

Summary of the **Habilitation Thesis** entitled

## **IDENTITY AND NON-IDENTITY IN THE ROMANIAN EXILE LITERATURE**

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Developing a highly performant didactic activity in higher education must necessarily be upheld by systematic research work. It is desirable that the didactic side should be closely blended with one's scientific preoccupations directing towards the same goals and sharing the same objectives. In this respect, one should notice that the under-domains circumscribing my area of activity-partly including the present thesis - could easily be grouped under two large areas of interest, which have become in time, my own research directions: history of literature and literary criticism, on the one hand, and the study of folk culture, more precisely approaching literature from an ethnologic perspective, on the other hand.

The research I accomplished during my **doctoral studies** (2001-2007) continued, developed and deepened the investigation that I had done for my **graduation paper** dealing with the literature of the Romanian exile after the World War II, with an ample study focusing on the life and work of the writer Vintila Horia. The two stages materialized in two volumes by **Georgeta Orian: Vintilă Horia-privire monografică**, Alba Iulia, Editura Bălgrad, 2000, 114 p., ISBN 973-99314-4-8, and **Vintilă Horia, un scriitor contra timpului său**, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Limes, 2008, 352p., ISBN 978-973-726-372-8. The first stage of this scientific interest – coordinated by the University Professor Mircea Popa, Ph. D – was necessarily a monographic one: the subject I have proposed to my scientific advisor at the end of my 2<sup>nd</sup> university year represented the beginning of my preoccupations with the literary exile domain; it is worth mentioning that in 1995 when I started studying the subject Vintilă Horia, the bibliographic sources were reduced to a few scientific articles and the primary bibliography included but two of the writer 's books, published in our country after 1989. That is why I believe that the idea of pioneer work in this subject could be taken into account. The second stage – coordinated by the University Professor, Mircea Angheliescu, Ph.D, from University of Bucharest – went beyond the monographic stage approaching a vast and complex work, partially recovered in Romania, with the tools of the imaginary theory, thus applying a reading in the identitary frame. The writing of my PhD thesis provided me the opportunity of fruitful incursions in the book funds of a number of generous libraries such as the National Library of Spain in Madrid, the Romanian Academy Library, the Central University Library (BCU) in Cluj-Napoca and so on, together with providential meetings of people – the **writer's** family included – who put at my disposal not only books, articles or information, but also correspondence and ideas meant to help me carry out successfully such an important undertaking. At that moment my research enjoyed the status of premiere, breaking new ground in the knowledge of the writer's work; among other things we managed to draw up an updated bio-bibliography of Vintila Horia, completely missing in our country. Many of the results obtained during the research have been published- in the course of the elaboration of my PhD thesis – in the volumes of some prestigious scientific manifestations or in recognized specialized magazines. By means of this long, constant research I have contributed to a better knowledge of the Romanian writer, and the novelty elements my thesis provided – the bibliography included-constituted an extremely useful working instrument for other researchers dealing with the same subject. This is most relevantly proved by the number of citations proper.

The post-doctoral period represented an opportunity for turning to account a special interest in the Romanian literature of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, broken by World War II. Thus I have gradually built a system of knowledge aiming at the three important areas of this literary segment: the inter-war period and the totalitarian one inside and outside the country, thus involving the literature of the exile. The lectures I have been teaching require, besides a synthetic and analytical presentation of the Romanian literary phenomenon, an aesthetic and cultural one followed by the description and exemplification of the 20th century Romanian literature development-as well as the interpretation of the literary phenomenon in a historical, cultural and mentality context. Explaining certain key-concepts for understanding Romanian literature and the relationship between texts and various contexts, working with textual analysis techniques or approaching text interpretation from different perspectives represented not only the

objectives required by my mentors but also my own ones ,which I currently have in view with my B.A and M.A students. This is equally true with respect to the critical interpretation and evaluation of the Romanian literary phenomenon, in different contexts, expressing a competent point of view on the literary phenomenon, starting from the viewpoints expressed in the literary history or critical texts, as well as in the specialized bibliography.

Consequently, in the post-doctoral stage, my research focus diversified – aspect to be presented in detail in the first **section (i)** of my habilitation thesis. My concern with Romanian exile was happily completed and expanded with other topics as well, and mainly by teaching a course on this subject at M.A level ((Georgeta Orian, *Literatura exilului românesc. Suport pentru curs și seminar*, Alba Iulia, Seria Didactica, 2014, 2015<sup>2</sup>, 2016<sup>3</sup>). Subjects of inter-war and post-war Romanian literature or those dealing with the history of the Romanian press completed my other courses taught at B.A. level-particularly the development of interdisciplinary thematic directions, at the border of literature with ethnology (Georgeta Orian, *Istoria literaturii și civilizației române. Perioada 1945-1989. Suport pentru curs și seminar*, Alba Iulia, Seria Didactica, 2014, 2015<sup>2</sup>, 2016<sup>3</sup>, și Georgeta Orian, *Etnologie și folclor. Folclor literar. Note de curs*, Alba Iulia, Seria Didactica, 2014, 2015<sup>2</sup>, 2016<sup>3</sup>). Special attention has been paid to the didactic component, so that numerous contributions from this period (scientific articles, conferences, setting up a student' s club of ethnology, getting involved in a few successful projects with my students or coordinating individual research projects myself) are tackling on a variety of aspects connected to academic learning at tertiary level, demanding the students' direct involvement in activities meant to prepare them for becoming specialists and future researchers .

The second **section of my thesis (ii)** points out the turning to account of the identitary exile literature in the post war period, establishing a few clear directions of working: in scientific academic plan to finish a volume meant to turn to account the stage of my present research work in my own field of interest not neglecting my participation to specialized conferences, for a better contact with exegesis background. The controversial problem of literary canon applied to the concept of “literature of the exile” – considered outdated by certain commentators – has become a major, constant preoccupation for me. Thus I am trying to argumentatively uphold the idea of approaching this segment of the 20th century Romanian literature – both from a didactic and scientific point of view- with the appropriate critical tools. The **third section (iii)** of my thesis concisely present a series of bibliographic instruments which made the considerations of the thesis' first two parts possible.

The energy and devotion proved during my 17 year experience in higher education, throughout its components – teaching, formation, scientific research – my openness towards continuous personal development and expertise, as well as the honest desire of performing activities with young researchers are really motivating me to deepen my knowledge in the domain and look optimistically to the future. I am convinced that there's a lot to be done, reviewed and reconsidered in terms of the Romanian literature written abroad, both in the post-war period and nowadays.

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