TNA ACTIVITY REPORT

Digital Academic Edition of *O Anarquista* (1924), by Leandro Pita

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Introduction

The aim of this project is to develop a digital edition of a short text in Galician language produced in 1924 by Leandro Pita. The text was chosen because it is a *rara avis* in Galician literature and social history. Historically, Galicia has been kept out of Anarchist studies, mainly because the region has its individual federal organization called *Irmadades da Fala*. In reality, anarchism and *Irmandades da Fala* are connected by their ideas and could be seen as part of the same movement. Digitally developing this edition will contribute to put Galicia in the Anarchist map.

The plan was to not only develop a digital edition with XML/TEI but also include the parts related to an academic edition: introduction, footnotes, bibliography, etc. This is still a work in progress which will also be published by the University of Vigo in book format.

Research question

Having the idea of developing this digital academic edition, one of the first questions that you have to ask yourself is… What would actually take to create a digital edition of this early 20th Century text?

Methodological plan and research description

The plan was to arrive in ACDH-CH with the academic edition already finished, meaning having the written introduction and footnotes, as well as the list of bibliography. In reality, this part is yet to be developed as there were problems when consulting the secondary bibliography and the rest of editions made of this text.

This was, however, not an obstacle to develop the digital edition, since these other parts would be coded in separate and different files. The digital edition was mostly completed by

the end of my stay in Wien, leaving just the upload and identification of the result XML file to complete. This was also finished in September 2024.

The first step was to obtain the text itself, which was sent by the University Library of Santiago de Compostela in a facsimile .pdf file. Initially, the facsimile itself was to be included in the final digital edition as .jpg files. Is because of this that the images are referenced in the posted code. In the end, there are a few struggles to publish it, since the owners of its rights are yet to be contacted.

A few OCR systems and pages were run in the .pdf file, but the characteristics of it made this task impossible to complete. First, the text is written in an old dialect of Galician language before the standardization of the language, when a few accentual signs were yet used but not included in today's Galician alphabet. This, the proximity of the language to Portuguese, and the thin paper the .pdf was made from resulted in unsuccessful tries. Given the short length of the text, at the end it was introduced manually.

Nevertheless, the text was directly made into a simple TEI/XML file where the paragraphs and parts were established from the beginning. This made easier to go over the text later to proceed with the markup of it. The downside of this action was the time spent manually typing the full text and making a few linguistic decisions about the standardization and modernization of the text itself[1].

The next step was to look for the references that will be used in the markup process: places, persons (both real persons and characters in the novel), events and books and journals mentioned in the text.

The TEI/XML file is divided as follows:

- <teiHeader> containing <fileDesc> of the source and some metadata, as well as the Wikidata ID reference.
- <text> with a <front> where the cover, the back cover and some publish and advertising is coded. A <body> divided in twelve <div> which were in the original text already separated. The references to the non available .jpg files. The narrative text is introduced by <p> and the dialogues are preceded by its speakers reference together with a person ID. The dialogues, however, presented themselves with some literary problems: first, it was necessary to assign a speaker ID to the chorus of the text, the collective character with an undefined voice. This made the list of speakers shorter, since, instead of adding a new speaker, all of these interventions together with the ones which are specifically referred as chorus, are as interventions by speaker 12, person ID 24. Moreover, there were a few indirect dialogues and intern dialogues which were difficult to assign a speaker and separate from the narrative text.
- <back>: containing the list of mentioned places, the list of mentioned persons, the list of speakers, the list of mentioned bibliography and the list of events[2]. The rest of the lists are almost all linked to its Wikidata ID. The places also include the geo coordinates. The inclusion of geo pins and Wikidata IDs were longer than expected. The most challenging data included was the geo pins. The text mentions locations of really small villages in the north of Galicia, as well as the names of hills. This information was difficult to find since there are lots of places called the same around. Also, it was important to establish the place of birth of the characters. Most of them are included as Name from Place, where this place is a real village near the one where the novel takes place.

The upload of the files was done in September. The last part was to include another XML file where the bibliography which will be used for the academic edition will be used.

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[1] In this regard, and after consulting with Galician language specialists, it was decided to modernize the accentuation and obvious misspelling mistakes and erratum and to keep the original language.

[2] The list of events consists in only one mentioned in the text, an anarchist bomb exploding in Barcelona but not defined. It needs more research to be completed.

Outcomes

The edition has been uploaded to Zenodo and has its own DOI:
https://zenodo.org/records/13744882

Future work

The text, as said, has yet to be completed with the introduction and footnotes of the academic edition. This step will take time since it is yet to be developed and will be used in the printed edition of the text.
By establishing the real places which the text refers to, it is possible to create a digital object of the location of the text which can have the form of a map or route to complete the edition with some visuals.