

Summary

The thesis entitled *Diminutives and Augmentatives in Contemporary Romanian Language and their Stylistic Use* is focused on determining a classification which could describe every stylistic function of expressive words. The method I chose was to analyze three stylistic areas, create lists of expressive words with context and evaluate the results. From the beginning, it was evident that there were many connections between diminutives, augmentatives on one part and pejoratives on the other. That is a reason why I extended this thesis to cover also pejorative words.

Firstly, I would like to describe the structure of this study. I decided to divide it into two parts.

The first one is theoretical (1.0), and its aim is to synthesize information about suffix derivation and about diminutives, augmentatives and pejoratives in the Romanian language. In different linguistic studies, we find different classifications of observed suffixes and also their different quantities. Having reviewed these linguistic studies, I chose one which I found the best organized and, based on my own analysis, I also added some observations regarding the theory (2.4.5). Basically, there are two more suffixes which should be classified as diminutive (-eț, -ușă) and two as augmentative (-ime, -andru). Next theoretical topic to elaborate was stylistics (1.3.1) and definition of functional styles of the stylistic areas observed in the practical part. The part about stylistics is mostly taken from Czech professional studies.

The second part is practical (2.0). As outlined above, the method consisted of an analysis of three stylistic areas: Children's Literature, Cookbooks and Journalism after the year 1989. For each stylistic area, I created a list of expressive words (diminutives, augmentatives, pejoratives) with their contexts. During this work, I tried to assign next to the words a mark describing the stylistic function of the given words within the context. After having summarized all the data, I obtained information about how often the stylistic function appeared with the particular observed suffix in the lexicon of a stylistic area

(2.4.1). The lists of observed expressions with their context are placed as Supplements 1-3 at the end of the document.

What is also located at the end of the thesis is Boundary Topics (2.5.1), mostly describing those words which seem to be expressive (it means have the relevant suffix) but in fact they are not.

Before starting this study, I was searching for other classifications regarding the same insight and I found only one wrote by I. CONDREA¹. After that, I suggested my own classification which I also compared with her study (2.3.1) concluding that the used method was different in each of the studies.

The classification of suffixes according to their syntactic function:

1) Diminutives (2.2.3)

- a) denote a person, object or animal of smaller dimension or in case of characteristics less of attributed quality;
- b) generally represents more expression, more importance, or in case of characteristics more of attributed quality;
- c) denotes an object or person as more pretty, beautiful, endearing, or in the case of meals more tasty;
- d) indicates familiarity, it means that the diminutive word denotes known person alternatively animal, or the expression has to create impression, that exists some emotional relationship warranting the author to use those particular expressions;
- e) assigns the sense of insignificance, negligibility or lower quality.

2) Augmentatives (2.2.4)

- a) denotes person, object or animal of bigger dimensions or more of described characteristic;
- b) generally assigns accent on characteristic, without being more, or accent on object without being bigger then the original word;
- c) collective, indicates disordered group, more original words together.

3) Pejoratives (2.2.5)

¹ CONDREA I., Valori stilistice ale formelor diminutivale. Revista Limba Română, 2007, roč. 17, č.7-9.

My opinion is that these words express only one stylistic function. The objective of use of this expressions is, in most cases, to create an accent on the utterance because the pejorative sense is usually already present in the radical of the word.

The results obtained from three lists of words are the following.

In the stylistic area – Children’s Literature - I discovered that for diminutives, the more used stylistic function is bigger expressivity (38,73%), then we have mark of smaller dimension (23,94%) and of prettiness (20,07%). Familiarity had 15,84% and as a last was sense of insignificance (1,40%). Total count of found expressions was 284. For augmentatives, the marks of bigger dimensions (36,37%) and of bigger accent (36,37%) are balanced, but the collective sense is little bit less used (27,27%). Total count of found expressions was 11. In this stylistic area, 23 pejoratives were found and the stylistic function was mentioned above.

The second observed stylistic area - Literature about preparing meals – had in the case of diminutives only two stylistic functions. Sense of smaller dimensions (95,34%) and bigger expressivity (4,65%). Augmentatives and pejoratives were not present in these texts. The number of identified expressions was 43. The result indicates the fact that it is a literature in which it is necessary to be exact and not expressive.

The last observed area was Journalism. During the researches, I tried to look up articles of every sector. I found 30 diminutives and the most frequent stylistic function was mark of smaller dimension (43%), one word less had mark of bigger expressivity (40%). Equal were mark of prettiness and familiarity (6,66%) and with only one word sense of insignificance (3,33%). In the texts, I found no augmentative and only 6 pejorative expressions which were used based on the personal judgement of the author. It means that in this stylistic area, pejorative and diminutive expressions are still in use.

This thesis proposes new classification of diminutive and augmentative suffixes using manually collected database. In case it would be elaborated on electronic linguistic corpus it could be even more exact. But the problematic part will always be evaluation of stylistic function of the word in context. In every case it would be interesting to analyze the absolute occurrence of observed suffixes in different stylistic areas and for that study

would be an electronic data corpus very useful. In every case it would be interesting matter to elaborate.