USI ILLOCUTIVI DI *SOLO*. UN'ANALISI SEMANTICA E PRAGMATICA

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ABSTRACT

This paper looks into non-focusing uses of the Italian adverb *solo* 'only'. Beside its prototypical use as an exclusive focus particle, the adverb has developed some secondary uses not yet discussed with reference to Italian: connective uses (uses as conjunctional adverb and discourse marker) and illocutive uses (use as a pragmatic marker tied up to fixed types of speech acts). Within our research the properties and specific features of the illocutive uses are described and a synchronic categorization is laid out. Some cases are also considered in a diachronic perspective, by formulating hypotheses about the patterns of semantic change which have led to the rise of the secondary uses of *solo*. From a methodological point of view, we used a questionnaire survey, especially for the detection of some uses attested in Piedmontese Italian, but not in other regional varieties. The data are discussed in the light of the theoretical debate about semantic change, grammaticalization and the categorization of pragmatic functional items.