

Correas Íñigo, Gonzalo de, b. 1571, Jaraíz de la Vera (Cáceres), Spain, d. 1631, Salamanca; major Spanish philologist of his time; Professor of Greek and Hebrew, University of Salamanca.

A humanist influenced by B. de Céspedes, P. S. → Abril and mainly by F. → Sanctius, C. followed Erasmus' advice on the pronunciation of Greek. His main work is the unpublished grammar of 1626, the most important Spanish grammar of the classical period. Under the influence of Sanctius, C. focused on the sentence as the subject of grammar ("El fin de la Gramática es la oración o habla concertada" [The goal of grammar is the utterance or connected speech]), *Arte grande de la lengua castellana*), while other grammarians dealt only with the word. Although he never fell for Sanctius' abstractions and schematisms, C. also adopted from Sanctius: his critical awareness against traditional views, his philological attachment to the text, his linguistic rationalism, his acceptance of three word classes (noun, verb and particles) instead of the nine or ten acknowledged by the Latin tradition, and his recognition of ellipsis as a key element for the analysis and description of languages (Padley 1988: 186). Even though he followed Sanctius in his proposal of a universal grammatical theory, unquestionably useful for the teaching of Latin and other languages, and he anticipated 17th-century French rationalist grammar, C.'s universalist rationalism is more moderate (Gómez Asencio 2001). The moderation becomes evident in his *Trilingüe*, where the characteristics common to Spanish, Latin and Greek are stated but the independence of Spanish and Greek is constantly upheld (Girón Alconchel 2001: 73). This balanced stance is also reflected in his *Arte grande*: "La Gramática es la ciencia del hablar, considerada y sacada de la conformidad y concierto del hablar natural o usual de la gente en sus lenguas: las cuales convienen en lo general, u mayor parte de la Gramática, y disconvienen en propiedades y cosas particulares" [Grammar is the science of speaking, studied and deduced from the conformity and agreement of the natural or usual speech of people in their languages, languages which agree in the general characteristics of Grammar, or most of them, and disagree only in certain properties and peculiarities].

He failed to reform Spanish orthography, as his attempt to adapt it to pronunciation went against the supporters of etymological spelling. Correas "es sin lugar a dudas el autor que más encarecidamente ha insistido y luchado por acomodar la ortografía del castellano a su pronunciación" (Esteve 1982: 46) [is, without doubt, the author who insisted and fought

most tenaciously for adapting Castilian orthography to its pronunciation']. This radically phoneticist stance is related to the fact that C. adopted the curious theory that Castilian should be considered the 'Ur-language'. This theory suggested—on the basis of fraudulent documents—the existence of Spanish during Roman domination and traced its origins to the mythical Tubal (Alarcos García 1934, Binotti 1995, Bahner 2000: 1097). As a grammarian, apart from taking an interest in linguistic universals, C. was also interested in linguistic variation, which is why his *Arte grande* is a reliable source for our current knowledge of the Spanish language in the first third of the 17th century (Gómez Asencio 2001). This interest in the living language led him also to collect the proverbs of the time in his *Vocabulario de refranes*, based on previous collections like those of Pedro Vallés, Hernán Núñez, Sánchez de la Ballesta or Juan de Mal Lara.

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