

**Ionel Apostolatu, *Analogia – factor de organizare lexico-gramaticală. Cu privire la limba română*, Casa Cărții de Știință, Cluj-Napoca, 2013, 389 p.**

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The book published by Ionel Apostolatu in one of the most representative publishing houses in Cluj-Napoca has long been awaited by the Romanian linguists, as they generally used to interpret analogical language facts following not so recent theoretical works published abroad, which had not laid too much emphasis on the Romanian language and its peculiarities.

Undoubtedly, we must admit, from the very beginning, that the topic discussed (the book represents a revised version of Ionel Apostolatu’s PhD thesis, which was publicly defended at the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, under the supervision of PhD Professor Stelian Dumistrăcel) was not so easy to deal with, especially because the interest of the Romanian specialists in clarifying some aspects concerning analogy had not always been constant, sufficient and efficient.

Therefore, by enhancing the value of the ideas presented in theoretical linguistic studies, Ionel Apostolatu succeeds in rendering a complex and well-defined study, reflecting a good sense of the Romanian language realities. In this respect, Ionel Apostolatu warns us in the *Foreword* about his intentions to approach analogy from a double perspective: “*on the one hand, from a theoretical one, aiming at clarifying and systemizing the concept and term of «analogy», taking into consideration the various significances given in the specialist literature along the time, despite all the controversies related to the different interpretations of this phenomenon, and, on the other hand, from a demonstrative-analytical one, which is meant to emphasize the effective way in which analogy functions in language as a process, applicative to the Romanian language material*” (p. 9).

The *Foreword* (p. 9–16) plays the role of clarifying some concerns about analogy, anticipating the guiding lines of the study and offering us multiple

investigating perspectives as well as bibliographical ones. The research conducted can be included within the synthetic studies domain, which deals with various intricate language facts, involving not only the diachronic and synchronic perspectives, but also the author’s ability to select representative language facts.

From the very first pages of the first chapter (17–141), it can be easily noticed that Ionel Apostolatu is very knowledgeable about the subject matter he deals with, and his frequent in-goings into the history of linguistic ideas help him throw light on some aspects related to the theoretical framework. We have also noticed the vast knowledge of general linguistics and philosophy of language, which proves very helpful to deeply understand the chosen topic. In the author’s view, the basic concepts of analogy should be traced back to the Ancient Times (Plato, Heraclitus, Varro, etc.) and the eras and cultural trends to come, among which the most representative ones are The Enlightenment (Rousseau, Diderot, Du Marsais, Smith, etc.) and (Post-)romanticism (Grimm, Bopp, Curtius, Osthoff, Brugman).

Apart from these primary sources, the modern ones from the 20<sup>th</sup> century are also present (Vendryes, Martinet, Coșeriu, etc.). In his approach, Ionel Apostolatu does not only simply present the theories of his forerunners, but he also attempts to criticize or assimilate them, with the clear-cut purpose to build a system of his own meant to help him relevantly analyze Romanian language facts, especially those which had been (or still are) commonly placed by many specialists within the analogy framework.

All these preliminary bibliographical insights allowed the author to thoroughly define the domain of analogy and pay special attention at the end of the chapter to the Romanian contributions to theorizing or explaining some language facts by means

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of analogy (3.2. *A short survey on the reception of the concept of «analogy» in Romanian linguistics and the importance given to the phenomenon in the specialist literature*), whereby he attempts to reflect the way in which the 19<sup>th</sup> century Romanian scholars understand, explain and apply analogy in linguistics. Although the first occurrences of the term *analogy* in the Romanian context are not registered in the works of linguistics (but only in mathematics, philosophy, logics, pedagogy), the author still succeeds in grasping its technical uses.

The close examination of the Romanian grammar works from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (the so-called *Forty-Eight Era*) allows the Galati linguist to state that “the first occurrence of the term *analogy* bearing the linguistic technical meaning in the Romanian specialist literature is found in August Treboniu Laurian’s *Tentamen Criticum*, the most subjective Romanian grammar, contaminated by etymology, in which there is an attempt to make an ideal reconstruction of the Romanian language, in a form considered pure by the author” (p. 118).

Treboniu Laurian will be followed by a series of other Romanian linguists and philologists (Timotei Cipariu, Aron Pumnul, Bogdan Petriceicu-Hasdeu, Lambrior, Lazăr Șăineanu, Philippide, Sextil Pușcariu, Al. Graur), which made use of analogy to explain a certain form or regularization in the system of language. All these authors, along with their fundamental contributions, are mentioned by Ionel Apostolatu, who concludes the first chapter by stating that: “Romanian linguists proved to be quite interested in the analogy issue, avoiding any extremist attitudes, which occurred in the European linguistics during the 19<sup>th</sup> century (and even later), towards the effects of this phenomenon, many of them appreciating it in its proper value and attributing it an important role in the language creation and systematization process, as well as within the entire creative manifestations of the speaking individuals” (p. 141).

The second chapter (*The mechanism of analogy and its manifestations at different levels of Romanian language*) brings light to the way in which analogy („an analogical form represents, therefore, a form (re)built after the model of one or more forms, according to some determined rules”) works within the Romanian language system, mainly insisting upon the effects of analogy as it works at different language levels: the phonetic one (the form *mîine* with

an analogical *i* for the plural *mîine*); the morphological one (*soră* – *surori*, generating the plural *sore* “nurse” by means of analogy); the lexical one (nouns like *crîșmăriță* “innkeeper woman”, *morăriță* “miller woman” functioned as models for other nouns such as *bancheriță* “banker woman”, *barmaniță* „barmaid”, etc.).

This chapter also includes some normative considerations, carefully discussed based on DOOM 2 (the second edition of *The Orthographic, Orthoepic and Morphological Dictionary* of Romanian language), which are intended to highlight the relationship established between the standard language norm and analogy, the latter also being responsible for “the establishment of some rules on the basis which the principles of the contemporary Romanian orthography function” (p. 170).

The third part of the study (*Analogy – the force mechanism of lexical creativity*) is entirely dedicated to the Romanian vocabulary, the most dynamic language section, wide open to multiple innovations caused by analogy. Perhaps, vocabulary is the only domain in contemporary Romanian where analogy controls and rules almost exclusively and where deviations and innovative creations alternate (see subchapter 2. *Lexical analogy – between deviation and linguistic creativity*). To support his hypothesis, Ionel Apostolatu brings into discussion a series of current language facts (especially different derivative patterns, out of which we can mention the spread and function of the Romanian suffix *-(i)adă*: *baroniadă*, *dosariadă*, *mizeriadă*, etc.), which sustains the author’s option for the theories taken into discussion in this chapter.

In the fourth chapter (*Analogy – a regularization factor in grammar*), Ionel Apostolatu makes both a diachronic and synchronic analysis of the way in which analogy functioned in the Romanian language along the time (from Latin to Old Romanian and also in modern times) and what consequences it had in stabilizing the grammatical system (be it nominal or verbal).

The “resettlement” of nominal and verbal inflections was caused by “the action of three categories of factors: phonetic changes, analogy and the tendency to change the synthetic forms with analytical ones” (p. 228). Although most of the aspects investigated (for example, the reduction of the number of noun declensions in Romanian—p. 235–242; innovations

or simplification of the verbal system—p. 256–288) had been interpreted before, from a different perspective, in specialist literature, the author has the merit of putting them in a different light, which helps him examine the phenomenon of analogy and adequately build up the chosen linguistic theory.

The fifth and last chapter (*Unsystematic manifestations of analogy*) focuses on the analysis of a series of linguistics phenomena closely related to the mechanism of analogy as functioning within the language system, along with contamination, hypercorrection and folk etymology, each of them being initially a sort of deviation from the language system, but with a strong presence in different periods or in different situations, a major role being undoubtedly played by the individual speaker, who, for various reasons, makes use (consciously or not) of mentioned phenomena. This final chapter offers us again a moderate theorizing and an objective selection of examples, which provide a pleasant reading and a rapid assimilation of information.

The concise *Conclusions* summarize the issues discussed by the author and points out the study's strength, which, in our opinion, will certainly become a true landmark for the description of language facts from past to present. We may say that we had in front of us a book full of linguistic lessons, with clear examples, easy to read and keep in mind. The details offered by the author were illustrative and the reasoning, sober and well-informed. We constantly noticed the author's desire to cover all aspects and get the most out of the ideas widespread in the specialist bibliography.

We believe that the Galati linguist's study will not remain without an echo in interpreting the Romanian language facts and that we are actually dealing with a mature philologist who knows how to filter the assimilated information and, when necessary, to critically analyse it. His book is undoubtedly a valuable one and will open up new paths of research in both theoretical and applied linguistics.