A featural approach to the diachronic evolution of Catalan minimizers
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In this talk I will provide evidence in favour of considering that an n-word historical evolution is conditioned by feature specification and by the possibility of licensing the corresponding formal feature under different operators.

To this purpose, I will focus on the diachronic changes that Catalan minimizers have undergone and will offer a detailed corpus-based description of the syntactic and discursive characterization of three different types of Catalan negative expressions (plat/poc ‘no’, pas ‘not at all’, gens/gota/mica ‘any, none, nothing) from Old Catalan to Modern Catalan to illustrate how their distributional behaviour and their licensing requirements have changed over time.

It will be shown that a formal feature can be responsible for the interpretation of an expression as a Polarity Item or an Emphatic Polarity Particle (with metalinguistic content).

Sources
[CICA] Directed by Joan Torruella, with the collaboration of M. Pérez-Saldanya and Josep Martines, Corpus Informatitzat del Català Antic: http://www.cica.cat/

References


