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Emilio Crespo Güemes: The Man and the Scholar

The scholarly work of Emilio Crespo amounts to nearly 200 entries, among them 21 books (monographs, editions of ancient Greek texts with commentaries and translations), articles on various aspects of ancient Greek language and linguistics, chapters in collective works, contributions in conference proceedings, and numerous reviews. These works concern various problems of mainly ancient Greek language and linguistics, many of which touch upon issues of dialects, syntax, semantics and the use of particles and connectives, historical linguistics, and the study of texts of ancient Greek. Emilio Crespo belongs to the most important school of Greek literature and linguistics in Spain, which was inaugurated by the famous Hellenist Martín Ruipérez. This is the model of functional linguistics which has produced important works mainly in the field of phonology, semantics, and syntax. This theoretical and methodological approach frames to a large extent the work of Emilio Crespo.

1 Homer and epic poetry

Professor Crespo's journey to Greek literature, language and linguistics began with his doctoral dissertation on the language of Homer under the title *Elementos* antiguos y modernos en la prosodia homérica, which was written under the guidance of the great Hellenist Martín Ruipérez and completed in 1976, while it was published as a monograph a year later (in 1977) in the Suplementos a Minos series, by the University of Salamanca. In this work, Crespo moves within the general methodological and epistemological framework for early epic poetry and epic language initiated by the American Classicist and linguist William Wyatt, according to which in the Homeric language one finds reflections, in a prototypical form, of many archaic features that were normal features of the language in a former stage but went out of usage in Homer's time becoming thus relics of an older time of the language. However, on the model of these older features new items were in the meantime being built that demonstrate an archaic outlook. This fact causes a superficial anomaly to the prosodic rules of epic poetry to which Crespo provides successful solutions, turning this work into an important tool in Homeric studies.

In a similar vein, several problems of the language of epic poetry are tackled in another cooperative work (*Homerica*. *Estudios lingüísticos*, Madrid 1992), where Crespo and his colleagues discuss various issues concerning the Homeric dialect such as etymological, historical, morphological, and syntactical problems. With a glossophilological approach applied and a well-thought method, solutions are provided to major problems of the epic dialect. The language of epic poetry, particularly Homeric poetry has been the subject of many other smaller studies by Crespo, who shows a special diachronic interest in this area over the years.

2 Syntax

A second major area with rich and systematic activity of Professor Crespo's scholarship is syntax, morphosyntax and semantics of the Greek language, an interest reflected in one monograph, two collective volumes and a large number of thematic studies. Perhaps, the most characteristic work here is the book Sintaxis del griego clásico (in collaboration with Luz Conti and Helena Maqueira, Madrid 2003). In this work one sees the successful application of the theoretical and methodological arsenal provided by various approaches in the theory of syntax, both traditional and more 'modern', such as a combination of a descriptive approach within the functional model, cognitive linguistics and structuralism, a combination that provides the background for a balanced presentation of the syntactic organization of Classical Greek. This combinatory approach is performed with admirable skill and deep knowledge of the material, resulting in an excellent analysis of the syntax of the Greek language. All those skills and virtues that characterize Crespo's work as a whole are also evident in this particular book, namely clear method, good arrangement and deep analysis of the data, originality in the solutions suggested, virtues that turn this work into an important handbook of the syntax of Classical Greek.

Of equal significance but of wider perspective on the syntax of many other Indo-European languages is the volume co-edited by Crespo and García Ramón under the title *Berthold Delbrück y la sintaxis indoeuropea hoy* (Madrid/Wiesbaden 1997). In fact, if one considers the problems inherent in studying the diachronic and comparative syntax of old languages due to the special difficulties in locating syntactic structures and other complex features of syntactic organization, as well as considering the scarcity of specialized studies in this research area, it is easy to see the high value of this work. As observed by Penney (Kratylos

45, 2000, 29), "The editors are to be congratulated on having produced a substantial volume that indeed seems likely, as they hope, to serve as a useful companion work to that of Delbrück, that offers a splendid variety of papers on individual languages and on the parent language itself, and that stimulates reflection on the whole question of what is to be understood by Indo-European syntax and how it is to be approached". Within this endeavor, the Greek language, Crespo's major expertise, occupies central position due both to the antiquity and to the large volume of its testimonies. In addition to the editorial care, Crespo's contribution in this volume is on a rather dear theme to him, as it seems from his many studies on the topic, namely the use and syntax of the moods in early Greek: Crespo's analysis here is detailed and genre-sensitive, searching for answers within the framework of the specific author and/or genre, a fact that requires deep knowledge and understanding of the particularities of the texts and their specifics, a general characteristic, I should add, of the honoree's overall work.

In the area of syntax we have one more collective work led by Crespo, the volume *Word classes and related topics in Ancient Greek* (Louvain-La-Neuve 2006), which is the result of a special conference on the syntax of Ancient Greek that took place in Madrid in 2003 and dealt with the role that the different word classes play in the syntactic organization of the language. The introductory chapter to this volume co-authored by Crespo and his co-editors (J. de la Villa and A. R. Revuelta), sets the theoretical principles and the criteria for the classification of the syntactic roles (i.e. the function) of the various lexical elements in the syntax of the language. These criteria are formal (phonological and morphological) and functional (i.e. semantically motivated), something that makes the further distinction of the syntactic roles clearer and more accurate, and this classification has been acknowledged by syntacticians and became a standard feature in similar studies thereafter, also seen in the concluding statement of a critic of the book who says that "[...] the volume provides an excellent overview of the level and breadth of Greek linguistic scholarship in Europe" (Allan, *Kratylos* 54, 2009, 106).

3 Sociolinguistics/language policies

As often noted by Emilio Crespo, he has inherited from his teachers the way of looking in his research for the functional and pragmatic principles of the language. However, language is also part of socio-historical and cultural milieu and the linguist ought to have this in mind as hermeneutic tools or guiding principle. This approach, also known as 'sociohistorical linguistics' (e.g. Romaine 1982),

sees language evolution through time in relation to its social and cultural parameters, with the end result being what is often referred to as 'the history of the language and its speakers' (see also Horrocks 2010). This is a relatively new research area, and Emilio Crespo has a good number of important contributions in this direction, which are particularly significant for understanding similar problems of Ancient Greek, especially the problem of language variation in ancient Attica. Another matter that occupied Crespo since his early years is the application of the methods of historical linguistics in Ancient Greek in general, but also in the study of the dialects and of Attic-Ionic in particular. In addition to the theoretical background, these studies are documented with rich linguistic data, and provide innovative solutions to a series of problems such as the repeated 'waves' of quantitative metathesis, vowel contractions before and after the disappearance of digamma (f), and other similar problems.

4 Greek dialectology

A large part of Crespo's work concerns ancient Greek dialectology. His interest in the Greek dialects is old and closely connected with his early training. In addition to many shorter specialized studies, he is also the editor or co-editor of two volumes that deal with the dialects of Ancient Greek. The first is the volume Dialectologia Graeca that contains texts read at a conference in 1991 in Madrid and was published two years later (Madrid 1993); the second is the more recent volume Studies in Ancient Greek dialects: From Central Greece to the Black Sea (co-edited by G.K. Giannakis and P. Filos; Berlin/Boston 2018), which is the result of an international workshop and a conference that took place in Thessaloniki in 2012 and 2015, respectively. In this volume there is an effort to map the linguistic and dialect map of ancient Greece of the central and northern domains up to the Black Sea area, with many original and specialized studies organized in six thematic and regional or sub-regional groups. The collection is admittedly of great significance for the restatement and re-evaluation of old problems and setting new challenges in Greek dialectology in view of new material that has not yet been incorporated in the debate of ancient Greek dialectology. As stated by a recent critic, "We have here significant groundwork for fruitful study of an invaluable corpus of low-register dialect documents" (James, The Classical Review 70, 2020, 2).

In the same spirit, a recent activity on dialectological matters of Ancient Greek has produced a series of works as part of a European research program under the title "Multilingualism and Minority Languages in Ancient Europe" of the

Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA) under the general coordination by Albio Cesare Cassio. Emilio Crespo was the principal investigator of the Madrid group in this program and investigated the linguistic and dialectal consistency of North-West Greece focusing in the language and dialects of ancient Epirus and its surroundings, especially the corpus of oracular tablets from the old cult center of Dodona. We think that this work will prove of utmost significance in the effort to properly place the linguistic map of Epirus on the general linguistic map of ancient Greece. The results of this effort are yet to be evaluated, but the fact alone that this neglected geographical area slowly finds a spot in the debate of ancient Greek dialectology is a first encouraging and much-promising sign in this direction.

It should be added in this context that Emilio Crespo also dealt with an old and much debated issue of Greek dialectology, namely the character of ancient Macedonian and its position within Greek dialect geography. Here Crespo devotes at least three different studies, starting in 2011 with the study of six Orphic fragments (OF 496 Bernabé) that derive from the region of Macedonia, observing that towards the end of the fourth century BC there is a dialect variety that possibly reflects a corresponding dialect variety of oral language of the area. Crespo assumes that this dialect led to the adoption by the Macedonian elite of the neutral so to say Attic dialect as official language of the state of Macedonia, a fact that later perhaps boosted the spread of koine.

In two other studies he revisits the matter offering more technical details on the language of Macedonia. In reality, these studies are complementary to one another: the first gives a general overview of the linguistic situation in the ancient kingdom, with the languages and dialects spoken and/or used in it and are attested in written documents that date between the fifth and the fourth centuries BC. In the second study Crespo tackles a crucial problem of the language of Macedonia concerning the aspirated voiced stops *bh, *dh, *gh and their outcomes in ancient Macedonian. The conclusion reached here is that ancient Macedonian is a dialect of Ancient Greek with some peculiar features of its own and closely related to the dialects of the North-Western group, i.e. the Doric dialects of the general area of Northwestern Greece.

5 Encyclopedia of Ancient Greek Language and Linguistics (EAGLL)

Furthermore, Emilio Crespo had an important contribution in a major work for the Greek language, the compilation of the 3-volume *Encyclopedia of Ancient Greek Language and Linguistics* (Leiden/Boston 2014) from the capacity of Associate Editor as well as of author of a number of entries. This is the most comprehensive and analytical work for Ancient Greek that combines both traditional approaches and new theoretical achievements in language study and analysis and has become already a standard reference work. An expansion of this work to cover the rest of the history of the language (Medieval and Modern Greek) is under preparation, a major reference work for the Greek language as a whole.

6 Other scholarly activities

The history of ideas, in particular the history of ideas relating to classical philology is a topic that drew the attention of Emilio Crespo, and this was materialized in the production of a volume entitled La idea de lo clásico (Madrid 2017) that contains papers presented in two scholarly meetings under the sponsorship of the Fundación Pastor, in whose organization and execution Emilio Crespo had the leading role as President of the above institution. The theme of the volume is the concept of the 'classic' in Greco-Roman tradition and in various disciplines such as fine arts, philosophy, mathematics, economy, etc., whereas in different chapters there is a discussion of the impact this idea had in other cultural traditions around the world, e.g. India, the Arab world, the Philippines, North America, Germany, Italy, Spain and China. In addition to serving as co-editor, Crespo himself has a contribution in the volume whereby he examines the concept of the 'classic' as it evolved from the Latin adjective 'classicus' and the early ideas in the Hellenistic period through the terms of $\dot{\epsilon}y\kappa\rho i\theta\dot{\epsilon}v\tau\epsilon\varsigma$ and of $\pi\rho\alpha\tau\tau\dot{\rho}\mu\epsilon\nu oi$ that refer to the authors in general. The studies of the volume represent first rate scholarship covering an important issue concerning both the idea itself of the 'classic' as well as its impact on a wide range of fields in antiquity and later on, a fact that gains the volume a special spot in the library of the history of ideas in general.

Following a strong tradition in Spanish academia, Emilio Crespo has also a rich contribution in the area of translation of ancient Greek texts into Spanish, with the following deserving special mention: the excellent translation of

Homer's *Iliad* (with over twenty editions so far), Plato's *Symposium*, Heliodorus' Aethiopica, Plutarch's Parallel Lives, and Xenophon's Cyropaedeia.

Since 2004 Emilio Crespo has served as President of the Pastor Foundation for Classical Studies, which was founded in 1954 and ever since has demonstrated a significant activity in the study and dissemination of Greco-Roman antiquity. and in its library a good number of papyri (in Greek and Coptic) is kept that come from Egypt and date from the 2nd to the 7th centuries AD. The Foundation has a rich gamut of activities, such as the organization of seminars and classes on various aspects of classical antiquity, conferences and symposia, exhibitions and a number of publications of works produced in the Foundation itself or reprints of significant works in the area of classical studies (see the website: http://fundacionpastor.es/).

Emilio Crespo is a member of many scientific organizations in Spain and abroad, among them the "Commission scientifique de la Fondation Hardt pour l'étude de l'Antiquité classique", and of the Editorial (or Advisory or Scientific) Committee of many academic journals, such as Tempus, Monografías de Filología Griega (Saragossa), Quaderns de Filologia de la Universitat de València, Cuadernos de Filología Clásica (estudios griegos e indoeuropeos), Logo, Minerva, 1611, Myrtia, Noua Tellus and Minos. In recognition of his contribution to the study of the Greek language and philology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki awarded him in 2017 the Honorary Doctoral Degree.

7 Synopsis

It is not possible to cover in its entirety and in full detail Emilio Crespo's rich and multifaceted work; this is only a selective account of certain central aspects of it alone. In sum, we could codify his contribution in the following main points:

- a) the formulation of a list of the semantic roles in the study of the syntax and semantics of Ancient Greek;
- b) his important work on the moods of Ancient Greek;
- c) the highlighting of the significance of the conjuncts and of adverbial particles for the study of the syntax of the language and their role in expressing meaning;
- d) the systematic presentation of pragmatics and its features of Ancient Greek: language is not simply a list of lexical items and their various forms, but it is a dynamic feature of society and social evolution. These aspects are integral parts of Professor Crespo's scholarship, both as methodological and epistemological guiding principles of his work;

- e) his rich and strong presence in the area of ancient Greek dialectology with original and far-reaching contributions on the relations of the dialects, with memorable contribution his studies on the position of ancient Macedonian within the dialect map of ancient Greece;
- f) his strong support for the Greek studies in Spain and the Spanish-speaking world through a wide range of scholarly and cultural activities and through his teaching.

As a rule, a historical linguist's 'laboratory' consists of texts of all sorts, dictionaries, grammars, collections of inscriptions, and a large volume of secondary literature. Not infrequently his starting point are some hints with the help of which he tries to trace the possible route of things in the past of the language but reversing his path from the present to the past. Often the end result of this endeavor is the reconstruction of a picture of the past, at times a more or less complete picture, usually an incomplete one, but such that allows one to draw some conclusions or to state hypotheses on how linguistic things were in the distant past. The method is like that of a detective or an archaeologist, a historian or paleontologist, in a word that of the 'paleoscientist', who seeks to establish the truth of things past. This general rule is also true for Emilio Crespo; he is foremost a historical linguist and philologist of the Greek language, but at the same time he is also a combination of all the rest. It is this versatility and wide range of interests that shaped his scholarly profile throughout the years and characterize his overall contribution to classical philology and particularly the study of the Greek language.

This volume is a well-deserved tribute to such a scholar who serves his field with devotion, zeal, open mind and deep knowledge; this is a tribute to a scholar, a colleague, a collaborator, a teacher, a friend. He has our heart-felt gratitude and deep acknowledgment for all he has over the years given and continues to give us: scholarship, collegiality, and friendship. We simply thank him.