

CONSIDERATIONS ON DISCURSIVE INTERFERENCE IN THE CASE OF ZOONYMIC COMPOUNDS

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Abstract: *The article studies the productivity of the process of composition in Romanian by analysing the most productive models encountered in the case of compound terms that contain a zoonym in their structure. From the examples analysed, we observed that the compound term represents the semantic core in the situation where the transfer of meaning takes place, even in the case of recourse to mechanisms of vulgarisation and disambiguation of the specialised lexicon. Analysis of compounds containing a zoonym from the perspective of pattern productivity reveals that the predominant type of compounding is juxtaposition of elements, usually nouns, less often adjectives, or other parts of speech.*

From a semantic perspective, the terms express reality within the specialized lexicon, with the zoonym playing a central role around which the transfer of meaning occurs. The semantic transfer was done by analogy, based on the specific features of different zoonym species or by highlighting some semantic peculiarities of the terms. Regarding discursive interference, it is observed that, following direct or indirect contact between Romanian and other related or neighboring languages, compound words have entered the Romanian lexicon to fill knowledge gaps that emerged due to societal progress. This category includes specialized terms from fields such as astronomy, astrology, economics, medicine, and others. Regarding orthography, it follows traditional principles, with the dominant class being that of hyphenated compounds. Morphologically, the class of nouns prevails, while from a stylistic perspective, especially in the case of portmanteau words, there is an activation of various stylistic registers, which does not support their stabilization in the language.

Keywords: *composition, zoonyms, discursive interference, specialised lexicon, mots-valises.*

1. The issue of compound word formation in the Romance languages has attracted the attention of specialists since the nineteenth century, who noted, regarding the Romanian language, that the process of composing and deriving with prefixes is much less productive compared to that of deriving with suffixes (Ivănescu, 1965: 31). The criteria establishing classification in the class of compounds have taken into account, especially in the new

normative works, the consideration of the peculiarities that give unity of meaning to the elements in the composition, which led to the inclusion in this class of several categories of terms, previously classified in the class of derivatives (Croitor, 2021: 363) compound terms that exist independently in the language (for example, African-American) classified as a noun formed by composition from *Afro-American* and *Afro-americană* (*Afro-American woman*) in the class of derivatives with the motional suffix *-că*; *balneophysiotherapist*, *patriot*, *euroskepticism*, etc., framed in the DLRLC and DOOM2 in the class of derivatives with suffixes. Therefore, the specialized literature notes a certain terminological imprecision caused by the fragile boundaries between derivation and compounding, especially in the case of the use of affixoids (suffixoids and prefixoids), which are considered compositional elements¹.

Additional observations regarding the compounding process concern the rules for writing compound words that must comply, according to Fulvia Ciobanu, with principles covering all the compartments of the language: *the principle of unity of meaning, the principle of morphological unity and the principle of syntactic unity* (1958). Building on these observations, the present study aims to examine the productivity of compounding in a corpus consisting of complex lexical units that include at least two constituents from the class of zoonyms (domestic animals, wild animals, insects), with particular attention to the behavior of terms originating from specialized domains.

1.1. The lexical field of zoonyms, characterized by asymmetry (Vulpe, 1992: 109), as noted by Eugeniu Coșeriu (1978, 71), is marked by the observation that “the linguistic level that pertinently opposes the 'standard literary language' is that of the 'rural vernacular'; this opposition is thus diastatic in nature and is reflected primarily in the positioning of domestic animal names within the vocabulary: for speakers of the 'rural vernacular,' such terms are highly frequent lexical elements referring to vital referents, while for the first sociolinguistic group, they represent only a minor part of the vocabulary” (Vulpe, 1992: 109). This observation may also be partially extended to the broader semantic field denoting animals, which has been considerably enriched by compound words used by non-specialist speakers. This explains the prevalence of non-standard stylistic registers such as popular, regional, familiar, and even argotic. Although most of these terms belong to scientific language, it is notable that the mechanism of vulgarization and clarification of specialized lexicon by lay users often occurs, in the case of compounds containing zoonyms, through analogy and processes of “*material expression transfer* [...] resulting in lexicon formations motivated by psychological factors.”². Moreover, Magdalena Vulpe remarked, following the analysis of the distinctive features and their functional yield at the level of the semantic field of domestic animals, that “the fundamental element that differentiates functional languages, called “rural language” and “standard literary language”

¹ According to the *Dictionary of Language Sciences*, Bucharest, Nemira Publishing House, 2005, p. 401, the prefixoid, for example, is defined as “a formative element similar to recent prefixes, which, placed before the independent morpheme or the root, gives rise to new words by changing the lexical meaning”.

² Ana Ene, *Imitația și creația lexicală în limba română contemporană*, 2019, p. 2, <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/337086463> *Imitația și creația lexicală în limba română contemporană*, accessed May 14, 2025. According to the author, *transfer with material expression* means “attaching a suffix or a prefix to the radical or to a theme with which it had not previously been in relation [...] creations with this type of transfer at the base tend to develop lexical families or can be reproduced later in various combinations (reinforced or not by calculus, therefore a combination of creation and imitation)”.

is the more direct relationship with the realities of the former, reflected in the obviously utilitarian motivation of vocabulary structuring” (Vulpe, 1992: 112).

1.1.1. The meanings of the compound terms containing a zoonym refer to various fields. The best-represented class from a spelling point of view is the with “hyphen”, less so “in a word (without blanks between components) or in separate words (with blanks between components)”³. Below, we present several examples:

- **economy:** *tick firm* (*fîrmă-căpușă*) “parasitic firm in addition to an institution or a larger enterprise, which intermediates controls, business, etc. in order to obtain direct or rapid financial advantages”.
- **astronomy:** *scorpion-of-swamp* (*scorpion-de-baltă*) “name of a constellation in the southern hemisphere”; goat kids “group of three small stars around the main star in the constellation of the Visiti”; *The shepherd-with-sheep* (*Ciobanul-cu-oile*) “name of a constellation in the boreal hemisphere”; *sow-with-piglets* (*scroafa-cu-purcei*) “constellation in the boreal hemisphere”;
- **astrology:** *goat sign* (*zodia caprei*) “month of September”; *aries sign* (*zodia Berbecului*) “the period between March 21 and April 21, when the sun passes in the right of Aries”; *pisces sign* (*zodia Peștilor*) “one of the twelve signs of the year, which includes the period February 22 - March 21”.
- **children’s games:** *playing the rabbit* (*de-a iepurele*) “children’s game undefined more closely”; *playing the greyhound and the rabbit* (*de-a ogarul și iepurele*) “children’s game in which one of the players, called “greyhound”, tries to catch the other, called “rabbit”; *the priest’s cat* (*măța popii*) “children’s game indefinitely more closely”; *playing the ram (or rams or rams)* (*de-a berbecule* (*san berbecul ori berbecii*) “game of children simulating the fight”; *playing the ox* (*de-a boul*) (reg.) “game of children consisting of repeated throwing of a stick”; *playing the cow* (*de-a vaca*) “game executed by the lads at the wake”; *fish and water* (*peștele și apa*) (reg.) “children’s game, consisting in the realization of figures from a twine, which with the help of fingers”.
- **mythology:** *The-colt-of-with-evening* (*Mânzu-dă-cu-sară*) (reg.) “fantastic being thought to walk through the woods after sunset”; golden calf “the cult of wealth, of money”; *trojan horse* (*calul-troian*) (alluding to the legendary wooden horse given by the Greeks to the Trojans) “stratagem which uses an enemy to manage to penetrate the opposing camp; enemy disguised under the guise of a benefactor”.
- **technique:** *horse-power* (*cal-putere*) “mechanical force measurement unit, inspired by the real force of a pulling horse”; *cat-eye* (*ochi-de-pisică*) “1. glass or plastic disc (mounted in a metal gasket) reflecting the light rays projected on it and which is used as a signaling piece to vehicles or fixed road panels. 2. variety of minerals that, sanded in a certain way, acquires an unusual “brightness; *antitank hedgehog* (*arici antitank*) “large hedgehog used against self-arming and tanks”; *hydraulic ram* (*berbec hydraulic*) “old water lifting machine, which uses the energy of ram strokes produced by closing and automatically opening alternating two valves”; *guinea-pig-cell* (*celulă-cobai*) (*biol.*) “way of carrying out biological experiments consisting of replacing animals or voluntary human subjects by cell cultures”; *in pups* (*în căței*) “with wooden

³ “It should be noted that, to reflect the linguistic features specific to the field, the Romanian compound terms have been translated literally” (DOOM 3, (https://doom.lingv.ro/studiu_introductiv/scriere_compuse)).

pegs; way of joining beams of a construction”; *ram bit* (*lovitură de berbec*) “slash of the liquid column in a pipe, produced when the liquid drain is suddenly stopped”.

- **medicine:** *valve-butterfly* (*valvă-fluture*) “medical device inspired by the shape of the wings of a butterfly”.
- **religion:** *wild boar weeks* or *wild boar weeks* (*săptămâni mistrețe* sau *săptămână mistreață*) “weeks or weeks before Lent in which, according to the Christian religion, it is allowed to eat meat, except on Wednesdays and Fridays”.
- **toponymy:** *Reindeer Lake* (*Lacul Renului*) “glacial lake in the central part of Canada, on the border of the provinces of Saskatchewan with Manitoba”; *Kangaroo Island* (*Insula Cangurului*) “island in the South of Australia, at the entrance of G. St. Vincent and Spencer (*Grand Australian Golf*)”. At other times, toponyms are structural elements indicating the origin or geographical area of the species: *guinea pig* (*purcel-de-India*) “guinea pig (*Cavia porcellus*)”; *flying squirrel* (or *Siberia*) (*veveriță zburătoare*) (“arboretum mammal, which lives, especially, in in the Siberian forests and which has its forelimbs and hind limbs joined by the sides of the body through a membrane with which it can make very large jumps (*Sciurapterus volans*)”; *carp-of-the-Danube* (*caras-de-Dunăre*) “carp species, having colors ranging from yellowish white to dirty black and variable size depending on the habitat and subspecies (8-10 to 35-40 cm)”, *trout-of-Bistrița* (*păstrăv-de-Bistrița*) “freshwater fish of the salmonid family, with the fusiform body, 20-40 cm long, covered with small scales, with a back-green-olive, sprinkled with black and red dots, living in clear and cold mountain waters, with a being appreciated for his tasty meat. etc.
- **name of the holidays:** *bear's day* (*ziua ursului*) “popular holiday on February 2, on which, according to popular belief, the bear comes out of the lair where he hibernated”.
- **folklore or traditional motifs:** *the fish in the coop* (*pește în cotef*) “popular ornamental motif used as a stitch pattern or as a model for the sagging of Easter eggs”.

As regards the semantic transfer from zoology to other fields, this was done by analogy, based on the specific features of different zoonym species or by highlighting some semantic peculiarities of the terms. Relative to the framing of these terms in a family of words, Cătălina Mărânduc (2003: 18), draws attention to the fact that “the composition elements, being self-semantic, are, each of them, roots, a compound word being framed in so many families of words how many self-semantic elements are in its composition.”.

Below, we present several cases of semantic transfer from the field of zoology to other spheres of meaning:

- **astronomy:** *The shepherd-with-sheep* (*Ciobanul-cu-Oile*) “popular name for the constellation of the Boar and the group of adjacent stars”; *Sow-with-piglets* (*Scroafa-cu-Purcei*) “constellation thus named due to the arrangement of the stars, reminiscent of a sow surrounded by piglets”.
- **botanical:** *beard-goat* (*barba-caprei*) “plant with long and thin inflorescences, resembling the beard of a goat”; *tail-mouse* (*coada-șoricelului*) “plant has thin and long leaves, similar to the tail of a mouse”; *tongue-lamb* (*limba-mielului*) “leaf of the plant is velvety, like the tongue of a lamb”.
- **economy:** *the lion-parallel* (*leu-paralelu*) “the little lion; in the past, this expression denoted the depreciation of the currency, by analogy with the power of a weakened lion”.

- **technique:** *queue-row* (*coada-rândunicii*) “join type in woodwork, inspired by the shape of the tail of this bird”; swan neck “name used for curved structures in mechanics and design”; *cat-eye* (*ochi-de-pisică*) “reflective device used in road signaling, thus named due to the reflection capacity, similar to the eyes of a cat in the dark”.

It is noted, at the level of the constituent elements of the compounds, a specialization of simple prepositions, as follows:

- **preposition *with* (*cu*)**, for composed of the field of astronomy: *Sow-with-piglets* (*Scroafa-cu-Purcel*) “constellation so named because of the arrangement of the stars, reminiscent of a sow surrounded by piglets”; *Shepherd-by-sheep* (*Ciobanul-cu-Oile*) “popular name for the constellation of Boar and the group of adjacent stars”, less for the designation of some animal species: *swordfish* (or *swordfish*) (*pește-cu-spadă*) or *swordfish* (*pește-cu-suliță*) “large fish, with the fusiform body, skin without scales, the big head and the top jaw extended as a sharp sword on both edges (*Xiphias gladius*)”;
- **preposition *of* (*de*)** bound by hyphen or unmarked in this way, for compound relating to the botanical or animal kingdom: *sea-lion* (*leu-de-mare*) “seal-like aquatic carnivorous mammal, with a lion-like mane, living on the coasts of South America”; *rock goat* (*capră de stâncă*) “wild goat with reddish fur and horns in the shape of a sword (*Capra ibex*)”; *mountain goat* (*capră-de-munte*) “wild goat, with brown-black fur, with short horns and curved at the tip and two white stripes on the anterior part of the head, which lives in alpine regions (*Rupicapra rupicapra*)”; *sea-cat* (*pisică-de-mare*) “marine fish species with cartilage skeleton, c 60-100 cm long, with the flattened rhomboid body and the tail finished with a venomous spin (*Trygon pastinaca*)”; *sea cat* (*mâță de mare*) “long-tailed snake species, undefined more closely”; *guinea pig* (*purcel-de-India*) “guinea pig (*Cavia porcellus*)”; *sea calf* (*vițel-de-mare*) (*pop.*) “seal (*Phoca the winery*)”; *sea bull* (*bou-de-mare*) “small marine fish, of brown or dark gray color, with thick and broad head and eyes placed on top of the head (*Uranoscopus seaber*)”; *night-bull* (*bou-de-noapte*) “owl (*Bubo bubo*)”; *sea urchin* (*arici-de-mare*) “marine echinoderm with spherical body, covered with spikes (*Echinus melo*)”; *ferret-de-tree* (*dibor-de-copac*) “jder (*Martes martes*)”; *water-mink* (*dibor-de-apă*) “mink (*Lutreola lutreola*)”; *water-mouse* (or *balt mouse*) (*șoarece-de-apă*) (*pop.*) “small omnivorous mammal living near waters (*Arvicola amphibius*)”; *forest mouse*, *forest-mouse mouse-red-forest*, *mouse-mill*, *mouse-big* (*reg.*) (*șoarece-de-pădure*, *șoarece-roșu-de-pădure*, *șoarece-de-moară*, *șoarece-morăresc*, *șoarece-mare*) “rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)”; *mouse-big-forest*, *mouse-forest*, *mouse-sea*, *otter-water* (*șoarece-mare-de-pădure*, *șoarece-de-pădure*, *șoarece-mare*; *vidră-de-apă*) “beaver (*Castor canadensis*)”; *mouse-big-wood rat sea bass* (*biban-de-mare*) “common name for countless fish of the serranidae family (perch), very rich in species and subspecies, some 20-30 cm long (*Serranus scriba* and *cabrilla* of the Mediterranean), others can reach 1-1.5 m long” and so on.

In the case of the preposition *of* (*de*), it is noted its fixation in phrases specific to the playful register, particularly in children’s games, is observable: *playing the rabbit* (*de-a iepurele*) “children’s game undefined more closely”; *playing the greyhound and the rabbit* (*de-a ogarul și iepurele*) “children’s game in which one of the players, called “greyhound”, tries to catch the other, called “rabbit”; *the priest’s cat* (*mâța popii*) “children’s game indefinitely more closely”; *playing the ram* (or *rams* or *rams*) (*de-a berbecule* (*sau berbecul ori berbecii*)) “game of children simulating the fight”; *playing the ox* (*de-a boul*) (*reg.*) “game of children consisting of

repeated throwing of a stick”; *playing the cow* (*de-a vaca*) “game executed by the lads at the wake”. Within this register, the conjunction *și* (*and*) is also occasionally employed: *fish and water* (*pește și apă*) (*reg.*) “children’s game, consisting of making figures from a twine, with the help of fingers”.

1.1.2. Structurally, the best representation is given by the terms in the field of zoology and botany, and the dominant patterns are, as can be seen from the examples below, Name + prep. + Name, Name + Name, Name + adjective.:

- **zoology** (mammals, birds, reptiles, insects, fish):

a) **mammals**: *sea-lion* (or, inv., *lion-marine*) (*leu-de-mare*) “seal-like aquatic carnivorous mammal with a lion-like mane, which lives on the coasts of South America”; *rock goat* (*capră de stâncă*) “wild goat, with reddish fur and horns in the form of a sword (*Capra ibex*)”; *domestic goat* (*capră domestică*) “domestic ruminant animal, ruminant goat bred for milk production (*Capra hircus*)”; *goat-of-mountain* (*capră-de-munte*) “wild goat, with brown-black fur, with short and curved horns at the tip and with two white stripes on the anterior of the head, living in alpine regions (*Rupicapra rupicapra*)”; *black goat* (*capră-neagră*) “wild goat, with brown-black fur, black fur with short and curved horns at the tip and two white stripes on the anterior part of the head, which lives in the alpine regions (*Rupicapra rupicapra*)”; *wild cow*, *deer cow* (*vacă sălbatică*, *vacă de cerb*) (*reg.*) “chute”, sea cow “walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*)”; *sea calf* (*vițel-de-mare*) “seal (*Phoca vitulin*)”; *african elephant* (*elefant african*) “mammal species of the order of proboscidiens large size, with large ears and rough and thick skin, with ivory present in both sexes, living in Africa (*Loxodonta africana*)”; *indian elephant* (or *indic*) (*elefant indian* (sau *indic*)) “species of the order proboscidiens, large size, with rough and thick skin and ivory present only in males (*Elephas maximus*)”;

b) **birds**: *fuckin' goat* (*capra dracului*) “big twine (*Lanius excubitor*)”, *marsh sow* (*scroafă-de-baltă*) “stillet bird, with reddish feathers, in black spots (*Ardetta minuta*)”, *the night ox* (*bou-de-noapte*) “owl (*Bubo bubo*)”;

c) **reptiles and amphibians**: *marsh ox* (*bou-de-baltă*) “name given to two species of frog, one having red spots on the womb (*Bombinator igneus*), and the other yellow spots (*Bombinator pachypus*)”;

d) **fish**: *sea-cat* (*pisică-de-mare*) “marine fish species with cartilage skeleton, 60-100 cm long, with rhomboidal flattened body and tail finished with a venomous spin (*Trygon pastinaca*)”; *sea-pig* (*porc-de-mare*) “black marine fish, with body covered by sharp, venomous scales (*Scorpaena scrofa*)”; *sea-ox* (*bou-de-mare*) “small, brown or dark gray marine fish with thick, broad-brown heads and eyes placed on top of the head (*Uranoscopus seaber*)”;

e) **insects**: *the ant lion* (*leul-furnicilor*) “predatory insect, with long and thin body, similar to dragonfly (*Myrmeleon formicarius*)”, *the-Lord-cow*, *God's cow*, *the Virgin Mary's cow*, the priest's cow (*vaca-Domnului*, *vaca-lui-Dumnezeu*, *vaca-Maicii-Domnului*, *vaca-popii*) “ladybug (*Coccinella septempunctata*)”.

- **botany**: *tongue-eye* (*limba-mânzului*) “cot”; *rabbit-shade* (*umbra-iepurelui*) “herbaceous plant with high stem, flank-shaped leaves, yellow-green flowers and red berry-shaped fruits (*Asparagus collinus*)”; *rabbit-ear* (*urechea-iepurelui*) “name of several herbaceous plant species in the umbeliferous family, with with yellow or yellow-gold flowers (*Bupleurum*); herbaceous plant of the labiate family, with its stem and hairy leaves, with pink flowers (*Stachys lanata*)”; *lion's mouth* (*gura-leului*) “*Anthirrium majus*” plant; *goat-beard* (*barba-caprei*) “name given to

several species of perennial herbaceous plants (from the compose family), with long and narrow leaves, with yellow flowers and long-shaped achenes (*Tragopogon*); *sheep-tongue* (*limba-oi*) “herbaceous plant with toothed and thorny leaves, with purple flowers, which grows through wet and swampy places (*Cirsium canum*)”, etc.

Particular cases of compounding involve the use of more than three elements: *The-colt-of-with-evening* (*Mânzu-dă-cu-sară*) (reg.) “fantastic being thought to walk through the forests after sunset”, *sharp-nosed-mouse* (*soarece-cu-bot-ascuțit*) (reg.) “chitcan (*Sorex araneus*)”; *wolf fish* (or *fish-by-seven-name*, *fish-pig*) (*pește-lup* (sau *pește-cu-șapte-nume*, *pește-țigănesc*) (reg.) “avat (*Aspius cispius*)”; *fish-by-two-name* (or *fish-by-stone*) or *stonefish* (*pește-cu-două-nume* (sau *pește-de-piatră*) “stonemason (*Aspro zingel*)”.

1.3. A special case of compounding, related to the process of lexico-semantic condensation (Suciu, 2009), is the so-called *portmanteau words*, encountered in the literary discourse and, especially, in the current publishing style, with the purpose “legitimizing the perspective, affective personalization (human interest), creating a cordial tone in communication, enhancing relational and phatic functions rather than informational or referential transfer (Rovența-Frumușani, 2005: 123-124)”.

Analyzing the mechanism of formation of such terms consisting of two lexemes in various literary works signed by Christian Morgenstern, Mihaela Cernăuți-Gorodețchi (2008: 92) identifies two basic ways after which “bestiary figures” were formed: “juxtaposition of words kept whole: der Ochsenatz (“ox-swallow”, boul-rândunică), die Kamelente (“camel-duck”, “rața-cămilă”), der Walfischvogel (“whale-bird”, “balena-pasăre”), der Pfauenochs (“Peacock-bull”, “taurul-păun”), die Quallenwanze (“beetle/jellyfish bug”, “gândacul/ploșnița-meduză”), der Giraffenigel (“Giraffe-hedgehog” (“ariciul-girafă”); b) merging of words “bitten”, “shortened”, “pilate” (both or only one of them) in the meeting area: der Regen [wurm-]löwe (“lion-worm” “leurăma”), die Turtel[taube-]unke (“the dove frog”, “brotacul-porumbiță”); der Eulen[Regen-]wurm (“owl worm”, “râma-cucuvea”). To these processes, a third one can be added, involving elements that no longer refer strictly to specific, recognizable figures from the animate world, no longer crossbreed actual beasts, but rather, through contamination with the sphere of inanimate objects, defamiliarize established models of perceiving, understanding, and interpreting the surrounding world, rendering strange those animals that have become emblems of certain predispositions, types of reactions, virtues: *die Schosseule* seems to be a “owl-[you-can-sit-in-the] lap” “bufniță-[la-care-te-poți-așeza-în-] poală, and *der Gurteltier* a “Bull-belt [that you could gird yourself with if you dare]”, “taur-curea[-cu-care-te-ai-putea-încinge-de-te-încumeți]” etc.” (Cernăuți-Gorodețchi, 2008: 92).

This phenomenon is also encountered in the Romanian advertising speech, for which we refer to the analysis made by Raluca Alina Popescu, who opined that these “lexical creations, often playful lexical forms, also serve as essential tools in fulfilling the persuasive function of advertising discourse, by capturing the attention, arousing interest and seducing the receiver” (Popescu, 2015: 391): “How to catch a PETște? (advertising sheets for a campaign initiated by the Romanian Waters for keeping clean waters), where the word suitcase is an allusion to plastic bottles, which, instead of being collected and recycled, are thrown into the waters, damaging the aquatic fauna; thus, the word suitcase is formed by the adjunction of PET within the common fish substance”.

Original lexical creations, involving processes such as substitution, addition, suppression, and permutation, are also frequent in journalistic style, which frequently appeal to “animal metaphors” or repeated speech constructions⁴. Here are some examples extracted from the magazine *Academia Cațavencu*, which result in new terms related directly or indirectly to zoonyms: Bârsan **NATOiță**. (AC, 14/2001/p. 16); Outside painted his guard inside his **bagigardu’**. (AC, 18/2001/pag 19), with the option Out of the fence, inside is **SAPARD**. (AC, 15/2004/p. 13); No smoke coming out without **Samantha Fox**. (AC, 39/2004/p. 12); **Birds-Better-Murile** (**Păsări-Lăți-Murilă**) (AC, 42/2005/p. 32).

Conclusions

Analysis of compounds containing a zoonym from the perspective of pattern productivity reveals that the predominant type of compounding is juxtaposition of elements, usually nouns, less often adjectives, or other parts of speech. The most productive patterns are Name 1 + Name 2; noun + genitive attribute; or noun + prepositional attribute (according to the terminology proposed by Fulvia Ciobanu): Name 1+ Name 2; noun + genitive attribute or noun + prepositional attribute (according to the terminology proposed by Fulvia Ciobanu). Less represented are Name-by-Name patterns, spelled with or without hyphen. These last two categories refer to plant and animal species.

From a semantic perspective, the terms express reality within the specialized lexicon, with the zoonym playing a central role around which the transfer of meaning occurs. Regarding discursive interference, it is observed that, following direct or indirect contact between Romanian and other related or neighboring languages, compound words have entered the Romanian lexicon to fill knowledge gaps that emerged due to societal progress. This category includes specialized terms from fields such as astronomy, astrology, economics, medicine, and others.

Regarding orthography, it follows traditional principles, with the dominant class being that of hyphenated compounds. Morphologically, the class of nouns prevails, while from a stylistic perspective, especially in the case of portmanteau words, there is an activation of various stylistic registers, which does not support their stabilization in the language due to the “invariable expressiveness involved and of the virtual-type contexts in which they appear (most often implying occasional connotations, as mere possibilities, rather than established connotations in the language that characterize the sign as a whole)” (Ene, 2019: 4).

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⁴ For a “sketch of the dominant stylistic configurations in three types of linguistic creations” (team names, their surnames and the nicknames of some athletes) in the Romanian sports press, see Ioan Milică, *Metafore animaliere în presa sportivă actuală*, în „Limba română”, Chișinău, Republica Moldova, an XX, nr. 5-6 /2010, p. 52-63.

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AC = *Academia Cațavencu*

