Evolution of the Romanian Literary Language in Successive Versions of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. Sources. Phonetic and Morphological Levels (I)

In order to illustrate the evolution of Romanian language over four centuries (the aim of the study), we focused on *Letter to a Shepherd* and selected six variants from the multiple versions in Romanian. We had as a comparison base the Romanian manuscript no. 5419 (Varlaam’s translation) and used, for the 17th century, the Romanian manuscript no. 434 and no. 2511 – which maintain Leastviţa’s writing pattern. For the 18th century, we used Vartolomeu Măzăreanu’s translation – Romanian manuscript no. 2959 – from 1766 and a manuscript from the Library of Metropolitanate of Moldavia and Bukovina, copied in 1780, while for the 19th century we found useful the first printed translation, made in Greek in 1814, belonging to Veniamin Costachi. As for the modern age, Corneanu’s translations, respectively Stăniloae and a translation from French represented our work instruments. We analyzed the particularities on the phonetic and morphologic levels reflecting the dynamics of the language.