DISTRIBUTION OF ANTHROPONYMS RELATED TO THE ROMANIAN HISTORICAL-GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS IN THE CARPATHIAN-BALKAN SPACE

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the article is to highlight the spatial distribution of historical migration based on anthroponyms which reflect it. Similarly, some names can give further information related to some historical events (e.g. the first historical mentions related to Bacea, the legend of the "founding" of Moldavia by inhabitants from Maramureș) or the limits of some historical-geographical regions (e.g. Transilvania/Transylvania, Bucovina/Bukovina). The study area referred to is the Carpathian-Balkan space, at the NUTS 2 level (or equivalent), including not only the regions situated in the area, but also the entire territory of the countries with which it even remotely overlaps. The maps which highlight the previously mentioned peculiarities are based on spatial distribution coefficients.

Keywords: anthroponyms, historical-geographical regions, Carpathian-Balkan space, historical migrations, regional limits

INTRODUCTION

The links between the different Romanian historical and geographical regions are old and, although this is not precisely highlighted, the anthroponyms which refer to the before mentioned links support the idea that they were strong. This type of names, which are proof of the relations existing between different regions, refer to anthroponyms that demonstrate the fact that the ancestors of the name-bearers have their origin in geographical areas which differ from those where the name presently appears. Similarly, the spatial distribution of this type of names offers some information on the geographical limits of the same historical-geographical regions.

We have stated that anthroponymy, represented by *personal names*, is the field of study of *anthroponomastics*, a branch of *onomastics*, alongside *toponomastics* – the science which studies *place names (toponyms)* – and *astronomastics* – which studies the names of celestial bodies – stars, galaxies, planets, satellites, comets, meteorites, etc. (Ungureanu & Boamfă, 2006, p. 9). In connection with the study of the anthroponyms, we can mention *linguists* – from a linguistic-philological approach, *historians* – who insist on the dates and historical evolution of personal names, and *geographers* – who focus more on the spatial distribution of these names and on the aspects which anthroponyms can highlight in the geographical field. There is, on the other hand, a close, reverse relationship between anthroponyms and *toponyms*: *toponyms derived from anthroponyms* – e.g. *Șerbănești*, *Costești*, *București*, *Botoșani*, *Focșani*, *Vlădeni*, *Valea lui Mihai*, etc., and anthroponyms resulted from toponyms – a category which includes the names we have analysed.

METHODOLOGICAL AND THEORETICAL ASPECTS

In order to finalise the present study, we have used varied research methods. The theoretical and methodological elements related to the geographical peculiarities of anthroponyms are presented in a former paper of ours (Boamfă, 2017c). These include *methods of documentation* and *methods of analysis and interpretation*. For the more remote periods, of time, we could use as documentary sources *collections of inscriptions, documents, statistical-onomastic records (urbaria, conscriptions, and cartographies), and yearbooks* (general, economic, of phone numbers). The present article is part of a large study, which follows the chronological-spatial distribution of this type of anthroponyms.

The geographic area we refer to is the *Carpathian-Balkan space*, with regions being the administrative units (NUTS2 or equivalent).¹ The Carpathian-Balkan area was presented in the study carried out by Boamfă et al. (2012). It includes, in the Carpathian space, Austria (because the Carpathians begin at the Danube, near Vienna) and Belarus (which is, albeit only partially, included in the Vistula Basin, a river with sources in the Carpathians), and also Ukraine, with Crimea.² We have also included Turkey in the Balkan space (a part of the Turkish territory is in Balkan Thrace), and Cyprus (which is, from a physical-geographical point of view, an Asian country, but which has cultural links to the Balkans, through the ethnic Greek-speaking majority). We have included the entire territory of these states, because when migrants enter one country, they can move within its entire territory, irrespective of the point of entrance. The analysed space can be related to the central-south-eastern part of Europe, and also to Turkey and Cyprus, regions which bear cultural, social and economic links from Antiquity up to the present.

For the selection of names, with their variants and derivatives, which can highlight regional peculiarities and/or historical migrations, we have used the grouping by *strain-name* – in Romanian: *nume-tulpină* (Constantinescu, 1963, p. V). On this basis, we have included, for instance, for the *strain-name Ungurean*, the derivatives *Ungurenașu* or *Ungurjanovič*, etc.

Regarding *territorial identity*, we related to the works of Bourdieu (1981) and Lefebvre (1991), and regarding the *links between anthroponyms and places*, the studies carried out by Felecan (2009), Magda (2012), and Crețan and Matthews (2016). Regarding *regional identity*, significant for our topic are the studies of Green and Pollard (2002), Herb (1999), Kaplan (1999), and Paasi (1996).

In order to highlight the *Romanian regional identity*, we considered the research of Crețan et al. (2008) and that of Crețan and Frățilă (2007). In fact, related to the *territorial identity* in the Romanian space, at the regional or local levels, I have authored, alone or with other researchers, a series of papers related to *Făgăraș regional identity* (from “The Land of the Olt”) (Boamfă, 1996, 2003, 2007a, 2007b, 2015, 2016b, 2016b, 2017b), as well as works related to different

¹ With the exception of Romania, for which we have used the old historical-geographical regions, for the Republic of Moldova we have separated Chișinău/Kishinev, Găgăuzia and Transnistria from the rest of the country, and for Ukraine, we have added the separate data for Budjak (the old Soviet Ukrainian region Ismail, before 1954, separated from the present-day region of Odessa). Eastern Transylvania (in order to highlight, if necessary, certain peculiarities of the area, which had a Hungarian majority) and the Capital (Bucharest), with the interwar Ilfov County, have been depicted separately.

² After the Budapest Memorandum, also signed, by Russia in December 5 1994, the country promised, in exchange for the retreat of Soviet nuclear missiles from Ukraine, to respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine (*Ukraine. Memorandum on Security Assurances*, 1994). The European Union and NATO (an organisation of which Romania is a member) have not sanctioned the Russian annexation of Crimea, and for this reason, we have represented Ukraine in its frontiers before 2014. The Russian aggression against Ukraine is very similar to the “Union” of Austria with the Nazi Reich, in 1938.

areas of *Moldavia* (Boamfă, 2004, 2007b, 2015a, 2017a; Boamfă et al., 2016). We can add also research related to the *centre and south-east of Europe* or the *Romance European space* (Boamfă, 2006, 2018a).

As far as the documentary sources are concerned, in the present study we used, for the time being, only the data for the present period, collected, in general, from electronic sources, represented by the national phonebooks (including the subscribers for landlines or mobile phones) (Boamfă, 2005-2018). The anthroponomical information is not complete or exhaustive, the onomastic data having only a sequential character. For this reason, the opinions and the conclusions to which we have arrived must be regarded with caution, in relation to the limits, independent of our volition, of the access to the entire anthroponomical information. On the other hand, in some situations – in the case of the names registered in Slovakia, Croatia, partially in Bosnia and Herzegovina – some subscribers are listed twice or several times (either because they have several phone numbers, or because they have subscriptions for both landline and mobile networks). In Ukraine, however, we were able to detect repetitions, using the identical surname and name, and, curiously, their birth date. In each case, we have registered the name once only.

The computed data, using a Microsoft Excel file, was prepared for mapping the statistical-geographical realities through the *spatial distribution coefficients* method. This implies calculating the percentage of each name in the administrative unit level in the entire Carpathian-Balkan space total, and the percentage of population at the same level, as well. Next, the percentage of a specific name was divided by the percentage of the population, and we obtained the spatial distribution coefficients. In connection with the Carpathian-Balkan average – equalled 1, as a result of the division of 100% of names by 100% of total space population – there are three theoretical possibilities: a) *above average coefficients* (showing an overrepresentation of a name in relation to the average); b) *below average coefficients* (showing values below the average) and c) *average coefficients* (a situation which was not encountered). We chose these data preparing method in connection with an indicator-landmark – the *total population of each spatial unit, as the bearers of the analysed names are part of this population*. In addition, the name distribution as reflected by our coefficients has allowed us to highlight the areas in which the density of the patronyms is high. The spatial distribution coefficients method will be used for the older epochs and periods as well, to the extent to which the corresponding anthroponomical data will be inputted and prepared.

Among the methods of analysis and interpretation, we used the *cartographic method* (using the spatial distribution coefficients) and the *geographical method*. The anthroponyms which support the geographical origin we are referring to are: *Moldovean, Cordunean, Bucovinean, Basarabean, Dician, Dobrogean, Muntean, Bufeian, Oltean, Ungurean, Ardelean, Bănăţean, Crişean, Moroşean* and *Băcean*. Generally, the names *Moldovean, Cordunean, Bucovinean, Basarabean* refer to a geographical origin belonging to the eastern part of the Romanian space (related to the interwar Romanian territory), more precisely, to the ancient Voivodeship of medieval Moldavia. The patronyms *Dician, Dobrogean, Muntean, Bufeian, Oltean* are related, with some exceptions, to an origin ascribed to the southern part of Romania (or to the ancient Voivodeship of Wallachia), and *Ungurean, Ardelean, Bănăţean, Crişean, Moroşean* are related to an origin ascribed to the central and western parts of Romania (Ardeal/Transylvania, Banat, Crişana and Maramureş). One can add *Băcean* as well, and it refers to migrants from *Bacea*, a region situated in the west of the present Romanian space, between the Tisa/Tisza (in the east) and the Danube (in the west), presently divided between Hungary and Serbia.

The maps were created using the *Philcarto* software programme, designed by Philippe Waniez, which is accessible at <http://philcarto.free.fr/>. In order to design one or more maps using the

software programme, the basemap, containing the administrative divisions of the analysed area (in our case, the Carpathian-Balkan space, at the NUTS 2 level or equivalent, obtained with *Adobe Illustrator*) needs to have, in the “Attributes” section, a similar code to the Microsoft Excel file containing the anthroponomical data (i.e. in the first column, it must have the codes of the spatial units). For mapping the onomastic elements – anthroponyms, but also toponyms – we authored several papers in which we made references related to the creation of the databases (Boamfă, 2006), including an administrative database (Boamfă, 2015), as well as to their mapping (Boamfă, 2005, 2018b; Boamfă et al., 2015a).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION: SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF ANTHROPONYMS RELATED TO THE HISTORICAL-GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS

The migrants from historical Moldavia (situated between the Carpathians and the Nistru/Dniester River) are highlighted by names related to a greater area – *Moldovan/Moldvan/Moldvai*,³ *Cordunean* (Iacobescu, 1993, pp. 110-111), *Bucovinean/Bocovinean*, *Basarabean* –, or related to a more reduced area: *Suceveanu*, *Cernăuțeanu*, *Putileanu*, *Putneanu*, *Rădăuțeanu*, *Hotineanu*, *Dorohoianu*, *Dărbăneanu*, *Pomârleanu*, *Voroneanu*, *Botoșăneanu/Botoșineanu*, *Soroceanu*, *Hârlăoanu*, *Fălticeneanu*, *Solcanu*, *Bistriceanu*, *Bicăjanu*, *Dorneanu*, *Humoreanu*, *Cășvăneanu/Cășvănar*, *Nemț(e)anu*, *Roznovanu*, *Romașcanu*, *(I)eș(e)anu/Ișan/Eșianu*, *Orheianu*, *Lăpușneanu*, *Vasluianu*, *Hușanu*, *Bârlădeanu*, *Băcăoanu*, *Trotușanu*, *Cașineanu/Cășuneanu*, *Tăzlăoanu/Teslovanu*, *Tecuceanu*, *Bujoreanu*, *Tigheceanu*, *Cahuleanu*, *Cogălniceanu*, *Tighineanu*, *Tomoroveanu*, *Ismăileanu*, *Gălăț(e)anu*, *Focșăneanu/Focșineanu*, *Vrânceanu*, *Sovejanu*, *Sireteanu/Sirițanu*, *Pruteanu*, *Nistreanu*, etc.

Among the patronyms attesting to the *eastern Romanian space origin*, the most frequent is the name *Moldovean* (Fig. 1), which totalises 14,593 bearers. It refers to the migrants from Moldavia, in a large sense, more exactly, the entire territory of the medieval voivodeship, lying from the Eastern Carpathians to the Nistru/Dniester. The greatest frequency of the patronym is located in the central and western parts of Romania, with values above 1 throughout the Romanian space, and in the western and southern regions of Ukraine as well. We note that, from the total number of such name bearers, most migrated to Ardeal/Transylvania (3,754), Secuime/Szeklerland (1,580) and to Bucharest-Ilfov (947), but also to the Cernăuți/Chernivtsi region (841).

The anthroponym *Cordunean* numbers 573 bearers. The significance of the name refers to the *its origin from “cordun” (“the new frontier”)* – the limit traced by the Habsburgs to separate the future Bucovina/Bukovina from the rest of the Moldavian Principality. The patronym appears in Western (Romanian) Moldova, but also to the north of the present-day Romanian frontier (it appears frequently in the Bessarabian/eastern part of the Cernăuți/Chernivtsi region), but has a spatial distribution coefficient higher than 1 in the Republic of Moldova, in the east, south and west of Romania, and the west, south and north-east of Ukraine as well (Fig. 2).

The name *Bucovinean* is rare, having only 18 bearers. The name refers to migrants from Bucovina/Bukovina. The name appeared late (after 1780, after the Habsburg occupation of the north-western part of the Principality of Moldavia) and this explains the small number of bearers. The highest values of the spatial distribution coefficient are registered in Moldavia, but values above 1 can also be found in the south and centre of Romania (Fig. 3).

³ The variants *Moldvan* and *Moldvai* are Hungarian coinages, frequently noted in the Hungarophones areas in Transylvania and Hungary.

Figure 1. Geographical repartition of the anthroponym *Moldovean*. Coef. of spatial distribution

Figure 2. Geographical repartition of the anthroponym *Cordunean*. Coef. of spatial distribution

The patronym *Basarabean* is also very rare – it has only 15 bearers. The meaning is related to its origin from *Basarabia*. The small number can probably be explained by the late naming of the Prut-Nistru/Dniester space (which appeared, in its present-day extension, after the Tsarist occupation, in 1812). The highest values of the coefficient were registered in

Dobrogea/Dobrudja,⁴ but such values (over 1) are found in other regions in the eastern part of Romania (i.e. Moldavia and Muntenia), and in the area of Chişinău/Kishinev (Fig. 4).

Figure 3. Geographical repartition of the anthroponym *Bucovinean*. Coef. of spatial distribution

Figure 4. Geographical repartition of the anthroponym *Basarabean*. Coef. of spatial distribution

⁴ This is no coincidence, if we consider the fact that the Danube does not prevent migrations from Dobrogea/Dobrudja, or to the south, from Bessarabia/Basarabia. The fact is proven by names such as *Tulceanu* – belonging to a deputy from Ismail, in the Romanian Parliament, before the country became independent, or *Nadoleanu* – registered in the north of Dobrogea (which supports the idea of the migration of inhabitants from the Bessarabian village *Anadol*, located in the vicinity of Reni).

Migrations from the south of Romania are highlighted by names such as *Munteanu* (Fig. 5) in the southern part of Moldavia, in Dobrudja/Dobrogea and to the west of the Carpathians, the meaning of the name is that of “migrant from Muntenia”. In the north of Moldavia, the meaning of the anthroponym may refer to the ancestors of bearers originating from the mountainous Moldavian areas (Popescu, 1960, p. 216), *Dobrogeanu*, *Dicianu*,⁵ which refer to the regional geographical entities, and, for small areas, by names such as *Tulceanu*, *Măcineanu*, *Constănțeanu*, *Hârșoveanu*, *Brăileanu*, *Buzoianu*, *Râmniceanu*, *Bisoceanu*, *Bercanu*, *Pătărlăgeanu*, *Nehoianu*, *Mizileanu*, *Ialomițeanu*, *Călărășanu*, *Ilfoveanu*, *Giurgiuveanu*, *Vlăsceanu*, *Bucureșteanu*, *Ploieșteanu*, *Prahoveanu*, *Slăniceanu*, *Dâmbovițeanu*, *Săbăreanu*, *Teleormăneanu*, *Argeșanu*, *Musceleanu*, *Vâlceanu*, *Gorjanu*, *Craioveanu*, *Doljanu*, *Filișeanu/Filișanu*, *Caracaleanu*, *Mehedințeanu*, *Jianu*, *Lotreanu*, *Lovișteanu*, and many more.

The patronym *Muntean* numbers 24,642 bearers, frequently signifying *migrant from Muntenia*. Still, in the north of Moldavia, it may have the meaning of *originating from the mountainous Moldavian area*. The highest values of the spatial distribution coefficient are noted in Basarabia (Bessarabia), the south of Ukraine, the central part of Romania, in Banat and in many other Ukrainian regions (Fig. 5). The highest numbers of bearers with such name live in Basarabia/Bessarabia (4,100), Ardeal/Transylvania (3,173) and Moldavia (2,891), followed by Odessa (1,689), Bugeac/Budjak (1,640), Bucharest-Ilfov⁶ (1,379), and Chișinău/Kishinev (1,288).

Figure 5. Geographical repartition of the anthroponym *Muntean*. Coef. of spatial distribution

⁵ The anthroponym seems to refer to the ancestors of the bearers coming from *Vicina*, a prosperous medieval settlement in the north of Dobrogea/Dobrudja, which existed before the foundation of the Romanian medieval states, but subsequently disappeared.

⁶ In this case, it may attest the return to the central part of Muntenia of some descendants of previous migrants from here to the west, centre and east of the Romanian space.

The name *Dician* totalises 155 bearers and it refers to *migrants from Dobrogea/Dobrudja*, deriving from the name of the *Vicina* fortification, in the north of the region. The patronym appears especially in Bugeac/Budjak and Muntenia, but coefficients over 1 are found in the south of Ukraine, east, north, centre and south of Romania and in the north-west of Bulgaria as well (Fig. 6).

Figure 6. Geographical repartition of the anthroponym *Dician*. Coef. of spatial distribution

The anthroponym *Dobrogean* gathers a total of 664 bearers, being more recent than the previous name, but with a similar meaning. It appeared after the transformation of Dobrogea/Dobrudja into an Ottoman province. The greatest values of the spatial distribution coefficient are registered in Bessarabia, in the south and west of Ukraine, but values over 1 were noted in several Ukrainian regions, in the south of Romania, in the north-east of Bulgaria and also in the Minsk area (Fig. 7).

The anthroponym *Bufean* totalises 459 bearers. This refers to *migrants from Oltenia*, with the inhabitants of Banat having coined the name. Surprisingly, the highest values of the spatial distribution coefficient are noted in the south and west of Ukraine, other regions with values over 1 being located in the south of Poland, a large part of Ukraine,⁷ in the south and west of Romania and in the east of Serbia (Fig. 8).

⁷ More than a millennium ago, the *white Croats* were located in the western part of present-day Ukraine. Taking this into consideration, we cautiously put forward one hypothesis. From this part of Ukraine, the Croats passed, across the western part of present-day Romania, to the Western areas of the Balkan Peninsula. Those named *bufeni* left, partially, to the south, remaining, for a certain time, in present-day Oltenia, and, by cohabitation with the local element, became Romanian. Next, a part of the *bufeni* from Oltenia migrated to Banat, where, by extension, they gave the name to all the migrants from the ancient *Bănia Craiovei*, and the word entered onomastics. We can support this idea with some toponyms: in Sălaj County, there is the village *Horoatul Crasnei*, with the name derived from Hungarian *Horvath* = *Croatian*, in which the intervocalic "v" was lost, which proves that the toponyms are well-established.

Figure 7. Geographical repartition of the anthroponym *Dobrogean*. Coef. of spatial distribution

Figure 8. Geographical repartition of the anthroponym *Bugean*. Coef. of spatial distribution

On the other hand, another part of these Croats are the *carașoveni* from the south of Banat, located west of the *bufeni* from Oltenia. Yet, since the supporting arguments are not convincing enough, we are cautious about the hypothesis.

The name *Oltean* has 8,842 bearers in the study area. The meaning of the name is complex: it can prove the migration from the Land of the Olt, but also from Olt County or, more rarely, from the Olt Valley area. The greatest frequency of the name is noted in Ardeal and Muntenia, but values over 1 are also registered in the other regions of the Romanian space, including the area east of the Prut River (Fig. 9). The most numerous such name bearers are located in Ardeal (2,112), Muntenia (1,960), Bucharest-Ilfov (1,536), Secuime/Szeklerland (815), Moldavia (644), and Oltenia (587). The important presence in Ardeal (including Szeklerland), seems to be proof of the idea that the meaning of the name is related to *migrants from the Land of the Olt*, which can be proven by the high numbers noted in Moldavia as well. An analysis of the frequency and of the geographical distribution of the name in the past can probably clarify the situation.

The patronym *Ungurean* is present extensively – 11,037 bearers. The name refers to Romanian migrants from the areas west of the Carpathians, occupied in the past by Hungary (Cosniceanu, 2013, p. 75). The term from which the name has derived was used in Moldavia, Wallachia and Timoc. Almost all historical Moldavia (except Găgăuzia) has high values of the spatial distribution coefficient (Fig. 10). In addition to the Romanian space (which registers, in its entirety, values above 1), we note an important presence of the name in the south of Ukraine. Considering the total numbers of bearers, the most numerous are in Cernăuți/Chernivtsi region (1,796), Moldavia (1,703), Basarabia/Bessarabia (1,408), and Muntenia (1,154).

Figure 9. Geographical repartition of the anthroponym *Oltean*. Coef. of spatial distribution

Figure 10. Geographical repartition of the anthroponym *Ungurean*. Coef. of spatial distribution

The name *Ardelean* numbers 5,483 bearers. The anthroponym refers to *migrants from Ardeal*, in a narrow sense, that is, from the central part of the country. Due to the fact that the regions situated north of the Rodna Mountains and west of the Western Carpathians are not thought of as being a part of Ardeal, the greatest frequency of the anthroponym is registered in Maramureș, Crișana and Banat, with an extension to Vojvodina. Values above 1 of the spatial distribution coefficient are noted, in addition to a great part of the Romanian space (except Oltenia), in the south-east of Hungary, and the west, south and east of Ukraine (Fig. 11). The highest number of such name bearers (1,088) is encountered immediately west of the Apuseni Mountains, in Crișana, which proves that this is, in fact, the western historical limit of Ardeal/Transylvania.⁸ There follow Maramureș (671), Vojvodina (429), Banat (419), and Moldavia (417). This ranking means that, to the south-west (Banat, and Vojvodina, which includes the Western “Serbian” part of historical Banat), north and east, the limits of Ardeal are clear. They are: the Poiana Ruscă and the Apuseni Mountains (to the west), the Gutâi, the Țibleș, and the Rodna Mountains (to the north) and the Eastern Carpathians (to the east). Muntenia (with Bucharest-Ilfov) has 466 such name bearers. It seems that the south limit (the “Alps of Transylvania” – Southern Carpathians) is also clear. Yet, what is surprising is the modest presence of the name in Oltenia.⁹

⁸ This can be proven using folkloric arguments: in the south of Crișana (Arad County) and Banat, traditional dances like *ardeleana*, *ardeleana dă doi* are present.

⁹ One probable explanation can be related to the fact that, in the western part of the Southern Carpathians, to the north, Romanian political entities survived for lengthy periods of time, not integrated into the voivodeship of Transylvania: *The Land of Hațeg (Țara Hațegului)*, *Amlaș area* and even *The Land of the Olt (Țara Oltului)*, this Western limit being linked with Oltenia.

Figure 11. Geographical repartition of the anthroponym *Ardelean*. Coef. of spatial distribution

The patronym *Bănăţean* has only 102 bearers and refers to people *originating from Banat*. The name is noted especially in Ardeal and Muntenia (Fig. 12), but a notable frequency is found in Vojvodina, Banat, Oltenia and Transnistria as well.¹⁰

Figure 12. Geographical repartition of the anthroponym *Bănăţean*. Coef. of spatial distribution

¹⁰ The attestation of the patronym east of the Nistru River comes as a confirmation of the immigration process in the 18th and 19th centuries, from the Western part of present-day Romania, to the regions occupied at the time by the Tsarist Empire.

The name *Crișean* totalises 3,396 bearers and refers, most probably, to migrants from the basin of the (three) Criș rivers. The patronym appears most frequently in the western and central regions of Romania (including present-day Crișana), but it is also very present in Vojvodina, in the south, south-east and east of Romania and in the Chișinău/Kishinev area (Fig. 13).

Figure 13. Geographical repartition of the anthroponym *Crișean*. Coef. of spatial distribution

The anthroponym *Moroșean* has a total of 1,853 bearers. The name shows the origins of the ancestors of bearers as belonging to the old voivodeship of the Land of Maramureș (Țara Maramureșului), considerably more extended, especially north of the Tisa/Tisza. The highest values of the spatial repartition coefficient are located mainly in the old Voivodeship of Moldavia¹¹ (except Bugeac/Budjak, which has values above 1 as well). An above average presence of the name is registered in a large part of Romania, and in the west and south of Ukraine¹² as well (Fig. 14).

¹¹ The high frequency of the name in the Carpathian-Nistrian space comes as a confirmation of the legend which explains the founding of the Moldavian Voivodeship (Romanian: *descălecat*) by Dragoș and Bogdan, from Maramureș. This is reinforced by the high number of confirmed name bearers in Basarabia/Bessarabia (399), Bucovina/Bukovina (309) and Moldavia (307), to which we add the Cernăuți/Chernivtsi region (116) and the city of Chișinău/Kishinev (102), meaning 66.5% of the total number (1,233 bearers).

¹² A part of the *moroșeni* confirmed in the Transcarpatia/Zakarpatska region are located west of the northern part of the old Voivodeship of Maramureș, and, in the South of Ukraine, there seems to be the case of immigration from Basarabia/Bessarabia.

Figure 14. Geographical repartition of the anthroponym *Moroșean*. Coef. of spatial distribution

As we have already mentioned, the fact that some inhabitants have their roots placed in the central and western parts of the country is highlighted by names like *Ungurean*,¹³ *Ardelean*,¹⁴ *Bănățean*, *Crișean*, *Moroșan*,¹⁵ and by patronyms like *Sătmăreanu*, *Oșanu*, *Someșan*, *Orădeanu*, *Bihoreanu*, *Arădeanu*, *Timișanu/Temișanu*, *Almăjan*, *Lugojanu*, *Began*, *Bistran*, *Mureșan/Maroșan*, *Arieșanu*, *Turdeanu*, *Clujean*, *Nimigeanu*, *Dejan*, *Sălăjan*, *Rodnean*,

¹³ The patronym is used frequently east and south of the Carpathians and south of the Danube (by the Romanians/Vlachs in Timoc), as a general name for the Romanians in the western regions of present-day Romania, occupied in the past by Hungary. The name probably became permanent after 1001, the year when the occupation of the territories west of the Carpathians by the Kingdom of Hungary began, but before the 14th century (when the Soveja variant of *Miorița* was finalised, a variant in which an *Ungurean* shepherd appeared, alongside the *Moldavian* and the *Vrâncean* ones). The Romanians from Timoc named the migrants which came from the north of the Danube (from Banat) *ungureni*, in order to distinguish them from the *țăreni* (the Romanian/Vlach inhabitants of Timoc, with the ancestors from Wallachia, in Romanian = Țara Românească), or from *pădureni* (inhabitants situated in the wooded area of Timoc). Anthroponyms prove that the *ungureni* from Banat settled south of the Danube. The name *Ungurjanović*, which has a Serbian suffix, is frequent. We clearly state that the *ungureni* are not Hungarians.

¹⁴ The name is used especially by the inhabitants west (Banat, Crișana, Bacea) and north of Ardeal (Maramureș) to identify migrants from the present-day historical-geographical region situated in the central part of Romania.

¹⁵ The anthroponym highlights the Maramureș ancestry of the name bearers. Probably, even before the emigration from Maramureș, they named themselves (*mara*)*murășeni*>*moroșeni* (the phonetic change being meant to distinguish them from the inhabitants of the Mureș Basin = *murășeni/mureșeni*). This abbreviation supports the idea of the local contribution from Maramureș, namely the population's habit (that is, to shorten words and names in everyday speech).

Topliceanu, Ciucanu, Târnăveanu/Târnovanu, Medieşanu, Agârbiceanu, Blăjan, Bălgrăzan/Bărglăzan, ¹⁶ *Sebeşan, Sibianu, Almăşanu, Mărgineanu,* ¹⁷ *Brescan/Briscan, Co(vă)sneanu,* ¹⁸ *Săceleanu/Secoleanu, Bârsan, Braşoveanu, Râşnoveanu, Moroianu,* ¹⁹ *Ţuţuianu,* ²⁰ *Moiceanu, Făgăraşanu, Şercăianu, Perşinaru/Cherşunaru/Cherşănar,* ²¹ *Şincan, Comănar,* ²² *Berivoianu, Vişteanu, Uceanu, Arpăşanu, Avrigeanu, Cârţan, Cârţişorean/Cârţoroşan, Olteanu,* ²³ *Haţeganu, etc.*

From among the regions inhabited by our ancestors and which have never been part of the Romanian state, we have chosen *Bacea*, lying between the Tisza in the east and the Danube in the west. The reason for this choice is the toponym, which is very well-established, being coined in the Late Antiquity, and having generated derivatives, confirmed in the registers of the times, in the form of *Bassiana* (Fig. 15). One is located in Srem (the southern part of Vojvodina), and the second in the west of present-day Hungary (Åhlfeldt, 2015-2017). Both toponyms seem to reproduce, with the phonetic rules of Latin (which does not need diacritical marks) a local spelling of **Băşeana*, for a possible form **Băceana*. If these toponyms suggest the founding of these settlements by *migrants from Bacea*, this is the oldest choronym (regionym = name for a region) coined by our ancestors. An argument in favour of this ancient Romanian form – *Bacea*

¹⁶ The patronym refers to migrants from *Bălgrad*, the old medieval name of the city of Alba Iulia, coined in the period of the Romanian-Slavic cohabitation. The meaning of the toponym is “White City”.

¹⁷ This anthroponym confirms, most frequently, the migrants from the vicinity of Sibiu (in Romanian: *Mărginimea Sibiului*).

¹⁸ The lengthy period of time attached to the Transylvanian toponym *Covasna* (probably coined during the Romanian-Slavic cohabitation) has made it evolve into the local, popular form *Coasna*, from which derives the patronym *Cosneanu*, confirmed in Transylvania. Rarely, and only in the form *Covăsneanu*, the patronym may refer to migrants from the Moldavian village *Covasna*, located in the south-eastern part of Iaşi County.

¹⁹ The patronym derives from a nickname by which the inhabitants of the hill areas of Muntenia called the Romanian migrant shepherds from Bran. During the descent of the sheep, in late autumn, to their wintering places (in Romanian = “iernat”) in Balta Dunării, Dobrogea/Dobrudja and Bugeac/Budjak, they looked like frightening spirits to the locals (in Romanian = *moroî*), appearing into the light and heavy rain in the misty weather (in Romanian = “ploaie mocănească”). Derived from this nickname, the place-name *Moroieni* appears in the Subcarpathians, in Dâmboviţa County, and the settlement was probably founded by the mentioned shepherds.

²⁰ This name refers to the migrants from Bran, a geographical area with many mountain peaks (Romanian: *ţuţuie*). It is possible that a nickname is also the initial form from which the patronym derived.

²¹ The variants confirm the migrants from the village *Perşani*, located in the south-east of Olt Country. These migrants founded many villages with names derived from their initial village, such as *Perşinari*, in Dâmboviţa County.

²² The patronym confirms the migration of the name bearers’ ancestors from one of the villages named *Cómăna* (Lower = -de Jos, respectively Upper = -de Sus). For the correct spelling, we have indicated on which vowel the accent falls.

²³ With the exception of the south-western part of the country, named Oltenia at the beginning of the 18th century (after the Austrian occupation, 1718-1739), in Transylvania, Crişana, Maramureş, Moldova, Bucovina/Bukovina, Basarabia/Bessarabia, Dobrogea/Dobrudja, and even in a large part of Muntenia and Banat, the ancestors of the name bearers are *initially from the Land of the Olt*. The latter appeared, as a voivodeship, in 9th-13th centuries. Its inhabitants, named even today *olteni*, by the people living in the villages north of the Transylvanian Olt, stopped referring to themselves as *olteni*, subsequent to the name being used to describe the inhabitants of present-day Oltenia (named, before 1718, *Bănia Craiovei* = *The Marquisate of Craiova* or *Valahia Mică* = *Lesser Wallachia*).

– is given by the actual names used by the Hungarians and the Serbians to define the region: the Northern part is named *Bács* by the Hungarians, and the Southern – *Bačka*, by the Serbians. Both seem to have derived from the Romanian form (with the significance of *shepherds' region*, in Romanian – *ținutul/regiunea bacilor*).

Figure 15. Distribution of names from the Antiquity related to shepherding in the Carpathian-Balkan space

Source: Own map, based on data from Åhlfeldt (2015-2017)

Subsequent to a migration to the south, a high present-day concentration of the name *Băcean* (meaning *migrant from Bacea*) is encountered in Croatia and Serbia, but above 1 values of the local distribution coefficient are also registered in a large part of the ex-Yugoslavian space, the north of Greece, south of Romania, in the Republic of Moldova, a large part of Ukraine, the east and centre of Belarus, some Polish regions, the centre of Slovakia and the north-west of Hungary. Upon comparing the repartition of the toponyms *Bassiana* in the map (Fig. 15) to the actual distribution of the bearers of the name *Băcean* (Fig. 16), it becomes visible that the migration to Serbia and Western Hungary is very well-established and has continuity.

Figure 16. Geographical repartition of the anthroponym *Băcean*. Coef. of spatial distribution

The patronym *Băcean*²⁴ numbers 1,759 bearers. The meaning of the name is linked to *Bacea*. The highest values of the spatial distribution coefficient are noted in the ex-Yugoslavian space, especially south of *Bacea* (Fig. 16). They partially confirm the information in the Byzantines chronicles (Elian & Tanașoca, 1975, p. 40) which claim that the Vlachs (the present-day Aromanians) were forced into the Balkan Peninsula, from the territories north of the Danube, by the Hungarians, around the year 1000 or before. Coefficients above 1 are encountered in the Romanian space, south and east of the Carpathians, but in several Ukrainian, Polish, Slovak and Hungarian regions as well. The concentration of these migrations in neighbouring regions (especially from Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, and Slovakia) seems to confirm the idea that the area of origin was the old *Bacea*, and if we consider the distribution of the toponyms *Bassiana* from the late Antiquity, we observe some continuity of some intensive migrations from *Bacea*, to the south and west.

²⁴ The patronym confirms the presence of migrants from *Bacea*, a historical-geographical region lying from the Danube to the Tisa, and which is now divided between Hungary (its northern part) and Serbia (its southern part). The name refers to the shepherds' region (in Romanian, "*ținutul/regiunea bacilor*"). Romanians in Timoc are still familiar with the name, as, for centuries, the local shepherds have led their sheep to winter around *Bacea*. The regionym, now lost to Romanians living north of the Danube, appears to be the oldest known one to be ascribed to regions inhabited by Romanians, dating from before the year 1000. This is proven by the fact that the patronym *Batsanis* (*Bățeanu*) is also known to the Aromanians in Greece, and it has a similar meaning (namely, that of "originating from *Bațea/Bacea*"). The presence of a Roman fortification named *Bassiana*, south of the river, but in the proximity of *Bacea*, takes the name *Bacea* back to Late Antiquity, which transforms it into the oldest regionym coined by our ancestors. In addition, the toponym also appears, in the same time period, west of Lake Balaton, in present-day Western Hungary.

CONCLUSIONS

Starting from the analysis – incomplete, for the present moment – of the Romanian anthroponymy related to the relations between different regions, we can point out, with the necessary precautions, the existence of a certain *rule for denominating the population originating in a certain geographical area*. For example, for an inhabitant who migrated from an area neighbouring the cities of Dej or Cluj, a migrant from the settlement *Mintiul Gherlei*, can be recognized as a *minteoan*. For an inhabitant of a settlement situated in the vicinity of Sibiu or Braşov, despite the fact that the cities belong to the same region, namely Transylvania (Ardeal), the citizen from *Mintiul Gherlei* can be recognised as *someşan* (from the *Someş* River), because it seems less probable that the inhabitants in the South of Transylvania know about *Mintiul Gherlei*, but they do know about the *Someş* River. If the citizen from *Mintiul Gherlei* goes across the Carpathians, to Piteşti or Bacău, the inhabitants of these cities will not know the Transylvanian settlement, not even the *Someş* River, but they will know about Ardeal, and the migrant can be named *Ardelean* (or *Ungurean*). A similar situation may occur in Moldavia, with a (potential) migrant from *Lespezi*, a village near *Paşcani*. The people from the neighbourhood of *Lespezi* know this migrant as *lespezean*. If he leaves and travels further, to the vicinity of Bacău or Galaţi, the citizens of these cities, not knowing *Lespezi*, but having heard of the *Siret* River, will name the migrant *siretean*. And, if the migrant travels even further, to the vicinity of Ploieşti or Năsăud, where they are not so familiar with the *Siret* River, the inhabitants of these areas will name him *moldovean*. If the migrant goes even further, *his name will relate to an increasingly extended, better known geographical spatial element, but the geographical precision will fade*.

Alternatively, the name *Ardelean* helps us highlight the limits of the central region of the country, as the highest frequency of the name *Ardelean* can be found north of the Rodna, the Țibleş and the Gutâi mountainous areas, as well as west of the Western Carpathians (in Crişana and Banat). Similarly, to confirm the rule above – with certain notable exceptions – there is a *clear separation between the people situated west, or south and east of the Carpathians*. While this population, as it inhabited a more fragmented area, was able to better differentiate between the people from Ardeal (*ardeleni*) and the ones from the (central-)western Romanian space, in the regions situated east and south of the Carpathians, all those migrating from “the other part” (of the Carpathians) were named *ungureni*, without any distinction among migrants from Ardeal, Banat, Crişana or Maramureş. The situation is similar in the case of the people of Timoc (Eastern Serbia), and the migrants from the northern part of the Danube, from Banat.

On the other hand, the present-day distribution of the analysed anthroponyms mainly *highlights the present-day Romanian space* (where Romanian is spoken) – depicted by the territory of *Romania* and that of the *Republic of Moldova*, although their distribution is very noticeable in other countries in the Carpathian-Balkan space as well. These are, generally, neighbouring countries – *Ukraine, Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria*, but such confirmations were also noted in *Belarus, Poland, Slovenia, Croatia, and Greece*. This is due to *the historical migrations from the present-day Romanian space* (regions with Romanian speaking population), but also due to *the relations between the mentioned area and other areas inhabited in the past by Romanians*.

From the point of view of *historical attestation*, *Bacea* is probably *the oldest choronym coined by our ancestors*, with a presence of more than 1500 years (from the late Thracian-Dacian-Roman Antiquity). Another historical element, a more recent one, seems to be confirmed by the name *Moroşan*, which is linked, partially, to the *legendary founding of the Voivodeship of Moldavia by the migrants from Maramureş*, the former being an area in which the anthroponym has the highest frequency even today (but we do not know if, in the past, the situation was similar, it remains to be seen).

In another train of thoughts, there is generally *a link between the period of appearance of each regional name and the number of bearers of the name derived from it*. For example, names such as *Ungurean, Ardelean, Moroșean, Moldovean, Muntean* or *Băcean* have more than 1,000 bearers, because the historical-geographical entities which generated them have more centuries or more millennia of existence. On the other hand, anthroponyms such as *Bucovinean* or *Basarabean* number few name bearers, because the name of these regions is more recent, dating back only two centuries. Somewhat surprisingly, especially since it was used for few years, before the creation of the new Austrian name of *Bucovina*, the patronym *Cordunean* had many hundreds of bearers: the explanation is found in the wave of migrators which left the area occupied by Habsburgs after 1775, which settled especially in the rest of the Principality of Moldavia, respectively Basarabia/Bessarabia and present-day Romanian Moldavia. This is not a general rule: the name *Bănățean* appears less frequently, although the name of Banat has existed for several centuries, and, in other cases – *Oltean* – although the choronym *Oltenia* is more recent (probably, with three centuries of existence), the complexity of the meaning of name explains the high number of bearers of this anthroponym. However, despite being older, the patronyms *Bufean* and *Dician* have a relict character, not being used very frequently in the past few centuries, when names like *Oltean* and *Dobrogean* spread, as they had a modern, more recently acquired significance.

Lastly, one probable explanation for the fact that we encounter, with great frequency, *patronyms similar to the name of the region within the actual region* – *Moldovean, Dician, Dobrogean, Muntean, Bufean, Oltean, Bănățean, Crișean, Moroșean* – is related to the following historical realities: an inhabitant, for example from Moldavia, somehow migrates to Ardeal, Muntenia or Dobrogea. Next, one or two generations later, a descendant (having relatives in Moldavia), returns, definitively, but his surname is *Moldovean*, given by the people in the region where his ancestor had previously settled. This can explain the presence of *Dician* or *Dobrogean* in Dobrogea, *Muntean* – in Muntenia, *Bănățean* – in Banat, or *Moroșean* – in Maramureș, etc.

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