ROMANIAN LINGUISTIC CONTEXT OF ALEXANDRU I. PHILIPPIDE'S ERA. PRELIMINARIES

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Abstract: The end of the Romanian XIXth century, respectively, the beginning of the XXth century pertains to Romania's modernization process, determined not only by internal revolutions, by the radicalization of political programs by reforms (Revolution of 1848, Independence War, Mutiny of 1907 etc.) and by important external events (Peace of Adrianople, War of Crimea or the First World War), but also by cultural movements necessary for the scientific progress. It is an appropriate framework for cultural developments, though realized shyly and without any serious scientific implications, either due to lack of knowledge of the European idea movements, or due to lack of interest of the personalities of the time to determine the masses to believe in cultural progress. There are people of an overwhelming erudition (Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu, Titu Maiorescu, Alexandru I. Philippide etc.), who, by a centrifugal movement tried to change around them ways of thinking, personal interests, offering either the example of flash of genius, or the example of their own assiduous, tenacious work. It is not random the fact that the scholar from Iasi Alexandru I. Philippide lived during that time, from 1859 to 1933, finding an appropriate context for cultural development, especially linguistic, which the society of that time needed.

Keywords: linguistic context, polemics, cultural progress, era, grammar.

Linguistic researches must be understood only in relation to the era in which they appeared, since each linguist, at least in Romanian linguistics, lives the complex of the eternal beginning, having the feeling that all starts with their own contribution. Before 1859, the Romanian linguistic activity is limited, the most important moments being the publishing of Samuil Micu and Gheorghe Șincai 's grammar, *Elementa linguae daco-romanae sive valachicae*, in 1780, in Wien and of Ion Heliade Radulescu's *Gramatica românească*, in 1828. After 1859, the era will know a revolutionary and cultural momentum, a spiritual agitation of concentrating the efforts for political, ideological and cultural union, the main objectives being the formation of a Romanian intellectuality and the spreading of the knowledge indispensable for a cultivated society. Now the first Romanian historical grammar works appear, together with the preoccupation with novels of Timotei Cipariu, August Treboniu Laurian and Aron Pumnul. In his works: *Elemente de limba română după dialecte și monumente vechi* (1854), *Crestomația, sau Analecte literare* (1858) and *Principii de limbă și scriptură* (1866), Timotei Cipariu expresses a few of the principles he fights for: language grammar is structured on historical grounds, unification of our literary language for all lands inhabited by Romanians etc. Cipariu is the author of the first official Romanian etymological orthography[1], which he imposed in 1869,

[1] The orthographic system of Cipariu appears in 1841, but the etymology will not last more than two decades after the formalization of the writing with Latin letters. Publishing in Bucharest, 1875, of G. I. Frollo's work, *O nouă încercare de*

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thanks to the Latinized majority in the Romanian Academic Society, which will change years later, change occurred following the development of our modern literature based on the living language of the people, written as the people speaks. By the solidity and seriousness of his achievements, but also by his modesty and simplicity, Timotei Cipariu, together with A. T. Laurian, represents, for Al. I. Philippide, the model of scholar of the era before the forced abdication of Cuza, in 1866: "For Romanians, the history of the mother tongue remained till today in the state in which Mr. Cipariu left it in 1866"[2]. Alongside Ion Heliade Radulescu, Timotei Cipariu is an important personality in the progress of descriptive grammar. A. T. Laurian has established his reputation of extremist Latinist with the works *Tentamen criticum* (1840), *Dicționarul limbii române* (1871) and *Glosar care cuprinde vorbele din limba română străine prin originea și forma lor, cum și cele de origine îndoioasă* (1877), but because of evident exaggerations in orthography and vocabulary, he had no influence on Romanian grammar works. Reforms regarding the orthography of Romanian language started in 1869[3], by supporting its Latinized character, but in 1879, the year in which the Academic Society becomes the Romanian Academy, a new commission was constituted, with the purpose of elaborating a reform of orthography, in order to correspond to the use. Formed of B. P. Hasdeu, Titu Maiorescu, Alexandru Odobescu, A. T. Laurian, Gheorghe Baritiu, I. Caragiani and N. Quintescu, the commission maintained certain etymologist rules, but in 1881 the first official and general academic orthographic system was created, the forty first orthographic reform with Latin letters since 1780, which represented a progress in favour of phonetics. To these we add the language reforms in 1904[4] and in 1932, the year in which the orthography applied for 20 years, established by Ovid Densusianu, Ioan Bianu, Sextil Puscariu, Gh. Adamescu and Al. Popovici was voted. In 1906, "Viața românească" magazine fixes its orthography, but Al. I. Philippide, although he took part at its establishment, was dead keen on certain particularities which were not voted during the meeting: the use of "ĭ" and "ŭ", apostrophe suppression etc. Thus, Philippide published his articles with a different orthography, his own orthography. Graduate of studies in Vienna, decisive for his intellectual formation, the Romanian linguist Aron Pumnul continued the road opened by the Transylvanian School, proving in his works the Latin origin and structure of our language. Being graduates of studies abroad, some Romanian philologists hear about certain European linguistic theories: Humboldt, F. Bopp, Fr. Diez, A. Schleicher, Max Müller etc., and in point of ideology, we mention the nationalist historical conception supported by Herder, Michelet, Karamzin and Grimm.

Preparing the issue of *Gramatica elementară a limbii române*, published in Iasi, 1897, by Al. I. Philippide, between 1828 and 1870 numerous Romanian grammars came out of the print such as *Gramatică românească* (Sibiu, 1828), by Ion Heliade Radulescu, *Grammatică românească seau observații grammaticești asupra limbei românești pentru școalele normale și gimnaziale* (Iasi, 1833), by Gheorghe Seulescul, *Băgări de seamă asupra canoanelor grămăticești* (1840), by Iordache Golescu,, *Tentamen criticum in originem, derivationem et*

soluționare a problemului ortografic, will strengthen his anti-etymologist position and will ease the acceptance of the orthography of Junimea in the Romanian Academy.

[2] Al. Andriescu, *Actualitatea lui Alexandru Philippide*, in *Alexandru Philippide: 50 de ani de la moarte*, Iasi, 1983, p. 7.

[3] În 1866, Titu Maioresc publishes the study *Despre scrierea limbii române*, that can be considered a fundamental work in the passing towards the scientific research of Romanian orthography.

[4] At the elaboration of the academic orthographic reform worked N. Quintescu, Titu Maiorescu, Iacob Negruzzi, Ovidiu Densusianu and I. Bianu, who believed that each sound of speech must be noted with its unique graphic sign.

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formam linguae romanae in utraque Dacia vigentis vulgo valachicae (Vienna, 1840), by A. T. Laurian, *Manual de gramatică română compusă după scrierile celor mai buni autori* (Iasi, 1845), by Constantin Platon, *Gramatica română pentru clasele gimnasiali* (1861), by Gavril Munteanu etc. An element of novelty of the era is represented by the Romanian grammars written in French: *Grammaire vallaque à l'usage des Français* (Bucharest, 1836), by J. A. Vaillant, or *Grammaire de la langur roumaine* (Paris, 1863), by V. Mircesco.

Starting with the 1870s and ending with the First World War, the period of professional linguists is formed, such as B. P. Hasdeu, Al. Cihac[5], Al. Lambrior[6], AL. I. Philippide, L. Șăineanu, M. Gaster, I. Bogdan, H. Tiktin etc., some of them creating true language schools. It is the era of the victory of the orthographic phonetics supported by Maiorescu[7], on etymology, following certain fierce polemics between Latinists and non-Latinists, it is the era of orthographic reforms and of the influences of European linguistic theories in the Romanian linguistics. Grammars printed during this time were not just for the practical, school use, but there also were theoretical grammars. In 1894 *Gramatica istorică și comparativă a limbii române pentru cursul superior,* by Iuliu Maniu, *Gramatica română. Fonetica si morfologia*, by Al. Lambrior, published posthumously, in 1892, in a form not definitively edited by the author, under the care of G. Ghibanescu, *Gramatica română* between 1891 and 1893 of H. Tiktin, the scientific grammar of our language, *Gramatica limbii române întocmită pentru clasele secundare* (Barlad, 1893), by Radu G. Radoveanu, *Gramatica limbii române* (Bucharest, 1894), by I. Suchianu, *Manual de gramatică română* (Bucharest, 1896), by Ștefan Călinescu etc., come out. Although it denies the normative role of grammar, in 1897 Al. I. Philippide's *Gramatica elementară a limbii române* comes out, published more as a necessity, as he himself confesses in the work's preface, because he was not satisfied with the information found in the contents of the other grammars: "For the history of Romanian language, which I decided to publish … we need a Romanian grammar, where the forms of the common language, the meanings of those forms and numerous examples can be found, categorized. None of the grammars until now could do me a favour, because, irrespective of the fact that forms are either false, or few in number, or listed without any system, examples are extremely insufficient: for the skeleton of a form three four words are given as example and then an etcetera, and for the meaning of the forms – in the study of which in fact our grammarians copied only the schematics of foreign rational grammars, French or German – pieces of reading, are offered under the pretext of pedagogy, from where, the student, allegedly, must choose what he needs"[8]. After Philippide's work, other works come out: *Carte de cetire și gramatică* (Bucharest, 1909), by M. Stroescu, *Carte de limba română* (Bucharest, 1910), by P.V. Hanes, *Curs de limba română* (Bucharest, 1910), by D. Caracostea, *Gramatica română* (Bucharest, 1914), by N. Bogdan etc. Regarding B. P. Hasdeu, besides the political and social history of the Romanians, he also gave special attention to Indo-European

[5] Alexandru Cihac was one of the representatives of Romanian linguistic naturalism and always supported the Latinity of the Romanian language.
[6] As a student, Alexandru I. Philippide also heard the Romanian philology classes of Alexandru Lambrior, whom he admired as a man of culture. For that matter, he considers him the only linguist model of his time, from the entire pleiad of Romanian "specialists" after 1866. In 1884, Philippide obtains by contest, a chair in the Department of Romanian Language at the National High-School, which remained open following the death of its tenure teacher, Alexandru Lambrior.
[7] On a new historical framework, Titu Maiorescu undertook the role of leader, by continuing the fight of the previous generation of M. Kogălniceanu, A. Russo, C. Negruzzi, V. Alecsandri, Al. Odobescu for the cultivation of the Romanian language.
[8] Iorgu Iordan, coordinator, *Istoria lingvisticii românești,* Scientific and Encyclopedic Publishing, Bucharest, 1978, p. 80.

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linguistics. Moreover, interesting is his conception on language, which overlaps the one of German scholars creators of ethno-psychology, the conception of M. Breal and of the neo-grammarians. Thus, such as Breal, he thinks language is a social system and fact, and as ethno-psychology, he sees in language the expression of the soul of the peoples: ”Nothing more social than language, the strongest manner, if not even the foundation of society. Hence, nothing more exposed to the danger of certain emotional assessments instead of rational ones. The language of a people is mistaken for and is identified with its nationality, with the parents' memory, with the cradle, with mother …”[9]. Furthermore, he imitated the French scholars and called the language science *linguistică* (fr. *Linguistique*), opposing Junimists, who used the term of *limbistică*. As a language theoretician, Hasdeu's activity fits into the era of the linguists Schleicher, Ascoli, Schuchardt, Max Muller, Whitney etc. Regarding the collaboration with Romanian linguists of his time, there always was a hostile attitude between them, which Philippide explains partially in a letter of December 23rd 1893, addressed to his friend, Hermann Suchier: “I pinched Hasdeu, who compared himself at one point with God, he can't even distinguish sounds one from another. Then I urged my fellow citizens to modesty – which they lack entirely – and to the love of truth”[10].

The seventh decade of the XIXth century represents the beginning of the era of great dictionaries. Alexandru Cihac's lexicographic activity (between 1870 and 1879 he published two volumes of *Dictionnaire d'etymologie daco-romane*, the first dictionary exclusively dedicated to etymologies) is doubled by the opening of the series of academic dictionaries. The intention of compiling a complete Romanian dictionary pertains to the Romanian Academic Society, which, in 1869, offers A. T. Laurian, I. Massim and Ion Heliade Radulescu the task of elaborating it. The latter renounces, and since 1870, Laurian and Massim worked alone for seven years, at the end of their work publishing two tomes of *Dicționarul limbei române.* Incomplete, their work is suspended and in 1884 it is taken over by Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu, linguist who manages to publish in 11 years three tomes of the famous *Etymologicum Magnum Romaniae*, up to the word ”bărbat”. The task of elaborating the dictionary is suspended again, and resumed for the third time by Alexandru I. Philippide. The scholar from Iasi receives the task of editing the *Dictionary* from the beginning, reason for which he decides to collaborate with a group of scientists chosen by him: Garabet Ibrăileanu, Simion Florea Marian, Jan Urban Jarnik etc. After six years of research and editing, they reach the half of the letter D, hence he is obliged to reduce the size of the work, reason for which Philippide gives up the work for the dictionary. In 1906, the Romanian Academy entrusts the elaboration of the dictionary to Sextil Pușcariu, who doesn't finish it in 40 years of titanic work. The involvement in the elaboration of the dictionary gave rise to many polemics between the linguists who had to finish it, which resulted in direct or indirect attacks in the articles published in the magazines of the time, such as *Dicționarul Academiei sau basmul cucoșului roș*, by Al.I. Philippide, in ”Viața românească”, volume VIII, year III, no. 2, Iași, of 1908. The lexicographic activity also took shape by the publishing of other dictionaries such as *Cel mai nou dicționar de buzunar pentru tălmăcirea cuvintelor radicale și zicerilor streine din limba română* (Bucharest, 1886), by A. Steinberg, *Dicționar macedoromân*

[9] Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu, *Cuvente den bătrâni*, tom III, *Istoria limbei române*, Part I, *Principie de lingvistică*, Bucharest, 1881, p. VII.
[10] ***, *Alexandru I. Philippide în dialog cu contemporanii*, edition cared for, preface, notes and index by I. Oprișan, Minerva Publishing, Bucharest, 1986, volume I, p. 99.

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(1901), by Ștefan Mihăileanu, *Etymologisches Wörterbuch der rumänischen Sprache. I. Lateinisches Element* (Heidelberg, 1905), by Sextil Pușcariu, *Dicționarul etimologic al limbii române. Elemente latine* (1907-1914), elaborated by I. A. Candea and Ovid Densusianu etc. Thus, after 1860, by the publishing of several valorous works, the foundations of modern linguistics are laid, and in orthography the decline of Latinism and purism begins, on the forefront being the criterion of authentic reproduction. B. P. Hasdeu will contribute in a decisive measure to the laying of the foundations of Romanian modern linguistics by the disclosure of autochthonous elements in vocabulary, in the phonetic system, morphology and syntax, by analysing the relation between language and thinking, by research regarding the language science and published in *Principie de lingvistică*, in 1881, the first Romanian linguistics work appeared simultaneously, but independent of the work of the neo-grammarian Hermann Paul, *Prinzipien der Sprachgeschichte*, by the specifications brought in the linguistic research methodology, proposing the observance of the phonetic laws and concordances in the history of the Romanian language or by researching an important issue of general linguistics, word circulation theory. But Hasdeu's linguistic theories are not free of violation of the scientific truth, therefore Al. I. Philippide leads a continuous fight with the scholar from Bucharest in order to correct him: "And Hasdeu in *Istoriea critică a Românilor*, Bucharest, 1875, p. 297 says: <<Rummaging everywhere in the previous paragraphs and poking all chords and little chords of the Romanian language, we find no shadow of incontestable gothism, not even in two eighths of one word.>> it is superfluous to add to this precious affirmation that in those previous paragraphs Hasdeu did not rummage or poke anything from the Romanian language! And then the clichee <<from all accounts>> was born.")[11]. Alexandru I. Philippide's discontents are also determined by the work *Cuvente den bătrâni*, in which Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu considered appropriate as pronunciation and writing, lexemes such as "nooii" (noi – *we*), "moortea" (moartea – *death*), "sufleatea" (suflete – *souls*) etc. Philippide is reserved in issuing value judgments starting from assumptions or intuitions, such as Hasdeu, and his speech is built based on a browsed and appropriated bibliography, continually cited in order to support the truth spoken by him. Polemics arise from the fact that the linguist from Iasi was very rigorous. Any of his affirmations, however insignificant, must be proven with the aid of texts. His works are not constituted of personal opinions or convictions, but of attempts to discover the truth, since the scientist must consult various bibliographic sources and at the same time must verify them. Throughout his texts we distinguish two manners of making polemics: on one hand, the criticism generated only by the recording of the scientific truth and by the desire to fight, with solid arguments, erroneous scientific opinions issued by foreign and Romanian linguists (for example, the polemic Philippide – Meyer-Lubke in *Originea românilor*), and, on the other hand, the polemic determined by personal dissatisfactions regarding Romanian scientists, whose linguistic truths were the fruit of intuitions and suppositions, certainly not of meticulous scientific research (for example, the polemic Philippide – Hasdeu). The critic Dimitrie Macrea will notice the same shortage in B. P. Hasdeu, supported argumentation, whose place is taken by imagination: "He was sometimes seduced by imagination where evident material proof was missing"[12].

[11] Alexandru I. Philippide, *Originea românilor*, volume I, "Viața românească" Tipography S. A., Iași, 1923, p. 349-350.
[12] Dimitrie Macrea, *Contribuții la istoria lingvisticii și filologiei românești*, Scientific and Encyclopedic Publishing, Bucharest, 1978, p. 125.

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But Philippide expressed his admiration for another contemporary of his, Alexandru Lambrior, trained in the philology school in Iasi dominated by Maiorescu's spirit. Disciple of Gaston Paris and of Arsenie Darmesteter, Lambrior joined the neo-grammarians school, such as Philippide. Collaborator of the "Junimea" society and of the "Convorbiri literare" magazine, Lambrior's portrait is composed of fine strokes by Iacob Negruzzi: he was "always merry, tolerant with all, intelligent, industrious writer; in private relations he was so pleasant that people would say he is a true garden. What a shame that a man who met solid science with pleasant form had to die so young!"[13]. Another neo-grammarian is H. Tiktin, whom the linguist from Iasi admired for the research work done in compiling his works, but did not back off from criticizing his mistakes in the dictionary *Rumanisches - deutsches Worterbuch:* "But for Tiktin *bătucesc = batogesc* and as a result Tiktin gives to *bătucesc* the meanings of *batogesc* and vice versa. If this unfortunate proceeding to mistake the meanings of words and to throw the words hodge-podge in the same column would not exist, if, as an elementary knowledge of the lexicographic method requires, Tiktin would have put *batogesc* in its place and *bătucesc* again in its place, maybe he would have mistaken to believe that from the point of view of the skeleton *bătucesc = batogesc*, but he would not have been so blind to see that *bătucesc* has one meaning, and *batogesc* another meaning. […] But such incorrect understandings are individual occurrences and one could say: <<Of course, in so many thousands words one must expect to also find incorrect translations.>> But unfortunately, Tiktin's dictionary presents *groups* of meaning mistakes"[14]. The necessity for the critical spirit in linguistics is also supported by the critic Dimitrie Macrea: "In an era in which, in the development of our language, numerous exaggerated tendencies have manifested themselves: Latinism, Italianism, Purism, infiltration of Germanisms, drunkenness of words, Cațavencu's expressions in oratory, the action of a ludic and relentless critical spirit and a scientific guidance against these manifestations was absolutely necessary"[15]. View from this perspective, Philippide's spirit overlaps the one of Maiorescu, both achieving the diachronic perspective of the texts written by them. Their work intended to be one of guidance, having a guiding function both for young men and women of the era, as well as for his descendants[16]. In this way, polemics, in Philippide, is a thought, conscientious action, because its purpose is, on one hand, to correct the scientific errors issued by the linguistic personalities contemporary with him, and, on the other hand, to build for his descendants correct and pertinent linguistic theories, based on truth and research, duty which he has towards the other.

The activity of linguists in the interwar period begins in the first years of the XXth century, because they found role models in Titu Maiorescu, Timotei Cipariu, B. P. Hasdeu etc., but they were trained in European university centers, which explains the existence of differences in conception between them and their predecessors. Alexandru I. Philippide, Ovid Densusianu and Sextil Pușcariu are the three school heads in the university centers in Iași, Bucharest, respectively Cluj, always in conflicts of ideas. Penetrating critical spirit, Al. I. Philippide was a

[13] Iacob Negruzzi, *Amintiri din Junimea*, Humanitas Publishing, Bucharest, 2011, p. 198.
[14] Alexandru I. Phillipide, *Sepcialistul român. Contribuție la istoriea culturii românești din secolul XIX*, "Viața românească" Publishing, Iași, 1907, p. 35 and 43.
[15] Dimitrie Macrea, *cited work*, p. 414.
[16] Alexandru I. Philippide hase the perspective of time, that is why he is interested in the veracity of the issued scientific information. Thus, he dedicates the volume *Principii de istoria limbii* to young people and to his descendants: "I dedicate this work […] to young people. They will see, as non-biased judges, that I prove all I say and that I have no rest of power left which I did not use in order to produce something in their benefit."

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student of the Faculty of Letters of the "Al. I. Cuza" University in Iași, and has worked, initially, as a curator, then as a junior bibliographer for the Central University Library in Iași, but since 1884 he was awarded, following a contest, the chair in the Department of Romanian Language at the National High-School. His students' confessions reveal a delicate professor, very exigent, fair in assessing students and superior compared to the other professors. In 1888, he heard classical and modern philology classes, classes of Greek philosophy history etc., at the Halle and der Saale University in Germany, occasion with which he met the great professors Eduard Sievers, Heinrich Keil and Hermann Suchier.

Furthermore the specialization in Germany determines the knowledge of the thinking of the Neo-grammarians' school, since, during that era, linguistics was dominated by the conceptions of Hermann Osthoff and of Karl Brugmann, exposed in the work *Morphologische Untersuchungen I. Teil*, published in Germany in 1878 and considered the manifesto of that school, which determines G. Ivănescu to state: "In 1894 no other current dominated in Romanic linguistics but the neo-grammatical one, which Philippide knew at the source"[17]. Growing in the spirit of neo-grammarians, Philippide publishes his *Principii de istoria limbii* in 1894, adaptation with numerous personal contributions of Hermann Paul's book, *Prinzipien der Sprachgeschichte*, in 1882, which provokes vehement criticism in the era from Ovid Densusianu, according to whom the work would be a plagiarism. Philippide's answer appears in a letter addressed to his friend, Herman Suchier: "I don't even want to translate Paul (and I couldn't translate him), nor to locate him, as Jolly did with Whitney's readings. As you will see, I am saying pretty much the same thing, but not exactly the same thing. Firstly, it is not in my nature to identify myself with the author I read. […] And then, I did not even understand all Paul is saying. What he says, for example, in the *Introduction*, is for me pure Chinese! […] That is why I tried to understand something, whatever God will want, and then to clarify that thing with as many examples possible, taken from all language dialects, as many as one can know until today"[18]. Add to this answer the personal contributions to the theory of language, in the sense that he categorized the linguistic amendments in three categories, convenience, need for clarity and will, and considered causes of the language ignored by Hermann Paul, such as rhythm, will, evolution of thought and differentiation, found at Humboldt and Steinhal[19]. Romanian linguistics of the time was in an unsatisfactory incipient state, and *Principiile* of the scholar from Iasi had a salutary character in the reform of the notion of language. Philippide was his entire life a neo-grammarian, that is why he justifies linguistic changes with psychological causes; he was convinced that the entire sphere of the representations of a person, the coordinates of his mental life are reflected in language. That is why he postulates the existence of a psychological foundation inherent in each language that, together with the basis of articulation, would determine the meaning and content of the internal evolutions of a language. Gustav Weigand[20], professor at the University in Leipzig,

[17] G. Ivănescu, *Alexandru Philippide – teoretician al limbajului*, in the volume *Opere alese. Teoria limbii*, edition cared for by G. Ivănescu and Carmen-Gabriela Pamfil, Romanian Academy's Publishing, Bucharest, 1985, p. XV.
[18] ***, *Alexandru I. Philippide în dialog cu contemporanii*, volume I, p. 100.
[19] Philippide did not directly know Humboldts and Steinhal's concepts, but indirectly, by G. von der Gabelentz.
[20] The German professor Gustav Weigand set up, in 1892, an Institue of Romanian language, subsidized with the money of the Romanian state. Philippide was vexed by the strong support that a foreign linguist, pseudo-specialist of Romanian, has from the Romanian state, while Romanian scientists are not encouraged: "[…] at Lipsca, doctoral candidates, besides their theses being published for free, also receive gratifications of 125 lei, here, in Iași, a candidate insisted and insisted at the Minister of Instruction, so that he would be awarded an aid for the publishing of his thesis and nothing was granted to him. […] And so, on

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Germany and author of a Romanian grammar, *Praktische Grammatik de rumänischen Sprache*, published in Leipzig, in 1903, after the partial reading of Philippide's *Principii*, decides to note on the border of the book the words "prost", "ridicol" and "fantastic" ("stupid", "ridiculous" and "fantastic"). The criticism is unsubstantiated, hence, in a study appeared in 1909, in Iași, *Un specialist român la Lipsca*, Philippide proves the German professor with arguments that the bad-defamatory attributes would suit "the nicknamed Romanian grammar" of his.

Besides the influence exercised by neo-grammarians, Philippide dissociated the study of the states of language from the study of language changes, idea found by him at J. Baudouin de Courtenay. Saussure makes the same difference between synchronic, descriptive, static linguistics and the diachronic, evolutionary, dynamic one, but on the date *Principii* came out, *Curs de lingvistică generală* had not been yet published, so that Philippide could not have known it. He reads *Curs de lingvistică generală* only in 1921, details regarding it being found in volume I of *Originea romanilor*, published in 1923. Furthermore, the idea of the connection between the articulatory organs and phonetic changes has been appropriated from C. Nigra and H. Osthoff, they themselves starting from Schleicher, Ascoli and Schuchardt. The expression "articulatory organs" found in Nigra and Osthoff becomes in Philippide "basis of articulation".

The animosities between Philippide and Ovid Densusianu originate, probably, from some personal hostilities, because, regarding linguistics, both scholars were attached to the neo-grammatical doctrine. Densusianu, the holder of the chair of the department of "Romanic philology, with a special overview on Romanian language" of the University in Bucharest, he trained in Berlin with Adolph Tobler and in France with the great novelist of that era, Gaston Paris, about whose research method, the one of scientific positivism, he speaks with admiration. The influence exercised by the neo-grammatical principles is reflected in the main creation of Densusianu, *Histoire de la langue roumaine* (volume I, Paris, 1901; volume II, Paris, 1938. The two volumes were translated in Romanian and published in 1961.), thorough research of Romanian language of the XVIth century: "Ovid Densusianu manages to elaborate one of the most valuable works of our linguistics not only by its numerous new and fair points of view, but also by the objective scientific spirit in which the facts were treated. He used an immense material, gathered entirely by his work, leaving no essential fact and none of the important problems of our language's history unmentioned"[21]. The first volume of the work is followed by two works for which he collaborated with I. A. Candrea, *Dicționarul general al limbii române din trecut și de astăzi* (Bucharest, 1909), of which they published only the letter A, and *Dicționarul etimologic al limbii române. Elementele latine* (Bucharest, 1907 - 1914), issued only up to the word "a putea" ("can"). Regarding the movements of European ideas, Densusianu assessed the sociological point of view exposed by Ferdinand de Saussure and Antoine Meillet, but he rejected Vossler's idealism, which he considered unilateral and non-scientific. The linguist from Bucharest had resounding polemics with A. D. Xenopol, N. Iorga and V. Pârvan, affirming that history can't do without the merits of linguists, but also with other notable contemporaries such as Titu Maiorescu, G. Ibrăileanu, or Sextil Pușcariu. His opinion about

one hand because of the fellow citizens' ignorance, and on the other hand with the help of the supernatural power of Mr. I. Bogdan, Mr Weigand became powerful, professor, head of the Romanian seminary, of that subsidized with tens of thousands of lei by the Romanian state and edited at <<Kritischer Jahresbericht>> of Mr Vollmoller for the Romanian philology." (Alexandru I. Philippide, *Un specialist român la Lipsca*, Dacia P. & D. ILIESCU Typography, Iași, 1909, p. 141.)

[21] Dimitrie Macrea, *cited work*, p. 216.

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affirming his own point of view is expressed in an article in "Viața nouă" magazine: "To have a committed opinion which one asserts with energy without looking to the right or to the left if one or another disapproves, this must be today the line of conduct in literature, as well as far-out"[22].

Opinions supported with energy had also Sextil Pușcariu, hence Cluj occupied an important place in the era of progress of linguistic studies. Linguistic apprenticeship starts at the University in Leipzig, having as professors Karl Brugmann, A. Leskien, E. Sievers, W. Wundt and Gustav Weigand, and continues with two years in Paris, training with the professors Gustav Paris, Antoine Thomas, Paul Meyer and Jules Gilliéron, and in Vienna, learning from P. Kretschmer, V. Jagić, C. Jireček and from the great novelist Wilhelm Meyer- Lübke, which determines Iorgu Iordan to state: "The most important characteristic of Pușcariu as a scientist was his capacity to understand and in general, to appropriate a wide variety of notions and research methods, of course, to the extent to which they had more or lease resembling features, and to organize them in a harmonious and well-coagulated system, becoming thus his"[23]. Alongside Drăganu, Petrovici, Lacea, Capidan, Pașca etc. the concerns of the school in Cluj ware diverse in the field of linguistics: from phonetics and phonology to morphology, syntax, vocabulary, language history, etymology, dialectology etc. As a result of thorough preparations, Sextil Pușcariu realized a work of European importance, *Atlasul lingvistic român*, remained unfinished, to which we can add the work conceived in four volumes, *Limba română*, of which he published only the first volume, *Privire generală.*

Throughout the history of Romanian language, Alexandru I. Philippide impresses by his extraordinary erudition, by the irreproachable correctness manifested in catching the scientific truth, by his passion for science and for the profession he practices. The Romanian cultural context of Alexandru I. Philippide's linguistic demarche (historical, literary and linguistic context), the earlier linguistic concerns (Transylvanian School and the issues of literary language, the fourty-eighters, "Dacia literară", A. Russo, "Junimea" and Titu Maiorescu), as well as the historical and social resorts, modified a few of the characterological features of the linguist, so that Philippide's contradictions also arose from the era, in itself contradictory, in which the linguist from Iasi lived and worked.

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