part of village v. Văleni c. Zătreni (VL). Et. p. *Dara*;
- top. *Dăiana* – hillock v. Preajba Mare m. Târgu Jiu (GJ). Etym. pn. *Dăiana*;
- top. *Deia* – glen v. Băcești v. Dealu Leului c. Stejari (GJ). Etym. pn. *Deia*;
- top. *Dia* – village c. Predești; estate c. Predești (DJ). Etym. pn. *Dia*;
- top. *Diana* – mineral water spring (VL). Et. p. *Diana*;
- top. *Didina* – fish pond v. Pleșoi c. Predești (DJ). Etym. pn. *Didina*;
- top. *Dobrița* – place v. Calopăru c. Borăscu; village c. Runcu; commune; estate, stream, hill v. Dobrița c. Runcu; mountain v. Vălari c. Stănești (GJ); glen v. Obislavu c. Grădiștea (VL). Etym. pn. *Dobrița*;
- top. *Dona* – part of village v. Zgubea c. Roșiile (VL). Etym. pn. *Dona*;
- top. *Dospina* – locality v. Roșia-Jiu c. Fărcășești (GJ). Etym. pn. *Dospina*;
- top. *Draghina* – lihh v.c. Isverna (MH); pârâu s. Dobra c. Pleșoiu (OT). Etym. pn. *Draghina*;

- top. *Drăghina* – glade v. Balotești c. Izvoru Bârzii (MH). Etym. pn. *Drăghina*;
- top. *Dumitra* – mountain v. Pleșa c. Bumbesti-Jiu; streamvs. Pleșa c. Bumbesti-Jiu, v. Gornăcel v. Sâmbotin c. Schela; forest v. Bumbesti-Jiu, v.c. Schela; sheepfold, plain v.c. Bumbesti-Jiu (GJ). Etym. pn. *Dumitra*;
- top. *Dumitrășcuța* – glade v.c. Cernișoara (VL). Etym. pn. *Dumitrășcuța*;
- top. *Dușa* – forest v. Artanu c. Negomir (GJ). Etym. pn. *Dușa*;
- top. *Elisabeta* – fort; village, place t. Vânju Mare; commune (MH). Etym. Pn. *Elisabeta*;
- top. *Eufrosina* – mineral water spring (VL). Etym. pn. *Eufrosina*;
- top. *Floarea* – riverside coppice v. Jilțu c. Turceni (GJ); mountain v. Râu Vadului c. Căineni; glen v.c. Popești (VL). Etym. pn. *Floarea*;
- top. *Florica* – hill v.c. Țuglui (DJ); glade v. Albulești c. Dumbrava; (MH); part of village c. Vârtop t. Corabia; village t. Corabia (OT). Etym. pn. *Florica*;
- top. *Frosa* – forest v.c. Borăscu (GJ). Etym. pn. *Frosa*;
- top. *Gherghina* – glen v. Rupturile c. Murgași (DJ); v. Slăvuța c. Crușeț, v. Barza c. Dănești (GJ); valley v.c. Ștefănești (VL). Etym. pn. *Gherghina*;
- top. *Guica* – pond v. Greci c. Osica de Sus (OT). Etym. pn. *Guica*;
- top. *Iana* – place v. Puțuri c. Castranova; village (DJ); place v.c. Ionești; hill v. Arsuri c. Schela; stream v. Lintea c. Scoarța (GJ). Etym. pn. *Iana*;
- top. *Ileana* – glade v.c. Cerât; valley v. Răchita de Sus c. Seaca de Pădure (DJ). Etym. pn. *Ileana*;
- top. *Ilinca* – glade v. Târgu-Logrești c. Logrești (GJ). Etym. pn. *Ilinca*;
- top. *Ilincuța* – pond v. Vrata c. Gârla Mare (MH). Etym. pn. *Ilincuța*;
- top. *Iliuța* – forest v. Surpatele c. Frâncești (VL). Etym. pn. *Iliuța*;
- top. *Ilona* – hill, forest, field v.c. Runcu (GJ). Etym. pn. *Ilona*;
- top. *Ioana* – valley v. Șovarna de Jos c. Șovarna (MH). Etym. pn. *Ioana*;
- top. *Iolana* – pond v.c. Desa (DJ). Etym. pn. *Iolana*;
- top. *Ionița* – isolated household (GJ). Etym. pn. *Ionița*;
- top. *Irina* – mountain v. Săliște c. Malaia (VL). Etym. pn. *Irina*;
- top. *Ivana* – grazing field, track path v. Bobaia c. Aninoasa; mountain v.c. Baia de Fier; grazing field, forest v. Hăiești v. Maghirești v.c. Săcelu (GJ). Etym. pn. *Ivana*;
- top. *Lala* – hill, valley, forest v. Ghindeni c. Malu Mare (DJ); slum v.c. Broșteni (MH). Etym. pn. *Lala*;
- top. *Lia* – stream v. Zorlești c. Prigoria; v.c. Bumbesti-Pițic; v. Drăgoiești c. Crasna, v. Hăiești c. Săcelu; forest v. Drăgoiești c. Crasna (GJ). Etym. pn. *Lia*;
- top. *Liana* – place v. Mecea c. Zătreni (VL). Etym. pn. *Liana*;
- top. *Lica* – hill v. Pietroasa c. Valea Mare (VL). Etym. pn. *Lica*;
- top. *Marcela* – farming land v.c. Galicea Mare (DJ). Etym. pn. *Marcela*;
- top. *Marga* – hill top v.c. Jupânești; hill v.c. Turcinești; track path v.c. Licurici; valley v. Călnicu de Sus, v. Didilești c. Călnic (GJ); hill v. Schitu Topolniței c. Izvoru Bârzei; waterside v. Ciovârnașani c. Șișești; village c.

- Godeanu (MH); part of village, hill, stream v. Popești c. Orlești; hill v. Cucești c. Oteșani (VL). Etym. pn. *Marga*;
- top. *Marghioala* – glen v.c. Căpreni (GJ). Etym. pn. *Marghioala*;
- top. *Maria* – place v.c. Vădastra (OT); glen v. Milești c. Făurești; mineral water spring t. Băile Olănești (VL). Etym. pn. *Maria*;
- top. *Marica* – valley v.c. Bumbesti-Pițic (GJ). Etym. pn. *Marica*;
- top. *Maricica* – mill ford m. Râmnicu Vâlcea (VL). Etym. pn. *Maricica*;
- top. *Marina* – valley v. Boia c. Jupânești (GJ). Etym. pn. *Marina*;
- top. *Marița* – pond v. Mihăița c. Coțofenii din Dos (DJ); stream v.c. Polovragi (GJ); village c. Vaideeni; village c. Slătioara (VL). Etym. pn. *Marița*;
- top. *Marușca* – valley v. Lunca, v. Ocnîța t. Ocele Mari (VL). Etym. pn. *Marușca*;
- top. *Mădălina* – slope v. Șerbănești c. Lăpușata (VL). Etym. pn. *Mădălina*;
- top. *Mărica* – glen v.c. Bumbesti-Pițic (GJ). Etym. pn. *Mărica*;
- top. *Mărioara* – glen v. Portărești c. Laloșu (VL). Etym. pn. *Mărioara*;
- top. *Măriuca* – hill v. Luhulești c. Berlești (VL). Etym. pn. *Măriuca*;
- top. *Măriuța* – village t. Târgu Cărbunești; stream v. Târgu Cărbunești-Sat, v. Ștefănești t. Târgu Cărbunești (GJ). Etym. pn. *Măriuța*;
- top. *Mica* – lane v. Căciulătești c. Dobrești (DJ); mountain v.c. Tismana (GJ). Etym. pn. *Mica*;
- top. *Milica* – lane v. Frasin c. Predești (DJ). Etym. pn. *Milica*;
- top. *Milioara* – stream v. Măciuca, v. Popești c. Măciuca; swamp v. Gănești, v. Olteț, v. Zătreni c. Zătreni (VL). Etym. pn. *Milioara*;
- top. *Nasta* – pond v. Săpata c. Măceșu de Jos (Dj); place v. Dunăreni c. Goicea (GJ); slope v. Teiușu c. Bunești (VL). Etym. pn. *Nasta*;
- top. *Nastasia* – pond v.c. Desa (DJ). Etym. pn. *Nastasia*;
- top. *Năsturica* – hill v.c. Turburea (GJ); stream v. Popești c. Sinești (VL). Etym. pn. *Năsturica*;
- top. *Neacșa* – grazing field v.c. Drănic (DJ); mountain v.c. Bărbătești; farming land v. Portărești c. Laloșu (VL). Etym. pn. *Neacșa*;
- top. *Neaga* – hill bottom v. Ploștina t. Motru; precipice t. Motru; place v. Pociovaliștea t. Novaci (GJ). Etym. pn. *Neaga*;
- top. *Nica* – stream v. Grui c. Mușetești; forest v. Stănțești-Larga c. Mușetești (GJ). Etym. pn. *Nica*;
- top. *Oana* – glen v.c. Fărcașu; hay field v.c. Grecești (DJ); creek v. Rădinești c. Dănciulești (GJ). Etym. pn. *Oana*;
- top. *Odrica* – glen v.c. Fărcaș (DJ). Etym. pn. *Odrica*;
- top. *Olea* – hill v.c. Măldărești (VL). Etym. pn. *Olea*;
- top. *Olga* – farming land v. Gănești v. Lăcustenii de Sus c. Zătreni (VL). Etym. pn. *Olga*;
- top. *Oprița* – stream v. Ursați m. Târgu Jiu (GJ); well v. Izvorălu c. Târna (MH). Etym. pn. *Oprița*;

- top. *Paraschiva* – farming land v.c. Licurici (GJ). Etym. pn. *Paraschiva*;
- top. *Păpușa* – hill v.c. Căpreni; forest, valley v. Cornetu c. Căpreni; mountain v. Pociovaliștea t. Novaci, v. Cernădia c. Baia de Fier (GJ); hermitage c. Crețești; hill v.c. Mateiești (VL). Etym. pn. *Păpușa*;
- top. *Pătruța* – glade c. Fratoșița t. Filiași (DJ); valley v. Mierea c. Ghioroiu (VL). Etym. pn. *Pătruța*;
- top. *Păuna* – pond v.c. Desa; glen v. Rupturile c. Murgași (DJ); grazing field t. Novaci (GJ); forest v. Cremenea c. Târna (MH). Etym. pn. *Păuna*;
- top. *Petra* – valley v. Valea Motrului c. Văgiulești (GJ); village c. Bâcleș; commune; estate v. Petra c. Bâcleș (MH). Etym. pn. *Petra*;
- top. *Rada* – pond v.c. Ciupercenii Noi (DJ); valley v. Strâmtu c. Slivilești (GJ); hill v. Selișteni c. Husnicioara (MH); farming place t. Balș (OT). Etym. pn. *Rada*;
- top. *Rădița* – village (OT); valley v. Lovadia t. Băile Olănești (VL). Etym. pn. *Rădița*;
- top. *Răduța* – hill v. Strâmtu c. Slivilești (GJ). Etym. pn. *Răduța*;
- top. *Răfăila* – track path, working place, grazing field, hill v. Busu c. Grecești (DJ). Etym. pn. *Răfăila*;
- top. *Safta* – pond v.c. Ciupercenii Noi (DJ). Etym. pn. *Safta*;
- top. *Sanda* – glade v. Negulești c. Bărbătești (VL). Etym. pn. *Sanda*;
- top. *Sara* – valley v. Pojogeni t. Târgu Cărbunești (GJ). Etym. pn. *Sara*;
- top. *Săvatia* – farming land v. Văleni c. Brâncoveni (OT). Etym. pn. *Săvatia*;
- top. *Sida* – mountain top (VL). Etym. pn. *Sida*;
- top. *Sinca* – farming land v. Mosoroasa v. Olănești t. Băile Olănești (VL). Etym. pn. *Sinca*;
- top. *Slăvuța* – village c. Crușeț; hill, estate, forest, stream, valley v. Slăvuța c. Crușeț; comună (GJ). Etym. pn. *Slăvuța*;
- top. *Smaranda* – farming land v. Motoci c. Mischii (DJ). Etym. pn. *Smaranda*;
- top. *Stana* – farming land v.c. Negomir (GJ). Etym. pn. *Stana*;
- top. *Stanca* – hillock v. Hunia c. Maglavit (DJ); forest v. Cocorova c. Turburea (GJ). Etym. pn. *Stanca*;
- top. *Stăncuța* – estate v.c. Negomir (GJ). Etym. pn. *Stăncuța*;
- top. *Sulfina* – place v.c. Maglavit (DJ). Etym. pn. *Sulfina*;
- top. *Șerbana* – farming land v.c. Lădești (VL). Etym. pn. *Șerbana*;
- top. *Ștefana* – part of village v.c. Ionești (VL). Etym. pn. *Ștefana*;
- top. *Tica* – part of village v.c. Bustuchin (GJ). Etym. pn. *Tica*;
- top. *Tita* – estate (DJ). Etym. pn. *Tita*;
- top. *Tița* – glade v.c. Cernișoara (VL). Etym. pn. *Tița*;
- top. *Tofia* – hill t. Balș (OT). Etym. pn. *Tofia*;
- top. *Tudosia* – hill v. Podu Grosului c. Bâcleș (MH). Etym. pn. *Tudosia*;
- top. *Tutana* – farming land v.c. Bistrețu (DJ). Etym. pn. *Tutana*;
- top. *Valica* – part of village v.c. Amărăștii de Jos (DJ). Etym. pn. *Valica*;

top. *Vica* – place v. Pojogeni t. Târgu Cărbunești; winery v. Bobu c. Scoarța (GJ). Etym. pn. *Vica*;
 top. *Vlăicuța* – glen v. Gaia c. Murgași (DJ). Etym. pn. *Vlăicuța*;
 top. *Voica* – hill v. Bala de Sus c. Bala (MH); forest v. Groși c. Cernișoara (VL). Etym. pn. *Voica*;
 top. *Voinica* – sheepfold (VL). Etym. pn. *Voinica*;
 top. *Voislava* – stream v. Negoiești c. Melinești (DJ). Etym. pn. *Voislava*.

A first observation that can be made on the previous anthroponyms is that they enter in toponymy through transfer, having the same form as the names. Thus, there can be met feminine names:

– underived: *Aurora, Chiajna, Dăiana, Diana, Dospina, Elisabeta, Eufrosina, Floarea, Ileana, Ilinca, Ioana, Iolana, Irina, Liana, Marcela, Marghioala, Maria, Mădălina, Neaga, Olga, Paraschiva, Safta, Smaranda, Todosia, Voica* etc.

– derived with diminutive suffixes: *Anicuța, Anuța, Florica, Ilincuța, Ionița, Marica, Maricica, Marița, Măriuca, Măriuța, Marușca, Milica, Milioara, Rădița, Slăvuța, Stăncuța, Vlăicuța* etc.

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

Few of them are formed from masculine names (*Bogdana, Constantina, Constandina, Dobrița, Dumitra, Neața, Oprița, Pătruța, Petra, Răfăila, Șerbana, Ștefana* etc.), while others originate from nicknames (derived or not), which are, as person's names, of an old age in our anthroponymy: *Albinușa, Brândușa, Cârna, Năsturica, Păpușa, Sulfina, Voinica* etc.

From the point of view of their origin, the previously quoted names are, generally, either laic Slavic (*Chiajna, Deica, Neaga, Olga, Rada, Stana, Stanca, Voica, Voislava* etc.), laic Romanian (*Brândușa, Floarea, Năsturica, Păpușa, Păuna* etc.) or ecclesiastical (*Despina, Elisabeta, Ioana, Irina, Maria, Marina, Paraschiva, Todosia* etc.).

The chances for these names to be found in toponymy, in other variants as well, are higher as the more frequent the name is in anthroponomy. The name *Ioana*, for example, becomes a nucleus for the compound denominations: *Cracu Babii Ioanii* (MH), *Conacu lu Codin al Ioanii* (GJ), *Cracu Branăștea Ioanii* (MH), *Crovu Ioanii* (MH), *Dâlma Ioanii* (GJ), *Drumu Ioanii* (GJ), *Coasta Ioanii lu Vătafu* (VL), *Dealul Ioanii Pisii* (VL) – they represent just a small part of these anthroponomic series. The enounced criterion is not a defining one. In this particular case, there are other factors that interfere too: some regard “social-historical aspects, among which the form of proprietorship might have an essential role”¹⁵, others, refer to the degree of participation of the feminine persons to the community life, more or less restricted, and, moreover, the position she has within the family. In other situations, if we refer especially to micro-toponymy, many

¹⁵ Ion Toma, *Toponimia Olteniei*, p. 65.

place names are the result of incident, of an event after which the name of a person was associated with the respective place. As much as everything evolved, “there is not anymore shown a relation of filiation between the founder of the village and the dwellers from it, or one of ownership, between the landlord and the respective estate, but it is honoured a member of the family, a friend etc.”¹⁶.

Once entered in toponymy, the name can become multiplied, meaning that it can shift from one object to another. Thus, many geographic items from the perimeter of a village or of a commune can bear the same denomination. In the locality of Bumbăști-Jiu from Gorj, a mountain, a stream, a cliff and a valley are called *Dumitra*. The name was transferred from the mountain towards the other forms of relief.

In the analysed material, there were also found few toponyms that are based on group names, formed from feminine names: *Ancuțești*, *Anuțești*, *Catrinești*. In these cases, the family clan was constructed around a woman— *Anca*, *Anuța*, *Catrina* – whose name was the reference for the successors.

Other times, it is resorted to the simplification of the denomination, through its losing or the renouncing to one of the terms: in the village of Ociogi, from the commune of Brâncoveni, Olt County, a place is denominated *Rachirii* (pn. *Rachira*, in genitive); the genitive form shows that there was an entopic that, in time, was omitted. Another farming strip of land, from the commune of Bălănești, Gorj County got its name from an anthroponym derived from a feminine one: *Săftoiu*. The same situation is present in the case of (*Dealul*) *Brândușu*, a hill in the communes of Bălăcița and Vlădaia, from Mehedinți County.

The fact that the feminine anthroponyms are more reduced, from the quantitative point of view, than the masculine ones, does not mean that they are less important. Collected and put together, they present interest from a double perspective: they reflect, on one side, the role of the women in the Romanian society of the past, and, on the other side, they occupy a remarkable position in the history and the evolution of the personal denomination system. Toponymy preserved, along the time, both names of places that talk about the former occupations of the women, on their place and role in the society, and intermediary, popular structure that belong to the process of formation, when addressing the actual patronyms.

¹⁶ Iorgu Iordan, *Toponimia românească*, p. 177.