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Digital Philology: Classical Foundations, Contemporary Developments and Future Horizons

Shorena Barbakadze, Ketevan Rekhviashvili

Akaki Tsereteli State University
Kutaisi, Georgia
e-mail: ketevan.rekh@gmail.com

The the the evolution of philology from its its current digital article deals with classical beginnings through to incarnation, focusing on the complementarity of traditional methods and technological innovation. With the pioneering work of Renaissance humanists Lorenzo Valla and Richard Bentley as a starting point, the article traces how classical philological techniques have been supplemented rather than replaced by digital technologies.

The paper describes how multispectral imaging, computational linguistics, and Geographic Systems Information have opened up analytical potential in French and classical philology, as well as transform dpedagogical practice through engaging. adaptive learning environments. Ethical concerns around access, intellectual property, and data privacy are raised, underlining the need to maintain humanistic values in digital systems.

The research concludes speculatively concerning possible future changes in which knowledge haptic technologies, and from neuroscience, machine learning technologies may further fuel philological research without sacrificing its fundamen tal interpreti e and cultural dimension.

Classical philology is the earliest pillar on which all subsequent philological inquiries rest, founded in deep rootage in meticulous reading of Greco-Roman literary canons. Intellectual formative of the discipline was determined through hard efforts of Renaissance humanists such as Lorenzo Valla and Richard Bentley, whose groundbreaking practices made text scholarship a disciplined and scientific pursuit. These scholars offered critical methodologies that not only pushed textual criticism to unprecedented levels but also laid the

groundwork for the complete analysis of manuscript traditions and the intricate process of linguistic reconstruction.

Valla's incisive analysis of Latin texts revealed the sheer importance of philological accuracy augmented by a sensitive sense of historical and cultural contexts. Bentley also promoted a rigorous weighing of variant readings, establishing canons of emendation and authenticity that worked tirelessly towards the restitution of original textual meaning rather than the simple preservation of forms in being. Their work represents the harmony of linguistic correctness with contextual sensitivity, showing philology as a discipline committed to exposing the finest true accounts of ancient texts.

At the heart of classical philology lies a methodology of esteemed techniques which continue to shape scholarly practice. At the forefront among these is comparative analysis of manuscript variants, in which philologists painstakingly collate variant textual witnesses in order to determine scribal errors, intentional revisions, or accidental corruption. This comparative analysis is supplemented by palaeography, the scientific study of antique handwriting, which allows dating and geographical location of manuscripts through detailed analysis of script and orthographic tradition. Both these approaches enable scholars to pinpoint texts with accuracy within their temporal contexts and reconstruct debased or fragmented passages with scholarly confidence on the basis of patterns of language and stylistic features. Such giants of classical philology's high intellectual tradition also include Ulrich von Wilamowitz-Moellendorff, whose critical editions are the pinnacle of scholarly exactness and methodological elegance.

His meticulous editorial work set eternal standards for textual fidelity and interpretive care. Likewise, Emile Benveniste's foundational linguistic studies of Indo-European languages and classical dictionaries bear witness to the field's wide scholarly reach and ongoing dedication to de-mystifying the intricate evolution of language. Combined, their writings confirm the intellectual significance and enduring relevance of classical philology. The evolution of the discipline at every point exhibits a dynamic balance between the preservation of strict traditional scholarship and the incorporation of new interpretative paradigms. This dual commitment propels classical philology beyond custodial archivist's static function to one of positive engagement with cultural and historical circumstances written into antique texts. Thus, philology is a continuous humanistic endeavor—one which not only safeguards literary tradition but also allows for increased understanding of the societies and intellectual currents that produced it. New technology has augmented masterworks significantly, contributing to its tried-and-true approaches without diminishing their inherent value. An example is multispectral imaging, a cutting-edge tool for non-invasive exploration of text content concealed behind damage or overwriting layers.

It applies electromagnetic spectra beyond the range of visible light to uncover erased or obscured inscriptions with exceptional accuracy. Among the most important applications are

the Archimedes Palimpsest, where scholars recovered long-lost works previously known only through illumination of undertexts burdened by subsequent scribal activity, thereby greatly enhancing our chance to read ancient scientific texts. Similarly, multispectral imaging of the Oxyrhynchus Papyri has enabled digital recovery and editing of hundreds of thousands of broken manuscripts, greatly expanding the corpus available for scholarly study without compromising the physical integrity of these fragile artifacts. Parallel to these imaging advances, computational linguistics has also emerged as a principal point of intersection between classical philology and digital technologies. Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques now enable systematic large-scale analysis of stylistic and linguistic features which previously were only accessible through laborious manual collation. Through the application of algorithms that recognize authorship marks, formulaic repetition patterns, syntactic structures, and metrical frameworks, researchers have enlarged the scope of textual criticism, illustrating the new discoveries available in classical literature transmission and production.

Auricular pioneers such as Gregory Crane and Claire Clivaz are best examples of such collaboration, demonstrating the potential for computational approaches to converge with traditional close reading in order to heighten interpretive nuances as well as reveal faint authorial imprints in ancient texts. The integration of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) gives a new layer to conventional philology, turning otherwise static data into dynamic, geographically based narratives. Through mapping manuscript provenance, areas of inscription, and dialect distributions across the Mediterranean and beyond, GIS allows researchers to visualize linguistic diffusion, regional variation, and cultural interchanges with unprecedented accuracy. This geographical approach illuminates the interconnected systems through which texts traveled and languages evolved, transforming philological information into inter-usable forms that facilitate interdisciplinary dialogue among historians, linguists, and archaeologists. Above all, these technological tools function not as replacements but as additive supplements to philology's humanistic core.

They extend the scholar's ability to access, examine, and interpret primary sources while inviting collaborative models that transgress disciplinary boundaries. By the integration of exacting old-fashioned scholarship with sophisticated digital techniques, classical philology is revitalized to keep its relevance under the digital age. This integration keeps the discipline's posture of cultural empathy, textual fidelity, and interpretive fullness, affirming that technology is a multiplicatory force and not a substitute for humanistic scholarship. French philology then becomes the logical extension of classical philology, tracing out the linguistic and cultural evolution from Vulgar Latin on through the Romance languages and on into contemporary French.

Based on the strict analysis that exists in the classical traditions, it adapts philological study to the complexity of the Romance continuum of languages. This philology investigates not only linguistic evolution, but also coupled literary and historical contexts, and demands the

combination of systematic textual scholarship with an awareness to historical evolution and dialect difference. Its most challenging aspect in the French philological context has to work with early manuscripts, which will be found typically to show high dialectal diversity and orthoepic nonconformity. These problems reflect the fluid linguistic context of medieval France, where competing vernaculars and the absence of standardised spelling complicate the determination of authorial intention and textual authority. Traditional philological methods remain crucial here: slow and careful collation of variant readings, palaeographic analysis, and contextualised historical information are the basis on which to read such texts.

Nonetheless, the advent of computational approaches now brings major advances, permitting more systematic and objective control of linguistic variation and textual instability. The establishment of large digital corpora represents a revolutionary innovation in French philology. Such collections bring together an enormous body of texts encompassing Old French, Renaissance writing, and modern francophone literature, enabling diachronic analysis on phonological, morphological, and syntactic levels. Corpus linguistics methods enable researchers to map shifting trends, routine innovation, and language change with unprecedented levels of precision, relating micro-level textual detail to large-scale patterns in language.

Its incorporation not only improves philological analysis but also increases scope and scale in empirical research. Lexicography has also been greatly enhanced by computerized processing technologies. Algorithmic techniques now track semantic change and lexical borrowing across vast corpora, exposing minute trajectories of sense that may be barely even discernible by hand alone. Monitoring of this kind dynamic underwrites the construction of historical dictionaries and lexical databases, bringing precision and depth to description and history alike. Scholars such as Martin Maiden and Wendy Ayres-Bennett have long promoted this agenda, showing close interdependence between traditional philological expertise and cutting-edge computing technique.

Facilitating lexicographical innovation, automatic morphological parsing technologies provide advanced analysis of French inflectional complexity such as verb conjugations, noun gender and pluralization, and adjective agreement patterns with temporal sensitivity. Such technologies facilitate the creation of linguistically annotated corpora that form the basis of serious research and support pedagogical activity. By facilitating consistent syntactic and morphological tagging, they enhance granular linguistic description and facilitate more insightful grammatical understanding for researchers and students. Briefly, French philology shows a successful integration of classical roots with contemporary computational breakthroughs. Utilizing a wise blend of ancient critical methods and powerful computational methods, it achieves greater analytical precision and interpretive penetration. This symbiotic strategy addresses the native philological challenges inherent in the Romance language's evolutionist past, highlighting the discipline's commitment to substantial, context-sensitive

scholarship that remains sensitive to the luxuriant variety of linguistic change. The pedagogical landscape of both classical and French philology has been radically transformed, spurred by the advent of digital technologies that redefine traditional teaching and learning models. These innovations extend beyond technology adoption, advocating an integrative, multisensory experience with philological content that maximizes cognitive uptake and interpretive accuracy.

Immersive virtual environments now offer students unprecedented access to manuscripts and textual artefacts, facilitating interaction beyond the visual sphere. High-fidelity digital facsimiles, accompanied by audio reconstructions of the original pronunciations and real-time syntactic parsing, orchestrate a rich interplay of sense input that enhances comprehension by engaging visual, aural, and intellectual resources simultaneously. This revolution introduces a radical redefinition of the instructor's role. The teacher steps back from the position of sole purveyor of information to take on the role of facilitator and guide, skilled in navigating the rich terrain of digital repositories and analysis tools. Students are aided by facilitators in making sense of outcomes according to natural language processing, corpus linguistics, and complex algorithmic models, fostering the critical autonomy and interdisciplinarity of students.

With a challenge to connect philological insight with discoveries in adjacent fields such as cultural studies and digital humanities, students generate reflexive practices that extend beyond reproduction but involve dialogical learning and co-constructive practice as guiding pedagogical dimensions.

At the center of this new education paradigm is the necessity of continuous professional training for philologists. Specialization in digital skills—e.g., proficiency in text encoding standards like the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI), corpus construction and maintenance, and use of VR software—has become essential. These skills allow specialists to successfully incorporate digital materials into their courses of study, ensuring that pedagogical practice is pedagogically innovative and strictly based on philological tradition. This dual expertise generates a scholarly persona that reconciles classically and technologically commensurate rigor and imagination and emphasizes the relevance of the discipline in modern-day university life. Educational technologies have also introduced adaptive and inclusive platforms that personalize phonetic and grammatical instruction to individual learner profiles using real-time analytics. These technologies dynamically adjust task difficulty and feedback based on performance metrics, targeting morphological, syntactic, and phonological problems with eerie accuracy.

The resulting individualized learning paths optimize retention and motivation, tailored to heterogeneous cognitive modalities and linguistic backgrounds. In this manner, digital pedagogy not merely increases linguistic competence but inspires confidence and extended engagement — building blocks vital to overcoming the intricate complexities of philological scholarship. Beyond cognitive and methodological gains, digital tools provide a humanizing

critical component to pedagogy philological. Interactive notes, virtual recreations of ancient environments, and multimedia collages animate the worlds from which classical and French literature originates. These approaches induce emotional engagement and mental comprehension and challenge students to inhabit the lived lives of past authors and listeners in more evocatively rich ways than conventional instruction usually permits.

This affective engagement enriches scholarly research by evoking curiosity and deepening the connection between reader and text, thereby turning philology into an experiential, living discipline. Thus, the use of digital technologies is not merely a technical expansion; it is a revolutionary pedagogical renewal. Through the combination of interactive sensory immersion, adaptive individualized instruction, and facilitator-guided inquiry in an environment of ongoing professional development, philology education strides toward a more pluralistic, integrated, and subtle future. This dynamic interaction not only maintains the richness and precision of traditional scholarship but also opens up horizons for intellectual exploration, rendering philology responsive to shifting academic cultures as well as to the diverse needs of learners today. The use of digital technologies in philological scholarship introduces a complex cluster of ethical concerns that deserve serious and ongoing consideration.

Of these most important is the provision of equitable access to digitized cultural heritage. Digital archives certainly democratize access by overcoming geography and institutional barriers, yet selection procedures that determine which material is digitized can insidiously reproduce established academic biases. Prioritizing canonical or most studied texts risks excluding less known traditions, vernacular literatures, or non-hegemonic cultural voices, thereby channeling scholarly attention and cultural memory in incomplete and exclusionary ways. A responsible philological praxis must therefore insist on inclusivity and diversity in digitization processes, attempting to represent various textual traditions and contexts. It should be added, that authorship attribution and intellectual property rights themselves create extra ethical problems in collaborative digital work.

Philological scholarship increasingly depends on the collaborative efforts of inter-disciplinary teams of scholars, digital technologists, librarians, and institutional partners. Efforts should be recognized in an apparent and equitable manner to maintain scholarly integrity and inspire confidence in such collaborative networks. Transparent documentation of editorial procedures, data provenance, and algorithmic manipulations is essential to guarantee accountability and scholarly integrity. Disregard for these regulations risks undermining scholarly integrity and compromising future collaborations on the basis of distrust or intellectual property rights. The growing application of adaptive learning spaces in philological education highlights concerns regarding privacy and information security. These websites routinely extract rich user information to deliver pedagogy tailored to individual student profiles, raising significant issues of the integrity of data, consent, and surveillance implications. Sound ethical frameworks must govern the collection, storage, and use of personal information,

with a view to enabling disclosure and allowing learners to retain agency over their data. Failure to impose strong protections may undermine the dignity of students and destroy trust in learning technologies that seek to empower rather than exploit.

Comments by leading digital humanities scholars such as Johanna Drucker and Matthew K. Gold underscore the importance of infusing inclusivity and democratization at the very heart of digital philology. Drucker's call for interpretive flexibility requires systems that acknowledge complexity and avoid reductive categorization, while Gold calls for the need for expansive participation and access in determining equitable digital knowledge infrastructures. Their positions force philologists to eschew technological determinism and exclusion, building platforms that amplify marginalized voices and facilitate diverse scholarly interactions. Such consistent ethical consciousness therefore requires a subtle balance: embracing new methods without compromising philology's humanistic ideals of critical reflection, cultural sensitivity, and scholarly equity. Digital philology not only must leverage technological potential but also actively subvert the socio-cultural dimensions of its tools and processes. Such reflective stance requires ongoing dialogue among scholars, technologists, and stakeholders to ensure that digital innovations are employed as instruments of empowerment and equity rather than instruments of exclusion or domination. Future-proofing the discipline of philology involves synthesizing novel neuroscientific discoveries with computational models in order to tailor language learning to individual cognitive profiles.

This confluence promises individualized pedagogical pathways that engage students with the honing of their engagement with complex grammatical constructions in ancient and Romance languages alike. Meanwhile, haptic technology and virtual reality immersion offer an enhanced multisensory interface to manuscripts, offering tactile and spatial access in addition to visual inspection. These technologies expand access, stimulating more material comprehension while democratizing engagements with fragile cultural artifacts. In textual restoration, advanced machine learning processes use probabilistic pattern matching to propose likely restorations of lacunose or damaged sections, strictly preserving the precedence of professional philological judgment in final validation. Similarly revolutionary are natural language generation systems, which enable the creation of nuanced stylistic and dialectic capabilities through producing historically informed textual models and providing feedback tuned for the individual in philological pedagogy. Central to this is that these technological advances are complementary adjuncts, not substitutes for conventional methods, so that philology still retains its humanist basis in critical interpretation and cultural sensitivity. Long-term evolution of the field depends on good interdisciplinarity among philologists, linguists, neuroscientists, and technologists whose collective strengths couple innovation with ethical standards, educational objectives, and cultural responsibility—thus ensuring a rich, reflective future for digital philology.

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შორენა ზარზაქაძე, ქეთევან რეხვიაშვილი

აკაკი წერეთლის სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტი
ქუთაისი, საქართველო
e-mail: ketevan.rekh@gmail.com

ციფრული ფილოლოგია: კლასიკური საფუძვლები, თანამედროვე განვითარება და მომავლის პერსპექტივები

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ნაშრომში გაანალიზებულია, როგორ განაპირობა მულტისპექტრულმა ვიზუალიზაციამ, კომპიუტერულმა ლინგვისტიკამ და გეოინფორმაციულმა სისტემებმა ანალიტიკური პოტენციალის გაფართოება ფრანგულ და კლასიკურ ფილოლოგიაში, აგრეთვე, როგორ ტრანსფორმირდა პედაგოგიური პრაქტიკა ინტერაქტიული და ადაპტური საგანმანათლებლო გარემოს ინტეგრირებით. კვლევაში განხილულია ეთიკური პრობლემატიკა, დაკავშირებული ხელმისაწვდომობასთან, ინტელექტუალურ საკუთრებასა და მონაცემთა კონფიდენციალურობასთან, რაც ხაზგასმით წარმოაჩენს ციფრულ სისტემებში ჰუმანისტური ღირებულებების შენარჩუნების იმპერატივს.

კვლევა პროგნოზირებს შესაძლო (სამომავლო) ტენდენციებს, რომელთა ფარგლებშიც ნეირომეცნიერების, ჰაპტიკური ტექნოლოგიებისა და მანქანური სწავლების მიღწევებმა შესაძლოა გაამდიდოს ფილოლოგიური კვლევითი პარადიგმა, მისი ფუნდამენტური ინტერპრეტაციული და კულტურული განზომილებების შეუცვლელად.

კლასიკური ფილოლოგია კი წარმოადგენს იმ უმთავრეს ეპისტემოლოგიურ საფუძველს, რომელზეც ყველა შემდგომი ფილოლოგიური კვლევა აღმოცენდა. იგი ღრმად არის დაფუძნებული ბერძნულ-რომაული ლიტერატურული კანონის სკრუპულოზურ ტექსტოლოგიურ კვლევაზე. ამ დისციპლინის ინტელექტუალური ფორმირება განხორციელდა რენესანსის პერიოდის ჰუმანისტთა, კერძოდ, ლორენცო ვალასა და რიჩარდ ბენტლის, ნოვატორული მეცნიერული მოღვაწეობის შედეგად, რამაც ტექსტოლოგიური კვლევა სისტემურ და მეცნიერულ დისციპლინად ჩამოაყალიბა. მათ მიერ შემუშავებულმა კრიტიკულმა მეთოდოლოგიებმა არა მხოლოდ განაპირობა ტექსტოლოგიური კრიტიკის უპრეცედენტო განვითარება, არამედ საფუძველი ჩაუყარა მანუსკრიპტული ტრადიციების კომპლექსურ ანალიზსა და ლინგვისტური რეკონსტრუქციის მრავალასპექტიან პროცესს.

საკვანძო სიტყვები: ტრადიციული ეპისტემოლოგიური პარადიგმა, თანამედროვე დიგიტალურ კონცეფცია

რეცენზენტი: პროფესორი მანანა თანდაშვილი