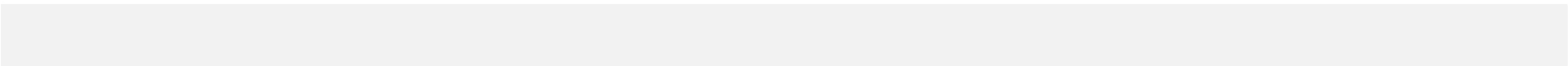


WOLFGANG DE MELO

Early Latin

Morphosyntactic Structures – Part 2: Nominal and Adpositional Structure



Indo-European case system

- Core cases: nominative, accusative, dative
- Special function: vocative
- Noun phrase level: genitive
- Adjuncts: locative, ablative, instrumental

Pl. Persa 259: *die septimi*

Latin case syncretism

- Faithful preservation of core structure
- Merger of adjunct cases

domino: *-od* = original ablative ending

consule: **-i* = original locative ending

dominis: **-o:is* = original instrumental ending

Latin ablative: traditional view

- Ablative in its ‘original meaning’
- Ablative in locative function
- Ablative in instrumental function
- Subcategories:
 - Instrumental falls into *ablativus militaris*
 - etc.

Latin noun phrases

- No articles.
- Agreement in case, gender, number marked on adjectives, pronouns etc.
- Genitives if agreement is not possible.

Semantic neutralization

Parentes filios amant.

Filii parentes amant.

Amor parentium:

Interpretation through context

Plaut. Amph. 1069: *erilis praeuortit metus.*

‘Fear of my master took precedence.’

Word order

- *Praetor urbanus; urbanus praetor; but no contrast : mi pater / pater mi, or mea uoluptas / uoluptas mea*
- Syntactic weight
- Diachronic shift

Dependent prepositional phrases

- *Anulus ex auro; anulus ex auro factus:*
influence of prescriptive grammar

Fossils

- Older ablatives: *praeterea, propterea*.
- Older word order: *quamobrem, quatenus*.
- Both: *quapropter*.