

ROMANIC LINGUISTICS:

"NORMALIZATION" OF THE BARCELONÍ DIALECT AND GESTATION OF CATALAN.

FACTS AND DATES: 19th and 20th centuries.

Unlike the VALENCIAN LANGUAGE, which existed as a "standardized" language since its Golden Age in 14th and 15th century, with its own grammars and dictionaries, Catalan was a "melee" of dialects not yet standardized at the beginning of the 19th century. With the arrival of the ingenious romantic historicisms, the rise of nostalgic nationalisms, sponsored by the emerging bourgeoisies, Catalan began its journey:

1833

The Catalans gave birth to their Renaixença with the poem "A la Patria" by Buenaventura Aribau. It is a conventional poem written in Madrid in homage to his commercial boss, a certain Remisa, on the occasion of his feast day. In this poem, Aribau does not even speak of the "Catalan language". He only mentions, no less than five times, the "llengua llemosina" as his mother tongue.

1848

The archivist of the Arch. de la Corona de Aragón (Barcelona) Próspero de Bofarull, makes a falsified translation of the "Libre de Repartiment del Regne de Valencia" to invent the names of the Catalan families that, according to him, came to "bring us the Catalan language" and to stay in Valencia. But it was a tendentious and totally manipulated edition, almost reaching the limits of falsification, since he read only and exclusively the "entries" of the occupation of lands that interested him, leaving out those that seemed difficult or went against his patriotic interests. In essence, Bofarull's edition was absolutely manipulated since he did not take into account the totality of the text, nor the notarial technique of the 13th century, much less the current one.

The scribes of King James I of Aragon on July 7, 1237 began to write down in the First Book of Repartiment the name of the person who attended the siege of the city of Valencia and the number of houses and acres of land that were also offered. The offers were made to occupy the Muslim kingdom with Christians, which presupposed the definitive permanence of the receiver in Valencian lands. Once the city was conquered, the donations began to become a reality, extending the corresponding documents, of which many are preserved. And, as soon as this title of property was extended, the King's scribes cancelled the offer with some signs.

That is why Bofarull's edition (used by the Catalans to justify "their" occupation of the Kingdom) was incorrect: Because it only contains the names of those who received the promise, but did not stay in Valencia, because they returned to their lands. He only took the names of those who did not repopulate the Kingdom of Valencia. And this editorial technique was not always followed, as some people who read correctly and are not Catalan were, possibly deliberately, omitted from the edition.

One of the concerns of King James I was that real estate and rural property should not accumulate in the hands of the nobility and clergy.

For this reason, from the 14th century onwards, more precise figures are already known about the immigrants who occupied Valencia, since the "Llibres de Avehinaments" (Municipal Archives of the City Council of Valencia) are preserved, where the documents of settlement of those who wanted to acquire the Valencian citizenship were registered.

After the contrastive study of the surnames that appeared in the "Libre del Repartiment" and those that later appear in the "Llibres de Avehinaments" (and that are the only real documentary proof of those who stayed in Valencia), the percentages of documented immigration were distributed as follows:

14th century, people coming from:

Autochthonous Valencians 36% - **Catalans 1'2 %** - Castilians 30% - Foreigners 1'2 % - Turolenses 28% - Rest of the Peninsula 2'4% - Zaragozaños 1'2 %.

In the 15th century the percentage of Catalans was 4.23 %.

In the 16th century the percentage of Catalans was 2.5%.

1850

The Catalan writer M. Milá i Fontanals still uses the term "llemosí" in his writings to refer to his language.

1859

On May 1st the first Floral Games are celebrated in Barcelona under the auspices of the manipulative archivist P. Bofarull, responsible, from then on, for the disappearance of a great quantity of Valencian documents in the ACA (Archive of the Crown of Aragon, located in Barcelona). Documents that were "uncomfortable" to his false thesis about the linguistic "occupation" of the Kingdom of Valencia.

1860

Protests against the "revised" orthography of the manipulator Bofarull arise and Adolfo Blanch (with h) is appointed secretary of the Barcelona Floral Games. In that competition, each contestant still used "his" particular spelling, which reveals the chaotic situation of Catalan spelling, which was still called "llemosí" by Aribau and others.

1861

On February 19, a new meeting was held to "unify" the orthography which, until then, had been chaotic. This did not happen with the Valencian Language, already standardized since its Golden Age.

The meeting to "normalize" in which Mila y Fontanals, Víctor Balaguer, Blanch, Flotats and Bofarull participated was a complete failure.

1862

The consistory of the Floral Games tried to achieve the "normalization" of spelling, which was still chaotic, and two projects were presented: one by Mila y Fontanals and the other by Bofarull. The consistory of Barcelona was faced with two opposing projects but, in order to avoid a kind of internal civil war, a decision was avoided.

1874

The father of European Romanistics, FREDERIC DIEZ, publishes the third edition of his "Grammar of the Romance Languages" in which he maintains his classification in the SETS fundamental LANGUAGES" for their literary importance", born from the break-up of Latin:

- two to the east : Italian and Romanian
- two to the south-west: Spanish and Portuguese
- two to the north-west: Provençal and French

(in this classification no special place is given to Catalan, which is assigned to the Provençal domain" and is not considered an independent Romance language, "in addition to its latent dialectal splitting". V.E Vidos. "Handbook of Romance Linguistics". University of Nijmegen. 1963).

1890

The German W. Meyer-Lübke, disciple of Frederic Diez publishes his work: "Grammar of the Romance languages" which maintains the previous classification of his teacher and in which he says (p. 14): "In the East the transition is operated little by little with Catalan in Roussillon: The latter speaks (parler), which is nothing more than a Provençal dialect.....".

1891

In the magazine "L'Avenç" of March 31, 1891 Pompeu Fabra i Poch, Jaume Massó i Torrents. Joaquim casas 1 Carbo say that the same orthography for Catalan, Valencian and Mallorquin is "impossible perquè és contra natura" (¿¿??)

1906

The Majorcan peasant priest Mosén Alcover, in order to inflame the Catalan bourgeoisie (which was already trying to set up its nationalism "a la carte"), organizes the International Congress of the Catalan language and uses the German professor Schadel to make viable a first Catalan grammar (the Valencian Language already had it four centuries before - since 1489 - with its "Liber Elegantiarum" written by the notary Joan Esteve in 1472 and edited in Venice in 1489 in Latin and Valencian, as it is recorded in the incunabulum: latina et valentiana lingua).

Mosén Alcover presented the German professor's project to his advisors in Barcelona, but they found it unfeasible because there were not even a dozen specialized linguists in Catalonia capable of carrying out the study in a scientific manner and with guarantees of seriousness.

As was only natural, the project aroused the enthusiasm of the nationalist bourgeoisie and an organizing committee was formed, which invited foreign and Castilian linguists, who were the only experts in modern romanistics. Three thousand congressmen registered, among them: Menéndez y Pelayo, E. Vergel, F. Mistral, A. Gómez Restrero, A. Farinelli, A. Korosi, J. Fastenrath, and others.

On October 13, the congress was inaugurated in the Principal Theater of Barcelona with a patriotic and exalted speech by Mosén Alcover encouraging all Catalans to "create" the first grammar and dictionary of the Catalan language.

1907

The Mancomunitat Catalana creates the Institut d'Estudis Catalans, a private entity, at the service of the nationalist bourgeoisie and responsible for managing the great linguistic-cultural montage that was being prepared.

1912

The Catalan Mancomunitat pays the industrial engineer Pompeu i Fabra to publish his first "Catalan Grammar". Miguel de Unamuno, professor and linguist of the University of Salamanca, in his work "La Dignidad Humana" defines Pompeu i Fabra as "a mediocre amateur who, due to his lack of rigor, saturated the Catalan language with Gallicisms"..... Fabra's works were those of an amateur industrial technician, lacking linguistic rigor. Fabra used the Barcelonian dialect as a linguistic basis to create the "standard Catalan language".

The Valencian Language, with its "Liber Elegantiarum" of 1489 already had, four centuries before Catalan existed as a standard language, its first "Diccionari Valencià", the most ancient llexic d'una llengua romanç" ...

1925

The nationalist bourgeoisie "hires" the German romanist Meyer-Lübke to organize a new classification of the Romance languages in which for the first time the name "Catalan language" appears generalized, but with the affirmation of its concordance with Provençal, the whole idiomatic group "Catalan-Valencian-Balearic". This classification was totally despised and rejected by philologists, national and international historians and romanists such as Pierre Fouché, Kaufman, J. Adwiger, J. Entwistle, J. Saröchandy, B. Weiss, Menéndez y Pelayo, Menéndez Pidal, Fullana, Ourella de Lerma, Luca de Tena, Ubieto, Cabanes," who demonstrated the error of method of their thesis (those of Meyer-Lübke) in determining the position of Catalan without taking into account the Spanish dialects - such as those of Aragon and Leon and the Mozarabic dialects..." (p. 293. "Manual de Lingüística Románica" B.E. Vidos. Univ. of Nijmegen. 1963)

The imperialistic denomination of "Catalan language" absorbing the other two, Valencian and Mallorcan, was designed and served.

1927

The illustrious Valencian writer Nicolau Primitiu in his work "Una llengua sense nom" proposes the synthetic denomination "Ea-ca-vés" as harmonizing of the three variants: Balearic-Catalá-Valencian. The Catalans rejected it. It was impossible to reach an agreement.

1931

With the Republic the nationalist movement, sponsored by the bourgeoisie Maciá and Company acquires great virulence due to its separatist objectives (l 'Estat Català). It was made up of the bourgeoisie and upper middle classes. The workers did not agree with them and took refuge behind the confederal banners of CNT-FAI. Later they would join nationalism by organizing the PSUC, formed by the children of immigrants of the working class established in Catalonia and obediently submitted to the dictates of the bourgeoisie.

1954

The aforementioned feixist magazine publishes the works of the Falangist Joan Fuster and Joan Amadés, despoiler of the cultural heritage of the Kingdom of Valencia in his "Costumari Catalá". The Catalan feixist movement, devised by the Falangist of the Catalan bourgeoisie Dionisio Ridruejo, introduced in this magazine the illicit denominations used today by the left in Valencia (the so-called "useful fools" by the ultra-Catalan bourgeoisie): denominations deviated from the current legality such as "Principat, País, nostra llengua, Levante,", the bridgehead of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans was the young Falangist Joan Fuster, a friend of wearing the blue shirts and military belts of the apostles of the "Cara al Sol". Disciplined and helpful, Fuster militarily obeyed the Feixist and orthographic slogans from Barcelona. And, grateful, the Institut d'Estudis catalans and the nationalist bourgeoisie pampered Joan Fuster with prizes and perks.

Under the orders of the feixist Max Cahner (a character educated in post-Hitler Germany), and first Conseller of Jordi Pujol, Fuster wrote the science-fiction book "Nosaltres els Valencians", a catechism of design, to satisfy the annexationist dictates of the Catalan feixist bourgeoisie.

10.06.1979

Jordi Pujol, already installed in the Catalan Generalitat, pronounces in a parliamentary plenary that so prophetic...: **"It is necessary to change not forty years, but FIVE HUNDRED years of the History of Spain".....**

From that moment the extermination, by assimilation, of the Valencian Language and Culture began. The so called "useful fools" by the Catalan editorialist bourgeoisie, began to collaborate efficiently to the service of their financial dictates.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE NEO-LATIN LANGUAGES

- Derived from Latin

- Spoken in Romania

- Many classification criteria. The best known:

A) According to the Romanist F. Diez they are classified:

1. Italian. 2. Romanian (Eastern Romanian)

3. Portuguese. 4. Spanish (Western Romanian).

5. Provençal (Occitan) 6. French (North Romanian)

7. Occitan: Lemosi, Alvernese, Gascon, Provençal, Languedocian.

B) Mever Lübke (German) classifies them:

1. Romanian 2. Dalmatian 3. Retorromance

4. Italian 5. Sardinian 6. Occitan

7. French 8. Spanish 9. Galaico-Portuguese

(SOURCE: M^a Teresa Puerto Ferre: LENGUA VALENCIANA, UNA LENGUA SUPLANTADA)