From the Editor

The present issue of the journal contains the customary mix of articles in syntax, morphology, phonology, semantics and the lexicon, based on languages ranging from Italian and Romance varieties to Albanian and Chinese. The authors range from mature scholars to doctoral students affiliated with the University of Florence, other Italian universities and European universities.

The issue opens with work by Manzini, Lorusso and Savoia on *a*/bare finite complements in Southern Italian varieties. The on-line open access nature of the journal makes it possibly to present almost the entire corpus of relevant data in possession of the authors; only a few Apulian dialects are omitted as they exactly replicate already present data. These are fully glossed and translated in English for the first time. The second part of the article is given over to an analysis of the data that takes their biclausal nature at face values and devises a restrictive account of both their morphosyntactic characters and their interpretation. The article by Turano investigates a classical topic in Albanian syntax, namely the so-called subjunctive particle. By making reference to Albanian dialects she is able to show that clitic climbing can cross a particle, while on the other hand there are contexts without particles where clitic climbing is impossible. Therefore the possibility/impossibility of clitic climbing cannot be attributed to the absence/presence of the particles themselves.

The contribution by Franco takes us into the domain of derivational morphology, addressing the formation of so-called ethnic adjectives (adjectives designating nationality etc.). His basic insight is that the morphemes forming ethnic adjectives are a morphological counterpart of the genitive adposition 'of', sharing with the latter a common predicational content. The work by Manetti combines syntactic analysis and psycholinguistic investigation. Italian-speaking children (aged from 4- to 9-year-old) as well as adults are subjected to an eliciting task, set up so that they are asked in turn about the agent, the patient or the event as a whole. She finds that both children and adults prefer the use of null subjects when the subject is given, whereas they opt for a lexical preverbal subject when it is new information. Quite tellingly, children and adults sharply differ in the patient condition: adults opt for the passive, but children prefer the use of topicalized structures with an active verb and a clitic pronoun referring to the topic patient, thus avoiding the passive.

An important section of the journal is given over to studies in formal phonology. Molinu studies Sardinian dialects with debuccalization of /f/ and /k/ in simple onsets, where the latter is blocked in the clusters /fr/ and /kr/, i.e. in a branching onset. The author concludes that the debuccalization process is blocked when it violates principles holding of the structural relationships between segments of branching onsets. Canalis studies the Old Tuscan voiceless [ʃ] and voiced [ʒ] outcomes of Latin intervocalic sᴊ; these alternations between voiced and voiceless outcomes are notoriously difficult to explain, though lexical borrowing and other external accounts can be invoked. The author's insight is that the outcome [ʒ] is most likely when the following vowel is low and/or stressed. Finally, Lai's contribution considers phenomena at the phonology/morphology interface. Though in many Romance languages like Italian, clitics have no effect on stress placement with respect to the host to which they attaches, in many others enclitics do shift stress. Lai focusses on Sardinian which would appear to be unique in the Romance domain because it displays stress shift not only with enclitics but also with proclitics. Lai interprets this evidence as showing that clitic clusters (both in enclisis and proclisis) constitute a prosodic word of their own.

The contributions mentioned so far are placed within formal models of grammar. More traditional approaches are equally represented in this issue of the journal. Pignoli's article is a classical lexicological study on the names of climbing plants in *arbëresh* (Italo-Albanian varieties). The author identifies some common semantic patterns underlying lexical creation and provides new insights into Albanian etymology and diachronic lexicology. Vitolo's article is a dialectological study of the variety of Pagani (Campania), based on original fieldwork. Its aim is to describe the phonetic and morphosyntactic features of the language, to address the evolution of dialectal speech through the generations, and to investigate contact with neighbouring Vesuvian dialects, as well as the affinities within the Salerno linguistic area.

The issue closes with the contribution of Lepadat on the modal particle *ma* in Chinese, investigated from a semantic and pragmatic viewpoint. The study employs corpus-based methods in order to support the hypothesis that the particle is a marker of interpersonal evidentiality (IE), used to signal a socially acknowledged piece of information, playing a fundamental role in the expression of politeness by safeguarding the interlocutors' face. In short, the particle performs pragmatic functions close to the ones of discourse markers, playing a contributing role in the coherence of discourse.

In closing this issue, I would like to express my gratitude to all friends and colleagues who have contributed to the successful outcome of our editorial project, including first of all the authors and the anonymous reviewers. I would like to extend very special thanks to Dr. Rosangela Lai, who beside being a gifted young researcher in phonology, has also served as the de facto editorial manager of the journal, following every single step of the reviewing process, and especially the different phases of the production.

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