

Preface

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Theoretical Analyses on Romance Languages: Selected papers from the 26th Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages (LSRL XXVI), Mexico City, 28–30 March, 1996

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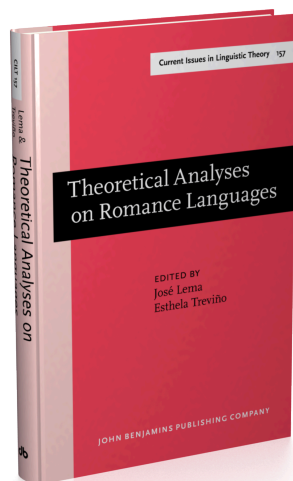
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PREFACE

This volume offers a selection of works presented at the *XXVI Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages*, celebrated at *La Casa de la Primera Imprenta de América*, of the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Iztapalapa, (UAM-I), Mexico City. In many respects, the XXVI version of the LSRL was a very important event. Being this the first time to be organized beyond the United States and Canada frontiers, it raised high expectations in the linguistics community, but most fundamentally amongst our mexican colleagues. Indeed, 130 abstracts were received, with topics on phonology, syntax, phonology-morphology, the syntax-semantics interface, language acquisition, and sociolinguistics. Unlike previous LSRL events, a high number of papers in phonology were presented, an area that has remained marginally present in LSRL tradition. Nonetheless, due to a rich set of native existent languages in Mexico, the phonology sessions had a great impact especially amongst the mexican linguists, but also among the general attending participants at the Conference. Papers on first and second language acquisition were also high in number according to usual standards, and we think that this fact contributed significantly to realize among the audience the importance of including in events such as this one, research problems directly dealt with from an acquisition perspective. We must acknowledge the fact that a most successful LSRL Conference brought about an immediate profit for linguistics at the UAM-I. We now know that the field in general, has also benefited greatly as students and scholars from other universities have become increasingly interested in our discipline.

Most of the grammatical phenomena dealt with in the articles in this volume are worked in the light of the *Minimalist Program*, the Distributed Morphology, and the *Optimality Theory* frameworks. These recent theoretical developments have motivated reconsidering known or previously discussed grammatical problems under what are felt as new and promising lines of inquiry. Likewise, these developments have greatly contributed to gaining new insights and better explanations for a wide range of phenomena. It was apparent from the diversity of the papers delivered, that these approaches are opening up new venues to inquiry, as well as exposing novel phenomena, which, no

doubt, enrich and widen our knowledge and understanding of language. The analyses undertaken in the articles here collected range over a variety of dialects of Romance languages: Spanish, French, Catalan, Italian, Latin, Aromanian and Portuguese.

We greatly thank the participation of our three main invited speakers: Andrea Calabrese (Harvard University, Latin Morphology), Richard Kayne (City University of New York, French Syntax), and Gemma Rigau (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Catalan Syntax and Semantics), as well as that of the other forty participants who visited Mexico City and the House of the First Printing Press in America. Unfortunately, we were unable to reproduce in this volume the entire conference; some articles have been left out by choice of the authors. The participating reviewers helped us organize a most interesting event, and its outcome, the present book.

We would like to acknowledge, for their unrestricted and encouraging support, the *Rector General* of the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Dr. Julio Rubio Oca; the *Rector* of the UAM-I, Dr. José Luis Gázquez Mateos; the Dean of the *División de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades*, Mtro. Gregorio Vidal. We must also thank for their technical and moral support, Patricia Reyes, Isabel Almaraz and Blanca Moctezuma. We must credit Javier Torres Oyarzún for his expert and careful technical edition of the present volume; Karen Zagana for her many helpful tips regarding the publication; and Konrad Koerner for his concern in maintaining the present collection. Some of our activities were sponsored by the *Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología*, grant No. 400200-5-04545H.

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