

typically result from the juxtaposition, with deletion of articles and prepositions, of two nouns or of a noun and a verb. As we could expect, the bibliography abounds in recent novels written in Spanish or French and translated into the other language. While it cites a number of book-length studies in general linguistics and word formation, there are relatively few monographs or articles in such areas as psycholinguistics or semantics. Thus, although it does not discuss all the research germane to its stated goals, G.'s book enlightens and instructs those interested in an overview of contemporary Spanish and French word formation.

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SKYTTE, GUNVER. *La sintassi dell'infinito in italiano moderno*. 2 vols. Etudes romanes de l'Université de Copenhague [= *Revue romane*, Suppl. 27]. København: Munksgaards Forlag, 1983. Pp. 579

In these two vols. S. aims to describe the uses of the infinitive in modern Italian. By "infinitive" he means that form of the verb which is untensed and ends in *-re*. S.'s work is, thus, encyclopedic in nature and, in my opinion, highly successful.

The two vols., consecutively numbered, form essentially one work. S. divides his material into ten chapters, the first of which introduces the kinds of questions he will address and his methodology. The remaining chapters cover uses of the infin., including: (1) vb. + infin. (with or without an intervening *di*, *a*, *da*, or *per*), (2) adj. + infin. (with an intervening *di*, *per*, *a*, *da*, or *in*), (3) noun (*sostantivo*) + infin. (again with an intervening *di*, *a*, *da*, or *per*), (4) infin. used as adverbial, (5) prep. + infin. (including *per*, *senza*, *tra*, *dopo* (*di*), *prima di*, *fino a*, among others), (6) infins. in subordinate clauses (including infinitival relatives, infinitival questions, and infins. in comparatives), (7) infins. as matrix clause verbs (including imperatives, exclamations, questions, among others), (8) infin. as appositive (including infins. following the copula in expressions of identity or equality), and (9) infin. as noun.

Each new topic is presented with initial discussion that goes over some of the relevant recent literature on Italian syntax and semantics and offers some of S.'s own ideas. Occasionally there is an overview of the history of a particular construction or use. These discussions are brief and, for the most part, uncritical of the linguistic literature and lacking in new insights. However, such overviews are not the major part of this work, which, instead, is a piece of descriptive linguistics and a very thorough one, indeed. The discussion section is followed by examples of each type of infinitive use. The exx. are given in schematic form (e.g. "*di*Inf + ogg.dat.," which means, *di* plus an infinitive where the subject of the infinitive is expressed as the dative object of the next higher verb) with attested sentences drawn from the works of Italian writers.

The prose works cited were published in the last thirty years and range from essays and criticism to fiction (including drama). The authors come from all over Italy and the registers of language vary enormously. This richness of corpus allows S. to consider stylistic, social, and regional factors in the uses of *infins.* beyond the syntactic and semantic ones which he had set out originally to describe.

The value of these two vols. lies, for me, in the variety and organization of the data. There are extensive lists (some may even be exhaustive) of verbs which make use of any given schema. The citing of examples from Italian prose writers with editions and pages allows one to go to the original sources and see the example in its discourse context, thus offering the possibility of analyzing the data from a number of possible viewpoints.

I do not mean to suggest that S.'s work is devoid of analytical interest in itself. He makes observations of serious theoretical import throughout the book. E.g., in his discussion of the causative construction with *fare*, he points out *exx.* in which *fare* is followed immediately by *essere*, although he notes that *fare* is not usually followed by either *essere* or *avere*. This observation is of particular interest because one of the explanations in the linguistic literature for the lack of *essere* in the so-called "passive" following *fare* (the construction in which *fare* is followed by an infinitival with its complements plus an agentive *da* phrase) is that there is some sort of restriction (perhaps a surface filter or some underlying constraint?) against *essere* immediately following *fare*. The data here show that this explanation is not viable. S., however, does not enter into a discussion of the theoretical implications of these data, although at other points he does consider the theoretical issues related to the data he offers.

In sum, these two vols. form a resource which offers great potential to the linguist looking at Italian. They are comprehensive and intelligently presented. A detailed table of contents and a thorough index of lexical items, concepts, and schemas assure access to their wealth of information. A summary, in Danish as well as in Italian, affords the reader a quick grasp of S.'s theses. This is a work which belongs on the shelf of anyone seriously interested in the Romance verb system.

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TUMLER, TILMAN. *Der Tempusgebrauch der Vergangenheit in der modernen italienischen Prosa*. Wiener romanistische Arbeiten, 12. Wien: Braumüller, 1980. Pp. VIII, 182

Questo libro si articola in tre parti, seguite da una conclusione. La prima parte esamina gli studi principali sui tempi del passato, nelle lingue romanze e