

Caroline Cowles



The Relationship between written Latin and the spoken language in around the third century A.D.

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My research is looking at the differences between written and spoken Latin in around the 3rd century A.D. and to what extent they were parallel, or not. This area of linguistic history goes in part to bridge the gap between what is often referred to as late or Vulgar Latin and the old European languages. For source material, my focus is on the grammarians such as Pompeius, Consentius and Servius, who give us an insight into areas such as accent, pronunciation and sound change, although through their own perspectives and limitations. I am also trying to investigate the socio-linguistic implications of Latin language variation in order to see if there is any correlation between language and other factors such as socio-economic background, and whether this was apparent to Latin users themselves, or if they had an impression of linguistic unity.