

Abstract:

The purpose of this thesis is to map out the beginning of literature written in the domestic language, i.e. Galician-Portuguese and later Portuguese, as it started to separate from works written in Latin.

The first part of the thesis describes how the Portuguese language evolved from Latin, which in turn evolved from the Indo-European language. A colloquial form of Latin began to emerge, splitting later into several dialects. The Galician-Portuguese language appears and individual Romance languages start to form. The new Portuguese language undergoes a period of formation, with the first phase being the Old Portuguese, followed by the classical period, until Portuguese became the language we know now.

The second part of the thesis describes the formation and early phases of Portuguese writing, both literary and non-literary, including a list of genres that prevailed during the beginnings of Portuguese literature, and a selection of excerpts of the oldest texts and their translations.

Key words:

Old Portuguese, old texts, evolution of language, Portuguese philology, translation