

RELAZIONI DI PERSONA NEI DIMOSTRATIVI: *ISTE* LATINO, VERSO IL ROMANZO (CON UNA NOTA SU *IPSE*)

Abstract

Latin has a three-term demonstrative system (hic, iste, ille) which, according to traditional analysis and current terminology, is person-oriented, with hic related to the first person and iste crucially to the second.

The Romance outputs, though different from one another, all attest to a drift of the descendants of iste to fulfill functions which had been covered, in Latin, by hic. A longestablished view considers this shift to be one link in a chain, which would have started with the substitution of is by hic, followed by the attraction of iste to the place left empty by hic; but the issue of how the second person demonstrative became a first-person demonstrative should in any case be singled out and explained.

As often happens, it is not possible to spot the exact moment of the change, but the Romance outputs appear to be rooted in the Latin diasystem and in its combinatory possibilities. Clues about the drift may in fact be found in uses which, though coherent with the Latin system, are open to the interpretation of iste as an emphatic alternant of hic: this value of iste especially emerges in anadeictic uses where iste refers to a portion of the discourse itself.

Discourse anaphora, via intratextual deixis, also turns out to be a possible bridge for the development of ipse from an intensifier into a demonstrative: as a means for recalling and emphasizing an element mentioned in the discourse, ipse easily slides into the typical thematising function of demonstratives.

A textual perspective may thus enlighten the delicate relationship between deixis and anaphora and suggests that it is worthwhile to query the often-presumed basicness of the former.