

DELLA PUNTEGGIATURA (ITALIANA)

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ABSTRACT

The article deals with the role punctuation plays and has played in written texts of different historical periods and in different countries. After a short overview of various cultural European traditions, it concentrates on the Italian usage of punctuation markers and discusses two viewpoints: on the one hand, some linguists maintain that nowadays Italian punctuation is pragmatically oriented producing in a text particular information effects. On the other hand, the traditional position held in the Italian grammars is that punctuation has mainly a syntactic function that unites the parts of a sentence as well as the sentences in a text. The article tries to find a midway arrangement between the two opposite poles.