

Textual Studies of Ilia Chavchavadze's Notepad Entries and Fragmentary Speeches

Esma Mania

Researcher at Korneli kekelidze National Center of manuscripts of Georgia, 0193, Aleksidze str, N1/3, Tbilisi, Georgia

Abstract: Our research concerns these two radically different intellectual products of Ilia Chavchavadze: on the one hand, his fragmentary speeches as the material reflecting public and civic activities, and on the other hand, his private records as texts intended solely for his own use. Analysing and linking these two different perspectives of Ilia Chavchavadze - fragmentary speeches and notepad entries - to his other texts and activities, on the one hand, complement his portrait and on the other hand, reveal many public facts or tendencies that were unknown to the readers to date. Although the material to be considered was very complex and varied, its logical structuring and fundamental study became possible by means of selecting the right strategy and methodology. Our research has provided an important basis for publishing this up-to-date material in accordance with the latest academic requirements in textology.

Keywords: Textual scholarship, Ilia Chavchavadze, manuscript study, personal identification, dating.

Introduction

Due to the great contribution of the Georgian classical writer and public figure - Ilia Chavchavadze (1837-1907), his every word preserved in writing is precious to us. To date, his fiction and documentary works are published in 18 volumes. However, his notepad entries and fragmentary speeches have not been published yet. Consequently, this material has not been subject of a scientific research and we have decided to study it textologically.

The texts of Ilia Chavchavadze's fragmentary speeches were being published in the newspapers of the 19th century, the following days after the speeches were delivered. They are included in the reports of various community meetings and have been preserved only in print, while notepad entries have reached us only in manuscripts. Our research concerns these two radically different intellectual products of Ilia Chavchavadze: on the one hand, his fragmentary speeches as the material reflecting public and civic activities, and on the other hand, his private records as texts intended solely for his own use.

Due to the vague genre of the fragmentary speeches and notepad entries, they may be called "marginal" material. During the past century, since the publication of any form of written heritage in print acquired popularity, publication of texts of a different nature has created the need to develop specific methods and practical approaches. In epoch, when openness and patency have gained priority within the framework of legal and ethical norms, the use of constantly evolving textual methods and discussion of the prospects of publishing texts containing personal data have become urgent.

Authenticity of Ilia Chavchavadze's fragmentary speeches

It is well-known that Ilia Chavchavadze was an excellent orator. In addition to the fact that his speeches were always full of arguments, logic, live examples and polemic effects, it is not surprising that his speeches made a huge impression on the listeners. Ilia Chavchavadze's speeches had this effect not only when he delivered before honourable guests a well-planned, prepared in advance speech, at funerals of prominent public figures or while laying the foundations for projects of national and cultural importance and many other events but also while making speeches during ordinary meetings. His speeches were often followed by a standing ovation and lengthy applause.

Ilia Chavchavadze's speeches were also published in the form of paraphrases or short annotations.

However, we have selected only those that used a direct quote form. Of course, we cannot say with certainty that these publications were really word-for-word repetition of Ilia Chavchavadze's words, but we assume that the material was published during the life of the writer and in case of inaccuracy, the author would have certainly reacted. There are a lot of similar examples [1]:

It is noteworthy that the majority of fragmentary oral speeches were published in the newspaper "Iveria" (Iberia), edited by Ilia Chavchavadze himself. Accordingly, he would have read those reports not after the newspaper was published but before and if there were any inaccuracies in his speeches, he would have corrected them before the newspaper was printed. This is confirmed by one case: the report of the session of the

Tbilisi Nobles' Bank, as of January 23 1897, was published the following day after the meeting - on January 24. Then, on January 25, the report of January 23 was published again with the comment from the editor, stating that there were certain inaccuracies in the "report" of the previous issue. He explained that he had not been provided with the material to be published; he apologized and published the entire report again [2]. Although this case shows that the material to be published was not shown to the editor and was published without any review, it is also obvious that this was a single case and all other reports were not published without the editor's revision.

Ilia Chavchavadze also reacted to cases when other newspapers misinterpreted his speech or sayings. On May 23 1876, the newspaper 'Droeba' (The Times) published information that their published letters were distorted by the Russian newspaper 'Kavkaz' (The Caucasus) and Ilia Chavchavadze's letter 'Niko Nikoladze and his view of the Bank' was cited as an example. For some reason, the Russian newspaper considered it obituary and began to ridicule 'Iveria' (Iberia): "they are writing obituaries to living people" [3].

On March 30 1907, Ilia Chavchavadze's letter of protest was published in the newspaper 'Zakavkazie' (Transcaucasia), in which he addressed the editor of the newspaper 'Rusi' (The Russian) regarding the information published in his newspaper: as if Ilia Chavchavadze was going to deliver a speech in memory of the former Caucasus governor Grigol Golitsin at the session of the State Council. In his address to the editor, the writer noted that the information was inaccurate and demanded to spread the explanation not only in the newspaper 'Rusi' (The Russian) but also in all the newspapers that printed the false information. 'Zakavkazie' (Transcaucasia) was among those newspapers, and therefore, it also published the statement of the protest [4].

On March 9 1905, Ilia Chavchavadze's "Letter to the editor" was published in the newspaper 'Iveria' (Iberia) (at that time Grigol Kipshidze was the editor of the newspaper), in which the writer objected to his speech at the meeting of the noblemen published in the previous day's issue of the same newspaper in connection with the peasants' movement on March 6 [5].

Oratorical features of Ilia Chavchavadze's fragmentary speeches

If Ilia Chavchavadze's extensive speeches delivered at various sessions are examples of oratorical art, fragmentary speeches along with this extraordinary ability can be considered the art of debate. He was a master in fluent linguistic fabric, voice timbre and mimic-gestures. All of this is well illustrated in the material we have studied. Fragmentary speeches have not been subject to the area of research so far. Accordingly, the work carried out is of utmost importance for a complete understanding of Ilia Chavchavadze's life and work.

Ilia Chavchavadze's oral speeches provide valuable information about the memories of our contemporaries. Thus, according to the memories, we tried to find out how much Ilia Chavchavadze's oral speeches fit into the principles of oratorical art and debates. The linguistic fabric of the speaker is significant in oratorical art [6]. Jacob Mansvetashvili writes that during his speeches Ilia Chavchavadze revealed proficiency in the Georgian language [7]. During discussions and debates, it is important for the speaker to have the culture of listening to his opponent and to be able to choose the right time to say the word [Baeva 2001, 296]. Mansvetashvili writes that Ilia Chavchavadze patiently listened to his opponent, watched everything and stood up only when he saw that the silence would bring no benefit.

In order to have a positive impact on the listener, it is important for the speaker to use voice timbre, gestures and body language correctly [8]. Jacob Mansvetashvili notes in this regard that Ilia Chavchavadze's speech was characterized by twisting about, changing of voice and speech course so that not to lose attention of the listeners [10]. It is important that the orator does not show unnecessary commotion [9] and Ilia Chavchavadze, according to the same source, adhered to this rule as well: no matter what flame there was in his heart, if the circumstances demanded, he would not reveal that [11].

It is known from memory that Ilia Chavchavadze's speeches were often admired even by his opponents.

Identification of the people mentioned in the fragmentary speeches

Due to the fact that oral speeches to be reviewed by us are included in the reports and reviews, the volume of which is limited, the speakers and persons mentioned by the speakers are mostly presented by means of initials, and sometimes only by public names denoting their position or activities ("the head", "the previous speaker", "the auditor", etc.), without indicating surnames. Our researches have enabled us to identify almost all individuals and find additional information about them. Identifying the persons mentioned in the text is one of the fundamental tasks of the textologists. Provision of Ilia Chavchavadze's fragmentary speeches with proper comments was a necessary step in order to make the essence and context of the fragments isolated from the ambient texts clear.

During the session of the members of the Tbilisi Nobles' Bank on May 14 1892, Ilia Chavchavadze cites the words of "Rothschild": "The one who earns one million a day and spends one million and five rubles is not a rich man, but the one who earns five rubles and spends four is rich". Naturally, we wondered who in the Rothschild dynasty said such a thing and whether Ilia Chavchavadze echoed his words in the form of a quote or used them as a paraphrase. Using internet search engines, we have found out the saying of the founder of the dynasty Mayer Amschel Rothschild (1744-1812), which is as follows: "The rich are not those who earn a lot, but those who save a lot". It seems that Ilia Chavchavadze interpreted the phrase with the addition of digits to make it easier to perceive, but naturally, he did not change its essence. In the same speech regarding the necessity of tightening the rules for the credit organization, the writer mentioned "Bliokh" without any initials. We found out that it was about the Maecenas and banker of Polish origin – Ivan Stanislavovich Bliokh (1836-1901).

Sometimes in oral speeches, this or that person is mentioned only by public word denoting a position or activities, without indicating a surname. At the meeting on April 27 1896, Ilia Chavchavadze mentioned the auditor's report. An explanatory note written in the name of this auditor is found in volume 16 of the 20-volume edition of the writer's works, where his identity is indicated. This is Evstate Evstatevich Dobetzky (1856-1919), who was sent by the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Empire in 1895 to audit the Tbilisi Nobles' Land Bank. In his speech the following day, Ilia Chavchavadze mentioned the minister twice without indicating the surname. From the context, we found out that it was about the minister of Finance, and Count Sergei Yulyevich Witte (1849-1915) was the Minister of Finance of the Russian Empire in 1892-1899.

Manuscript study of the notepad entries

The writer's records, both in the manner of writing and in the organization of the text, differs markedly from that of artistic and publicist texts, and even autographs of letters. Here the writer is less concerned about the refinement of the handwriting, the stylistic appropriateness of the text, and the aesthetic side of organizing the material. There is a business, practical aspect in them. As far as it is vague in genre, often fragmented and never-ending, the reading of the unpublished yet texts, whose analogues cannot be found, and the textual study were a long and time-consuming task.

The notepad entries often unite hundreds of creative and civic impulses of different origins. Although numerous monographs and studies have been written about the great classic author, the data from these specific sources will be of great novelty both in complementing his portrait and in evaluating the environment in which the writer lived and worked.

The records of notepad entries are original, authentic material, the so-called "pressed" data, which has great potential for further expansion. In this orbit, the writer is alone with himself, so he creates the outlines of his life, assesses his skills and aspirations, delimits his desires and abilities. It is through these records that the researcher can observe how the thinker is realized and what his or her internal validator is. Some records are also important for reconstructing creative stories of the work, as the internal or external impulses that underlie the creation of a certain text are often reflected in a separate record. Moreover, in the records of the notepad entries, all the signs can be found that illustrate the stages of realization of the plan.

The textual study of the records of the notepad entries included: reading out the text, defining its relation to other texts, identifying compositional logic, defining the regularities of technical and linguistic characteristics, dating and identifying persons.

Nowadays, using digital technologies in terms of text identification help achieve much higher results than it was 10-15 years ago. That is why studies were conducted using high-resolution digital copies of manuscript sources. Before starting to work on archival material, we studied the writer's handwriting and made both typical and atypical tables of graphemes characteristic of the writer. We have identified all the features of his calligraphy that have helped us not only in reading out his texts but also in identifying the handwritten texts of various individuals in his books.

Although Ilia Chavchavadze's hand does not seem complicated at first and his final manuscripts are readable, but in the process of refining the text or making private notes and inscriptions we often encountered the cursive writing, word abbreviations and mechanical errors, which naturally created problems in reading out the text. This is especially true when dealing with texts of personal purpose, which, as the writer suggests, might have no connection with a stranger (editor, publisher, reader).

The researcher may be thoroughly familiar with the specifics of the handwriting of one or more authors and limit the prospective scope of such atypical writing, but may still find it difficult to read out the text. In this case, we used the final steps of the step-by-step method of reading out the manuscript. The use of contextual analysis, extra textual research and exclusion methods was particularly effective.

Dating of the Notepad entries

Long and extensive research has become necessary for dating records. For this purpose, we mainly used corpus research and historical-comparative methods, resulting in dating of several dozens of private records. Naturally, the importance of informational text increases when it is associated with a particular time or time interval. Consequently, these studies had particular importance.

As well as identifying the meaning and essence of the text of the record, its dating is an essential component of the textual work. Here the researcher makes the most of all available data and thus meets one of the key requirements of an academic publication. We often find a list of books to be purchased in the notepad entries, by means of which we have been able to date numerous records. For example, the second record in the N56 notepad entry [12] contains the list of the books published in 1880-1884. Accordingly, it is dated with a period not earlier than 1884. The book published in 1887 is indicated in the subsequent record. Accordingly, we have dated it no later than 1887. Dates are not often mentioned with the books, but most of them are in Russian, and we easily established the years of publication through the online catalogue of the Russian State Library.

The records of the notepad entries, in which no historical facts that could help are mentioned, were dated according to the texts that were dated after or before them or dated by us. For example, the first entry in the N56 notepad entry [13] contains extracts from the book, neither titled nor authored. Thus, we dated it similarly to the date of the second record, no later than 1884.

In one notepad entry of Iliia Chavchavadze we have encountered a one-word record: “Мамия” (Mamia). In this case, before dating the record, the textologist has to ascertain the meaning of the record and only after that it is dated with the help of obtained data. Our research established with this one-word record, one name that Iliia Chavchavadze, being in Russia at that time, learnt about Mamia Gurieli's death and presumably, with this word he indicated that he had to publish an obituary. Thus, we were able to date the record: Mamia Gurieli died in 1891 on July 25, the obituary was published on August 2 1891 [Iveria (Iberia)]. Accordingly, the record can be dated by the period from the time of Mamia Gurieli's death to the time of publication of the obituary.

Iliia Chavchavadze's excerpts from the work of Nikoloz Beltov (Giorgi Plekhanov) include a two-word insert: “интеллигенція” Жорданія” (“Intelligentsia” Zhordania”). As it turned out, in the work of Nikoloz Beltov, Iliia Chavchavadze was looking for the source of opinions regarding intelligentsia published by Noe Zhordania in “Kvali” (The Trace) in 1898, about which he publicly wrote in the issue of ‘Iveria’ (Iberia) in April 1900. It seems that by April 1900 he had not had Beltov's work yet. Accordingly, the excerpts from Beltov's work, in which Iliia Chavchavadze was looking for Noe Zhordania's views, should be dated by the period after 1900.

Identification of the people mentioned in the notepads

Personal records often contain incorrect or incomplete spelling or omission of the names of the persons mentioned, which makes it difficult to identify them, but a well-designed strategy helps to identify errors in the text as well as identifying of persons and obtaining information about them. Based on the textual studies we were able to identify several dozen individuals. For example, the writer mentions „Дѣтствоиуноностьвеликихлюдей. Спб. 1894 г. Кнолера. 125 коп” (“Childhood and youth of prominent people. Spb. 1894. Knolera. 125 cop.”) in one of the records of his notepad entries [14], in which he writes the list of books to be purchased. To find the information required to identify the author of the book, we began a search using internet search engines. According to the title, we easily found the mentioned edition, but the author of the book was Louisa Cole instead of Knoller. It seems that Iliia Chavchavadze either relied on incorrect information or made a mechanical error while making this record. A textologist can encounter such lapses everywhere. If the title of the book was not written next to the mistakenly mentioned author's surname, and if we didn't find out that the author's surname was incorrectly written, we would have thought that it was about some Knoller about whom we would not be able to find any information and thus, would leave his identity open.

It is usual for notepad entries to have mistakes in one or more letters or replaced letters. We have dealt with the same errors in the record discussed above, where the names of three scholars are mentioned at the same time. Two surnames there were recorded with mistakes: сентбеф□ / СЕНТ-БѢВ;Бранес□ / Брандес□. It may be assumed that in the first case we are dealing with a mistake made due to phonetic similarity, and in the second case we are dealing with a pen lapse. However, incorrect spelling of surnames may also occur due to incorrect information (Knoller/Cole, Grudiston/Grudistov).

Private records, which are mainly for the personal needs of the owner, often have a wide variety of themes and unsystematic structure. Such records sometimes represent abbreviated annotations or fragments, because just one word is sufficient to trigger the author's memory. Understanding this for the reader, for the

external eye, is associated with numerous difficulties. The textual researcher must help the reader overcome the barriers in order to perceive the material and make texts that were not intended for strangers accessible to all. The reader must look not only into the context of the record, but also factors that led to the creation of the record. As a result of the research, we have found some interrelationships between the writings and texts published by the writer in some periodicals.

Analysing and linking these two different perspectives of Ilia Chavchavadze - fragmentary speeches and notepad entries - to his other texts and activities, on the one hand, complement his portrait and on the other hand, reveal many public facts or tendencies that were unknown to the readers to date. Although the material to be considered was very complex and varied, its logical structuring and fundamental study became possible by means of selecting the right strategy and methodology. Our research has provided an important basis for publishing this up-to-date material in accordance with the latest academic requirements in textology.

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Author Profile

Esma Mania is a researcher at the *Korneli Kekelidze Georgian National Centre of Manuscripts* and a third-year student in the doctoral program in Textual Scholarship and Editorial Studies at Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University. She is working on the archives of 19th-century Georgian authors and has published a number of articles in which she develops portraits of them using metatextual data from their archival documents. Her doctoral thesis explores issues related to Ilia Chavchavadze's notepads and speeches.