

# WRITING AN ITALIAN CONTRASTIVE AND CORPUS-BASED GRAMMAR: METHODS – DATA – PRESENTATION

Anna-Maria De Cesare  
Universität Basel

To this date, no real corpus-based grammar of the Italian language exists, i.e. no grammar – be it written for Italian native-speakers or for native-speakers of other languages, for instance German – can be said to base the description of relevant formal and functional linguistic phenomena on a representative corpus of the Italian language (one possible, albeit partial exception could be the very extensive Italian grammar for French native-speakers written by Jacqueline Brunet, which encompasses 17 volumes published between 1978 and 2011, and is based on a heterogeneous corpus of written texts). The goal of this contribution is to highlight the benefits of writing a corpus-based Italian grammar by showing how a certain number of shortcomings in the description of a group of marked syntactic constructions (cleft constructions and dislocations; on similar issues, see De Cesare 2014) in current non-corpus-based Italian grammars can be avoided. We will focus our attention in particular on Italian grammars for German native-speakers (see for instance Reumuth & Winkelmann 2001 and 2012; Hofmann Di Marzio 2008; Gorini 2013; Schwarze 1988, 1995). In the discussion, we will also underline the practical difficulties associated to writing a chapter devoted to marked syntactic constructions for a corpus-based Italian grammar for German speakers (availability of a representative, balanced and comparable corpus in Italian and German; creation of a sufficient corpus of examples of the linguistic phenomena under scrutiny; choice and presentation of complex and non-standard examples etc.).

Brunet, Jacqueline 1978-2011. *Grammaire critique de l'italien*. Saint-Denis: Presses Universitaires de Vincennes.

De Cesare, Anna-Maria 2014. Les phrases clivées en italien contemporain. Quelle caractérisation dans les volumes de référence de l'italien et quelle description à partir de corpus? In: Georgia Veldre-Gerner & Sylvia Thiele (Hg.). *Sprachen und Normen im Wandel*, Akten des gleichnamigen Kolloquiums vom 22.-23.3.2012 in Münster [*Romanische Sprachen und ihre Didaktik*], 201-216.

Hofmann Di Marzio, Anna Maria. 2008. *Italienische Grammatik*. München: Compact Verlag.

Gorini, Umberto. 2013. *Langenscheidt Standardgrammatik. Italienisch*. München-Wien: Langenscheidt.

Reumuth, Wolfgang/Winkelmann, Otto 2012, 2009. *Praktische Grammatik der italienischen Sprache*. Wilhelmsfeld: Gottfried Egert.

Schwarze, Christoph 1988, 1995. *Grammatik der italienischen Sprache*. Tübingen: Niemeyer.