

*An English-Romanian Explanatory Dictionary of Onomastic Phrasemes*. By Nadia-Nicoleta Morărașu and Floriana Popescu, Pro Universitaria, București, ISBN 978-606-26-1909-1, 220 pp.

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A glimpse at Romanian lexicography, more specifically at the bilingual works describing the English-Romanian language pair, shows that many contributions to the field have been made to this day. In addition to a rich collection of both Romanian-English and English-Romanian dictionaries, which showcase entries with a descriptive character, an even more consistent collection brings specialist dictionaries to the fore. In the field of sciences, they deal, among others, with the language of economics (Neagu 1999, Popa 2006), the terminology of mechanics (Deleanu, Dima and Șorcaru 2009); in the field of language sciences, they account for proverbs (Popa 2011), collocations (Popescu and Toma 2010), similes (Morărașu 2010), synonyms (Hulban et al. 2007) and name - and naming-related aspects (Morărașu 2020). Placed against such a background, this *English-Romanian Explanatory Dictionary of Onomastic Phrasemes* by Nadia-Nicoleta Morărașu and Floriana Popescu is an ice-breaking lexicographic work. It initiates a new direction of exploration of the English language, culture and civilization, i.e. that of the idioms, phraseological units or phrasemes which were built on personal names of real or fictitious persons as well as geographical names already well-known in international culture. A particular category of common nouns and adjectives, which were personified over the centuries and reached the position and usage personal names, were also included in the dictionary.

Following the track of English-Romanian/ Romanian-English phraseological dictionaries (e.g. Nicolescu et al. 2007) and a few others, this dictionary has its own personality, which is reflected both at compositional level and macro- and micro-structural levels. Thus, the

macro-structure of this dictionary is mirrored in its first pages: it has a well-layered architecture. With its preface that is not only followed by a table of contents but also by an introductory study and an index of proper names, this volume is indicative of the authors' concern in and preoccupation for each and every constitutive element and detail included in the dictionary entries.

The 748 entries have a similar structure, with delineated specifications which provide information about the name (gender, etymology and reference to the historic landscape of the name, phraseme/s, origin and meaning and Romanian version/s).

As not each of all these 748 proper names is to be found in several phrasemes, there is no connection related to the proportion of onomastic phrasemes considered. The majority of these names are the backbone of one phraseme, such as *Alice Springs*, in the phraseme *been via Alice Springs?* (p. 7) or *Bray*, in *the vicar of Bray* (p. 25). Such personal names, which originate from gods or goddesses of classical mythology, sometimes occur in two or three phrasemes. Thus, *Neptune* is used in the antonomasia *a son of Neptune* to refer to a sailor and in the metaphorically used phraseme *Neptune's sheep* used to name the foamy waves of the rough sea (p. 135). Quite opposite to these examples, there are exceptions represented by such onyms as *Dutch* and *God*, as each of these is inserted in over 72 phrasemes, more exactly *Dutch* in 73 and *God* in 77.

This impressive collection of proper names, irrespective of their nature, i.e. mythonyms, charactonyms, plain anthroponyms or a wide variety of toponyms, which describe 2014 phrasemes selected from an impressive collection of dictionaries, glossaries, thesauri as well as language and culture encyclopaedia, published beginning with the end of the nineteenth century and ending with the latest work that came out in 2016.

Beyond the richness of phrasemes included in this work, another merit of this dictionary lies in its openness to new phrasemes, by new phrasemes meaning those constructions which had not been

assimilated by or mentioned in the bilingual lexicographic products by the time the dictionary was published. An illustrative example would be *Halifax*, the name of an industrial town situated southwest of Bradford, also recorded as Halyfax in the phraseme the *Halifax law* (p. 89). To solve these translational conundrums, the authors confess their recourse to phraseological dictionaries of the Romanian language that were published either before or after the year 2000. Where no similar corresponding solution was found, the translation had an explanatory version. Nevertheless, if readers would ever care to come with their own solutions, they could provide it effortlessly as each phraseme has its meaning described in its entry.

The innovative character of this dictionary is noticeable in both the rich list of phrasemes and their translated versions, which distinguish whenever necessary between literal and figurative meanings.

This dictionary deserves our consideration for it covers a lacuna of the bilingual lexicography on idioms or phraseological constructions and paves the way to the clear and unequivocal meaning of English onomastic phrasemes. It may be not only inspirational for other pairs of languages but also of great help to all those who are building a career in the fields of translation and (conference) interpretation. Through its whole structure, the dictionary was so devised as to be a helpful tool to all the ones who attempt to grasp the Anglo-American lexical heritage and to provide an abundance of knowledge as well as solutions for the accurate translation of such proper name-based constructions.

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## Book review

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