

Abstract:

The present thesis is divided into two basic parts. The first part is theoretical. The theoretical part deals with category of tense generally and the situation of past tenses in three mutually connected languages, i.e. in Latin, contemporary Italian and the 14th century Italian as found in grammar books. The second part is practical. The practical part is an analysis of Boccaccio's Decameron, including the complex relation between *passato prossimo* and *passato remoto*.