

**AN ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTIC OF THE DERIVATION  
SYSTEM FROM THE LANGUAGE OF METROPOLITAN DOSOFTEI'S  
TEXTS: THE CONSEQUENCE OF THE SPIRITUAL BASIS  
OF THE MOLDAVAN SCHOLAR**

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**Abstract:** *Derivatives with affixes from a Latin or a Greek neologism (typical of the old period of Romanian) are one of the features of the literary language of Metropolitan Dosoftei's work that can be rarely found in this period, however, they can be found, to some extent, in Cantemir's work, according to the Thesaurus Dictionary of the Romanian Language. Adopting and applying a useful concept from A. Philippide-G. Ivănescu's doctrine in philology and linguistics, we believe that Dosoftei's characteristic literary language is determined by features of his psychological/spiritual basis.*

**Keywords:** *derivation, neologism, literary language, lexical creativity, psychological/spiritual basis.*

1. All the experts who have dealt with the language of Metropolitan Dosoftei's texts noted that derivatives were a distinct note of his lexical creativity. So important is the element of derivation in his work, that in "Istoria limbii române literare" [23, p. 151], for example, they tried dividing the words by the absence or presence of the prefix into two categories, "prefixed groups" and "non-prefixed groups", while derivatives with suffixes were grouped in various subcategories, all types being supported in this work by a series of examples. In a monographic study like that of D. Pușchilă [22], derivatives are grouped into grammatical classes: nominal derivatives, noun derivatives, verbal derivatives. The author says in a brief introduction that "regarding the words formation Dosoftei's *Molitvenicul* has a great number of derivatives [in which he includes, however, the change of the grammatical value], some existing in language, but many of them formed ad hoc with the help of suffixes and prefixes" [22, p. 57].

2. G. Ivănescu states that besides the phonetic reforms performed in the old literary language, this great scholar "aimed to perform a lexical revolution of language" [14, p. 54]. By making this statement, the scientist from Iasi referred, inter alia, to the taking over of the neologicistic Latin and Greek element by Dosoftei, and in this sense, he expresses an important conclusion, which we shall quote in full, as it refers to the old period, on the whole: "He is a new type of Romanian theologian, different from the one common to those times, who was inspired especially by the church Slavonic language; Dosoftei knew Greek and Latin and sought to enrich the language with Greek and Latin elements. Only Simion Ștefan had tried this before, but not to the same extent as Dosoftei. It is therefore not surprising that Dosoftei's translations present a large number of neologisms of Greek and Latin origin, as it will be the case with D. Cantemir. It is true that, in his time, other activated who were inspired by the Greek and Latin languages

and who borrowed neologisms from these languages: some Wallachian clergy, brothers Greceanu, N. Milescu. But the work of Dosoftei is, in this aspect, the most impressive” [14, p. 57].

By analyzing the derivatives from the work of the Moldavian scholar, we extracted several features of the derivation system, of which we present here *the formation of derivatives with affixes from a Latin or Greek neologistic word (for this period)*. In a relatively recent paper, Eugen Munteanu finds in the language of Dosoftei’s texts a category of “derivative lexical creations, in which the Romanian suffixes are attached to foreign-tongued roots” [18, p. 183], “foreign-tongued” also include the derivatives from a Slavonic radical. Distinguishing this category of products on the basis of the analysis, we have in view, as closer to the specificity of Dosoftei’s derivatives, only the derivatives with a Latin and Greek radical, because we think that the Slavonic language, as it was most widely known then and many words were inherited from the previous century, the Slavonic radical - maybe not with the same frequency as in Dosoftei - was widely used at the time<sup>1</sup>. In addition to this argument we must consider, especially in case of the Slavonic words, an idea advanced by Ivănescu which is an own vision and comes from a deep observation of the dynamics of ancient literary Romanian: “It is possible that a large number of neological terms were present in the language of the clergy and nobles in the sixteenth century and the first half of the seventeenth century; but they never had the opportunity to be recorded in writing and, therefore, they can only be presumed” [14, p. 53]<sup>2</sup>.

3. From the category of derivatives discussed in relation to Dosoftei’s work<sup>3</sup>, we have distinguished two sets:

- (a) the one which consist of derived words: *aposcorachință*, *aschitac*, *aselghiciune*, *demonesc* with the form *dimonesc*, *despuitoresc*, a *disputui*, a *dogmățici*, *dogmățicit*, *formuire*, *formuit* and with the form *furmuit*, *înformui*, *neînformuit*, *nemateri<sup>4</sup>lnic*, *necompozit* and with the form *necompozuit*, *nefigurat*, *nemăculat*, *plăzmătareș*, *plăzmător*, a *plăzmui*, *plăzmuire*, *politicie*, a *preformui*, a *preplăzmui* and with the form *prăplăzmui*, a *ritorici* etc. We must point out that some derivatives of this type appear in the era in other scholars’ work, and a number are considered as creations of Dosoftei, original both in terms of form as well as in terms of meaning;
- (b) words with the suffix *-icesc*, such as: *aselghicesc* și *mirtopsicesc*, created by analogy with a number of loans that Dosoftei tended to take over with this termination.

One of the most special creations by derivation from the work of this scholar is noun *aposcorachință*:

“Ce-m trimite, Doamne, a ta socotință,  
Să nu duc delungă *aposcorachință*” (Dosoftei, *Psaltirea în versuri 1673*, p. 179).

The etymology is *aposcorchintă* < aþoskorakizw + suffix *-intă*<sup>5</sup> [18, p. 172], and aþoskorakizw < aþo- + skorakizw < eþ' koraka" ,la corbi; la dracu', according to BABINIOTIS (s.v.).

Given the context, which refers to God, and its meanings aþoskorakizw [17, 13, 1] we believe that by *aposcorchintă* Dosoftei wanted to express the state of the one who feels abandoned by God, as if he had a curse on him, therefore the meaning would be "curse, anathema; repudiation". The Metropolitan must have found this meaning in his many readings of sacred texts, primarily in the *Bible* (aþoskorakizw în Isaiah 17:13 and in the Psalms 26:15, and aþoskorakismoH in Isaiah 66:15)<sup>6</sup>.

To the same category, of the derivatives with a Greek or Latin radical, belong a number of other derivatives. For example *aschitac*, from Gr. Ecl. and Ngr. askhtikol' (< askhthl' ,hermit, recluse') [13]<sup>7</sup>, accommodated by suffix *-ac*: "(*Părinții noștri, blagonosnicii săhastrii*) *aschitacii, (carii acea mai zăbavnică și mai trudnică măcenicie a științii luptară)* [11, p. 12]; *aselghiciune* < *aselghie*, by abstract suffix *-iciune* (cf. [6]), of the formations which occur only in Dosoftei<sup>8</sup>: (*pîngărite*) *aselghiciuni* [11, p. 274]; *despuitor* < *a despui* (present indicative first person from *despune* [5] s.v. *despuietor* < Lat. *disponere*) + suffix *-tor*: (*Acestea le păzîm noi pînă la dzua giudețului, cînd va veni*) *despuitoriul (Dumnădzău)*; *despuitoresc* from *despuitor* (based on the neological Latin root *disponere*) + suffix *-esc*: (*O și prăznuim, făcîndu-ă și sărbătoare și*) *despuitoreasă (dzî pentru Domnul)* [11, p. 217]; *dimonesc*, from *demon* (< Lat. *daemon*, Gr. *Daimonio*<sup>9</sup>) + suffix *-esc*: (*S-au luptat cu multe supărări și, mai vîrtos,*) *cu dimonești* [11, p. 126]; *a dispotui*, 'to explain, to debate' (< Lat. *disputo*, *-are*) + suffix *-ui*<sup>10</sup>: (*Iaste ș-altă a lui carte asupra păgînilor, întru carea pentru firea dimonilor*) *disputuiaște* [11, p. 401]; *a dogmățici*<sup>11</sup> we believe that it was formed by analogy from adjective *dogmatic(esc)*<sup>12</sup> (< Lat. *dogmaticus*, *-a*, *-um* (according to [5]; without attestations in the old age), but we also believe that Gr. Ecl., Mgr., Ngr. *dogmatikol'*) + verbal suffix *-i*; adjective *dogmățicit* < *a dogmățici*. These derivatives can be found in Dosoftei, *Novă adunare de istorii, începînd de la fapțul lumii...: (Daturile [...] de sinții părinți) dogmățicite (aședzate)* [8, f. 229<sup>r</sup>]; verb *do<g>mățiciră* appears in the marginal gloss in relation to the context *Tocmiră și pentru sintele icoane și a sintei cruci, să fie de închinat* [8, f. 344<sup>r</sup>].

We found in Dosoftei's writings several derivatives from the verb *formo*, *-are*, and under the influence of noun *forma* *-ae*<sup>3</sup>, such as: noun *formuire* < *a formui* < Lat. *formo*, *-are* + suffix *-ui*: (*fericita*) *formuire* [11, p. 164]; participle *formuite (cu ceara)* [11, p. 162] and in (*trii păhară*) *formuite* [8, f. 59<sup>v</sup>]; verb *a înformui*, formed by parasynthetic derivation from prefix *în-* + *a forma* (< Lat. *formo*, *-are*) + suffix *-ui*, used in [7] in the same context as in [22]: (*Ai făcut pre omul din țărînă și pre acesta*) *l-ai înformuit (în fai și-n bunătate)* [22, p. 198]; *L-ai înfurmuit (în fai și-n bunătate)*, 'to give shape, to create' [22, f. 81<sup>v</sup>]; (*De*

*iznoavă*) ai înformuit (acea stricată de păcat firea noastră) [7, p. 293]; the participle from this verb, with prefix *ne-* appears in [8], in the context (*Cum să fie trup acee ce-i nesămuită și nehotărâtă și neînformuită, (nehizmuită și nepipăită)*) [8, f. 361<sup>v</sup>]. Another verb created from Lat. *formo*, -are is a *preformui* < prefix *pre-* + a *forma* + suffix *-ui*, 'to adorn' [22, f. 141<sup>v</sup>]. This can be found, according to [5] (s.v.) in [3], with the meanings "to compose, arrange, to plan" and "take someone's shape to turn to". In [2] another derivative from the same radical and with the same prefix can be found, but with a different suffix, *informălui* with the sense "to polish, to arrange", used by this scholar as participle and the noun, *informăluire*, meaning "information, explanation". In [6] it is supposed that these words are either scholarly formations from medieval Latin *informo*-, -are, or form *formo*-, -are with prefix *în-* and the attestation in [22] is not given. In [2], *informăluire* may be based on *informo*-, -are, but we believe that the Metropolitan scholar created the words analyzed in this section rather by derivation from *formo*-, -are "to create, to shape" because, on the one hand, this is the meaning with which he uses it again and, on the other hand, the same radical lies at the basis of the other derivatives disclosed herein.

Another derivative from the series discussed here is the adjective *nematoriΔlnic*, from [22], present in the context: (*pentru fîgade și rugi*) a *nematoriΔlnicilor* (tăi slujitori) (f. 95<sup>r</sup>). By analyzing this word, D. Pușchilă gives the hypothesis, which we consider true, that this could be a typo, and that in fact, the word created by Dosoftei is *nemateriΔlnic*, from Lat. *măterīa*, -ae<sup>14</sup>, and the sense of the derivative would be 'spiritual'<sup>15</sup>.

Other derivatives of this type are: *necompozit*, with the form *necompozuit*, from Latin neologism *compono*-, -ere "to put together, to reunite; to compile", with the glossed sense: (*Esti Dumnădzău [...] necompozit, (adece netocmit din bucăți)*) [8, f. 327<sup>v</sup>] and (*Așe-i și la dumnădzăiasca,*) *necompozuita* (fire în cumeniciune dumnădzăirii, unirea) [8, f. 351<sup>r</sup>].

Dosoftei creates from Latin *figuro*-, -are "to form, to shape" derivative *nefigurat*, present in the context: (*Unul Dumnădzău, ună tuturora începătură ne-ncepută și nezidită [...], nefigurată, (o ună din sus de ființă supradumnădzăiască, dumnădzăire în trei staturi)*) [8, f. 355<sup>v</sup>].

In [22], the derivative adjective *nemăculată*, was used along with Latin neologism *macula*-, -ae, from which it was formed: (*fără prihană, fără oc<ar>ă, fără maculă,*) *nemăculată* (f. 155<sup>r</sup>).

Dosoftei uses the verb *plăzmui* with the meaning "to create", adapted by suffix *-ui* after Gr. *plasma* and Lat. *plasma*-, -ātis: (*Mînule Tale mă făcură și mă plăzmuiră*) [7, p. 19, cf. and 16], also used in [11]: *Au plăzmuît (omeneasca fire)* (p. 182), and in [8] (*Pre sine au deșertat singur Născutul Fiiu și Dumnădzău, om de s-au făcut din fetescul singe cu alt ustav decît a firii obiceii) de s-au plăzmuît* (f. 359<sup>v</sup>) and also, several times in [9]: *Plăzmui (Dumnădzău pre omul, fărănă luînd din pămînt)* (p. 112); *Te-am plăzmuît (și te-am dat și te-am pus în testament*

*veacinic*) (p. 163, cf. and 113, 146, 157, 184, 190). The noun from this verb is also used, *plăzmuire*, with the meaning of “God’s creation”, in [22, f. 81<sup>v</sup>] and in the context (*Să nu treci cu cătutul a Ta*) *plăzmuire* from [7, p. 199, cf. and 293, 295). The derivatives in this category include the verbal derivative *a preplăsmui*, with the form *a prăplăzmu* with the meaning “to prefigure” < prefix *pre-* + *plăsmui* (< Gr. πλάσμα, Lat. *plasma*, *-ătis*), from the context: *prăplăzmuind* (*a ceriurilor împărăție*) from [11, p. 221]. Other derivatives created by Dosoftei based on the neologistic radicals mentioned here are: noun derivatives *plăzmătare* “creator” [22, f. 146<sup>r</sup>] and *plăzmător*: (*Tu -*) *Plăzmătoriul* (*nostru și lucruri minilor tale, toți noi*) [9, p. 305]. In the era, the verb *a plăsmui* is also used in [3], meaning “to imagine, to invent”. In [3] we can also find noun *plăsmuire*, with the meaning “creation”, and noun derivative *plăsmuitor* “creator, maker”. The latter with the meaning of “person who imagines, invents” appears in a writing from 1798, according to [5] (s.v.).

A derivative created from Greek πολιτική formed by adapting this noun to suffix *-ie*, is *politicie* from [8], in the context (*Așe s-au înfrământat Rîmul de Romul cu cele de războiu, iară de-acesta, cu cele de cetățenie*.) *politicie* (*și de pace*) (f. 75<sup>v</sup>).

A derivative based on a neologistic radical is the verb *a ritorici*<sup>6</sup>, formed by analogy, like *dogmatici*, from adjective *ritoric(esc)*<sup>17</sup> (< Gr., Ngr. ρητορικολ', Lat. *rhetoricus* + verbal suffix *-i*: (*Ceale dumnezeiești*) *ritoricia* [9, p. 255]; (*Bun măiestru și bine grăitori rost*) *a ritorici* (*nu poate să te cînte*) [9, p. 280, cf. and 271]. This verb also appears in [4].

We also noticed in the language of Dosoftei’s texts the frequency of words with termination *-icesc*, adapted in general, in the old literary Romanian after Gr. *-iko* and Lat. *-icus*<sup>18</sup> such as: *astronomicesc*, *canonicesc*, *dogmaticesc*, *icumenicesc*, *iroicesc*, *loghicesc*, *politicesc*, *practicesc*, *silloghicesc* etc. The recent study on the suffix *-icesc* conducted by Carmen-Gabriela Pamfil and Elena Danilă Tamba, which examines the history of this issue and the etymological solving from *Thesaurus Dictionary of the Academy* offers solutions to the different eras of literary Romanian regarding the etymology of words terminated as such and for the etymological paragraph of this dictionary, solutions that we consider reasonable and fair. Thus, in agreement with other opinions [19, p. 259-272] according to which suffix *-icesc* could be formed “toward the end of the eighteenth century and especially in the nineteenth century” [20, p. 200], the authors conclude in a nuanced way with which we agree, that “adjectives borrowed from Greek and Latin, ending in *-iko* and *-icus* in old literary Romanian as in the case of loans from other languages, entered in the phase of transition to modern literary Romanian” [idem, p. 201], the conclusion is that they should be considered loans adapted to the Romanian language system, and not derived words.



We said that Dosoftei tends to adapt by means of this termination the type of neologisms in question, but we must emphasize that, more than that, he had linguistic intuition and felt this termination as a suffix. We also found in his texts formations such as *aselghicesc*<sup>19</sup>, *mirtopsicesc* and with the Slavonic radical *vř̃cebnicesc*, *mironosicesc*<sup>20</sup> and also *tăinuicesc*, that have no equivalent in any foreign language, so that in these cases, we can say that we are dealing with derivatives that Dosoftei created by analogy: *aselghicesc*<sup>21</sup> < *aselghie* (< așelgeia 'dissipation') + suffix *-icesc*; *mirtopsicesc* (we have not found in the Greek dictionaries forms corresponding as loans) < *mirt* < murto, which by closeness to the verb мурейω "to prepare something like ointment" could give for euphony the consonant group *-ps-* + suffix *-icesc*; *tăinuicesc* < *tănu* + suffix *-icesc*. These derivatives appear in contexts such as: (*spurcăciuni*) *aselghicesți* [22, f. 96<sup>r</sup>]; (*curvii spurcate*) *asîlghicesți* [8, f. 230<sup>r</sup>]; (*spurcări*) *aselghicesți* [8, f. 230<sup>v</sup>]; (*petrecînd în necurății*) *aselghicesți* [9, p. 314]; (*Svîntul măcenic [...] împlînd văzduhul de miros scump*) *mirtopsicesc*, (*să sui ca o stea luminoasă la Dumnezău*) [11, p. 304]; *tăinuicesc* [22, f. 101<sup>v</sup>].

4. Therefore, when they discuss a philological problem such as the authorship of a text or language problems such as the literary language of Dosoftei's works or the evolution of the Romanian literary language (in the old period), they should consider this aspect of derivation, which characterizes the language of the Metropolitan scholar's texts: **the formation of derivatives with affixes from a Latin or Greek neologistic word** (for this period). This is a characteristic determined by features of his spiritual basis – we adapt and apply this concept of A. Philippide–G. Ivănescu doctrine<sup>22</sup>, which is very useful and entirely appropriate – such as: the knowledge of the classical language, and the tendency to assimilate neologisms and to integrate them in the Romanian literary language – with a special vision on the ones coming from Latin [12] – and, of course the sense of language, the linguistic intuition, too, combined with linguistic creativity, the latter being a feature of the creators of language, especially rare in the old period.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>See also [23, p. 149], which states: "The words of Slavonic origin, great in number [in Dosoftei's language] were somewhat in fashion in old Romanian literary language, especially in ecclesiastical and administrative language".

<sup>2</sup>We must mention here that once finished the first edition of the *Romanian Language Dictionary* of Academy – even if it has the imperfections inherent to a work of this importance and extension – has already opened the way towards the study of ancient vocabulary, which Ivănescu thought about.

<sup>3</sup>We extracted the material for analysis from [7], [10], [9], [11], [8], [22].

<sup>4</sup>We kept the transcription system used by D. Pușchilă to extract the words from [22] that he analyzed.

<sup>5</sup>See the *Romanian Language Dictionary* accomplished by A. Philippide and his team, where the definition of the word is 'chasing out with disdain' and the following is

stated for the first time: “Dosoŧei issued the word, which was not used before him nor after him, from the Greek word ἀποσκορακίζω ‚chasser avec mépris””; also see the complete etymology and the discussions from 17, p. 172.

<sup>6</sup>We prepare a broader communication about this creation of Dosoŧei, which we intend to present at the fifth edition of the international symposium “Explorations in Romanian and European biblical tradition” held in Iași, and whose works are to be published in Volume *Receptarea Sfintei Scripturi între filologie, hermeneutică și traductologie (Reception of Holy Scripture between Philology, Hermeneutics and Translation Studies)* which reached the fourth volume, in preparation for printing.

<sup>7</sup>The *Romanian Language Dictionary* [6] states that this is „A word Romanized by from Neo-Greek. \*F60J46`H. Cf. *ascet*.” This process was produced by derivation.

<sup>8</sup>Also see [15, p. 450, 470, 472].

<sup>9</sup>According to [13] in Eccl. Gr. it means “unclean, crafty soul”.

<sup>10</sup>The word was not recorded in [5]. Instead they recorded *disputație*, without attestations in Dosoŧei’s texts.

<sup>11</sup>In [5] the verb is recorded with the form *a dogmatisi* (s.v.) < dogmatisa, aor. of dogmatizw, without attestations in the old period.

<sup>12</sup>For *dogmaticesc* see: (*cuvintele*) *dogmătițești* (Dosoŧei, *Vieața și petreacerea svinților*, p. 199); (*Șese săboară, pentru credință, cercare s-au făcut și socoteală, adecă hotariu*) *dogmaticesc (s-au scos)* (Dosoŧei, *Novă adunare de istorii, începînd de la faptul lumii...*, f. 342<sup>v</sup>).

<sup>13</sup>This Latin neologism appears in Dosoŧei’s writings, see [22, p. 93], [7, p. 124], [11, p. 12, 164, 376].

<sup>14</sup>The neologism *materie* is used several times in [8] (f. 348<sup>v</sup>, f. 351<sup>r</sup>, f. 352<sup>v</sup>, f. 356<sup>r</sup>).

<sup>15</sup>See [22, p. 82]. D. Pușchilă states that the word is a “derivative of Dosoŧei” and he considers it analogous to *înfurmui* derived from *formă*. Therefore, this linguist believes that the verb *înfurmui* is derived from the Latin noun *forma*, not from the verb *formo*, -are. He reaches this conclusion because in [22, f. 12<sup>v</sup>] the noun *formă (de șerb)* appears as well.

<sup>16</sup>In [5] s.v. *ritorici* the etymology *ritor* + suffix *-ici* is suggested.

<sup>17</sup>For *ritoricesc* see [11]: *Era învățat în toată filosofia și deprins la cuvintele ritoricești* vs (184).

<sup>18</sup>For explanations about this category of words and this process valid for old age, see [20, p. 191-202].

<sup>19</sup>[6] suggests the etymology: „Derived from *aselghie*, by adjectival suffix *-esc*”.

<sup>20</sup>With Slavonic radical, by closeness to врачевльнъ, adj. ‚îprou medici’, врачевскы adj. ‚îpatrikol’ îprou medici’, врачевскы adv. ‚îpatrikw’ arte medica’ [16] is *vračebnicesc* ‚healing; medical’: *Aceștiia [...], de meștersugul vrăcebnicesc foarte fiind iscusiți, îmbla la tot orașul și cetatea, tămăduind fără plată* [11, p. 89]; by closeness to mironosica ‚murofovro unguentum ferens’ [16]: (*Acea [...] femeie, a ta simțind dumnedzăire*) *mironosicească, (luînd rînd tînguind miruri ție [...] aduce)* [8, f. 251<sup>v</sup>].

<sup>21</sup>We have not found in the Greek dictionaries a form \*aselgikol’, but the adjective is aselghl’, hl’, el’.

<sup>22</sup>View a summary of A. Philippide–G. Ivănescu doctrine on the issue of *articulatory basis* and *psychological/spiritual basis* in [21].

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