Grave : de l'adjectif à l'unité résomptive
Grave: from the adjective to the resumptive unit

Irina Ghidali

Abstract: The aim of this article is to provide an overview of the uses of the word *grave* in present-day spoken French and to offer an analysis of cases where *grave* deviates from its prototypical function as a qualifying adjective. We will show which syntactic, morphological, semantic and pragmatic properties enable *grave* to become the trace of a resumptive phenomenon. This happens both in standard use, where *grave* is a prototypical qualifying adjective, but mainly corresponds to cases where it is the result of a process of pragmaticalization. In these uses, the meaning of *grave* changes depending on the illocutionary value of the statement to which it connects and becomes an expression of acceptance or assent. Our analysis will show how *grave* operates resumptive references to discourse, or how, in certain cases, it becomes able to take up the segment in its scope anaphorically.

Key words: discourse markers, resumptive, spoken French, adjective.