

Aspects on specificity and related categories in Sardinian

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Sardinian -at least outside Romance Philology- is one of the lesser known Romance languages, which arouse the interest of 19th and 20th century scholars because of its alleged status as an archaic Romance language. On the other hand, the synchronic study of the language system has only recently begun to be studied. In this paper, I will try to find out what effects specificity and related categories produce in this language and if there can be observed differences with respect to other Romance varieties. One of the issues to be discussed is the functioning of the prepositional accusative in Sardinian. In contrast to other Romance languages, this construction is mainly used with personal names, family relation terms and words denoting persons who are particularly important or respected by the community. It will be examined, among others, if this behaviour can be compared to languages which make a difference between something like [+/-prominent] by means of special specificity marking devices.