

# Italian Neologisms in Banking and Finances

## Review

**Ciprian Popa, *Neologismul de origine italiană în terminologia românească financiar-bancară și economică*, Editura PIM, Iași, 2018**

Lecturer PhD Lavinia SEICIUC  
“Ștefan cel Mare” University of Suceava, Romania  
laviniaseiciuc@litere.usv.ro

The book *Neologisms of Italian origin in the Romanian financial-banking and economic terminology*, published by Ciprian Popa in 2018 at PIM Publishing House, consists of a synchronous presentation of the financial-banking and economic terminology of Italian origin in standard Romanian, by means of identifying and extracting lexemes from important lexicographic works, then their diachronic analysis, as well as making final classifications and statistics.

According to the author, one of the most important influences exerted on standard Romanian was the Italian language, from the second half of the eighteenth century through the nineteenth century, in which the Italian loans had a less significant weight, but we should mention the decisive role the Italian influence had in the process of modernizing the Romanian language.

In the introduction chapter, the author notes that in this phase of modernization the essential contribution of the Italian influence manifested mostly in the establishment of graphic and phonetic forms in the process of adapting the loans from other languages, especially from French, as the Italian etymon was much closer to the graphical and phonetic specificity of the Romanian language. Therefore, invoking multiple etymology with the inclusion of Italian etymology in the explanation of many of these loans is absolutely necessary.

In the same chapter, the author considers that the need for loans appeared as a result of the evolution of society, when many of the new processes needed denominational terms, and the Italian vocabulary would offer the possibility of naming exact realities and financial-banking processes without resorting to the internal lexical means of Romanian, through the use of periphrases. Regarding the case of the financial-banking and economic terminology, the Italian language was

the ideal source of loans due to the fact that the history of the Italian financial-banking system represented a guarantee for the viability of this terminology.

The selection of the corpus, lexemes of Italian origin in the financial-banking and economic domains, was made from five representative lexicographic works in the lexicology of the Romanian language (DND, DULR, MDA, DEX'98, DER), while collating the information on these lexemes from the YES / DLR, DOOM2 and DILR. The author chose to consult several lexicographic sources in order to make an accurate inventory of such terms, as well as to better explain the etymological errors he identifies that are due to the lack of consultation of the older lexicographic works in the elaboration of recent dictionaries.

In the first chapter, *The treatment of neologisms of an Italian origin in the financial-banking and economic fields*, the author proceeded to the selection and analysis of 40 main terms (*Acont, Agio, Al pari, Bancă, Bancar, Bancher, Bancrută, Bianco, Bruto, Cambial, Casă, Cifră, Comerț, Cont, Contabil, Costa, Defrauda, Delcredere, Dividend, Emitent, Faliment, Finanțe, Fisc, Franca, Franco, Girant, Incaso, Inventaria, Încasa, Moratoriu, Piață, Portofoliu, Restanță, Scadență, Sconta, Speze, Tarif, Trată, Valută, Virament*).

In their analysis he also added 21 secondary terms from the same semantic field that include the Italian origin in their etymology, selected from the financial-banking and economic fields. The 40 main terms were analyzed from several perspectives: lexicographic contrastivity, phonetic adaptation, morphological acceptance, semantic tailoring.

Regarding *lexicographic contrastivity*, the author has compared and analyzed the etymological record of the financial-banking and economic terms in the five representative lexicographic works we have already mentioned, the etymological differences, the types of etymology in which the Italian etymon was classified, and the identification of the reasons why the Italian etymon should be included in the etymological explanation of these terms, whenever the Italian origin was ignored.

Concerning the *phonetic adaptation*, the author insisted on the contribution of the Italian etymon in establishing the phonetic and graphic form of the lexeme accepted by the Romanian language, presenting the phonetic or graphic transformations that took place in the transition from the form of the Italian etymon to the definitive form accepted by standard Romanian. Whenever the other etymons included in the etymological explanation of the lexeme could have contributed to the phonetic and graphical form of the lexeme adopted by standard Romanian, then such adaptation was presented, then continuing with the

preservation or non-preservation of the stressing of the lexeme in Romanian as compared to the etymons of the borrowing language.

As for the *morphological acceptance*, the author has chosen the variants of the standard form, if they existed, then identified the preservation or non-preservation of the morphological value of the lexeme with respect to the etymons in the borrowing language. He also recorded the part of speech they belong to, while presenting the plural form, the definite determination, as well as the synthetic flexion of the dative and genitive cases.

With regard to the *semantic tailoring*, the author presented the definitions of the analyzed lexemes given by two representative Italian dictionaries (*Lo Zingarelli. Vocabolario della lingua italiana* and *De Mauro – Il dizionario della lingua italiana*), then examined the total or partial semantic tailoring, i. e. if the Romanian language adopted from Italian the main meaning, as well as the nominal and verbal syntagms in which these financial-banking and economic terms are included. If some definitions or phrases were not found in the presentation of the lexemes recorded in the Italian dictionaries, then the other etymons in the etymological explanation were used to identify the origin of the meanings adopted by the Romanian language.

The author then presented the series of synonyms or antonyms and homonyms, where they existed, as well as the lexical family of such terms. We mention that the author also analyzed lexemes within the lexical family from the perspective of lexicographic contrast only if they included the Italian origin in the etymological explanation and belonged to the financial-banking or economic domain.

In the second chapter, *Statistics and the results of the treatment of financial-banking and economic terms*, the author has elaborated various statistics (represented in the form of tables) referring to the number of terms that were registered with Italian etymology, multiple etymology in which the etymology Italian has been included in the essential or additional etymology, the total or partial phonetic and graphical adaptation, the preservation or change of the morphological value, the total or partial semantic tailoring, synonyms, lexical family or the category of foreignisms.

After completing this table statistics, the author presented the percentages, that he analyzed from the perspective of the different linguistic aspects they presented.

The book *Neologisms of an Italian origin in the Romanian financial-banking and economic terminology*, published by Ciprian Popa, proves that the loans of an

Italian origin play an important part in the process of modernization of the Romanian language. Choosing Italian as a source of such loans is not fortuitous, since the first bank systems in Europe originated in the Italic Peninsula, but also due to the close genetic relationship between the two languages, Romanian and Italian, two languages sharing similar phonological and morphological features, which eases the process of borrowing from one language to another.

### **References**

2. Popa, C. (2018). *Neologismul de origine italiană în terminologia românească financiar-bancară și economică*. Iași: Editura PIM.