

Assessment of the License dissertation by Mrs.

Eliška Michlová

**Slovanská slova v rumunštině: Porovnání jejich významu v češtině a rumunštině**

*Slavic words in Romanian:*

*Meaning changes in Romanian compared to meaning changes in Czech*

conf. Ph. dr. Dan Ungureanu

The dissertation *Slavic words in Romanian. Meaning changes in Romanian compared to meaning changes in Czech*, by Mrs. Eliška Michlová, belongs to classical Historical Linguistics. It is a comparison of semantic changes between proto-Slavic and Czech, and between proto-Slavic and Romanian.

**The structure of the dissertation**

The introduction contains a short history of Romanian, and a list of languages who gave lexical loanwords to Romanian, in chronological order. It is followed by a synthetic description of the Slavic linguistic family.

The work itself contains a short methodology and a lexical corpus of Slavic loanwords in Romanian. The semantic differences between Czech and Romanian are discussed.

It is generally known and accepted that Romanian has an old layer of Slavic loanwords – both phonetically and semantically, these words may be said to belong to (not yet) undifferentiated Slavic. A later layer shows phonetical and semantical changes characteristic for Bulgarian.

*baltă* s.f. x *blata* s.f.

*basm* s.n. x *báseň* s.f.

*băjenie* s.f. x *běžení* s.n.

The dissertation should have avoided late loanwords on methodological grounds. *balalajka* for instance has entered both Romanian and Czech in the XIX-th century, and therefore underwent no semantic changes.

We have four main cases : both Romanian and Czech kept the original meaning ; both diverged ; a semantic change appeared in Romanian; a semantic change appeared in Czech.

The dissertation compares only contemporary Czech and contemporary Romanian. A deeper study should have indicated the period when the semantic change occurred. For many words, especially in Romanian, we lack a longer chain of textual occurrence, and therefore we cannot pinpoint accurately the century when the semantic shift occurred. For others we do. But such a work would imply a bigger research effort,

perhaps better adapted to a Ph. D. thesis, a bigger research team, a bigger corpus and more resources than our candidate had at her disposal. This dissertation opens the road to a broader field of research, and we hope that the slow publication of the Romanian Etymological Dictionary by the Romanian Academy will foster and further the research in this area.

We consider that the dissertation satisfies the academic requirements and recommend that the candidate be awarded the degree of Licence.

I assess the work as being very good (2).

29 August 2017

Dan Ungureanu