

Abstract

The present thesis deals with the Latin non-verbal topic-introducing construction “Quid X?” (which is more or less equivalent to Czech “A co X?” or English “What about X?”) and with the question of its editing in the classical Latin Texts. The main hypothesis of the present work is that in the classical Latin texts this construction is in hundreds of cases misinterpreted as “Quid?” (the X-part being joined to the following sentence) which would make of this misinterpretation the greatest systematic error in the modern editing of classical Latin texts. The first part of the thesis presents formal, functional and historical arguments to support such a bold claim and describes other non-verbal constructions beginning with the word *quid*, which might be and in fact are mistaken with the topic-introducing construction “Quid X?”.

The inability of the modern editors to reliably distinguish between different non-verbal constructions is caused by several objective factors, one of them being also the fact that the construction “Quid X?” – quite extraordinary in several respects – is rarely and (if at all) insufficiently treated in grammars and reference books. The absence of the description of the given construction is itself, in turn, caused probably by the general underestimating and overlooking of small non-verbal (seemingly unproblematic) utterances for which there is no adequate space in the current methodological frame employed for description of the Latin syntax. The second and third part of the thesis, therefore, try to fill up this gap and supply a detailed description of the construction and analyze why such a description has not been given in the grammars so far.