Participles and nominal aspect in Latin and Romance

Eva-Maria Remberger
eva.remberger@uni-konstanz.de
Universität Konstanz

In my talk I will start from some analyses of the Latin perfect and future participles proposed so far. Relying on traditional historical studies, I show that diachronic developments can explain certain grammatical features also in synchronic morphological structure and that the development of the Latin participles can be modeled unproblematically in a DM-approach. I propose a functional segmentation of participles which concentrates on the interpretative value of the aspectual feature that is morphophonologically realised by -t-. I argue that this feature, at least in Latin, was still nominal in nature and that even in the Modern Romance languages this aspectual meaning of past participles can clearly be distinguished from what is usually called verbal perfectivity. On the basis of these results I will also discuss a grammatical split found in some Romance varieties, namely the partly division of labour between irregular, more adjective-like participles and regularly formed verbal participles.