

- PIRSON, JULES 1901: *La Langue des inscriptions latines de la Gaule*, Bruxelles.
- PRINZ, OTTO 1932: *De o et u vocalibus inter se permutatis in lingua Latina. Quaestiones epigraphicae*, Halle.
- PURNELLE, GÉRALD 1995: *Les usages des graveurs dans la notation d'upsilon et des phonèmes aspirés: le cas des anthroponymes grecs dans les inscriptions latines de Rome*, Genève.
- RODRÍGUEZ BELLO, BLANCA 2015: *The Regional Diversification of Latin. Three Methods Applied to Epigraphical Data from the Mediterranean Central Shore of Hispania and Tarraco*, in: *Anuari de Filologia. Antiqua et Mediaevalia* 5, pp. 15–26.
- SKOK, PETAR 1915: *Pojave Vulgarno-Latinskoga Jezika Na Natpisima Rimske Provincije Dalmacije*, Zagreb.
- VÄÄNÄNEN, VEIKKO 1965: *Etude sur le texte et la langue des tablettes Albertini*, Helsinki.
- VÄÄNÄNEN, VEIKKO 1966: *Le latin vulgaire des inscriptions pompéiennes*, Berlin.
- VON WARTBURG, WALTHER 1950: *Die Ausgliederung der romanischen Sprachräume*, Bern.
- ZAMBONI, ALBERTO 1965–66: *Contributo allo studio del latino epigrafico della X regio Augustea (Venetia et Histria). Introduzione. Fonetica (vocalismo)* in: *Atti Dell'Istituto Veneto Di Scienze, Lettere e Arti* 124, pp. 463–517.
- ZAMBONI, ALBERTO 1967–68: *Contributo allo studio del latino epigrafico della X regio augustea (Venetia et Histria). Fonetica (vocali in iato e consonantismo)*, in: *Atti Dell'Istituto Veneto Di Scienze, Lettere e Arti* 126, pp. 77–129.

Summary

IPSA LATINITAS ET REGIONIBUS COTIDIE MUTETUR ET TEMPORE. SOME METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS ON THE USE OF HERMAN'S QUANTITATIVE METHOD

This article discusses whether statistical analysis (as opposed to quantitative analysis) can be successfully applied to the study of diatopic variation in Latin (when using inscriptions). Section 1 introduces the methodological problem. First, previous research on the topic is reviewed, with particular attention to the quantitative method proposed by József Herman in the year 2000. Second, the limitations of this method (and of inscriptions in

general) are addressed in the light of the criticism made by James Noel Adams in 2007. In section 2, the findings of Herman (2000) on the existence of regional differences in the phonological system of the Italian peninsula are validated by means of various statistical tests. The results in this section suggest that the quantitative method proposed by Herman is reliable. However, they also suggest that this same method should be supplemented by the application of objective statistics. More precisely, one should verify that the observed figures differ significantly from the figures expected based on a random distribution. In section 3, the discussion turns to the use of “negative” evidence, i.e., the count of correct forms alongside the corresponding deviations from the “Classical Latin” “norm”. This kind of evidence is distrusted by Herman, but the statistical study in this paper indicates that even such evidence can be useful, at least in limited circumstances. Finally, section 4 draws some preliminary conclusions and clarifies the importance of the epigraphic sources for the study of diatopic variation in Latin.

Keywords: Latin inscriptions; diatopic variation; corpus linguistics; quantitative analysis; statistical analysis

ALESSANDRO PAPINI
Gent University
Department of Linguistics
Blandijnberg 2, 9000 Gent, Belgium
Alessandro.papini@ugent.be