

Abstract

The thesis focuses on the Italian Imperfect tense, and the main emphasis is given to its modal use. The first part of the thesis presents the Imperfect in its temporal use, then a limit between the temporal use and the modal one is set. The next part is completely dedicated to situations where the Imperfect attains its modal character. An important quality of the Imperfect tense is the imperfective aspect and therefore it is considered in the thesis as well. The final part tries to find an answer to the huge flexibility and such a strong inclination of the Imperfect to modal uses.