

Foreword

by Gabriella Mazzon

This issue of *RHESIS – Linguistics and Philology* is largely devoted to investigations on the aspectual system of English. The main focus of the three related articles is on the pragmatic values of verb forms that are usually thought to have mainly aspectual functions, and all three papers are corpus-based studies.

The paper by GRANATH and WHERRITY focusses on the expansion of the type I'm loving it and on its communicative values (a preliminary version was presented at a small symposium on "The Pragmatics of Aspect" held at the University of Innsbruck in April 2012). My own paper investigates the so-called 'ALWAYS-progressives' in Late Modern American English, trying to pinpoint the iterative and attitudinal values of the construction (a preliminary version was presented at the Fifth Conference on Late Modern English, held in Bergamo in August 2013). The article by SENFT explores the distribution and functions of the perfect infinitive, a construction that is still relatively under-researched.

The issue is completed by an article by PIGA on discourse strategies in the promotion of European identity, and by a book review by GIULIANI that reports on one recent addition to the expanding field of sociopragmatic corpus studies.