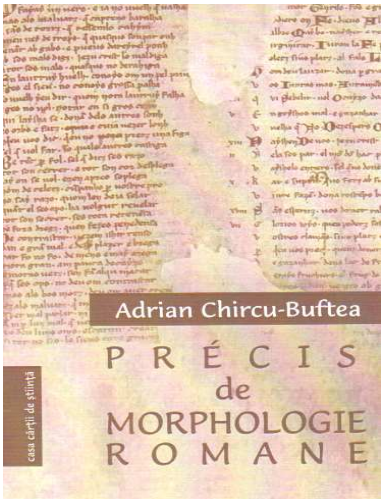
**Adrian Chircu-Buftea, *Précis de morfologie romane*, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Casa Cărții de Știință, 2011, 184 p. (Silvia Pitiriciu)**




Adrian Chircu-Buftea, a young linguist from Cluj, is the author of a *Précis de morfologie romane*, an extremely useful book for those interested in the universe of Romance languages, in particular students at the Faculty of Philology who attend courses of Romance linguistics. The author analyzes and highlights the unity of the most important Romance languages (Romanian, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Catalan, Provencal – sometimes other Romance languages are also referred to: Sardinian, Rhaeto-Romanic, Dalmatian), making insightful comments on the similarities caused by the common descent from Latin, as well as the distinctions, with their specificities in the Romance framework, from a morphological standpoint.

The book, as a synthesis, is easy to consult and contains details referring to the evolution of the Latin morphological system, starting with the noun and ending with the interjection. The essential idea was to capture the main changes that occurred in these languages throughout the centuries, showing at the same time the characteristics of each Romance language under discussion.

The Latin grammatical system was complex, since Latin was subject, in time, to the "pressures" of the languages it came into contact with (from which it took over certain elements) in different regions of the Roman Empire. The transition from a synthetic approach to an analytical one favoured, within the Latin language, a major simplification and a reduction of grammatical forms. The theoretical approaches devoted to the grammatical forms expressed in the current Romance languages (mentioned above) are completed by various parallel examples (most of which were provided by the author, as he himself says in the preface).

The author has chosen to treat the morphological aspects which seemed to best illustrate the topic and to be easy to remember. Both as his native language and a conservative Romance language, Romanian helped him to notice the main evolution tenets, as well as the elements ensuring cohesion within the Romance linguistic system.

The rich tradition of research in the field of Romance languages is reflected in the vast Bibliography at the end of the book. The methods and views that have dominated Romance research enjoy a detailed presentation, revealed in the numerous footnotes.

The option for a clear and concise synthesis work where the presentation of individual languages is accomplished from a general (Romance) perspective, combining with the presentation of linguistic facts highlighted by a Romance comparison, represents the main component of the originality imposed by the author. The work is thus an interesting research outcome, providing answers to the questions that many readers have asked with regard to the study of the morphology of Romance languages.

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