

Locus in fabula. The Legend as a Way to Explain the Toponymy

Even though all the readers can depict great differences between the books of the two Romanian writers, I.D. Sîrbu and C.S. Nicolăescu-Plopşor, they can discover also one common feature at least – a specific way of fructifying the folkloric legends in their works.

Both I.D. Sîrbu, in the novel *De ce plânge mama?*, and C.S. Nicolăescu-Plopşor, in his volume entitled *Poveşti Oltenesti* as well, utilized a rich series of myths and legends, managing to confer a kind of fairy tales atmosphere to their narrations.

In the above mentioned novel *De ce plânge mama?*, I.D. Sîrbu used two folkloric legends and creates two distinct chapters – *Povestea iezeralui* and *Povestea Sălanelor*.

In Plopsor's volume a bundle of legends about different geographic places – Băile Herculane, the Retezat mountains, the Cerna river or the lake Bucura – formed a fairy tale, called "Iogovan", as it was considered by many critics.

This paper shows that almost any name of a geographic place has in parallel a legend that explains the genesis of that relief, being – in fact – a kind of popular explanation of the topic name.