

Chapter 1 : Past, Present, and Future: An Italian Perspective on Time and "the Old"

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Ben Sutherland For parents raising a bilingual child, it may be interesting to learn that some famous writers, past and present, had a multicultural background and were bilinguals, and even multilingual. In some cases, their oral skills were not perfect but that did not stop them from developing a body of work appealing to readers worldwide. Russian, Polish and French. His parents die when he is a teenager. He goes to the south of France most of his acquaintances mention that his French was excellent and later on becomes a sailor in a British vessel. Eventually he would acquire British citizenship. His travels to Africa, South America and Asia as well as his life as a merchant marine gave him the substance for his many famous novels written in English: Throughout his life, Conrad had to deal with issues such as loss, being an outcast and belonging. He had success as a writer although writing in English was an arduous task, and he was aware that he did not sound like a native speaker in that language. Due to the Bolshevik revolt, the family goes first to England and then to Berlin – he keeps writing in Russian. In , he goes to Paris, where he writes in French and a first novel in English. In , he finally settles in the United States, a country in which he would enjoy literary success. He managed to keep writing seamlessly, adapting to the different countries in which he lived. This experience shaped him and provided the material for many of his novels. He grew up speaking both Spanish and English. What is particular about him is that he has written a series of novels 13 set in a fictional town called Klail. Some of the novels are in English, others in Spanish. He has received recognitions both from the English and Spanish literary worlds. She arrived to the United States in not knowing a single word of English. She taught herself the language by watching television and found freedom in writing her experiences in English. Her first autobiographical novel, *Red Azalea*, published in , was a bestseller. She considers that her writing style is simple for two reasons: To get a glimpse of her writing, read the following literary essay: As the previous biographies illustrate, it is more common that a non-native English speaker switches to English in search for a bigger audience, a better paying market or to adapt to a new culture. She has a doctorate in Comparative Literature. Her background is multicultural: Some of her stories can be read online www. I find a strong Japanese influence in her aesthetics. Melanie Taylor Herrera is a Panamanian bilingual writer. She writes fiction, non-fiction and poetry in Spanish and non-fiction in English. In English, she has been published in *Diverse Magazine* in Canada.

Chapter 2 : Italian Past Perfect Tense - One World Italiano

This inaugural volume in a new Legenda series offers an overview of current research in Italian linguistics by specialists in Great Britain. Topics range from the formation, present state and future prospects of Italian dialects, to the notion of 'standard' in the context of the European tradition.

Parametric variation Over recent decades researchers working on the Italian language have figured heavily in much of the generative literature, coming to assume a central role in setting and shaping the research agenda. One of the areas in which research into Italian has been particularly influential is the investigation of linguistic parameters. While neighbouring dialects tend to be closely related to each other, manifestly displaying in most cases a high degree of structural homogeneity, they do none the less often diverge minimally in significant and interesting ways which allow the linguist to isolate and observe what lies behind surface differences in particular parametric settings across a range of otherwise highly homogenized grammars. By drawing on such microvariation, it is possible to determine which phenomena are correlated with particular parametric options and how such relationships are mapped onto the syntax. To whom did John give a book? For example, French and various other Romance languages forbid it. These languages would not have an applicative morphology either. Rather than having affix-like prepositions, they would instead have Ps which behave as full roots. Firstly, dative shift is not a Germanic versus Romance parametric option. Universals The dialects, like Italian, have much to contribute in the area of so-called universal principles of language, essentially a system of rules forming part of the genetic endowment known as Universal Grammar which are believed to hold of all human languages. A good illustration of the valuable role that the dialects can play in testing linguistic universals concerns the licensing of nominative Case. Nevertheless, the syntax of the dialects still represents a relatively poorly understood area of Italian dialectology, to the extent that there still remains a considerable amount of fieldwork to be done in recording and cataloguing the linguistic diversity within the Italian territory, as well as in bringing such facts to the attention of the wider linguistic community. Keeping the technical detail to a minimum, we shall discuss a number of issues relating to the syntax of the dialects under the related headings of myths and mysteries. Under the former heading we shall review several so-called universal principles of language structure that have been proposed in the literature, demonstrating how in the specific cases examined the Italian dialect data contradict such principles, rendering them either invalid or in need of further elaboration. Under the heading of mysteries, by contrast, we shall bring to light some of the less familiar aspects of dialect syntax which highlight how the extent of typological variation within Italo-Romance can be much greater than traditionally perceived. Adverb agreement The first myth that we shall explore concerns a widely-held view regarding the cross-linguistic behaviour of adverbs. Rather than being unconstrained, however, such agreement proves sensitive to specific syntactic configurations, as the following Cosentino examples amply illustrate: PL PA the children. In the remaining examples, on the other hand, the adverb displays agreement. Cliticization Let us now turn to our first mystery regarding the syntactic behaviour of clitic object pronouns. More notably, however, such structures also tell us something about the variable behaviour of cliticization in Romance and, in particular, at what point in the derivation clitics actually attach to their associated verbal hosts. Standardly, in both sentences it would be assumed that the clitic *mi* has cliticized to the verb *conosce*. Verb movement and cliticization Verb movement Cliticization Cosentino low high Italian high low? As a consequence of the interaction of the respective high and low specifications of verb movement and cliticization, syntactic cliticization is therefore always guaranteed to occur in the overt syntax in Italian. In Cosentino, by contrast, cliticization generally takes place in the covert syntax namely, at Logical Form on account of the fact that, in the unmarked case, finite verbs target a position below the VP adverb space in the overt syntax. In conclusion, our examination of the facts regarding cliticization in southern Italian dialects has been shown, not only to reveal significant new insights into cliticization in standard Italian, but also to provide us with the basic ingredients for constructing a valid typology of Romance cliticization in terms of two simple binary parameters. In Italian both null expletives and null referential pronouns are allowed, whereas in English both types of null pronoun are excluded. At the same time, however, the overt

expletives of southern Italian dialects cannot be equated tout court with those of languages like English and French in view of the marked pragmatic functions of the former and the purely syntactic nature of the latter.

Subjunctive usage We now turn to our second mystery, namely subjunctive usage in southern Italy, a topic which continues to elude Italian dialectologists on many fronts. In the present tense, at least, selection of the indicative reflects the absence from the relevant dialects of a morphological present subjunctive. Although, admittedly, there is some truth to these statements in that the now defunct present subjunctive is replaced by the present indicative or the imperfect subjunctive, these descriptions of subjunctive usage are still far off the mark. It is not the case that where we should expect a present subjunctive in Italian, we indiscriminately find either a present indicative or imperfect subjunctive in the dialects. Similarly, although these dialects do have an imperfect subjunctive verb form, it too is frequently replaced by the imperfect indicative. Instead, what we find is a much more complex distribution of indicative and subjunctive forms, which we cannot yet claim to fully understand or to be able to do justice to in this short discussion. Firstly, there are verbs, typically those of propositional attitude, which, contrary to their Italian congeners cf. *The implication here is that Luca may eat an apple or something entirely different everyday, the choice being determined by the person left in charge of him.* In short, the use of the indicative in such examples marks the expected realization of the denoted condition, while the subjunctive expresses the result of a presently unfulfilled condition. To conclude our discussion of the subjunctive, it is interesting to note that southern Italian dialects also present a formal aspectual distinction within the subjunctive mood, which again is simply neutralized in Italian. We conclude therefore that the choice of imperfect subjunctive marks the realization of the event, whereas the pluperfect subjunctive signals that the event never took place.

Asyndetic complementation For our final myth we turn to the relationship between hypotaxis and parataxis. Traditionally, linguists have assumed as a universal principle that hypotaxis develops out of parataxis but that the reverse development, namely the change from hypotaxis to parataxis, does not occur. Romance reflexes of QUID, which originally functioned as cataphoric markers of a loosely adjoined clause within a paratactic structure. Significantly, however, Neapolitan would appear to present a strong counter-argument to this widely-held view. Firstly, they are restricted to the imperative mood, whereas in many other southern dialects, notably Calabrian, they occur equally in indicative contexts. Finally, although clitic pronouns in positive imperatives invariably attach enclitically to their verbal host cf. *Indeed, such a reanalysis of the SFI as an imperative appears to have happened among most speakers, leading to the subsequent loss of the infinitival marker a and resultant asyndetic structure cf. Indeed, the imperatival status of the SFI is confirmed in modern Neapolitan by the fact that, where metaphonetic second person singular imperatival forms have emerged, these too can now appear alongside of the original non-metaphonetic forms cf. The exceptional behaviour of clitic pronouns in asyndeton observed above thus represents the resolution of a conflict between an original non-finite infinitival syntax and an incipient finite asyndetic syntax. Specifically, at some point the ambiguous second verb form is reanalysed as intermediate between a non-finite specialized infinitival form and a second person singular imperative, before ultimately emerging unequivocally as an imperative, witness the appearance of metaphony. Nonetheless, such verb forms have not entirely jettisoned all their original infinitival properties and may to some extent still be considered a hybrid of both verbal categories. From this perspective, the loss of clitic climbing can be viewed as a concomitant of the incipient imperatival interpretation of the second verb form, since all finite verb forms block restructuring cf. We conclude therefore that a necessary condition for the genesis of the asyndetic construction is the formal homophony of the SFI with another finite verbal expression. Based on the strength of the Neapolitan data briefly reviewed above, we are forced to admit a much more fluid relationship between parataxis and hypotaxis than has been traditionally assumed. In particular, the genesis of the Neapolitan asyndetic structure has been demonstrated seriously to impugn the so-called Parataxis Hypothesis, highlighting how the development from parataxis to hypotaxis, while undeniably extremely common cross-linguistically, is not necessarily a unidirectional development. Indeed, we have observed how a number of structural properties of Neapolitan asyndeton, otherwise inexplicable from a synchronic perspective, only become transparent once we recognize the hypotactic origin of asyndetic complementation. In its first use, the double compound paradigm occurs in subordinate clauses as an optional mark of perfective aspect in anterior*

relative time contexts, thereby restoring a fundamental aspectual distinction of the Latin verbal system otherwise neutralized in most Romance languages: First, in southern dialects the double compound paradigm does not survive beyond the fifteenth century, where it already appears to represent a peripheral paradigm of the core verbal system. In this respect the double compound forms of old Neapolitan contrast with those of other Romance varieties, where it is precisely with verbs that take the HAVE auxiliary that the double compound form proves most appropriate. Conclusion Although the discussion has admittedly been limited to only a few, albeit random, examples from the dialects of southern Italy, the data considered here make a strong case for attributing greater importance to the study of dialect syntax which, by broadening the empirical domain of inquiry, can frequently shed new light on key theoretical issues. Indeed, data like those examined above offer a range of new and very different syntactic phenomena than those which originally motivated the various theories they test and challenge. It is clear therefore that we cannot afford to ignore the evidence of lesser known linguistic varieties like southern Italian dialects, for they have an important role to play in providing a more comprehensive picture of the full extent of typological variation both within and outside Italo-Romance. Aspects of Verb Syntax Turin: Luigi Burzio, Italian Syntax: A Government-Binding Approach Dordrecht: Guglielmo Cinque, Adverbs and Functional Heads: A Cross-Linguistic Perspective Oxford: Configuration, Parameters and Empty Categories Cambridge: Martin Maiden and Mair Parry London: A Minimalist Approach Oxford: Inflected infinitives are also attested elsewhere in Romance, namely Portuguese, Galician and medieval Leonese. Christiane Laeuffer and Terrell Morgan Amsterdam: See the studies by F. Note that final inflectional [-] and [-a] of the feminine plural and the so-called neuter are simply phonetic variants. Grammatical Categories and the Lexicon, ed. Artemis Alexiadou, Adverb Placement: Giuliano Bernini et al. Gerhard Rohlfs, Grammatica storica della lingua italiana e dei suoi dialetti: In early Neapolitan, for instance, "mente adverbs abound alongside simple adjectival forms, e. Libro de la destructione de Troya: Nicola De Blasi Rome: The possibility of Tuscan literary influence can be confidently excluded in such cases, given the absence of syncope of finale -e in those formations whose adjectival stem ends in a liquid: For detailed discussion, see Cinque, Adverbs. Noam Chomsky, Lectures on Government and Binding: The Pisa Lectures Dordrecht: See also Pirro Bichelli, Grammatica del dialetto napoletano Bari: See Francesco Scerbo, Studio sul dialetto calabro con dizionario Bologna: It should be noted however that expletives in non-standard varieties of French also display a variable behaviour. See also Gerhard Rohlfs, Grammatica storica della lingua italiana e dei suoi dialetti: Il romanzo di Francia:

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