

## THE WORDS OF ETHNIC DIFFERENCES\*

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**Abstract:** In this article, it is intended the analysis, from the point of view of their presence in current anthroponymy and toponymy, of those designations that show a person's different origin from that of the native population, without indicating what this ethnicity is. The respective appellations are: *sudit* (subject, or citizen), *străin* (foreigner), *venetic* (alien), *colonist* (settler), *băjenar* (refugee).

**Keywords:** ethnicity, allogenic, autochthonous, anthroponyms, toponyms.

In the personal denomination system, there are two ways of identifying the referent: the first is the official, standard one, which includes patronymics and surnames. The second is unofficial, being encountered in the assignment of a name by nicknames and surnames. As for the used denominative elements, they belong to varied lexical fields, the limit being, in the case of nicknames, a very wide one; any appellation can become, theoretically, a nickname<sup>1</sup>, if in the imagination of the one who names the meaning<sup>2</sup> of the word folds on certain traits of the named person.

One of the lexical areas that gave a relatively large number<sup>3</sup> of nicknames, appellations, surnames is the one that refers to the ethnicity of an individual. Given that, "from the beginning, the ancestors of the Romanians found themselves in the situation of making contact with numerous foreign peoples. Many crossed these territories only briefly, with the purpose of «plundering», that is, to satisfy the needs

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<sup>1</sup> Later nicknames and even surnames.

<sup>2</sup> Or one of the meanings of polysemantic words.

<sup>3</sup> "The names of peoples often become surnames, in the sense that a person who came from abroad is named after his origin. In the Middle Ages, such names were much more often used than the name of the father or the profession" (Al. Graur, *Nume de locuri*, Bucharest, Scientific Press, 1972, p. 115).

of economic life. Others, however, settled permanently or at least for a long time, thus mixing with the native population, in whose life, language and toponymy they left traces lingering until today. Later, after the establishment of the two principalities (Wallachia and Moldavia), the contact with foreign peoples continued in the form of wars waged by them on the Romanian territory, as well as through immigration, some «natural», others organized, with certain intentions, by the government of the Principalities itself<sup>4</sup>, thus it was expected that the names of these peoples would also be found in the inventory of Romanian onomastics.

To the advantage of using ethnic appellations – during the period of the establishment of the Romanian naming system – is also the fact that they represented lexical elements characterized by conciseness and objectivity, which makes them<sup>5</sup> preferred in this process, unlike the nicknames that appeared on the basis of physical and mental traits, for example, very numerous compared to the former, but which are defined by a higher degree of instability, because of their derogatory content. *Armenian, Bulgarian, Cossack, Cuman, French, Greek, Italian, Polish, German, Russian, Saxon, Serbian, Tatar, Turkish, Gypsy, Hungarian* are some of the names of some ethnic groups registered, at the moment, in the list of names of people and places in Oltenia<sup>6</sup>.

If in the work *Indici ai multiethnicității în toponimia din Oltenia (Indices of multiethnicity in the toponymy of Oltenia)*<sup>7</sup>, there have been thoroughly identified and analysed the means<sup>8</sup> with the help of which the origin of a person is expressed, as they were “captured” in the pages of the *Dicționarul toponimic al României (Toponymic Dictionary of Romania)*<sup>9</sup>, in this article we intend to follow the same thing, now analysing those terms that suggest that a person has a foreign origin, but

<sup>4</sup> Iorgu Iordan, *Toponimia românească*, Bucharest, Romanian Academy Press, 1963, p. 260-261. (Further quoted as: Iorgu Iordan, *Toponimia...*).

<sup>5</sup> Just like the names of the practiced trades.

<sup>6</sup> This region is, mainly, our research area.

<sup>7</sup> In print in the magazine “Arhivele Olteniei”, New Series, no. 38, Romanian Academy Press, 2024.

<sup>8</sup> a) Even the name of the ethnicity (persons declare themselves or are declared of a certain origin); b) The names they bear (first name, surname, patronymic), which are part of the anthroponymic inventory of the respective ethnic group (*Asan, Carianopol, Dragomir, Isac, Ivan, Likiardopol, Mladin, Moise, Naidin, Osman, Parpandel* etc.); c) Affixes can be an indicator of local provenance. The register of suffixes that are in this situation is a generous one: *-ov/-ev* (Russian and Bulgarian), *-ovici/-evici* (rusă), *-enski, -inski, -eŃki, -iŃki* (Polish), *-enko, -iuc, -eac, -incu, -uc* (Ukrainian), *-ache/-achi, -adis, -idis, -ios, -anos, -inos, -opoulos* (Greek) etc.; d) The profession practiced by a person, when it is specific to a certain people (or that people has elevated it to the rank of art): anthroponyms *Bulgaru* and *Sârbu*, for example, it designates gardeners with this origin, while *Turcu* could be called, initially, the person who produced alvița (candy-canes) or bragă (home-made fizzy-drink).

<sup>9</sup> *Dicționarul toponimic al României. Oltenia (DTRO)*, under the editorial office of Gh. Bolocan, PhD, vol. 1 (A–B), Craiova, Universitaria Press, 1993 and next. We will use, during the work, also *Dicționarul toponimic al României. Muntenia (DTRM)*, coord. Prof. Nicolae Saramandu, PhD, vol. 1 (A–B), Bucharest, Romanian Academy Press, 2005 and next.

without having any clues about it<sup>10</sup>. There are included words that show rather the social situation of those individuals. These are: *sudit*, *străin*, *venetic*, *băjenar*.

**Sudit.** In *Micul dicționar academic (Little Academic Dictionary)*<sup>11</sup>, the appellation is registered with the following meanings: inhabitant of the Romanian Lands under the protection of a foreign power and thus having the right to special jurisdiction, to certain tax privileges, etc. which the natives did not enjoy; any foreign subject. Lazăr Șăineanu<sup>12</sup> and August Scriban<sup>13</sup> recorded, in their lexicons, only the last meaning, that of “foreign subject”. In *Dicționar al numelor de familie românești (Dictionary of Romanian Surnames)*<sup>14</sup>, Iorgu Jordan – analysing the anthroponym *Suditu* – would record the appellation of “subject (from a legal and political point of view)”.

Initially, “the *Sudiți* or foreign subjects were the foreign citizens on the Romanian territory under the protection of a foreign consulate. The category of *Sudiți* was made up of genuine subjects, i.e. foreign citizens from their country of origin and having the nationality of that state...”<sup>15</sup>, for that, subsequently, to include the protégées as well, among whom there were “native persons (Armenians, Jews, Greeks, Bulgarians, Moldavians, Wallachians), under foreign protection through fraud or abuse. Among the protected persons, there were also foreigners of a nationality other than that of the state granting them protection who, in the absence of their natural protector, resorted to a foreign subjection”<sup>16</sup>.

The quality of *Sudit*, that some managed to obtain through illicit means<sup>17</sup>, was coveted by many people for the social, economic and legal privileges it offered: “By virtue of these, the foreign subject was exempt from personal tax. Apart from the annual tax for the quality of *Sudit* (which was almost a ducat in the mid-nineteenth century, paid to the consulate), the *Sudit* was exempt from any tax, based on capitulations. He paid only the customs duty... and benefited from advantages such as: inviolability of the home, guarantee of individual freedom, security of property and person. In jurisdictional matters, the *Sudit* enjoyed a preferential regime: he was

<sup>10</sup> Unless there is additional data, in the documents, to this effect.

<sup>11</sup> *Micul dicționar academic*, MDA, second edition, Romanian Academy, Institute of Linguistics, Bucharest, Univers Enciclopedic Press, 2010.

<sup>12</sup> *Dicționar universal al limbei române*, Craiova, 1908.

<sup>13</sup> *Dicționarul limbii românești*, Institutu de Arte Grafice “Presa Bună”, 1939.

<sup>14</sup> *Dicționar al numelor de familie românești*, DNFR, Bucharest, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, 1983, p. 429; cf. n. top. *Sudiți (Ibidem)*.

<sup>15</sup> Stela Mărieș, *Situația protejaților străini în România în secolul al XIX-lea*, in “Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie”, Cluj-Napoca, t. XXVI, Academia R.S.R. Press, 1983–1984, pp. 193.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>17</sup> Sometimes, in order to differentiate between foreigners and natives, the documents specified this: “The Russian sender, Iacovencu. A Russian courier, with five carts; crossed the land without making a stop here... Miliancof, *Russian sudit*, with his lady, and with Arnăut of the village mayor ... *English Sudit* ... with his woman...” (see Nicolae Iorga, *Documente și cercetări asupra istoriei financiare și economice a Principatelor Române*, in “Economia Națională”, 1901, Year XXV, no. 1, p. 38, consulted on the website [https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/EconomiaNationala\\_1901/?query=sudit++economia+na%C8%9Bional%C4%83&pg=43&layout=s](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/EconomiaNationala_1901/?query=sudit++economia+na%C8%9Bional%C4%83&pg=43&layout=s) (consulted on 29.06.2024).

assisted in trials by consuls or by the other high officials of the consulate; he could not be arrested or sentenced to fines without first notifying the consulate which he depended to”<sup>18</sup>.

The memory of the fact that the *Sudiți* lived in a certain area has been very well preserved in the toponymy. We find, throughout the country, many such names. Here are some of them: “*Sudiți* (Buzău, Fetești, Ploiești, Urziceni), *Sudiți* or *Gura Vadului* (Mizil), *Cucuieți-Sudiți* (Oltețul). Also see *Merii Petchii-Sudiți*, alături de *Merii Petchii-Pământeni* (Urziceni)”<sup>19</sup>; *În Sudiți, În Sudiți la Pădure, În Sudiți-Valea cu Mărăcini*<sup>20</sup>; *Sudiții* – estate, property of St. Nicholas Church, “located on the territory of the Romanian Kingdom”<sup>21</sup>, for which Diamandi G. Dumitrescu offered, in 1904, as a lease, the amount of 56.200 de lei; “... Sudiți polygon...”<sup>22</sup> etc.

In DTR0 and DTRM, a series of (micro)toponyms have been recorded, in which the appellative *Sudit* either forms the name of the place (in non/derived words) – *Sudițeanca* (IL), *Sudițeni* (IL), *Sudiți* (BZ, IL, IF, PH), or appears in the structure of compound names: *Balotina-Sudiți* (PH), *Crângu lu Suditu* (DB), *Cucuieți-Sudiți* (CL), *Dealul Sudiților* (GR), *Drumu Sudiților* (IL), *Gaura Suditu* (PH), *La Sudiți* (PH), *La Pivnița lu Suditu* (GJ), *Pârâu Suditului* (AG), *Pe Valea Sudiților* (BZ), *Popescu-Sudiți* (IL), *Sudiți-Ungureni* (IL), *Sudiții de la Malu Roșu* (BZ), *Popescu-Sudiți* (IL) etc. Some of them, formed with the help of determinatives, establish the opposition between two categories of inhabitants – allogenes/autochthonous: *Merii Petchii-Sudiți*<sup>23</sup> and *Merii Petchii-Pământeni*. Others fix the position of a place or object – *La Sudiți*, *Pe Valea Sudiților* etc., or its possessor: *Crângul lu Suditu*, *Dealul Sudiților*, *Pârâu Suditului* etc., while constructions of the *Balotina-Sudiți*, *Popescu-Sudiți* etc. type appeared administratively, from the names of two localities resulting in a unique name.

In anthroponymy, for a while, the name *Sudit* and the patronymic *Sudit* worked in parallel, proof of the fact that the officialization of the surname had not reached,

<sup>18</sup> Stela Mărieș, *op. cit.*, p. 199.

<sup>19</sup> Iorgu Iordan, *Toponimia...*, p. 205.

<sup>20</sup> More people – Dumitru Ivan Voica, Ion Minea Dăncescu, Gheorghe Tudor Tănase Păun, Nae Gh. B. Corafă – owned land in the mentioned places ([https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/MonitorulOficial\\_1942\\_05\\_Part2/?query=Dumitru+Ivan+Voica%2C+&pg=728&layout=s](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/MonitorulOficial_1942_05_Part2/?query=Dumitru+Ivan+Voica%2C+&pg=728&layout=s)) (accessed on 29.06.2024).

<sup>21</sup> “Gazeta Transilvaniei”, July 1904, Year 67, no. 159, p. 3, consulted on the website [https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/GazetaTransilvaniei\\_1904\\_07/?pg=78&layout=s](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/GazetaTransilvaniei_1904_07/?pg=78&layout=s) (la data de 29.06.2024).

<sup>22</sup> St. Burileanu, *Noutăți artileristice. Noua tragere dela poligonul Sudiți cu obuze prevăzute cu coafele Burileanu. Concluziuni finale*, in “Revista Artileriei”, Year LV, no. 10-12, oct.-dec. 1941, p. 77, 78, [https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/RevistaArtileriei\\_1941/?query=poligonul+Sudi%C8%9Bi&pg=726&layout=s](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/RevistaArtileriei_1941/?query=poligonul+Sudi%C8%9Bi&pg=726&layout=s) (accessed on 03.05.2024).

<sup>23</sup> In most cases, the names of the ethnicities are in opposition: *Bălenii-Sârbi* (DB) / *Bălenii-Pământeni* (DB) / *Bălenii-Români* (DB); *Brebenii-Sârbi* (OT) / *Brebenii-Români* (OT); *Castraveții Turcești* (BR) / *Castraveții Românești* (BR) etc.

at that time, full “maturity”. Thus, in the Official Gazette of 1936 – Part 2, November 1936 (no. 255–279) 1936-11-24 / no. 274<sup>24</sup> – we meet the *Moisă Sudit*, *Froim Sudit*<sup>25</sup> and *Leiba Sudit*<sup>26</sup> were recorded around the same time. A little earlier, a *Sudit* “buys (rents) a buckthorn grove<sup>27</sup> from a rayah”<sup>28</sup>. A simple search in the old documents<sup>29</sup> gives us such names: *Ion Ungureanu Suditu*, *Mateică Suditu* etc.

At the moment, there is a reasonable number of individuals who bear the name of *Suditu*. Again, a simple search, this time on Google, reveals, in different circumstances, the names of *Gavrilă Sudit*, *Viorel Suditu*, *Cătălina Suditu*, *Eduard Suditu*, *Vasile Suditu*, *Gheorghe Suditu*<sup>30</sup> etc.

In *Nume de persoane din Dobrogea. Dicționar invers (Names of people from Dobrogea. Reverse dictionary)*<sup>31</sup>, Liliana Lazea identifies, in Constanta, a number of 103 people carrying this patronym, and in Tulcea – 7. In BDAR<sup>32</sup> Moldova<sup>33</sup>, the patronymic *Suditu* totals, in Iași, 62 carriers, reported 1926<sup>34</sup>, the total number per country on that date. As a derivative, Iorgu Jordan mentions in DNFR (p. 429), the name *Sudețeanu*, formed with the suffix *-eanu* from the toponym *Sudiți*.

**STRĂIN.** In MDA, we are provided with the following definition: “(Person) who is part of the population of a country other than that in which they are, or in which they live, or who belong, by origin, nationality, etc. to a country other than that in which they reside”. The same meaning is recorded by Lazăr Șăineanu and August Scriban in the cited dictionaries.

<sup>24</sup> [https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/search/results/?list=eyJmaWx0ZXJzJjogeyJMQU5HIjogWyJSTyJdfSgInFlZlZlJjogIk1vaXNcdTAxMDMgU3VkaXQifQ&per\\_page=20](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/search/results/?list=eyJmaWx0ZXJzJjogeyJMQU5HIjogWyJSTyJdfSgInFlZlZlJjogIk1vaXNcdTAxMDMgU3VkaXQifQ&per_page=20) (accessed on 03.07. 2024).

<sup>25</sup> “Dimineața”, August 1935 (Year 31, no. 10272-10302)1935-08-24 / no. 10295 ([https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/Dimineata\\_1935\\_08/?query=Froim+Sudit&pg=310&layout=s](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/Dimineata_1935_08/?query=Froim+Sudit&pg=310&layout=s)) (accessed on 03.07. 2024).

<sup>26</sup> “Dimineața”, December 1935 (Year 31, no. 10394-10422)1935-12-25 / nr. 10418 ([https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/Dimineata\\_1935\\_12/?query=Leiba+Sudit&pg=366&layout=s](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/Dimineata_1935_12/?query=Leiba+Sudit&pg=366&layout=s)) (accessed on 03.07. 2024).

<sup>27</sup> *Pațachină (common buckthorn)* = Shrub with leaves similar to those of beech, but greener, with yellowish shades; it grows especially in humid places in forests (<https://dexonline.ro/definitie/pa%C8%9Bachin%C4%83>) (accesat la data de 03.07. 2024).

<sup>28</sup> Petre Antonescu, *Din trecutul pădurilor țării*, in “Revista Pădurilor”<sup>28</sup>, 1926, year 38, no. 4, p. 220, ([https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/RevistaPadurilor\\_1926/?pg=242&layout=s&query=Revista+P%C4%83durilor%2C+nr.+4](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/RevistaPadurilor_1926/?pg=242&layout=s&query=Revista+P%C4%83durilor%2C+nr.+4)) (accessed on 29.06.2024).

<sup>29</sup> Names extracted from Nicolae Iorga, *Situația agrară, economică și socială a Olteniei în Epoca lui Tudor Vladimirescu. Documente contemporane*, Bucharest, Ministry of Agriculture Press, 1915; Paul Emanoil Barbu, Vladimir Osiac, *Catagrafia județului Dolj din anul 1828*, Universitaria Press, Craiova, 2001.

<sup>30</sup> Member of the parliamentary legislature 2000-2004.

<sup>31</sup> Constanța, Ex Ponto, 2004, p. 365.

<sup>32</sup> BDAR – The Anthroponymic Database of Romania, established at the Laboratory of Onomastic Research of the Faculty of Letters of the University of Craiova, in 1994.

<sup>33</sup> Volume in manuscript.

<sup>34</sup> Website [https://numedefamilie.eu/nume-de-familie-suditu#google\\_vignette](https://numedefamilie.eu/nume-de-familie-suditu#google_vignette) gives a total of 2076 people bearing the name of *Suditu* (accessed on 03.07.2024).

Less frequently than *Suditu*, the word is found in anthroponymy, as a patronym, since the eighteenth century. The censuses<sup>35</sup> provides us with information in this regard: *Streinu* and *Streinul*, in Cârlișău and Botoșani, historical Moldavian Lands; (*Marin sin*) *Radu Strinu*, serf, married, in the village of Ghizdăvești, *Stan Strinu*, serf from Țărțălu, *Gheorghe Strinu*, serf from Preajba etc. Iorgu Iordan<sup>36</sup> and N.A. Constantinescu<sup>37</sup> also recorded it in their works.

At the moment, 348<sup>38</sup> people bear the name of *Străinu* and 142 – *Străinescu* (formed with the patronymic suffix of *-escu*). Other recorded derivatives are: *Străinov*<sup>39</sup> and *Străinovici*<sup>40</sup>. *Străinar* appears as a pejorative nickname, designating a “worker, pupil, foreign student in Romania (variant, *Străinez*)”<sup>41</sup>.

In toponymy, the following localities were recorded: *Băneștii de Streini* (IF), *Budenii de Streini* (GR), *Dealul Străina* (DJ). Moreover, “*Străinii-Deveselul* (Vânjului Mare), *Străinii-Dobreni* (Videle), *Novacii-Străini*, alături de *Novacii-Români* (Gilort), *Teișanii-Străini*, along with *Teișanii Megieșești* (Ploiești): the lack of precision is surprising, as regards the ethnic or local origin of the «foreigners», to this determinative, which can also have the meaning of «national», not only purely geographical. If I decided on the last one, it is because of the statement ... *Novaci-Străini*: «it is so called because the inhabitants came from Transylvania»...”<sup>42</sup>.

The question of the place of origin also arises in the case of the following word: who was actually among the foreigners? Only people from other countries, speakers of other languages? Can we also include here those who came from the Romanian countries (Romanian speakers) occupied by foreign powers? For the native population from small localities, and not only for them, living in past centuries (including in the nineteenth century), all those who came from more or less distant

<sup>35</sup> *Moldova în epoca feudalismului, vol. VII, partea I-II, Recensămintele populației Moldovei din anii 1771–1773 și 1774*, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Moldova, Institute of History, Chișinău, Știința Press, 1975, passim. Paul Emanoil Barbu, Mirela Comănescu, *Catagrafia din 1838 a județului Romanai, vol I. Plasa Câmpului*, Romanian Academy Press, Bucharest, 2022.

<sup>36</sup> DNFR, p. 427.

<sup>37</sup> *Dicționar onomastic românesc*, Bucharest, Romanian Academy Press, 1963, p. 377.

<sup>38</sup> Figures provided by Teodor Oancă in the article *Nume de familie derivate cu sufixul -escu. Considerații statistice*, in Oliviu Felecan (ed.), *Numele și numirea. Actele ICONN 2011*, Cluj-Napoca, Mega Press, p. 194; on the website <https://numedefamilie.eu/nume-de-familie-strainu> the anthroponym *Străinu* occurs with frequency 428 (accessed on 04.07.2024). Variant *Streinu* appears, in BDAR Moldova, with a total of 420 bearers per country.

<sup>39</sup> In 1938, a certain Eratiul Roman made a request for reinforcement against the defendant widow of *Străinov* Adam, born Jung Susana (Official Gazette, Part 2, March 1938 (no. 49-75)1938-03-15 / no. 61, p. 2314, [https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/MonitorulOficial\\_1938\\_03\\_Part2/?query=Str%C4%83inov&pg=673&layout=s](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/MonitorulOficial_1938_03_Part2/?query=Str%C4%83inov&pg=673&layout=s)) (accessed on 04.07.2024).

<sup>40</sup> A soldier, Pascal *Străinovici*, of the 5th Hunters regiment, appears in a news item in “*Dimineața*” newspaper, January 1936, Year 32, no. 10423-10453)1936-01-01 / no. 10423, [https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/Dimineata\\_1936\\_01/?query=Str%C4%83inovici&pg=11&layout=s](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/Dimineata_1936_01/?query=Str%C4%83inovici&pg=11&layout=s) (accessed on 04.07.2024).

<sup>41</sup> See Petru Tomegea, *Apelative onomastice. Dicționar*, Iași, Junimea Press, 2022, p. 212.

<sup>42</sup> Iorgu Iordan, *Toponimia...*, p. 302.

places were considered “outsiders”. The answer to the last question is, therefore, positive. However, we are at a great distance, in terms of time, from the moment of investiture of this word with a denominative function and, therefore, we cannot know exactly from which of the situations the origin of the resulting anthroponyms/toponyms is claimed, unless we undertake a vertical research work for each name.

**VENETIC.** Among the meanings MDA records – venetian-Venetian; Venetian gold coin worth about five old lei, which circulated in the past in the Romanian Lands as well – there is also that of a person who came from other places and was considered a foreigner in the place where they settled. It is the meaning that interests us and with which the appellation appears in many official documents, newspaper articles or literature. Here are just a few situations encountered in the information of the nineteenth century.

In response to those who believed that the Romanian people in Transylvania were *venetici*, in the magazine “Transilvania”,<sup>43</sup> it was written, in 1870, that: “Nonetheless, as one can see, sometimes there were also «vlahi venetici – Wallachian aliens» in Transylvania, as there were Hungarians and Saxons aliens, and even by the tens of thousands. First of all, in our country, *venetic* is still called the one that settles to a place, but coming from a different part of the country, from across the Olt or Mureş rivers, and makes their settlement in a certain commune; but then, as long as the reign of the Turks in Banat and Hungary lasted, all the inhabitants who escaped from there in the mountains of Transylvania, were called *venetici* by us, as the Transylvanians were also considered the same, when they escaped from the tyranny of the lords in the parts of Hungary”.

In the same magazine, seven years later, it was said that: “The Romanian suddenly sees himself as the slave of this alien”<sup>44</sup>, and in “Biserica și școala”, in 1882, the signatory of an article mentioned that: “... I will not be looked at by the alien or the foreigner”<sup>45</sup>.

In 1875, in the magazine “Familia” was published a part of the historical short story called *Doamna Chiajna*, written by A. I. Odobescu, in which the main character was referred to as: “... But Chiajna was not satisfied with that; having a son on the throne, she worked diligently to acquire for the other the neighbouring Reign of Moldavia, which was used in those times by one «Ion Voda, Armenian alien» always fighting with the Turks”<sup>46</sup>. From this last example, we also learn the ethnicity of the alien: Armenian.

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<sup>43</sup> Year 3, no. 15, p. 179 ([https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/Transilvania\\_1870/?query=veneticu&pg=178&layout=s](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/Transilvania_1870/?query=veneticu&pg=178&layout=s)) (accessed on 04.07.2024). We updated the quote with the current spelling.

<sup>44</sup> “Transilvania”, 1877, Year 10, no. 13, p. 147 ([https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/Transilvania\\_1877/?query=veneticu&pg=150&layout=s](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/Transilvania_1877/?query=veneticu&pg=150&layout=s)) (accessed on 04.07.2024)

<sup>45</sup> Year 6, no. 36, p. 374 ([https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/BisericaSiScola\\_1882/?query=veneticu&pg=287&layout=s](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/BisericaSiScola_1882/?query=veneticu&pg=287&layout=s)) (accessed on 04.07.2024)

<sup>46</sup> Year XI, no. 35, p. 407 ([https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/Familia\\_1875/?query=veneticu&pg=410&layout=s](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/Familia_1875/?query=veneticu&pg=410&layout=s)) (accessed on 04.07.2024).

In anthroponymy, the name *Veneticu* is not frequent. However, we find it in old documents: *Veneticu Radu*<sup>47</sup> (soldier), *Veneticu Petre*<sup>48</sup> (soldier), *Tudor Veneticu*<sup>49</sup>, *Mihalache Veneticu*<sup>50</sup>, but also in the inventory of current patronyms. With a Google search<sup>51</sup>, we find, among others, Adelina, Vlad, Liliana Daniela, Aura, Gabriel Călin, Liviana, Cristina – *Veneticu*. And, also, the companies<sup>52</sup> *Veneticu 2016 SRL* and *Camy Veneticu SRL*, whose owners lent them their patronyms.

The toponymy preserves this name in only one case, at least in the material provided by the two toponymic dictionaries of Romania: *Veneticii* – part of a village in the village of Brabeți, Daneți commune, Dolj county. It originates from a group name – *venetici(i)*.

**COLONIST.** The meanings<sup>53</sup> of this word are as following: inhabitant of a colony; in the Middle Ages of the Romanian lands, a person who belonged to a colony of foreigners located on a boyar estate or on a state domain; a person who has been displaced from their country or place of origin and who has settled in a region or city in a foreign country.

At one time, settlers were preferred over the native inhabitants because they represented cheap labour. In order to be stimulated to settle in our country, they were granted various facilities, which were applied at the regional level, but also in private. Thus, the “Ștafeta” magazine from Iași tells us that a certain Dimitrie Anghel, owner, decided to bring on a property of his lordship a certain number of Italian settlers, under the following conditions: he will give each settler 20 fălci of land (approx. 30 ha), which will be paid to him in 25 years. The settlers, on the other hand, undertake to farm the land, to introduce new crops, and “... after a 10-year period, the settlers will be able to apply for the right to Romanian citizenship”<sup>54</sup>.

The word *colonist* often accompanies the names of some people – *colonistul* Ioan Ceară, *colonistul* Macedonian Gh. Barbu, *colonistul* Al. Cristea<sup>55</sup> etc. – without, however, becoming part of their anthroponymic formula. The appellation did not “produce” anthroponyms except in rare cases. A certain Gh. *Colonistu* appears in the

<sup>47</sup> [https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/MonitorulOficial\\_1945\\_08\\_Part1/?query=veneticu&pg=538&layout=s](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/MonitorulOficial_1945_08_Part1/?query=veneticu&pg=538&layout=s) (accessed on 04.07.2024).

<sup>48</sup> [https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/MonitorulOficial\\_1945\\_02\\_Part1/?query=veneticu&pg=503&layout=s](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/MonitorulOficial_1945_02_Part1/?query=veneticu&pg=503&layout=s) (accessed on 04.07.2024).

<sup>49</sup> [https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/MonitorulOficial\\_1924\\_10/?query=veneticu&pg=1162&layout=s](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/MonitorulOficial_1924_10/?query=veneticu&pg=1162&layout=s) (accessed on 04.07.2024).

<sup>50</sup> [https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/Romanulu\\_1882\\_08/?query=veneticu&pg=46&layout=s](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/Romanulu_1882_08/?query=veneticu&pg=46&layout=s) (accessed on 04.07.2024).

<sup>51</sup> <http://ro.linkedin.com> > pub > dir > Veneticu (accessed on 6.07.2024).

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.listafirme.ro> (accessed on 6.07.2024).

<sup>53</sup> Excerpts from MDA.

<sup>54</sup> Processed material from “Familia” magazine, Year 15, no. 44, p. 300 ([https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/Familia\\_1879/?query=colonistu&pg=305&layout=s](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/Familia_1879/?query=colonistu&pg=305&layout=s)) (accessed on 6.07.2024).

<sup>55</sup> Names found in the pages of several publications on the website of the virtual library Arcanum Newspapers (accessed during the period 29.06.2024 – 15.07.2024).



Official Gazette, Part 1, September 1931, being summoned to court on the 18th of that month<sup>56</sup>. In the current information, there has no *Colonist(u)* patronymic found.

In DTRO and DTRM, we register a single toponym in which the appellation in question appears – *Sărățeni-Coloniști*, in Ialomita County. Somewhat more common is the form *Colonia* or the compound names, formed with it: *Colonia Bulgară* (Târgu Secuiesc), *Colonia Colonel Paulian* (Satu Mare), *Colonia Mică* (Făget), *Coloniște* (Săveni), *Coloniști* (Bucharest, Fetești, Săveni)<sup>57</sup>. They are official creations, more or less recent, found throughout the country.

In Banat, with the beginning of colonization, new localities were established “or the names of some old settlements were changed. Their very name, made up with the common term *colony*, meaning «neighborhood», is an indication of this.... an example... in 1845 a Bulgarian colony was founded, with settlers brought from Dudeștii Vechi (*Beșenova Veche*), which received the name of *Colonia Bulgară*. ... It was during the colonisations as well, when new settlements were established on places that had been permanently uninhabited until then, but not completely depopulated, because since ancient times the entire territory of Banat had been inhabited; apart from the network of permanent settlements, there were all kinds of temporarily inhabited settlements (dwellings, one-room houses, sheepfolds, etc.). The settlers remained on such lands with rarer settlements, on high plateaus...”<sup>58</sup>.

**BĂJENAR.** A person who temporarily left his home or province or homeland because of the invasions of the enemy or political persecution or fiscal oppression and who returned after the danger had passed. (Rarely) Emigrant. A person returned from the refuge. (Reg) Extremely poor person. These are the definitions recorded in the MDA.

Unlike the terms analysed above, *băjenar* (derived from *a băjeni*, “to leave”, with the suffix *-ar*) registers a substantially greater presence both as a personal name and as a place name. It is recorded in numerous documents and archival documents and is present, in large numbers and in the current inventory of Romanian surnames. We present below the patronymic *Băjenaru* and its phonetic variants, from the point of view of frequencies<sup>59</sup> that they recorded in the year 1994:

*Băjănaru* 95: *Oltenia* – 15 (2-DJ, 7-GJ, 6-MH), *Muntenia* – 45 (7-BZ, 9-CL, 15-GR, 10-PH, 4-TR), *Bucharest* – 35.

<sup>56</sup> No. 204, p. 10 ([https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/MonitorulOficial\\_1931\\_09\\_Part1/?query=colonistu&pg=97&layout=s](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/MonitorulOficial_1931_09_Part1/?query=colonistu&pg=97&layout=s)) (website accessed on 6.07.2024). It also appears as the name of an agricultural company – “Colonistu” – in the village of Corugiachioi in Caliacra County (an administrative unit located in the historical region of Dobrogea) Official Gazette, 1925, no. 210, p. 23 ([https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/MonitorulOficial\\_1925\\_09/?query=colonistu&pg=790&layout=s](https://adt.arcanum.com/ro/view/MonitorulOficial_1925_09/?query=colonistu&pg=790&layout=s)) (accessed on 6.07.2024).

<sup>57</sup> Examples taken from Iorgu Iordan, *Toponimia...*, p. 203.

<sup>58</sup> Vasile Ioniță, *Nume de locuri din Banat*, Timișoara, Facla Press, 1982, p. 53.

<sup>59</sup> Excerpts from *Dicționar de frecvență a numelor de familie din România* – DFNFR, vol. 1 (A–B), red. resp. prof. Teodor Oancă, PhD, Craiova, Universitaria Press, 2003.

*Băjenar 497: Muntenia – 12 (3-AG, 1-BR, 1-CL, 4-IL, 3-PH), Dobrogea – 9 (CȚ), Moldova – 318 (8-BT, 4-GL, 2-IȘ, 304-SV), Transylvania – 28 (4-AB, 1-CV, 19-HD, 4-SB), Crișana – 6 (AR), Banat – 82 (15-CS, 67-TM), Bucharest-42.*

*Băjenariu 3 370: Oltenia – 75 (8-DJ, 31-GJ, 26-MH, 1-OT, 9-VL), Muntenia – 47 (16-AG, 2-BR, 8-CL, 9-DB, 3-IL, 8-PH, 1-TR), Dobrogea – 74 (67-CȚ, 7-TL), Moldova – 2 549 (53-BC, 976-BT, 29-GL, 374-IȘ, 104-NȚ, 894-SV, 14-VR, 105-VS), Mureș – 21 (MM), Transylvania – 201 (18-AB, 52-BV, 15-CJ, 5-CV, 88-HD, 3-HG, 5-MȘ, 15-SB), Crișana – 37 (17-AR, 7-BH, 13-SJ), Banat – 192 (89-CS, 103-TM), Bucharest – 174.*

*Băjenaru 9 704: Oltenia – 838 (144-DJ, 372-GJ, 229-MH, 19-OT, 74-VL), Muntenia – 2 354 (239-AG, 316-BR, 322-BZ, 158-CL, 172-DB, 282-GR, 125-IL, 694-PH, 46-TR), Dobrogea – 622 (352-CȚ, 270-TL), Moldova – 3 724 (785-BC, 470-BT, 198-GL, 806-IȘ, 246-NȚ, 325-SV, 324-VR, 570-VS), Mureș – 17 (MM), Transylvania – 612 (22-AB, 5-BN, 236-BV, 17-CJ, 18-CV, 146-HD, 9-HG, 10-MȘ, 59-SB), Crișana – 57 (24-AR, 28-BH, 5-SJ), Banat – 231 (94-CS, 137-TM), Bucharest – 1 249.*

*Băjinaru – 77: Oltenia – 3 (DJ), Moldova – 56 (25-BC, 15-IȘ, 7-NȚ, 9-VS), Bucharest – 18.*

Iorgu Iordan, în DNFR, p. 53, registers the anthroponym *Băjenaru*, whose origin he establishes in the appellation *băjenar*, “fugitive because of the invaders”.

In toponymy, the oiconim is also common: *Băjănari* (AG, DB), *Băjenar* (AG), *Băjenari* (AG, BR, BZ, CL, DB, DJ, IF, IL, VL), *Băjenaru* (AG, DB, PH), *Băjenaru Mare* (AG), *Băjenaru Mic* (AG), *Băjenăruș* (DB), *Băjinărești* (GJ), *Băjinari* (DB), *Râpa Bejenarului* (AG), *Râpa lu Băjenaru* (AG).

\*

All these appellations mean that a radical change took place in the lives of certain people, for various reasons, which involved uprooting them from the home, province or country in which they lived until a certain moment. Each of them brings particular information about the status and quality of these migrants in the place/homeland of adoption, but does not tell us anything about their country of origin, unlike situations in which the newcomer is nicknamed after the name of his ethnicity, of the profession specific to the country of origin<sup>60</sup> etc. Additional information can be found in the case of names *Botezatu – the baptised*<sup>61</sup>, which marks the transition from the basic religion/ethnicity of the person to that of the native population. We know here the “destination” – that is, the new religion and ethnicity

<sup>60</sup> See footnote 8.

<sup>61</sup> These were analysed in the communication *Apelativul botezat – un indice antroponomic al schimbării identității etnice și profesionale*, held at the International Symposium “Mehedinți – Istorie, Cultură, Spiritualitate” (Mehedinți – History, Culture, Spirituality), 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Drobeta-Turnu Severin, June 25-26, 2024 (published in the symposium papers).

that the foreigners adopted, but for which the “starting point” remains unknown, that is, the old religion and ethnicity of the aliens, unless this is specified, as in the case of some sources: censuses (*Nicolai, leahu, botezat; Tudor jâdov, botezat* etc.), genealogies (“*Botezatu. From a baptised Jew, he became the cavalry commander boyar Constantin Botezatu*”<sup>62</sup>) etc.

At the moment, overall, the presence of these appellations is modest if we refer to the entire inventory of names of places and people; however, they represent the testimony of a tumultuous past, in which Romanians coexisted with various ethnolinguistic groups.

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<sup>62</sup> Constantin Sion, *op. cit.*, passim.

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