

*Received 22 January 2013.*

*Accepted 3 May 2013.*

## **AN APPROACH TO CATALAN DIALECT LEXICOGRAPHY<sup>1</sup>**

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### **Abstract**

The aim of this paper is to provide an overview of the Catalan historical lexicography from its origins (late 11th century) to the present. Special attention is paid to the treatment that dialectal forms have received in dictionaries, especially from the 15th century onwards. It examines the major reference works, the influences that have received and the presence and impact of the standard language. The study is divided into three parts corresponding to the three time periods of Catalan historical lexicography: the beginnings of Catalan lexicography (12th - 15th centuries); the 'imitative' period, which reflected Spanish patterns (15th - 19th centuries); and the development of a period of autonomy (from the 19th century), as a result of the social recovering of the Catalan language.

### **Keywords**

lexicography, dialectal dictionaries, dialects, standard language

## **UNA APROXIMACIÓN A LA LEXICOGRAFÍA DIALECTAL CATALANA**

### **Resumen**

El objetivo de este trabajo es ofrecer un panorama de la historia de la lexicografía catalana desde sus orígenes (a finales del siglo XI) hasta la actualidad. Se presta una atención especial al tratamiento que han recibido las formas dialectales en los diccionarios, sobretodo a partir del siglo XV. Se examinan las obras de referencia principales, las influencias que han recibido y la presencia y repercusiones de la lengua estándar. El estudio se estructura en tres partes que corresponden a los tres períodos fundamentales de la lexicografía histórica del catalán: los inicios de la lexicografía catalana (siglos XII-XV); el período de 'imitación', que refleja los modelos del español (siglos XV-XIX); i el desarrollo de un

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<sup>1</sup> This research has been supported by the Spanish Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación (research project FFI2010-18940 (subprograma FILO)).

período de autonomía (desde el siglo XIX), como resultado de la recuperación social de la lengua catalana.

### **Palabras clave**

lexicografía, diccionarios dialectales, dialectos, lengua estándar

## **Introduction**

The Catalan language is spoken in the eastern part of the Iberian Peninsula and covers the territories of mainland Catalonia, Balearic Islands and most of the old Kingdom of Valencia. After an early autonomous active period, mainly with the figure of the writer Ramon Llull, the 15th century entailed, on the one hand, the emergence of very relevant literary creations, especially in the Valencian area, and, on the other, a gradually increasing of Spanish influence in language and literature. In the 19th century, with the emergence of Romanticism in Europe, which also affected Catalan, a recovery period started, which has lasted until today. This irregular trajectory has influenced the development of Catalan lexicography.

This paper is divided into three main sections corresponding to the three time periods of Catalan historical lexicography. In the first, the lexicography of Catalan developed just like the lexicography of other European languages. The second stretches between the 15th and 19th centuries, a period in which unfavourable political circumstances meant that Catalan lexicography was not autonomous but, rather, reflected Spanish patterns. Finally, the end of the 19th century saw the language recover socially, and this had an influence on the lexicography currently in use.

### **1. Catalan, a European language**

An initial period of normality concerning lexicography stretches from the beginning of the Catalan language (11th century) until the late 15th century. It characterizes by a progressive distancing from Latin, as occurred in other Romance countries.

### 1.1 Glosses

The beginning of Catalan lexicography, like any other in Europe, is based on glosses explaining difficult or obscure terms from biblical or old classical texts. Initially, words and expressions were clarified using simple Latin. Thus, in Catalonia, there is the Ripoll *Glossaris*, from the 10th and 11th centuries: cf. *sulcos* - *rigas* 'groove', *grando* - *petre* 'hail'. Similarly, in the manuscript of Virgil's glosses housed in the Capitular Library of Vic (11th century) one finds *papauera* - *erba somnifera* 'soporific herb'. It was not long before such explanations began to appear in vernacular language. For instance, manuscript 838 from the Abbey of Montserrat has a *Lectionarium Missae* with glosses such as *despectus* - *despreaments* 'contempt', *nugaces* - *moceneguers* 'liars', among others.

However, it was not until the 14th century that glossaries began to be sorted alphabetically. These were often compilations of adverbs: *avide* - *cobesament* 'greedily', *annuatim* - *d'ayn en ayn* 'yearly', *confestim* - *de mantinent o tantost* 'immediately', *pedetentim* - *a peu cloch* 'going on one leg'. There is also a beautiful collection of verbs in manuscript 769 of the Library of Catalonia, one that comes from the monastery of Bellpuig de les Avellanes (in the county of la Noguera). This has 127 pages of small print that is difficult to read and it is written as an imitation of Ugucione of Pisa, the *Doctrinale* by Alexandre de Villedieu and the *Catholicon* by Giovanni Balbi. Examples are *adolffo* - *ensolmar* 'to smell', *arrogio* - *gaubar* 'to boast', *pectino* - *pintanar* 'to comb', *lasso* - *cansar* 'to tire', *grandino* - *calamerçar* 'to hail'. This vocabulary has great value from a lexicographical point of view, because of the large number of lexicon containing.

Mention should also be made of the Catalan glosses in Hebrew manuscripts, always transcribed in Hebrew characters, such as the *Haggadah* and the treatise *Orhot Hayyim* by Aaron ha-Kohen, written in Majorca before 1329. Thus, words such as *albixerar* 'to announce good news' or *aurenga* 'oregano' have been documented.

### 1.2 The Rimaris [rhyming books]

There are two important medieval Catalan rhyming books from the 14th century: the *Llibre de concordances* by Jaume March and the *Torsimany* by Lluís d'Aversó.

Although their function is primarily to provide the rhyme, to offer words grouped by their ending, they may also contain explanations of the meaning of some words: *amirva* - *per celh que alguna cosa aminva o diminueix* 'to decrease', *bruxa* - *per la fantasma* 'witch', *verra* - *per truja no sanada* 'sow, female pig', etc.

### 1.3 *The Grammaticae proverbiandi*

The *Grammaticae proverbiandi* are handbooks for teaching Latin, and they only incidentally belong to lexicography. They contain lists of verbs grouped by active, neutral and passive, with a translation into the vulgar form, and are designed to offer exercises such as: *temps és de llegir e hora és de dinar - componitur tempus est legendi et hora est prandendi et huiusmodi* 'now is the time to read and eat'. Given the abundance of Latin verbs and their correspondence in Catalan, these books, which appeared between the 14th century and the late 17th century, are interesting in terms of lexical knowledge.

### 1.4 *Explanation of words*

Various didactic works by Ramon Llull were used as textbooks in schools that taught his doctrine.<sup>2</sup> Many of these texts, from the 14th and 15th centuries, include a table explaining scholastic technicalities: "explanament de vocables per a.b.c.: *accident* és la cosa que no pot per si star, mas en altre, axí com color que no pot estar sens colorat, e calor sens foch, e parlar sens home, e entendre sens enteniment, *contingència* és aventura, *possible* és açò que pot ésser, etc."

The same applies to other works such as *De regimine principum* by Aegidius Romanus. Its Catalan translation of 1407 ends with a vocabulary of 144 alphabetical entries of technical or scientific terms used by the author, and which are explained by the translator. These are essentially terms of ethics (*eutrapèlia*, *policia*, *paternal*, *zel*) or government forms (*oligarquia*, *democràcia*, *tirania*, *monarquia*), and they therefore constitute a good presentation of learned words in Catalonia.

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<sup>2</sup> Ramon Llull or Raymundus Lullus was a Majorcan writer, philosopher and logician. He wrote several works (*Llibre de Contemplació*, *Blanquerna*, *Ars magna*, etc.) and is regarded as one of the most influential authors in Catalan.

### 1.5 Lexicography in the second half of the 15th century

Curiosity about language grew during this period and there are two works that illustrate this interest in colloquial or vulgar speech.

#### 1.5.1 The *Liber elegantiarum*

The first is the *Liber elegantiarum* by Johannes Stephanus (vulgar Joan Esteve), a Valencian notary, who, for unknown reasons, had it printed in Venice in 1489. This work is important for Catalan lexicography because it is one of the first collections to go beyond simple glossaries and lists of equivalents including Catalan words and phrases together with their Latin equivalents. It is also noteworthy because of the abundance of material, providing the first evidence of lexemes that were used in Valencia. What the author intended, however, remains uncertain. It appears that he wished to produce a work for teaching Latin from the mother tongue, as the book provides the reader with the Latin equivalents of Catalan words and phrases. A vulgar term may be expressed in many Latin equivalents (as for the verbs *ajustar* or *aplegar* ‘to add’, fol. a<sup>6</sup>v) or only through a single and often vague explanation: “*La natura de la vista o dels vulls és de aquesta natura que venint de la claror e entrant en loch fosch apar fosch e no-y veu hom. Oculorum istius modi natura est vt post solem vmbras intransibilibus cequa sint omnia (k<sup>1</sup>v)*”. At times it is limited to just one translation: “*bossa ab molts bosichs. Loculus (c<sup>3</sup>v); punyal. Pugio, Sicca (p<sup>5</sup>v)*”. Despite is not systematic and almost one third of the volume is missing, the lexicon is very rich, often colloquial and lacking in moral scruples. For example: “*La gata nostra ha cagat sobre lo llit. Cata nostra supra lectum aluum purgauit; Mucipula (l<sup>5</sup>v) and La muller del pastor hauia que fer o vsaua ab vn capellà. Pastoris uxor cum sacerdote consueuerat (l<sup>8</sup>)*”. Many of these shameless Latin phrases are extracted from the *Liber facetiarum* by Gianbattista Poggio Bracciolini, which Joan Esteve translates into the Valencian language. The organization of the *Liber* is also problematic because the alphabetic order is sometimes wrong.

### 1.5.2 The *Regles d'esquivar vocables o mots grossers e pagesívols*

The other text is the anonymous work entitled *Regles d'esquivar vocables o mots grossers e pagesívols* (1492). This is a typical example of concern for the vernacular, something that was typical of the Renaissance and soon to be seen in works by Pietro Bembo for Italian and Juan de Valdes for Castilian.

However, despite its great interest as regards the history of the Catalan language, it is not actually a lexicographical work. Rather, it is a kind of *Appendix Probi*<sup>3</sup> of Catalan. In a list of over 300 entries the anonymous author (perhaps inspired by the Valencian Bernat Fenollar) criticizes the use of certain words and proposes a more correct solution, for example: “No digueu *peltrigar* per *calcigar*” ‘to step’ (n. 21), or “*delme* per voler dir *dècima*” ‘tithe’ (n. 62), or “*dexondar* per despertar o esvetlar” ‘to awake’ (n. 125).

In addition to showing an interest in vulgar language, these *Regles* have played a major role in Catalan linguistic history. The author or authors of the *Regles* are aware of the diatopic differences in the Catalan lexicon and, with a purist approach, reject what they consider dialectal (the varieties of Majorca, the Empordà, the Urgell and Xàtiva) in favour of a Barcelona-Valencia axis.

## 2. Foreign models: ‘reflected works’

These sorts of works, written after 1500, are called ‘imitative’ because they are inspired by foreign literature; they are not original or new creations.

### 2.1 Works without Latin

The *Vocabolari molt profitós per aprendre lo Catalan Alamany y lo Alamany Catalan* (Perpignan, Joan Rosembach, 1502), which was the first work to move away from the tyranny of Latin, was inspired by an Italian - German model, because it is a manual for the use of merchants.<sup>4</sup> It is a handbook for the autonomous learning of

<sup>3</sup> The *Probus' Appendix* lists common mistakes in the written Latin of the time.

<sup>4</sup> “Introito e Porta”, vocabolario italiano-tedesco “compiuto per Maestro Adamo di Roduila, 1477 adi 12 Augusto” (ed. A Bart Rossebastiano), Torino, 1971.

Catalan. Italian - German vocabularies had been published since 1477, and one of them served as a model for the Perpignan text. Indeed, the latter was an exact copy, which merely replaced the Italian side with the Catalan equivalent. See an example in Table 1:

| <i>Introito</i>                               |                        | <i>Rosembach</i>                          |                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <i>El 33. capitulo del aire e de le venti</i> |                        | <i>Lo. xxxiii. ca. es del ayre y vent</i> | <i>Das. xxiii. ca. ist von luft und wind.</i> |
| El aire                                       | Der Luft               | L aire                                    | Lufft                                         |
| Li airi                                       | Die lu <sup>e</sup> ft | Los aires                                 | die lufft                                     |
| El vento                                      | Der wint               | Lo vent                                   | Der wind                                      |
| Fredo                                         | Kalt                   | Fret                                      | Kalt                                          |

Table 1. Comparison between the original work and Rosembach's adaptation

The lexicon is presented in logical meaning groups and not in alphabetical order. This *Vocabolari* is quite important in terms of studying the Catalan lexicon, although it is not known where the author was from. Indeed, the work includes both words from the North, such as “*segla segol* (der Rochen)” ‘rye’, as well as a series of samples of Southern origin: “*lo breç bressol* (Die wiegen)” ‘cradle’, “*calàpet gripau* (Frosch)” ‘toad’, “*lo melich llombrígol* (Der nabel)” ‘navel’. Some Spanish words also occasionally appear, such as “*agora ara* (yets)” ‘now’, “*colondrines orenetes* (Schwalben)” ‘swallows’. However, the oddest thing is that the forms of the first person singular present tense have the ending -o (“*jo vello* (ich wach)” ‘I watch’; “*jo me burlo* (ich spöt)” ‘I mock’; “*jo vos demando* (ich frag uch)” ‘I ask you’; “*no me curo* (ich achts nit)” ‘I do not care’, etc., despite the fact that such endings were, and still are, rarely used in Catalonia and were never used in Roussillon, Majorca and Valencia. This question remains to be solved.

Overall, this *Vocabolari* is full of problems that demand the attention of scholars, although with proper research it could become a good source of information. It could also be used for a comparative analysis the lexicon of Catalan and Italian in the late 15th century.

## 2.2 The arrival of Nebrija

The two dictionaries by Antonio de Nebrija, the Latin - Spanish *Lexicon* (Salamanca, 1492), and the Spanish - Latin *Vocabularium* (n.d., 1495?), were very successful, especially the first, as they were translated and adapted into many languages during the 16th century. The first translation or adaptation was in Catalan in 1507 by the Augustinian friar Gabriel Busa.

Despite its origin, the Nebrija-Busa was a major teaching tool due to the dimensions of the word list and its systematic nature, with an exclusively classical Latin lexicon without spurious additions. For the first time, a dictionary fulfilled the requirements of the Renaissance. The Catalan *Lexicon* ranks high among the medieval repertoires such as the *Catholicon* and others. Indeed, the word list of the work aimed to reach all areas of the language (dialects, registers, specialized vocabulary, etc.).

Nebrija's works were known in Catalonia and, thus, his *Introductiones latinae* were adapted into Catalan before the publication of the Nebrija-Busa; however, Nebrija's vocabulary did not influence the work of 1507. Gabriel Busa completely adapted the *Lexicon*, replacing Spanish words with Catalan ones, whereas the adaptation of the *Vocabulario* presented more problems because, in this case, the alphabetical order of Castilian could not be followed. The result was therefore quite limited, because of the misinterpretation of the language of origin.

Below are some examples (letters AF) of the adaptation of the *Lexicon*. They show the Latin word and the Spanish translation, then the Catalan equivalent:

"Abdo.is abdidi. por *esconder* / *amagar*" 'to hide'

"Abstergeo uel abstergo. por *alimpiar* / *per netejar*" 'to clean'

"Branzus. i. especie de *romadizo* / *espècia de cadarn*" 'to have a cold'

"Caecus.a.um. por cosa *ciega* / *per cosa orba*" 'blind'

"Damascena pruna. por *ciruelas* passas / *per prunes seques*" 'dry plum'

"Edo.is uel es. por *comer* / *per menjar*" 'to eat'

"Ferveo. es uel feruesco. por *herver* / *bullir*" 'to boil'

These few examples illustrate the differences between the 1492 original and the adaptation of 1507. The following shows the importance of Busa's lexicon: it has



*redivia.e. per enemic de la vngla*, while the original Castilian is *por espigón cerca de la uña*. The word *enemic* ‘hangnail’ designates the ‘small piece of dead skin at the side or the base of a fingernail that is partly detached from the rest of the skin.’ This is the earliest reference to the word (1507), not only in its Catalan form but also to the superstition, prevalent among many nations of Europe and Africa, which attributed these hangnails to the influence of a spiteful and vindictive person. The same applies to the equivalent in other languages: French *envie* (since 1640), Spanish *padraastro* (since 1514), archaic Dutch *nijdnaghel* (1599), German *Neidnagel*, Hausa *dánuba* (literally half-brother), etc.

The fact that there are two Spanish and Catalan words derived from a Latin word suggests many comparisons of a contrastive nature. It is also possible to determine whether certain words currently accepted in Catalan are genuine, as is sometimes claimed. The resulting Catalan is often far removed from what would be expected. For example, the verb *rebentar* ‘to burst’ does not seem to belong to the usual vocabulary with this double equation:

“Rumpo. eris. por *rebentar* / per *esclatar*”

“Crepo. as. crepui por *rebentar* / per *esclatar*”

Despite formal acceptance, the layout of the Nebrija-Busa suggests that *rebentar* is a new word, with no pedigree.

### 2.3 Other Nebrija editions in the 16th century

In the 16th century there were three new Catalan editions of Nebrija’s dictionary: one by Ivarra in 1522, another by Antic Roca in 1560 and a third by Antoni-Joan Astor in 1583. The inspiration, however, was not the *Lexicon* of 1492 but the Spanish edition of Nebrija’s dictionary published in Burgos in 1512 (and in Zaragoza in 1514), which was extended by the author through the addition of many Greek equivalents.

The edition of 1522 tends to move away from the Nebrija-Busa equivalences, either seeking a different solution (see s.v. *nebula* in *Busa*: “la *neula* del temps” ‘cloud’ vs *nebula* in 1522: “per la *boyra*, que graece *nephele.es*” ‘fog’, or adding a new

element to the previous solution (see s.v. *nurus*: Busa *la nora*; 1522 *la nora muller del fill* ‘daughter-in-law’).

The edition of 1560 is interesting because the dictionary includes the adaptation of medical vocabulary included by Nebrija himself, which appeared in Castilian in the Antwerp edition of 1545.

The edition of 1583 added Spanish alongside Catalan equivalents. However, it was not based on Nebrija’s dictionary but, rather, on the knowledge of the editor, who knew very little Castilian, and many of his retranslations are faulty.

It should be emphasized that although the printings of Nebrija’s dictionaries were now finished, he would continue to cast an influential shadow over later productions, both Catalan adaptations and Castilian originals.

#### 2.4 *The Thesaurus puerilis by Onofre Pou*

The *Thesaurus puerilis* is perhaps the most important lexicographical work of the 16th century. However, the author, Onofre Pou, had a precursor: Lorenzo Palmireno, an Aragonese professor at the University of Valencia (*Estudi General de València*) and author, among other works, of the *Vocabulario del humanista* for the teaching of Latin. Although this very complicated work is written in Castilian, it contains a lot of Valencian vocabulary, especially regarding ornithology and the names of fish, which was subsequently used by many other dictionaries. Onofre Pou, who was a disciple of Palmireno, gratefully acknowledges his debt.

The *Thesaurus puerilis* appeared in 1569 in Valencia and its title indicates its purpose: to teach Latin to young people. The work is a lexical repertoire designed for students from Valencia and Catalonia, and it includes equivalents in vulgar Catalan (‘...in Valentinorum & Gotholanorum gratiam, praeposita vulgari lingua’). The author explains at the beginning: ‘està primer lo vulgar en llengua Cathalana y Valenciana, y després lo llatí’. The publication was very successful and a second edition was soon printed in Valencia (1575), followed by further new editions in Catalonia in 1580, 1591 and 1600.

Although Pou studied for a few years in Valencia his translations often include words used in Gerona, his homeland, alongside the corresponding Valencian terms. All words are accompanied by the Latin equivalent: “*alzina* o *carrasca*, *llex*, *icis*” ‘holm

oak' (p. 52 of the 1575 edition), "balca o *boua*. Vlua palustris: typha, ae" 'enea' (p. 49), "glans o *bellotes*. Haec glans, dis" 'acorn' (p. 62), "garça o *blanca*. Pica, cae" 'magpie' (p. 45), "rabosa o guilla. Haec vulpes, is. vulpécua, ae" 'fox' (p. 55), "llombrígol o *melic*. vmbilicus,ci" 'navel' (p. 250), etc. In most cases, however, there is only one entry for Gerona and Valencia, and the author writes the words and their Latin translations: "oblada. rhombus vel melanurus" 'turbot' (p. 65), "badallar. oscito,as,are" 'to yawn' (p. 247), etc. Often there are also explanations of varying lengths: for example, "Lo lloc per on va lo menjar al ventre. Stomachus, chi, aesophagus, Lo ventre on va lo menjar. Ventriculus, li" (p. 252).

The abundant vocabulary is distributed conceptually, and the dictionary is almost a thesaurus in which the vocabulary is presented 'per orde de les parts principals de casa' ('by order of the main parts of the house'); in other words, starting from the names of the parts of the house and its functions, the author comes to introduce all the nomenclature, without omitting the names of currencies, the ways of writing bills of exchange, the parts of the human body, agricultural life, the construction of vessels, etc. The work bases its structure or internal arrangement on Gripaldus Marius' *Lexicon*. Due to its extraordinary variety the table of contents of the *Thesaurus puerilis* is in itself a challenge for the user. Indeed, the mere fact of finding a Latin equivalent for many concepts and many nuances represents a remarkable effort.

Pou was able to find these Latin words through his wide reading of the classics, such as Vitruvi for architecture, or Varro and Columella for agriculture, as well as by reviewing specialized treatises of the 16th century, for example, as the author himself admits, the aforementioned Marius Gripaldus for parts of the house or Symphorianus Campegius for things related to food. He says that he took account of the *De re vestiaria* and *De re navali* by Lazarus Bayfius, the *De dissectione partium corporis humani* by Carolus Stephanus and the *De mensuris* by Georgius Agricola. However, therein Pou could only find Latin terminology and, in fact, he himself was the author of the Catalan lexicon.

The *Thesaurus puerilis* had a great influence on later lexicographers, both Catalan and Valencian, and it is not surprising to see that even 19th century authors used this rich repertoire without hesitation. In short, the work has been a fundamental reference for scholars of the Catalan lexicon.

## 2.5 Glosses and obscure words

In the 16th century Catalan began to show signs of decline and it is then that repertoires of legal words appear to explain the texts of the *Furs of Valencia* and other texts of treaty law, or as a clarification of words that had become obscure (Cat. “escurs”) in literary writing, as in the poetry of Ausiàs March or the Chronicle of King James I of Aragon.

## 2.6 Lexicography in the 17th century

In the 17th century there were three dictionaries that became tools with which young Catalans could learn Latin: the dictionaries of Font and Torra were based on a common Castilian model, while Lacavalleria’s dictionary was original and collected many Latin phrases and sentences for all vulgar words.

### 2.6.1 Antoni Font and his Latin - Catalan dictionary

In the late 16th century the Jesuit Bartolomé Bravo, from Segovia, published a *Thesaurus verborum ac phrasium*, which was well received in Spain and was reprinted several times. The *Thesaurus* was soon translated into Catalan by fellow Jesuit Antonio Font, from La Seu d’Urgell: *Fons verborum et phrasium* (Barcelona, 1637). Font’s justification for this was that the Castilian repertory of Bravo was not understood by young Catalans. However, he limited himself to copying the original Castilian too literally, even adding words that were not Catalan. Thus, *lampiño* ‘hairless’ is translated as *llampiño* (Cat. sense barba) and *a menudo* ‘often’ as *a menut* (Cat. sovint). The Catalan words he provides and which really originate from Urgell are very few in number, an example being *fraga* ‘strawberry’. Not surprisingly, this work was never reissued.

### 2.6.2 The *Thesaurus verborum ac phrasium* by Pere Torra

Bartolomé Bravo's work was adapted a second time by Pere Torra, born in Vic and a professor at the University of Barcelona. This adaptation was a great success, there were at least eight editions following its original publication in 1640, the last on record being that of 1757. Torra explains that he adapted Bravo's book but also added 600 new words that are marked with an asterisk. The Catalan vocabulary collected is very rich and comes from various sources, including the *Vocabulario del humanista* by Lorenzo Palmireno (Valencian words of ornithology and botany) and the *Thesaurus puerilis* by Onofre Pou. A good amount of the Catalan vocabulary certainly came from Torra's own experience.

The numerous editions, which the author was not responsible for, contain some changes and many mistakes.

### 2.6.3 The *Gazophylacium* by Joan Lacavalleria

Although Lacavalleria knew of and drew upon the abovementioned work his *Gazophylacium catalano-latinum, dictiones phrasibus illustratas, ordine literario comprehendens cui subijcitur irregularium verborum elenchus* was an original creation. The work is very well structured and it abounds in Latin phrases and sentences, which are translated correctly and elegantly. Also noteworthy is that the text has a very extensive macrostructure, including learned technical words from fields such as architecture, medicine, rhetoric, mythology and politics (for example, *cosmogràfic, anarquia, diòptrica, anthitesa, aposiopèsa*, etc.).

The microstructure contains a number of verbs and abstract words with their derivatives which are used to construct sentences, each with their corresponding Latin. Often a Catalan word is associated with five or more Latin possibilities. Here is a brief example:

*Eludir alguna cosa.* Aliquid subterfugere, effugere, declinare. *Jo no eludirè lo efecte.* Efficiam, ne quid fiat. Efficiam, ne res perducatur ad exitum. *Jo eludirè lo efecte de sos intens.* Caverò, ne, quod intendit, perficiat. *Eludir los frauds d'algú, rompre les*

*mesures de algu*. Alicujus fraudes detegere, eludere, diffilare. Alicujus fraudes, irritas reddere ‘to avoid something’.

Although the work shocked contemporary readers, it was never reprinted.

## 2.7 The 18th century

Catalan lexicography in the 18th century presents a bleak picture. Students and scholars used the *Gazophylacium* by Lacavalleria (1696) and the various editions of the *Thesaurus* by Pere Torra.

### 2.7.1 Catalan - Spanish vocabularies

As a result of political changes (change of dynasty, the official status of the Spanish language, etc.) what was published in this period were small Catalan - Castilian bilingual dictionaries which could be used by Catalan people to learn Spanish. These include the works by Manuel Marià Ribera (1726), Pere Màrtir Anglès (1743), Baldiri Rexach (1749) and Josep Broch (1771), the latter containing three languages (Catalan - Castilian - French). A curious French - Catalan vocabulary written in 1718, which was unknown until its publication in 2005, must also be included. It was based on the Castilian - French dictionary by Francisco Sobrino (1705), and it may be that the author wished to take advantage of the fact that the French Bourbon dynasty had acceded to the Spanish throne.

### 2.7.2 The work of Carles Ros

The most important lexicographical contribution in the 18th century is the work, published in Valencia, by the versatile Carles Ros (1703-1773), a notary without much business. Leaving aside his achievements in the fields of literature and printing, mention should be made of his *Breve diccionario valenciano-castellano* (1739). This had no ambition of representing the whole Catalan language – the author was not familiar with it – but only the variety of his own region. It uncritically collects vocabularies drawn from a number of previous works published in Valencia: Ausiàs March’s old-fashioned words, words explained in the Chronicle of James I, and the

glossaries of the *Orígenes de la lengua española* by Mayans i Siscar, in which terms from the Spanish *germania* 'slang' or from the Arabic language of Granada appear. In the 19th century several lexicographers based their ideas on this work and hindered the scientific understanding of the Valencian reality.

Ros later published a *Diccionario valenciano-castellano* (1764), which was totally independent from the *Breve diccionario*. Although it also included old words the purpose of this new dictionary had changed: it was to provide Valencian speakers with a knowledge of Spanish. It also sought to explain to outsiders how Valencian words are 'sung' (s'entonen), marking with grave or acute accents the open or closed pronunciation of the vowels *e* and *o*. The author provides examples and words from the contemporary speech of the city of Valencia and occasionally seeks to help Valencian speakers improve their understanding of their native tongue. He includes typical words such as *tarquim* 'mud', *meló d'alger* 'watermelon', *prunyó* 'whitlow', *recialla* 'leftovers', etc. Despite its advantages, however, the dictionary is limited by the fact that part of the vocabulary is missing: for instance, *primavera* 'spring', *estiu* 'summer' and *hivern* 'winter' are not included, and while *fret* 'cold' is to be found, *calent* 'hot' and *calor* 'heat' are absent.

Despite the admiration he feels for the Spanish language, Ros is a kind of leader of the renaissance in Valencia, and he always did his best to sing the praises of the Catalan language through all manner of publications.

### 2.7.3 The lexicon in Majorca (18th century)

The library of the Abbey of Montserrat houses a manuscript by Fra Antoni Oliver entitled *Vocabulari mallorquí-castellà*. This presents the lexicon of Majorca, although it is influenced by the dictionary of the Royal Spanish Academy; the *Vocabulari* contains an alphabetical list of words from Majorca, without definitions, and next to each are the equivalents in Castilian and in Latin. It is thus quite an heterogeneous repertoire influenced by Castilian. The work was continued by Josep Togores, Earl of Ayamans, whose work is more genuine and without bookish intermediaries, containing the real language from Majorca.

It is unfortunate that this vocabulary has never been published. We only know what Massot (1963-1968: 151-163) published, but among the Earl of Ayamans'

additions are words not included in the *Diccionari català-valencià-balear* (see III.1): *ferrer-grosser* ‘bungler’, *acop de lletuga* ‘cabbage’, *armeys* ‘intrigues’, etc.

#### 2.7.4 Capmany’s archaic words

In his scholarly *Memorias históricas sobre la marina, comercio y artes de la antigua ciudad de Barcelona* (1779-1792) Antoni de Capmany considered it appropriate to add at the end a *Diccionario de las voces catalanas más difíciles y antiquadas*, with translations into Castilian. In his publication *Llibre del Consolat de Mar* he also included a welcome Catalan vocabulary of difficult words (1791). There were 500 words with the appropriate Spanish translation, among which words such as *àvol* (vile, inept). Capmany also added other words that are still used today (*formatge* ‘cheese’, *beguda* ‘drink’, *vehí* ‘neighbour’), whereas important Navy terms such as *badafions* ‘rope to tie the sail’, *escar* ‘piecwork’, etc. were omitted. Unfortunately, vocabulary entries are cited without any reference to the part of the *Llibre del Consolat* in which they are used.

#### 2.8 Attempts to produce a great Catalan dictionary

It is possible that the publication from 1726 of the so-called *Dictionary of Authorities* by the Royal Spanish Academy encouraged the members of the *Acadèmia de Bones Lletres de Barcelona* (mainly from 1769) to create a similar work. Either they wanted to draft a Catalan dictionary with Spanish equivalents so as to facilitate the learning of this last language, or they wanted to produce a modern Catalan dictionary that included archaic words from the medieval language. However, although many important scholars in both Catalonia and Valencia were involved in planning the dictionary, the project never came to fruition. It is now known that many other dictionaries and vocabularies of the 18th century also failed to reach us, although this does show the interest in language there was at the time.



## 2.9 Lexicography in the 19th century

In the 19th century the Spanish language was present in all lexicographical works, although numerous Catalan dictionaries were also produced. It was at this point that the regions (Balearic Islands and Valencia) began to seek ways of showing their linguistic identity, even to the extent of denying the undeniable Catalan unity. Many Majorcan, Menorcan and Valencian dictionaries were therefore published.

## 2.10 The dictionary that preceded the Catalan Renaissance

In the late 18th century, following several attempts and discussions in the *Acadèmia de Bones Lletres*, Fèlix Torres Amat decided to design a Catalan dictionary, although three of his colleagues would eventually be credited with the authorship of the work. The *Diccionari català-castellà-llatí* was published by Joaquim Esteve, Josep Bellvitges and Antoni Juglà in two volumes, the first in 1803 and the second in 1805. If at that time any lexicographical work had to include Latin equivalents, from then on it was almost compulsory to have Castilian equivalents. In this regard, one should remember, among other things, the decree of King Charles III in 1768, which required the use of Castilian in all situations. The purpose of this dictionary, like others of the period, was to facilitate the learning of the 'national language', i.e. Spanish. Although many linguists accept this explanation, we believe that it was actually an excuse to study the Catalan language, because in order to teach Spanish there was no need for such long Catalan definitions, with such short Spanish equivalences, or the addition of old adages and dialectal Catalan words.

The Esteve-Bellvitges-Juglà dictionary was the first to include the 'whole' Catalan vocabulary, in strict alphabetical order and with appropriate definitions. The dictionary is thus a descriptive repertoire of the contemporary language, and archaisms are marked with the abbreviation 'ant': for example, "Nuu.s.m. ant. V. Núvol" 'cloud'. Furthermore, it was the first book to knowingly collect dialectal words and indicate their synonyms in general Catalan. Thus, *brossat* leads to *mató* 'curd', *espill* to *mirall* 'mirror', *moresc* to *blat de moro* 'corn'. Sometimes the meaning is also explained: *patou* - *pa tendre* 'fresh bread', *talent* - *gana de menjar* 'hunger', etc. In summary, it

can be stated that this dictionary is the starting point of all modern Catalan lexicography.

### 2.11 *The dictionary of the Catalan Renaissance: the Labèrnia*

Leaving aside a number of dictionaries that appeared during the first half of the 19th century, the *Diccionari de la llengua catalana ab la correspondencia castellana y llatina* by Pere Labèrnia i Esteller is the greatest achievement of this century. Although its author was from Valencia, he spent most of his life in Barcelona and his repertoire reflects the language use of Catalonia. Indeed, it is the most important repertoire of the Catalan language: *colom* 'dove' in the Esteve-Bellvitges-Juglà dictionary has four entries, while the Labèrnia has 28, in which the words and phraseological units formed with it are described. The book also introduces many technical terms, following the famous 19th century fashion, which is often encyclopedic; see, for example, plant names such as *tomaní* 'lavender'.

The macrostructure includes several entries of words that are not documented in any other dictionary, for example, *acarenar* - *cubrir*, *tapar* 'cover', *acasarat* - *molt desitjós de casar-se* 'very anxious to marry'. Like its predecessor, the Esteve-Bellvitges-Juglà dictionary, this work also takes into account dialectal words, and so *panís* leads to *blat de moro* 'corn', *lluert* to *llangardaix* 'ocellated lizard', and *morerola* to *cullereta* 'tadpole'. It also defines regional words such as *carràs* 'hanging', or *desenemic* 'hangnail', etc.

The microstructure is very well presented: two vertical lines separate the defined word and the various meanings, followed by phrases and sayings.

This dictionary, which includes Spanish and Latin equivalents, was published several times after the death of its author (with or without his name) in greatly expanded editions. As a result it became the reference work until the early 20th century. One negative aspect is that it includes many unusual words derived from Spanish: *alborotar* 'to excite', *alcans* 'scope', *hassanya* 'a feat', and it also collects a lot of very old-fashioned words (or words that Labèrnia considered old).

## 2.12 Other dictionaries

Parallel to the subsequent editions of Labèrnia's dictionary, expanded with encyclopedic material, several lexicographical collections of limited value were also published. These are not listed here because they contribute very little to lexicographical studies. Multilingual dictionaries also appeared, such as the *Diccionari Quintilingüe* (1839), which added French and Italian to the three usual languages, Catalan, Castilian and Latin. However, the Catalan included here presents nothing new that requires any explanation. The same will be said later of the *Diccionari català-francès-castellà* by Antoni Bulbena (1905).

More interesting, though not very successful in Catalonia, was the *Taschen-Wörterbuch der katalanischen und deutschen Sprache* (1911) by Eberhard Vogel, a Catalan scholar from Aachen. The author, who had translated modern Catalan novels into German, drew upon previous dictionaries but also included much material that was not documented in the lexicographical tradition, such as "aburgesar *bürgerlich* machen, afaneta *Spitzbube*". This work, which includes phonetic transcriptions, has been a useful reference for German scholars of Romance Languages, and it was, until recently, the only Catalan dictionary they could use.

The dictionary of this kind that made the greatest impact was the *Diccionario manual o vocabulario completo de las lenguas catalana-castellana* by Santiago Àngel Saura. The Catalan - Spanish volume was published in 1851, followed in 1852 by its Spanish - Catalan companion. This dictionary was presented in the form of a vocabulary, with definitions only included when there might be some doubt; furthermore, words that were the same in both languages were omitted. Both these aspects heightened its popularity.

## 2.13 Lexicography in Valencia and the Balearic Islands

It has been said that linguistic regions sought to show their own identity, defying the unity of the Catalan language in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and it was in this context that several dictionaries and glossaries appeared in Valencian, Majorcan or Menorcan. The works written in Valencia and Majorca had a macrostructure that was different from the macrostructures described so far. First, there were lists of Spanish equivalents

showing the differences between the two languages so that native speakers of Catalan could learn the official language of the Spanish nation, and very common words such as *casa* ‘home’ or *campana* ‘hood’ were not always included. Also absent were words believed to be ‘known’: people were assumed to know that *ojo* ‘eye’, *perro* ‘dog’ and *silla* ‘chair’ are *ull*, *gos* and *cadira*, and these words were not included. By contrast, words such as “*sem* = marchito” ‘withered’, “*caliu* = rescoldo” ‘embers’, “*senill* = chamiza” ‘thatch’, or “*tarquim* = cieno” ‘mud’ were included, because they were considered unknown by ordinary people.

When the dictionary macrostructure sought to embrace the whole ‘Majorcan language’ or ‘Valencian language’ the author insisted (perhaps disingenuously) that the lexicographer’s aim was to provide native speakers with a tool for understanding Spanish, the language of the Court, courts, etc. Indeed, these dictionaries always had Spanish equivalents. However, the metalanguage used in the Balearic Islands was generally Catalan (as in Catalonia), while in Valencia, Castilian was used, a difference which is noteworthy in terms of the resulting language awareness. Moreover, from the outset there was confusion regarding the name of the ancient language that is known elsewhere as ‘limousin’, and this allowed the authors to include medieval vocabulary from other parts of the Catalan linguistic domain. The result is a mess.

Aside from the Castilian vocabularies of Valencian words (i.e. the Lamarca dictionary or the Rosanes dictionary, both published in 1836), mention should also be made of works by Josep Escrig (1851) and Joaquim Martí Gadea (1891). However, these works must be treated carefully because next to typical Valencian words such as *tarquim* ‘mud’ or *estalzim* ‘soot’ there are many commonly used words which are actually derived from Spanish, such as *ressollar* and not *alenar* ‘wheezing’, *cosquelles* and not *pessigolles* ‘tickling’. Furthermore, although they do not mention it they drew upon Catalan dictionaries, while the definitions often came from the dictionary of the Royal Spanish Academy: the definition of *matapoll* is copied from that of the Castilian *torvisco* ‘spurge’, etc.

Something similar occurs in the Balearic Islands, where Spanish equivalents are also present in all dictionaries. Mention should be made of the dictionaries by Pere Antoni Figuera (1840) and Joan Josep Amengual (1841-1887). The latter is the most extensive, albeit incomplete: it uses Spanish metalanguage and, as with other dictionaries, it shows no awareness of the unity of the Catalan language. Curious

words from Majorca, such as *ray* 'casting net' or *tafona* 'mill' appear alongside unacceptable words derived from Spanish, for example *otoño* 'autumn'.

#### 2.14 Collecting the old language

At the end of the 19th century, the positivist era, dictionaries tended to collect and list the elements of the language, and the medieval language thus became a concern of philologists. They also tried to save words which they knew were used in the past.

The medieval Catalan lexicon is very well studied due to the large number of works that deal with it. There are three major lexicographical repertoires of ancient Catalan: the '*Diccionari Aguiló*', the *Diccionario Balari* and the online *Vocabulari de Faraudo*, leaving aside the *Diccionari català-valencià-balear* (=DCVB), which will be discussed later.

##### 2.14.1 The '*Diccionari Aguiló*'

The '*Diccionari Aguiló*' (note the quotes) is not really a dictionary but a collection of cards that the editor and folklorist Marià Aguiló collected from readings, and which some years after his death (1897) were selectively edited (1914-1934) by the linguists Manuel de Montoliu and Pompeu Fabra, under the auspices of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans. Throughout his life, Aguiló sought to debug and rebuild the standard Catalan language, writing on cards those words and expressions that surprised him. Aguiló, who published many medieval texts in his *Biblioteca Catalana*, reflects above all the ancient language, although contemporary authors are not entirely absent from his repertoire. Dialect words collected during surveys throughout the Catalan linguistic domain are also found in his work. However, many entries of the dictionary are undefined and show only the passage from the old document in which they are used. Nonetheless, the '*Diccionari Aguiló*' remains an indispensable reference work because of the vast amount of documentation it provides.

### 2.14.2 The *Diccionario Balari*

The *Diccionario Balari* also contains the cards that the Greek scholar Josep Balari i Jovany (1844-1904) left and which Manuel de Montoliu, commissioned by the University of Barcelona, subsequently printed. This dictionary is interesting because Balari scoured many unpublished works and early printed books in his visits to many libraries and archives. In addition to the works he had to hand in Barcelona, he provides materials from Valencia (*mostassafia* 'inspector of weights and measures') and from documents such as the two manuscripts of the translation of the *Breviari d'amor* and the *Legenda Aurea* found in the Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris. It also includes references to 19th-century Catalan writers, especially Jacint Verdaguer. Furthermore, one of its features is the richness of the Spanish word correspondences.

Modern philologists have yet to take full advantage of the wealth of material this work contains. Unfortunately, publication of the material was interrupted at the letter G, s.v. *gutaperxa* 'glue', because of the Civil War (1936-1939), and the remaining cards seem to be lost.

### 2.14.3 The *Vocabulari del català medieval*

The *Vocabulari del català medieval* by Lluís Faraudo de Saint-Germain comprises the rich cards that the author left to the Institut d'Estudis Catalans upon his death in 1957. Germà Colón Domènech is now digitalizing them and publishing them online (<http://www2.iec.cat/faraudo/>). In addition to the vocabulary of the great medieval authors (Ramon Llull, Muntaner, Ausiàs March, etc.), the material also includes the technical vocabulary of the Navy, botany, hunting and fishing, etc.

### 2.14.4 Other works

In addition to the abovementioned works the *Diccionari etimològic i complementari de la llengua catalana (DEC)* by Joan Coromines also offers lexicographical material, including a considerable amount of medieval lexicon. This was mostly due to the fact that the author consulted the medieval vocabulary from Roussillon which had been compiled by the archivist Julia-Bernat Alart. Alart's

fourteen-volume work entitled *Essai de dictionnaire historique de la langue catalane* was unpublished and is difficult to access in the library of Perpignan.

### **3. Towards a new lexicography**

By the early 20th century, coinciding with the First International Congress of the Catalan Language organized under the initiative of Antoni M. Alcover, a new lexicography appeared, one that was eager to include all areas of the language.

#### **3.1 The Diccionari català-valencià-balear (DCVB)**

The DCVB (1926-1962, ten volumes) is certainly a very original work. The idea of its proponent and author, Antoni M. Alcover, was to create a lexical treasure trove of Catalan dialects. Thus, the work admirably combines ancient, modern, literary and dialectal documentation. Currently it contains three dictionaries: an ancient language dictionary, a modern normative dictionary and a dialect dictionary. To achieve this goal, a large-scale scouring of texts from various periods was undertaken in 1900 and living dialects were systematically collected through fieldwork. In 1921 Francesc de Borja Moll began working on the project and, after his death, Alcover (1932) continued with publication of the dictionary, with Volume 10 appearing in 1962. Thus was the Catalan language enriched with one of the most important lexicographical creations of the Romance countries.

As has been said, the macrostructure takes into account the whole repertoire: written and oral, ancient and modern Catalan. It also includes toponymy and onomastics.

The microstructure for each lexeme includes the definition of the various meanings according to a logical grouping. Most of the meanings are illustrated with quotations, so they become a history of each word. Lexical domains are also identified by abbreviations. In general, for the most basic words the dictionary includes a section of collocations and sayings, which often have an important ethnological value. This is followed by a phonetic transcription, with the regional, often even local, variants. The final part focuses on the etymology, usually in a succinct way.

These observations (linguistic, philological and ethnographic) make the DCVB unique among the major dictionaries of any language. While it is beginning to age (it was finished in 1962), there is currently no better Catalan dictionary. Supplements could be written to compile the contributions that linguists and philologists have made so far. When a scholar notes that a certain word is not in the DCVB, this not only provides him or her with a certain satisfaction, but also enriches the language.

### 3.2 *The Diccionari by Fabra*

The *Diccionari General de la Llengua Catalana*, published by Pompeu Fabra in 1932, has long been considered the main standard for Catalan. For various reasons the Institut d'Estudis Catalans (IEC), which is the academic authority, did not itself publish a standard dictionary and it was left to one of its members, Fabra, to make the project his own. In general the work received an enthusiastic reception, although following its publication no new editions appeared due to the Civil War and Franco's ensuing repression. The second edition finally appeared in 1954, and many other editions followed.

Fabra wanted to create a dictionary of the standard language, one that was free of Spanish and dialectal words; his aim was to represent language that was correct and tasteful, without slang words: "La langue de l'honnête homme". He sought to present only current speech, without archaisms, although he did not always succeed. Some neologisms were included: *motocicleta* 'motorcycle', *vitamina* 'vitamin', *gasolina* 'gasoline'; but some are missing: *altaveu* 'speaker', *zepeli* 'zeppelin', etc.

The word list is an alphabetical inventory of the lexicon of common written language, based on good usage, literary and everyday. It is, however, an unmarked lexis. The author accepts some technical words and seeks to eliminate foreign words (especially Spanish ones). Given the multiple meanings of some words, Fabra adopts a moderate position between those who advocate putting everything under a single entry and those who advocate an entry for each meaning.

The microstructure is one of the most successful aspects of the dictionary compared to previous works. Definitions are generally brief and accurate, and avoid being overly encyclopedic. Natural history words are followed by their scientific equivalents. Information about part of speech is always given, but information about



chronology, level of usage and field of knowledge is often absent. Syntagmatic information often comes with many phrases, frequently written *ad hoc* or copied from foreign dictionaries by translating them, especially the French *Dictionnaire Général* of Hatzfeld and Darmesteter (1890).

With its strengths and weaknesses, Fabra's *Diccionari* nonetheless fulfilled a fundamental task and it has been the language guide for Catalans in modern times. This is why so many new editions have been published and why it has become the model for other dictionaries.

### *3.3 Contemporary dictionaries*

From the 1980s there were public calls for a standard dictionary to be published by the IEC, the institutional language academy. This led to the appearance, in 1995, of the first edition of the *Diccionari de la llengua catalana*, which received a rather lukewarm reception, not least because in terms of both definitions and examples it drew heavily on Fabra's *Diccionari*.

The long-awaited edition of the IEC dictionary eventually appeared in 1995, but it followed the work of Fabra too literally. In 1997, a second, much-improved edition was published, and the IEC is currently preparing a new one, which is awaited with great interest. In 2007, a second, revised and much improved, edition was published. Nevertheless, a new IEC dictionary is now being compiled.

For its part, the publishing house *Enciclopèdia Catalana*, which had already produced an important encyclopedia, recently decided to publish a dictionary of its own under the guidance of the IEC. The original 1982 work was improved in subsequent editions and reprints, and in 1998 the *Gran Diccionari de la Llengua Catalana* appeared. This was well structured and wide-ranging, with many neologisms and technical terms. The work also took into account the most important studies of the Catalan language.

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