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Front matter -- Acknowledgements -- Table of contents -- List of tables -- List of abbreviations -- Chapter 1. Introduction -- Chapter 2. Origins, earliest attestations and forms of the Romance personal clitic pronouns -- Chapter 3. The theoretical approach -- Chapter 4. Pragmatic functionality of clitic order in fourteenth-century Florentine -- Chapter 5. The demise of the ACC-DAT order and the fixation of the DAT-ACC cluster -- Chapter 6. Conclusions -- References -- Index

Sommario/riassunto

This book examines the alternation between accusative-dative and dative-accusative order in Old Florentine clitic clusters and its decline in favor of the latter. Based on an exhaustive analysis of data collected from medieval Florentine and Tuscan texts we offer a novel analysis of the rise of the variable order, the transition from one order to the other, and the demise of the alternation that relies primarily on iconicity and analogy. The book employs exophoric pragmatic iconicity, a language-external iconic relationship based on similarity between linguistic structure and the speaker/writer's conceptualization of reality, and endophoric iconicity, a language-internal iconic relationship where the iconic ground is construed between linguistic signs and structures. Analogy is viewed as a productive process that generalizes patterns or extends grammatical rules to formally similar structures, and obtains the form of the analogical relationship between the masculine singular definite article and the third person singular accusative clitic, which shared the same phototactically constrained distribution patterns. The data indicate that exophoric pragmatic iconicity exploits and maintains the alternation, whereas endophoric iconicity and analogy conspire to end it.