# A STYLISTIC SURVEY FOR ALEKSANDER XHUVANI'S UNPUBLISHED WORK "THE BEGINNING OF THE STYLISTICS AND THE GENERAL LITERATURE"

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**Abstract** - Stylistics is one of the later sub disciplines of the Albanian linguistics. The work "The beginning of the stylistics and the general literature" is the first work in this field and is written on September 17th 1918 up to February 20th 1926 from the linguist Aleksander Xhuvani. This work is found in the form of handwriting of 484 pages in file number 24 of the State Main Archives. Because of his formation and profile did not separate the linguistic stylistics from the literature stylistics. We will study the resources of the literature illustration in this handwriting; The vertical aspect of the study (years and the others included during the illustrations); The author's aspect (whose author is preferred for illustrations); The geographical aspect (does he like Elbasan or other places too?); The translated literature (did he illustrate with examples from the Italian, French, English etc.); The spoken literature (did he use the folk in prose or poetry?).

**Keywords** - Literary Illustrations, Literary Stylistics, Linguistic Stylistics, Stylistics.

## I. INTRODUCTION

When we discuss the handwritings of Alexander Xhuvani in 1961, we want to emphasize that in the State Main Archives we have identified the voluminous file number 24 bearing his name on it. It was very impressive to see a stylistics book named "The beginning of stylistics and the general literature" with 484 pages. This work began on October 17th 1918 and was finished eight years later, in November 1926. Without a doubt this handwritten work has its merits in the science of stylistics. Or is it a work that precedes it? Why this work wasn't mentioned from the professor Xhevat Lloshi in his book "The Albanian Stylistics and Pragmatics"? Why wasn't this book published?

These and many other questions about this voluminous work rose immediately from us and from the readers. The great professor A. Xhuvani is known in the university and outside the university, and also in all the Albanian speaking territory as the personality that dedicated all his scientific works to Albanian language. His help in the collection of the Albanian language and literature was enormous, that's why there are many works of him in the archives such as the multidimensional work we have discovered.

The language is a multi area phenomenon, that's why there is a list of disciplines that study the language. Among the different levels of language there is a stylistic level which is the main object of the stylistics.[1] Stylistics is one of the later sub-disciplines of Albanian language. That is the reason that this work finished in 1926 must have been the first to be written in this area of study. From the information gathered this work is initially published in 1928 in Pristine and then was lost (personally I have never seen this publishing).

It seems that this work has remained forgotten. As the first work that precedes the stylistics we think that it needs to be cited in other stylistic and pragmatic studies. Because of his formation and profile, Xhuvani did not separate the linguistic stylistics from the literature stylistics, so this work remained out of both types. In the presentation of the values of such a work of literature as is "The beginning of the general literature". The term literature text is appropriate if we use it for the art and literature so for the figurative literature. The etymology of the word literature (Littera) means the written or typed literature. The scientific text is the written or typed text based on some study methods and verified scientific resources.

The language is the material of literature, by not forgetting that the literature matter is the illustrating material of linguistics.[2] Xhuvani emphasizes" The human presents his inner life through the word or the language. The language is the matter and the construction…"[3] The constructs are noticed during the language in the literature and scientific texts. The literature texts use a connotative language and the scientific texts use the denotative language. Xhuvani states that "The art of writing stylistics is the bases of the literature that teaches us as we mentioned the general rules to use the language properly and

[1] Lloshi, Xh., Stylistics of the Albanian language and Pragmatics, Albas, Tirane, 2005, pg.7.

[2] Wellek, R., & Warren, A., Theory of literature ( Theory of Literature, trans. A. Myftiu), Encyclopedic Publishing house , Tirane, 1993

[3] Xhuvani, A., "The beginning of the stylistics and the general literature", Handwritings, State Main Archive, File n.24, pg. 142.

without mistakes. These rules are learned from the literature works but also train in writing", (Handwritings, pg. 25)[4]. He in particular, studies the speech, the synonyms and antonyms, locutions, archaisms and barbarisms.

In the variety of the materials in this handwriting we are specifying initially the structure of the whole work, which in the last pages the author calls it "The survey of the inside" (Handwritings, pg. 471), which is nothing else but the contents of the work. The handwriting is developed in 12 chapters. The studies are characterized according to the disciplines.

The first six chapters contain studies about the language stylistics and the other six for the literature stylistics. In the first chapter with the topic "The study of the language", Xhuvani cites "we study and survey the language in three aspects: Firstly in the material aspect, in order to understand the words and their meaning which we find in a dictionary; secondly in the prominent aspect which we find it in the grammar; and thirdly in the esthetical aspect in order to see and choose the best and finer forms in order to express our thoughts …" [5] "…The art of speech, but the one written without any flaws and is worth writing, once studied by the rhetoric and today needs to be studied by Stylistics…" These are written by Xhuvani in the second and the third chapter in the topics "The art of writing. Literature" and "Stylistics" page 12 and 20.
The scholar presents various literature figures, ideas of style and how to gain the style. It very important when writing for this work to mention and study the resources used by the professor A. Xhuvani during this eight year study still remained in handwriting. This is a very pleasurable job, as it studies the matter in details, but at the same time is very difficult as the handwritten documents are very old cannot be seen in some cases. And finally this work is not in a standardized language at all.

## II. THE RESOURCES OF THE ILLUSTRATIONS

1. In the first chapter we notice that Xhuvani creates a vertical aspect of the language study. He divides the languages of the world in three main groups: one syllable, agglutinant and fusional types. He gives details on the study of word families, and studies the ancient languages up to today, especially with the ancient Greek and Latin.
   Xhuvani explains many language terms in Latin language for example Gjetnia – Inventio, Elokucioni- elocution, Mbarshtimi – disposito. Metrika latine.

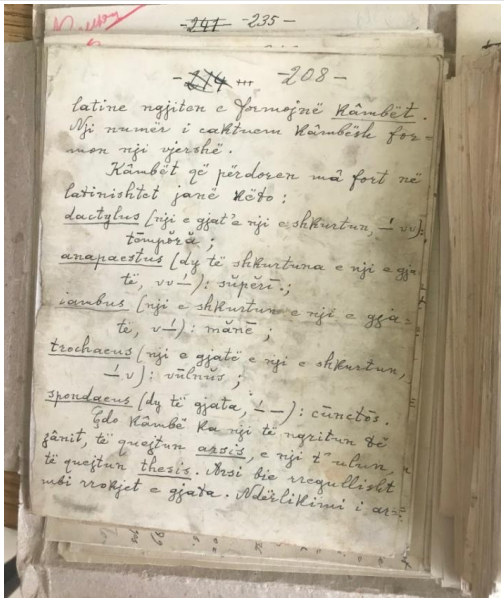


**Figure 1: page 208 of the manuscript**

2. In the definition of the style Xhuvani uses French and writes " Le style c` est la chose, (style is the thing), Le style c`est art de la parole,(the style is the art of the word), le style c`est l`homme meme, (the style is the human himself).
3. The author writes the names of literature authors in the language of their native origin.

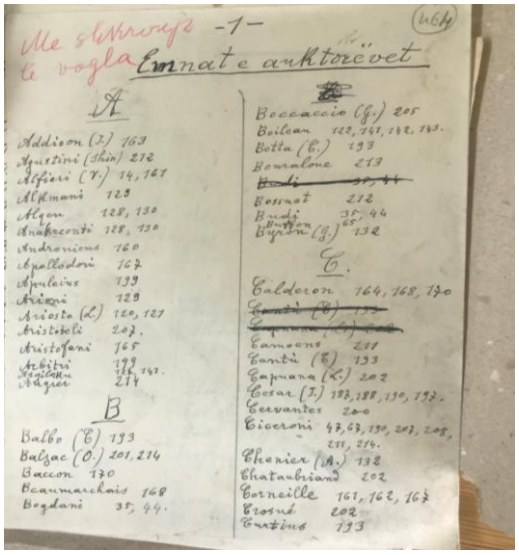


**Figure 2: page 464 of the manuscript**

4. With an extraordinary interest the scholar present a vertical aspect of the author behavior. The creations of old writers keep the main place in Xhuvani statements, so he writes: "How were the first romantic authors called?, what is "La Chanson de Roland", what is the religious epos?, which are his poems?, what is "The Devine Comedy"[6]. When the author studies the lyrical poetry he mentions examples from Horace, Ovid

[4] Xhuvani, A., "The beginning of the stylistics and the general literature", Handwritings, State Main Archive, n.24, pg. 25.
[5] Still there, pg. 15.
[6] Xhuvani, A., "The beginning of the stylistics and the general literature", Handwritings, State Main Archive, pg. 115-123.

and, Catullus, while for the elegiac poetry he mentions the examples of Alcher and Pindar (pg. 129).

5. A. Xhuvani brings as reevaluated the famous foreign and natives individuals, who developed the foundation of the golden institution of the foreign and Albanian literature. Among the foreign authors he mentions many examples from Aeschylus, Alighieri, Balzac, Cicerone, Caesar, while among Albanians he uses examples from Fishte, Naim Frasheri and Budi.
6. The geographical aspect given by the author needs to be mentioned undisputedly in this work of art. The examples are reflected in the foreign land. A native of Elbasan, he never mentions this city, but he speaks about Berat and Mat of Pjeter Budi. Among the foreign places he stays in Greece at Homer, in France at the great "French" tragic",[7] (as he names them himself) in Italy at Gabriele D` Anunzio.
7. In the last pages of this great work he writes: "As we will see apart from the examples on the figurative speech there are no other forms used, but the paragraphs are illustrated on different types of prose and poetry, as pieces of foreign epical and lyrical poetry, on the types of style, on other types of speech etc. This needs to be filled in Albanian, as there are no examples of these in our language".[8]

## III. CONCLUSION

Xhuvani prefers the foreign literature mainly the French and Italian literature.

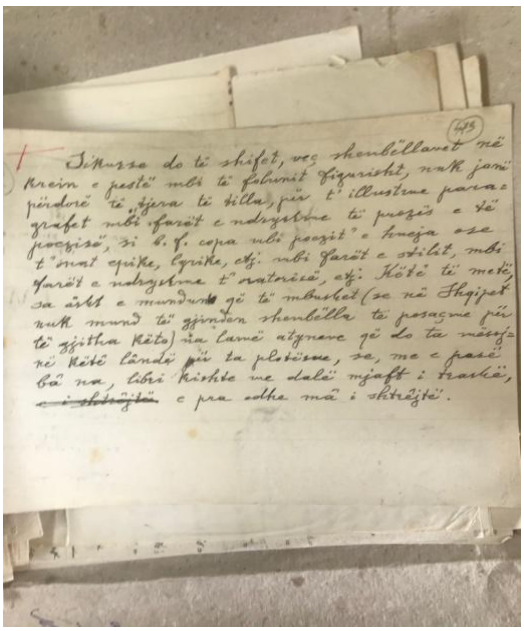


**Figure 3: page 475 of the manuscript**

Xhuvani brings many examples from the spoken literature: from the Greek Epos, Albanian and Spanish Epos. He even answers questions such as: "Which are the first heroic epos, what do Iliad, Odysseus, Eneida, Lusiada show…. Who are the epos Albanian works" [9]

The scholar also emphasizes the examples from the folklore and mainly from the dramatic, epos and lyrical poetry and he answers the questions such as "How was she born in the ancient Greece?" (pg. 146)

According to the method of writing and his selection given in the prose examples, by separating the beginning of the prose and the specifics among the prose and poetry, he brings examples of the narrative, didactic, historical, folk, dramatic and letter prose.

The poetry lines come as examples of various literary as the antitheses "on those fields where the lilacs bloomed/on those slopes where the fairies looked…. Today are risen with cruel guns, as today the barber trust is joined …. (Fishte). In his examples professor Xhuvani prefers mostly the tragedy, mainly the Greek and Latin ones. Among the Greeks he speaks about the tragedy of Euripides, Aeschylus, and among the Latin he mentions the tragedy of the philosopher Seneca. As a conclusion, A. Xhuvani unfolds the values of this work in the variety of the examples in different times, various styles, different regions, various authors and many literary types. This shows the authority and his competency and reveals outstanding values.

## REFERENCES


[1] Lloshi, Xh., Stylistics of the Albanian language and Pragmatics, Albas, Tirane, 2005, pg.7.
[2] Wellek, R., & Warren, A., Theory of literature ( Theory of Literature, trans. A. Myftiu), Encyclopedic Publishing house , Tirane, 1993
[3] Xhuvani, A., "The beginning of the stylistics and the general literature", Handwritings, State Main Archive, File n.24, pg. 142.
[4] Xhuvani, A., "The beginning of the stylistics and the general literature", Handwritings, State Main Archive, n.24, pg. 25.
[5] Xhuvani, A., "The beginning of the stylistics and the general literature", Handwritings, State Main Archive, n.24, pg. 25.[1]
[6] Xhuvani, A., "The beginning of the stylistics and the general literature", Handwritings, State Main Archive, pg. 115-123.
[7] Xhuvani, A., "The beginning of the stylistics and the general literature", Handwritings, State Main Archive, File pg. 170.
[8] Xhuvani, A., "The beginning of the stylistics and the general literature", Handwritings, State Main Archive, File pg.479.
[9] Xhuvani, A., "The beginning of the stylistics and the general literature", Handwritings, State Main Archive, File pg. 106 – 115.


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[7] Xhuvani, A., "The beginning of the stylistics and the general literature", Handwritings, State Main Archive, File pg. 170.
[8] Xhuvani, A., "The beginning of the stylistics and the general literature", Handwritings, State Main Archive, File pg.479.
[9] Xhuvani, A., "The beginning of the stylistics and the general literature", Handwritings, State Main Archive, File pg. 106 – 115.