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New words and new forms of linguistic purism in the XXI century: The Italian debate

Unlike its sister Romance languages French and Spanish, it has often been noticed that modern day Italian is not particularly bothered by the influx of foreign (mainly English) words. One reason for this, according to some scholars, is that standard Italian as such does not stir up linguistic identity for many, rather, many speakers prefer to identify with their region's 'dialetto', if they master it.

In my presentation, I will discuss above all neologisms of foreign origin

- a) collected since 2000, by Adamo and Della Valle (2003, 2006, 2008) and other authors in special books or websites (such as ONLI);
- b) registered in dictionaries and/or
- c) brought to the attention of the Accademia della Crusca (new words pointed out <http://www.accademiadellacrusca.it/it/lingua-italiana/parole-nuove/parole-piu-segnalate>).

The response to the use of these neologisms by Accademia della Crusca through its Presidents are commented in Sgroi (2017) and you can read answers by Academicians and staff at <http://www.accademiadellacrusca.it/it/lingua-italiana/consulenza-linguistica/domande-risposte>.

Among the 725 answers more than 66 are labelled with the keyword "anglicismo", 24 with "francesismo", 4 with "ispanismo". There are questions about which word might be used instead of a foreign one, but many questions are about acceptability of words derived from foreign basis, as for example *masterare/masterizzare*, referred to the role of the game master, *stalkare, stalkerare* or *stalkerizzare* and a lot more about the gender of foreign loans when used in Italian (*il/la flûte, il/la font, il/la emoticon*), and about which article to use (*il* or *lo jihadista*?).

To oppose this widespread ambivalence towards English neologisms in Italian speakers and newspapers, a group of scholars known as INCIPIT (formed by Michele Cortelazzo, Paolo D'Achille, Valeria Della Valle, Jean-Luc Egger, Claudio Giovanardi, Claudio Marazzini, Alessio Petralli, Luca Serianni, Annamaria Testa) decided to campaign against acritical acceptance of 'forestierismi incipienti' i.e. foreign words which are just entering Italian. INCIPIT group remarks that these words were used not only in the news media but also in Italian governmental decrees. You can read all the ten press releases by the group at http://www.accademiadellacrusca.it/it/search/apachesolr_search/INCIPIT.

They emphasize that the use of foreign (above all English) terminology is not only a problem for the Italian language but also, importantly, a hindrance to communication for many for whom these foreign words are entirely opaque. Examples cited by the group are *caregiver, stepchild adoption, spending review, jobs act, whistleblower, voluntary disclosure, flat tax* for which they suggest respectively *assistente familiare,*

adozione del figlio del partner, revisione della spesa pubblica, legge sul lavoro, allertatore civico, collaborazione volontaria, tassa forfettaria.

Giovanni Adamo - Valeria Della Valle (2003) *Neologismi quotidiani. Un dizionario a cavallo del millennio (1998-2003)* Casa Editrice Leo S. Olschki 2003

Giovanni Adamo - Valeria Della Valle (2006) *Parole nuove. Un dizionario di neologismi dai giornali*, Milano, Sperling & Kupfer, 2005.

Giovanni Adamo - Valeria Della Valle (2008), *Il Vocabolario Treccani. Neologismi. Parole nuove dai giornali*, Roma, Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana, (edizione speciale per le librerie, Roma 2009).

Claudio Giovanardi, Elisa De Roberto (2016), *L'italiano e le lingue degli altri*, Gruppo editoriale L'Espresso, Roma

Claudio Marazzini, Alessio Petralli (a cura di) (2015), *L'italiano e le lingue romanze di fronte agli anglicismi*, Firenze GoWare & Accademia della Crusca

ONLI: Banca dati dell'Osservatorio neologico della lingua italiana, coordinatori G.

Adamo - V. Della Valle, Istituto per il Lessico Intellettuale Europeo e Storia delle Idee (ILIESI), CNR Roma, <http://www.iliesi.cnr.it/ONLI/indice.php>

Salvatore C. Sgroi (2017) L'Accademia della Crusca(1949-2015) davanti ai “doni stranieri” in Salvatore C. Sgroi *Maestri della linguistica italiana* Edizioni dell'Orso 2017 pp. 73-106