

NOVA GRAMMATICA ANALYTICA DA LÍNGUA PORTUGUESA (by Charles Adrien Olivier Grivet)

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ABSTRACT: *In this work we analyse the Nova grammatica analytica da língua portuguesa, by Charles Adrien Olivier Grivet, a swiss professor who emigrated to Brazil, with the objective of founding a school for boys here. Although unable to realize his intent, he teaches in diverse Brazilian scholastic institutions and produces two important works: The Pequena grammatica de língua portuguesa and the Nova grammatica analytica da língua portuguesa, this written during the last quarter of the 19th century. Divided into three parts: Lexicology, Syntax and Orthography, the work is manly based on the principles of General and Philosophical Grammar. We should clarify that we center our observation on the material part of the language, leaving the mechanical one for a future work. Our theoretical support is the History of Linguistic Ideas.*

KEY WORDS: *Nova grammatica analytica da língua portuguesa; Grivet; linguistic conceptions; Brazilian grammar in 19th century.*

1.0 THE AUTHOR

Charles Adrien Olivier Grivet was born in 1816 in Villars-le-Terroir, the canton of Vaud, Switzerland. Having

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completed physical and mathematical humanities and law, he opted for teaching which he did in Russia from 1837 to 1843. He returned to Switzerland to occupy a professor's chair in the Medial School of Fribourg. In 1856, when a political party, contrary to his, came into power, he emigrated to Brazil, with the intention of, eventually, founding a school for boys. He taught in many schools some of which he founded, as Vassouras. His life in Brazil was beset by many problems, financial and familiar, but made a solid reputation for himself.

Em 1865, he published a *Pequena Grammatica da Lingua Portugueza, small grammar of the Portuguese language*, rewritten and completed in 1874 and published posthumously in 1881.

He died in 1876, January 14th.

2.0 THE BOOK

2.1. GENERAL SURVEY

The work is included by Elia (1975), in the period called vernaculist. It's a grammar aimed at teachers so that,

... nela encontrem mormente, além de um tratado completo sobre a matéria, o método mais apropriado para a introdução, nas aulas, do estudo sistemático dos clássicos, sem o qual, por mais que se faça, a regeneração da linguagem não passará de uma aspiração quimérica.¹

(p. XV)

His orientation, is seen as that of a confirmed purist, in:

¹ [...] beyond finding a complete treatise on the subject, they may use the most appropriate method to introduce in class the systematic study of the classics, without which, however diligently undertaken by the regeneration of the language will only reach a chimeric aspiration (p. XV).

... pareceu-me que o meio, senão único, ao menos mais adequado para reagir com eficácia contra a decadência crescente da linguagem, era o de pôr em freqüente confronto as loquelas espúrias do tempo presente com as lições dos beneméritos das letras, que acomodando genialmente a arte da palavra aos ditames do bom senso, isto é, da lógica, buxilaram o padrão perene as feições características da língua portuguesa.²

(ibid.)

That valorisation of the cultural rule as a factor of the prestige, by imitating the “classics” and the lessons of the “worthy men of letters”, is the same that is found in the previous works of the grammarians Moraes Silva and Soares Barbosa.

Grammar is not obliged to teach a language, but should provide literary models for those who already possess the standard language (Fávero, 1996).

Grammar to him and to his contemporaries is the “art of speaking and writing correctly” and

Fala e escreve corretamente quem se conforma com as regras sancionadas pelos ditames da boa razão, e segundo os usos respeitáveis pelo assenso que granjearam dos doutos.³

(p. 1)

True to those principles, the examples and analysis exercises proposed were taken from Portuguese authors of the 16th. to 18th.

² [...] he seems to me that the only, if not the most adequate, means to react efficiently, against the growing decline of language would be to repeatedly confront the spurious terms of the present time with the lessons of the worthy men of letters who, wisely accommodated the art of speech to the dictates of common sense, therefore of logic, shook the steady standard of characteristic features of the Portuguese language. (ibid.)

³ He who speaks and writes correctly is following the rules sanctioned by the dictates of good reason, according to the respectable uses garnered from the erudite. (p. 1)



totalling twenty-two, notably Vieira and Bernardes⁴ At the time of great controversy here over our national language, this grammarian did not mention a single Brazilian author !

He divides grammar into five parts and not in four, the traditional division or in three as do Moraes Silva and, in 1876, Epifânio da Silva Dias: Lexicology, Syntax, Orthography, Prosody and Punctuation until then included in Orthography.

2.2. THE WORD

In Lexicology, he studies the nature and the form of words. He proposes, as do the grammarians of Renaissance , for example, Nebrija (1492) and grammarians of the early 20th.century as Zambaldi (1905), the division into 10 classes: verb, noun, article, adjective, pronoun, participle, preposition, adverb, conjunction and interjection.

Assi que seran por todas diez partes de la oración en el castelhano: nombre, pronombre, articulo, verbo, participío, gerúndio, participial, infinito, preposición, advérbio, conjunción
(Nebrija :58)

Le parole come parti del discorso se distinguono nelle classi seguenti: articolo, nomi sostantivi, nomi aggettivi, numerali, pronomi, verbi, avverbi, preposizioni, conguinzioni, interiezioni.
(Zambaldi :9)

To distinguish the different classes of words, he resorts to syntactic-semantic and the declinability criteria.

As concerns the latter that is found also, as we have noted already, among the Encyclopaedists, like Beauzée (Mot, E.M. vol. II:571): words can be declinable or *undeclinable* or to say, variable or invariable. Variable are those that, without changing their class pass through one or more letters and pronunciation changes (p.4): verb, noun, article, adjective, pronoun and participle.

⁴ This fact was already mentioned by Martins de Araújo (2003:56).

Invariable are those that, for their part, do not leave their class, and cannot pass through any alteration in letters or pronunciation (ibid). They number four: preposition, adverb, conjunction and interjection. This last, as in Moraes Silva and Sotero dos Reis, is *equal to a sentence*, an opinion not common among his contemporaries.

Interjeição é uma palavra que implicitamente abrange todos os elementos de uma proposição ou pensamento.⁵

(p. 208)

The causes that promote declinability or variability are: numbers, genders, modes, tenses and persons.

As for syntactic-semantic criteria, Grivet sees words as enunciating ideas and facts.:

Verbo é uma palavra variável que enuncia um fato.
Substantivo ou nome é uma palavra que designa seres ou abstrações.⁶

(p. 3)

Differing from his contemporaries, he begins his word study by the Verb, dedicating to it a hundred pages of the two hundred and twenty on Lexicology, thus revealing importance he gives to it.

Continuing the Greek-latin tradition, he conceives it as a word “par excellence”, without which nothing can be enunciated (p.7) and adds:

Não é possível emitir um pensamento sem que nele ocorra, expressa ou tacitamente, ao menos um verbo. O verbo preside,

⁵ The interjection is a word that implicitly involves all the elements of a preposition or thought (p.208).

⁶ The verb is a variable word that enunciates a fact. The noun or name is word that describes beings or abstractions. (p.3).

portanto, a todo e qualquer pensamento e, em virtude desta função, serve-lhe analiticamente de representante.⁷

(p. 8)

Feature and form are distinct to him, as he affirms that grammarians generally confuse the two: *form* being the manifestation of the verb, spoken and written, and *feature* being the concept that springs in conjunction from one single and identical form. He exemplifies with the word *work*, in which there is a feature of mood (indicative), of tense (present), of number (singular, of person (first), that is four features and only one form. It is what will be said later by Câmara Júnior (1970:73) regarding *cumulation*:

(...) a análise introduz um conceito novo, que é o da cumulação. Com efeito, em *falamos, falávamos, falaríamos, falaremos, falássemos*, vemos *que -mos*, indivisível acumula em si, além da noção de 1ª pessoa gramatical (o falante), a noção de plural (...).⁸

As for conjugations, he admits the verb *pôr*, is an irregular and odd one because, in *considering that, beyond undergoing somewhat dissonant changes, its only use is to guide preceding verbs* (p.78) It is lamentable that some later grammarians have insisted on there being a fourth conjugation – *pôr-* and its composites.

This part of the work treats the subject, the complements and the predicative to be taken up in Syntax. Explaining that, depending on its meaning, the subject of the ver can appear as the author of

⁷ It is not possible to emit a thought without its containing expressed or implied, at least one verb. Therefore, the verb presides over any and every thought and, duly acts analytically as its representative. (p.8)

⁸ Analysis introduces a new concept which is *cumulation*. In effect, in: we speak, we spoke (were speaking), we should speak, we shall speak, should we speak we see that the Portuguese termination *-mos* indivisible, accumulates in itself, as well as the notion of the first grammatical person (the speaker), the notion of the plural (...).

the fact or as its object; then classifying the complements in two types: direct and indirect as for the predicate, we are reminded of the Grammaire de Port-Royal

O predicado, a que maior parte dos gramáticos chamam atributo, é a palavra ou conjunto de palavras que enuncia uma qualidade, propriedade ou situação do sujeito mediante um verbo de estado.⁹

(p.17)

Continuing his meticulous study of the verb, the author expounds on: primitives and derivatives; pointing out that their difference establishes a:

método para sistematizar formas anormais, porém artifício útil, porque fornece o meio de resolver logicamente mais uma dissidência entre os gramáticos.¹⁰

(p.56)

Many years later, Câmara Júnior (1970:111) expresses similar information:

Os padrões especiais, por sua vez, não são inteiramente caprichosos e arbitrários. Há neles uma organização imanente, que se impõe claramente depreender. Como na loucura, há uma lógica implícita, que o gramático, como naquela o psiquiatra, tem o dever de explicitar.¹¹

⁹ The predicate, called attribute by most grammarians, is the word or group of words that states a quality, property or situation by means of a verb of state (conditional verbs). (p.17).

¹⁰ [...] a method to systematise abnormal forms, being a useful artifice, because it provides a means of solving logically one more argument among grammarians (p.56).

¹¹ The specific standards for their part, are not entirely capricious or arbitrary; an inherent organisation clearly imposes itself, to infer. As in madness. There is an implicit logic that the grammarian, like psychiatrist elsewhere, is obliged to explain.

If in the analysis of primitives and derivatives the author is bound by the greco-latin model, in the following he supports the scientific principles of language study, when, to solve the problems of verb classification, Grivet suggests the *substitution*:

Não é sem estranheza que se nota como o princípio da substituição, um dos mais valiosos promotores hodiernos do progresso nas ciências físicas, adapta-se com o mesmo acerto e proficiência aos estudos filológicos, verificando-se assim novamente a superioridade do MÉTODO EXPERIMENTAL sobre o DOGMÁTICO.¹²

(p.60)

As for the nouns, they maintain the distinction, which derives from scholastics, between noun and adjective, the latter is *an independent class, is the word that is used to qualify or determine* (p.4).

On the other hand, in debating the gender, he follows the naturalistic trend.

Nos substantivos de entes animados cuja distinção sexual importava à propriedade da linguagem, o gênero ficou determinado pelo sentido, vindo assim a ser masculinos os nomes de machos e femininos os de fêmeas (...)

Desaparecendo, porém, a oportunidade da distinção sexual, caso que se dá com a maior parte dos animais, um único substantivo, já masculino, já feminino, abrangeu o macho e a fêmea de cada espécie (...)¹³

(p.109)

¹² It is not somewhat surprising today to note how the principle of substitution, one of the most valuable promoters of progress in the physical sciences, adapts itself, with the same perfection and proficiency to philologic studies thus verifying anew the superiority of the EXPERIMENTAL over the DOGMATIC METHOD (p.60).

¹³ As for nouns of live being, whose sexual distinction was important for the propriety of the language, the gender was determined by the masculine when alluding to males and feminine to females (...)

In judging the pronoun, its textual function is pointed out, showing that:

Pronome é uma palavra variável que, substituindo-se aos substantivos, e até a pronomes de espécie diversa, faz todas as funções próprias do substantivo, com a dupla vantagem de aclarar a dicção pela simplificação das formas, e de suavizá-las pela eliminação de repetições fastidiosas (...) ¹⁴

(p.151)

A fact that, with the advent of Linguistics , would only be debated many years later.

Finally, another grammatical class which caused great controversy at the time was the conjunction. Some scholars affirmed that its role was always to join sentences, even when elliptic, others maintained that his grammatical classes could tie together words as well as sentences. Grivet assumes the latter, asserting that:

Conjunção é uma palavra invariável que liga partes de uma oração, ou orações completas para entre as idéias ou pensamentos assinalar, já conexão, já oposição. ¹⁵

(p.195)

2.3. SYNTAX

In the second part of his book, Grivet dedicates two hundred and seventy-five pages to Syntax. We are no longer under the

Nevertheless, if there were no chance of sexual distinction, as happens with most animals, a single noun, either masculine or feminine included the male and the female of each species (...) (p.109).

¹⁴ The pronoun is a variable word which, substituting nouns and even pronouns of a different kind, performs all the function proper to nouns, with the advantage of clarifying diction by form simplification and smoothness due to eliminating tiresome repetitions (...) (p.151)

¹⁵ The conjunction is an invariable word that connects parts of a sentence or complete sentences to point out either connection or an opposition among the ideas or thoughts.(p.195)

influence of general or philosophical grammar, or of Sanchez (1587) to whom “a syntaxis est finis grammaticae” (1,2)

According to Grivet, *Syntax is the theory of the functions which words exert in the enunciation of thoughts and the relations that occur among them* (p.22).

Words exert seven function: fact, subject, direct complement, indirect complement, predicate, apposition and connection.

The *fact*, for the author, is enunciated by a verb, the *subject*, by a noun or pronoun, or accidentally, by an infinitive; the *direct complement*, by a noun or pronoun and, separately by na infinitive; the *indirect complement*, explicitly, also by a noun or pronoun, na infinitive or na adverbial locution, or implicitly, by an adverb; the *predicate*, essentially by an adjective or a variable participle, accidentally by a noun, pronoun or participle; *apposition*, essentially, by an article, and adjective, or a variable participle, accidentally, by Noun, a pronoun or na infinitive, and the *connection*, separately by a conjunction, or conjunctive locution, in contrast with every pronoun, adjective or adverb implying ostensibly or disguisedly *that* or *if*.¹⁶

Grivet violently criticised the theory of the nominal verb proposed by philosophical grammar, but which he mistakenly attributes to Noel and Chapsal, whose work was published forty years before his. In 1640, the *Grammaire Générale et Raisonnée*, by Arnauld and Lancelot expressed: *il n'y a que le verbe être, qu'on appelle substantif* (p.67); and in 1587, Minerva de Sanchez de las Brozas also affirmed: *El fundamento o raiz de todos los verbos es el verbo sustantivo*(p.253).

The target of his feline criticism is Sotero dos Reis and his *Grammatica Portugueza*, cited extensively but not named. In nineteen pages, Grivet attacks Sotero's proposal of the nominal verb, with these initial words:

¹⁶ Que ou Se

... ela [a teoria do verbo substantivo] veio a dominar soberanamente na gramática portuguesa; e hoje não há, neste assunto, autor que deixe de lhe fazer a devida continência, embora nem todos pareçam igualmente convencidos de sua desmascarada eficácia ¹⁷

(p. 227)

And on the next page, referring to and citing Sotero dos Reis, but, as we have already mentioned, without naming him, says:

Verbo, diz o mais eminente dentre eles, porque também é o único que, na sinceridade de sua fé, e no ardor de seu proselitismo, não se esquivou ao dever de deduzir de seus princípios as mais longínquas conseqüências, *verbo é a palavra que serve para afirmar a existência da qualidade* na substância, pessoa ou cousa, e por conseguinte o *Nexo* ou *Cópula* que une o atributo ao sujeito da proposição, frase, sentença ou enunciado do juízo¹⁸

(p. 228)

He strengthens his criticism of Sotero's analyses on page 130 of his work on the verb *to have* with a hidden subject and meaning to exist, declaring to be one of the *idiotism*¹⁹ of the language. He says:

O reparo deste erro vulgaríssimo é na verdade atendível: engana-se porém o autor, quando ao bom falar que recomenda

¹⁷ It (the nominal verb theory) has come to dominate Portuguese Grammars in an autocratic way and today each and every author pays homage to the theory even though many do not seem equally convinced of its efficiency (p.227)

¹⁸ The *verb*, declare the most eminent among them, because he is also the one who, in true faithfulness and arduous proselitism, did not shirk the duty of deducing from his principles the most far-fetched consequences : the verb is the word which serves to affirm the existence of the quality in a substance, person or thing and consequently the *nexus* or *copula* that joins the attribute to the subject of the proposition phrase, sentence or enunciation of judgement (p.228).

¹⁹ Idiotismo.

chama idiotismo; porque se *HÁ homens*, *HAVIA festas*, etc. fossem realmente discordância de número entre sujeito e verbo, nem se deveriam nem se poderiam desculpar; a ilusão está em cuidar-se que o verbo *haver* significa *existir*. Logo que se advirta em que *haver* é derivado do latim *habere*, e com a mesma significação de *ter*, fica manifesto que o, erroneamente chamado sujeito ou agente, não é senão complemento objetivo ou paciente; e que o agente ou sujeito real se deixou oculto, para conformar com o uso recebido. Assim, *há homens* completa-se deste modo: *O mundo há* (isto é tem) *homens*²⁰
(p. 233)

After considering the placing of words in speech and the different figures of syntax (ellipsis, pleonasm, syllepsis, inversion and exclamation) he goes back to syntactic terms starting his study by the *verb*, to which he allots seventy more pages.

Let us detain ourselves on the study of the indirect object. On page 16, defines it as *any word ruled by an expressed, implicit or hidden preposition*; an assertion repeated on page 372. *Indirect complement is the term which includes the word or group of words ruled by a preposition either expressed, occult our implicit* (p.372).

He continues explaining that the indirect complement can be represented by a noun, a pronoun, a mane infinitive and adverbs. It should be noted that Grivet does not consider that term as the complement of na indirect transitive verb, as we do today, the

²⁰ The repair of this common mistake is quite feasible: the author is in error when in recommending perfect speech the calls it *idiotism*: because if *The are men*, *There were parties* were really discordant in number between subject and verb, they should not, nor could they, apologise, the illusion is in being aware that the verb to have means *to exist*. As soon as one warns that *to have* comes from the latin *habere*, with the same meaning as to *have*, it becomes clear that, what is erroneously called subject or agent, is only the objective complement or patient, and that the real agent or subject is still hidden to conform with the use received. And thus *There are men* is completed this way: *The word has (that is: has) men*.
(p.233)

difference being that the author also includes as such the term that completes a noun (which we call today *adverbial adjunct*).

He distinguishes three types of indirect object:

Simple – when consisting of only one word;

Composite – when consisting of more than one word;

Pleonastic – when by means of a personal pronoun *having the quality to represent only one of the relations of the indirect complement*. The pronoun is *he, lhes*, corresponding to the locutions *to him, to her*²¹, *to them*.

Beyond these three types shown by an expressed, occult or implicit preposition, there still are those of the gerund *that deserve to be attended in the interest of general grammar than in that of Portuguese grammar, whereas the constant invariability of this verbal form exempts it from complications of extreme difficulty*. (p.378)

He continues affirming that the Portuguese gerunds represent the latin gerund in DO when, tied to the sense of a verb that they accompany, *they add to it a feature of mood or of a means of action and thus make it into na indirect complement*.(p.379). Giving as an example:

Hominis mens DISCENDO ALITUR ET COGITANDO (Cicero)
Man's spirit is cheered by studying and reflecting.

That can be exchanged for:

The mind of man is comforted by study and and by reflexiuon.

One should mention again the Chapter in which Grivet writes about *idiotisms*:

²¹ A ele, a ela, a eles, a elas.

... toda locução que, embora de sentido claro, porque é de uso comum, nega-se entretanto às leis gerais de análise sintática. E nega-se às leis desta análise, já porque as palavras que a compõem, exorbitaram das relações que lhe são próprias, já porque cotejadas em sentido genuíno, as mesmas palavras se mostram avessas a formar umas com as outras um conjunto racional.²²

(p. 418)

And, unexpected at the time with the total state of this grammar, Grivet did not oppose them, asserting that

fórmulas reprováveis, muito pelo contrário, discretamente espalhados na dicção, temperam-na, por assim dizer de um certo sabor pátrio ao qual, com muita propriedade, literatos modernos chamam de vernaculidade.²³

(p.418)

In spite of that, they are not object of grammar, and need only be signalised as lawful disturbances, to be registered by lexicography.

So we reach chapter XII, the last of this section, syntax, titled: *Peculiar observations on diverse species of words* which he reviews questions already studied in this part and in the lexicological section.

He begins once more with the *verb*, discussing again, among other things, the question. of impersonality form (or not) in the verb *to have*.

²² Every locution that, ins spite of clearly understood, because of common usage, does not obey the general laws of syntactic analysis, and it denies the rules of analyses, due to its component words transcending their proper relations and, when compared in a genuine sense, the same words contrary to forming a rational group one with the other. (p. 418)

²³ [...] the formulas were not reprehensible, much to the contrary, when discreetly dispersed in the diction they lend, what one may call, a certain patriotic seasoning to what modern writes, very aptly, name vernacularness. (p.418)



Não é de crer, que haja espírito tão obtuso para não perceber que, se o humorístico “HÃO” é simplesmente impossível para quem tem ouvidos de ouvir, igualmente impossíveis devem ser os competidores “HAVIAM, HOUVERAM, HAJAM...” porque não faz afinal o primeiro, senão arremedar fielmente o papel desempenhado pelos últimos .²⁴

And concludes:

Qual é, portanto, a teoria que natural e ostensivamente daí decorre em relação aos verbos impessoais? Simplesmente que são impessoais porque não têm pessoa; e não têm pessoa porque não têm sujeito: pois pessoa e sujeito é uma só e mesma coisa. ²⁵

(p. 424)

He continues analysing again the classes of words which he exemplifies with a *Specimen of syntactic analysis*.

The third, fourth, and fifth parts of his grammar deal, respectively, with prosody and punctuation, of which the analysis we will discuss in a subsequent work.

As we may observe, the *Nova Grammatica Analytica da Lingua Portuguesa* reflects the transformations undergone by man in particular and by society in general, towards the end of the 19th. century.

The extraordinary development of science, causing what Shwarcz (1998) called *the second Industrial Revolution*, penetrating all areas of knowledge, including language studies, caused the

²⁴ It is unbelievable that there should be a mind so obtuse not to perceive that, if the amusing *There are* is simply impossible to our ears, so must it be just as impossible to hear *there were, there shall be* because after all, the first only imitates the role of the others. (p.422)

²⁵ Therefore, which is the theory that naturally ostensibly emerges in relation to the impersonal verbs? Simply that they are impersonal because they have no person; they have no person because they have no subject; as person and subject are one and the same thing. (p.424).

appearance of studies that, while valorising philosophical grammatical precepts, inserted many of natural elements from new trends of language studies. Such is the case of analysed grammar.

RESUMO: Neste trabalho, analisamos a *Nova Grammatica Analytica da Língua Portuguesa* de Charles Adrien Olivier Grivet, um professor suíço que veio para o Brasil com o objetivo de fundar aqui uma escola para meninos. Incapacitado de realizar seu desejo, lecionou em diversas instituições escolares brasileiras e produziu dois importantes trabalhos: a *Pequena grammatica de língua portuguesa* e a *nova grammatica analytica da língua portuguesa*, esta produzida no último quartel do século XIX. Dividida em três partes: *Lexicologia, Sintaxe e Ortografia*, o trabalho é baseado nos princípios da Gramática Geral e Filosófica. Devemos esclarecer que centramos nossas observações na parte material da linguagem, deixando a mecânica para um trabalho futuro. Nosso suporte teórico foi o da *História das Idéias Lingüísticas*.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: *Nova grammatica analytica da língua portuguesa; Grivet; concepções lingüísticas; gramática brasileira no século XIX.*

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