



Šime Demo
(University of Zagreb)

Doing Serious Research on Neo-Latin Humour: Macaronic Poetry and Statistics



Muses feeding Merlin Cocai with gnocchi (woodcut from T. Folengo's *Opus macaronicum*, 1521)

Macaronic Latin is an early modern parody of Classical Latin, linguistically consisting of regular Latin text interspersed with hybrids composed of modern vernacular stems and Latin endings. It originated in Renaissance Italy in the late 15th century, spread across Europe, and lasted for the next 500 years.

Although the use of hybrid words that make up the core of macaronic Latin is strictly limited to the genre, they are formally no different from the fully integrated loans such as *phalanx* or *sabbata*. In other words, they grammatically belong to Latin and behave like regular Latin words.

However, it has remained unclear whether and to what extent the strategy of mixing depends on the properties of the language that is coupled with Latin in the macaronics.

In order to investigate this, I propose a comprehensive and comparative analysis of macaronic Latin morphology. It is my intention to test the hypothesis that the choice of the language intertwined with Latin influences the way the mixing is realised. The topic of the analysis will be the selection of verb class (i.e. conjugation) in hybrid verbs. We will see whether the fact that verb endings in some involved languages phonetically resemble Latin verb endings affects the frequency of respective verbal class selection.

In order to do this, I will use a digitised corpus and statistical methods such as correspondence analysis and significance tests. I will also use the opportunity to advertise the software employed in the process.

Date and Venue:

Monday, 19th February 2018, 6pm
Zentrum für Alte Kulturen („Atrium“), SR 5
Langer Weg 11, 6020 Innsbruck