Scientific report
regarding the implementation of the project in the period October – December 2011

The project *Romanian Unconventional Anthroponyms in European Context: Formation Patterns and Discursive Function* (code PN-II-RU-TE-2011-3-0007, contract number 103/ 25.10.2011) was put into effect in the aforementioned period as follows:

- the members of the research team completed the preliminary bibliography regarding the study of *unconventional anthroponyms*;

- they compiled *reference lists* (which include works that are relevant in the fields of *general anthroponymy*, *typology*, *morphosyntax*, *socio-* and *ethnolinguistics*, *intercultural pragmatics*, and *linguistic polyphony*), which include sources that also appear in the bibliographies of their articles and conference papers;

- they wrote studies (some of which were presented at prestigious scientific events, while others were published in collective volumes), starting from reading notes they made after consulting specialised literature, but completing them with the grant members' own points of view, in support of which they adduced solid arguments.

The following sections present the *abstracts* of the team members' scientific contributions, which were presented/ published between the months of October and December 2011.

DAIANA FELECAN – project manager

1. In the paper ***Antroponime neconvenţionale româneşti: tipare de construcţie şi funcţie discursivă – premise ale cercetării*** [Unconventional Romanian anthroponyms: formation patterns and discursive function. Research hypotheses] (published in: Maria Marin, Daniela Răuţu (coord.), *Studii de dialectologie, istoria limbii şi onomastică. Omagiu domnului Teofil Teaha* [Studies on dialectology, language history and onomastics. Homage paid to Mr Teofil Teaha], Bucharest, Editura Academiei Române, 2011, p. 253–266), the author introduces the hypotheses of a wider research, in which she aims at investigating the situation of certain *unconventional anthroponyms* (*nicknames*, *bynames*, *user names*) employed in Romanian public space; some of these structures tend to become *pragmaticised*, as a result of their frequent use in public contexts.

The preliminary part contains data regarding the object and theoretical and methodological grounds of the paper, as well as information about the characteristics of the *corpus* discussed (collected from the mass media and the Internet).

The second part comprises an analysis of the *categories* identified in the linguistic material analysed, which are in systematic covariance with *features of the public context* in which they are used. This section of the paper establishes the *relationship between conventional/ unconventional indices of identification* in different contexts, by looking at several aspects: *identification indices* of public figures, which are meant to designate referents (the reference point may be present or absent); *interlocutionary contexts* in which the aforementioned forms are actualised (*formal*/ *informal* contexts); *inventories of anthroponyms* that are compatible with each of the contexts indicated and *formation patterns* of these constructions; *discursive functions* of some unconventional anthroponyms and their potential *stereotyping*.

2. ***O categorie de apelative neconvenţionale recente: numele comune atribuite persoanelor feminine din domeniul showbizului românesc*** [A category of recent unconventional anthroponyms: common names given to women in Romanian show business] (published in: Oliviu Felecan (ed.), *Numele și numirea. Actele Conferinței Internaționale de Onomastică. Ediția I Interferențe multietnice în antroponimie, Baia Mare, 19–21 septembrie 2011* [Name and Naming. Proceedings of the First International Conference on Onomastics, Multiethnic Connections in Anthroponymy], Cluj-Napoca, Editura Mega, 2011, p. 235–250) describes the way in which some of the most frequent *unconventional names – group common names* – are built and function in contemporary Romanian, following the *relationship between their use* and the *position they occupy in the system.*

The theoretical perspective proposed is interdisciplinary, promoted by *functional linguistics*, *pragmatics*, *stylistics* and *anthroponymy*.

The corpus consists of twelve words taken from one of the richest semantic fields of *unconventional names* and *group common names* – designations of female individuals. These are: *bazată* ('boss'), *bengoasă* ('fab(ulous)'), *boarfă* ('rag'), *bombă* ('bomb'), *bucată* ('piece'), *bunăciune* ('biscuit'), *bunoacă* ('candy'), *divă* ('diva'), *fiţoasă* ('flighty'), *naşpetă* ('loser'), *piţipoancă* ('bimbo') and *tunată* ('Silicon Sally').

This research starts from canonical lexicographic remarks and is aimed at highlighting certain meanings that appeared as *discourse facts* and were *established in recurrent* and *stable contexts* from common contemporary language use.

3. The study ***Antroponime cu valoare generică în limba română*** [Romanian anthroponyms with generic value] (presented at the 11th International Colloquium of the Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Letters, University of Bucharest: *The Romanian Language: Current Paths in Linguistic Research*, Bucharest, December 9–10, 2011) describes a special anthroponymic category that was identified in Romanian space: *generic anthroponyms*.

The author starts from the observation that certain anthroponymic phenomena have not been studied systematically in Romanian traditional linguistics. Recent research is faced with problems that are related to sociolinguistics and pragmatics, and one of these problems is *genericity*.

The theoretical perspective is that of *pragmasemantics*, and the methodology used belongs to the fields of *descriptive lexical semantics* and *rhetoric*.

Firstly, the paper aims at establishing the theoretical framework and highlighting the pragmatic importance of *genericity* as a universal phenomenon. Secondly, the author sets to classify certain linguistic forms within a unitary system, starting from the *features of genericity in contemporary Romanian* and its manifestation on the *lexical*, *semantic* and *pragmatic* level in anthroponymy.

OLIVIU FELECAN – team member

1. The study ***Observaţii referitoare la unele supranume colective din nord-vestul României*** [Aspects regarding collective bynames in the northwestern part of Romania] was presented at the 11th International Colloquium of the Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Letters, University of Bucharest: *The Romanian Language: Current Paths in Linguistic Research*, in Bucharest, in December 9–10, 2011.

The paper (a part of a more extensive research into the corresponding linguistic material collected in northwestern Romania) aims at dealing with aspects regarding the formation and functioning of a category of anthroponyms that have got a special designating role and are employed in rural communities in the counties of Maramureş, Sălaj, Bistriţa-Năsăud and Satu Mare: *collective bynames*.

The typology of the classes identified in the material (*unconventional onomastic patterns*) is achieved starting from the *nature of the referent designated by the anthroponymic units in question*.

Group bynames make up an anthroponymic category that, along with *nicknames*, pertains to the act of unofficial naming. Speakers decide on the structure of a byname, on the number (from an unlimited inventory) and characteristics of functional components; as regards the act of socialisation, a community does not have to use a certain byname in official name records. The intention that underlies the giving of collective bynames is, on the individual level, to cancel the singularity of a "particular" person and treat him/ her as an item of a series, and, on the group level, to distinguish a micro-community within current, "conventionalised" classifications (the inhabitants of a specific region in the country, in a county and even a village – if the villagers are bynamed as groups) and to define it in relation to *marginal oppositions* – for instance, *susănari*, *josănari*, *pietrişeni* and *câmpeni* (bynames given to the villagers of Bârsana, Maramureş county) based on geographical position.

From the perspective of semantics, group bynames can be associated with individual nicknames; the difference between the two onomastic types lies in the fact that the former is always designed as a plural nominal form (it designates all the members of a community).

Sociolinguistically, group bynames are the expression of the function of clearly distinguishing a community by pointing out its specific features, which are used as typologisation criteria, such as some of the ones mentioned above.

On the discourse level, group bynames are regularly used when the referents are absent, often due to the pejorative meaning that they suggest.

Through the quality of diagnostic indices that group bynames display in the sociocultural and psychological structure of Romanian traditional communities, the inventory of name forms analysed is a valuable corpus that is thus made available to specialists in the fields of history, linguistics and sociology.

ALINA BUGHEŞIU – team member

1. The paper ***Perceptions of Time in Onomastics: Virtual Anthroponymy*** was presented at the Annual Conference of the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Bucharest, *Perceptions of Time*, in November 11–12, 2011. It deals with user names, a fairly recent name pattern that, along with bynames, nicknames and pseudonyms, delineates a special class of personal names: *unconventional anthroponyms*.

As it aims at defining the aforementioned concept, the study presents, from a diachronic perspective, the evolution of the name category analysed, drawing attention to its separation from traditional onomastic classes. At

the same time, by looking at the concept in synchrony, the paper underlines the peculiarities of the formation and behaviour of user names, in relation to the Anglo-American onomastic model that was adopted and/ or adapted in contemporary Romanian cultural and linguistic space, along with the changes brought about by the IT revolution. In view of illustrating the theoretical aspects identified and analysing the socio- and psycholinguistic elements cultivated on the level of usage, the study discusses the material resulting from the application of a questionnaire regarding user names employed for certain socialising programmes or websites. The author's attention is focused on teenagers, as representatives of this age group prove to be enthusiastic and devoted supporters of the type of communication defined by user names, not only in the specific virtual environment, but also, simultaneously, in its everyday occurrences, beyond the computer screen.

2. ***Current Directions in Onomastic Research: User Names*** was presented on the occasion of the 11th International Colloquium of the Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Letters, University of Bucharest: *The Romanian Language: Current Paths in Linguistic Research*, in Bucharest, in December 9–10, 2011. The study starts from the investigation of the present-day context, whose dimensions are essentially defined by the processes triggered by globalisation, with the corresponding linguistic and extralinguistic dimensions being constantly subjected to fundamental re-evaluations and reorganisations. As an alternative for conventional types of communication, the availability of the Internet establishes a new environment for expression, a *virtual* one, which is extremely flexible and adjustable, meant to answer current communication needs.

The implications of virtual communication can be noticed on the level of language, in general (*chat*-like conversations led to significant changes in grammatical structures that traditionally, i.e. conventionally, occur in speech acts), and of onomastics, in particular, by facilitating the appearance of a new name pattern: the *user name*. As this onomastic model is not specific to the autochthonous sociocultural and linguistic reality, the particular features that it develops in contemporary Romanian originate, on the one hand, in the Anglo-American onomastic system from which the pattern of *user names* derives and, on the other, in the intercultural and interlinguistic connections favoured by globalisation and advancements in communication technology. Therefore, the present paper deals with user names from the perspective of language contact, aiming at defining and describing this name pattern based on relevant onomastic material.

GEORGETA RUS – team member

1. The article ***L'anthroponymie présidentielle et politique dans la lignée de la presse satirique française*** [Presidential and political anthroponymy in French satirical press] (published in: Oliviu Felecan (ed.), *Numele și numirea. Actele Conferinței Internaționale de Onomastică. Ediția I Interferențe multietnice în antroponimie, Baia Mare, 19-21 septembrie 2011* [Name and Naming. Proceedings of the First International Conference on Onomastics, Multiethnic Connections in Anthroponymy], Cluj-Napoca, Editura Mega, 2011, p. 251–262) aims at researching and analysing linguistic motivations that underlie bynames and nicknames of French presidents and political figures, using satirical newspapers as the main source.

The first part of the paper deals with the characteristics of a corpus *in extenso* and attempts at answering a number of questions regarding the onomastic role of the bynames selected, also taking into account their onomastic importance and semiotic dimension: who gives these bynames?; why are they given?; how long do they survive?; what are the differences in mentality that can be perceived in the attribution of these names?, and so on.

The second part of the research focuses on data gathered from newspapers issued in the past several months and are related to the French politician Dominique Strauss-Kahn. The lexical analysis was performed comparatively, by looking at names, bynames and/ or nicknames used especially by the French mass media. These examples are analysed from a discursive-pragmatic point of view.

The analysis of the linguistic evolution and variety of the unconventional anthroponyms considered is made according to certain sociolinguistic parameters.

Thus, one can notice that current bynames and nicknames pertain to the linguistic heritage of a society, with slight variances that can be seen across cultures.

Due to the success that unconventional anthroponyms occurring in satirical press enjoy, their use extended and they were borrowed in common language or in different kinds of newspapers. Whereas one of the primordial functions of anthroponyms is to identify bearers, it is clear that, beyond the context of origin, bynames fail to fulfil the above-mentioned task and generate confusion. Nicknames and bynames may be seen as ambitious rebellious acts against governments, signs that express disapproval of political decisions. As such, they behave as additional qualifying markers that locutors employ in highlighting a positive or negative facet in a political figure. As they

reveal the identity of a person, these name forms are subject to semantic evolutions, which are tightly connected with their bearers' social/ political transformation.

2. The study ***L'intercompréhension et le bilinguisme dans la mobilité international*** [Mutual understanding and bilingualism in global mobility] was delivered at The Second International Conference on Romance Studies, organised by the Department of Romance Studies, Faculty of Philosophy, Comenius University of Bratislava, Slovakia.

The study aims at analysing the linguistic behaviour of individuals that have to communicate with one another without speaking each other's language. In this case (the context of global mobility), the author refers especially to interactions between people whose mother tongues are related.

The hypotheses formulated in this study are that persons speaking related languages manage to understand one another and to interact, with each person using his/ her own mother tongue. The language interface does not consist of a common language, although these individuals' maternal languages pertain to the same family. In this situation, one's background cultural knowledge does not influence subsequent linguistic behaviour, and the element that motivates people to make an effort and understand another language is the need to communicate.

In order to verify these hypotheses, the author conducted a two-year research into Romanian business/ economic environment, which is visited by citizens from throughout the European Union. This research consisted of comparative and contrastive analyses.

What is worth noting in this study is that locutors have to observe certain conditions for the exchange of information and ideas to be able to take place as a result of an interaction. At the same time, it is desirable that literary language be used, so as to avoid linguistic blockage, which may be caused by specialised terminology. As regards anthroponymic exchanges, they are determined by constructions provided by one's mother tongue and international name inventories, although difficulties in comprehension may appear, especially in what concerns the masculine/ feminine gender differentiation.

It can be stated that, in the excessively globalised contemporary society, mutual understanding is achieved based on a pattern that facilitates communication despite salient code differences and respects locutors' language peculiarities and multicultural diversity. In the case of speakers of sister languages, the aforementioned phenomenon broadens their linguistic horizons, by introducing interlocutors to each other's culture, in a highly authentic manner, via their maternal language.

3. The author presented the study ***L'identité numérique: aspects concernant les pseudonymes électroniques dans la société française du XXIe siècle*** [Digital identity: aspects regarding electronic pseudonyms in 21st-century French society] on the occasion of the Annual Conference of the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Bucharest, *Perceptions of Time*, in November 11–12, 2011.

In the system of personal names, pseudonyms have got a special linguistic status and discursive role. Situated between identity and freedom of expression, they are defined by a type of dynamic that varies according to the contexts in which pseudonyms are used. As regards the French society, which is dominated by the significant evolution of new technology in recent years, pseudonyms are an expression of the contemporary tendencies recorded by the system of anthroponyms, tendencies that give this system an unconventional nature and open it towards other cultures/ graphic systems.

The present study aims at analysing the proliferation of pseudonyms in the 21st century and the sociolinguistic motivations that underlie the choice of electronic pseudonyms, in general, and of pseudonyms used in the names of blogs, in particular.

The corpus of anthroponyms is analysed from a typological, social and generational perspective, in view of establishing the principle that governs users' choices of pseudonyms, along with the importance and endurance of these language products in the variability that defines digital/ electronic systems.

As they are extremely heteroclite, pseudonyms may be seen as linguistic signs that testify to the anthroponymic evolution of the French society and culture.

Thus, this research provides a unitary analysis of this branch of onomastics, as it discusses the factors that underlie its existence and its effects on the language system.

4. The study ***Aspects de la dynamique des «anthroponymes électroniques» dans la société française d'aujourd'hui: enjeux et perspectives linguistiques*** [Aspects of the dynamic of "electronic anthroponyms" in contemporary French society: linguistic stakes and perspectives] was presented at the 11th International Colloquium of the Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Letters, University of Bucharest: *The Romanian Language: Current*

Paths in Linguistic Research, in Bucharest, in December 9–10, 2011. It deals with certain anthroponymic structures (user names) employed in e-mail addresses in contemporary French society.

The first part of the paper aims at classifying the onomastic categories found in French virtual space and the name patterns that define each of these categories. At the same time, the analysis deals with the act of naming oneself and its effect on the system of anthroponymy.

Subsequently, the study focuses on the distribution of the indices of individual identification in various contexts and the relationships between these indices, such as age, field of activity, level of education and choice of digital anthroponyms.

The illustrative material consists of a rich corpus of e-mail addresses used in French space. Another aim in the author's research was to analyse the linguistic structure and trace the pragmatic motivations that define the onomastic terms of reference.

Taking into consideration the activity presented above, we believe that we have fulfilled the objectives we had set for the first period of our research project.

Project manager,

Associate Professor Daiana Felecan, PhD