

THE VOCABULARY OF BOTANY: ROMANIAN TERMS OF ARABIC AND TURKISH ORIGIN

Georgeta RAȚĂ

**Banat's University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine
"King Michael I of Romania" from Timișoara*

Abstract: *The goal of the paper is to show the direct impact of the Turkish language on Romanian and the indirect impact of the Arabic language on Romanian in the field of botany. The study is part of a vast research on languages in contact (Turkish and Romanian). The material (Romanian words of Arabic and Turkish origin) has been analysed with the methods specific to linguistics, with focus on history and distribution, lexical fields, routes of transmission, usage restrictions, re-use of linguistic materials, and semantic evolution. This is the first analysis of the Romanian botanical vocabulary of Arabic and Turkish origin. Results show that this vocabulary is rarely perceived as foreign as proven by the large number of derivatives, compound words, and words with shifted semanticism. The research is limited by the uncertainty regarding the etymology of some terms (several sources are indicated). The study contributes to the raising of cultural, multi-cultural and inter-cultural awareness of both students and teaching staff. The study is original in both approach and resources. The importance of the study lies in everything stated previously.*

Keywords: *botany, Romanian, Arabic, Turkish*

INTRODUCTION

One of the personal difficulties or obstacles that limit or prevent students from taking part in transnational projects are **cultural differences**. Tertiary level students usually fall into this category because they face **linguistic adaptation** and **cultural inclusion** difficulties. If **linguistic adaptation** is an ongoing process due to the language courses undergraduates may attend or may be compelled to attend, **cultural inclusion** is still an issue. Moreover, one of the aims of all Erasmus+ Programme Key Actions is to **improve the teaching and learning of languages** and **promote the EU's broad linguistic diversity and intercultural awareness**. The "Erasmus+ Programme Guide" emphasises the following **needs related to the intercultural / European dimension** of the activities: **Key Action 1 (Learning Mobility of Individuals): Linguistic and intercultural preparation** of participants before departure and **Linguistic and intercultural support for the participants before departure**; **Key Action 2 (Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices): Linguistic and intercultural preparation** of participants before departure; **Equipping both educators and youth workers with all competences and skills needed to deliver high quality services and address increasingly diverse needs such as, for instance, the needs posed by multicultural societies** and **Promoting people-to-people contacts, intercultural awareness and understanding**.

The goal of the paper is to show the impact of the Arabic and Turkish languages on Romanian in the field of **botany** in an attempt to raise students' **cultural and intercultural awareness**. The study is part of a vast research on languages in contact (Turkish and Romanian).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The material (44 Romanian words of Arabic and Turkish origin) has been analysed with the methods specific to **descriptive linguistics**. Thus, we focused on **lexical field, routes**

of transmission, usage restrictions, re-use of linguistic materials (word formation), and semantic evolution.

RESULTS

Most peoples around the world have had, in their history, diverse and long-lasting relationships with other languages than theirs due to social, political, economic, and cultural factors; this **language contact** has always produced **language changes**, largely associated with **borrowing**: in most situations of **languages in contact**, **borrowing** ('the taking over of a word from a foreign language', Chalker & Weiner, 1994), occurs most extensively on the part of **minority language speakers** from the **wider communication** into the minority language; there are rare cases of words that have become accepted within **majority language communities** – a process called **substratum influence** (Thomason & Kaufman 1988, in Sankoff 2001). Romanian is no exception, and each period in its development has had its **neologisms** (its **linguistic borrowings** or **loanwords**): **Slavicisms** (Slavic terms that entered the Romanian language through the translations of religious books, in the middle Ages); **Turcisms** and **Graecisms** (specific to the Phanariot Period, 1669-1821); **Hungarianisms** (during the Austro-Hungarian rule, 1867-1918); **French borrowings / loanwords** (in the modern era, the 19th and 20th centuries); **Anglicisms** and **Americanisms** (at present).

Romanian language has never been in direct contact with Arabic, but it has been in direct contact for centuries with Turkish and later with French. Below is an analysis of such Romanian borrowings of Arabic and Turkish origin related to the field of botany from several linguistic perspectives.

1. Lexical Field

The **lexical domain** or (**lexical / semantic**) **field** ('a range or system of referents that have some aspect of meaning in common', CHALKER & WEINER 1994) aimed at in this paper is **botany** or **plant biology** or **plant science(s)**, seen as the science of plant life and a branch of biology. We have identified 44 Romanian words of Arab (20) and Turkish (24) origin related to or designating plants: **abanos** 'ebony (*Diospyros* spp. L.)', **alfalfa** 'alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.)', **anason** 'anise, aniseed (*Pimpinella anisum* L.)', **arpagic** 'chives, scallion (*Allium schoenoprasum* L.)', **bamă** 'okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus* (L.) Moench)', **bostan** 'pumpkin (*Cucurbita pepo* L.)', **cafea** 'a plant (*Coffea arabica* L.)', **carciofoi** 'artichoke (*Cynara cardunculus* var. *scolymus*)', **cârmâz** 'a plant (*Phytolacca decandra* L.)', **carub** 'carob (*Ceratonia siliqua* L.)', **ceai** 'a plant (*Thea sinensis* L.)', **chimion** 'cumin (*Cuminum cyminum* L.)', **coton** 'cotton (*Gossypium* spp. L.)', **curcuma** 'curcuma (*Curcuma* spp. L.)', **curmală** 'date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.)', **dovleac** 'pumpkin (*Cucurbita pepo* L.)', **dud** 'mulberry (*Morus* sp. L.)', **fistic** 'pistachio (*Pistachia vera* L.)', **harbuz** '(Regional) water melon (*Citrullus lanatus* (Thunb.) Matsum. & Nakai)', **henna** 'henna (*Lawsonia inermis* L.)', **iasomie** 'jasmine (*Jasminum officinale* L.)', **ienibahar** 'juniper (*Myrthus pimenta* L.)', **lalea** 'tulip (*Tulipa gesneriana* L.)', **lămâie** 'lemon (*Citrus lemon* (L.) Burn. F.)', **lilic** '(common) lilac (*Syringa vulgaris* L.)', **lime** 'lime (*Zanthoxylum fagara* L.)', **mahon** 'acajou, mahogany (*Swietenia mahogany* L.)', **naramz / naramză** '(Obsolescent, Regional) an orange tree (*Citrus bogaradia* L.)', **năut** '(Literary) chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.)', **nufăr** 'nenuphar, white water lily (*Nymphaea alba* L.); yellow water lily, water can (*Nuphar luteum* L.)', **pătlașea** 'tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.); egg-plant (*Solanum melongena*)', **salcâm** '(false) acacia, locust tree (*Robinia pseudoacacia* L.)', **șofran** 'saffron (*Crocus sativus* L.)', **spanac** 'spinach (*Spinacea oleracea* L.)', **sumac** 'sumac (*Rhus coriaria* L.)', **susan** 'sesame, teel, til (*Sesamum indicum* L.)', **tabac** 'tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum* L.)', **tamarin(d)** 'tamarind (*Tamarindus indica* L.)', **tangerină** 'tangerine (*Citrus tanegrina* L.)', **tarhon** 'tarragon (*Artemisia*

dracunculus L.)', **tutun** 'tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum* L.)', **zambilă** 'common / Dutch / garden hyacinth (*Hyacinthus orientalis* L.)'; or plant products: **ambră** 'amber' < Fr *ambre* < Ar 'anbar and **hașiș** 'hashish' < Fr *haschisch* < Ar *hashīsh*.

2. Routes of Transmission

These 44 words related to or designating plants have come into Romanian **directly from Turkish** (24): **abanos** < Tk *abanoz*, **anason** < Tk *anason*, **arpagic** 'chives, scallion; seedling bulbs' < Tk *arpacik*, **bamă** < Tk *bamya / bamy*, **bostan** < Tk *bostan*, **cârmâz** < Tk *kirmiz*, **ceai** < Tk *çay*, **chimion** < Tk *kimion*, **curmală** < Tk *kurma*, **dovleac** < Tk *devlek*, **dud** < Tk *dut*, **fistic** < Tk *fistic*, **harbuz** < Tk *harbuz*, **ienibahar** < Tk *yenibahār*, **lalea** < Tk *lâle*, **mahon** < Tk *mahon / mahun*, **naramz / naramză** < Tk *narenci*', **năut** < Tk *nohut*, **nufăr** < Tk *nufer*, **pălăgea** < Tk *patlican*, **salcâm** < Tk *salcâm*, **susan** < Tk *susam*, **tutun** < Tk *tütün*, **zambilă** < Tk *sümbül*; **directly from Modern Greek** (5): **curmală** < Mod Gk *kurmás*, **fistic** < Mod Gk *fistiki*, **naramz / naramză** < Mod Gk *nerántzi*, **nufăr** < Mod Gk *núfaró*, **tutun** < Mod Gk *tutúm*; **directly from Bulgarian** (2): **arpagic** < Bg *arpaĝic*, **naramz / naramză** < Bg *neranza*; **directly from Arabic** (1): **henna** < Ar *hinnā*; **directly from Russian** (1): **ceai** < Rus *čaj*; **directly from Serbo-Croatian** (1): **bostan** < Sb-Cr *bostan*; **directly from Ukrainian** (1): **harbuz** < Uk *harbuz*. The words of Arabic origin have come into Romanian **indirectly from Arabic** (19): **through French** (5): **cafea** < F *café* < Ar *qahwa*, **carub** < Fr *caroube* < Ar *kharrūb*, **coton** < Fr *coton* < Ar *qutn / qutun*, **sumac** < Fr *sumac* < Ar *summāq*, **tamarin(d)** < Fr *tamarind* < Ar *tamr hindī*; **through Modern Greek** (3): **cafea** < Mod Gk *kafés* < Ar *qahwa*, **lămâie** < Mod Gk *lemóni* < Ar *līmūn*, **spanac** < Mod Gk *spanáchi* < Ar *isfānākh*; **through Turkish** (3): **cafea** < Tk *kahve* < Ar *qahwa*, **tabac** < Tur *tabak* < Ar *tabbaq* 'herbs', **tarhon** < Tk *tarhun* < Ar *tarkhūn*; **through Italian** (2): **carciofoi** < It *carciofo* < Ar *al-kharshuf / al-kharshūf* 'carob' < It *carrubo* < Ar *kharrūb*, **through Bulgarian and Turkish** (1): **liliac** < Bulg *liljak* < Tur *leilak* < Ar *leilak*; **through English** (1): **lime** < E *lime* < Ar *līm*; **through English and Spanish** (1): **alfalfa** < E *alfalfa*, Sp *alfalfa* < Ar *al-fisfisa*; **through French and English** (1): **tangerină** < Fr *tangerine* < E *tangerine* < Ar *Tanja*; **through French and Spanish** (1): **curcuma** < Fr *curcuma* < Sp *curcuma* < Ar *kurkum*; **through Modern Greek and Turkish** (1): **iasomie** < Mod Gk *ghiasemi* < Tk *yasemīn* < Ar *yās(a)mīn*; and **through Russian and Polish** (1): **șofran** < Rus *șafra*n < Pol *szafran* < Ar *za'farān*.

3. Usage Restrictions

As in any other language, there are **established and customary ways of using language**. Questions of usage are complicated by the fact that accepted usage may vary **from one speech community to another**, according to different regional or social varieties, and such factors as **who** is writing or speaking **to whom about what**. Many dictionaries employ **usage labels** to indicate whether particular senses, words, or phrases are formal or informal, British or American, dialectal, dated, slang, offensive, euphemistic, etc. As far as **Romanian words of Arabic and Turkish origin** are concerned, **usage restrictions** concern the *range*, the *register*, the *style* and the *currency*.

3.1. Range

As far as the **range** of Arabic and Turkish borrowings is concerned, Romanian language dictionaries mention only those terms that have a **regional use limitation**. Are considered **Regional**, characteristic of a form of Romanian that is distributed in identifiable geographic areas (and that differs in pronunciation or vocabulary from standard Romanian): **harbuz** and **naramză**.

3.2. Register

As far as the **register** (the variety of language used in a specific social setting) is concerned, Arabic and Turkish borrowings can be ranged only under **colloquial** and **slang**. Is

colloquial (characteristic / appropriate to the spoken language or to writing that seeks the effect of speech; informal; conversational): *spanac* ‘spinach (*Spinacea oleracea* L.)’ > *spanac* ‘low-quality’. Is **slang** (a kind of language occurring chiefly in casual and playful speech, made up typically of short-lived coinages and figures of speech that are deliberately used in place of standard terms for added raciness, humour, irreverence, or other effect) the following borrowings, derivatives and idioms): *pătlăgea* ‘tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.); egg-plant (*Solanum melongena*)’ > *pătlăgea* ‘a credulous man; a large nose’.

3.2. Style

Style (the way in which something is said or expressed) is the best represented of all Arabic and Turkish borrowings usage restrictions. They can be grouped as: **Standard** (conforming to established educated usage in speech or writing) (44): *abanos*, *alfalfa*, *anason*, *arpagic*, *bamă*, *bostan*, *cafea*, *carciofoi*, *cârmâz*, *carub*, *ceai*, *chimion*, *coton*, *curcuma*, *curmală*, *dovleac*, *dud*, *fistic*, *harbuz*, *henna*, *iasomie*, *ienibahar*, *lalea*, *lămâie*, *liliac*, *lime*, *mahon*, *naramz* / *naramză*, *năut*, *nufăr*, *pătlăgea*, *salcâm*, *șofran*, *spanac*, *sumac*, *susan*, *tabac*, *tamarin(d)*, *tangerină*, *tarhon*, *tutun*, *zambilă*; or plant products: *ambră* and *hașiș*; **figurative** (containing many figures of speech, ornate) (3): *păr de abanos* ‘black hair’, *bostan* ‘human head; a stupid man’s head’, *dovleac* ‘human head’; **ironical** (characterised by or constituting irony) (1): *bostan* ‘human head; water melon’; and **popular** (prevalent among the people in general) (1): *bostan* ‘a stupid man’s head’.

3.3. Currency

Currency (the state of being current; up-to-datedness) is limited here to two **old** borrowing considered **obsolescent** (being in the process of passing out of use or usefulness): *naramză* ‘fruit of an orange tree’ and *tutun* ‘a pack of tobacco’.

4. Re-use of Linguistic Materials: Word Formation

The **processes of word formation** below resulted in about 91 **botany-related Romanian words of Arabic and Turkish origin**.

4.1. Clipping

Clipping consists in ‘the formation of a new word by shortening an existing one’ (Chalker & Weiner 1994), as in *curmală* ‘fruit of the date palm’ > *curmal* ‘date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.)’, *lămâie* ‘fruit of the lemon tree’ > *lămâi* ‘lemon (*Citrus lemon* (L.) Burn. F.)’, *naramză* ‘fruit of an orange tree’ > *naramz* ‘an orange tree (*Citrus bogaradia* L.); an orange seller’.

4.2. Composition

Composition or **compounding** is ‘the process of forming compound words by joining at least two independent bases together’ (Chalker & Weiner 1994), as in the examples below, where the Arabic or Turkish word is in the first position (46): *anason* > *anason-dulce* (*Foeniculum vulgare* L.), *anason-mare* (*Foeniculum vulgare* L.), *anason-nemțesc* (*Foeniculum vulgare* L.), *anason-stelat* (*Illicium anisatum* L.), *anason-franțuzesc* (*Illicium anisatum* L.), *anason de Chio* ‘a liqueur’; *cafea* > *cafea cu lapte* ‘cafe-latte’, *cafea espresso* ‘espresso’, *cafea filtru* ‘filtered coffee’, *cafea neagră* ‘black coffee’, *cafea prăjită* ‘roasted coffee’, *cafea turcească* ‘Turkish coffee’, *cafea verde* ‘green coffee’; *cârmâz* > *cârmâz vegetal* (*Phytolacca decandra* L.); *chimion* > *chimion-de-apă* (*Oenanthe aquatica* L.), *chimion-de-baltă* (*Oenanthe aquatica* L.), *chimion-de-câmp* ‘cumin (*Cuminum cyminum* L.)’, *chimion-de-câmpuri* ‘corn buttercup (*Nigella arvensis* L.)’, *chimion negru* ‘black caraway (*Nigella sativa* L.)’, *chimion sălbatic* ‘cumin (*Cuminum cyminum* L.)’; *coton* > *coton-confecție* ‘cotton ready-made cloth’; *dovleac* > *dovleac comun* ‘pumpkin, squash (*Cucurbita pepo* L.)’, *dovleac moscat* ‘pumpkin, squash (*Cucurbita moschata* L.)’, *dovleac turcesc* ‘squash (*Cucurbita maxima* L.)’; *dud* > *dud alb* ‘white mulberry (*Morus alba* L.)’, *dud negru* ‘black

mulberry (*Morus nigra* L.); *iasomie* > *iasomie sălbatică* ‘yellow jasmine (*Jasminum fretticans* L.)’; *liliac* > *liliac-de-munte* ‘green alder (*Alnus viridis* L.)’; *nufăr* > *nufăr alb* ‘nenufar, white water lily (*Nymphaea alba* L.)’, *nufăr galben* ‘yellow water lily, water can (*Nuphar luteum* L.)’; *pătlăgea* > *pătlăgea roșie* ‘tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.)’, *pătlăgea vânătă* ‘egg-plant (*Solanum melongena*)’; *salcâm* > *salcâm-boieresc* ‘Japanese pagoda tree (*Sophora japonica* L.)’, *salcâm-galben* ‘common laburnum (*Laburnum anagyroides* L.)’, black broom (*Cytisus nigricans* L.)’, *salcâm-japonez* ‘Japanese pagoda tree (*Sophora japonica* L.)’, > *salcâm-mic* ‘desert false indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*)’; *spanac* > *spanac-alb* ‘lamb’s quarters (*Chenopodium album*)’; *spanac englezesc* ‘spinach (*Spinacea oleracea* L.)’, *spanac-porcesc* ‘a plant (*Chenopodium hybridum* L.)’, *spanac-porcesc* ‘good King Henry (*Chenopodium bonus henricus*)’; *spanac-sălbatic* ‘lamb’s quarters (*Chenopodium album*)’, *spanacul-ciobanilor* ‘good King Henry (*Chenopodium bonus henricus*)’; *spanacul-oilor* ‘good King Henry (*Chenopodium bonus henricus*)’; *spanacul-porcilor* ‘good King Henry (*Chenopodium bonus henricus*)’; *spanacul-stânelor* ‘good King Henry (*Chenopodium bonus henricus*)’; and *tutun* > *tutun-turcesc* ‘Aztec tobacco (*Nicotiana rustica* L.); or second position (8): *abanos* > *negru-abanos* ‘pit black’, *păr de abanos* ‘black hair’; *bostan* > *cap de bostan* ‘stupid man’; *cafea* > *arbore de cafea* ‘a plant (*Coffea Arabica* L.)’; *chimion* > *ceai de chimion* ‘cumin tea’, *lichior de chimion* ‘cumin liqueur’, *supă de chimion* ‘cumin soup’; *mahon* > *mac-mahon* ‘wine with soda water’;

4.3. Conversion

Conversion or **functional shift** or **reclassification** is ‘the process by which a word belonging to one word class gets used as part of another word class without the addition of an affix’ (Chalker & Weiner 1994), as in *abanos* > *șade tot abanos* ‘stands firmly’ and *a rămânea abanos* ‘to stop ageing’.

4.4. Derivation

Derivation is ‘the process of forming a new word by adding an affix to an existing word’ (Chalker & Weiner 1994). There are a few notions we need to understand about **Romanian derivatives based on Arabic and Turkish borrowings** (Chalker & Weiner 1994): **derivative**, ‘word formed from another word by a process of **derivation**’ (e.g., *bostan* → *bostănar*); **derivation**, ‘the process of forming a new word by adding an **affix** to an existing word’ (e.g., *harbuz* + *-ărie* → *harbuzărie*); **affixation**, ‘addition to the root (or base form) of a word or to a stem in order to form a new word or a new form of the same word’ (e.g., *tutun* + *-ărit* → *tutunărit*); **suffix**, ‘an affix added at the end of a root’ (e.g., *tutun* + *-gerie* → *tutungerie*).

The productivity of Romanian words of Arabic and Turkish origin is proven by the 32 *noun, adjectival, verbal, and adverbial derivatives* based on *nominal and adjectival roots*: **nominal derivatives based on nominal roots** (16): *bostan* > *bostănar* ‘gardener’, *bostan* > *bostănărie* ‘orchard’; *cafea* > *cafeluță* ‘short coffee’, *cafea* > *cafeluță* ‘lupin (*Lupinus albus* L.)’; *ceai* > *ceainărie* ‘tea shop’; *dovleac* > *dovlecel* ‘small pumpkin’; *fistic* > *fâstăceală* ‘confusion’; *harbuz* > *harbuzărie* ‘plantation of water melons’; *lămâie* > *lămâier* ‘lemon seller’, *lămâie* > *lămâioară* ‘common thyme (*Thymus vulgaris* L.)’, *lămâie* > *lămâiță* ‘lemon verbena (*Lippia citriodora* L.)’; *pătlăgea* > *pătlăgică* ‘small tomato/egg-plant’; *șofran* > *șofrănaș* ‘safflower (*Carthamus tinctorius* L.)’, *șofran* > *șofrănel* ‘crocus (*Crocus banaticus* L.)’; *tutun* > *tutunărit* ‘tax on tobacco crops’, *tutun* > *tutungerie* ‘tobacconist’s shop’; **adjectival derivatives based on nominal roots** (12): *cafea* > *cafeniu* ‘coffee-like in colour’, *cârmâz* > *cârmăziu / cârmiziu* ‘scarlet’, *harbuz* > *harbuzesc* ‘variety of pears’, *lămâie* > *lămâiu* ‘lemon yellow’, *lămâie* > *lămâios* ‘sour’, *liliac* > *liliachiu* ‘lilac’; *naramză* > *naramzat* ‘orange, round’, *naramză* > *naramziu* ‘orange’, *năut* > *năutiu* ‘chickpea-like’;

pătlăgea > *pătlăginii* ‘brown, violet’, *șofran* > *șofrăniu* ‘yellow’, *tutun* > *tutuniu* ‘having the colour of tobacco leaves’; and **verbal derivatives based on nominal roots** (): *a bostăngi* ‘to build a stone wall’, *fistic* > *a se fâstăci* ‘to become confused’, *șofran* > *a șofrăni* ‘to paint in yellow’; *tutun* > *a tutuni* ‘to smoke’.

5. Semantic Evolution

Semantic change or **semantic shift** consists in ‘a change in the meaning of a word taking place over time’ (Chalker & Weiner 1994). This is a general tendency in words that has also affected our Romanian words of Arabic and Turkish origin. Thus, many of these borrowings have also developed a meaning pointing to parts of the plant (*arpagic* ‘chives, scallion (*Allium schoenoprasum* L.); seedling bulbs’, *cafea* ‘a plant (*Coffea Arabica*); coffee beans’, *dovleac* ‘pumpkin (*Cucurbita pepo* L.), pumpkin fruit’), to products from the plant – be they natural (*abanos* ‘ebony (*Diospyros* spp. L.); ebony wood’, *mahon* ‘acajou, mahogany (*Swietenia mahogany* L.); wood of mahogany’) or man-made (*anason* ‘anise, aniseed (*Pimpinella anisum* L.); drink made of anise’, *cafea* ‘a plant (*Coffea Arabica*); coffee (drink)’, *ceai* ‘a plant (*Thea sinensis* L.); tea’, *susan* ‘sesame, teal, til (*Sesamum indicum* L.); a confectionary’, *tutun* ‘tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum* L.); tobacco leaves; (*Obsolescent*) a pack of tobacco’) – meanings that occurred naturally since they are closely related to the plant. There is also a case in which periods of time or human activities wear the name of plants because they are associated with such plant consumption, as in *ceai* ‘a plant (*Thea sinensis* L.); tea; tea time; party’. In other cases, the shift in meaning is of a metaphorical nature (based on shape resemblance), as in *bostan* ‘pumpkin (*Cucurbita pepo* L.); (*Figurative, Ironic*) human head’, *dovleac* ‘pumpkin (*Cucurbita pepo* L.), pumpkin fruit; (*Figurative*) human head’. The most interesting shift in meaning is that of borrowings ending in designating plant species that have nothing to do with the plant first designated by the borrowing: *cafea* ‘a plant (*Coffea Arabica*)’ > *cafea / cafeluță* ‘lupin (*Lupinus albus* L.)’ and most of the compounds under 4.2 (see above). The change in meaning has also produced **idioms**, ‘forms of speech peculiar to a nation or to a limited area’ (Chalker & Weiner, 1994), ‘groups of (more or less) fixed words having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words’ (idem): *bostan* ‘pumpkin (*Cucurbita pepo* L.)’ > *la anul, când o făta bostanul* ‘never’; *spanac* ‘spinach (*Spinacea oleracea* L.)’ > *spanac!* ‘staff and nonsense!’, *spanac pe prispă!* ‘this is nothing!’; *tutun* ‘tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum* L.); tobacco leaves; (*Obsolescent*) a pack of tobacco’ > *răbdare și tutun!* ‘patience!’, *a bea tutun* > ‘to smoke’; and a **proverb**: *șofran* ‘saffron (*Crocus sativus* L.)’ > *mocanu/țăranu/țiganu nu știe ce este șofranu* ‘uneducated people know nothing about refinement’.

DISCUSSION

Our **inventory** contains 44 Romanian words of Arabic and Turkish origin designating plants and plant products.

As far as the **route of transmission** is concerned, 24 words of Turkish origin have penetrated into the Romanian language directly, while language dictionaries also point to other sources such as Modern Greek or Bulgarian; a single word has come directly from Arabic, while language dictionaries point to other sources such as Russian, Serbo-Croatian, and one word has come directly from Ukrainian. Arabic words have come into Romanian through French, Modern Greek, Turkish, Italian, Bulgarian and Turkish, English, English and Spanish, French and English, Modern Greek and Turkish, and Russian and Polish.

Usage restrictions: as for the **Register**, 1 word is considered **Regional**, 1 is **Colloquial**, and 1 is **Slang**; as far as Style is concerned, 44 are **Standard**, 3 are **Figurative**, 1 is **Ironic**, and 1 is **Popular**; as for **Currency**, 2 are **Obsolescent**.

The **re-use of linguistic material** has produced 91 new Romanian words of Arabic and Turkish origin, more than twice as much as Arabic and Turkish borrowings. It is worth noting that 9 adjectival derivatives based on nominal roots have been derived with a Turkish suffix, **-(n)iu**.

Semantic shift has produced about 20 additional meanings, 5 idioms and 1 proverb.

CONCLUSIONS

Botany-related Arabic and Turkish borrowings / loanwords have attained *different degrees of assimilation* into the **Romanian language** (Chalker & Weiner 1994). Thus, there are:

- **borrowings** that have been *totally assimilated to the native word-stock* and are *phonetically* and *orthographically* integrated: **bostan, cafea, ceai**, etc.;
- **borrowings** that are fully part of the Romanian vocabulary, but retain traces of their language of origin in their *pronunciation* (**cârmâz**), for instance;
- **borrowings** that may be well assimilated in their form, but remain *semantically tied* to its initial context, for instance (**harbuz** and **naramz**);
- **borrowings** that have not achieved general currency but occur in very limited contexts (e.g., encyclopaedias): **alfalfa, carub, curcuma**, etc.

If we compare **botany-related** and **zoology-related Arabic and Turkish borrowings**, the comparison is clearly in favour of the former ones: 44 vs. 18 borrowings, 46 vs. 7 compound words, 32 vs. 27 derivatives, 20 vs. 8 additional meanings, 5 vs. 1 idioms, etc.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This paper has been written within the framework of the Research Centre “Sustainable Agriculture”, Faculty of Agriculture, Banat’s University of Agricultural Science and Veterinary Medicine “King Michael I of Romania” from Timisoara, Romania.

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