

The morphological and syntactic status of the analytic and synthetic future in medieval Catalan

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Medieval Catalan, like other medieval Romance languages, had two ways of expressing the future tense: the so-called synthetic future (for example, *menarem* ‘we will lead’) and the so-called analytic future (for example, *menar -la em* ‘we will lead her’). The goal of the paper is to investigate the morphological and syntactic properties of the synthetic and the analytic future in medieval Catalan. The main claim is that the two future forms are independent structures, not derived from a common syntactic structure, both are words, and, while the synthetic future is a word form consisting of a stem and inflectional affixes, like other tensed verb forms, the analytic future is a compound consisting of an infinitive, a clitic cluster, and a bound auxiliary. The presence of so-called clitics in the analytic future is consistent with the claim that the analytic future is a word, if we assume the affixal status of clitics in medieval Catalan, an assumption that is supported by abundant evidence. The analysis of the analytic future as a compound shows that compounding, though generally found in lexeme-formation, is a morphological device that can be used in inflection to derive word forms in an inflectional paradigm.