Villalón, Cristóbal de, b. 1510, Valladolid, Spain, d. 1562?, place unknown; writer, author of the first professional Spanish grammar after that of A. de → Nebrija (Lope Blanch 1979:xix), which he criticizes heavily, although it is still unknown which specific assertions he is attacking (Girón Alconchel 2001: 68–69), and it is obvious that he followed Nebrija more than once (García 1971:xix, xxv, lv).

V. studied in Alcalá de Henares 1525 and Salamanca with Fernán Pérez de Oliva and other humanists. By 1530 he was Dean of the Valladolid Faculty of Arts, which he left to teach Latin to the sons of Count Lemos. V.'s modern editor, C. García, identifies him as a theologian by the name of Cristóbal de Villalón, who was born 1510 in Valladolid and may have died in 1562. Subsequently, J. Solà-Solé (1974, 1979) has tried to connect the author of the *Gramática castellana* with the author of the *Segunda parte del Lazarillo de Tormes, El Crotalón* and *Viaje de Turquía*—an attribution which had already been meticulously rejected by M. Bataillon (1966: 655 ff.). As for the authenticity of V.'s works, see also Kinkaid (1973) and García Salinero (1980).

The *Gramática castellana* is V.'s only linguistic work. Published in Antwerp, Belgium, like other grammars of that time, V.'s work is not rigorously a manual for foreign students of Spanish. Spurred on by linguistic nationalism, he is drawn by the desire to claim the importance of vernacular languages against Latin, Greek and Hebrew, and also by his eagerness to put some order into the Spanish language and safeguard it against present and future corruption (due to "the diversity of people coming to Castile"). Thus, V.'s aim is to "convert the Castilian language to art, like Latin and Greek". Divided into four sections (noun, verb, syntax and orthography), this work seeks to escape from the Latin tradition, as witnessed by features such as the distinction between sentence (formal unit) and clause (communicative unit) (Lope Blanch 1987) or the definition of the direct object (Lope Blanch 1981: 323–28). "Oración, a lo menos perfecta, se compone por la mayor parte de persona que hace alguna obra: y de verbo: y de persona en quien se denota pasar, o hacer aquella obra el verbo [...] Y digo, que cláusula es a las veces una oración sola: y otras veces es un ayuntamiento de muchas oraciones: las cuales todas juntas expresan y manifiestan cumplidamente el concebimiento del nombre en el propósito que tiene tomado para hablar" ['An utterance—at least a complete one—is usually composed of a person doing some action, a verb, and a person who experiences or undergoes the action of the verb [...] I claim that the clause is sometimes a complete utterance and sometimes an assembly of many utterances, which together express and make fully apparent the conceptual role of the noun in the matter of which it is intended to speak' (*Gramática castellana*).

This difficulty in developing a purely Castilian grammar becomes evident in his approach to the problem of metalanguage. V. tried to use a fully home-grown terminology, hence preferring *linaje* to *género*, or rejecting terms of Latin origin like (verb) *especies* or *declinación*. Nevertheless, he ended up admitting that sometimes it is impossible to avoid Latin grammatical metalanguage, and consequently kept on talking about noun *casos* or verbal *géneros*. "Although it is true that we are trying to make Castilian an artistic and pure language free from Latin; we will not be able to spare ourselves the use of some Latin nouns and words" (*Gramática castellana,* 11–12). As subsequently → Sanctius and → Correas were also to assert, V. partly surprises us by stating that the three parts "forming and constituting the sentence" are noun, verb and articles. However, later on in his *Gramática*, V. did not follow this classification, but also included pronouns, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions and interjections, never specifying what he considered to be *articles*. Another highlight was his classification of the gender of nouns by examining gender and endings. His latest innovation, compared to Nebrija, was the simplification of the verbal tenses to three (García 1971:xxxviii—xxxix). In accordance with the phonetist tendency prevailing at the time, V. upholds an orthography based on the pronunciation "used by everybody imitating the sounds of the pure, uncorrupted language", an orthography that squares with the language and has "the authority of the Wise Men according to custom and practice" (Esteve 1982: 31).

(1558): *Gramática castellana. Arte breve y compendiosa para saber hablar y escrevir en la lengua Castellana congrua y decentemente,* Amberes [Antwerp]. Facs. ed. by C. García, Madrid, 1971; electronic version in: Gómez Asencio, J. J., ed., *Antiguas gramáticas del castellano*, Madrid, 2001, CDRom; digital ed. by J. A. González Salgado, in: Biblioteca Digital de Gramáticas Clásicas Españolas, http://www.iespana.es/gramaticas/index.htm. Description and comm. by Centro Virtual Cervantes, http://cvc.cervantes.es/obref/fortuna/expo/lengua/lengu0122.htm).
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