

Preface

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**Studies in Romance Linguistics: Selected Proceedings from
the XVII Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages**

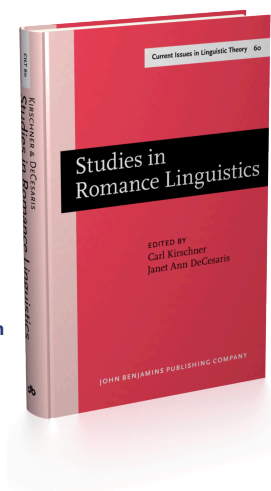
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Preface

The Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages (LSRL) began in 1971 as a small gathering of language scholars interested in the then emerging theory of transformational-generative grammar as applied to the Romance languages. LSRL has since become an annual meeting for Romance linguists, and each year it is hosted by a different university. This book contains a selection of the papers presented at LSRL XVII, which was held at Rutgers University-New Brunswick in 1987.

The papers reflect the numerous interests in the field today. A far-ranging amount of Romance data were present at the conference: French, Italian, and Spanish dialect data are crucial to several authors' arguments, Rumanian was the focus of two papers, and many of the papers included here discuss overall Romance developments. Although it is difficult to identify specific trends, it is noteworthy that formal approaches to syntax are now regularly applied to historical data; e.g., three papers specifically deal with pro-drop phenomena in Old French. Of the papers on phonology, syllabification and linking processes attracted much attention, and several authors offer instrumental evidence in support of their claims.

The papers are arranged alphabetically. Marianne Adams develops a theory to account for the verb second requirement in Old French, and relates the subsequent loss of V2 to prosody. Denis Bouchard analyzes null object arguments in French, Italian, and English to refute the claim by Rizzi that there is a fundamental structural difference between English and Italian in the licensing of null objects. Luigi Burzio examines several superficially different processes in Italian, and suggests that they are all due to the interaction of prosodic reduction and syllabification. Henrietta Cedergren provides instrumental evidence on rhythm and length variation in high vowel weakening in Montreal French. Heles Contreras, working within the Government and Binding framework, analyzes null N and N' in Spanish. D'Introno, Ortiz and Sosa present and analyze data from an instrumental study on the resyllabification of aspirated /s/ and velarized nasals in Caracas Spanish.

John Goldsmith argues for an approach to syntax involving the “complementizer signature,” with which he is able to provide a simple, elegant account of a wide range of data from French. Jorge Guitart lays the groundwork for future research on Spanish clefts by identifying their main characteristics and the basic differences between Spanish clefts and their English counterparts. James Harris discusses core syllabification in Spanish in relation to recent theoretical claims about syllable structure. Paul Hirschbühler shows that null subjects and postverbal pronominal subjects were not infrequent in embedded clauses in Old and Middle French. José Hualde, using data from several dialects of Peninsular Spanish and French, provides additional evidence for the hierarchical arrangement of phonological features. In a paper on the progression from Latin syntax to Romance morphology, John Joseph reanalyzes Fleischman’s typological analysis of the development of periphrastic verb forms.

Paula Kempchinsky offers arguments for a directional theory of government based on infinitival complements in Rumanian. Christiane Laeuffer discusses instrumental studies on the syntax-phonology interface, and claims that phrasal resyllabification belongs with the phonological rules proper and not with the post-lexical phonology. Patricia Lunn claims that the occurrence of the subjunctive in Spanish can be accounted for by a semantic analysis based on the notion “relevance.” Jean-Pierre Montreuil examines assimilation processes in several French dialects and provides further support for the claim that schwa is a null segment.

In a paper that follows up their work presented at the 1986 LSRL, Morgan and Janda report on instrumental studies that directly bear on musically conditioned stress shift in Spanish, and conclude that the syllable is the dominant unit of Spanish phonology. María Luisa Rivero, like Kempchinsky, analyzes certain characteristics of the subjunctive in Rumanian, and within the theory of barriers is able to account for the systematic differences between Rumanian and the rest of Romance. Nicolas Ruwet examines a large amount of data from French weather verbs in relation to their unaccusative vs. unergative nature, and concludes that in most of their uses, they are unaccusative.

The next two papers discuss the historical development of Romance phenomena. Mario Saltarelli claims that a shift in prosody alone cannot account for the characteristics of Romance clitics as opposed to their Latin counterparts, and outlines an analysis of clitics as inflectional parameters. Sanford Schane uses data from the evolution of vowels and diphthongs in

French, Italian, and Spanish to lend further support to the "particle notation."

Margarita Suñer examines the conditions necessary for clitic-doubled direct objects and Wh-extraction in several dialects of Spanish. Soledad Varela analyzes a quite productive class of noun-compounds in Spanish, and brings to bear new arguments concerning the morphological head of the structure. Referring to many of the same issues as Adams and Hirschbühler, Barbara Vance proposes an account for the developments of pro-drop in French in terms of a change in the parameter of adjunction. Dieter Wanner discusses verb position from a typological standpoint and in doing so brings up many interesting questions concerning the data base for historical linguistics. Karen Zagana compares the present and future tense morphology of Spanish with that of English, and proposes an account that incorporates futurity within modal interpretation.

LSRL has developed into a major conference in the field because the papers presented are consistently of high quality. Invited speakers at LSRL XVII included Henrietta Cedergren, John Goldsmith, Beatriz Lavandera, and Nicolas Ruwet. From the Call for Papers circulated in early fall of 1986, we received over 80 abstracts, 26 of which were accepted for presentation at the conference or as alternates. We take this opportunity to acknowledge those linguists who generously donated their time to help us evaluate abstracts: Mark Goldin, Jorge Guitart, Jim Harris, Jean-Pierre Montreuil, Donna Jo Napoli, Diane Ringer Uber, Ken Safir, Tom Stephens, Margarita Suñer, Tracy Terrell, and Dieter Wanner.

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