

PRIN2022_COTTICELLI PNRR per la Missione 4, Componente 2, investimento 1.1., finanziato dall'Unione Europea – NextGenerationEU PRIN 2022 - Prof.ssa COTTICELLI Paola "European and extra-European metalanguage and grammars: syntactic theories towards the concept of language in the history of ideas" CUP B53D23014930006



La sintassi sommersa tra Tardo antico ed Età moderna: fonti, modelli e strategie interpretative

CONVEGNO CONCLUSIVO PRIN 2022

May 27th- 29th 2025

**Aula H, Palazzo ex-Economia
Via dell'Artigliere 19, 37129 Verona (VR)**

In collaborazione con il centro di ricerca LA.LE.LIM.

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di VERONA**

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SCHEDULE

Time	Tuesday, May 27 th
15.00-15.30	<i>Greetings by the Head of Department and Conveners</i>
15.30-16.15	Paola Cotticelli (Università degli Studi di Verona): <i>The role of syntax and its metalanguage in Renaissance grammars</i>
16.15-17.15	Corina Schmauser (Würzburg): <i>Solecisms in Italian grammars of the 16th and 17th centuries: linguistic deviations in (morpho)syntax</i>
17.15-18.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
18.00-18.45	Federico Righi (Università degli Studi di Verona): <i>The “panther” of syntax between grammar and didactics: two case studies</i>

Time	Wednesday, May 28 th
9.30-10.30	Alina Fidlerová (Charles University, Prague): <i>Between Latin and Vernacular: The Development of Czech Grammatical Terminology in the Renaissance.</i>
10.30-11.15	Concetta Giliberto (Università degli Studi di Palermo): <i>Development of grammatical metalanguage in England from the late Middle Ages to the early Renaissance</i>
11.15-12.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
12.00-12.45	Francesca Cotugno (Università degli Studi di Palermo): <i>John Palsgrave and the National Grammar Revolution: Metalanguage and the Codification of Vernacular Languages in the Renaissance</i>
12.45-14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14.30-15.15	Annamaria Bartolotta (Università degli Studi di Palermo): <i>Nominal sentences and copula in the history of linguistics: the case of Aymara</i>
15.15-16.00	Angela Bianchi – Nicola Santoni (Università degli Studi di Macerata): <i>Searching for syntax: From the Italian and French grammatical tradition to Port-Royal on the pathways of linguistic terminology</i>
16.00-16.45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16.45-17.45	Rolf Kemmler (Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro UTAD, Vila Real): <i>Bento Pereira's Ars grammatica pro lingua lusitana addiscenda (1672): a comparative glimpse into early views on Portuguese Syntax (1536-1672)</i>

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17.45-18.30	Carla Prestigiacomo (Università degli Studi di Palermo): <i>Gramática castellana. Arte breve y compendiosa para saber hablar y escribir en la lengua castellana congrua y decentemente: between tradition and innovation</i>
Evening	Conference Dinner

Time	Thursday, May 29 th
9.30-10.30	Otto Zwartjes (Université de Paris, HTL): <i>The Jesuit description of nominalizations in Uto-Aztec languages (17th-18th centuries)</i>
10.30-11.15	Michele Longo (Università degli Studi di Palermo): <i>The Development of Metalanguage in Icelandic Grammars of the 17th Centuries</i>
11.15-12.00	Coffee break
12.00-12.45	Diego Poli (Professore emerito, Università degli Studi di Macerata): <i>Universal and particular in the linguistic speculation of the Society of Jesus</i>
12.45-14.30	Lunch
14.30-15.15	Stefano Corno (Université Lumière Lyon 2 – UMR 5189): <i>Describing a local language: the grammaticography of Griko</i>
15.15-16.00	Edoardo Nardi (Università degli Studi di Palermo): <i>Verbal categorization(s) in missionary grammars of XVI-XVII century: argument structure and transitivity</i>
16.00-16.45	Coffee break
16.45-17.30	Castrenze Nigrelli (Università degli Studi di Palermo): <i>Syntactic Metaterminology and Missionary Grammars of Quechua: Between Tradition and Innovation</i>
17.30-18.30	Round Table

Organizing committee:

Paola Cotticelli
Anna Dentella
Stella Merlin
Federico Righi.

Scientific committee:

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Tuesday, May 27th 2025

Paola Cotticelli (Università degli Studi di Verona)

The role of syntax and its metalanguage in Renaissance grammars

Abstract

This research aims to provide an overview of the comparative analysis of terminology and corresponding definitions of key terms within the syntactic domain of subordination. The goal is to reconcile studies conducted on Medieval grammaticography (PRIN 2017, Wikimedia etc.) with works of grammatical analysis focused on the terminology of grammars of classical languages, specifically §700 in the German-speaking context (Cotticelli-Kurras 2017). The study will contrastively examine Latin and vernacular grammars from the main European traditions: Italian, Spanish, French, and English.

The syntactic terminology of dependency will be explored in the works of Perotti and Guarino Veronese, Giambullari, Bembo, and Corticelli, as well as in the grammars of Lily and Linacre, Nebrija, and others. The framework for the research within our project situates grammaticography as a meeting point for knowledge and reflection on language, serving as a venue to assess metalinguistic awareness and foster the development of the national language, language of use, and linguistic system. The study period will primarily focus on the 16th and 17th centuries, drawing on foundational premises in the grammatical texts of the 15th century. Within this framework, we outline three primary research strands:

1. Theories concerning the elaboration of metalanguage in vernaculars;
2. The development of syntactic knowledge from a hidden legacy to an explicit section within the Renaissance grammars;
3. Its interrelation with rhetoric, tracking the codification of subordination syntax from Thomas of Erfurt to the late 17th century, thus connecting to research on grammatical concepts in Europe and Italy, as well as the origin of the definition of subordination.

The study will also encompass grammatical and syntactic concept history in the Renaissance and 17th-century grammars, completing the investigation into the origins and development of syntactic theories. Specifically, this unit will focus on subordination, including the role of punctuation in syntax, the study of conjunction functions, participles, embedding structures, and metalinguistic aspects. Additionally, the research will involve a thorough examination of rhetorical manuals and treatises that address more syntactic structures, including theoretical sections on sentence structure and the definition of dependent and coordinate clauses, along with their corresponding metalinguistic frameworks (Chapter 17 of HSK 18).

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Corina Schmauser (Würzburg)

Solecisms in Italian grammars of the 16th and 17th centuries: Linguistic deviations in (morpho)syntax

Abstract

The contribution deals with linguistic deviations on a (morpho)syntactic level: starting from the ancient and late ancient theory of the *vitia*, and, more concretely, the definition and typology of *soloecismus*, it examines how this doctrine (based on Donat, Diomedes and Quintilian) continues beyond humanism in Italian grammars in the 16th and 17th centuries, before syntax is to play a more important role in later grammaticography.

According to the (late) antique definition, violations in sentences can be made in four ways: *per adiectionem*, *per detractioem*, *per transmutationem*, *per immutationem*, i.e. by adding (+), omitting (–), rearranging (↔) and exchanging (↑) individual elements. In the last category, particularly the parts of speech (*per partes orationis*) and their characteristics (*per accidentia partibus orationis*) are affected.

The grammars examined are those following the linguistic model of the Tre Corone implemented by Bembo's *Prose della volgar lingua* (1525), but also outstanding examples of representatives of other currents within the Questione della lingua are to be included.

Research has shown that both explicit and implicit evidence can be found in the vernacular grammars: on one hand, syntactic deviations are treated systematically in chapters about the figure (grammaticali), and, on the other hand, a large number of morphosyntactic deviations are rather “hidden” in the chapters about the parts

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of speech. Finally, some critical cases of linguistic deviations making a clear categorisation difficult need to be discussed, too (cf. single word solecisms).

In general, the linguistic deviations treated in the grammars allow us to get an indication of a concept of syntax from a reverse point of view, i.e. through negative examples. Thus, syntax can implicitly be reconstructed as a unity which gets distorted and corrupted in diverse ways.

The study aims to trace developmental tendencies in terms of nature and typology of the deviations treated over the centuries and to examine the metalanguage used to describe them, in consideration of terminological aspects in vernacular language as well. Further, it tries to throw light on the influence of classical rhetoric in the practice of writing grammars and on the interaction between both disciplines in the framework of the formation of the Italian national language.

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Federico Righi (Università degli Studi di Verona)

The “panther” of syntax between grammar and didactics: two case studies

Abstract

This paper focuses on the role of grammar in the Renaissance period as a discipline that connected multiple areas of knowledge, from rhetoric to logic, from the history of language to philology and teaching, with particular attention to the latter two.

During the Renaissance, the investigation of the grammatical system became an essential prerequisite for philological and editorial activity and translated into the effort of copyists and editors to sweeten the works and adapt them to the style considered most correct and adequate. As Ghinassi (1961: 36) points out, this same tendency to immediately superimpose grammatical rhetorical interest on philological recovery and, ultimately, to sacrifice the former to the latter, emerges very often in this first part of the 16th century. As a case study in this regard, we chose to focus on the *Grammatica volgare* by Gaetano Tizzone da Pofi: the author in fact dedicated himself both to the study of grammar and to editorial activity, working for example on Boccaccio's *Fiammetta* and Poliziano's *Stanze*, and in both cases the form of the texts is clearly influenced by the grammatical filter operated by Tizzone.

In an era during which Tuscan enjoyed great international prestige, given the high reputation of its literary models and their imitation, especially through the success of Petrarchism, it is not surprising to see the publication of numerous grammars and various dictionaries throughout Europe; a fact of undoubted interest for linguistics is that, as Maraschio (2002: 64) underlines, the idiom represented in these works seems to be paradoxically closer to that actually used daily in Tuscany than the language described in the majority of grammars for Italians. As far as this aspect of the research is concerned, I will focus in particular on one of the first grammars of Italian written in England, namely Michelangelo Florio's *Regole della lingua thoscana* (1553), and on other works about Italian grammar published in the following decades in England, from H. Grantham's *An Italian Grammar* (1575), a translation of Scipione Lentulo's *Italicae grammatices praecepta ac ratio* (1567), to *Queen Anna's New World of Words* by John Florio (1611), Michelangelo's son.

In both case studies, I'll focus on the core features of the works examined, with particular attention to syntactic phenomena, the authors' metalanguage and the grammatical models that emerge from the investigation of the treatises, with the necessary parallels between the two sides of the research, in order to achieve a global reflection on the role of grammar as a *trait d'union* between various founding disciplines of knowledge.

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Wednesday, May 28th 2025

Alina Fidlerová (Charles University, Prague)

*Between Latin and Vernacular:
The Development of Czech Grammatical Terminology in the Renaissance*

Abstract

The talk examines the development of morphosyntactic terminology in linguistic works originating from the Czech language milieu, offering insights into how non-Romance vernaculars adapted grammatical concepts during the Renaissance. The Czech case is particularly interesting due to its relatively long written tradition (dating from the late 13th century) and the early onset of the Reformation, carried out by Jan Hus and his adherents a full century before Luther. This early reform led to the spread of vernacular liturgy and an emphasis on Bible translation and lay literacy, all of which stimulated the development of schools and increased interest in theoretical approaches to language. However, the Protestant-oriented tradition was later overlaid by Catholic approaches introduced especially by the Jesuits, particularly following the onset of forced re-Catholicization in the early 17th century.

The analysis focuses on the Czech linguistic tradition and its morphological and syntactic terminology during the long 16th century, when Renaissance humanism fully emerged in the Czech lands. Additionally, it also compares it both to earlier developments from the mid-14th century and to subsequent 17th-century works. Through analysis of grammars, conversation guides, school textbooks, and dictionaries, the study investigates the language choices in these texts, their terminology for describing Czech and/or Latin, and their relationship to major European linguistic works (including Donatus, Valla, Melanchthon, and Ramus). Particular attention is paid to terminology for grammatical features where Czech differs from Latin, notably the case system and verbal tense and aspect. The findings demonstrate that the terminological development was complex and was significantly shaped by the intentions and target audiences of the authors.

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Concetta Giliberto (Università degli Studi di Palermo)

***Development of grammatical metalanguage in England
from the late Middle Ages to the early Renaissance***

Abstract

The first grammar of Latin written in a European vernacular is the one in Old English composed by Ælfric of Eynsham between the end of the 10th century and the beginning of the 11th. After the Norman Conquest, in England, educational institutions returned for about two and a half centuries to draw from the continental tradition, so that English lost ground and Latin found greater contexts of use compared to the previous centuries. Only in the early 14th century did they gradually start to adopt the vernacular English in the teaching of Latin again.

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This contribution aims to provide a diachronic study of English grammaticography that – proceeding from Ælfric's Grammar to the grammatical treatises attributed to John Leyland (14th-15th century) – seeks to outline the main lines of development of the English grammatical metalanguage between the Old English and the Middle English periods.

Essential bibliographical references

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L. KORNEXL, «From Ælfric to John of Cornwall: Evidence for Vernacular Grammar Teaching in Pre- and Post-Conquest England», in: Ead. and U. Lenker (eds.), *Bookmarks from the Past. Studies in Early English Literature in Honour of Helmut Gneuss*, Peter Lang, Frankfurt am Main, 2003, pp. 229-260

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Francesca Cotugno (Università degli Studi di Palermo)

***John Palsgrave and the National Grammar Revolution:
Metalanguage and the Codification of Vernacular Languages in the Renaissance***

Abstract

This paper examines John Palsgrave's *Lesclaircissement de la langue francoyse* (1530), paying particular attention to the linguistic features arising from his comparative analysis of French and English. Representing a pioneering endeavour in the field of Renaissance grammaticography, *Lesclaircissement* stands as a seminal work that melds the Latin tradition with a methodology tailored specifically for Anglophone primers (Bischoff, 1961; Stein, 1997).

This perspective not only describes sixteenth-century French, but also provides a set of metalinguistic tools that facilitate the study of English structures, highlighting their points of convergence and divergence (Stein, 1997). Moreover, *Lesclaircissement* is not simply a practical manual for language learning; rather, it emerges as a pioneering work that anticipates comparative linguistic studies and makes a significant contribution to the formulation of national grammars. Drawing on classical and medieval models and adapting them to the needs of a Renaissance audience, Palsgrave sparked a wide-ranging debate on linguistic standardisation and the progressive emergence of metalinguistic awareness, thereby laying the foundations for research that would shape linguistic thought for centuries to come (Scaglione, 1984).

Also, Palsgrave places particular emphasis on verb conjugation, as a way of highlighting key features. This comparison not only highlights the regularity and personalisation of French morphology but also invites reflection on the morphological legacies of Middle English (Jones, 1966). In this study, the focus is on the key features of Palsgrave's work, particularly in the context of verb conjugation. This analysis highlights the regularity and personal marking in French morphology, inviting further reflection on morphological legacies from Middle English (Jones, 1966). The paper also explores the cognitive and cultural mechanisms underlying noun categorisation, with a particular emphasis on grammatical gender as a structural element of language. It is observed that French distinguishes nouns by different definite articles (e.g., *le*, *la*), whereas English possesses only the definite article *the*.

On the syntactical level, the author also highlights the consistent necessity of subject pronouns in French (e.g., *je mange du pain*), contrasting this with Middle English, where the subject could frequently be left implicit. Furthermore, the use of the partitive article (*du*, *de la*) reveals yet another significant difference, as English lacks a direct equivalent, providing Palsgrave with an opportunity for metalinguistic analysis emphasising divergent ways of expressing indefinite quantities in the two languages (Scaglione, 1984; Stein, 1997).

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Annamaria Bartolotta (Università degli Studi di Palermo)

Nominal sentences and copula in the history of linguistics: the case of Aymara

Abstract

This paper aims to explore the notion of nominal sentence in the linguistic thought of missionary grammarians. This notion, which has been understudied in the linguistic historiography related to the early modern age, provides a better understanding of the interpretation of the concept of sentence in the Western grammatical tradition. In particular, I will attempt to assess the linguistic awareness of European grammarians about the existence of nominal sentences in Aymara, an indigenous South-American language. In fact, both ancient and modern Aymara show no verb 'to be' as it is conceived in Indo-European languages (cf. Benveniste 1960; Kahn 2003 [1973]). Consequently, both the existential function and the copula function are expressed through morphological and syntactic rather than lexical strategies. I will try to show how early grammars of Aymara (Bertonio 1603 [1596], 1612; Torres Rubio 1616), based on the traditional Graeco-Latin model, fail to correctly identify this phenomenon, which is known to be widespread cross-linguistically in current linguistic studies (cf. Stassen 1994, 1997; Bauer 2000). As a result, European missionary grammarians were forced to ascribe to Aymara a full lexical verb 'to be' that does not exist in that language (cf. Adelaar 2004, 2020; Cerrón-Palomino 2000). I will therefore attempt to show how both the existential function and the copulative function of the verb 'to be' in Aymara are the result of a grammaticalization process that gives rise to verbalizing suffixes, either locative or copulative, originating from spatial demonstratives (cf. Diessel 1999; Dixon 2003; Pustet 2003).

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Angela Bianchi – Nicola Santoni (Università degli Studi di Macerata)

***Searching for syntax: From the Italian and French grammatical tradition
to Port-Royal on the pathways of linguistic terminology.***

Abstract

The inquiry about the development of syntactical-grammatical terms and theories in Europe leads on a path which had its greatest moment during the XVII century in the School of Port-Royal. Nonetheless, another crucial phase has to be found in the late Middle Ages, when new rhetorical treatises quickly spread along from Italy to the rest of the continent, along with doctrines and terms they contained. The so called *ars dictandi* reaches France and the valley of the Loire since the XII century, and there it displays a peculiar attention towards grammatical issues, both macro- and micro-syntactical, bringing to the emergence of early syntactical theories with a reasonable degree of consistency and analytical attitude. A vast number of terms coming from these treatises can be put in relation with the key-concepts that the School of Port-Royal established in the Western logical-syntactical tradition, to verify, in an evolutionary perspective, whether the medieval circulation of grammatical ideas in France pairs with the early awareness of a syntactic level of language analysis. This work aims to investigate the relationship between the principles acquired through the fervent activity in Port Royal and the hidden cultural background on the topic, mostly represented by the rhetorical treatises about *dictamen*, which constitute a big part of it, and also a widespread genre in the late Middle Ages.

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Rolf Kemmler (Vila Real)

***Bento Pereira's Ars grammatica pro lingua lusitana addiscenda (1672):
A comparative glimpse into early views on Portuguese Syntax (1536-1672)***

Abstract

As is commonly known in the history of Portuguese linguistics, the Portuguese metalinguistic tradition started out with the publication of the metalinguistic treatise *Grammatica da lingoagem portuguesa* (1536) by Fernão de Oliveira (1507-1581), followed shortly thereafter by João de Barros' (1496-1570) *Grammatica da lingua Portuguesa* (1540), which constituted the first ever Portuguese grammar (in the proper sense) to be published in print. Even if the respective level of detail varies from work to work, there is not only a section on syntax in both works from the 16th century, but also in the two grammars of the Portuguese language that followed along the next century (Roboredo 1619; Pereira 1672).

In my talk, I will deal in particular with the *Ars grammaticæ pro lingva lvsitana addiscenda latino idiomate proponitur* (1672), a grammar of the Portuguese language in which the 17th century Borban Jesuit Bento Pereira (1605-1681) opted for employing Latin as a metalanguage. Among the [XIV], 323, [XI] pages of this grammar, the fifth chapter titled «Classis V. De syntaxi; & syllabi, lingue Lusitana» (Pereira 1672: 200-230), thus being one of the smallest chapters of this grammar.

Given that a special relationship between Pereira's Portuguese grammar and Manuel Álvares' (1526-1583) Latin grammar *De institvione grammatica libri tres* (1572) was proven by Schäfer (1993; cf Schäfer-Prieß 2011), this study will pay particular attention to the three previous metalinguistic works on Portuguese, as well as to other relevant contemporary works, such as Latin grammars or grammars of other vernaculars.

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Carla Prestigiacomo (Università degli studi di Palermo)

**Gramática castellana. Arte breve y compendiosa para saber hablar y escribir
en la lengua castellana congrua y decentemente: *between tradition and innovation***

Abstract

This study aims to offer new interpretative perspectives on the significance of Villalón's grammar (1558), a fundamental work for the birth of Spanish grammaticography.

Firstly, it reflects on the macrostructure, analysing the cataphoric function of the title and the goals stated in the "Carta para el licenciado Sanctander" and the "Proemio al lector" — texts essential for understanding Villalón's linguistic awareness (also conceived as linguistic nationalism) and for a proper reading of his work.

It then proceeds with a detailed analysis of the following aspects:

1. The metalanguage, with particular attention to the tension between the desire for innovation and the "impossibility" of a complete break from Nebrija and, consequently, from Latin. This section considers the first three parts (the fourth, highly detailed, is entirely dedicated to orthography).

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2. The innovative character of the work, especially evident in the author's linguistic awareness and his concept of language, language understood as a tool of communication in which the speaker and their goals can play a crucial role in the construction of statements.

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Thursday, May 29th 2025

Otto Zwartjes (Université Paris-Cité / Laboratoire Histoire des Théories Linguistiques)

The Jesuit description of nominalizations in Uto-Aztec languages (17th-18th centuries)

Abstract

In the Northeast of New Spain (Mexico), there is a notable tradition of Jesuit grammars describing Uto-Aztec languages, including Tarahumara, Opata, Eudeve, Pima (Néville), Teguima, Tepehuan, Cora, and Hegue. This body of work can be considered a relatively independent "school" for several reasons.

In the tradition of pre-modern grammars of Spanish, as well as other European languages, we find scarcely any in-depth analysis of syntactic structures, particularly when it comes to non-finite clauses and their usage, as well as when and when not to use them. When we say, for example "*Quiero comprar este libro*", the subject of *quiero* ("I") is also the implied subject of *comprar* ("I want to buy"). The infinitive *comprar* is considered a **non-finite clause**, which usually cannot have its own subject overtly specified in Spanish. When two different actors are involved, such as in "*Quiero que compres este libro*" (I want you to buy this book), a finite subordinate clause with the subjunctive mood is required. Here, the verbs *quiero* and *compres* each have their own subjects. The embedded clause (*que compres este libro*) is now a finite clause introduced by the complementizer *que*, which allows for the explicit expression of a different subject. In Spanish, the infinitive cannot carry tense or subject agreement. Therefore, when two different subjects are required, an infinitive is ungrammatical because it cannot independently assign case to its own subject. A finite clause (with a subjunctive verb) is necessary to introduce the second subject.

It is notable that this corpus devotes relatively significant attention to the equivalents in these Uto-Aztec languages of what in Spanish is expressed with a non-finite form (the *infinitivo*) and the embedded structures introduced by conjunctions such as *como* and *que*. The authors make a clear distinction between constructions with one *supuesto*, from Latin, "suppositum" (=subject) and those with two *supuestos*. Languages like Pima (Néville), for instance, uses nominalized clauses, i.e. nominalizations, using "verbs acting like nouns" to create embedded structures. Here, the so-called "romances" are used as source language (romances, such as "pintara, pintaría, pintase, haber de pintar", followed by translations, starting from the Spanish "*si, como, antes, después, cuando, aunque, porque*"), followed by examples where there is "*un supuesto*", and others with "*dos supuestos*, (also with gerunds with "*dos supuestos*"), (39-40), as in "*Estando tú pintando, o estando pintando mi casa, llegó él*", which is a common practice in the Jesuit grammars of the North-West. Constructions of the type *volo ambulare* and *volo te ambulare* (accusative + infinitive), or Spanish "*si lo hago, estaré contento*" versus "*si lo hago bien, estarás content*" are meticulously described and analyzed.

I shall first delve into the history of the concept of "suppositum/ *supuesto*" in the grammatical tradition, and secondly, I shall focus on the origin and evolution of this particular phenomenon in this corpus of Jesuit descriptive grammars.

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Michele Longo (Università degli Studi di Palermo)

The Development of Metalanguage in Icelandic Grammars of the 17th Centuries

Abstract

The linguistic production of medieval Iceland includes four grammatical treatises written between the 12th century and the mid-14th century (Raschellà 2007). A distinctive feature of these works is the absence of morphological and syntactic analysis, as they primarily focus on phonetic description and rhetorical figures (Raschellà 2018). The following period (15th–16th centuries) lacks any significant linguistic production. Systematic studies of Icelandic morphology and syntax only emerge in the 17th and 18th centuries, with the appearance of the first Icelandic grammars written in Latin (Jónsson 1933). The earliest of these is *Grammatica Islandice Rudimenta* (1651) by Runólfur Jónsson (1620–1654) (Hovdhaugen 1987).

This study aims to examine the relationship between this grammar and medieval linguistic treatises to identify possible elements of continuity or rupture in the development of Icelandic grammatical thought (White 1983). By comparing the two periods, this research will assess whether 17th-century grammars inherited concepts and structures from medieval treatises or instead marked a clear break in Icelandic linguistic tradition.

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Diego Poli (Professore Emerito, Università degli Studi di Macerata)

Universal and particular in the linguistic speculation of the Society of Jesus

Abstract

The didactic text elaborated by the Irish Jesuit William Bathe is grounded on the linguistic universalism which makes it the most suitable for the learning of all languages having a common grammatical functioning. Bathe developed an inductive project of multiple lexical learning, juxtaposing on parallel columns phrases selected for frequency of use and thematic relevance composed on a basic lexicon of 5300 words, which is taken from Ambrogio Calepino's *Dictionarium* (1502), to be memorized according to the technique of "imagines et loci". Bathe's proposal is taken up by the Portuguese Father Amaro de Roboredo (*Methodo...*, Lisboa 1619, *Porta...*, 1623) who provides his own version. On the material presented by Bathe, Roboredo combines rationalism with experimentalism, and his speculation goes beyond the application to phrasal corpora. He operates with the conviction that underlying all languages is the existence of the same active natural pattern in a sequence of possible concatenations. Inserted in the Humanistic-Renaissance perspective of the search for characters of universal validity, and looking to Francisco Sánchez de las Brozas, Roboredo, in considering grammar a *scientia* belonging to the order *naturalis* and endowed with a series of universal norms, distinguishes it from the *artificialis*, deputed to the elaboration of the descriptive techniques of each individual vernacular language.

The universal perspective provides the justification for the multiplicity and variety of usage proper to speech, along with the skills and phonetic execution aimed at grasping language as a derivative of rhetorical valences, *opus*, in the order of an *oratio figurata*. Preordained with respect to this plan, there is the *ratio*, as the logical apparatus of the dynamic principles of *grammatica naturalis*. Still in the Company of Jesus, with respect to these two experiments, there are the grammars not designed to be the subject of speculative analysis, but rather to be intended for didactics. In them, the collection of corpora of linguistic material entails adherence to the aspect of use as pragmatics of concrete action in communicative situations.

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Stefano Corno (Université Lumière Lyon2 – UMR 5189)

Describing a local language: the grammaticography of Griko

Abstract

In the South of Italy there are two allophone communities speaking a Greek language: one in Calabria, the other in Puglia. Both of them are made up of a small group of more or less ten villages which have been trying to maintain their idiom in the surrounding Italian speaking area. The origin of these communities is not clear: the presence of a Greek speaking area in Italy has been a source of fascinating suggestions about the remains of a sort of « Homeric Greek » in Italy and a lot of folkloristic representations animated the description of that language, called sometimes *griko*, sometimes *grecanico*.

Since the end of the XIXth century, linguists have tried to give a description of the phonetic and morphologic characteristics of these dialects and of their vitality. Later, passing through the discouraging linguistic policy under fascism and emigration after the second World War which hit the population of this area, *griko* experienced a re-birth also thanks to the attempts at describing the language, in a not always serious way.

This paper's purpose is to give an overview of the different kinds of grammars, from the first one by Morosi in 1870 and Pellegrini in 1880, to the more recent descriptions. With the remarkable exception of the grammar of Rohlf's, studies and grammars of *griko* are mostly written by Italian and Greek linguists: we will see how these grammars resort to metalinguistic criteria to give a status of a standard language to the different spoken dialects of those communities. Furthermore, we will see the role of bilingual grammars in the grammaticography of *griko*.

Edoardo Nardi (Università degli Studi di Palermo)

*Verbal categorization(s) in missionary grammars
of South American languages (16th-17th century): verbal valency and transitivity*

Abstract

The categorization of verbs in the western grammatical tradition is mainly grounded on a classificatory framework that distinguishes five *genera verborum* 'types of verbs', based on morphological, semantic and syntactic properties of the predicates (namely, whether the verb exhibits active or passive endings, whether it denotes *actio* or *passio*, and whether it can be transformed into a passive): *activus* 'active', *passivus* 'passive', *neuter/neutralis* 'neuter', *communis* 'common' and *deponens* 'deponent' (Colombat 2003, Luthala 2020). This theoretical framework was provided by Priscian, but it was inherited and variously re-elaborated by later grammarians, from Late Antiquity to, at least, the 18th century. While the morphological, semantic and syntactic traits are equally relevant to the classification of predicates in Priscian and the medieval grammars,

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since the Renaissance (including the missionary tradition), the categorization becomes more built around syntactic aspects, transitivity and/or verbal valency in particular (in the sense of Tesnière 1959).

This classificatory framework, its historical developments and its potential relations to more recent linguistic categorization(s) have been hardly investigated in modern scholarship. So far, besides brief and sporadic mentions in a few works (Rodrigues 1997: 384–385, Calvo Pérez 2000: 147, Zwartjes 2011: 174), the only study that tackles the categorization at issue is Launey (1997), in which the author analyzes the metalinguistic description of the notion of verbal valency in four sixteenth/seventeenth-century missionary grammars of Nahuatl, wherein the grammarians refer to the terminological and conceptual classificatory framework under examination.

In this contribution, I focus on a few sixteenth/seventeenth-century missionary grammars of South American languages (Quechua, Aymara and Tupinambá), with the aim of 1) shedding light on the relations between the analyzed grammars and the earlier tradition; 2) accounting for the various re-elaborations of the inherited verbal categorization provided in those grammars; and 3) attempting to single out the underlying principles on which the classificatory framework is grounded, by interpreting the various categorization(s) in the light of modern linguistic categories.

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Castrenze Nigrelli (Università degli Studi di Palermo)

***Syntactic Metaterminology and Missionary Grammars of Quechua:
Between Tradition and Innovation***

Abstract

This study is my contribution to a broader research project whose aim is to shed light on the conceptualization of syntax in the Early Modern Age, along with the parallel development of related metalanguage, with reference to notions such as subordination and dependency. To this end, the study examines some works belonging to the so-called missionary linguistics, and, specifically, the first grammars of Quechua, composed between the 16th and 17th centuries by Spanish missionaries, both Dominican and Jesuits. The analysis focuses on the metalinguistic lexicon used by these missionary grammarians to describe adpositions and the government relation between adpositions and case-inflected nominals. In a peculiar dynamic, involving three languages (i.e. Quechua, Latin, and Castilian), the analysis of the terminological use of missionary grammarians shows, on the one hand, the legacy of the older (Greek-)Latin and medieval grammatical tradition; on the other hand, theoretical and terminological innovations prove that different missionary grammarians, influencing each other, distanced themselves from the earlier tradition, in order to describe linguistic categories and facts that are partly new and far from their linguistic competence (cf., among others, Gray 2000; Van Loon & Peetermans 2020; Bartolotta 2022).

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