The Perfect Prosodic Word in Italian: Or fruit salad matters

Martin Krämer

Abstract

In this paper I investigate the concept of a Perfect Word by looking at truncated nouns in Italian. The perfect word in Italian is a bi- or trisyllabic trimoraic layered trochee, which is shown to determine the size of truncated forms and sometimes the size of the part that is deleted. The paper shows the usefulness of the notion of the perfect word for the analysis of truncations and provides further arguments for layered feet.