

### *Sardinian compounding with particular regard to the N-i+A structure*

Compounding seems to be a good point for the study of the interrelationships between all the levels of grammar as recent works have shown (see LIEBER & ŠTEKAUER 2009: 18, JACKENDOFF 2009: 106, BOOIJ 2009: 202). As a matter of fact, the study of compounds may stimulate us to find coherent solutions regarding crucial unsolved problems which involve formal (i.e. compound inflection, morphological head, constituent order vs. sentence order) and semantic (endocentricity/exocentricity, relationship with the external referent) aspects (SCALISE & BISETTO 2009: 34-35).

With our research on Sardinian compounding we shall try to contribute to the clarification of some of the above, mentioned controversial issues through a specific analysis of the N+A structure with the *-i-* link element (see Log. *ankilongu* < *anka* + *longu* ‘lit. leg long’).

In fact, as is well known, not many works have been devoted to the analysis of this structure in Romance languages mainly because the N-i+A structure is not so widespread in these varieties. At the moment, we know that it is still productive in Spanish (see RAINER, VARELA 1992, VAL ALVARO 1999, FABREGAS 2004), it should also still be productive in Corsican (see DURAND 2003), but we do not know if it is still productive in Southern-Italy dialects (see TELMON, MAIDEN 1997: 119). In our work we will see how the N-i+A compound is highly productive in the Central-Northern Sardinian variety

The initial synchronistic study of the phenomenon will be followed by a diachronistic one. The basic aim of the study is to understand the value of *-i-* through the comparison of its structural and functional position in different synchronic systems along the line of development from Latin to Romance languages.

ZAMBONI 1990 tried to motivate new research on this argument proposing new and original elements of possible interpretations of the *-i-* link element. Unfortunately, apart from the works on Spanish and some other theoretical interesting proposals (among others see RALLI 2006) we lack any systematic research supported by a consistent amount of data of the remaining Romance varieties. We should therefore, like to start to fill this gap with our work. Our current data have shown to be in keeping with Booij’s 2005 and Ralli’s 2006 theoretical perspective.

Our research is based on data from both written (WAGNER 2008 [1960-64], PUDDU 2000) and oral sources (field study) and the main operative steps can be resumed in the following points:

1. Draft of all Sardinian compound structure types (following the guidelines for the “CompoNet project”);
2. Distinction of different Sardinian structures with an *-i-* between the two constituents (see for example compounds in which the *-i-* is the outcome of a preposition: i.e. *alipedde* < *ala de pedde* ‘lit. wing of skin, bat’ vs. compounds in which the *-i-* can be considered a link element: i.e. *limbidentu* < *limba* + *tentu* ‘lit. tongue held, stammering’);
3. Investigation of the history of N-i+A through Sardinian documentation;
4. Investigation of the history of N-i+A through other Romance documentation;
5. Inventory and observations on previous interpretations of the N-i+A structure;
6. Proposal of a coherent synchronic analysis of the N-i+A Sardinian structure-type.

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