

P. Roelli - Abstract

In this talk I take a look at the scientific and philosophical Latin used by some European authors in China, especially when they translate Chinese texts into Latin. The main sample consists of a set of medical texts and another one of three Confucius translations. I will use the distribution of grammatical categories in the texts to try to group them. In a recent study I proposed a way to do this: I use some texts and groups of texts from my free and open full-text collection Corpus Corporum. All texts there are automatically lemmatised and PoS tagged. In order to know what is to be expected, I defined five large samples of non-scientific Latin prose texts from five important time frames. These can be compared to other texts.

For this talk, I digitised a number of texts related to the Far East, especially three Latin translations of the Confucian Analects (论语, Lúnyǔ) and a collection of sphygmological Chinese treatises published by Andreas Cleyer (Frankfurt 1682). The grammatical composition of these texts shall be compared to similar European ones. The translations are found not to differ much from other scholarly Jesuit Latin, whereas the medical texts do differ significantly.