

М. А. СОКОЛОВА, ОЧЕРКИ ПО ИСТОРИИ РУССКОГО ЯЗЫКА  
ЛЕНИНГРАД 1962. p. 311

M. A. Sokolova's historical grammar was published by the University Press of Leningrad. The name of the authoress is well-known among those, who are preoccupied with Russian linguistic history.

M. A. Sokolova's work embraces the most interesting periods of Russian linguistic history, namely those which require full attention. Her first significant work was the description of the 11 th century Russian redaction of the gospel of Archangelsk. Her study bearing the title К истории русского языка в XI веке is an exemplary, conscientious and accurate work, embracing the minutest phenomena of phonetics and morphology. An other region investigated by the authoress is the language of the 16 th century. The union of the widespread feudal principalities under the leadership of Muscovy takes place at that time, the integrated Russian state is being established. She studied the official language of this, from the point of view of Russian linguistic history, most interesting and important period on the basis of the Domostroj, Stoglav and the Sudebnik of 1550. She summarized the results of her many years' investigation in her book entitled Очерки по языку человых памятников XV века

The authoress turned her attention to revealing the characteristics of living Russian. This effort manifested itself in case of the gospel of Archangelsk in the fact, that she tried to separate the Old Slavonic phenomena from the reflections of the Russian language appearing from time to time. In her book devoted to the 16 th century official language her aim was to set apart the characteristics of the bookish language from living Russian.

M. A. Sokolova's book is based on her lectures at the university. In this way she unites the results of her investigations with the methodological experiences of linguistic history. The word очерки, in the title of her book, emphasizes the aim of the authoress to give an outline of the history of the Russian language. In this way, within the scope of this „outline" she has opportunity of dealing in detail with certain questions of Russian linguistic history according to her interest and her field of investigation.

M. A. Sokolova's book consists of three parts: phonetics, morphology and syntax. In the short preface we are informed about the fact that the book does not contain the whole material of her lectures introducing Russian linguistic history. In a short appendix the outline of Old Russian morphology is found too.

Before discussing the book in detail we should like to mention that its essential feature is the fact that it embraces phonetics, morphology and syntax. This is a fundamental actuality of M. A. Sokolova's linguistic history, as it was to some extent a

„tradition” of reference books dealing with the history of the Russian language to embrace only phonetics and morphology leaving out the syntax (A. J. Sobolevskij's and N. Durnovos's Russian Linguistic History) or dealing with it only in outline (the book of P. J. Černych) In this way we can get acquainted with the history of the Russian language from a common point of view. The other important merit of this book is, that the authoress borrowed her material illustrating the historical processes not only from the available, classical handbooks, but completed them by the results of her original investigations. But the fact, that the newest views and theories appearing on the field of Russian linguistic history, are reflected in this book, may be considered as the third actuality of this book.

After these general observations let us enter upon what we have to say about certain chapters. The chapter dealing with phonetics begins with outlining the vowel and consonant system of Old Russian. Special attention is paid to the discussion of vowels. Not only the characterization of the physiological and acoustic features of certain vowels is found here, but even their history is outlined in an exceptionally concise way, referring to their Indo-European, respectively Proto-Slavonic antecedents. There upon we can read about the development of sounds taken place in the period preceding the use of written records, about the development of nasals, about the first full vocalism, the initial reflexes of *ort*, *olt* junction features and the palatalization of consonants. This part is followed by the detailed description of tendencies concerning the development of sounds in the linguistic records. It is good that the authoress pays attention to the changing of *e* < *a* in final position and to the special palatalisation of *k* and *g*, to which little reference is found in the well-known handbooks. Specially important is the knowledge of the developmental tendency of the sounds *e* < *a* as it has a morphological role. The plural nominative forms of *колье*,  *листье* developed from the collective nouns of the *e* > *a* type are explained by the developmental tendency of the sounds.

On reviewing individual phenomena the characteristic treatment of the authoress brought about certain repetitions. For example the discussion of the fate of *ě* is found in two different places; at the survey of the Russian vowel system (page 12) and at the developmental tendency of *ě* (page 74). But the developmental tendency of the vowel *e* > *o* in initial position is not discussed separately, though those cases are carefully outlined, where no change of *e* > *o* in initial position is found (page 8).

We could make the following remarks concerning the chapter of phonetics. It is to be pitied that on examining the fate of the reduced sounds and that of *tblrt*, *tblt* juncture features the authoress does not mention V. N. Sidorov's ingenious<sup>1</sup>, extremely interesting though disputable theory which exerts a great influence on the works published lately. Concerning the reflexes *жр* to be found in the monuments of Novgorod and Pskov and the *жч* in the Southern and Western dialects of the *ždž* juncture features of Proto-Slavonic, we have to mention the fact, that lately it was questioned by R. Jakobson and S. J. Gerovskij that these designations were caused by phonetic characteristics. They saw in the use of the letters *жр* resp. *жч* instead of the Proto-Slavonic *ždž* a purely graphic feature. Strangely enough the

<sup>1</sup> В. Н. Сидоров. Редуцированные гласные в древнерусском языке XI. в. Сб. Труды Института языкознания АН СССР. т. II. 1959. pp. 199—220

authoress does not touch upon the criticism of this view, which may be explained by the fact that she does not accept theory of *R. Jakobson and Gerovskij*, but it would have been good if the authoress had taken a stronger stand in this question.

Concerning the fate of the *trbt*, *tlbt* juncture features representing the connection of the Proto-Slavonic liquids and reduced sounds, M. A. Sokolova writes about the fact that in some dialects of the Proto-Slavonic language (page 43) the *r* and *l* in initial position can become syllabic if there is no reduced sound in the next syllable. It is evident that in some cases even in the Proto-Slavonic period the reduced sounds are elided in certain sound combinations, but it is hard to imagine, that the disappearance of reduced sounds in weak position after liquids took place in the Proto-Slavonic period. N. van Wijk<sup>2</sup> explains the origin of new syllabic liquids with the falling out of reduced vowels in weak position, and this happened after the end of the Proto-Slavonic period. It is more appropriate to put the origin of „secondary” syllabic liquids into a time after the end of the Proto-Slavonic period. The great merit of the chapter dealing with phonetics is the authoress to keep in view the characteristics of the phonetic structure of today’s Russian both in the literary language and in the dialects. The present Russian orthoëpia makes us see in its requirements the results of the developmental tendencies often paralysing each other’s effect.

Beside the relatively small proportion of phonetics morphology occupies a much larger space in the book. The authoress outlines in detail the history of the development of the noun, adjective, pronouns and numerals. She also touches upon the characterization of the grammatical categories of different parts of speech separately. She depicts vividly the changes of the system of declension not according to the traditional classification of the Indo-European stems, but according to the fundamental tendency of Slavonic declension on the basis of the uniting processes in accord with the gender. By means of this treatment we may get a clearer arranged, more accurate picture of the changes of the declension system. The part dealing with the conjugation system is successful too. The most successful part of the book is that of syntactic changes, where the authoress approaches the history of the compound and complex sentences and their types after the detailed outline of the history of the sentence-elements. Very successful is the part on the impersonal sentences. We can read separately about the history of the participles and adverbial participles, where the authoress describes in a vivid manner how the active present and past so-called short participles become adverbial participles in course of the gradual loss of concord and conjugation. On reading this part it becomes clear that the origin of the adverbial participles cannot be examined on the basis of purely morphological characteristics, but the syntactical elements are to be taken into consideration too.

The purpose of a manual or university lecture is not necessarily to say something new. It is a welcome manifestation if an author disposing of adequate pedagogical experiences enriches our knowledge with new results by means of university lectures on a subject.

We should like to draw attention to two such novelties. Referring to the lack of concord the authoress mentions the fact that in sentences containing subject and predicate, the lack of concord frequently occurs. These sentence types are referred to as impersonal sentences by some linguists. According to the theory of Šachmatov,

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<sup>2</sup> Н. Ван — Вейк. История старославянского языка М. 1957. pp. 197—98.

who looks upon these sentence types as sentences without concord, containing two limbs. M. A. Sokolova refers to the supplementary circumstances of the origin of these sentences. The lack of concord is to be noticed in the Domostroj and Stoglav in cases when the sentence contains several subjects of the same gender. In such cases the postpositional predicate is of neutral gender. These types are found together with sentences where beside the subjects of the same gender there is a generalizing limb — BCE, which the predicate is in concord with : а укусъ и огурчнои росолъ и лицонной и слявнои все цежено в ситце. (Domostroj p. 48). On the basis of sentences of this type concord is omitted in cases when the neutral generalizing pronominal form is absent, but the complex of subjects of the same gender is regarded in a generalized way. So beside the common logical meaning the predicate could take even the neutral form. (246—247—248 pp.)

On discussing conjunctional coordinate clauses, the authoress (p. 278) mentions the fact, that little attention has been paid by the linguists to the use of conjunctions и, а. They have not examined whether there was some sort of differentiation between their use. On examining the Domostroj the authoress found that there was some sort of differentiation between the use of и and а.

This manifests itself in the fact that и links those clauses, which have close logical connection. But if the logical connection is not close, and one of the clauses announces something new, they are linked by а (280).

M. A. Sokolova's latter observation is based on the minutest differences of the linguistic material and is a good example of drawing our attention to more accurate analysis of linguistic data.

Summarizing our impressions on reading M. A. Sokolova's work, we may safely say that the book written by her, because of the wealth of its material, the comprehensive analysis of the linguistic phenomena and the elaborated data of the linguistic records, contributes to giving a clearer picture of the Russian language.

We should like to emphasize the exceptionally concise style of the authoress, rich in participial structures, which does not let our mind wander, but forces us to concentrate upon the subject. M. A. Sokolova's book is a great asset to Russian studies.

I. H. TÓTH

