

## **European and extra-European metalanguage and grammars: syntactic theories towards the concept of language in the history of ideas**

The framework of our research conceives grammar as a meeting point for knowledge and reflection on language, as a training ground for measuring metalinguistic awareness to increase the dimension of 'national language' as language of use and linguistic system. The period of study will be mainly the 16th and 17th centuries, starting from some premises rooted in grammars of the 15th century. We trace three main lines of research: 1. the elaboration of a specific metalanguage in grammars elaborated in a metalinguistic database, 2. theories and elaboration of syntactic concepts as a hidden inheritance of the medieval Modistae and grammarians, 3. their intertwining with rhetoric, pursuing the codification of the syntax of subordination from Thomas of Erfurt until the end of the 17th century. This connects the research with that of the PRIN 2001 on the development of grammatical concepts in Europe and the origin of the definition of subordination, continued in the research started in PRIN 2017.

The Verona unit deepens the studies of grammar and history of syntactic concepts in the Renaissance and 17th-century grammars, completing the investigation path on the origin and development of syntactic theories. In particular, the unit will deal with subordination, including the role of punctuation on syntax, as well as the study of the functions of conjunctions, participles and embedding structures, and of metalinguistic aspects. Furthermore, the study of rhetorical treatises is foreseen, which include theoretical parts on the structure and definition of sentences, dependent and coordinated. The Macerata unit mainly deals with the Port-Royal School, in continuity with the previous speculative reflection and with Modism, based on results and topics of the research carried out in Prin 2017 project, by continuing the studies on rhetoric that are intertwined with the research of the unit of Verona. In line with the contrastive studies between the Latin model and the Eurocentric grammar and its terminology -started in PRIN 2017- the Palermo unit deals with the study of national and extra-national grammars, in particular those of both educational and descriptive nature (for national and classical languages) written in the context of Jesuit proselytizing activities, as well as the more theoretical ones, which accompany the formation of the concept and linguistic (national) awareness that the Jesuits certainly supported. The research unit will focus on the systems applied to the description of the grammars of European languages, in both Romance (Spanish) and Germanic area

(Middle English), and of the first grammars of non-European languages, such as Quechua and Aymara. This line intertwines with the aspects studied by the other units, with the metalinguistic and theoretical innovations and peculiarities and in general with the grammars of other traditions and their influence on European ones, to compose the building blocks of the concept of linguistic awareness.