

# **Interplay between reference and aspect in Old Romance**

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It has been established in the literature that aspect and referentiality are realized by different means cross-linguistically which seem to make reference to both nominal and verbal representations and which seem to be highly interacting.

As is known, languages differ as to the means they use to express reference and aspectual differences. On the one hand, most European languages use determiners in order to express reference and verbal morphology in order to express aspectual differences. On the other hand, Finnish uses case-morphology in order to express referentiality and aspect, the Slavic languages use case-morphology in order to express referentiality which seems to interact with aspect in the sense that there is a restriction to use Partitive Case with imperfective aspect. This happens due to the lack of an aspectual and a determiner system. As is also known, the means to encode referentiality and aspect are not only cross-linguistically different but they change over time. Old English had case marking, a reduced determiner system, no aspect morphology, whereas Modern English does not have case marking, but makes use of a fully developed article system and verbal morphology instead in order to express aspect differences. Latin did not have articles, but it did have a rich case system, whereas the Old Romance languages lost most case morphology and started to develop a determiner system and some of them verbal aspectual morphology (Selig 1992, Stark 2002, Fischer 2003). The goal of this presentation is to investigate the different means that are used to encode aspect and referentiality in the development from Old Romance to Modern Romance and to account for the ways reference and aspect interact with one another.