Preface

This volume contains six studies as elaboration of papers presented during a workshop at the University of Verona in 2016. It was a welcome opportunity to put together some of the few linguists who are interested in the history of grammatical concepts and in Ancient grammaticography, and who share an interest for syntactic problems. Especially the focus – not only on the awareness of parts of speech, but also on how these can function within phrases and sentences – gave us the possibility to start a comparison from different points of view (Ancient Greek and Latin grammar, metalanguage, rhetoric) and in different times (from Aristoteles to Priscian).

If the look at the alphabetic content of the authors seems to give an inhomogeneous picture we can draw an interpretation line, which allows us to share a common multidisciplinary interest in a deep interpretation of the Ancient linguistic thoughts, methodological approach, and in the syntactic and semantic aspects of language integrating the modern knowledge through the long tradition of the Classical studies.

Giorgio Graffi takes up again the very early concepts on which our linguistic knowledge is based, namely ῥῆμα and λόγος starting from the Poetics by Aristotle.[1] The concept of λόγος offers the context for the development of the syntactic structures, if we agree with its interpretation as "any form of connected speech", being our aim at describing which kind of connections could take place within. The ῥῆμα plays an important role in fixing the structure of the predicative connections, though the lexeme bears different meanings in the different treatises and contexts by Aristotle.

The contribution by Paola Cotticelli-Kurras, recovers the different interpretative steps of the two Aristotelian expressions λέξις εἰρομένη and λέξις κατεστραμμένη in the *Rhetoric*, tries to clarify some recent (re)interpretations of them as a forerunner of the concepts of coordination and subordination. In so doing, she analyses the sphere of the syntactic relations in terms of sentence dependence in Ancient Greek and shows how the metalinguistic terminology for the field of the syntax has been developed through time. The path of the interpretation of the metaphoric terms λέξις εἰρομένη and λέξις κατεστραμμένη used to define two different rhetoric styles leads through the Greek late rhetorical tradition until the Latin rhetoricians Cicero, Quintilian and Aquila, who elaborated the equivalent

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1 See also G. Graffi, "Sulla traduzione di λόγος nel cap. 20 della Poetica di Aristotele", *Athenaeum* 2015, 417–457.

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Latin terms of *apta oratio* and *perpetua* and *soluta oratio*. Her analysis points out that the history of the development of the grammatical and of the rhetorical sphere have gone separate ways with respect to the question of the syntactic structures, even if the former could have had a possible start in the Aristotelian theory of the composition.

Further terms that are connected to the syntactic relations of valence and argument structure have been discussed by Roberta Meneghel, who considered the possibility of drawing a line within the concept of "transitivity" between the Ancient Greek and Latin tradition, from Apollonius Dyscolus to Priscian. She investigates thereafter the verb classification according to their transitivity parameters and notes that Apollonius used two concepts διάβασις and μετάβασις 'transitivity', or rather 'passage and/or change', and some root cognate adjectives and periphrasis, while Priscian dealtonly with the term *transitio*, and the correlated adjectives *transitivus* and *intransitivus*, which are continuing the Greek term μετάβασις.

Stella Merlin Defanti provides a deeper analysis of the twofold Latin grammatical tradition of the interrogative and indefinite pronouns '*Quis vel qui*' established by Donatus, on the one side, and by Priscian on the other, whose origin in the Greek Ancient grammar came from Apollonius. The research covers the consideration of the parts of speech and their proper classification according to the functions, dealing with the special function of *qui* as a relative pronoun, clearly present only in the Priscian's tradition.

The next two contributions, by Stephanos Matthaios and by Antonella Duso and Renato Oniga present some considerations on the well-known and long-lasting controversy anomaly vs analogy within the grammatical tradition. S. Matthaios highlights that the Alexandrian grammar regarded analogy as one of the main criteria for the establishment of linguistic correctness, connected to the concept of *hellenismos*. He also underlines that Crates' role as an exponent of the Pergamenian current within the quarrel is not yet fully clarified and it is worthy the objections raised by some scholars against the historical truth of the dispute for their validity to proof. In opposition to the view of current research and especially of D. Blank, Matthaios' aim is to show that the analogy-anomaly controversy actually has nothing to do with the ἐμπειρία and τέχνη antithesis that refer to the methods and epistemological value of the ancient grammatical doctrine.

Antonella Duso and Renato Oniga, completing the picture by Matthaios, draw the Latin tradition of the linguistic quarrel starting from the first Latin grammarians in order to show how linguistic thought developed to an independent discipline. The authors, referring to Suetonius' *De grammaticis et rhetoribus*, can reconstruct how the *studium grammaticae* has grown through the different steps,

from Naevius, Accius, Lucius, via Aelius Stilo, considering even less known grammarians like Antonius Gnipho, Valerius Cato, and Staberius Eros. He was indeed an analogist who contributed to the definition of important concepts developed later by Varro, among them inflection, derivation and a possible 'intuition of the universality of grammar'.

Each contribution, although directed to a different specific topic, shares a basic methodology consisting in the deep reading and interpretation of the original texts, in appreciating of their philological position taking into the account the tradition of the development of linguistic science and metalinguistic apparatus. This operation might be very complicated, assuming the stratification not only of the text itself, but also in the history of the ideas and grammatical concepts.

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