

## Interculturality and Lexicology: Romanian Medical Eponyms. A Case Study

Prof. univ. dr. Floriana Popescu

Universitatea “Dunărea de Jos” din Galați

**Résumé :** L'étude des éponymes de la langue roumaine vient d'être entamée si l'on se rapporte à la langue anglaise où, jusqu'au début de 2009 plus de vingt-cinq produits lexicographiques (dictionnaires, guides, voire encyclopédies) ont déjà parus. Nous signalons l'apparition de la première étude du genre en roumain en 2003 même si nous retrouvons des approches fragmentaires ou allusives dans la linguistique roumaine à partir du XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle. L'étude présente a comme objet l'investigation des éponymes médicaux roumains afin de mettre en évidence le fait que ce domaine, tout comme dans l'anglais, est ouvert pour recevoir de nouvelles terminologies, même si, dans la plupart des cas, le domaine roumain dispose d'éléments natifs pour désigner ou faire l'équivalence entre différents concepts spécifiques du domaine médical. Notre travail présente les résultats d'un projet de recherche individuelle qui analyse certains aspects terminologiques spécifiques ou, selon le métalangage roumain, certains aspects du langage fonctionnel.

**Mots-clés :** étude lexicographique, éponymes médicaux, terminologies spécifiques, langage fonctionnel

### Introduction

Some particular elements which provide a certain degree of intercultural exchange of specialist terminology outline the framework of this study. **Aim of the study:** basing our argument on the hypothesis that Romanian medical eponyms reflect the acquisitive character of this jargon and they equally highlight its intercultural richness, with borrowings from virtually all of the (more or less known) European languages, to names of diseases, syndromes, surgical practices and methods as well as other specificities peculiar to anatomy, physiology and medicine. **Materials and methods:** the paper provides taxonomic presentations of eponyms assumed by the Romanian medical terminology, whose classifying criteria will be argued for in terms of (foreign) synonymy, vernacular terminological resourcefulness and translation equivalence. **Results:** the numerous items in the classifications below **prove** the openness of the Romanian medical community towards scientific progress as it is at work all over the world. In addition, hybrid constructions are purposefully included in the sets of examples to highlight the simultaneity of the scientific act developed in different parts of the world or from one generation to another. **Conclusion:** the study advocated the presence of an impressive number of eponyms/eponymic structures originating in a wide range of languages as a proof of the intercultural feature of the terminology in focus.

### I. Approaches to eponyms in Romanian linguistics

A wider interest in the study of eponyms within the framework of Romanian linguistics undergoes its incipient stage, although much attention has been paid to those 'common words derived from proper names'. A carefully-constructed bibliography would hardly boast of more than one title including the term *eponym*. Discussions about and approaches to common words derived from proper names usually avoid the label *eponym*, which, nevertheless, has a considerable high frequency of occurrence in the case of the British and American English languages and cultures. Like in the case of the English vocabulary (see Popescu 2008), this term has been adopted by the Romanian language as part of the word stock for more than a century, but it was only in 2003 that it was used as a specialism<sup>1</sup>. Although the first edition of a dictionary of eponyms had already been published, Polirom Publishing House releases a volume with a meaningfully similar content, *Nume proprii, nume comune* (Radu Mușat 2006), whose subtitle describes it to be *a dictionary of antonomasia*. It is thus obvious that the author/editor/publisher<sup>2</sup> of this latter volume had either not thoroughly investigated the recent

Romanian bibliography in the field or decided to simply waive it. Irrespective of the author/editor/publisher's attitude, it is worth emphasizing that there might be a reason to be accounted for, considering:

(a) the Romanian culture has been traditionally indebted to France since the late 1840s  
(b) the Romanian and French literatures of speciality focus on 'common words derived from proper names':

(c) the Anglo-American have already described and referred to eponyms with this term, for more than a quarter of a century. To this end, only a glimpse at a selectively compiled set of dictionaries of eponyms<sup>3</sup> selectively provided in a paper specifically tailored for this purpose (Popescu 2009) would be eloquent. Thus, while in the Anglo-Saxon world over 35 dictionaries of medical eponyms had been published since 1972, a famous French specialized dictionary of language and linguistics<sup>4</sup> would not have the entry *eponym* or its other possible derivatives in its directory. In a similar way, recent Romanian specialist dictionaries would choose to waive the term *eponym* focusing on *antonomasia*. Nevertheless, contrary to the "Latin descendants' practices", the English linguists who published their language dictionaries before the above-mentioned, had accepted the term *eponym* as part of metalanguage, and included it in their directories (Crystal 1992: 107). It is equally true, *antonomasia*<sup>5</sup> literally refers to the same linguistic phenomenon, but the reason for preferring the former to the latter is crystal-clear. *Antonomasia* belongs with stylistics, with personal style and literary stylistics while eponyms are deeply rooted in lexicography and lexicology. On the other hand, *antonomasia* describes a vectorially-double process<sup>6</sup>, allowing for a double substitution. This is hardly applicable to eponyms which, in their greatest percentage, denominate various classes of abstract and concrete nouns, actions, processes and even features or qualities.

Although the literature of the 1990s superposes three different meanings within *eponym*, being used to refer to (a) a person, (b) to the person's name and (c) to a new(ly created) element, the first decade of the year 2000 not only distinguishes these meanings but it also suggests new terms for each of the values: *eponymists* (either the person whose name is converted into a common word or specialists in the study of eponyms), *eponyms* (or the personal name proper) and *eponymisms* (the words with the role of neologism). For practical reasons, herein *eponym* will be preferred, i.e., in its third meaning of "the word so derived" since it may turn into a base, creating at least two or three neologisms as the proper name *Mesmer* produced *mesmerize*, *mesmeric* (<Franz-Friedrich *Mesmer*, German-born medical doctor).

The following sections of the current approach will consider Romanian medical eponyms as a reflection of the scientific community's professional and terminological effervescence.

Although several monolingual or bilingual (Romanian-English) medical dictionaries have been published after the year 2000, our analysis is exclusively based on *Dicționar medical* (Rusu 2001). This is because, first of all, it appears to be the most comprehensive of them all (consisting of 1626 A4 – pages of lexicographic descriptions) and secondly, because this is not a translation of any English original work, as it is the case with the Romanian version of the Oxford English dictionary<sup>7</sup> or with any bilingual dictionary. A 19-member-team of field-specific researchers, contributors and consultants produced an impeccable lexicographic work, which is not only a cornerstone for the medical literature but for the Romanian lexicography as well. The book architecture is almost similar to its English- or American-born siblings, which is remarkable if it is compared with only two very important and frequently quoted Romanian dictionaries, i.e., *Dictionarul Explicativ al Limbii Române* and *Dictionar de Stiinte ale Limbajului*. What is shared by the last two is their benefitting from the authorship of well-known professors at Universitatea București<sup>8</sup>. The second edition

of the DEX, published in 1998, which one would expect to bring amendments and improvements to its earlier version, is also the product of an impressive number of reputed contributors who worked under the aegis of the Romanian Academy.

### *Prolegomena on interculturality*

Several aspects of interculturality start from the definition of culture, but they were described in other studies<sup>9</sup>; for the perspective of this approach we consider it enough to quote Henk et al. (2004), who defined this concept to enclose five major meanings. The fifth meaning says that interculturality should be read as: “5. *Problem solving, communication, and learning by people belonging to different cultural communities, leading to the creation, change, conversion and transfer of knowledge*” Henk et al. (2004: 3). We may say, therefore, that interculturality leads to the creation, change, conversion and transfer of knowledge, basically performed by a wide variety signs, elements of specialist terminology included.

## **II. Material**

Although not specifically structured according to the British or American lexicographic models *Dicționar medical*, the work in our focus, opens with a table of contents consisting of 18 chapters, grouped according to British and American practices, into (a) front matter, (b) the a-z dictionary and (c) back matters<sup>10</sup>. The front matter of *Dicționar medical* provides:

- a) data about the book (preface, introduction, guide to understanding the abbreviations used therein)
- b) data about the history of the medical terminology, abbreviations and symbols peculiar to the medical terminology
- c) an etymologic guide.

The a-z dictionary section benefits from entries rich in scientific data, complemented by etymological information and semantic details (i.e., various synonymic solutions, denominations pertaining to the folk or to the scientific terminology).

The back matter is also comprehensively devised and it joins together other complementary sections:

- a) glossaries (one of medical informatics and one of folk medical terms);
- b) indices (index of English-Romanian terms, index of French-Romanian terms, index of proper names);
- c) tables (of anatomical data, of biological constant numbers);
- d) the international system of medical measurements<sup>11</sup>.

## **III. Method**

Since the index of proper nouns is simply a directory whose each element is listed with its ‘ready-made patterns’,<sup>11</sup> a selection and an analysis of the 2536 proper represented the first step of the current approach. Next, an extracting and compiling of all the data from the dictionary core, which refer to these proper names, has led to a necessary distinction: out of the total number of proper names some thirtyish are geographical names. Based on their origin, geographical names or toponyms represent another lexically resourceful class which requires further research. An approach to place names will make the object of another research, meaning our inquiry focuses on personal names exclusively. All the data collected, some recurrent situations were more that obvious, and they are the essence of the section below.

## IV. Findings

The 2500-personal names corpus mainly divides into (a) one-word and multi-word eponyms. Due to their very high number only a tiny percentage will be included in the sections below. This is because what is of interest

### A. One-word eponyms

Rather scarce, as compared to multi-word eponyms, these one-word eponyms originate in mythological names, and in names of celebrities in the medical world.

1. In the case of the former category, the entries reveal situations illustrative for several word building processes. For a first example, recategorization or conversion is the process by means of which a personal name plays the part of a common noun:

- *proteus* is used with reference to any of a genus of enterobacteria (<*Proteus* - a god in the Greek mythology)
- *atlas*, the name of an important vertebra (<*Atlas*, the Titan who supports the heavens on his shoulders)
- *morgan* (<Thomas H. *Morgan*, American geneticist 1866-1945) is a measuring unit used in genetics

2. One eponym accepts a prefix added to the base *bel* (<Graham *Bell*, American engineer) is a unit to measure acoustic power or the intensity of sounds, better known under the form of *decibel*.

3. Where personal names take suffixes, derivation produces nominal constructions or elements of nominal constructions, mainly under the form of:

a) adjectives

-*oid*: *cushingoid* (<Harvey Williams *Cushing*, American neurosurgeon)

-*ian*: *hulerian* / *hurloid* (<Gertrud *Hurler*, 20<sup>th</sup> century German pediatrician), *epilepsie jacksoniană* / *jacksonian* epilepsy (<John Hughlings *Jackson*, English neurologist)

b) nouns which denote

i) genres of bacteria

-*ella*: *brucella* (<Sir David *Bruce*, English medical doctor), *Bordelella* (<Jules Jean Baptiste *Bordel*, Belgian bacteriologist, 1919 Nobel winner for medicine/physiology) denominates a bacterial genus of three species of bacteria, *morganella* (<Harry de Riemer *Morgan*, English bacteriologist)

-*ia*: *babesia* (<Victor *Babeș*, Romanian bacteriologist), *Borrelia* (<Amédée *Borrel*, French bacteriologist)

ii) names of diseases

-*ină*: *huntingtină* (<Geroge Summer *Huntington*, American medical doctor)

-*ioză/-iosis*: *babesioză* / *babesiosis* (<Victor *Babeș*, Romanian bacteriologist), *borelioze* / relapsing fever, recurrent fever, spirillum fever (<Amédée *Borrel*, French bacteriologist),

-*eloză* / -*ellosis*: *bruceloză* / *brucellosis* (<Sir David *Bruce*, English medical doctor), *bartoneloză* / *bartonellosis* (<A. I. *Barton*, South American medical doctor)

-*ită*: *cowperită*, Romanian name of a disease (<William *Cowper*, 17<sup>th</sup> century English surgeon and anatomist)

-*om*: *Kupfferom* / *Kupffer's cell sarcoma* (<Karl von *Kupffer*, German anatomist)

-*ină* / -*ine*: *lobelină* / *lobeline* (<Matthias de *Lobel*, Flemish botanist, 1538-1616)

-*ism*: *daltonism* (<John *Dalton*, 19<sup>th</sup> century English chemist) is a term generically used with reference to ophthalmic diseases (Rusu: 2001: 345), *Parkinsonism* (<James Apotheker *Parkinson*, 18<sup>th</sup> century English medical doctor)

iii) doctrines or theories

- ism*: *pavlovism* (<Anton Petrovici *Pavlov*, Russian physiologist and Nobel-prize winner) scientific trend in modern physiology and physiopathology; *mesmerism* (<Franz-Friedrich *Mesmer*, German-born medical doctor who practiced in France and Switzerland) is a medical doctrine and practice in fashion in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries
3. Compounding shows both instances of juxtaposition and of linking compounds.
    - a) a personal name joins a common noun: *curieterapie*, with an identical English version *curie-therapy* (<Marie Sklodovska *Curie*, Polish-born French chemist).
    - b) in linked compounds, the interfix is usually a vowel, o, most frequently, and the lexical formations are active both in Romanian and in English: *galvanoterapie* / *galvanotherapy* (<Luigi *Galvani*, 18<sup>th</sup> century Italian physician and physicist + -o- + *therapy*).
  4. Specialization of meaning is the semantic shift which characterizes the use of *algorithm* (<Al *Kasimi*, 9<sup>th</sup> century Arabian mathematician) which has developed a specific-purpose meaning, i.e., a step-by-step procedure to diagnose a disease (Rusu 2001: 155).
  5. Personal names may be reduced to initial letters to produce eponym-derived abbreviations: the syndrome *Lown-Ganong-Levine* (<Bernard *Lown*, American cardiologist, William F. *Ganong*, American physiologist and Samuel Albert *Levine*, American cardiologist) is also known as the *LGL syndrome*.
  6. Personal name reduction may sometimes be accompanied by suffixation, as in the case of the term *faradizare* / *faradization* (<Michael *Faraday*, English physicist + -izare/ -ization), a procedure used for curative purposes.

### **B. Multi-word ready-made eponyms**

Multi-word ready-made eponymic patterns are by far more numerous than those pertaining category in the foregoing. For analytical purposes, we advance a division of these structures according to Baugh and Cable's (1991) principles, into necessary and redundant. What underlies the distinction between the former and the latter is the presence of solutions in the vernacular. The research revealed categories of eponymic structures without any such solutions to one extreme and two synonymic patterns with more than one solution in Romanian at the other extreme. In between, there are various situations of equivalence, either at the level of borrowings or at the level of the vernacular. The borrowings from necessity reveal the resourcefulness of eponymy in other cultures (British and American, in particular), on the one hand, and the receptiveness of the dictionary authors who decided to introduce them in their lexicographic work, on the other. The resourcefulness of eponymy accounts for the presence of both doublets, i.e., two 'ready-made patterns' with different eponyms in table 1b) and triplets, or three 'ready-made patterns' with different eponyms in table 1c).

#### **1. The necessary borrowings include**

- a) Loan translations, i.e., structures which have no solution in the vernacular
  - afte ***Bednar*** (<Alois ***Bednar***, Austrian pediciatrician)
  - anemie ***Banti*** (<Guido ***Banti***, Italian anatomo-pathologist)
  - bacilul ***Kisato*** (<Shibassaburo ***Kisato***, early 20<sup>th</sup> century Japanese bacteriologist),
  - bacilul ***Shiga*** (<Kiyoshi ***Shiga***, Japanese bacteriologist and medical doctor)
  - boala ***Anderson*** (<A. C. ***Anderson***, contemporary Australian medical doctor)
  - boala ***Reichmann*** (<Nicholaus ***Reichmann***, Polish medical doctor)
  - boala ***Monge*** (<Carlos ***Monge***, Peruvian pathologist, 1884-1870)
  - boala ***Murk Jansen*** (<***Murk Jansen***, Danish orthopedist, 1863-1935)
  - boala ***Alström-Olsen*** (<Carl Henry ***Alström***, Swedish geneticist, and <O.O. ***Olsen***, Swedish ophthalmologist)
  - pupila ***Marcus Gunn*** (Robert ***Marcus Gunn***, English ophtalmologist)
  - dungii/linii ***Mees*** (<B.A. ***Mees***, 19<sup>th</sup> century Dutch neurologist)
  - afazie ***Broca*** (<Paul ***Broca***, 19<sup>th</sup> century French anthropologist and surgeon)

- angina **Duguet** (<Jean Baptiste Nicolas **Duguet**, French medical doctor)

- boala **Adam-Stokes** (<Robert **Adam**, Irish medical doctor and William **Stokes**, Irish clinician)

- proba **Brodie-Trendelenburg** (<Sir Benjamin Collins **Brodie**, 1783-1862, English surgeon and <Friedrich **Trendelenburg**, 1884-1924, German surgeon who worked in Rostock and Leipzig),

b) ready-made eponymic patterns which have other ready-made eponymic patterns as equivalents, or double borrowings which have no Romanian equivalent and they are interchangeably explained into their dictionary entries. Although their number is much larger than what follows, the selection below is intended to point to the multitude of eponymists' nationalities

Loan translation a)	Loan translation b)
1. boala <b>Taylor</b> (<Robert William <b>Taylor</b> , American dermatologist of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century)	1. boala <b>Pick-Herxheimer</b>
2. boala <b>van Buren</b> (<William Holme <b>van Burke</b> , American surgeon)	2. boala <b>Peyronie</b>
3. boala <b>Vrolik</b> (<Willem <b>Vrolik</b> , Dutch anatomist, physiologist and surgeon)	3. boala <b>Durante</b>
4. boala <b>Reichek</b> (<Paul Friedrich <b>Reichek</b> , German surgeon and gynecologist, 1858-1934)	4. boala <b>Henderson-Jones</b>
5. celula <b>Leydig</b> (<Franz von <b>Leydig</b> , 19 <sup>th</sup> century German anatomist and histologist)	5. celula <b>Sertoli</b>
6. boala <b>Lafora</b> (<Gonzalo Rodriguez <b>Lafora</b> , Spanish neuropathologist)	6. sindrom <b>Unverricht</b>
7. boala <b>Behçet</b> (<Hulusi <b>Behçet</b> , Turkish dermatologist, 1889-1946)	7. sindrom <b>Adamantiades</b>
8. boala <b>Singing-Larsen-Johansson</b> (<Christian Magnus Falsen <b>Singing-Larsen</b> , Norwegian medical doctor and <Sven Christian <b>Johansson</b> , Swedish surgeon)	8. boala <b>Gruber</b>

c) the triple borrowings from necessity even widen the scope of synonymic structures built around names of medical doctors activating in different medical specialties:

Loan translation a)	Loan translation b)	Loan translation c)
1. boala <b>Vaquez</b> (<Louis Henry <b>Vaquez</b> , French doctor)	1. boala <b>Ansteim</b>	1. boala <b>Osler-Vaquez</b>
2. boala <b>Ribbing</b> (<Seved <b>Ribbing</b> , Swedish radiologist)	2. boala <b>Sifflerskjöld</b> (<Nils <b>Sifflerskjöld</b> , Swedish orthopedist)	2. boala <b>Fairbank</b>
3. fibre <b>Mahaim</b> (<J. <b>Mahaim</b> , contemporary French doctor)	3. fibre <b>James</b> (<T. N. <b>James</b> , American cardiologist and physiologist)	3. sindrom <b>Wolff-Parkinson-White</b>
4. boala <b>Paltauf-Sternberg</b> (<Richard <b>Paltauf</b> , Austrian anatomopathologist, 1858-1924 and <Carl <b>Sternberg</b> , Austrian anatomopathologist, 1872-1925)	4. boala <b>Pel-Ebstein</b> (<Pieter Klauses <b>Pel</b> , 1852-1919, Dutch medical doctor, professor in Amsterdam and Wilhelm <b>Ebstein</b> , 1836-1912, German medical doctor, professor in Göttingen)	4. boala <b>Hodgkin</b> (<Sir Alan Lloyd <b>Hodgkin</b> , British physiologist, 1963-Nobel prize winner)

The borrowings from necessity in the tables under 1b) and 1c) further divide to present both structures with one eponymist's name and, in their last rows double names of eponymists. The etymology of the double-eponym structures shows that some of them belonging to the same culture (e.g. under 1c: item 4 – column Loan translation a), some others

belonging to different cultures (e.g. under 1b item 8 – column Loan translation a) and item 4 in column Loan translation b).

2. The redundant borrowings represent a comprehensive group of ready-made structures. They are considered redundant because our corpus-dictionary provides several Romanian denominations to be used as equivalents to the foreign set phrases. In what follows, the classification takes into account both the number of (synonymic) eponymic structures and the number of Romanian translation solutions advanced by the lexicographers. Based on this principle, five groups of redundant borrowings are devised:

a) there is and equilibrium with loan translations which have only one correspondent in the vernacular. Nevertheless, in the case of item 8 in the loan translation column, the version in the vernacular is actually an explication rather than a disease name

Loan translation	Romanian version
1. bacilul <b>Hansen</b> (<Gerhard Henrik Armaver <b>Hansen</b> , Norwegian bacteriologist)	bacilul leprei
2. boala <b>Hansen</b>	lepra
3. boala <b>Bozzolo</b> (<Camilla <b>Bozzolo</b> , Irish medical doctor 1845-1920)	mielom multiplu
4. boala <b>Asboe-Hansen</b> (<G. <b>Asboe</b> , contemporary Danish dermatologist and <Gerhard Henrik Armaver <b>Hansen</b> )	dermatita bulboasa keratogena
5. boala <b>Pompe</b> (<Johann Cassianus <b>Pompe</b> , 20 <sup>th</sup> century Dutch medical doctor)	glicogenoză de tip ii
6. boala <b>Hers</b> (<Henry Géry <b>Hers</b> , Belgian biochemist)	glicogenoză de tip vi
7. boala <b>Petzetakis</b> (<M. <b>Petzetakis</b> , contemporary Greek medical doctor)	limforeticuloză benignă de inoculare
8. boala <b>Phocas</b> (<Gerasimo <b>Phocas</b> , Greek surgeon)	mastită cronică glangulară cu formare de numeroși nodule mici
9. boala <b>Pick</b> (<Arnold <b>Pick</b> , Czech psychiatrist and neurologist)	atrofie centrală circumscrișă
10. boala <b>Robles</b> (<Rodolfo <b>Robles</b> , Guatemalan dermatologist, 1878-1939)	oncocercoză
11. celula <b>Betz</b> (<Vladimir Alexandronovici <b>Betz</b> , 19 <sup>th</sup> century Russian anatomist)	celula piramidală (gigantică)
12. celula <b>Kulchitsky</b> (<Nicolai <b>Kulchitsky</b> , Russian histologist, 1856-1925)	celulă argentafină
13. boala <b>Filatov</b> (<Nil Feodorovici <b>Filatov</b> , Russian pediatrician 1887-1956)	rubeolă scarlatiniformă
14. boala <b>Jorge Lōbo</b> (< <b>Jorge Lōbo</b> , Brazilian dermatologist)	blastomicoză
15. boala <b>Chagas</b> (<Carlos <b>Chagas</b> , Brazilian medical doctor)	tripanosomiază americană
16. boala <b>Escudero</b> (<Pedro <b>Escudero</b> , Argentinean medical doctor, 1877-1963)	poliglobulie esențială
17. boala <b>Kashin-Bek</b> (<Nicolai Ivanovici <b>Kashin</b> , Russian military medical doctor and <E. V. <b>Bek</b> , Russian medical doctor)	osteoartrită deformantă endemică
18. boala <b>Osgood-Schlatter</b> (<Robert Boyley <b>Osgood</b> , American orthopedic surgeon and <Carl <b>Schlatter</b> , Swiss surgeon)	apofiză tibiană anterioară

b) some loan translations are translated into Romanian with three equivalents which pertain to the specialist vocabulary:

Loan translation	Vernacular denominations		
	a)	a)	a)
Boala <b>Silvestroni-Bianco</b> (<Ezio <b>Silvestroni</b> , contemporary Italian hematologist and <J. <b>Bianco</b> , contemporary Italian medical doctor)	Anemie microcitară drepanocitară	Microdrepanocitoză	Talasemie minimă
Sindrom <b>Charcot</b> (<Jean Martin <b>Charcot</b> , 19 <sup>th</sup> century French neurologist)	Scleroză laterală amiotrofică	Claudicație intermitentă	Migrenă oftalmoplegică

c) the abundance of eponymic structures is illustrated by some doublets or synonymic pairs accepted into Romanian but which have only one equivalent in the vernacular:

Loan translation a)	Loan translation b)	Vernacular
boala <b>Riga</b> (<Antonio <b>Riga</b> , 19 <sup>th</sup> century Italian medical doctor)	boala <b>Cardarelli</b>	subglosită difteroidă
boala <b>de Quervain</b> (<Friz <b>de Quervain</b> , Swiss surgeon)	boala <b>Derry</b> (<David <b>Derry</b> , contemporary Canadian medical doctor)	ganglioizidoză
celula <b>Heller-Zimmermann</b>	celula <b>Hargraves</b> (<M. M. <b>Hargraves</b> , contemporary American doctor)	celulă lupică
sindrom <b>Plummer-Vinson</b> (<Henry Stanley <b>Plummer</b> , American doctor, lived in Rochester: 1865-1941 and Porter Paisley <b>Vinson</b> , American doctor)	sindrom <b>Kelly-Paterson</b> (<Adam Brown <b>Kelly</b> , American laryngologist and Donald Ross <b>Paterson</b> , English otolaryngologist)	disfagie sideropenică

d) some of the translations provide shifts of register since the versions in the vernacular present samples of scientific terminology and folk denominations of the disease.

Loan translation	Loan translation	Scientific terminology	Folk Terminology
boala <b>Takayasu</b> (<Michishido <b>Takayasu</b> , Japanese medical doctor)	sindrom <b>Martorell</b>	arteritis brahiocefalica	boala femeilor fara puls
sindrom <b>Achard-Thiers</b>	sindrom <b>Apert-Gallais</b>	sindrom suprarenogenital	diabet al femeilor cu barbă

e) eponymic doublets which have several Romanian equivalents

Loan translation	Loan translation	Vernacular denominations		
		a)	b)	c)
boala <b>Tay-Sachs</b> (<Warren <b>Tay</b> , English medical doctor and <Bernard <b>Sachs</b> , American neurologist)	boala <b>Norman-Wood</b>	idiotie amaurotică familială	ganglioizidoză GM <sub>2</sub> tip I	ganglioizidoză de tip infantil



## Conclusions

The study aimed to demonstrate the intercultural character of the Romanian medical terminology with the help of a thorough lexical investigation performed on a corpus extracted from the most comprehensive dictionary in the Romanian heritage. The classifications proposed were devised so as to prove the numerous possible combinations and associations of personal names with several common nouns such as *boală*, *semn*, *sindrom*, *probă* or *test*.

The examples under each of the classifications, even if in some cases, may seem too abundant, they were there for a purpose: to illustrate the very high number of cultures which have contributed to this world heritage. Although the most numerous contributions come from the Anglo-American and French medical communities, examples bring forth specialists who made themselves famous and whose names are related to the cultural backgrounds creating them: Russian, Argentinean, Austrian, Australian, Belgian, Brazilian, Czech, Dutch, Flemish, German, Greek, Guatemalan, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Peruvian, Polish, Swedish and Turkish.

The international heritage of eponyms has acquired several ready-made structures with Romanian eponyms, but they were discussed in an approach to our national contribution to the English and American vocabularies.

## Notes

1. The linguistic literature on common words derived from proper names approaches this lexical category from a stylistic angle, which is the case, for example, with Stoichitoiu-Ichim (2001). In 2003 the first Romanian dictionary of eponyms authored by Ovidiu Laiu- Despău is published.
2. As stated in the preface, this dictionary was posthumously published. See Radu Musat, *Nume proprii, nume comune*, Iasi, Polirom, 2006, pg.3
3. A bibliography of these medical dictionaries of eponyms is available in Popescu 2009.
4. See, for example Dubois, J. *Dictionnaire de linguistique et des sciences du langage*, Larousse, 1994
5. 6. The definition in Dictionar de stiinte ale limbajului (2001: 60-1) describes antonomasia as a “semantic figure by means of which a common noun (denoting genera, classes or species) is substituted by the proper name of a person, acknowledged as representative for the respective class; more rarely, antonomasia allows for the reverse substitution. Thus, the proper name acquires a generic meaning, while the common noun may be spotted in the context”(our translation). The authors also mention antonomasia as a source of neologisms.
7. Our text-oriented analysis of English medical works translated into Romanian has pointed not only to translational mistakes but also to truncated target-language texts. In addition, the non-medically educated translators’ TL knowledge may be contaminated by the SL knowledge, and by way of consequence, they may give TL equivalents not previously acknowledged by the specialist terminology.
8. The DEX authors’ team is very numerous and it includes, among others, Luiza Seche and Mircea Seche and the DSL authors are Gabriela Bidu-Vrânceanu, Cristina Calarasu, Liliana Ionescu-Ruxandoiu and Gabriela Pana Dindelegan
9. Popescu, F., Sorcaru, D. *Eponyms. As Instance of Interculturality*, in Praisler, M., Colipca, I.G., Culture, Subculture, Counterculture, Europlus, Galati, pg. 160-168
10. See, for example, Webster 1972
11. to be fair to our analyzing principles mention should be made to the lack of the description of the apothecary’s system of measurements
12. ‘ready-made patterns’ or ‘formulaic structures’ are those chains of words which never modify their structure

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