

# THE LANGUAGE OF SPIRITUAL REBUS DEFINITIONS

Florentin Smarandache  
 University of New Mexico  
 200 College Road  
 Gallup, NM 87301, USA  
 E-mail: smarand@unm.edu

“The rebus’ language” is somewhere at the border of the scientific language and, that, perhaps, having many common things with usual language too, and even with the musical one (the puzzles, because they have a certain acoustic resonance).

While the semantic deficiencies, having direct definitions (close to those from dictionary [3], pp. 50-56) of a language close to the scientific one (even to the usual one through the simple mode of expression) of “the grid’s definitions”. The language is close to the poetic one. There are even literary definitions (see [3], p. 57, [4]), which utilize literary stylistic procedures: like the metaphor, the comparison, the allegory, practice, etc. Later we will present a parallelism between the SCIENTIFIC LANGUAGE, POETIC LANGUAGE, REBUS’ LANGUAGE (“THE GRIDS’ DEFINITIONS”) closely following the rules from [1] (chap. “Oppositions between the scientific language and the poetic one”), results which we will limit to the rebus’ language.

SCIENTIFIC LANGUAGE	POETIC LANGUAGE	REBUS’ LANGUAGE
- rational hypothesis	- emotional hypothesis	- rational + emotional hypothesis (reading the definition, you think for an instant, sometimes you go on a wrong road; when you err the answer (the corresponding word from the grid, you get enlightened and enthusiast).
- logical density	- density of suggestion	- logical density + suggestion (the definition must use very few words to explain a lot – logical density); to be unpublished, enlightening, emotional (density of suggestion).
- infinite synonymy	- absent synonymy	- reduced synonymy (not truly infinite, but not absurd); (two identical words from the grid cannot have more than one rebus definition; but a definition

		will be almost uniquely expressed, therefore the synonymy is quasi absent).
- absent anonymity	- infinite anonymity	- large anonymity (neither absent, nor infinite) (in the case of the definition, the meaning is up to the author: even if the reader understands something else, it will intervene the rational part, the word must fulfill the proper place in the grid, even the literary definitions, in the grids, don't have anymore an infinite anonymity, because here intervene also the rational part: the finding by all means of an answer: in the case of the theme grids with direct definitions, the anonymity is almost absent).
- artificial	- natural	- natural and artificial (in general the definitions have a natural character; but the definitions based on letter's puzzles (example, the definition "Night's beginning" has the answer "NI" have an artificial character).
- general	- singular	- singular and general (only the definitions based on the puzzles of letters may have a general character).
- translatable	- untranslatable	- translatable (in the sense that the definition has a logical meaning).
- the presence of style problems	- the absence of style problems	- the absence of style problems (the same definition cannot be used without changing the nuance – while a word in the grid can be defined in multiple ways).

- finitude in space, constant in time	- variability in space and time	- the variability in space and time, smaller variability than that from the poetic language.
- numerable	- innumerable	- innumerable
- transparent	- opaque	- semi-opaque (or semitransparent - at the beginning the definition seems opaque, until one finds the answer).
- transitive	- reflexive	- reflexive (except, again, the definitions based on games of letters, which have also a transitional character).
- independency on expression	- dependency on expression	- dependency on expression.
- independency on musical structure	- dependency on musical structure	- dependency on musical structure.
- paradigmatic	- syntagmatic	- syntagmatic
- concordance between the paradigmatic and syntagmatic distance	- non concordance between the paradigmatic and syntagmatic distance	- the paradigmatic and syntagmatic distance (are pairs of different words, word games, methods used ass in poetry).
- short contexts	- long contexts	- short contexts (1) (here it is closer to the scientific language, because it is taken into account the Latin proverb " <i>Non multa sed multum</i> "; from the anterior statistic investigations it resulted that the medium length of a (spiritual) rebus definition is 4.192 words: the definitions with letter puzzles usually have very few words.
- contextual dependency	- it tends towards expression independency	- contextual dependency (in the case of the theme grids it is also a small dependency; there exist also rare cases when a definition is dependent of an anterior definition (usually the definitions with letters or

		word games)).
- logic	- illogic	- logic
- denotation	- annotation	- connotation (if a definition would reveal the direct meaning of an word, we would have direct definitions (like in a dictionary)) and then we would totally loose “the surprise”, “the spirituality”, “the ingenious”, “the spontaneity” of thematic grids, the definitions with denotative character.
- routine	- creation	- creation and ... experience (not to call it routine!)
-general stereotypes	- personal stereotypes	- personal stereotypes (it exists even the so called grids of “personal manner” – (see [3], pp. 56-58)
- explicable	- ineffable	- ineffable ... which explains it! (Taken separately, the definition, not-seen as a question, is ineffable taken along, with the answer becomes explicable: in general, the definition presents also an ambiguity degree (more tracks for guidance) – otherwise it would be banal – a degree of indetermination: it is used many times the proper sense instead of the figurative one, or reciprocally defined it has also its own logic, which becomes tangible once one finds the answer).
- lucidity	- magic	- magic – lucidity (in accordance with those that are immediately anterior) (at the beginning the rebus language dominates the person, until he finds the “key” when he’ll become at

		his turn the dominant – the poetic language.
- predictable	- unpredictable	- at the beginning is unpredictable, and becomes predictable after solving it: (unpredictable converted in predictable) .

## CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE SCIENTIFIC LANGUAGE AND “LITERARY LANGUAGE”

As in nature nothing is absolute, evidently there will not exist a precise border between the scientific language and “the literary” one (the language used in literature): thus there will be zones where these two languages intersect.

In [1], chapter “Instances between the scientific and poetic languages”, Solomon Marcus presents the differences between these two, differences that make them closer.

We will skate a little on the edge of this material, presenting common parts of the scientific language and the literary language:

- both are geared to find the unpublished, the novelty
- both suppose a creative process (finding the solution of a problem means creation: writing of a phrase the same).

- both literature and science have an art of being taught, studied and learned (the methodology of teaching arithmetic, or Romanian language, etc.) .

- in science too there is an esthetic (for example: “the mathematical esthetic”), the same in literature there exists a logic (even the absurd of Eugene Ionesco, the myths of Mircea Eliade have their own specific logic: analogously, we can extend the idea to Tristan Tzara’s Dadaism, which has a specific logic (of construction; one cuts words from newspapers, mix them, and then form verses).

- the scientific development implies a literary development in a special sense: it appeared, thus, the science-fiction literature in literary writings which use informations obtained by science: contemporaneous literature treats also scientific problems (for example Augustin Buzura wrote the roman “The absents” describing the life of a medical researcher: the engineer poet George Stanca introduces technical terms in his poems; one verse from his volume “Maximum tenderness” sounds: “ $\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x = 1$ !”); analogously the engineer poet Gabriel Chifu (the volume “An interpretation of the Purgatory”) and mathematics professor Ovidiu Florentin, author of a volume even entitled “Formulas for the spirit” – each poem being considered as a momentous “formula” (depending of time, place, space, individual) for the spirit.

- even the writing of some contemporary novels inspired from the worker’s and peasant’s life requires a scientific documentation from the writers’ part.

The literature has an esthetic influence for science; there exist mathematical metaphors (see [1], [2]) and, in general, we can say “scientific metaphors”, one cannot know what ideas and relations will be discovered in science. The understanding degree (exegesis) of a poetry and of a literary text in general, depends also of the culture’s degree of each individual, of his initiation (the seniority in that domain), of his scientific knowledge.

- there are many scientists who, besides their scientific works, write also literary works or related domains (for example, the memories book of the academician (mathematician) Octav Onicescu “On the life’s roads”, the renown Romanian physician Gheorghe Marinescu writes poems (using Dacic words), under the penname George Dinizvor, the great Ion Barbu – Dan Barbilian excelled as a poet and as a mathematician. The great poet Vasile Voiculescu was a good physician; and the mathematics professor Aurel M. Buricea writes poetry, analogously the mathematician Ovidiu Florentin – Florentin Smarandache writes poems and mathematics articles; in the world literature we find the poet-mathematician Omar Khayyam and Lewis Carroll – Charles L. Dodgson), but writers that would do fundamental scientific or technical research don’t quite exist!

### REFERENCES

- [1] Marcus, Solomon – “Poetica matematică”, Ed. Academiei, Bucharest, 1970.
- [2] Marcus, Solomon – “Introducere în lingvistica matematică”, Bucharest, 1966.
- [3] Andrei, Dr. N. – “Indreptar rebusist”, Ed. Sport-Turism, Bucharest, 1981.
- [4] Magazine collection “Rebus”, 1979-1982.
- [5] Marcus, Solomon – “Limbajul poetic - limbajul matematic”, in the “Orizont” magazine (Timișoara) from 26 March 1982.