

---

## **The syntax and semantics of adjectives: A comparative view**

*Guglielmo Cinque (Università Ca' Foscari, Venice)*

Reconsidering my own earlier analysis, I propose that adjectives have two sources, entering the nominal phase either as “adverbial” modifiers to the noun or as predicates of reduced relative clauses. Some of this evidence comes from a systematic comparison between Romance and Germanic languages. These two language families differ with respect to the canonical position taken by adjectives, which is prenominal in Germanic and both pre- and postnominal in Romance. I show that a simple N(oun)-raising analysis encounters a number of problems, the primary one of which is its inability to express a fundamental generalization governing the interpretation of pre- and postnominal adjectives in the two language families. I will conclude by showing that the fundamental divide in the syntax of adjectives between a predicative and a non-predicative source is matched by the same divide in their semantics.