

## ***FEATURES OF THE ROMANIAN LITERARY LANGUAGE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE XIX<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY***

**Elena- Andreea POPA\***

**Abstract:** *This work discusses the main features of the literary language in the first part of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century, it also emphasizes the original language that Grigore Alexandrescu uses in his poetry.*

**Keywords:** *Romanticism, Modernism, literary language.*

Once with the passage from the eighteenth century in the XIX<sup>th</sup> century the connections with the Western Europe have increased but without that the structures of the old, illuminist to disappear. In the case of Romanian literature there is no violent conflict between old and new, as was done in the European literature (revolutionary program in France or nonconformist literature from England); the coexistence of classic elements along with the romantic is due to the common ideas in respect of, their work program the ideological dereliction and consolidation of national conscience, and in particular the support of the Roman origin of people, and in particular the fight against the Ottoman domination.

The concomitant evolution of literary forms of medieval and modern, in the period 1780 to 1848, has been determined by the accelerated transformations in the economic and social progress of the Romanian principalities, through their entry into the area of interest of capitalism European Parliament and detaches from the Ottoman patronage." (Florea, Iacob, 2006: 13).

In the second half of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century will strengthen this direction, whereas the young bourgeoisie supports feudal mentality in order to create an association with the interest to integrate European development.

In this respect, there were few writers who were vehemently opposed feudalism (Ion Ionescu from Pine, Nicolae Balcescu, Of. G.Golescu-Arapila, Cezar Bolliac) , the majority of interlocutory, tone of violent and Orthodox churches (N. Balcescu, Cezar Bolliac a.s.), in bantering and caricature (V. Alecsandri's theatre), at the fine and bitter irony (famous fabulists La Gr.Alexandrescu etc.)" (Florea, Iacob, 2006: 14), looking for the completion of the social structures and not their replacement.

In this respect, Mihail Kogalniceanu wanted "gentle reforms and the gradual abolition...only elements of regeneration for us. Any change camp, any kind of boorish crashing may not be than fatal. When revolutions begin, civilization terminates; the war never had done anything than vanish the sowing fruit during peace." (Kogălniceanu, 1955:675).

The influence of Europe has not been felt only from the economic and political point of view, whereas the literature has adopted the models of the western creativity,

---

\* University of Pitești, dina.andreea55@yahoo.com

helping our literature to 'burn' steps and to recover the difference from the great literature, both from the time and the value points of view.

The synchronization with European literature has had both advantages to know some of the most valuable models of literary creation such as: Lamartine, Byron, Victor Hugo or Balzac; but on the other hand, broke the beginnings of Romanian literature, by the large number of translations and imitations.

This is the very reason why the representatives of fortyeighters were against the abuse of translations and imitations, and one of the representatives of the account, Mihail Kogalniceanu, shall decide to publish in *Literary Dacia*, the article- *Introduction program*, which will become the literary manifesto of the national romanticism...

The author advises the writers to draw on the national history which „has enough heroic facts, our beautiful countries are fairly large, Our ways are quite picturesque and poetical, that we could new writing ideas, without borrowing from other nations. Our sheet will receive the best possible rarely translations in other languages; the original creations ii will fil all columns." (Literary Dacia, 2012:5).

Thus one of the most discussed topics of the XIXTH century is in connection with the modernization and the establishment of rules for the Romanian language literary critics. It should be noted that the literary language is not confused with the language of literature, I. Heliade Radulescu speaks about "the heart language and the rational language", as well as of the "language or sciences of the spirit", a thing that proves that Heliade even contemplate the existence of two styles within the framework of the literary language: the belletristic style and at the scientific one.

The ideals of the revolutionary program of the 1848 were supported since the end of the 18th century, by the Transylvanian School who wanted union and the autonomy of the Romanian Principalities along with the affirmation of the Latin origin of the Romanian language.

The nineteenth century is closely related to the appearance of the Romanian language literary, as it is claimed by some linguists. Such is the theory supported by "Iasi School" according to which the Romanian language literature has appeared with the unification of the principalities, i.e. in the second half of the XIX century, considering that this historic event unites the Romanian language which until then had used different dialects.

G. Ivanescu reproduces this theory arguing in addition that: "The formation of a Romanian aristocrats and separate people, sometimes with the origins in other regions of the country, has led to the formation of specific dialects, partially by people, and finally reached the formation of a literary language." (Ivanescu, 1980:499).

The process of the modernization of the literary language creates deep changes both at the level of the popular language and in respect to the features of the neologisms adopted. If the literary language was old as the basis of each dialect provinces in which shall be published together with the XVIII century more and more dialects disappear being replaced by the muntenesc dialect.

The place occupied by the Latin language in the process of the evolution of the Romanian language is to be accepted for only certain influences that are related to the

mother language, taking as the main source of Romance languages, in particular the French and Italian.

A stage of transition is the time between 1830 and 1860, classified as the first modern stage, characterized by a large number of loans, being used in the same degree.

A special role in the process of modernization of the Romanian language literary has the publication of the Romanian Grammar, by Ion Heliade Radulescu-in the year 1828, because through this work it is produced significant changes in respect of language.

The author was inspired in writing this book of: *Grammar* published by Şincai, that of Ienachiţă Văcărescu, *Grammar* Ioan Molnar (1788) ; being aware of the fact that the national unit is a significant factor for the existence of a literary language.

Grammar rules started to be an important issue; it is thus possible to reduce the number of letters from 33 to 29, with all that most prestigious linguists did not take into account the opinion that the alphabet used by Heliade allegedly holds 28, 30, 32, 34 or even 35 letters. The process of reduction in the number of letters emerges as a consequence of the principle of the phonetic alphabet supported by Ion Heliade Radulescu-, although the sound-letter is not observed when it comes to the use of the letters Y in the sound /I/, and the use of the final *u* is another brand of insensible conservationist author.

In the case of his grammar, Heliade has as present 10 parts of speech, but with certain differences whereas at Heliade disclaimer shall be made according to gender and not taking account of their endings; cases are called events: Nominative(), Genitiv(), Dativ(), Accusative(). As regards the verb conjugation is followed the French example there are: conjugation (1 nd, - have a), the second conjugation ( -i, -material), the third conjugation ( - e, -era), the fourth ( -it, -era), to this it is added the name of the times of the French influence.

The revolutionists from 1848 period are the first step in the modernization of the literary language, a transitional period during which the Classicism with its old roots associates of new components, the influence of the Romanticism.

In addition to the problems of vocabulary, as regards the adoption of neologisms and trying to manage better their use, the syntax yet clarified due to the influence of the Slavonic, and the ideal of a uniform language call into question the choice of a single dialect of all Romanians; in this regard there were various theories that have argued muntenesc dialect.

Grigore Alexandrescu is one of the writers of the pasoptist movement, being in the generation of writers who created in the middle of history, actively participating in the commission of acts of great historical importance for the Romanian people, as part of the political generation of writers.

The uniqueness of the period that created Grigore Alexandrescu as significant is given by the fact that Romanticism occurs simultaneously with Classicism, which will seriously affect the process of creating of the Romanian writer. His work includes both Romantic elements identified in his romantic and historical lyric and also the social one, and on the other side there are classical elements all through his fables, epistles and prose.

The role of the writer Grigore Alexandrescu in this context is not an insignificant whereas he fought for the modernization process and literary language through his works.

Unlike Ion Heliade Radulescu- who can be characterized first as a man of culture and then as a writer, Grigore Alexandrescu preferred an indirect position of involvement in the modernization of the Romanian literary language, using the artistic creation as a model of the pasoptiste movement.

### **Bibliography**

- Anghelescu, Mircea, *Introducere în opera lui Grigore Alexandrescu*. București: Minerva, 1973.
- Bădescu, Horia, *Grigore Alexandrescu- parada măștilor*. București: Albatros, 1981.
- Budai-Deleanu, Ion, *Scrieri lingvistice*, ediție de Mirela Teodorescu, I. Gheție, București, Editura Științifică, 1970.
- Călinescu, George. *Grigore Alexandrescu*. București: E. P. L., 1962.
- Dacia literară*, Nr. 1-2 (100-101) anul XXIII (serie nouă din 1990), Iași, 2012.
- Diaconescu, Paula, *Elemente de istorie a limbii române literare moderne*. Partea I. *Probleme de normare a limbii române literare moderne (1830–1880)*, București, CMUB, 1974.
- Florea, Ghiță; Iacob, Simona, *Literatura română în a doua jumătate a secolului al XIX-lea*. Ediția a 3-a, București, Editura Fundației „România de Măine”, 2006.
- Gheție Ion, Seche Mircea, *Discuții despre limba română literară între anii 1830-1860*, în *Studii de istoria limbii române literare, I, Secolul XIX*, București, Editura pentru literatură, 1969.
- Iordan, Iorgu, *Limba literară. Privire generală*, în LR, III, nr. 6, 1954.
- Silvian Iosifescu, *Grigore Alexandrescu*, București, Editura Tineretului, 1965.
- Ivănescu, George, *Istoria limbii române*, Iași, Editura Junimea, 1980.
- Mihail, Kogălniceanu, *Scrieri alese*, Vol. 1, București, Editura de Stat pentru Literatură și Artă, 1955.
- Munteanu, Șt., Țăra, V. D., *Istoria limbii române literare*, București, E.D.P., 1983.
- Netea V., *Ideile despre limbă ale lui George Barițiu, până la 1848*, în LR, nr5, 1957.