

**BIANCA DABU**

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**POCKET DICTIONARY  
OF  
ENGLISH - ROMANIAN PROVERBS**

**Ediția a II-a revizuită și adăugită**



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*To my daughter, Teodora*

*The path of life leads upward for the wise  
to keep him from going down to the grave.*

*Proverbs, 16: 24*



## PREFACE TO THE NEW EDITION

The new edition of the POCKET DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH-ROMANIAN PROVERBS contains over five hundred proverbs, a selection that was carefully depicted from English sources. Care has been taken not to combine idiomatic sayings with genuine proverbs, therefore, the sources used in rendering the English proverbs were collections of proverbs edited by well-known paremiologists, such as: Wolfgang Mieder, Martin Manser, Emanuel Strauss and others listed in the bibliography.

Attention has been paid to the Romanian equivalent proverbs extracted from authorised sources.

The difficulty of providing the right meaning in the process of translation from a SL into a TL is well acknowledged by the translators. Thus, the translation act is a complex approach in which the translator has to find not only a linguistic equivalent but at the same time the cultural conotation of the culturemes. And when it comes to proverbs it seems the task is more difficult as the content of the proverb goes beyond the linguistic form or stylistic features. We cannot translate proverbs without regarding the stereotypes and cultural metaphores. English and Romanian having different lexical and grammatical background will have to deal with some difficulties in translating process related to the level of gender, aspect or semantic fields apart from the cultural ones. But at the same time, the extra-linguistic knowledge is

absolutely necessary in order to render, as accurately as possible, the concepts in question. The translation process is more than a combination between technique and intuition; it involves the knowledge of socio-cultural aspects and metaphorical implications that have to be seized by the translator, considering the variety of contexts in which the proverb occurs.

Although the intention of the author was to find the right equivalent Romanian counterparts for the English proverbs, the choice is sometimes only partially successful due to the linguistic and cultural differences between English and Romanian.

*Bianca Dabu*



## HOW TO USE THE DICTIONARY

### **Finding a proverb ...**

The English proverbs are displayed in an alphabetical order. The first line stands for the proverb itself and sometimes for variants of the same proverb.

The English sources used to extract the examples (dictionaries of proverbs according to the list of abbreviations) line up after each proverb.

The first equivalent translation belongs to the author except for the cases when there is no other interpretation possible, as the Romanian proverb matches perfectly to the English one. The suitable Romanian counterparts for every proverb are ordered alphabetically as well, followed by their Romanian sources (according to the list of abbreviations).

### **Addenda ...**

*Addenda* lists a number of additional English proverbs for which there is only the author's translation provided that there was no other suitable match found in Romanian dictionaries.

### **Using the index ...**

The *Index by Key Words* allows the reader to find a proverb even if (s)he does not know the right form recorded in the dictionary.

The *Index by Theme* displays a number of relevant themes and the proverbs defining the characteristics of the theme.

