MORPHOLOGICAL TRAITS OF THE WALLACHIAN CHRONICLERS[1]

Abstract: *The morphological structure is much more unitary in the Wallachian chronicles. Certain language facts appear at an author only very seldom. Usually, we meet elements of the spoken language, elements with popular pattern.*

Although there can be identified some phenomena that have almost disappeared completely, but also some vernaculars innovations, the texts do not offer a convincing material so as to be able to draft a convincing material during that period.

Keywords: *morphology, declination, nominal flexion.*

The Wallachian historiography in Romanian is as much as thriving as the one compiled by the Moldavian chroniclers. The oldest Wallachian chronicles written in Romanian appeared before Grigore Ureche's annals: two chronicles of Mihai Viteazul (Michael the Brave) (one manorial and the other official) and Mihail Moxa's chronograph (from 1620).

These chronicles are important because they were written in a period when the Romanian language had begun to be used predominantly in the religious literature, in the official documents and in private letters.

It is barely the following chronicles that they succeeded in establishing a tradition in the Wallachian historiography: The Anonymous Chronicle of Matei Basarab's ruling; Cantacuzene Annals; Băleni's Chronicle; Constantin Brâncoveanu's life by Radu Greceanu; the Brâncoveanu's *Anonymous* and Nicolae Mavrocordat's Chronicle by Radu Popescu. Beginning with 1854, their circulation during the respective age, as well as their being known by the contemporaries and the following generations are proved by the quite high number of the manuscript copies which continued to be made through the end of the 19th century.

The Wallachian chroniclers' language is singularized thanks to its popular features, some of them asserting over the course of time as supradialectal standard in the literary Romanian language, and some others being kept up to nowadays as regionalisms. Numerous archaisms are discovered within these texts, some of them being specific to the area, some others mechanically preserved in writing.

The numerous presence of the archaic traits in the older texts, by comparison to the genuine ones, represents a clue that the latter have gone through some modernisations, yet maintaining their genuine archaic features.

The vocabulary distinguishes itself by a significant number of neologisms, apart from the current language basic stock, neologisms that entered the language that period. This substantial number of neologisms of Roman origin represents also the beginnings of the cultural relationships with the countries from the Europe's Occident.

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Although there can be identified some phenomena that have almost disappeared completely, but also some vernaculars innovations, the texts do not offer a convincing material so as to be able to draft a convincing material during that period.

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The Nominal Flexion:

1. Articulation by the definite article of the proper names of persons: *"Împăratul Nemțescu"* - Nemțescu Emperor, *"sol de la Rodolful"* - emissary from Rodolful.

2. The lack of the enclitic article and the removal of gender, case and flexional class features for nouns showing degrees of kinship, followed by the possessive adjective**:** *"nunta fii-sa Stancăi"* – his daughter Stanca's wedding, *"Să puie pe fii-său Iordachie domn"* – Least he should have his son Iordachie as a ruler.

3. The tendency to remove the definite article for masculine and neutral singular **"-l"** (In the Nominative-Accusative): *"la Beci, la împăratu nemțesc Leopold"* – in the German Emperor Leopold's cellar.

4. The use of the gender and number agreement forms of the possessive article and the rare presence of the invariable form *"a"*, *"oameni ai muntelui"* – mountaineers, people of the mountains, *"a cărora lucruri"* – of whose things, etc.

5. Ordinal numeral declination, especially when the construction has an attributive form and when it is not associated with an adjectival article, the frequency in the High Steward Cantacuzino's chronicles: *"a trea decadă a adoăi cărți"* – the third decade of the second book.

6. The termination in *"-a"* of the imperfect indicative, third person plural: *"era"* – it was, *"împingea"* – he pushed, *"ştiia"* – he knew, *"zicea"* – he said.

7. Presence of an *"i"* between the root word and termination, in the imperfect of the 4th conjugation verbs: *"auziiam" (first person singular)*, *"Împărțiia" (third person singular), "ştiia" (third person plural).*

8. The use of the auxiliary *"au"* and for third person singular: the past tense of the indicative: *"au început"* – they started, *"au supus"* – they subjected, *"s-au dus"* – they left.

9. A high frequency of the presumptive forms: "Acum dară cât va fi fost de lung şi ce pod va fi fost, socotească cine pofteşte şi iaste grijiuliv ca la acestea a şti" – (High Steward Const. Cantacuzino); De nu vor fi mers boieri alții la Odriiu, tu să dai aceste cărți, iar de au trimis boieri acolo, şi vor fi vrînd numai să-şi rîza de mine, tu să dai aceste cărți.

10. The archaic plural-like appearance of the numeral *mie*: *trei sute de mie* – three hundred thousand, *optzeci de mie* – eighty thousand.

11. The use of the relative pronoun *care* as demonstrative pronoun and having attributive function: *care Decheval cu mari puteri s-au sculat; Carei ducînu-să acolo la Țarigrad au umblat cu meşteşug.*

12. Articulation of the relative pronoun *care*, in the nominative-accusative. i.e.: *nici iaste dogma carea să nu o credem; boierii cei mari şi ai doilea, carii să întîmplase în Bucureşti etc.*

Verbal Flexion:

1. The presence of some older forms for certain persons of the present indicative of the verb to wish: *va, vom, vor.* i.e.: *cine va, grăieşte cu dînsul; Toți vom, carii jăfuiesc fără dreptate cum vor.*

2. The very low frequency of the archaic past tense simple of *ziş* type.

3. The reflexive form of the verb having passive value: *Decheval biruindu-se, au fugit; tot Dachi...de mulți să numiia.*

The inflexible parts of speech.

Less common archaic forms of adverbs: *acea de apoi* **"în cele din urmă"** - finally: *Însă, acea de apoi, văzînd Traian că în lung sat rage acest războiu...s-au sculat*

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de au venit...dînsu de dimineaţă: iată dînsu de dimineaţă încep războiul dintr-amîndoao părţile...

Numerous prepositions have distinct acceptation as compared to the current meaning: *către "faţă de": către creştini blînd; de "de la": ei...scriu...numai pen auz si pen'trebări de cei ce umbla privind lumea.*

1. Adnominal dative construction (adjunct in dative): *era nepot lui Traian, au rămas şi ei stăpînitori multori ţări; Dionisie...fiind Cantacozinilor rudă.*

2. Personal pronoun, the third person singular, feminine, unemphasized form, placed before the past tense of the indicative: *"când o au făcut", "Armenia toată o au luat".*

3. Use of gerundial constructions: *"Însă trecînd prinţipul pin ţară, făcînd conace cît s-au putut, au tras la Ardeal şi au mersu la Braşov". (Radu Popescu); Iar Mihaiu spătariul fiind la satu lui, la Cozleci, înţelegînd cum că vine Nicolae-vodădomn, şi cuscră-său Mihai-vodă nu, au fugit să treacă la nemţi, iar plăiaşii l-au prins şi l-au întors îndurat.*

4. Case agreement of the apposition with the modified noun: *aflînd trupul lui Cheve voevodului; craiule Atilo; o, ticăloase Radule.*

5. Topic with the adjectival attribute placed before the noun: *grijă încă avînd de cei nedomoliţi oameni; iel însuşi cu toată romîna putere s-au sculat; de obşte iaste orbul noroc*, especially in the High Steward Cantacuzino's chronicle.

6. Use of the construction: adjectival attribute + noun with indefinite adjective, but with noun accompanied by the definite article: *pomenire de mari si de puternice faptele lui* (here we can notice the construction *de* + noun, as a substantival attribute in the genitive).

7. Use of the infinitive in a series of syntactic functions, the construction in the subjunctive being achieved later on: *aşa lucrul fiind, ce a face eu n-am, fără cît iată..., căci şi vremea prelungă îmi va fi a cheltui, direpţ aceia nici pe acel Carol a mai trăi au vrut.*

8. Preference of the High Steward Const. Cantacuzino for sentences with the predicate placed at the end: *Decheval încă nu într-un loc şedea, nici fără de mare grjjă să află, ci şi el cu toate puterile cîte avea, şi tare să apară, şi de multe ori şi izbîn.*

Although interrupted around 1730, the Wallachian historiography in Romanian will be recommenced and continued only towards the end of the 18th century, by writers such as Mihai Cantacuzino, Dumitrache Medelnicerul, Ienachita Vacarescu and others, but it will not reach the level of artistic expressivity of the previous chronicles ever again.

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