

Linguistic Analysis of Demonstratives in Early Latin Fragments

This study examines the claim that demonstratives are used more frequently in Latin comedies than in other genres (Karakasis 2014, Palmer 1975), as well as additional hypotheses regarding the use of demonstratives within this language. Scholars have theorized that various demonstrative forms (*hic, ille, iste*) and syntactic roles (pronominal, adnominal, adverbial) are more predominant in one genre over another (Fruyt 2010, Himmelman 1996), and that certain genres more frequently apply personal (Bach 1888, Keller 1946, Meader 1901) or affective force (Keller) and multimembral demonstrative sets (Meader). Most of these hypotheses are supported through qualitative analysis of a handful of passages, and when quantitative data are provided they are usually limited to one author (Wayenberg 2011, Perdicoyianni-Paléologou 2006). This paper presents recent work that provided quantitative data on how demonstratives are used within the fragments of Early Latin authors. This work also attempts to utilize modern linguistic conventions in the discussion of classical demonstrative usage, reducing ambiguity of meaning and allowing for critical interactions between the two fields.

To provide this analysis, I created a corpus composed of fragments of Naevius, Pacuvius, Accius, Livius Andronicus, Caecilius, and Ennius. Plautus and Terence were excluded because their work remains in un-fragmented form and because they have already been the subject of qualitative demonstrative analysis. The corpus was then mined for occurrences of demonstratives, which were gathered and labeled according to author, genre, demonstrative form (*hic, ille, and iste*), and syntactic category (pronominal, adnominal, and adverbial). I also examined each demonstrative for affective force (derogatory, laudatory, or neutral), co-occurrence with personal pronouns, and use in multimembral demonstrative sets.

Within the works of the six authors included in this corpus, comedy contained the highest rate of demonstrative use, where 2.9% of all words were demonstratives compared the 2.0% found in tragedy and the 1.2% found in non-dramatic works. Additionally, all forms of drama had a higher rate of demonstrative use than was found in non-dramatic texts. Analysis of the corpus also provided support for theories describing the use of affective force with all demonstrative force and in all genres, the relatively low frequency of forms of *iste* in all genres, and the low frequency multimembral demonstrative sets within comedy. However, theories regarding the correlation of demonstratives to personal pronouns were not supported.

This study provides the first quantitative evaluation of demonstrative use for the often neglected authors of Early Latin. It also identifies those theories regarding demonstrative use that have more support within this time period, and suggests why these theories might hold true and how they might impact the overall demonstrative count for comedy, tragedy, non-dramatic works, or Latin as a whole. Furthermore, this study demonstrates that even in fragmented form, removed from much of the significant context used for interpretation, demonstratives still provide significant information on demonstrative use.

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