Grammar in the XXIst Century

José Miranda
Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal)
jabmiranda@gmail.com

Abstract

This project started in 2003, when we came across a book called La Grammaire est une chanson douce by Orsenna. The title intrigued us enough to want to buy it, read it and discover other books, authors and a different way of learning languages using other methods and supports, that we could consider innovative at first glance or even unconventional.

This was just the first of many books that we discovered and collected in different languages in the last few years, about grammar and linguistic issues and learning, e.g., in non-scholastic and non-scientific approaches, and which are, in the main, complementary books for students (and not only) to exercise, to read at home and when they feel like it, also in the internet, but which affect and complete the study of grammar in school and through life experiences.

This work presents part of a wider study on a significant number of French and Portuguese books from the first decade of the XXIst century approaching grammar issues in an unorthodox way: through poetry, novels, humor, theater, linguistic games, letters, essays, to mention just a few different strategies and text typologies, based on image and complemented in internet sites, used as sequels of the books, closer to their reader’s digital references. We would like to present two examples, a French and a Portuguese, of how this grammar study can be made online and its importance in didactics.