

**Abstract:** In our study, we propose to examine the way in which the verb *a via* ‘to live’ has been preserved in Romanian and used in the religious texts of the XVI<sup>th</sup> century, by keeping most of its Latin meanings. Our perspective is diachronic; however, sometimes, the discussion will also make reference to synchronic language. Apart from its alternate usage in the texts with the synonym verb *a custa*, peculiar to the south-eastern part of the Dacian-Romanian territory (Banat-Hunedoara), mention should be made that, during this century and the centuries to come, the abovementioned verb has been progressively replaced by two others: one has been created in the Romanian language, *a viețui*, while the other one is a borrowing from Old Slavonic, *a trǎi*.

**Keywords:** vocabulary, semantics, Latin, Romanian, diachrony, verb, etymology, morphology, life of words.