Writing between the lines: on the terminology
of the first Romanian grammatical text

Mihail-George Hâncu

While the first grammars of the Romanian language date from the second half of the 18th century, the first grammatical text written in Romanian is the so-called "Staicu's Grammar" (*Gramatica lui Staicu*), which was identified in two late-17th-century manuscripts from the Library of the Romanian Academy (MSS 312 and 3473). This treatise is a translation of a shortened version of Meletius Smotrytsky's *Slavonic Grammar*, which accompanies the Romanian text (on opposite folios in MS 312 and in alternating paragraphs in MS 3473). Although this is ultimately a grammar of the Slavonic language, it is vital to any studies of Romanian grammars, as it is here that one will encounter the earliest attempts at creating a grammatical terminology, especially given that manuscripts also contain marginalia and interlinear notes written by different hands, which provide alternatives to the Romanian terms created in the translation of Smotrytsky's text.