

# L'*embodiment* tra letteratura e medicina: Cavalcanti e Dante

MATTEO PETRICCIONE

*Università dell'Aquila*

*Abstract*

*The Embodiment Between Literature and Medicine: Cavalcanti and Dante*

*Cognitive Poetics can be used as a way to understand the relationship between the text and the reader, but also as a critical approach, by which we verify the efficiency of the construction of meaning and representation of a concept. In the first part of the essay some elements of medieval rhetoric, philosophical culture and the contemporary theories of embodiment and blending, highlighting similarities and differences, are compared; we also devoted particular attention to the effects of language on the reader's imagination, as the reenacting of an experience through fictional representation. Medieval conceptions and recent neuroscientific theories are compared from that point of view. In the second part of the essay "cognitive poetics" is used to analyse the conceptualization of love and its metaphors in Cavalcanti's poetry and Dante's Vita Nuova, also discussing the meaning of erotic experience for the poets and their use of analogy, as in the case of medical language.*

**Keywords:** imagination; embodiment; blending; Dante; Cavalcanti.