

A mixed hermeneutic/machine-aided investigation of reliability early modern historical sources

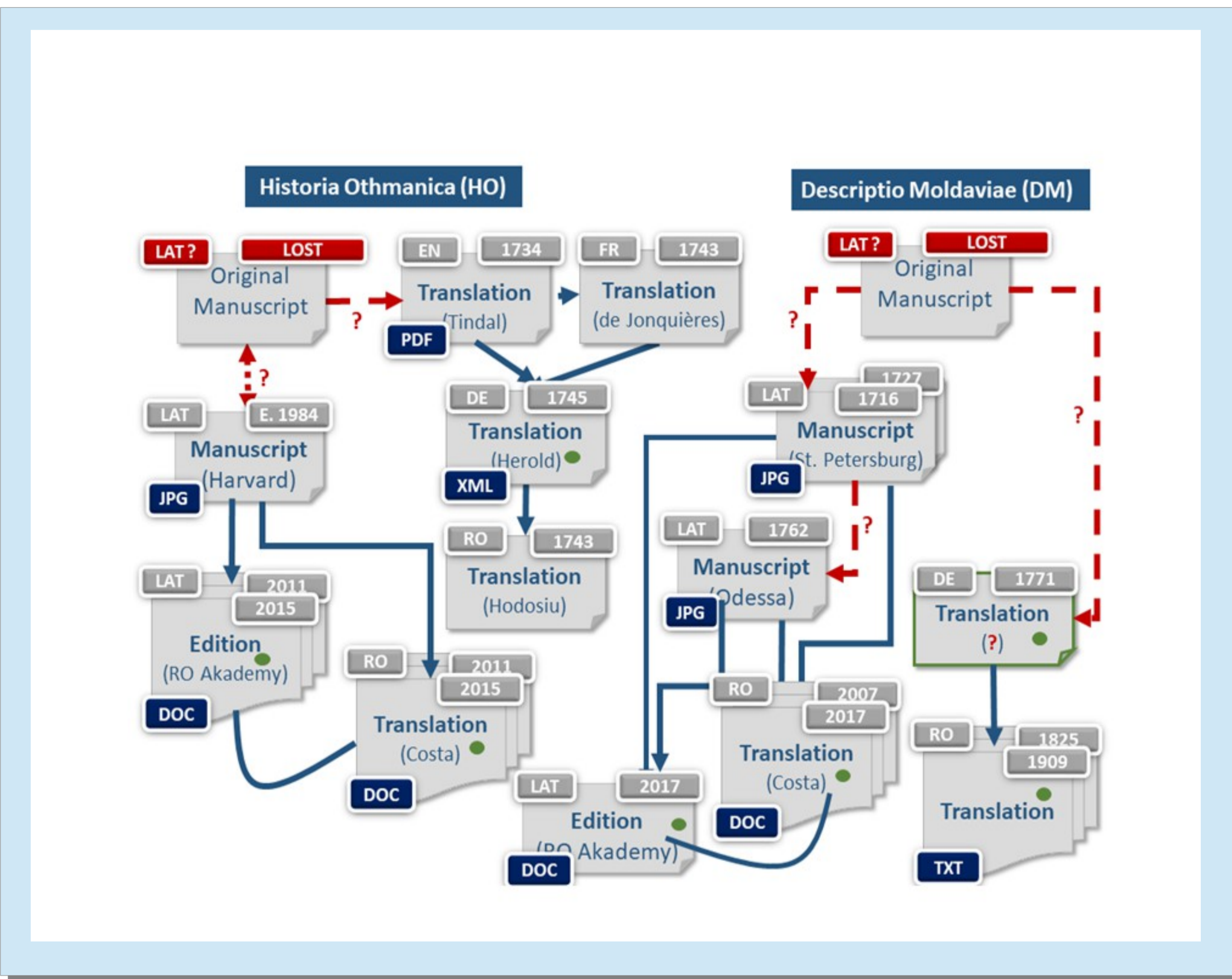
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Dimitrie Cantemir

- ◆ Ruler (Prince) of Moldavia (1710 -1711)
- ◆ Historian, Musician, Geograph und universal scientist of the 18. century, representative of Illuminismus in Eastern Europe
- ◆ 1688 -1710 lived in Constantinopol and studied at the Greek Akademy of the Orthodox Patriarchy the turkish language and the history of the Ottoman Empire
- ◆ Since 1711 lived at the Court of the Russian Tzar Peter the Great
- ◆ Since 1714 member of the der Royal Brandenburg Society of Sciences in Berlin

HerCoRe -Corpus

- **Historia incrementorum atque decrementorum Aulæ Othomanicæ** - „Die Geschichte der Entstehung und des Verfalls des Osmanischen Reichs“, Original supposed to be in Latin, translated (with many deviations and changes) in English, German, Russian, French and Rumanian. Reference Work until the middle of 19. Jh.
- **„Descriptio Moldaviæ**“ - „Beschreibung der Moldau“, Original supposed to be in Latin, translated in German and Romanian



Hermeneutic Analysis of historical Sources → content Vagueness

German Translation 1745

„Was seine Söhne betrifft: so wissen die christlichen Schriftsteller unter den verderbten Namen Erdogul, Issa, Kalepin, Cyricelebis und Cibelin, viele Dinge von denselben zu erzählen. Wenn man aber die Folge der GEschichte und das Zeugniß der türkischen Schriftsteller betrachtet; so siehet man offenbar, daß es bloße Erdichtungen sind. Denn diese legen einstimmig Bajeßid vier Söhne bei: Mustâfa, der in der Schlacht mit den Tatern um das Leben kam, Sülejman, Musa und Muhâmed. [...] So viel ist wenigstens gewiß, daß nicht mehr als vier Sohne Bajeßids in der ganzen Ges... vorkommen, darunter aber ist kein Erdogul.“ (S. 79-80)

It is for sure that Sultan Bajeßid had 4 Sons and none of them had the name Erdogul

Turkish-Osmanic Sources

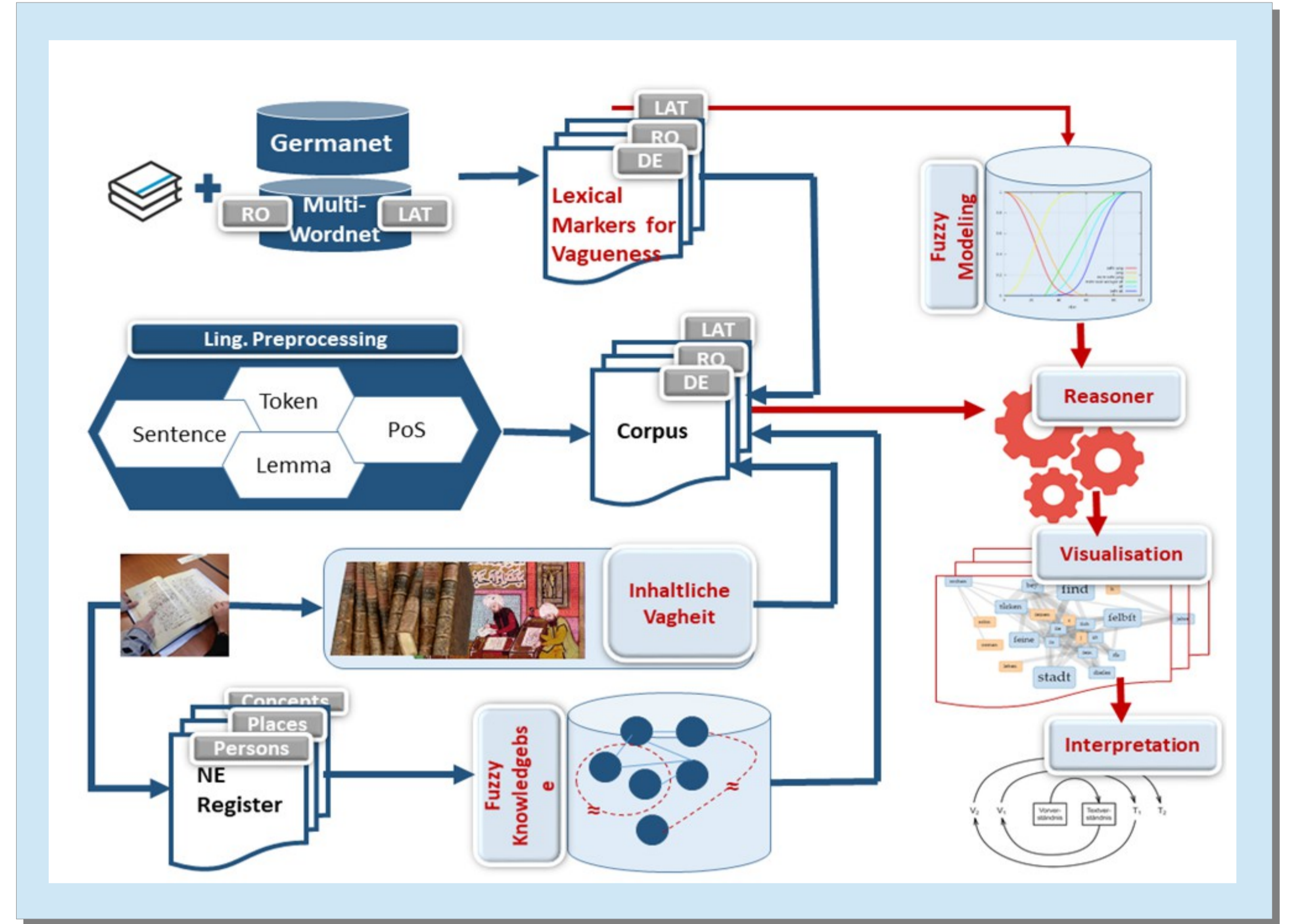
- ◆ **HSE:** Ertuğrul, Süleyman, Mehmed, İsa Çelebi, Musa Çelebi, Mustafa Çelebi. (S. 192)
- ◆ **NES.:** Ertuğrul, Süleyman, Mehmed, İsa Çelebi, Musa Çelebi, Mustafa Çelebi (S. 313)
- ◆ **SOL.:** Ertuğrul, Süleyman, Mehmed, İsa Çelebi, Musa Çelebi, Mustafa Çelebi. (S. 70)

Goal

To investigate through specific Vagueness- Annotation three questions related to the research of Cantemir's works:

- ◆ The first scientific comparison of the three translations and the Latin version, as it is generally accepted that these works differ consistently one from each other.
- ◆ The analysis of the reliability of Cantemir's assertions. (especially ottoman sources will be used).
- ◆ The consistency with which Cantemir relates to persons, events, within the same work and across the 2 books.

Architecture



Linguistic Indicators for Vagueness

At lexical level:

- ◆ Non-intersectives • „supposed“ „so called“
- ◆ Inexact adjectives • „square“, „round“, „hostile“, „near“
- ◆ Hedges • „almost“, „approximately“, „some“,
- ◆ Inexact measures • „4 day travel“, „10 feet“
- ◆ Modals (attitudes) • „presumably“, „hopefully“,
- ◆ Comparatives • „more“, „bigger“, „older“

At syntactic level:

- ◆ Subjunctive constructions

Knowledge base (Fuzzy OWL)

