

## MIRCEA-MIHAI RĂDULESCU

LATVIAN *u(i)cā!*, *ucât*, *ucītis* :DACIAN *(h)úṭa!*, *a (h)uṭá*, *uṭuṭ*

Daco-Romanian (DR.) *úṭa*, *húṭa*, rep. *(h)úṭa(h)úṭa* is an adverb, also used as an interjection accompanying or evoking „the swinging, throwing up, dandling of a small child held on one's knees or arms”, see *a (se) da (h)úṭa* „to swing; dandle”; *de-a (h)úṭa*; *hai úṭa!*; *uṭuṭá*, *uṭaṭá* interj. : 1. (*uṭaṭá*) shouted out at folk-dances, „when the lads leap up and strike their shanks with the palm” (in Bocşa-Maramureş : personal information); 2. (*uṭuṭá*) in rhymes said „when swinging up, dandling an infant (or rocking it with the cradle)”, see *Uṭuṭá*, *buṭuṭá!* *Búnă-i vára jíntiṭa!* *Şi iárna chisăliṭa!*; 3. (*uṭaṭá*) in such rhymes said by/to (small) children as : *Uṭaṭá*, *uṭaṭá!* *Prінде múscă, n-o lăsá!* (etc.; in Făget-Gura Vitioaiei, Prahova c. : pers. inf.); derivatives:

*a (h)uṭá* „to dandle, rock; swing”, see *Nuielúṭă húṭă-mă!* „willow, do swing me!”; *să nu huṭi picioarele!* „do not swing your legs!” (in DAR); *eu uṭ* (v. C i h a c, II : 143–144); *a uṭá* (v. TDRG : 745); intens. – freq. *a huṭuná*, *eu húṭun* (in Bihor, v. V i c i u, 1966 : 52; S c r i b a n : 809, who also gave the variant from Bucovina *a huṭiná* and also *húṭună*, *huṭunătoáre* f. „swing”); *a huṭiná* (in Bucovina, v. TDRG, 1.c.; CADE : 512); *a huṭăná* (v. DAR); *a huṭăi* (in TDRG : 1.c.; Şăineanu : 299; *a (se) huṭuí* also in Sereca-Orăştie, v. MCD (I) : 259; in Făget-Gura Vitioaiei, Prahova c. ; pers.inf.); *a (se) hu-i-ṭá*, or *hui-ṭá* (v. V i c i u, 1906 : 52; *eu húiṭ*, in C i h a c, II : 1.c.); *a uiiṭá* (v. TDRG : 1.c.). all of them „to rock, swing”;

*uṭ* (v. C i h a c, II : 1434; TDRG : 1.c.); *huṭ*, pl. -uri „rocking cradle; small swing” (v. CADE : 592); *húṭa* „small swing” (v. DAR; v. Şă i n e a n u : 1.c.); *húiiṭ* (v. Cihac : 1.c.); *huiṭ* (in Transylvania, v. TDRG : 1.c.; in

Hateg, v. V i c i u : 1.c.) „idem”, also „children’s game” (v. DAR); *útuț*, pl. *útuțe* „rocking cradle; swing” (in Sanislău-Carei, v. LR (1) : 10; in Vîlcele-Turda, v. MCD (1) : 10f; in Bicz-Baia Mare „rocking cradle : pers.inf.); *uțuț*, pl. *uțuțe* ”cradle; children’s swing” (v. TDRG : 1.c.; in Sanislău-Carei, v. LR (1) : 1.c.; in Oroiu de Cîmpie-Mureș, v. T o d o r a n, 1949 : 15); *huțuț*, pl. *huțuțuri* (in Teaca, Bistrița-Năsăud c., v. V i c i u : 1.c.; in Transylvania, v. CADE : 595); with nasal infix : *hunțuț* (in Oroiu de Cîmpie-Mureș, v. T o d o r a n, 1949 : 1.c.; in Ciurila, Sălicea-Turda, v. LR 2 : 79); derivatives : *uțuțús* „swing (on cords)” (in Oroiu de Cîmpie, v. above; in Ciurila, Sălicea-Turda, v. above); *huțuțúii* (v. TDRG : 1.c.; in Deda-Mureș, v. MCD (1) : 199); *a se uțuță* (v. TDRG : 1.c.; Vîlcele-Turda, v. above); *a (se) huțuță* (in Teaca, v. above; in Șieu-Măgheruș, Bistrița-Năsăud, v. MCD (1) : 284), all of them „to swing”;

„rocking cradle”, or „swing”, also *tuț* (in Hateg, v. Viciu : 1.c.); *tútu*; *tuțói*; *tuțúii* (in Argeș c., v. U d r e s c u : 291; *tuțúiiul* is a „children’s game” (in Transylvania, v. Pașca, in Dacoromania VI, 1931 : 466, N.1); here, probably, also *a se tuțuiá II* „to perch and swing on the top of a tree (about a bird)” (in Criscior-Apuseni Mts., v. DAR); *túțul*, pl. *túțule* „swing” (in Hateg, v. DRLRC, IV : 559; DLRM : 899); *tuțúl*, pl. *-e* (in Transylvania, v. TDRG, 1.c.; CADE : 1.c.), whence *a tuțulá* (on the v. Pogăniciului-Caraș, v. C o s t i n, II : 203; in Transylvania, v. CADE : 1.c.); *tuțulás* „swing” (on the Upper Arges : pers. inf.); *a se tuțulí* (in Transylvania, v. P a ș c a : 1.c.) „to swing”; *tuț* adv. „upright”; *tútu dáina*, in rhymes said to/by children when „swinging” (in Dobrița-Gorj, v. N. I o n e s c u : 278).

The more recent Romanian dictionaries give only *(h)úta* adv. and interj as still in use in the literary idiom. In DEX (p. 409) we find also the regional *a huțuță*, in DLRM *túțul* „rocking cradle”. A series of related forms were previously mentioned in TDRG and DAR, but the most important in our etymological discussion are the verbs *a uță*, *uiță*, *hu-*

*finá* and the names for „cradle; swing” *ut*, *útuť*, *utúť* offered by the latter. The etymological conclusions (if ever present), had a lapidary character : „creacion espressiva” (in Cioranescu, Nr. 4128 „hîť” (sic!) : 402), or „onomatopoeic formation” (in TDRG : 1.c., or DEX : 1.c.). Such interpretations are very unsatisfactory, because nobody should think of „onomatopoeic” origin in the case of a group of words met in all the sub-dialects of DR. and including nouns, verbs and adverbs with clear and identical meanings, all of them from the same root (*h*)*uť*-. An etymological conclusion first of all requires comprehensive reconstruction of the forms common to all sub-dialects of Romanian, which was not made up to the present and, anyhow, „onomatopoeic” could only refer to „sounds”; on the other hand, „expressive creation” is an outdated concept which never did mean anything and would contribute nothing to our problem here.

In Lithuanian we find: *aúkas*, *aukas* „the swinging, rocking, dandling, nursing of a child” (v. K u r s c h a t, I : 249); *aukà* „offering”; *aukàvimo apierà* „id.” (v. F r a e n k e l, I : 24–25); *áukavimas* = *aukas* (v. *áukuoti*, in K u r s c h a t : 1.c.); *aũkuras* „altar; offerings table”; *ugniãkuras* „hearth, fireplace; pyre”; *aukúoti* : 1. „to make offerings (with raised hands)”; 2. (= *aukúoti* II) „to swing up a small child, to dandle” (v. K u r s c h a t, I : 28, who also gives *áukuoti* : 1. „id.”; 2. (concerning water waves) ); *áuklè* „nurse, nurse girl”; *ukáuti* „to carry a child in the arms, nurse, look after, take care of it, fondle” (v. F r a e n k e l : 1.c.); *ũkauti* II : 2. „to swing, rock, dandle a child” (v. K u r s c h a t, IV : 2552); *ukoti* (-*oju*, -*ojau*) „to dandle, swing in the arms” (ibid.); *ũkúoti*, *ũknoti* „to swing, sway, stagger, waddle” (intr.); *uknoja* „(she) is dandling the child”; ref. *ukuotis* (v. F r a e n k e l, I : 1.c.; also II : 1159–1160); *ukúotis* (v. K u r s c h a t, IV : 2553); *ũkavimas* = *áukavimas*, *aukas* (ibid. : 2551).

Latvian has : *aũkla*, -*e* (=Lith. *áuklè*); *auklét* (v. above Lith. *ukáuti*); *ukât*; *ucât* (*ucãju*); *ucét*; *ucît*; *ucinât*; *ùicât* (*uicãju*), *ùicét* II; *uicinât*;

*učât (učāju); učét; ućinât; (ućinēju)*, all of them „to dandle on the knees or in the arms”, (also *učuót*) „to swing”; refl. *ucîtis; ućatiês*. *Uicā bērmu* means „up baby!”, and *učū lulū, lāča bērmu!* „up you grumbler, tou be-arcub!”; see also *učī!; ucacā!* (=DR. *uṭaṭá!*); *učū!; uća!*, all of them interj. accompanying or evoking „the swinging up and down, the dandling, rocking of small children”; *ucîtis* „(rocking) cradle” and „swing” (v. M ü h l e n b a c h & E n d z e l i n, III : 293–296).

We could not speak of coincidences or loans in the case of :

	DR.		Latv.
interj.	<i>(h)úṭa</i> (also adv.) <i>uṭuṭá!; uṭaṭa!</i>	:	<i>ucī!; ucacā!; učū!; uća!</i>
vbs.	<i>a (h)uṭá; (h)uiṭá; huṭiná</i>	:	<i>učât; uicât; ućinât</i>
nouns	<i>uṭ; huṭǎ; úṭuṭ; uṭúṭ</i>	:	<i>ucîtis</i>

Such complex correspondences do strongly support a genetic relationship between the Dacian substratum of DR. and the Latv. (Balt.) inherited lexicon, since the senses are absolutely identical. The stress variants (v. *úṭuṭ : uṭúṭ; (h)úṭ : (h)uíṭ; ṭúṭul : ṭuṭúl*) and the intens.freq. verbal developments with nasal suffixes, trace back to a language with „shifting” accent and many nasal derivatives. The evolution *auk-> ũk->\*uk'->* Latv. *uc-*, *uč-* shows that, at least for the stronger tendency to the palatalization-affricization of the tectals *k, g*, Daco-Moesian was closer to Latvian than to Lithuanian.

Like DR. *típa-típa*, the same word as Latv. *tipa* (of a child who is „learning to walk”, v. F r a e n k e l, II : 1099), *(h)úṭa* is an adv. ending in preaccented *'a*, a structure inherited from Dacian and common to Alb. and Balt. As for the perfect preservation over millennia of such Dacian words as *(h)úṭa* and *típa*, it can only be explained by their strong emotional weight, since they express a mother’s most important wish during her child’s first year of existence, that of seeing it stand up, walk and talk.

F r a e n k e l (v. Vol.I : 24–25) compared the Balt. words to Goth. *ohuma* (graph. *auh-*) „higher” and Welsh *uchel* „high, elevated” (v. also

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