

Introduction

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Romance Languages and Linguistic Theory 1999: Selected papers from 'Going Romance' 1999, Leiden, 9–11 December 1999

Edited by Yves D'hulst, Johan Rooryck and Jan Schroten

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INTRODUCTION

In the last decade, *Going Romance* has emerged as a major annual discussion forum for theoretical research on Romance languages, a worthy European counterpart of the older transatlantic *Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages (LSRL)*. The result of the combined efforts of researchers working on Romance languages in the Netherlands, *Going Romance* was held at various locations in the Netherlands over the years, alternating every other year with Utrecht University. The organization committee decided that the thirteenth anniversary of the conference was a timely occasion to start publishing selected proceedings of the conference.

This volume brings together the selected proceedings of the thirteenth *Going Romance* conference that was held at Leiden University on 9-11 December 1999, including a one-day workshop on negation. The articles in this volume testify to the healthy diversity of the field: the variety of topics and theoretical perspectives represented prevent us from finding an overarching common theme in the fifteen contributions to this volume. Six articles focus on negation, the theme of the workshop, from various theoretical perspectives. Other topics investigated include Wh- in situ, free relatives, exclamatives, lexical decomposition and thematic structure, unaccusative inversion, and temporal existential constructions. Most articles are comparative in nature, and relate the different syntactic and semantic properties of both Romance and non Romance languages to principles of Universal Grammar. The languages investigated include Catalan, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and a number of Northern Italian dialects.

The contribution of individuals is essential for the organisation of any conference. The editors would like to extend their thanks to everyone who helped making *Going Romance XIII* a resounding success. The Organization Committee for *Going Romance 1999* consisted of Reineke Bok-Bennema (Groningen), Denis Delfitto (Utrecht, UiL OTS), Yves D'Hulst (Leiden, HIL), Jenny Doetjes (Utrecht, UiL OTS), Frank Drijkoningen (Utrecht, UiL OTS), Pieter Muysken (Leiden, HIL), Johan Rooryck (Leiden, HIL), Petra Sleeman (Amsterdam, UvA HIL). The Selection Committee evaluating some fifty abstracts comprised Francis Corblin (Université Paris IV), Denis Delfitto (Utrecht, UiL OTS), Yves D'Hulst (Leiden, HIL), Jenny Doetjes (Utrecht, UiL OTS), Frank Drijkoningen (Utrecht, UiL OTS), Cecilia Poletto (Padova),

Eduardo Raposo (Santa Barbara), Gemma Rigau (Barcelona), Johan Rooryck (Leiden, HIL), Paul Rowlett (Salford), Petra Sleeman (HIL/Amsterdam), Henriëtte De Swart (Utrecht, UiL OTS), Jeroen van de Weijer (Leiden, HIL), and Leo Wetzels (Amsterdam, VU HIL). The papers submitted for this volume were again subjected to an anonymous evaluation, and we are grateful to the reviewers for their diligent cooperation.

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The editors