

**“OVIDIUS” UNIVERSITY OF CONSTANȚA
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FIELD OF STUDY: PHILOLOGY**

**CONCEPTS, NORMS AND ANALYSIS MODELS
IN THE FIRST ROMANIAN GRAMMARS**

(1667-1914)

Flexible Parts of Speech

-ABSTRACT-

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Key words: *grammar, etymology, morphology, parts of speech, concepts, norms, analysis models, history, terminology, diachrony.*

This doctoral research paper entitled *Concepts, Norms and Analysis Models in the First Romanian Grammars (1667-1914). Flexible Parts of Speech* presents, in a diachronic perspective, the way in which the earliest Romanian grammars describe the morphological particularities distinctive for the path followed by the various concepts and linguistic norms beginning with the 17th century until the early 20th century.

The paper is based on the need for a useful contribution in the field of Romanian grammar history, as a complete history has not been achieved so far. Therefore, we have set out to conduct an authentic comparative study from an overall perspective, analysing the grammatical concepts, terms, norms proposed by the authors and several analysis models in order to describe their evolution until the 20th-century grammars.

In researching the first Romanian grammars, we have considered the following general objectives:

- outlining a brief history of the earliest Romanian grammars, including their periodisation and characterisation in the context of the age;
- identifying conceptual elements of transition from one grammar to another according to the cultural and historical context in which they emerged;
- identifying the models of these works;
- analysing morphological classes and their grammatical categories in the first grammatical works;
- establishing the way in which the earliest grammars set a tradition of research of the Romanian language and how they became a model for subsequent grammars;

- analysing the manner in which these grammars set a norm for the development of the Romanian literary language;
- forming traditions in studying the grammatical aspects of the Romanian language;
- introducing principles, notions and terms from classical grammar (Greek and Latin);
- setting analysis models;
- highlighting relations of complementarity among the various grammatical concepts presented in each studied grammar and, above all, emphasising the role each work had in the evolution of the Romanian grammar through their contribution, change and methodological and terminological innovation.

We have analysed a corpus of 45 grammars we consider to be important elements in the diachrony of Romanian linguistics. They have helped reconstruct the stages of this evolution process by discovering the aspects presented in the grammars and the changes entailed by this evolution in the course of the linguistic process. These texts cover four centuries (one work from the late 17th century, 8 works from the 18th century, 35 grammars from the 19th century and one work from the early 20th century), most of them written in the Cyrillic alphabet. Their importance is even greater, especially since the socio-cultural context was unfavourable. The authors of the first Romanian grammars deemed it necessary to elaborate clear rules in order to help establish the literary language. This is evident in their grammatical works in which they tried to insert Romanian language facts and, very often, important methods or normative aspects that should set up the literary language rules, although, sometimes, particularly in the 17th century, they resorted to foreign models from other countries.

In organising the corpus of grammars, we have relied on the first periodisation of Romanian grammars made by Iordan 1978, applying the same periodisation, but we have stopped in our research at Ioan Slavici's *Gramatica* (Slavici 1914), for analytical, historical and cultural reasons, as 1914 marked the onset of World War I, which brought along a number of obstacles in all fields, not only in the linguistic one.

These works are, in chronological order and grouped in the three periods, as follows: Romanian grammars published in 1667-1828 (Staicu 1667-1669, Eustatievici-Brașoveanul 1757, Macarie 1757-1772, *Institutiones* 1770, Micu/Şincai 1780/1805, Văcărescu 1787, Școleriu 1789, Tempea 1797, Iorgovici 1799, Budai-Deleanu 1815-1820, Diaconovici Loga 1822); Romanian grammars published in 1828-1870 (Rădulescu 1828, Săulescu 1834, Pop 1835/1839, Bariț 1838, Golescu 1840, Platon 1845, Bălășescu 1848, Cîmpeanu 1848, Măcărescu 1851, Barcianu 1853, Cipariu 1855, Hill 1858, Massim 1860, Stilescu 1863, Alecsandri 1863, Miheltianu 1866, Neagoe 1869, Cipariu 1869/1877); Romanian grammars published in 1870-1914 (Munteanu

1870, Manliu 1875, Pușcariu 1875, Circa 1878, Străjan 1880, Pană 1882, Nădejde 1884, Ionescu 1884, Dariu 1886, Tiktin 1891, Ghibănescu 1892, Liuba 1892, Manliu 1894, Suchianu 1895, Philippide 1897, Slavici 1914).

We have diachronically approached both the general grammars, scientific in nature, and the grammar textbooks, didactic in nature. Some grammars are in manuscript (for example, Eustatievici-Brașoveanul 1757), others were printed (for example, Tempea 1797). The works are written in Romanian, in Cyrillic (most of them), with a transitional alphabet (for example, Pop 1835) or in Latin (*Institutiones* 1770, Micu/Şincai 1780/1805). One work was written in French (Alecsandri 1863). Also, one work is in a hybrid language, Romanian and Slavonic, Staicu 1667-1669.

Our paper is based on *Gramatica limbii române* (the 1963 and 1966 editions prepared by the grammar team of the Bucharest Institute of Linguistics of the RPR Academy), preceded by the 1954 *Gramatica limbii române* (elaborated by the grammar department of the Bucharest Institute of Linguistics of the RPR Academy). We have opted for these grammars because they are classic, academic and normative grammars and are chronologically closer to the analysed grammars. We have not chosen the 2005 *Gramatica Academiei* because it is different, as it relies on another grammar study methodology. In the category of secondary sources, we shall include the publications (studies, articles, PhD theses, reviews in printed or electronic format) that have addressed this topic. The tertiary bibliographical material consists of specialised or explanatory dictionaries.

The work comprises eight chapters, along with *Introduction*, *Conclusions*, *Bibliography* and *Annexes*. The organisation of chapters complies with this comparative perspective, including numerous subchapters which correspond to all grammatical aspects concerned. A unique contribution, in our opinion, is the presentation of preliminary conclusions after each chapter, a synthesis of essential interpretation that completes the analytical approach. They establish and nuance the contribution of each explored grammar to the evolution of the analysed concepts and grammatical categories. At the end, the general conclusions provide an overview of all the aspect analysed in our doctoral thesis.

The first chapter is a historical presentation of the first Romanian grammars, divided into three stages, highlighting their importance in the evolution of Romanian linguistics. Each grammar is presented in the context of the cultural-social period. We have insisted on the role they played in the development of grammar, starting with the presentation of the defining elements specified by the author in the preface of each work. We have also included opinions of other authors regarding the emergence of these grammars. One final aspect is related to their

structure, with emphasis on morphology. The first chapter also presents essential data about the models of the first Romanian grammars.

The second chapter elaborates on the notion of “etymology”, given that, for a long time, it was that part grammar dealing with the study of parts of speech. Today, the established term is “morphology”. The transition from “etymology” to “morphology” is highlighted by mentioning the grammar works in which it stood out as well as the authors who understood the importance and necessity of this change. The first analysis focuses on the history of the terminology of parts of speech which was, in fact, the history of their semantic distinction. The next specified aspect refers to the way in which “etymology” was defined in the grammars included in our corpus. Finally, we have classified the parts of speech, noting that their number varied between 3 and 11 parts of speech.

The third chapter deals with the grammatical class of the noun. The first analysis of this flexible part of speech has focused on emphasising the position of the noun within the system of parts of speech, first presenting the criterion related to its belonging to the class of flexible parts of speech. The position of the nouns within the parts of speech also implied highlighting its position in the large class of the nominal. Establishing the specific term for the class of the nominal, of the noun, respectively, was achieved either by adapting the term or by translating terms from Latin and Greek. In terms of the definition, we note that the mode of expression was confusing or limited. A characterisation of this grammatical class through a diversity of criteria and a multitude of formulations are generally to be noted. The typology of the noun has implied the use of several criteria in identifying the types of nouns. The last analysis of the noun aims at highlighting its types in the analysed works.

The fourth chapter focuses on the grammatical class of the article. The authors of the first Romanian grammars hesitated when it came to identifying the article as a part of speech or as a category of determination. The first analysis of grammars which mentioned the article as a part of speech regards the position of the article within the system of parts of speech. The large number of works considering the article a part of speech point to an important direction in its interpretation. The article terminology is heterogeneous and the definition is not present in all grammars. In terms of article typology, the applied criteria are not to be found in all grammars. The last analysed aspect concerns the number of articles present in each grammar. The article was an important grammatical class, specified and analysed by most authors, and its analytical approach varied depending on grammar models or their perspective. Difficulties regarding the article most frequently emerged in relation to its morphological classification. Most confusions

in classification were also entailed by its similarity in form with other parts of speech, prepositions or pronouns.

The fifth chapter describes the grammatical class of the adjective, which is not acknowledged in all works as a distinct part of speech. The adjective is a part of speech that occupies its own specific positions within the linguistic universe established by the status it holds. The first analysis on the morphological behaviour regards its position within the system of parts of speech. Most of the authors of grammars placed it in the large class of the nominals, others granted it a distinct status, being considered a separate part of speech. Further analyses have been carried out and established important data regarding the terminology and definition of the adjective. The approaches are unitary and the observations have revealed the clear status as adjunct to the noun. The syntactic and structural criteria have pointed out important aspects of the adjective. Degrees of comparison were expressed quite similarly to the current linguistic norms, although grammaticalized means are not used in all situations which require the formation of corresponding adjectival structures. Certain works noted the stylistic role of the adjective and the possibility of it changing through conversion. We have indicated a constant classification of the numeral within the class of the adjective.

The sixth chapter deals with the pronoun. The analysis of this important part of speech has focused on its terminological and normative evolution, making a connection of the collected data with its particular linguistic approach. The need to adjust to the ever-evolving language system outlines unique models of pronoun classification. Like the other grammatical classes, the first analyses concern its position within the system of parts of speech and terminology. In most old grammars, the pronoun was recorded as a distinct part of speech. There were several works that included it in other grammatical classes (nouns and adjectives). The pronoun terminology has proved to be constant in the corpus of analysed grammars. The analysis of definitions is followed by typology, which gave rise to countless etymological investigations, with many denominations not having a correspondent in the reference grammars. The last identified aspects refer to grammatical categories and types of pronouns. In conclusion, we may say that the pronoun has been given a clear status, that of substituting for a noun, although there have been so many unclear aspects within its paradigm.

The seventh chapter focuses on the class of the numeral. The most important observations have emerged from the special status it holds in the analysed grammars, as it has been variously classified within the Romanian morphological system. The numeral is listed either as a component of other classes (noun, pronoun or adjective) or as an independent part of speech. We have further on analysed terminological aspects regarding the numeral. If in the first works the

numeral terminology was not diversified, later on the definitions bring out a number of terms that outline the rather complex paradigm of this grammatical class as well as inconsistencies in its configuration. An important aspect has emerged from the definitions of the numeral, as the numeral is presented by configuring its specific features or in contrast to other parts of speech, in the class of which it was included (adjective, noun, pronoun). The difficulty in identifying the various types of numerals in the first Romanian grammars point to the opposition between the linguistic term specific to the numeral and the real meaning that some words or phrases express. Furthermore, the linguistic material suggesting the idea of number is very rich. All this led to numerous inconsistencies of grammarians regarding the correct classification of the types of numerals and to an incomplete paradigmatic configuration of the numeral. Countless times, the conclusions led to highlighting inaccurate aspects in terms of the numeral: some interrogative, indefinite, negative pronouns would fall under the class of numerals. As regards the criteria for classifying the numeral, we have identified the diagnostic context which underlies the individuation of the numeral and defines it as an autonomous linguistic unit or, depending on the particular approach of the grammars in our research corpus, places it within other parts of speech. We have found that the numeral lies at the intersection of the classes of nouns, adjective or pronoun, in that, it exhibits a behaviour similar to them. As a result, the established criteria take this affiliation into account. There is a wide range of aspects regarding the classification of the numeral, for the identification of its species is carried out differently in the analysed grammars.

The eighth chapter deals with the verb. As with the previous parts of speech, we have analysed the verb starting with the definition and continuing with the various classifications to which it was subjected, according to the important criteria presented. The status of the verb was accurately configured from the very beginning. In terms of its position within the system of parts of speech, the verb undergoes a separate morphological treatment in all old grammars. In the first analysis, the position of the participle stands out, it being seen either as an independent part of speech or within the grammatical class of the verb, or in both grammatical contexts. In terms of terminology, the term “*grai*” (‘idiom, speech’) comes to the fore. Later, terms such as “*verborum*”, “*cuvânt*”, “*vorbă*” (‘word’) emerged and outlined the denomination of this essential part of speech. While in the first grammars the definition of the verb reflects an empirical level of grammatical terminology, later on important works came out which present an advanced terminology defining this part of speech. The analysis of the verb typology has been particularly complex due to the multitude of verb species and subspecies. The grammatical categories of the verb were differently specified from one grammar to another.

In conclusion, we have traced the terminological and normative evolution of the flexible grammatical classes, accompanied by the specific categories, in the 45 grammars which make up our research corpus, emphasising, where appropriate, normative and paradigmatic similarities with the reference grammars, GLR 1954, GLR 1963 or GLR 1966. One may say that all analysed grammars are component parts, constitutive stages of a well-defined evolutive process. As much as possible, we have tried to comply with a coherent classification grid within the structural analysis. On the other hand, using a unique grid has not been possible because differences in the classification of each flexible part of speech have been noted. Although the topic is very vast, we have deemed it necessary to also address, in the same diachronic manner, the grammatical categories of the morphological classes which included them, mainly the noun and the verb (nominal and verbal categories).

The last section of our analytical approach gathers the general conclusions resulting from the analysis of grammars in the research corpus. This part subsumes the preliminary conclusions of the research corresponding to each flexible part of speech analysed. The extent of the actual research and the multitude of normative aspects exclude the claim to completeness, compelling us to continue the investigation at the next level, namely, the analysis of inflexible parts of speech. The amplitude of the topic has its particular significance and the subject remains open, but in the hope that these analytical elements are further contributions to highlighting some normative aspects whose importance is today forgotten.

The bibliography used in our paper has helped us conduct a complex investigation in which the power of selection is obvious, because it is necessary to specify the aspects that most objectively define the treatment of this topic. We know that the first Romanian grammars provided the solid terminological background of the current grammar. Implicitly, these contributions have been identified not only in studies, but also in the manner in which subsequent grammars received and transmitted these concepts. The last part of the paper comprises the annexes, which include pages from the prefaces of some grammars with information relevant to our research. These annexes are accompanied by the corresponding transliteration.

We have therefore created a theoretically substantiated framework for each flexible part of speech, a diachronic transposition of language facts along with a theoretical construction of the comparable historical and grammatical stages, placed in distinct diachronic registers of the comparative analysis of the first Romanian grammars.

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