

English abstracts

Andreu Bauçà i Sastre

The *Diathesis*: Concept, form and uses in the Romance languages

The characterisation of *Proto-Indo-European* as a *synthetic language*, where the semantic features of the performance of the process within the same *agent/causer* (or at least in a background narrowly related to it) is morphologically materialised by the use of various verbal affixes, clearly distinguishable, enhances the idea that the *voice (sic)*, even in the mother of all modern Romance languages, was a fully outstanding concept: active (in the cases of an outer agent together with a \emptyset morpheme) and *middle* (in the opposite case and with a $-r$ morpheme) (Benveniste 1966).

Its further evolution, from Latin to the different Romances, of a set of varied features mainly *analytic*-based will cause the question about the current *relevance/importance* of the voice as a grammatical category to arise: is it still possible to treat about *voices*? And if it is, how could it be (re)defined and with which uses and forms should it be manifested?

Keywords: Diathesis, voice, verbal category, active, passive, middle, ergative, impersonal.

Francesc González i Planas

Syntactic behaviour of the pronominal clitics in Asturian-Leonese

This paper is placed in the framework of the comparative grammar of Romance languages, being its aim to describe the placing of pronominal clitics in Asturian-Leonese in contrast to standard Galician and European Portuguese. The description of the performance of clitics in these languages has important consequences for theoretical grammar, since it proves the validity of the theory of left periphery developed by Rizzi (1997), which allows us to consider preverbal subjects (non-quantified and non-focalised) as left dislocations (Barbosa 2000).

Keywords: Left periphery, null-subject parameter, pronominal clitics, Focus Phrase, Topic Phrase, Asturian, Mirandese, Galician, European Portuguese.

Claudi Meneghin

Rebuilding the Rhaeto-Cisalpine written language: Guidelines and criteria. Part I: ORS-Orthography

This paper is the first one of a series aimed at reconstructing a unitary Rhaeto-Cisalpine written language, including ISO 639-3 Piedmontese, Ligurian, Lombard, Emilian-Romagnol, Venetan, Ladin, Romansh and Friulian. We shall assume that, on the one hand, written language is (relatively) independent from its spoken counterpart; on the other hand, we will fully treat the Rhaeto-Cisalpine (or Padanese) system as a unitary one, belonging to the western branch of Romance languages. After showing that none of the current orthographies now in place can be extended to cope with the whole language, we propose to retrieve a medieval-like orthography (close to that of Subalpine sermons), in the same spirit of Alibert's for Occitan, Stich's for Francoprovençal and Hull's unified Padanian orthography. We yield a few examples of transcriptions of excerpts from literary texts.

Keywords: Rhaeto-Cisalpine, Padanese, written language, speech, orthography, western-Romance languages, ISO 639-3, Piedmontese, Ligurian, Lombard, Emilian-Romagnol, Venetan, Istriot, Ladin, Romansh, Friulian.

Peter Kopecký

The French language in Slovakia and its train of life

The battle of French and English in Slovakia after (1989) 1993 has been gained by English at both elementary and secondary schools. Not only because of the powerful position of this language within the European Union, but also thanks to the automatic rush of Russian language teachers into English.

But an attentive observer will immediately realise that the quality of many of the recycled teachers «in just one night» is always deplorable, not to mention the funds «thrown through the window». The situation of the period after 1989 reminds us of the 50's in Czechoslovakia where the so-called Russian popular courses lasting a few months provided the listeners a privileged linguistic position.

Nevertheless, there are solutions. French can retrieve its respectable place in Slovakia through the joint efforts of enthusiastic people, the Embassy and the responsible officers for linguistic policy in Slovakia. The love for French is acquired at nursery and elementary schools. But such an obsession as the one stating that French turns up very difficult, especially its pronunciation, makes thing even more complicated. A certain amount of optimism is recommended

but not too much. It is confirmed that German moves back at secondary school while the interest for French increases. But at the same time Spanish gains ground in a spectacular way. The future depends on the reasonable and balanced decisions of the European Commission regarding language policies and on the efforts of the national ministries concerned (as for education, social affairs, higher education). Why not offering attracting language duets? For instance: just allow choosing combinations such as English-French, German-French and Spanish-French. But even here, a sufficient number of well-paid teachers would be desirable.

Keywords: Slovakia, French language, delicate position, lack of teachers and professionalism, inadequate remuneration.

Marilena Felicia Țiprișan

The destinerrance-hypostasis of the fantastic thing in the short stories *Distances* by Marcel Thiry and *Le bordéï des Bohémiennes* by Mircea Eliade

The starting point of our paper is the perception of the fantastic thing as hermeneutic tension, a search of the lost, transhuman, transliterary, archetypal, mythical of paramount reality sense in the profane reality which still preserves the ruins of the myths mutilated by the need for modern man to explain reality rationally. The fantastic thing is recognized, on the one hand, in the communion of the meanings, both antagonistic and complementary but at the same time returning to the initial, paradigmatic, crowned sense, since those are meanings appearing in the symbol; and, on the other hand, in the crowned sense towards which the epic scenario converges. Our paper is thus concentrated on the dynamism of the fantastic thing, on its unifying force of the oppositions as a source of ambiguity and tension, which become obvious in both works by Mircea Eliade and Marcel Thiry that we have analysed from this point of view.

Keywords: Hermeneutics, the fantastic thing, destinerrance, poetics of the double.