

Denis APOTHÉLOZ
Université de Lorraine & laboratoire ATILF (France)

La double appréhension du temps et la sémantique du verbe *vieillir*

The Double Apprehension of Time and the Semantics of the Verb *vieillir* (to age)

Tu le vois, le torrent ? dit-il. Mettons que l'eau, c'est le temps qui coule : si l'endroit où nous sommes, c'est le présent, tu dirais qu'il est où l'avenir ?

(Paolo Cognetti, *Les Huits montagnes*)

Abstract: The author addresses the question of the double apprehension of time (ascending VS descending apprehension), based mainly on the work of the linguist expert on Slavonic languages E. Koschmieder. The author argues in favour of a purely relational conception of this distinction and analyses it as a locating relation involving a *landmark* and a *trajector* (as defined by Langacker). This analysis is then applied to the meaning of the verb “*vieillir*”. The author shows through multiple illustrations that the polysemy of this verb can be explained by this phenomenon of double apprehension of time, and that there are, therefore, ascending and descending meanings of the verb “*vieillir*”.

Keywords: ascending time, descending time, locating relation, lexical polysemy, phenomenology of time, Koschmieder