Bando di Ateneo 2023 per la ricerca

Action: A - Progetti di ricerca di consolidamento o scouting

Principal Investigator

Name Principal Investigator: Donatella MARTINELLI

Email: donatella.martinelli@unipr.it

Research Unit

Substitute PI

Olga PEROTTI

Members from UNIPR

 - Olga PEROTTI(olga.perotti@unipr.it)
 - Professore di II fascia - Dipartimento di Discipline Umanistiche, Sociali e delle Imprese Culturali
 - Elisabetta LONGHI(elisabetta.longhi@unipr.it)
 - Ricercatore a tempo determinato - Dipartimento di Discipline Umanistiche, Sociali e delle Imprese Culturali

Other partecipant UNIPR

 - (alice.mazzarello@unipr.it)
 - (arianna.redaelli@unipr.it)

Other collaborations

Title of the project

Italian dictionaries through the net

ERC fields

SH4_10 Language typology; historical linguistics

SH5_8 Cultural studies, cultural identities and memories, cultural heritage

SH5_3 Philology and palaeography

Keywords

Italian Linguistics

Lexicography

Linguistic database

Description of the project

Brief description of the proposal

The goal of this project is to assess the use of four prominent vocabularies (two historical and two synchronic) in order to promote their consultation and foster their use: TB (Dizionario della lingua italiana by Niccolò Tommaseo and Giovanni Bellini, Torino, Unione Tipografico-editrice, 1861-79); GDLI (Grande Dizionario della lingua italiana by Salvatore Battaglia, Torino, Utet, 1961-2002, suppl. 2002-2009); GRADIT (Grande dizionario italiano dell'uso, by Tullio de Mauro, Torino, Utet, 1999); VZ (Vocabolario della lingua italiana, by Nicola Zingarelli, Bologna, Zanichelli 2022, updated every year, and also available in a digital version). A sort of 'identity card', describing their history, method and outcomes will be provided for each one of these dictionaries.

The TB is the core element of this project, since it has been constantly used across ancient and modern Italian language research. Nearly one hundred and fifty years after its publication in 1879, it is still an irreplaceable tool and a reliable reference for the major writers of the twentieth century. New access tools (at first in CD-ROMs and now online, since the agreement between Utet and the Accademia della Crusca in 2015: https://www.tommaseobellini.it/#/) have given new life to this lexicon through refined query systems.

The GDLI has been accessible online since May 2019 (through the website of the Accademia della Crusca: https://www.gdli.it/), but its potential remains unexpressed. It is necessary to reconstruct its history in order to understand its specific features and to show the possible application of the corpus through its search engine.

The GRADIT represents another paramount resource that is poorly known and underrated among both people in general and researchers in particular: with just over 260.000 lemmas in six volumes and two additional supplements (2003 and 2008), it is regarded as the most exhaustive lemmary of the Italian language currently available. Only the editio minor is accessible online (https://dizionario.internazionale.it/). Again, its set-up criteria need to be thoroughly explored and its conscious and targeted use promoted.

The VZ is undoubtedly the most widely used dictionary, but it is also badly exploited by students and general users, who very often ignore its remarkable value, even of the digital format. Again, its history will be reconstructed, with a specific focus on the additions and supplements.

Thus, guided paths will be created to let users enter a fully operational lexicographic workshop, get in touch with its productions (also meeting the editorial staff), and observe the VZ by comparing it to the great European lexicography's tools.

National/international state of the art in the related scientific field of interest; expected advancement of knowledge with reference to state of the art

In the past thirty years, the interest in lexicography and its history has grown in Italy and abroad. Information technology and the internet have made it possible to consult all sorts of dictionaries and works from the past, even rare and difficult-to-find ones. Some important dictionaries (e.g., the five editions of Crusca, TB and GDLI) also have suitably marked electronic editions that allow the most refined investigations, with results that extend into various fields of linguistics. Since the TLIO (Tesoro della Lingua Italiana delle Origini)– a forerunner in Italy – was created, more and more dictionaries have been produced entirely in electronic format. This abundance of digital resources has encouraged the intersection of the lexicography of the past with that of the present. One example of this trend is the PRIN project for the Vocabolario dinamico dell'italiano post-unitario of the Accademia della Crusca, a project that unites various purposefully created corpora with the headwords of great historical lexicons of the past.

Alongside the progress of this cyber-lexicography, numerous scientific studies have been conducted. These have been both of a general nature – on the concepts, criteria and events of Italian lexicography – and of a more specific nature – on individual vocabularies or vocabularists. Scientific conferences on lexicographical works and related topics are also increasingly frequent.

Although this situation is favourable to the investigation of vocabularies, there is a need to critically reflect on it in order to consolidate a methodology that is more appropriate to the object of study and give the scholarship in this field a more mature and fruitful direction.

In many cases, the lexicographic works considered here have a long tradition of studies, which include both wide-ranging, general works and contributions to one or more specific aspects of a work, not to mention the reviews that accompanied or followed their publication. Overall, these works are of fundamental importance in understanding the history of a dictionary, its editorial events and its relationships with the historical-cultural context in which it was born. The same is

true of comprehending other aspects, such as the authors' purposes as well as the dictionary's underlying ideology, structural characteristics, compilation criteria, defining methods and lexical contents.

Because the works relating to the dictionaries in question are currently mostly dispersed and inaccessible, collecting them into a specific bibliography would provide a very useful tool to prepare any relevant study. The electronic format of this bibliography would allow for continuous updates. Many facts concerning the dictionaries – the list of collaborators, the reconstruction of the sources and the dating of the individual parts – remain unknown, but they can certainly be discovered.

Finally, a comparative study of large dictionaries of European languages (only three, at present) can foster critical reflection on their lexicographic presuppositions and possible common models. It can also encourage us to think about the function that these large endeavours had in cultural and political history as well as about their inheritance; their ideological, philosophical and historical-political origins; and the complex apparatus required to realise them. The close relationships between lexicons and lexicographers from different nations, traces of which will certainly emerge, also constitute a significant chapter in the history of a united Europe, which remains largely unwritten.

Detailed description of the project: objectives and methodology, contribution of team participants; workpackages; methods of dissemination of the results

This project will focus on works of Italian and foreign lexicography of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries because that is the era when the bulk of lexicographic production is concentrated. At the time, new types of vocabularies were developed, and quality reached the highest level in the various sectors of dictionary writing.

In addition to their primary function – clarifying a language – vocabularies and glossaries possess considerable cultural importance. Through its individual terms and as a whole, a vocabulary aims to represent the mentality, feelings and aspirations of those who created it and of the society to which it is addressed. Therefore, it has a value that far exceeds that linked to linguistic consultation or assessment. At its core, a vocabulary is a historical-cultural, ideal, anthropological and literary testimony of an era and a community.

In this regard, it should be remembered that, between the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the methods of lexicographic compilation were radically renewed throughout Europe. New methods were superimposed on the previous rhetorical-literary function of dictionaries, especially as tools for mass linguistic acculturation. At the time, Italy witnessed the crisis of the traditional lexicographic paradigm exemplified by the Vocabolario della Crusca as well as the spread of new models. Descriptive lexicography is born, and an increasingly refined bilingual lexicography develops in connection with dialects and other languages.

At the end of the twentieth century, another radical change took place in the substance, form and use of lexicography as a result of the spread of information technology and the resulting creation of electronic dictionaries. This latest stage, which joins the previous one without cancelling it, cannot be the object of our research, which seeks to reconstruct the foundations of great contemporary lexicography rather than its newest applications in the shape of large corpora. However, a specific section of the project (the corpora) will be dedicated to compiling a list of the large endeavours already completed or in preparation and brief news pieces concerning them.

Although each dictionary will be handled separately (i.e., according to its characteristics), there will be four sections, which will be developed succinctly.

1) The documentary section will deal with the external history of the vocabulary (archival sources, correspondence, documents on the author and the publisher, reviews, editorial success and diffusion, etc.).

2) The analytical section will look at the structure and internal history of the vocabulary (collaborators and organisation of the work, construction of the word list, sources and surveys, lemma structure, etc.).

3) The philological section will address the electronic editions of the apparatuses, unpublished works and complete works.

4) The critical section will contain contributions on the history and methods of dictionary writing, portraits of lexicographers, bibliographies and reviews.

To achieve these objectives, the electronic resources currently available will be used as part of our methodology. For example, the digital version of TB, which is accessible via the Accademia della Crusca website, allows searching for lemmas, concordances, authors and paratexts. A technical study of this type will make it possible to describe the complex linguistic machine developed by Tommaseo (who had already proved himself with the highly successful Dictionary of Synonyms) and his numerous collaborators from all over Italy. This dictionary can be truly considered a monument to Italy's conquered national unity. Moreover, it should be remembered that this enterprise influenced the constitutive structure of all modern lexicography, not only in Italy.

How did the great laboratory of TB function between Florence, where Tommaseo lived, and Turin, where Pomba's

typography was located? How did Tommaseo and Bellini share the work? The history of this dictionary, which involved great political and cultural personalities of the mid-nineteenth century, is truly a great chapter in Italy's cultural history. It has been 150 years since Tommaseo's death, and we hope that the stages of his great endeavour can be reconstructed. Tommaseo was aware of the value of the work to which he dedicated so much of his life, which explains why he kept and carefully archived the most significant documents relating to the project. He was certain that, in the future, someone would study them to obtain a complete picture of his work.

Our portal (DiNet) wants to produce "identity cards" for the most important Italian and foreign lexicographic enterprises of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, which still constitute the best tools for linguistic research. Comparing major European dictionaries (for now, in a limited and experimental way) will allow us to create a useful virtual laboratory where those who need to investigate questions of linguistic choice can consciously use the available tools. Through its presentation, bibliographies and work itineraries, this laboratory will help to establish effective connections between different lexicographic projects and identify some of the main lines of the European lexicographic tradition, which remain largely unexplored.

Ideally, our project would also like to contribute to the grand design of the Museo della Lingua. We already actively collaborate with the museum regarding the nineteenth-century section and the age of unification, during which lexicography reached its peak. TB will occupy a very significant place in this context as an expression of the generations who fought for national independence – the first romantic generation, that of the 1848 uprisings, and the last one, which left in 1859 for the second war of independence. The endeavour of the TB dictionary united them in a common effort. With regard to the criteria and methods of its implementation, the project conforms to the recommended principles of digitisation, innovation, competitiveness, internationalisation and cultural development, which suggests an easy model of query.

The project participants will provide an overview of the lexicographic traditions of their respective countries. They will highlight contacts among linguists and lexicographers at the European level and the possible influences of various lexicographic initiatives. Furthermore, they will prepare the files of the most important lexicographic tools according to the general criteria already stated (internal history, structure, collaborators, fortune). They will also underscore the most important consultation uses in relation to examination techniques, historical and cultural contexts, and specific purposes. They will produce exemplary cases concerning the use of lexicographic tools for the study and/or translation of ancient and literary texts as well as guided-access paths to such tools. The project will also critically evaluate the usefulness of the elaborated files both from a scientific point of view and in response to the actual study and translation needs. Finally, it will contribute to the debate on lexicographic models and suggest shared research directions.

Expected results and impact

The study of the Tommaseo-Bellini dictionary will produce at least one level A scientific publication and a file for the Museo della Lingua, currently under construction in Florence. This file will relate to the intended entry about the dictionary and the most significant documents that illustrate its history. A video guide (accessible from the portal) will reconstruct the history of the dictionary as well as its structure and compilation method; it will also highlight how useful the online search engine already available can be (the dictionary's software is almost never used to its full potential).

The other three Italian dictionaries included in the project will be presented in a more concise form. A series of ancient and modern texts will provide inspiration for exemplary research itineraries. We also foresee scientific contributions relating to German and Spanish lexicography and more general aspects of European lexicography in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The use of the portal will prove very advantageous for linguistic searches and will lead to the most appropriate consultation choices. At the didactic level, the portal will provide tools for encouraging the use of dictionaries, with significant repercussions on the teaching of Italian in Italy and abroad. Connections will be established with the Italian Laboratory (https://www.labit.unipr.it) in order to relaunch Italian language skills as part of university courses on Italian literature. The portal will also prove a useful resource for any actions aimed at combating linguistic impoverishment. Studying the dictionaries in terms of their histories and structures will allow us to use them in a conscious way, thus appropriately selecting one or the other depending on the text to be studied, translated or written.

The creation of the portal will be entrusted to the Selma Centre of the University of Parma, and the portal will be located inside the university's website.

Bibliography

AA.VV., La lessicografia a Torino dal Tommaseo al Battaglia, a cura di Beccaria, G. L. Soletti E, Alessandria, Edizioni dell'Orso, 2005

Biffi, M. Fanfani, M., Maraschio, N. Poggi Salani, M.T., Una lingua e il suo vocabolario, Firenze, Accademia della Crusca, 2014

J.R. Carriazo, Diccionarios históricos. Estudios de Lingüíslica del español, 38, 2017, pp. 35-59 http://infoling/org/elies/

Consales, I., Nell'officina del lessicografo. Saggi di lessicografia italiana, Roma, Aracne, 2021

D. Azorín Fernández, Los diccionarios del español en su perspectiva histórica, Alicante, Universidad de Alicante, 2000

Gärtig, A.-K., Deutsch-italienische Lexikographie vor 1900. Die Arbeiten des Sprach- und Kulturmittlers Francesco Valentini (1789-1862), Berlin, De Gruyter, 2016

Haß, U., Große Lexika und Wörterbücher Europas, Berlin-New York, De Gruyter, 2011

Held, W./ Schweickard, W. (a cura di), Dictionairies. An International Encyclopedia of Lexicography, Berlin-New York, De Gruyter, 2013

Marazzini, C., Da Pomba alla Utet: la fucina torinese dei vocabolari, in UTET. Il laboratorio della parola, Torino, Utet, 2016, pp. 11-76

Marazzini, C., L'ordine delle parole. Storia di vocabolari italiani, Bologna, il Mulino, 2009
Marello, C., Dizionari bilingui con schede sui dizionari italiani per francese, inglese, spagnolo, tedesco, Bologna, Zanichelli, 1989

Martinelli, D., La formazione del Tommaseo lessicografo, in «Studi di filologia italiana», LV, 1997, pp. 173-348

Martinelli, D., Virgilio nel «Dizionario della lingua italiana» del Tommaseo, in «Studi di lessicografia italiana», XXVI, 2009, pp. 229-272

Morgana, S., La lexicographie italienne, de la quatrième édition du «Vocabolario» de l'Académie de la Crusca au «Dizionario universale critico enciclopedico della lingua italiana», in Dix-huitième siècle 38 (2006), pp. 39-64

M. L. Pascual Fernández, Hacia una propuesta de edición del Diccionario de autoridades (1770), "Cuadernos del Instituto de Historia de la lengua", 9, 2014, pp. 207-228

J. A. Pascual Rodríguez, M. Campos Souto, Lexicografía, filología e informática: una alianza imprescindible. A propósito de la situación del NDHE, in D. Corbella et alii, coord., Lexicografía hispánica del siglo XXI: Nuevos proyectos y perspectivas, Madrid, Arco/Libros, 2012, pp. 151-170

Serianni, L., Norma dei puristi e lingua d'uso nell'Ottocento. Nella testimonianza del lessicografo romano Tommaso Azzocchi, Firenze, Accademia della Crusca, 1981

Sessa, M., La Crusca e le Crusche, Firenze, Accademia della Crusca, 1991

Tomasin, L. (a cura di), Il Vocabolario della Crusca e la storia della lessicografia italiana, Firenze, Cesati, 2013

A GANTT diagramme is attached.

Eligible costs

Research grants - research fellowships: € 18.650,00

research grants for one researcher and two PhD students

Consumable items: € 0,00

Scientific consulting or technical assistance services; occasional service provisions: € 2.000,00

digital platform

Purchase or repair of laboratory equipment (subject to inventory): € 0,00

Travels: € 2.000,00

research trip

Registration fees for seminars, congresses, conferences, exhibitions, fairs: € 350,00

specialized course in computational linguistics

Publication (also open access pubblications) and translations: € 0,00

Purchase of specific hardware and software: € 0,00

Books and literature: € 1.000,00

scholarly books and specialist journals

Patents: € 0,00

Total cost: € 24.000,00

Funding request to UniPR: € 24.000,00

Attachments

CV(s) of PI and other partecipants: CV .pdf
List of pubblication(s) of PI of PI and other partecipants: List of publications 2020.pdf
Other documents: CdD_15.5.23_FIL 2023_Approvaz. graduatoria preliminare Az A.pdf
GANTT diagram: GANTTpdf.pdf

Data di ultima modifica: 14/06/2023 16:58:13