

# SOME MODELS OF “UNDEFINED-PERSONAL” SENTENCES IN FORMAL LETTERS WRITTEN IN ANCIENT SPANISH

**Svetlana Bezus<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Ph.D. in Pedagogy, Associate Professor, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Northern Caucasus institution-branch (Piatigorsk), RUSSIA, [luzazul@list.ru](mailto:luzazul@list.ru)

## **Abstract**

Formal letters have always formed a significant part of the royal, ecclesiastical and notarial chancellery. Such letters in Medieval Spain played the role not only of the official written messages but also the role of the ancient mass media: the matter is that many royal and Inquisitional orders, decrees, edicts and other documents written in the form of letters were predestined to be read publicly. The formal letter is a document that has certain power and officiality. That is why we can consider it as a reliable and legislative source of knowledge about life in the earliest times. The study of ancient documents allows us to approach the problems of the past. Through the content of formal letters we can get into the different spheres, for example: the lineage of the kings, the daily life of the population, the thinking and mentality of simple men and women. Besides, formal letters conserve a real language demonstrating medieval spelling, lexical, morphological and syntactic structure of the written national language of Medieval Spain. The present paper considers the main characteristic features and structural models of the so called “*undefined-personal sentences*” in formal letters written in the ancient Spanish language or Castilian Romance. The investigative material refers to the period when the normative syntax of formal language began to form within the emerging national language. The author reconstructs, describes and systematizes some models of Spanish sentences with a verb in the third person in Indicative and Subjunctive mood that can be found in the texts of formal letters dated by the XIII<sup>th</sup> - the beginning of the XVI<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Keywords:** Formal letter, document, formal language, subject, predicate, “undefined-personal” sentences, the third person, the ancient Spanish language, the Castilian language, national language, Medieval Spain.