The Active/Passive Opposition in Historical Perspective: Reemergence of Latin-Greek Deponent Verbs in Romance Languages

by

Dr. Darren W. Haney
Lecturer in Spanish Linguistics
Foreign Languages & Literatures

Latin and Greek had what are called deponent verbs, which bore the passive morphology but had no corresponding active voice. In the Latin-to-Romance historical continuum, the passive desinence was lost altogether, but evidence suggests that the phenomenon of deponency re-emerges in the form of defective diathesis (voice) in Romance, namely, verbs that occur in the reflexive voice only, or that otherwise lack a non-reflexive form that constitutes a true diathetic opposition of active/passive.

Wednesday, December 5, 2012 at 3:00 PM

Faner Hall 2083

Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures