

THE METAPHORICAL CONCEPTUALIZATION OF POLITENESS IN LATIN.  
EMBODIMENT AND SOCIAL RELATIONS OF DISTANCE AND  
SOLIDARITY

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents an overview of the metaphorical basis of politeness-related concepts and behavioural practices in Latin. The survey takes into account a long diachronic period (from early to medieval Latin), in order to identify significant evolutionary trends, and different levels of analysis (morphology, lexicon, syntax). The results of the analysis prove a relevant productivity of bodily-based orientational metaphors, based upon metaphorical oppositions such as UP/DOWN, BIG/SMALL, and PROXIMITY/DISTANCE.