Historical Aspects of the Aragonés

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ABSTRACT

Throughout this article we have analyzed the degree of Latinization of the Aragonese area and its influence on the genesis of romance. While from Ebro's valley area to the foothills of the Pre-Pyrenees, Romanization was early and intense, in the Pyrenees (northern areas of Aragon, Sobrarbe and Ribagorza) the process of Romanization was weaker and delayed, which could explain the accumulation of place names of the Basque types in that territory and their adaptation to the phonetic romance.

In this regard, to know the linguistic history of Aragon, we analyze the history of the primitive county of Aragon. In this sense, to speak of a primitive and unified Aragonese romance is generalizing excessively, since such linguistic system does not agree with the circumstances that concurred in the formation of Aragon as a political entity, nor with the autochthonous features that still allow to observe the "altoaragonesas" speeches in our days. Since the eighth century, in the Aragonese Pyrenees, there are three separate regions separated by nature and with a disparate historical trajectory, heart parts of three counties that will give rise to the primitive kingdom of Aragon: the county of Aragon, the county of Sobrarbe and the one of Ribagorza.

Keywords: *Linguistics, Aragonese romance, Romanization, Toponymy, Vocalism*

INTRODUCTION

With the name of Aragonese we designate, from a historical point of view, the vernacular romance of Aragon used throughout the Middle Ages in notarial documents, chancellery writings, fueros and ordinations, as well as that reflected in the chronicles and literary works.

From a current point of view, the Aragonese term is defined by a set of indigenous languages that have survived over time in some valleys and Pyrenean regions. Mainly in the province of Huesca, although there are seven locations in the north of the province of Zaragoza where it survives: Ardisa, Puendeluna, Murillo, Santolaria, Fuencalderas, Biel and Longás.

The number of inhabitants is 30,000, including passive speakers. The vast majority belong to the Eastern dialect (Benasqués -Valle de Benasque-, altorribagorzano -Campo-, bajorribagorzano -Graus, Fonza, Estadilla, Alins-), although some local dialects such as the Cheso (Valle de Echo) or the panticuto have great vitality (Panticosa, Tena Valley). The age of the speakers is high, and there are fewer and fewer young people who speak it.

THE GENESIS OF ARAGONÉS

The primitive territory of what constitutes the current Aragon did not have, in the old epoch, neither cultural nor administrative unit; To this we must add the obvious geographical differences (fundamentally between the Pyrenean area, the Iberian system and the Ebro Valley), together with ethnic and linguistic differences.

From the current toponymy and, above all, from the analyzed documents, the existence of three large linguistic areas more or less delimited in ancient Aragon has been defended: the Pyrenean environment, of non-Indo-European language; the Celtiberian, to the southwest of the regional set and the Iberian, from the mouth of the Gallego river in the Ebro towards the east.

The degree of Latinization of the area and its influence on the genesis of the Aragonese romance has been analyzed. While in the area of the Ebro valley to the foothills of the Pre-Pyrenees, Romanization was early and intense, in the Pyrenees (northern areas of Aragon, Sobrarbe and Ribagorza) the process of Romanization was weaker and delayed, which could explain the accumulation of place names of Basque types in that territory and its adaptation to romance phonetics.

Finally, it should be noted that, since ancient times, the relations between both slopes of the Pyrenees have been intense, which is why it has been said that the Pyrenean mountain range has

not been a linguistic frontier but rather is "the backbone of a very related by their race, their language and their customs ". The traditional way of life practiced by its people, around grazing, gave rise to a very active communication between the peoples of these regions, a circumstance to which we must add the opening of the Camino de Santiago by the Somport pass and the arrival of trans-Pyrenean settlers. All this determines the existence of a linguistic fund common to the North of Aragon and to Gascony.

In spite of this, to speak of a primitive and unified Aragonese romance is to generalize excessively, since such linguistic system does not agree with the circumstances that concurred in the formation of Aragon as a political entity, nor with the autochthonous features that still allow to observe the speech altoaragonesas in our days. Since the eighth century, in the Aragonese Pyrenees, there are three separate regions separated by nature and with a disparate historical trajectory, three cores that will give rise to the primitive kingdom of Aragon: the County of Aragon, the County of Sobrarbe and the County of Aragon. Ribagorza

It will be necessary, therefore, to know the linguistic history of Aragon, to analyze, albeit roughly, the history of the primitive county of Aragon. Because as Alvar says "the historical fact conditions the cultural manifestations and, among them, the linguistic ones"

Historical Aspects of the Primary Aragonés

In this section we will focus our study in the period between the erection of Aragon as a kingdom (Ramiro I, 1035), until Alfonso I (1134), which -with a very brief interregnum (1134-1137)- would produce the definitive union with Catalonia.

Ramiro I

After the death of Sancho el Mayor, he inherited the throne his legitimate firstborn son Garcia de Nájera, who ruled throughout the paternal territory. His brother Ramiro, considered him a minor and proclaimed himself a baiulus in the lands he had received from his father to live on rents in Aragon with a throne in Jaca.

Very soon they faced each other in the battle of Tafalla and Ramiro started a new dynasty in the recent kingdom of Aragon. The territory of the kingdom is extended with Sobrarbe and Ribagorza.

In the year 1063, the year of his death before the walls of Graus, Ramiro I convened the Council of Jaca, which had to have long cultural consequences. Ramiro decided on the shape of the future cathedral: a plan with three naves with a stone vault; towers with eight bells on the main door and stone capital, that is, something that we can still contemplate in Jaca or in Saint-Benoit-sur Loire or Saint-Hilaire de Poitiers. Do not forget that the council gathered nine bishops, but there were present Eraclio de Bigorra, Esteban de Oloron, and all presided over by the dignity of Austindo, archbishop of Auch, who heads the French, Aragonese prelates (of Jaca and Roda), Catalans (from Urgel), Castilians (from Calahorra) and Mozarabic (from Zaragoza).

Sancho Ramírez

In the Council of Jaca, apart from the southern prelates, there was also Sancho, the son and successor of Ramiro. Sancho Ramírez already king, signs a text in which he proclaims Jaca as a city: "I want this town to be my town called Jaca. And to this end I annul all the bad privileges that you have had up to the present day when it is my will that Jaca be a city. " The king decides, in addition, to beautify the cathedral accepting the Romanesque tastes, possibly under the influence of his wife Felicia (Provençal).

We have in the XI century a kingdom that, with just fifty years of independent life, shows its Europeanist will, building the oldest Spanish cathedral in Romanesque style and adding to the unitary movement of Cluny, creating a city with men from all over.

This coming of people is going to have the most important linguistic consequences. The king grants privileges of personal freedom ["each one builds and closes his property as best he can", "have faculty of pastures and firewoods as far as you can go and return in the day .."]. These and other privileges sought an end: to create an authentic city.

These foundations were going to support a new structure: the Burnou or new town burg. This was a neighborhood inhabited by merchants and hostels, located outside the city center. His life was prosperous, but short; in 1596, and this time not as a result of a peace, but because of the fear of a war, Philip II demolished it to raise the Citadel on its site.

All these facts help us to know a type of frank colonization in Aragon. Also at the dawn of the twelfth century, we can find a new connection with France: wars.

Historical Aspects of the Aragonés

The siege (1094) and occupation of Huesca (1096) means a complete barter in the structure of the small Pyrenean kingdom. The three tiny states (Aragón, Sobrarbe and Ribagorza) change their appearance. To meet the new needs, Aragón has to open to the outside.

Pedro I

From 1094 it became king of Aragon and Pamplona, when it was already Sobrarbe and Ribagorza from 1085. The reign of Pedro I meant the expansion of the Aragonese territory in its central and eastern sections, reaching the Sierra de Alcubierre and the Monearos.

He conquered Huesca in 1095, consolidating the military supremacy of the Christian troops over the Muslim ones, dying on September 28, 1104, in the Aran Valley. As he had no offspring, his brother Alfonso succeeded him.

Alfonso I

He called himself "King and Emperor of Castile, Toledo, Aragon, Pamplona, Sobrarbe and Ribagorza". He conquered Zaragoza in 1118 and made it the capital of his kingdom. Later he recovered Calatayud, Tudela and Tarazona, among other cities. In 1120 he defeated in the battle of Cutanda the Muslim army that was trying to reconquer Zaragoza. He bequeathed his kingdoms to the orders of the Temple and the Holy Sepulcher. In the 30 years that lasted his reign doubled the limits of the Kingdom of Aragon.

After 1130 a second French emigration came to the city, which changed both the cultural and linguistic history of Aragon.

Aragón ceased to be a Pyrenean kingdom and at the same time ceased to have a Pyrenean speech; they began to come -with the people who flocked to the site of Zaragoza- linguistic ways that struggled with the old tradition, and the minstrels appeared, the spellings were abandoned, the surnames were formed to the French language and the pre-Roman lexicon was forgotten.

In Zaragoza there are two of the oldest minstrels that have news, "Poncius, iocularis regis (1122)" and "Don Brun, Iuclar (post. 1137)." Typical Aragonese spellings like Ig disappear, to represent Palatal ll.

As regards the formation of surnames, a huge variety is observed. After the repopulation of the Ebro Valley the surnames were formed with personal name + of + name of the place or region. This use, almost exclusive among the Gallo-Romans, was passed on to the people of Cispirena, who propagated a formation of surnames that were unfamiliar to them, because before the reconquest of the Ebro Valley, the tiny places, the people deeply rooted in their land, did not need a patronymic characterization, but they stuck to the gentile.

We can affirm, therefore, that certain realities conditioned by history were formed: on the one hand, migrations of large human groups that came to the site of Zaragoza (1118) and the repopulation of the Ebro Valley; on the other, the continued action of a mercantile exchange that lasted for centuries, although it was limited to very meager areas; on the other, pastoral treaties between contiguous valleys. These three types of relationships left their mark and the language adapted to them.

Linguistic Traits of the Primary Aragonés

To know the peculiarities of primitive Aragonese there are no documents before the thirteenth century written entirely in Aragonese romance, although in texts of the second half of the previous century there are fragments that can clearly be ascribed to this linguistic variety. The analysis must be carried out through the study of texts written in the so-called "popular Latin", different from the romance and different from the Latin of the schools.

This has been done by authors such as Alvar, Gili Gaya, Zamora Vicente and Frago whose works summarize the characteristics that we will mention below.

Phonetics

Vocalism

Among the phonetic features related to vocalism, the following should be noted:

The persistence of -u final and its ultracorrection (o> u: caballerus, senderum, susu <sursum).

The prosthesis of the vowel before vibrant consonant, such as, for example, arretundo "round", arrigo "rio", Arrotellares today Rodellar.

The non-inflection of a to x, such as, for example, fráxin "fresno", strip, saso <saxu "crag".

Diphthongization of or in ua appearing in spuanna <spõnda, nuava <nõva, duan <dõmina.

Diption of e in ia.

Consonantism

Conservation of F- and G- initial, as observed in the infinitives of f-, iermanos, genestal, gener, etc.

Maintenance of the intervocalic deaf (capanna, vallato, lacunala), while the dialectal treatments -LL- latina (car <callem, Lauata <ila vallata) are very rare.

Palatalization of -NY-, which can be inferred in fertunio, furtunio, boltaina.

The consonant reduction of the group -RS- in inso suso "above" (<SURSU) is appreciated.

Traits shared with the peninsular east, area from which the vulgar Latin had to reach the Pyrenean area, can be considered cases of / ļ / coming from -LY-, -C'L-, -G'L-, -T ' L-, as for example, cusculgari "coscojar", mulgone "mojón", uelia "sheep".

Specifically Pyrenean features of the two slopes: voicing of deaf stops after nasal and liquid (alda "ALTA", alcalde "alcalde", ordolés "hortense", splunga "espelunca", etc.) and others less significant (-KT-> it, fita, peito). It is worth taking into consideration the treatment of the secondary group -M'N- that gives plurality of solutions (mpn, npn) as was common in the Latin low.

Morphosintaxis

Within this level of analysis it is worth mentioning the presence of plurals formed by the addition of the morpheme -s, although the noun ends in a consonant. For example in lacs, "lakes" (<LACU) and the toponym kaster lenás (<LINARES).

The numeral two alternates in the documents with the Latin duos form. It should be added that the use of the present participle with verbal value is quite frequent: in castro hedificante et monte monte; fecimus uobis sapente ista causa; ad sapente of totos nosters meliores parentes et amicos and in the formula regnante + name of king. Likewise, as in other later notarial sources, forms of repetition of lexemes appear to indicate the direction of the lines that mark the boundaries of a property (sponda)

Lexico

In the lexicon, it is worth mentioning the presence of voices especially frequent in the Aragonese documentation, if not exclusive to it: galeta (de binu) "biscuit, small vessel used as a measure for wine" (<b. Lat. GALLETA),

pardina "Low grass hill" (<lat. PARIETINAE), "mountain hill, mound isolated" (<lat. PODIU), sarratu "hill cut", sponda "espuenda, edge of a canal or a field" (lat.).

Even without Aragonese dialectal affiliation, it is appropriate to point out the romance character of karta, houses, linares, villa, as well as the terms of treatment donna, domno, don and senior, pássim. Also, although more nuancedly, that of certain denominations of rights, taxes or financial penalties such as "tribute" censuses, "herbaticos" rights to graze livestock in certain lands or taxes that were paid for it, "karnales" taxes on the passage or permanence of livestock in private or communal property ", omicides" penalties imposed for the crime of homicide ". Certain semantic modifications are also attested in "Latin" forms such as populare (populetis, populauerint) "poblalar" and populatores "pobladores".

We highlight the voice alode (m) with alternation of gender, although mostly female, "allodio, property of full domain", very common in the texts of the time, and whose origin may be in a Latinization of the alán francico.

THE ARAGONES IN THE LOW-MIDDLE AGES

Written Manifestations of the Aragoness of the Low-Middle Ages

During the fourteenth century there was a cultural splendor in Aragon, especially in the period between 1336 and 1387, which occupied the Aragonese throne Pedro IV the Ceremonious, monarch very concerned about books and the transmission of knowledge. The task of compiling and translating historical books that was developed in this period is of great interest.

Between 1369 and 1372, the famous Chronicle of San Juan de la Peña, which in Orcástegui's opinion "was the most complete and important narrative source of Aragonese medieval historiography," had to be written in Latin and, later, in Catalan and Aragonese, since it deals with the first settlers of the Peninsula, the kings of Aragon and Navarre, the counts of Catalonia and the sovereigns of the Crown of Aragon until Alfonso VI the Benigno (1327-1336).

The most outstanding figure of the time is Juan Fernández de Heredia (h.1310-1396) who became Grand Master of the Order of the Hospital of Jerusalem; an influential figure in both the Crown of Aragon and the papal states

of Avignon, he maintained a fruitful friendship with Pedro IV, with whom he shared a passion for historical, literary and hunting topics. He made translations (Flower of the stories of Orient, Book of Marco Polo, Book of the emperors, Lives of illustrious men, etc.) and compilations (The chronic grant of Espanta, the Book of the fechos et conques of the Principality of the Morea or the Chronicle of the conquisidores).

To complete the Aragonese cultural panorama of the 14th century we must mention the translation, carried out under the auspices of Juan I at the end of the century, of the Book of the wonders of the world, by Juan de Mandevilla, which offers a considerable Castilian influence; also the appearance of a series of copies of important works that, without being productions written in the autochthonous romance, present certain linguistic aragonesismo; thus, the hagiographic poems Life of Santa María Egipciaca and Book of the childhood and death of Jesus; the Dispute of the soul and the body; the book of Apollonius and the Book of Aleixandre representative of the mester of clergy; and also in some biblical romance.

During the fifteenth century the Aragonese-type literary works are written exclusively in Castilian, as can be seen in the Cancioneros de Palacio (1440) and Estúñiga (1460), which collect the verses of the poets linked to Alfonso the Magnanimous, a monarch who He influenced from his Neapolitan court in the diffusion of Italian humanism in Spain. The same happens at the end of the century and the beginning of the next one, since the literary contribution of the Aragonese only allows to collect isolated samples of Aragonese in a clearly Castilian linguistic background, as can be seen in the Cancionero that Pedro Marcuello dedicated in 1502 to Princess Juana, named then successor of the Catholic Monarchs. With less Aragonese features we can mention the Green Book of Aragon, dated in 1507 and the Songbook of all works of Don Pedro Manuel de Urrea again added, a collection of verses published a few months after the death of the Catholic King.

The legal production provides, in addition to abundant documents born in the notarial offices, other testimonies such as the provisions of 1350 by which the work and wages were regulated after the great plague of 1348, the Romance version of the Fueros de Aragón, prior to 1342,

the ordination of 1331 which stipulates the taxes to be paid to the aljama of Zaragoza or one of the preserved copies of the Fueros de Teruel and, already in the fifteenth century, inventories of tolls and collide books.

Among the latter, it is worth mentioning the book of tolls approved by the General Court in 1436 and which came into force in the following year. The value of the text is immense both for the social and economic history of Aragon, as well as for linguistics, since each inventory tried to reflect the local linguistic modality and with this we can contrast that the modern dialect has become impoverished with respect to that existing in the Middle Ages.

Linguistic Aspects of the Bajomedieval Aragonés

From the study of the aforementioned texts a general vision of the characterizing features of late medieval Aragonese can be extracted. We can highlight the following features:

Phonetics

- Loss of esdrújulos. águila, cañámo, hiádo are accentuated in all areas of the dialect.

- There is a sound š, dissenting from Castilian (tišidor "tejedor", mateša "madeja", vešiga "vejiga"), which can reach ch: bochicha "vejiga", madeicha "madeja", cheringa "jeringa".

- The diphthongization of ŏ in uo is very scarce (esquirguollo "ardilla", guordio "cebada") and it is uá (cualla "cuello", guambra "arado"). In the same way ia coming from ě is not very abundant (tiampo "tiempo", hiarba "hierba").

- There is survival of the short vowel diphthongization before yod (fõlia> fuella "hoja", õculu> güello "ojo").

- The yod from -KT- forms diphthongs (peito, melt) that are sometimes reduced (dreta "right", let "leche").

- The apócope of -e and -o (nueyt "noche", falz "falco" caloy "cría muerta") is frequent.

- The F- is maintained, which has come to be considered as a distinctive feature of the dialect (ferrar, filo, foyo).

- The J- and G'- initials have given š (šelar "helar") or more frequently, ch (chito "brote", chemecar "gemir") or j (jinebro "enebro").

Historical Aspects of the Aragonés

- The conservation of PL-. KL-, FL- (plover, clau, flame) is very common and, in Ribagorza, the solution is pll-, cll-, fll-.

- The maintenance of the intervocalic deaf (crevass "grietas", phorato "agujero", višica "vejiga").

- The step -LL-> ch, t no longer exists except in toponymy and reflects a previous situation, since in the Gascon domain the ch or a palatalized t is documented.

- The evolution of -LL-> d, which although it is scarce, can be related to that of -rr-> rd.

- NS- is maintained (pansa, ansa).

- ND- (sponda, espuena) must be a parallel change to the simulation -MB> m.

- Solution ll to groups -LY- (treballo "trabajo"), -TL-, -CL-, C'L-, G'L- and -CHL- (viello, güella "oveja", tella "teja" Cullar "cuchara")

Morphosyntax

- In the morphosyntactic plan, it is interesting to list the construction formed by article + possessive + noun (in my own order, with our seyal, and the exchange), the frequent variant li for the indirect object of third person (síali apparellado; li lieuen l sword), as well as some uses of personal pronoun subject preceded of preposition (that were to you plazientes, to you has plazido). The distributive each is used followed by the indeterminate article (each a king, each one side). With few exceptions there is the relative qui antecedent of names, especially referring to persons (the noble dient qui leuará l sword, the most honored of the uispes who will be there, another duenya qui lieue.)

- In relation to the nominal morphology, the genre retains the one it had in Latin (the end, the val, the salz) tends to give feminine form to the adjectives that are (libra "libre", verda "verde", genta "gentil") or become masculine of the" sad "tristo type.

- The gender by loss of the final vowel, presents consonant groups (allagons "gorse", cols "cabbage") and -ts evolves to z (fonz "sources", ponz "Bridges"), although it is formation that has already died.

- The demonstrative exe iše still lasted in the seventeenth century and Tilander derives it from ipseum (ipse + is <ipsiu), which would explain the -e by analogy with this, that.

- The derivatives of ibi> y, inde> en, ne

- With respect to the article there are two derivatives of illum, lo and o. Both solutions sometimes occupy areas coinciding and in conflict with Spanish. The form appears in the Aragon Suborder, in Tena, Buesa and in some town of Campo de Jaca; or is located in Ansó, Jaca, Guara and Somontano. Between Esera and Noguera Pallaresa extends a region of the.

In Campo survives the form is "the" (it is arbres "the trees", it is artos "the brambles") that has abundant remains in the toponymy.

- In relation to verbal morphology, the endings are: -sti> -stes; -mus> -nos; stis> -z, -éis; -rŭnt> -ron, -oron, -n. In the imperfect lasts the -b- (had, leaves) by influence of the 1st conjugation (loved) or what is more likely, by etymological maintenance.

- The fundamental problem of the Aragonese morphology is in the forms of the perfect one. The conjugation in -ar had a perfect vulgar by antonomasia, whose paradigm was paid, -is. -ó, -emos, -estes, -oron. The vulgar form at present, shows the paradigm I bought, -és, -ó, -emos, -éis / -éz, comprón (Ansó, Campo de Jaca, Biescas, Loarre). The Gallego River separates -oron / -on attested on the right and left shores, respectively.

- There was a perfect in -é that has the paradigm killed, -és, -é <-avit -emos / -ez, -eron, forms conditioned by the é of the third person (avit> é), which influenced all forms of this paradigm.

As for the perfect in -o (he sang, ós, -ó, -omos, -oz / -ois, -oron), he is in the process of disappearing, if he has not already disappeared.

The perfect ones in -er e -ir still document the following scheme: I sold, -iés, -ié, -iemos, -iez, -ieron.

- Adverbs and adverbial adverbs include adu "still", faces "still", hours "then", "ensemble" together, neither res "nor" without missing the descendants of the relative adverbs IBI and INDE (the helmet and the shield and were taken, if and there are other estranyos, if not [e] ndi aya, unte [n] the end of the peytos of the king).

- Among the prepositions are documented ad before phonic context that begins with a- (ad finishing), enta "towards", enters "until", sines of "without" and ultra "beyond", and it

is also interesting to remember that some prepositional phrases frequently omit the segment of (near the reyna, before, after us)

Lexicon

The vocabulary presents, in the northern regions, the survival of Basque voices such as "autumn", "artica" ("green holm oak" art), "gabardera" ("gabarra" hawthorn ")," limit ", etc. Greater extension have other voices that must be explained by their relative antiquity in romance: lurte "detachment of earth" (<elurr "snow"), sturraz "dragtra, sleigh" (<this), chandra "little industrious woman (<etxetandrea).

The notarial writings romances were, in general, constant vehicle of penetration and consolidation of cultisms and semicultismos, as Lagüens has observed about the Aragonese sources bajomedievales: "*absuelto, administrar, árbitro, asignación, certificación, cláusula, compulsa, convenio, decomiso, donación, ejecución, evicción, inventario, permutar, procuración, querella, ratificación, signar, testificar, trasunto, etc.*" acquitted, administer, arbitrator, assignment, certification, clause, compulsa, agreement, confiscation , donation, execution, eviction, inventory, swap, proxy, complaint, ratification, sign, testify, transcript, etc.

Geographical Differences in the Bajomedieval Aragonés

The administrative unit that we call Aragón does not correspond to any linguistic unit, since, on the contrary, the texts reflect certain differences, within this territory, that should be considered.

Regarding the differences between the Aragonese Aragonese and the southernmost land, the notarial sources of the Late Middle Ages provide very estimable data, since in those corresponding to Alto Aragón, there are diphthongs like afruanta "linda", buana moneda , çiarta, huarta, nuastra, piadras, fondamjantos, etc. that contrast clearly with the testimonies offered by the southern sources; similarly, while in the Pyrenean texts appear forms of perfect simple como frontoron, liuroron "delivered", nompnoron "named", obligatoron, pagoron, are replegoron "were collected", are very sporadic samples that offer the diplomas of Aragon southern

On the other hand, one can also observe the existence of Catalan features, just as in Aragonese and Aragonese texts, Aragonese peculiarities may appear, due to a natural interrelation between linguistic varieties, trade exchanges and also the bilingualism of the chancellery.

It should not be forgotten that the Castilian influence began to manifest itself from relatively early times in the Aragonese lands, as revealed by the zaragozanos council texts of the late thirteenth century.

From a sociolinguistic point of view, the paths through which the process of linguistic substitution of Aragonese by Castilian could be determined with certain precision: the educated minds of the kingdom voluntarily assumed "a foreign language culture, more prestigious and uniform than one's own "; From the most educated social strata, slowly, Castilian passed to the most popular, first in the large urban centers, then in the rural areas of Middle and Lower Aragon. So that the autochthonous features were being constricted to the most northern territories, where they have managed to subsist until our days, although more and more depleted idiomatically and geographically.

From the beginning of the fifteenth century the Castilian penetration is favored by the enthronement of the Trastámara dynasty with Fernando I; his successor Alfonso the Magnanimous wrote and spoke in Castilian and the Aragonese poets of his court only used in their sporadic Aragonese verses. The political unity forged by the Catholic Monarchs favored the linguistic unity of the territories governed by them.

At the end of the fifteenth century the political and cultural weight of Castile was evident and, in Aragon, along with the Italian and classical literary models, the influence of the Castilian authors was also notorious.

Another factor that influences the Castilianization of Aragon is the geographical proximity of Castile and, therefore, the relative ease of increasing human contacts and cultural exchanges.

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