

Grammatical terminology in Varro: loan words, adaptations, and independent terminology

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Just as grammatical theory came from Greece, so did grammatical terminology, whether through direct loans or adaptations using Latin lexical material. Varro's terminology is strikingly different from what we find in later grammarians. He uses Greek words sparingly, for the names of the grammatical disciplines, but also for some highly technical elements. For most concepts between these extremes, he works with Latin lexical material rendering Greek terminology. But the overarching principles of Varronian linguistics are not expressed through calques or semantic shifts based on Greek; here Varro's thought is as independent as his language.