

## PHRASEOLOGICAL ANTONYMY IN ROMANIAN. THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

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**Abstract:** In this paper we intend to draw attention upon phraseological antonymy, by highlighting some theoretical and practical issues, particularly since the idea of the occurrence of the phenomenon of antonymy in phraseology was initially rejected; consequently, there are few studies which cover this type of antonymy. The research of the antonymic relationships at the level of the phraseological units was conducted on the basis of semantic, structural, stylistic and functional principles, which has allowed to come up with a typology of phraseological antonyms. At the same time, according to the latest trends in linguistics, in the present analysis I have also looked at extra-linguistic aspects (logical, psychological, cognitive, cultural etc). My research reveals that the antonymic opposition in phraseology is not to be overlooked, but, on the contrary, that a lexicographic database of phraseological antonyms becomes a necessity.

**Keywords:** phraseological units, phraseological antonymy, typology, inter-phraseological antonyms, intra-phraseological antonyms

### 1. Introduction

In what concerns the syntagmatic, the discursive dimension and especially the cultural-cognitive, phraseology has recently recorded a very productive period, since specialists in the field have been ardently researching this topic in line with the interdisciplinary approach. This study can be positioned along the lines of the interdisciplinary approach as well, in an attempt to comprehend the phenomenon of antonymy at phraseological level.

In Romania, phraseology as an “independent branch of linguistics” has started to develop in the 80s. There are many Romanian linguists and researchers who are worth mentioning for their valuable contributions to this complex domain, such are: B.P. Hasdeu, Al. Philippide, L. Șăineanu, I.-A. Candrea, I. Iordan, Florica Dimitrescu, Th. Hristea, St. Dumistrăcel, Gh. Colțun, L. Groza etc. In the beginning, the study of phraseology focused predominantly on the structural semantic analysis and the contrastive approach (Hristea 1984, Dumistrăcel 1980, Avădanei 2000, Zaharescu 2007, Scherf 2010 *et al.*). More recent direction are the integral approach, in the Coserian tradition, which relies on the understanding of the functions of phraseological units in “repeated discourse” (Dumistrăcel 2011, Munteanu 2007, Savin 2012 etc.), as well as the culturological approach, in an attempt to decode the culture-specific of idioms (Cojocaru 2004, Țaran 2009, 2010 etc).

Starting from the 90s, E.N. Miller (1990:186) has drawn attention upon the need to investigate the phenomenon of antonymy at phraseological level and consequently upon the necessity of a dictionary of phraseological antonyms.

## 2. Theoretical Background

It is rather difficult to define the *phraseological unit* (PU) and *phraseology*, in general, due to their complex nature. Certain aspects regarding the PU should be clarified, however; the phrases “phraseological unit”, “phraseological constructions”, “collocations”, “fixed structures” and the words “phraseologism” and “phraseme” used in different papers in the field are considered in the present research as generic terms and somewhat synonymic, referring to all phraseologisms or any phraseological construction. However, it is understood that these terms are not fully synonymic, but drawing clear distinctions among these concepts is avoided since my goal is to identify the antonymic relationship between all kinds of multi-word units. Regarding the “idiomatic expressions” or “idioms” I adopt R.A. Budagov’s point of view (2003:124-126), who claims that these type of multi-word units cannot be translated *literally*, but they have to be understood as fixed word structures, “indestructible” due to the complete loss of individual lexical meanings of their components and the accumulation of a unitary, global meaning, a *phraseological/idiomatic meaning*<sup>i</sup>, which could only result at the level of the construction as a whole. In the following examples, I have added in brackets the translation of the idiomatic meaning of the Romanian PUs, an equivalent PU in English often being complicated to find, as they are culturally-specific:

- (1) *La Paștele cailor* (“never”), *de florile cucului* (“useless”), *la dracu-n praznic* (“far away”), *a-i sări muștarul* (“to get angry”), *a-și lua inima în dinți* (“to dare”), *a umbla cu capul în traistă* (“to be careless”), *a-și lua lumea-n cap* (“to leave”), *a fi tămâie* (“unwise”), *a mânca cu ochii* (“to crave”), *a înveli tăciunele* (“to leave, to elude”), *din topor* (“rude”), *coadă de topor* (“spy, snitch”), *cu traista-n băț* (“poor”), *Soarbe-zeamă* (“foolish, weak man”), *Zgârie-brânză* (“miser”) (MDER 2011).

In this article PUs are viewed as fixed constructions (1), “extremely suggestive, semantically opaque word combinations, with global meaning” (my translation from Sârbu-Lungoci, 2006:44), but also as fixed structures, with a strong predisposition to develop a phraseological or idiomatic nature (3). Thus a broader view of what represents a phraseological construction or phraseme is adopted, since my goal has not been to delineate rigorously such units.

Studies related to the phenomenon of antonymy in phraseology have been carried out by Russian specialists such as: A.I. Molotkov, A.I. Aliokhina, A.M. Emirova, N.F. Alefirenko, E.R. Mardieva *et al.* In Romanian linguistics, phraseological antonymy has come under consideration much later, starting with Gh. Colțun (1999), Gh. Bârlea (1999), L. Groza (2011), thus the theoretical background of this research refers predominantly to the above-mentioned works. Concerning the existence of phraseological antonymy there have been contradictory views, since some researchers claim that it is not a typical phenomenon or it is a very rare one (*cf.* Miller, 1978:53). This view can be argued against, since PUs lie at the intersection of lexis, grammar and syntax; they may behave like lexemes, therefore they have antonyms, synonyms, polysemes and even homonyms. Yet, *phrasemes* are not equivalent of *lexemes*. The *word* is a notion with multiple denotational and connotational meanings, while the PU often implies only one meaning from this semantic plethora. In addition, the

phraseological meaning is rather related to the connotational, figurative meaning, than to the referential, denotational one (cf. Alefirenko 2009). Metaphorization, metonymization and abstraction generally, take a leading role in the process of semantic expansion, engaging cognitive processes which provide a linguistic-cognitive conceptualization and categorization. As a result, the speaker, easily, often spontaneously, identifies and uses in discourse certain syntagmatic constituents; for example *water* as a syntagmatic constituent for the following multi-word units (in Romanian “*apă*”):

- (2) “*apă limpede*”, “*apă turbure*”, “*apă de băut*”, “*apă potabilă*”, “*apă plată*”, “*apă minerală*”, “*apă vie*”, “*apă moartă*”, “*apă de ploaie*”, “*a căra apă cu ciurul*”, “*a-i lăsa gura apă*”, “*a intra la apă*”, “*a nu avea nici după ce bea apă*”, “*a se simți ca peștele în apă*” etc. [in English: drinking water, fresh water, salt water, still water, mineral water, running water, spring water, tap water, toilet water, take to sth. like a duck to water, like a fish out of water, muddy the waters, blood is thicker than water etc.].

As seen in (2), it is clear that these are frames, pre-existent to the moment of their use in discourse, the speaker intuitively choosing a multi-word unit from his own lexical inventory, depending on the communicative goal and according to certain emotional, social or other factors.

In the present study the quasi-synonymic syntagms *phraseological antonym* (later referred to as PA) and *antonymic phraseme* are adopted to designate the presence of antonymic constructions *between* and *within* PUs. In Romanian linguistics, the syntagm “phraseological antonym” appears in the works of G. Colțun (1999), of Gh. Bârlea (1999), of C. Moroianu (2008). The Romanian linguist L. Groza (2011:92) refers to “pairs of phraseological units with opposite meanings” (my translation), distinguishing only PAs with symmetrical structure<sup>ii</sup> (in my interpretation). In Russian linguistics we have identified a typology of the PA, which comprises two categories: “odnostructurnye antonymy” (with the identical structure) and “raznostructurnye antonymy” (with a distinct structure) (cf. Emirova, 2008:45).

### 3. Resources used

The following lexicographic works *Marele dicționar de expresii românești* (MDER) [*The Great Dictionary of Romanian Expressions*], M. Bucă (2011), *Dicționarul de antonime* [*Dictionary of Antonyms*], M. Bucă (2008), *Dicționarul frazeologic al limbii române* [*A Phraseological Dictionary of Romanian Language*], M. Tomici (2009), *Dicționarul frazeologic român-sârb. 55500 de unități frazeologice* [*The Romanian-Serbian Phraseological Dictionary. 55000 phraseological units*], M. Tomici (2012) and the empirically collected data have enabled the analysis and classification of PAs.

### 4. Objectives

The purpose of the present study is to identify the logical-semantic oppositions at phraseological level. On the basis of certain linguistic principles and a corpus selected from dictionaries, as well as from empirically collected data, a classification model of PAs, occurring both between PUs and within PUs, is suggested.

## 5. Methodology

In the identification of PA, we mainly followed the semantic, structural, stylistic and functional principles of lexical antonyms (see Sârbu 1977). At the same time, according to recent directions in linguistics, by underlining the close connection between reality, reasoning and language, the present research takes into consideration the extra-linguistic aspects (logical, psychological, cognitive-emotional, cultural, social, religious, etc.), which have been contributing to the rigid systemization of antonyms, in general, and PAs in particular, but mostly to their contextualization. Thus, I have chosen to focus upon highlighting some theoretical and practical aspects regarding the antonymic opposition in phraseology, using the descriptive-semantic method and instruments specific to discourse analysis.

## 6. Our study

Findings reveal that PAs are easier to identify and assimilate. Such is the case of lexical antonyms, given the fact that antonyms are the linguistic expression of logical thinking (Bally) and that, according to psycholinguistic experiences, “contrast takes precedence” (Sârbu, 1977:73-82). Simultaneously, verifying the principle of “reciprocal presupposition” or of “reciprocal attraction” defined by M. Bucă (1976:146) and considered by him an “essential particularity” of antonyms, we claim that this principle also lies at the basis of many PAs, similarly to lexical antonyms:

- (3) *cu inimă grea – cu inimă ușoară, de nivel superior – de nivel inferior, cu nasul în jos – cu nasul în sus, a fi binevoitor – a fi răuvoitor* etc. [kind-hearted – cold-hearted]

Consequently, lexical antonyms and phraseological antonyms are involved simultaneously in building the system of the antonymic opposites, fusing and cooperating to build the systemic relation, generally through the occurrence of canonical antonyms within the PUs, and to underline the functional-syntagmatic characteristics of antonymic pair.

We agree with L. Groza (2011:92), who claims that some PAs occur “almost naturally”. The antonymic relation relies either on logical-contextual oppositions: “*a spăla rufele în familie – a spăla rufele în public*” (in this case it relies on intensity, the close network of the family, as opposed to the larger context of the public), or the attraction between canonical antonyms (3). There is also reference to “antonymic substitution” (Groza, 2011:89), which we consider a type of phraseological variation. Thus we could speak about *antonymic variation* (3) in the case of PAs, in a similar way to “synonymic or parasynonymic variation” (Bernet in Groza 2011:88), or “*variation that synonymizes*”<sup>iii</sup> (Munteanu 2007).

Some PAs may result from plays on words. The play on words can occur in various contexts, from folklore to contemporary discourse, its main intention being the playfulness, the humour, the anecdote, the irony, the sarcasm, the expressiveness. The play on words, based on antonymy I shall call *antonymic play on words* or *play on*

words based on contrast, its purpose being to add to the vitality, the sagacity of discourse. To illustrate, consider the following example “Puterea opoziției și opoziția Puterii” from the Romanian media discourse (Zafiu, 2001:22-23). Also pertaining to the play on words we can mention the so-called “occasional phraseology”<sup>iv</sup>, relying on antonymic substitution (Dinova 2011), through the substitution of some PUs with elements, that allow this type of change, the result often being quite spectacular: “*lumina* din capătul tunelului → *întunericul* din capătul tunelului” [*light* at the end of the tunnel → *darkness* at the end of the tunnel]. For example, the PU *gol pușcă* (\*gun naked) substituted by *îmbrăcat pistol*’ (\*pistol dressed) can lead to creating a phraseological synonymy based on antonymic pairs: *gol* vs. *îmbrăcat* (\*naked vs. dressed), *pușcă* vs. *pistol* (\*gun vs. pistol).

We consider the active nature of PAs as a very important characteristic; the main function of PAs at the level of discourse being to structure it; thus we believe that some PAs are *discourse structuring units*. To illustrate we will present a series of utterances, which belong to either the journalistic discourse (mostly television channels), or the literary discourse.

- (4) “Câștigătorul Eurovision România vine să comenteze *la cald* rezultatul obținut și să analizeze *la rece* șansele la finala Eurovision 2013” (March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013, TVR 1 Channel); “un berbecuț *cu minimul de mijloace* și *cu maximul de Savoare*” (March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Kanal D Channel); “*laptele conform* să fi intrat în contaminare cu *laptele neconform*” (March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013, TVR 1 Channel); “*fiul risipitor* – va spune eminentul savant – se întoarce ca *fiu adunător*” (NRF, 1-2); “pentru cei de afară e o cifră obișnuită, ca oricare alta. *Nici mai bună, nici mai rea.*” (ND:38); “*nici vii*, cu sânge pulsând în vene, *nici stafii*” (ND:67); “*intră-n grabă, ies-n grabă*” (ND:68); “*ei fac rău* involuntar, încercând să *facă bine*” (ND:210); “*femeia care i-a fost alături la bine și la rău*” (ND:214).

The intense study of antonymic pairs in discourse is the main focus of a number of lexicologists, grouped around S. Jones and Lynne Murphy, whose research findings are particularly notable. In a similar study Lynne Murphy (2006) rightfully claims that the antonymic pair has both a paradigmatic nature, and a syntagmatic one, referring to it as “antonymic construction”<sup>vi</sup>. In other words, the researcher includes some multi-word units which are referred to as PAs in this study, in the category of “antonymic construction”, more specifically, it is the case of the *intra-phraseological antonyms* (10): “rich and poor”; “from rich to poor”; but also of the *inter-phraseological antonyms with symmetrical structure* (8): “black market – white market”; “black people – white people”; “black coffee – white coffee”.

In my opinion antonymic relationships in phraseology can occur between PUs (8), between global phraseological meanings (9), but also within a single PU (10) (of which it can be said that a certain antonymic pattern was followed in order for it to be built), through the emergence of canonical antonyms within the PU or through the presence of syntagmatic constituents. The phraseological meanings which lie in opposition, or contrast shall be called in the present research *phraseological antonymic meanings*.

Building on the findings of the Romanian linguist R. Sârbu (1977:154-155) regarding the features of lexical antonyms, we can establish the following characteristics of PAs<sup>vii</sup>:

- Phraseological antonymic meanings can occur along a certain semantic dimension; for example, regarding “feelings” there is the opposition:
- (5) “*a privi cu dragoste – a privi cu ură*” [with love in his/her eyes – with hatred in his/her eyes];
- Phraseological meaning could be the result of an expressive antonymic pattern and then we talk about *intra-phraseological antonymy* (10);
  - PAs may belong to the same semantic field, for example referring to “physical strength”:
- (6) (*puternic) ca un taur– (slab) ca o mătă* [strong as a horse – weak as kitten];
- PAs follow the same syntactic structure, with a tendency towards a certain structural-syntactic pattern (C);
  - PAs generally have a symmetrical structure (3), (5) or asymmetrical (9);
  - PAs belong to the same part of speech, for example the adjective (6), having the syntactic function of the equivalent part of speech;
  - PAs can be polysemantic: (a fi) “*cu judecată = a) cu bun simț; b) cu tact; c) cu măsură; priceput, e) serios; (a fi) fără judecată = a) lipsit de tact; b) superficial; c) prost (MDER: 204)*”. But PAs occur only in case there exists antonymic opposition at a certain semantic level, and we do not necessarily consider all the meanings these PUs can have as a whole;
  - PAs may build phraseological synsemic series, similarly to the synsemic series of lexical antonyms (Sârbu-Kiraly 1979):
- (7) *slab ca un țâr (ca o scoabă, ca o scândură, ca un ogar, ca o scârleică)* (colloq., inf., dial.), *gras ca scripca* (dial.), *a fi gras de-i numeri coastele, numai piele și os, numai oase înșirate, numai sufletul în oase, cu obrazul supt, cu pântecele lipit de coaste – gras ca un pepene (ca o batoză), cât un mal, cât o casă, cât un tanc, gros la ceafă, cu ceafa groasă, rotund ca o minge* (colloq., inf.) etc.
- The phraseological antonymic meanings are preserved in the case of phraseological derivatives<sup>viii</sup>: *lua-re-aminte – uitare de sine, a lua aminte – a uita de sine, de luat aminte – de uitat*; consequently we can speak about phraseological derivational antonymic blocks, following the model of lexical antonyms established by R. Sârbu (1982);
  - PAs have identical stylistic features and belong to the same register (7);
  - PAs may occur in any functional discourse: scientific – *tumoare malignă – tumoare benignă, temperatură ridicată – temperatură scăzută*; legal-administrative (*a lua mită – a da mită*) and mostly colloquial, journalistic and literary (3), (5), (6), (7), (9), (10);
  - PAs are privileged in that they also have a stylistic dimension, forming stylistic PAs (D);
  - Some PA are *discourse structuring units*, by ensuring semantic coherence and cohesion: *în primul rând – în ultimul rând, pe de o parte parte – pe de cealaltă parte, în sens restrâns – în sens larg, în sens propriu – în sens figurat* [first of all – last but not least, speaking in general – speaking in particular, proper meaning – figurative meaning].



## 7. Results

By considering various linguistic criteria and the above-mentioned characteristics of PA, but also the logical-semantic opposition of utterances, we propose a number of classifications. It must be mentioned that this research did not focus on antonymic relations only from a strictly linguistic logical, ontological perspective, but also from a metasemiotic one:

A. According to the structural-semantic criterion two main categories can be distinguished: *inter-phraseological antonymy* and *intra-phraseological antonymy*.

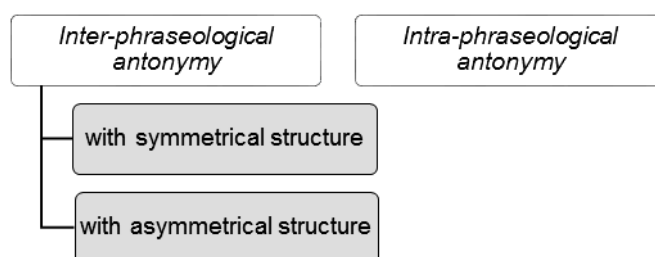


Figure 1. Phraseological Antonymy

- *Inter-phraseological Antonymy:*
  - *with symmetrical structure:*

(8) *semn bun – semn rău, tumoare malignă – tumoare benignă, a lua cu binele – a lua cu răul, a câștiga teren – a pierde teren* [good omen – ill omen, malignant tumour – benign tumour]
  - *with asymmetrical structure:*

(9) *a ciuguli ca o vrăbiuță – a mânca cât șapte, a avea o povară pe suflet – a fi liber ca pasărea cerului* [with a heavy heart – free as a bird]
- *Intra-phraseological Antonymy:*

(10) *a fugi de naiba și a da de dracu, a turna vinul nou în sticle vechi, nici bine, nici rău, (a trăi) ca câinele și pisica, a se afla între ciocan și nicovală, totul sau nimic, și tânăr și bătrân, cu trup și suflet, de-a lungul și de-a latul, a spune verzi și uscate* [new wine in old bottles, to be penny wise and pound foolish]

B. According to the morphological-grammatical principle we distinguish:

| According to the morphological-grammatical criterion | Examples  |
|--|---|
| Verbal PAs   | <i>a intra în modă – a ieși din modă, a crește în greutate – a scădea în greutate, a da cinstea și pacea pe gâlceavă</i> [to gain weight – to lose weight]        |
| Nominal PAs  | <i>Lumea Veche – Lumea Nouă, Armata Roșie – Armata Albă, sexul tare – sexul slab, film de scurt-metraj – film de lung-metraj, [the Old World – the New World]</i> |
| Adjectival PAs                                       | <i>alb ca zăpada – negru ca smoala, greu de cap – cap luminat,</i>  |

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
|                    | <i>larg la suflet – mic la suflet [in good faith – in bad faith]</i>  |
| Adverbial PAs      | <i>cu inima ușoară – cu inima grea, la răsărit – la apus, cu gust – fără gust, de bun-gust – de prost-gust, în toane bune – în toane rele [light-heartedly – heavy-heartedly]</i> |
| Prepositional PAs  | <i>în (cu) față – în (cu) spatele (dosul), din spate (din dos) – din față, de-a lungul și de-a latul, în lung și-n lat [from end to end]</i>                                      |
| Interjectional PAs | <i>unul hăis și celălalt cea; cu câr, cu mâr</i>  |

C. According to the structural, morphosyntactic criterion, resorting to the classification of the discursive connectors (Borchin, 2007:78-79) and adopting the syntagm of “antonymic differentiator” (our translation) of the researcher A.I. Aliokhina (1968:8), which designates the formal-semantic marker of antonymic relations within PA, the following typology can be observed:

| According to the structural and morphosyntactic criteria        | Morphosyntactic marker  | Example   |
|---|---|---|
| <i>Inter-phraseological antonyms with symmetrical structure</i> | Verbal antonymic differentiator   | <i>a avea speranță – a pierde speranța, a purta o mască – a arunca masca, a-și păstra calmul – a-și pierde calmul [to keep one's temper – to lose one's temper]</i>   |
|   | Nominal antonymic differentiator  | <i>a trăi în dușmănie – a trăi în prietenie, a trăi în libertate – a trăi în sclavie; a simți simpatie – a simți antipatie [live in freedom – live in slavery]</i>  |
|   | Adjectival antonymic differentiator   | <i>bun la inimă – rău la inimă, bun platnic (de plată) – rău platnic (de paltă), de soi bun – de soi rău [with a good grace – with a bad grace]</i>   |
|   | Numeral antonymic differentiator  | <i>în prima clipă – în ultima clipă, de clasa întâi – de clasa a doua, de primă mână – de mâna a doua [first-class – second-class]</i>  |
|   | Adverbial antonymic differentiator  | <i>a-i merge bine – a-i merge rău, a dormi lemn – a dormi iepurește; a plăti scump – a plăti ieftin [to go badly – to go well]</i>  |
|   | Prepositional antonymic differentiator  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>cu ... fără: cu gust – fără gust, cu interes – fără interes, cu suflet – fără suflet [in time – out of time]</i></li> <li>▪ <i>în (din, la, pe din) față – în (din, la, pe din) dos (în spate): în față mumă, în dos ciună<sup>x</sup>; în (din) spate liceu, în (din) față muzeu; din spate regină, din față ruină; pe din față ninge, pe din dos frige</i></li> </ul> |
|   | Comparative connector “as”  | <i>alb ca zăpada (ca laptele, ca varul, ca peretele) – negru ca smoala (ca tăciunele, ca cioara, ca corbul, ca pana corbului, ca țiganul, ca potângul); slab ca scândura – gras ca pepenele<sup>x</sup> [(as) rich as Croessus – (as) poor as church-mouse]</i>   |
| Prepositional connector   | <i>cu + diferențiator antonimic de tipul „bine-rău”: cu rea-credință – cu bună-credință, cu mic, cu</i> |   |



|  |                                |   |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
|  |                                | mare, <i>cu tristețe</i> – <i>cu bucurie</i> , <i>cu ochii deschiși</i> – <i>cu ochii închiși</i> ; <i>de</i> + diferențiator antonimic de tipul „bine-rău”: <i>de bună credință</i> – <i>de reacredință</i> [ <i>with eyes closed</i> – <i>with opened eyes</i> ]  |
|  | Correlative connector          | <i>în primul rând</i> – <i>în ultimul rând</i> <sup>ki</sup> , <i>în sens restrâns</i> – <i>în sens larg</i> , <i>în sens propriu</i> – <i>în sens figurat</i> , <i>în mare măsură</i> – <i>în mică măsură</i> , <i>pe de o parte parte</i> – <i>pe de cealaltă parte</i> , <i>până acum</i> – <i>de acum încolo</i> [ <i>first of all</i> – <i>second of all</i> ]   |
| <i>Inter-phraseological Antonyms with asymmetrical structure</i> |                                | <i>a fi prima vioară</i> – <i>a fi a cincea roată (spiță) de la căruță (roată)</i> ; <i>a întinde o mână de ajutor</i> – <i>a nu mișca un deget</i> ; <i>la dracu-n praznic</i> – <i>sub nas</i> ; <i>ochi în ochi (bot în bot)</i> – <i>ca câinile cu pisica (șoarecele cu pisica)</i> [ <i>to give help</i> – <i>not to lift a finger</i> ]   |
| <i>Intra-phraseological Antonyms</i>                             | Coordinative connector         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>nici...nic</i><sup>xii</sup>: <i>nici la deal</i>, <i>nici la vale</i>; <i>nici masă</i>, <i>nici casă</i>; <i>nici în car</i>, <i>nici în căruță</i>; <i>nici cal</i>, <i>nici măgar</i><sup>xiii</sup>; <i>nici tuns</i>, <i>nici ras</i>; <i>nici laie</i>, <i>nici bălaie</i>; <i>nici cu mândra</i>, <i>nici cu draga</i>; <i>nici îl ninge</i>, <i>nici îl plouă</i>; <i>nici mort</i>, <i>nici viu</i> [<i>neither dead, nor alive</i>]</li> <li>▪ <i>și...și</i>: <i>și tânăr și bătrân</i>; <i>și nouă, și vouă</i>; <i>și ieftin, și scump</i>; <i>și coadă, și coamă</i>; <i>și răs, și plâns</i>; <i>și zi, și noapte</i>; <i>și iarna, și vara</i>; <i>și bucurie, și tristețe</i></li> <li>▪ <i>și</i>: <i>cu trup și suflet, în carne și (în) oase, foc și pară, pârjol și foc, praf și pulbere, goană și prigoană</i><sup>xiv</sup>, <i>scump la tărâțe și ieftin la făină, cu un ochi la răsărit și cu unul la apus, Răsăritul</i> [<i>penny wise and pound foolish, alpha and omega, in flesh and blood</i>]</li> </ul> |
|  | Disjunctive connector          | <i>mort sau viu</i> , <i>bun sau rău</i> , <i>mai mult sau mai puțin</i> , <i>cap sau pajură</i> , <i>fân ori paie?</i> (reg.), <i>acum ori niciodată</i> , <i>ori tunsă, ori rasă</i> <sup>xv</sup> [ <i>now or never, dead or alive</i> ]   |
|  | Comparative connector          | <i>ca șoarecele (câinele) și (cu) pisica</i> , <i>ca găscă cu prepelița</i> (reg.) [ <i>like dog and cat</i> ]  |
|  | Prepositional connector        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>de</i>: <i>de bine, de rău</i>; <i>de voie, de nevoie</i>; <i>de aici, de colo</i>; <i>de ieri, de alaltăieri</i>;</li> <li>▪ <i>pe</i>: <i>pe vrute, pe nevrute</i>; <i>pe viață și pe moarte</i> etc.;</li> <li>▪ <i>cu</i>: <i>cu mic, cu mare</i>; <i>cu bune, cu rele</i></li> </ul>   |
|  | Binary prepositional connector | <i>de la cer până la pământ</i> ; <i>de la mic, la mare</i> , <i>de cu seară până dimineată</i> , <i>din zi până-n noapte</i> , <i>din lac în puț, din pod în glod</i> <sup>xvi</sup> [ <i>from rich to poor, from head to toe</i> ]  |

D. Applying the *stylistic-semantic criterion*, the following types of phraseological antonyms (PAs) can be distinguished:

| According to the stylistic-semantic criterion | Example  |
|---|--|
| <i>Metaphoric PAs</i>                         | <i>aur alb – aur negru; Lumea Veche – Lumea Nouă [the Old World – the New World]</i>   |
| <i>Euphemistic PAs</i>                        | <i>nici mort, nici viu; nici tânăr, nici bătrân; nici bine, nici rău; moartea albă [more dead than alive]</i>  |
| <i>Oxymoronic PAs</i>                         | <i>cadavru viu, sărăcie lucie, curat murdar, ger foc, hoțul păgubaș, suflete moarte, începutul sfârșitului, noapte albă [the beginning of the end, formidable weakness, harmonious discord]</i>              |
| <i>Enantiosemic PAs</i>                       | <i>a vărsa sânge (propriu – al altcuiva); mergi cu D-zeu! (drum bun – pleacă); în vecii vecilor (veșnic – niciodată); cu alai (cu solemnitate – cu tămbălau) (MDER) [*forever and ever: forever – never]</i> |
| <i>Antithetic PAs</i>                         | <i>a da cinstea și pacea pe gâlceavă; a turna vinul nou în sticle vechi; a face din negru alb și din alb negru; și tânăr și bătrân; acum ori niciodată [new wine in old bottles, now or never]</i>           |
| <i>Paradoxical-ironic PAs</i>                 | <i>dreaptă ca secerea, drag ca sarea-n ochi, de la excelent în sus, a da oile în paza lupului, a trăi ca dracul cu popa [to set the fox to keep the geese, a wolf in sheep's clothing]</i>                   |
| <i>Chiastic PAs</i>                           | <i>a face noaptea zi și ziua noapte, a face din negru alb și din alb negru, a măsura din cap până-n picioare și din picioare până-n cap [*to tell white from black and black from white]</i>                 |
| <i>Hyperbolic PAs</i>                         | <i>a face din țânțar armăsar, a face din purice elefant [to make a mountain out of a molehill]</i>   |
| <i>Reiterative PAs</i>                        | <i>vrând-nevrând; ras, neras; vrei, nu vrei; vrute și nevrute; de voie, de nevoie [willy-nilly]</i>  |

## 8. Conclusion

In my research I have focused mostly upon underlining a number of theoretical and practical features of PAs, with the goal of establishing a typology according to several criteria: *structural-semantic, morphological-grammatical, structural and morphosyntactic and stylistic-semantic*. Thus two major classes of PAs can be identified: the *inter-phraseological antonyms* and the *intra-phraseological antonyms* and two major subtypes of inter-phraseological antonyms: *with symmetrical and asymmetrical structure*.

In my opinion, phraseological antonymy must be further investigated, both its potential nature and its active one, especially since some PAs are directly involved in logically and semantically structuring discourse. Thus, PAs, together with other PUs, complete and strengthen the phraseological system, contributing to a better understanding of the linguistic and discursive mechanisms. Therefore, we signal the necessity of compiling a dictionary of PAs in Romanian language, and even bilingual dictionaries, an important addition to both the lexicographic collection, but also as sources for researchers in semantics, phraseology, translation theory and practice.

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## Endnotes

<sup>i</sup>See Evseev (1976:64), where we come across *phraseologically determined meanings* or *phraseologized meanings* (our translation); but also Podaru (2012), who adopts the labels *compositional meaning* and *non-compositional meaning* from glottology, with the purpose of distinguishing between phraseologisms, whose meanings may or not become apparent at the level of its constituents (see also Titone-Connine 1999, Dejica 2010).

<sup>ii</sup>The phrase "syntagmatic constituent" and the examples belong to Sârbu-Lungoci (2006:44).

<sup>iii</sup>This phrase belongs to C. Munteanu, and should be understood as a technique of building phraseological synonyms.

<sup>iv</sup>In Russian phraseology, there is a concept of "okkazional'no modifirovannye frazeologičeskie edinicy", which defines the frequent tendency in contemporary discourse of substituting an element of the PU with its antonym, synonym, or even a hyperbole (Dinova 2011), in order to diversify communication and especially in order to shock.

<sup>v</sup>Example belonging to Ciocârlie (1998:185).

<sup>vi</sup>In Romanian linguistics the syntagms "antonymic structure" or "antonymic construction" have been in use since the beginning of research in antonymy.

<sup>vii</sup>It must be mentioned that in Oana Buzea's article (2011), a number of features belonging to PAs are already mentioned, but we have focused on the characteristics of lexical antonyms, identified by R. Sârbu, as early as 1977, further adding the results of the same linguist obtained in 1979, 1982 (see references).

<sup>viii</sup>The concept of "phraseological derivation" belongs to Th. Hristea.

<sup>ix</sup>PAs are here identified through counterposition of certain lexemes which are not antonyms, but which through the semantics and the rhyming contextualisation create a logical-semantic opposition.

<sup>x</sup>These can be called *fixed comparative structures* with antithetic meaning.

<sup>xi</sup>This type of elements are called in Romanian pragmalinguistics "discursive connectors" (Borchin, 2007:79).

<sup>xii</sup>Depending on the context, antonymic relations may develop through coordinative conjunction "și" [and].

<sup>xiii</sup>It must be stressed that some of these PA may develop antonymic relations at contextual level (micro-contextual here) according to the degree of intensity: *masă – casă, car – căruță, cal – măgar*.

<sup>xiv</sup>It must be noticed that although the nouns "foc" and "pară", "pârjol" and "foc", "praf" and "pulbere", "goană" and "prigoană" are (partial) synonyms, by using them in fixed structures and by assuming different degrees of intensity at the lexical level, I consider that they also develop relations of semantic opposition.

<sup>xv</sup>These types of parallel syntactic structures "*nici...nici, și...și, x sau (ori) y*" [neither...nor, bot... and, either...or/x or y], are described by Alefirenko (2009:180-184), as syntactic-antonymic structuring frames, which form "phraseological antitheses" or "antithetic phrasemes".

<sup>xvi</sup>*De la ... până la, de ... până, dinspre ... spre, de la ...la, din ...în* etc. [from... to] are considered by Irimia (2004:313) "binary prepositions", and by Șerban-Evseev (1978:209), "contrasting prepositions".