

Correlations between Romanian Names of Plants and Persons

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Abstract. Anthroponomy and Toponymy are branches of Linguistics that deal with the study of the etymology of the names of persons or geographical places. This paper presents Romanian anthroponyms derived from the name of flowers, their etymological meaning, their multiple connotations, the symbol of colours and the metaphorical language of flowers in Ikebana. The source of statistical data was the Civil Registry of the Cluj-Napoca City House, Person Registration Department. The number of anthroponym and patronym occurrences underwent analysis for the 2005-2013 period. At the beginning, "Floare [flower]" was a metaphor, but nowadays it has become the name of a person. The current research is therefore a linguistic study on the connections established between the names of flowers and Romanian anthroponyms. Based on our research we reached the conclusion that the Romanian patronyms derived from names of flowers are significantly less numerous than the anthroponyms. The most frequent anthroponyms are: Crina, Camelia, Florina, Florin, Iris, Laura, Lăcrămioara and Veronica. Certain names like Florica, considered to be a peasant name, disappears little by little, being replaced by modern names. The conclusion we reached is that plants choose the person, while the significance of the name exerts a determining influence on the person carrying it.

Keywords: name of plants, anthroponomy, patronymics, Romanian names of plants.

INTRODUCTION

Since ancient times, plants have been known, loved and appreciated for their beauty, colour, fragrance and benefits.

There is a whole gallery of universal symbols, and the flower is one of them. It can be offered to anyone, without fear of offending the person for whom it is intended. Moreover, thanks to its various symbols, the flower provides the opportunity to select the desired message, which adapts to the person who receives it (Bonard, 1987).

The type and colour of flowers help the sender convey a feeling, an emotion or idea. A flower can say more than fine words. It is the ideal way through which all feelings can be expressed.

For hundreds of years flowers have had secret meanings derived from mythology, folklore and religion. A floral bouquet that we offer or we receive brings with it a special message waiting to be decoded. Plants were mentioned in the Bible in the first chapter of the Old Testament (Stana, 2004).

Then God said "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit of its kind, having its seed in the earth. And so it was" (Stana, 2004). Flowers have been recalled in the Song of Songs: "The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, And the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land" (Stana, 2004). Ancient peoples knew and appreciated the aesthetic qualities of flowers. The first evidence of

flower arrangement is provided by the Egyptians, Phoenicians and Persians who cultivated the rose, the tulip, the lily, the lotus, the myrtle and the hyacinth. The lotus flower, a symbol of divinity, is present in the paintings and ornaments on the vases discovered in the tombs of Egyptian pharaohs. The Greeks occupy a special place, as for them floral art was even more developed. The priests wore wreaths, and the flower to be worn on the head was the laurel, a plant dedicated to Apollo, the god of light. The Romans took over the Greeks' worship for the flowers, which are present in many frescoes and mosaics. Among the first written evidence there is also the work of Pliny the Elder (27-79 AD), entitled "Naturalis Historia" which mentioned for the first time information on the creation of the Roman art of flower arrangement. Pausias's wax painting of a braid of flowers is the first work in the world that recalls the skills of flower weaving. This painting inspired Goethe to write the poem entitled "Pausias and girl with flowers." The birthplace of floral art is considered to be the Far East, especially China and Japan. Confucius considers flowers to be a microcosm, a universe in miniature. A living in harmony with nature is the aspiration of every Japanese (Ohara, 1975). In the sixth century Indian Buddhism entered Japan by China. Buddhist worship is associated with the cult of flowers and at the same time the first floral arrangements for the altars of Buddhist temples appeared. The sixteenth century is the period of the birth of ikebana. The decorative arts of Japan and China influenced decisively flower arrangement in Europe, developed further at the time of the Renaissance (Cantor, 2010).

The metaphorical language of flowers in Ikebana

In Japanese grammar "ikeru" comes from the verb "to live" and "bana" comes from the word "hana" which means "flower". The Japanese art is based on a few well-known principles: simplicity, elegance and balance. Harmony and light. Ikebana has its origins in the floral offerings made in Buddhists temples of Japan in the sixth century (Ohara, 1975). The connection between man and nature is represented by three lines, which symbolize heaven, man and earth. The symbols of the passage of time are of great importance in ikebana. No setting is accepted if it does not suggest it. According to the seasons and stages of human life, the past is symbolized by dead flowers and leaves, the present by flower in course of opening and green leaves, and the future by buds.

The first styles appear in a metaphorical form, the natural elements are represented by the components of the arrangement, pine boughs for stone, white chrysanthemums for water flowing.

The flower arrangement in terms of shape and colour is an expression of vitality, of the continuous competition between life and death, an art full of symbols (Bossard, 1960). It is pleasant to try to express the peace of the soul, the balance in nature and that between man and nature.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The name of flowers and the Romanian anthroponyms

Anemone

Etymological sense: The genus name attributed to Theophrastus signifies "wind flower" with fragile petals of different colours moving in the slightest breeze. In Greek "anemos" means wind.

According to Greek and Roman mythology, the anemone is born from the death of Adonis, god of vegetation and nature. Torn between two women, Persephone and Aphrodite, he lost his life while hunting a wild boar. Aphrodite was so distressed that she created the red anemone from the blood of her dead husband.

The white anemone, the Easter flower, symbolizes the sweetness of the countryside, innocence and attachment. It is a symbol of the Virgin Mary; its scientific name, *Bellis Berenuis*, means "eternal beauty", its white colour symbolizes purity and its common name originates from its massive bloom at Easter. Anemona the Romanian first name comes from this flower of the wind.

Camellia

The name *Camellia* was attributed to the plant in 1753 by the Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus in honour of the Jesuit Father George Joseph Kamel, who brought the seeds of this plant from China at the end of the seventeenth century.

Originally from Asia, the camellia is the symbol of floral beauty. *Camellia* is the emblem of virtue, wealth and happiness. White-perfection, red charm. Greek "gamelios" means "born of a good marriage." The *Camellia*, also known as "China rose" symbolizes perfect beauty. In the nineteenth century it was the emblem of romantic, eternal love. Romanian first names: *Camelia*, *Camila*, *Camil*, *Cami*.

The cherry flower

The cherry blossom is the symbol of Japan. The "sakura" has always been a symbol of ephemeral beauty in Japan. Life was considered beautiful and short, like a cherry blossom. This flower does not live more than a week. Its fall at the height of its beauty symbolizes the human being at the top of evolution detaching from the world. Derivate Romanian anthroponyms: *Cireșica*, *Cerasela*.

Chrysanthemum

Also known as the "Golden Flower" in Japan it is the symbol of honour and of the Empire, while in Europe it is an indispensable asset for wedding ceremonies. "The Golden Flower" will be associated with the memory of those no longer present among us and will bloom in early November, on the tombs of the Saints.

Etymology. Originally from Korea, the word *chrysanthemum* comes from the ancient Greek: *chryso* and *anthème* *Khrysos* = "gold"; *Anthos* = "flower"

In *ikebana*, the *chrysanthemums* can be references to rivers and streams. The symbols related to nature and its relationship with the human being remain important. The bud is the future and the white *chrysanthemum* symbolizes rivers. The female first name *Crizantema* often connotes gentleness, beauty of body and mind. In the language of flowers, offering a *chrysanthemum* is testimony of a sincere and constant love. Another meaning of the *chrysanthemum* is that of eternity, which is why we also find it in cemeteries.

Colchicum

The name *Colchicum* is derived from *Colchide*, where the sorceress *Medea* lived. The *crocus* is a symbol of jealousy. Offering *crocuses* is a great way to express jealousy with skill and tact, without creating a "diplomatic clash."

The blue flowers are a symbol of purity, but also of inaccessibility. The *Grand Larousse* gives the following definition for the "blue flower": sentimental and romantic. Blue has acquired over time a number of connotations, which have sometimes changed and sometimes crystallized. In the Middle Ages, *lapis lazuli*, the blue pigment for illuminators, was so precious that it cost as much as gold, if not more. This is why the colour blue was used to depict the mantle of the Virgin.

In the language of flowers, pale blue expresses an unspoken affection, discreet and ideal. To better understand the phrase "grow, love the little blue flower" we must go back to

1811 and to the work of a young German writer, Novalis. In his unfinished novel "Henry of Ofterdingen" he made reference to the legend of a medieval troubadour who, while in search of an ideal, discovers the Blue Flower, a symbol of poetry. Brândușa in Romanian gave birth to the first name yet another in the series of Romanian anthroponyms originated in the name of flowers.

Dahlia

Etymology: 1 branch in bloom, 2 from Dahl, a Swedish botanist who brought this plant from Mexico in 1789.

Connotations: instability, dignity and elegance.

The name of this flower gave the Romanian female first names: Dalia, Delia. Women who carry this name are energetic and volunteer, able to take responsibility, vibrant, active and enterprising. They are ambitious and do not lack courage, especially when motivated.

Flower

The name has its origin in the Latin word florens and means prosperous, flowering; it gave birth to several names in Romanian: Floarea, Florica, Florina, Florentina, Flora, Floralia, Florin. On Palm Sunday or "Duminica Floriilor" in Romanian, all persons named after a flower are celebrated.

Hydrangea

The scientific name comes from Latin "hortensia" or flos hortensia or "garden flower". The symbolism of the Hydrangea is very rich, some believe that this flower stands for bragging (probably because of its abundance of petals and lavish form, so perfectly rounded), while others suggest a bouquet of hydrangea expresses the gratitude of the donor to the recipient's understanding. Then there are those who think that the hydrangea is all that is genuinely warm. The person named Hortenzia is a secret and mysterious woman, yet keeps to herself, tempted by the speculations of the mind, and active, dynamic and enterprising, freedom-loving and adventurous.

Iris

The word "iris" is borrowed from the medieval Latin iris, iridis, itself borrowed from the Greek Iris, Iridos designating the messenger of the gods, the personification of the rainbow. The term has also long been used to denote the rainbow. It is found associated with the flower as early as the thirteenth century, because of the colour of its iridescent petals.

Symbols: already considered sacred by the Egyptians, the iris became, under the name of the heraldic lily, the symbol of royalty in France. Today, the marsh iris (Iris pseudacorus), whose flowers are of a beautiful yellow colour, is the emblem of the city of Brussels, while the blue iris has been that of Quebec since 1999. Meaning of the name Iris: in the language of flowers, the iris symbolizes the good news. Finally, the iris is the part of the eye that gives the colour thereto. The iris is inseparable from the concept of colour. The translation of the name of this flower is in Romanian: Stânjenel or Iris that gave the female first name: Iris.

Jasmine

Its name comes from the Arabic "yasamyn", itself borrowed from Persian. Jasmine is the symbolism of the voluptuous sympathy. In the Far East, it is also the symbol of love and feminine temptation. In the name Jasmine, there are also the Arabic words yas (despair) and min (lie). Why should this beautiful plant have so bad omens? Just because it is said that the

fragrance of the white jasmine outweighs that of all other flowers, just like adulterous husbands offer to their mistress. In Romanian Iasomie gave birth to the first name Iasmina, that is to say jasmine flower that is of Arabic origin.

Lily

The etymology of the name lily comes from "Legia" meaning flowing, overflowing (Le Grand Larousse, 2012).

Connotations: whiteness, purity, innocence, virginity, chaste love, nobility, virtue, heavenly purity. In Christian iconography, the lily is associated with the Virgin Mary and the Archangel Gabriel painted with a lily in his hand during the Annunciation.

The lily is the symbol of France. The title of the novel by Balzac, "The Lily of the Valley" is a metaphor that refers to the virtuous woman, this heavenly creature named Blanche Mortsauf. "Her lips are lilies, and swarming pure myrrh" (Song of Solomon 5: 15), which makes reference to the metaphor red lily. The corresponding in Romanian is crin that gave rise to the first names: Crina, Crin, names of Greek origin, rather old, Krinon, Krino, Krinis which are formed based on Krinon-Crin (lily).

Lilac

Etymology: "lilac" comes from the Arabic lîlak, itself derived from the Persian nîlak, which means blue (derived from the adjective nil = blue). Its scientific name Syringa was given by Linné. It corresponds to the Latin syringa, reed and evokes the hollow stem of the lilac shoots. Symbol: the lilac flower is the flower of the first declarations of love, statements of purity and innocence. Romanian first names: Liliana, Lilian, Liana, Lili.

The common daisy or daisy

Its etymology: perle (Greek). The connotation of the daisy is that of pure and innocent love. It is a term that suits this flower decked also a host of a number of other symbols: fidelity, simplicity, preference, smoothness, change, farewell, purity, beauty, grandeur, I will think of you, and so on. Female names Margareta, Marga, Reta, Rita, Greta. The meaning of the perle gave the Romanian word "margaritar" (smooth pearl).

Lily of the valley

The May lily (*Convallaria majalis*) has the form of the Greek origin word moskos, which means "young beings, plants or animals", especially the deer that provide the musk.

Then moskhos used to mean the musk itself. This form is based on the Latin muscus, which had the meaning of "musk". In Old French, there are several forms: mugue, mullet, musgue, or musk, which all had the meaning of "musk"; the Littré dictionary of the French language (Littré, 1873): French diminutive of the Old French muge, that is musk. It is therefore seen as a form derived from Latin muscus, musk. In French, the name for lily of the valley, muguet, therefore has the same origin as the musk, of a smell very "musky". Its connotation is that of carrier of luck or happiness. The colour symbolizes purity, consolation, innocence and sensitivity.

Lăcrămioara is a Romanian-origin name that comes from the Latin lacrima. The connotations of the name are: delicacy, freshness, tenderness, purity.

Narcissus

Narcissus = "sleep" comes from the Latin form of the Greek word "narkissos" which means sleep.

Connotations: In the language of flowers, the meaning of the Narcissus is the languor of love, the desire, the ardent sympathy, esteem, courtesy, and answer to my affection. It is a feminine derivative of Narcissus, a character from Greek mythology of love itself. It is a name of a flower that symbolizes love and beauty. In Romanian: Narcisa, Narcis.

Carnation

In the twelfth century the meaning of this word was "little eye". Therefore, the diminutive of eye. The Greek botanist Theophrastus of Erese, a student of Aristotle, gives it the name Dianthus, which derives from dios (divine) and anthos (flower). The meaning of the carnation is "flower of love" or "flower of the gods". For some, it symbolizes boldness and admiration, for others, the fascination, distinction and love. It is rich in symbols based on flower colour. For the superstitious, the carnation is bad luck, or could mean even effrontery. Garoafa or Garofita are female first names derived from the name of this flower.

Orchid

Etymology: The orchid comes from the Greek word "orchis", which means testicle, referring to the shape of the underground tubers of terrestrial orchids of some temperate regions.

Connotations: supreme beauty, seduction and sensuality, fertility, fervour, refinement. It embodies the myth of the perfect wife and of perfection.

Romanian names derived from the name of this flower: Vanda, Deea.

Snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*)

The name Galantus derives from Greek ("gala" means "milk" and "anthos", "flower") and refers to the colour of a milky white flower. In the language of flowers, the snowdrop is a symbol of hope and consolation or relief. In addition, the snowdrop is a symbol of a friend ready to join you in times of sadness. Seeing a snowdrop in a dream means purity, perfection, need, renaissance, hope, after a period of inactivity. White is a pure colour. White reveals the nobility and delicacy. Ghiocelul in Romanian gave the name Ghiocica.

Hearts-ease

It symbolizes remembrance, nostalgia.

Etymology: past participle of thinking, from the Latin "pensare" (think), do not forget me, "I think of you with respect." The Romanian name: Panseluța.

Rose

The word "rose" in French dated from the early twelfth-century, back to the Latin "rosa, rosae" (feminine noun), which meant both the flower and the rose itself (Le Petit Robert, 2013).

The rose is the queen of flowers, the flower of passionate love, power, depth of feelings. The rose is known as the flower of the marriage. It could symbolize also tragic love, that is to say the separation. Thus, in ancient times, the rose was the funeral flower for women. In Roman times there was a feast of the entire community when the days of the ancestors were celebrated, the feast was called Rosalia because the rose was considered to be the flower of the spirits. The Romanian name Rusaliile comes this holiday- la Pentecôte in French.

Another meaning of this flower is related to confidentiality and privacy. It dates from the time of Roman banquets, which were a good excuse for political meetings, secrecy, developing alliances and conspiracies. All that was discussed there was confidential, hence the phrase "under the rose" with a sense of mystery.

The names of this flower in Romanian *roza* or *trandafirul* gave the names: *Rozalia*, *Roza*, *Trandafira* and *Trandafir*. The Rose metaphorically means a beautiful woman.

The Violet

Etymology: from Latin *viola* ("pansy")

Horace already employed the word for the colour of the flower, so *Viola* was already purple in Latin. Violet is the emblem of modesty, humility, secret love. Also called "flower of March," the violet was for the Greeks and Celts, the emblem of innocence and virginity, and used to adorn the coffin young virgins. The Romans made wine and garlands out of it. In the Middle Ages, the "chapel of flowers" was considered a mark of honour and respect. At the end of the fifteenth century, upon entering their town the ladies of Naples offered to Charles VIII a violet wreath.

The meaning of the name *Violeta*, *Viorica*, *Viorel*, *Viorela* refers to the purple flower with violet petals. The connotations about the flowers mentioned above could be found in Tab. 1.

Tab. 1

Flowers, meaning, language

Name of flowers	Connotation
Anemone	renunciation
Camellia	perfection
Chrysanthemum	truth
Colchicum	jealousy
Dahlia	instability
Hydrangea	bragging
Iris	message
Jasmine	grace and elegance
Lilac	first emotions of love
Daisy	innocence
Lily of the Valley	return of happiness
Narcissus	Selfishness
Lily	pure heart
Carnation	Effrontery
Orchid	Thought
Snowdrop	Hope
Primrose	a symbol of youth
Rose	Love
Violet	Modesty

Source: *** <http://www.langage-fleurs.fr/lavandel>

There are of course other Romanian anthroponyms derived from the name of flowers, but it was impossible for us to develop more in the limited space of an article: *Dafina*, *Laura*, *Romanita*, *Romana*, *Roman*, *Valeria*, *Valeriana*, *Valer Valeriu*, *Veronica*. *Dafina* corresponds with the meaning of the name *Laura* which comes from the name of the shrub "laurel" It comes from the Greek and suggests victory and coronation. *Romanita* is a Romanian popular name "Romanita" the equivalent of chamomile. *Veronica*, the plant owes its name to the St. *Veronica*, who had collected a cloth bearing the traits of Christ and who, with it, cured the Emperor *Tiberius* of leprosy. However, *Veronica officinalis* (*Veronica officinalis*) was used in the past under the wounds of lepers - hence its familiar name of grass-to-stingy (Preda, 1989). Below is a table of Romanian anthroponyms in the municipality of Cluj-Napoca between the years 2005 - 2012.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Tab. 2

Romanian anthroponyms

First names	Years							
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Anemona	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Crinag	3	2	5	3	3	4	4	1
Cren uța	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
Camelia	9	4	10	8	9	4	7	3
Dalia	5	5	2	1	4	5	3	1
Daliana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Delia	9	6	6	9	8	5	9	6
Florina	8	6	4	5	8	5	5	4
Florin	19	13	13	21	19	13	15	6
Florinel	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Iasmina	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iris	2	5	7	8	6	8	8	11
Jasmina	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jasmine	4	1	-	3	-	3	-	-
Kamila	1	2	1	2	-	1	1	4
Lăcrămioara	4	-	1	-	1	-	1	1
Laura	9	13	10	13	11	8	7	3
Liana	1	-	1	-	2	-	1	-
Lili	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1
Liliana	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	1
Lilla	3	-	2	3	3	2	6	5
Roman	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Romana	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Rosa	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Rosalinda	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Rosana	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Rozi	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Valeriana	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Viorica	-	1	2	3	1	-	-	-
Viorelia	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Veronica	5	2	3	4	2	5	3	6
Viola	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Violeta	2	1	-	2	3	1	-	1
Viorel	2	2	3	-	1	4	1	-
Vanda	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Valeria	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	1
Valer, Val	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-

Source: Civil Registry of the Cluj-Napoca Town Hall

Romanian surnames derived from the names of the flowers are much fewer than anthroponyms: Brîndușan, Bujor, Busuioc, Florea Garoafa, Roman, Trandafir, Viorel (Iordan, 1983). Here is the table of Romanian surnames in the municipality of Cluj-Napoca between 2005 - 2012:

Romanian Surnames

Names	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Brîndușan	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Bujor	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Busuioc	3	2	1	1	2	1	-	1
Florea	9	12	8	9	13	10	11	10
Trandafir	-	-	1	2	1	2	-	1
Roman	9	17	8	14	16	21	18	9

Source: Civil Registry of the Cluj-Napoca Town Hall

Researches on anthroponyms were also made by other linguists (Felecan, 2011). The Felecan's study is based on anthroponyms from Maramures region. He divides the names of persons in: old, peasant and modern. Compared to this study, the present research brings a new element – the link between flowers and names of people. It is important to mention that Cluj region has not represented the subject of previous research in this regard.

CONCLUSION

Romanian surnames derived from the names of the flowers are much fewer than anthroponyms. The most common Romanian anthroponyms are: Crina, Camelia, Florina, Florin, Iris, Laura, Veronica and Lăcrămioara. Some names like Florica, a name now considered "peasant" is gradually disappearing in favour of modern names. The conclusion we reached is that these are plants that choose the human being and the meaning of the name has a decisive influence on the holder. The paper can be a source of inspiration for linguistic studies in antroponymy.

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