

WOLFGANG DE MELO

# Early Latin

Morphosyntactic Structures – Part 3: Predication



## Valency

- 0: to rain
- 1: to sleep
- 2: to hit
- 3: to give

NB: *lucescit hoc iam* (Plaut. Amph. 543)

## Problems with valency

- *Canere*: intransitive or implied object?
- *Aperire*: *aperio ostium* (object) // *aperit ostium* (subject)

Plaut. Capt. 831: *aperite hasce ambas fores* ‘open both wings of the door’

Plaut. Persa 300: *foris aperit* ‘the wing of the door opens’

## Semantic macro-roles

- Fairly universal: agent, patient, recipient, beneficiary, instrument, location, time

## *Donare*

*Marcus librum mihi donat. / Marcus libro me donat.*

*Amph. 260: ero Amphitruoni patera donata aurea est.*

*Amph. 137: quo pacto (Amphitruo) sit donis donatus plurumis.*

*Marcus sacellum Ioui donat. / ??Marcus sacello Iouem donat.*

## Promotion and demotion

- *Mary supports Jane.*
- *Jane (promoted) is supported by Mary (demoted).*

## The pragmatic side

- *John supports the Labour Party.*
- *??The Labour Party is supported by John.*

## Impersonal passive

- *Itur in antiquam siluam.* (Verg. Aen. 179)
- Demotion of vague agent.
- No promotion possible.
- But: *Salve. Quid agitur? – Statur hic ad hunc modum.* (Pseud. 457)



## Agentive and non-agentive passive

- *Marcus laudatur.*
- No agent expressed, common in all genres.
  
- *Marcus laudatur a Gaio.*
- Agent expressed, less common in informal registers.

Thank you!