

## Abstract

This book gathers six studies which tackle several problems of Romance linguistics focusing on two theoretical orientations: the operative linguistics and the “linguistics of the signifier”.

The first study, "For an operative linguistics", analyzes facts of Romance linguistics basing itself on the postulate of operative time on the one hand, and on the cognitive patterns represented by the binary tensor and the trimorphic scheme on the other hand. We show the omnipresence of the latter in the Romance languages, and in particular behind several systems which have never been studied from this point of view. The second study, “On the linguistics of the signifier”, seeks to define and analyze an important current of French and Romance linguistics, which has never really been theorized as a whole and comes from different frames: the Psychomechanics of Language of Gustave Guillaume with the theory of the signified of power, the Cognematics of Didier Bottineau with the theory of cogneme, and, finally, the Phonosymbolism. All of these approaches fall under a similar hypothesis, according to which there is a motivational link between the signifier and the signified, and are part, as we show, of the same paradigm.

The following studies focus on specific points in Romance linguistics, and are therefore based on two principles: the operative nature of the genesis of the word, and the idea of a motivational link between the signifier and the signified, which can be as much a signifier/signified congruence as a direct motivation of the signifier.

The article "On the Neapolitan /KA/" describes the Neapolitan morphemes *ca* and *ccà* within the theory of the signified of power. The Neapolitan has the particularity of presenting a unique semiology for *ca*, which can be conjunction of coordination, conjunction of subordination or relative pronoun, and for *ccà* adverb of place. If for the various uses of *ca* the hypothesis of the same signified of power is consistent, on the other hand it is difficult to see what could connect *ca* to *ccà* adverb of place. We show however that the linguistics of the signifier makes it possible to preserve a unifying hypothesis also at this level. We study, in the article "On French and Portuguese demonstratives", the demonstrative in French and Portuguese from an operative and contrastive point of view. We reconstruct the ideogenesis of French and Portuguese demonstratives, and underline the specificities of each language. While French is characterized by a large number of demonstrative forms compared to Portuguese, Portuguese involves distinctions between forms close to the speaker, close to the interlocutor, and distant from the speaker as from the interlocutor, that French does not know, and which have consequences as far as operativity is concerned. The article "The problem of subducted adjectives in French and Italian" focuses on several adjectives that have the capacity to descend below their full meaning to have more tenuous meanings: the French adjectives *bon*, *grand*, *petit* and the Italian adjectives *buono* and *bello*, of which we study the movement of thought. We also offer some explanations for the fact that French uses many more subducted adjectives than Italian and, above all, than Spanish and Portuguese. The last article, "On the phonosymbolism of the vowel /a/ in grammatical morphemes of Spanish", shows that the phoneme /a/ has a very strong phonosymbolic basis in the grammatical elements of Spanish. The phonetic and articulatory properties of the phoneme /a/ make it possible to derive from the latter the ideas of size and distance in particular, which we find in many elements where /a/ is present, for example in the verb system, or in the system of prepositions, adverbs and gender.