

Artesia (*Archivio Testuale del Siciliano Antico*), a cura di Mario Pagano e Margherita Spampinato, <<http://artesia.unict.it>>.

1 General aspects

The project Artesia (*Archivio Testuale del Siciliano Antico*), led by Mario Pagano with the collaboration of Margherita Spampinato,¹ started in 2005 at the University of Catania with the goal of creating a detailed outline and versatile tool for the study of medieval Sicilian,² with an online searchable *corpus* leading to the redaction of an electronic dictionary of medieval Sicilian, the *Vocabolario del siciliano medievale* (VSM).

The constitution of a *corpus* of Sicilian texts was made possible by the existence of a prestigious tradition of philological and linguistic studies focusing on the Sicilian vernacular, the first steps of which date to the 19th century and traced back to the aim of reconstructing the original linguistic *facies* of medieval Sicily in relation with the flourishing of the *Scuola poetica siciliana*,³ and the development of which, carefully examined by Branciforti (1977), has progressively marked a complete transition to a “dimensione” ‘romanza’”.⁴ Since the early 1950s, the number and quality of critical editions has increased so as to offer a sufficiently satisfactory picture of the text production in medieval Sicily, thanks

1 Cf. Pagano/Spampinato (2007).

2 An essential contribution to the study of Sicilian vernacular text production is Bruni (1980); cf. also the recent update by Raffaele (2009, 15–41) and Mattesini (1994). Casapullo (1995) provides a reference bibliography for Sicilian literary texts dating to the 14th and 15th centuries, updating the original catalogue compiled by Ettore Li Gotti, cf. Li Gotti (1949).

3 As noted by Vàrvaro (1995, 228).

4 Branciforti (1977, 508).

to the activity of the Centro di studi filologici e linguistici siciliani,⁵ that has been providing with the “Collezione di testi siciliani dei secoli XIV e XV” founded by Ettore Li Gotti and now directed by Costanzo Di Girolamo⁶ – each edition being followed by a complete glossary – an indispensable point of reference for any lexicographical project concerning this vernacular language,⁷ along with the development of sophisticated lexicographical tools for Sicilian (VS, VES and the forthcoming VSES)⁸ and Italian (LEI, GDLI, GAVI, DELI, and especially TLIO, which will serve as a model for the VSM).⁹

The *corpus* Artesia, which is philologically reliable and periodically updated, includes documents, literary and para-literary texts written in Sicilian vernacular from its oldest accounts, dating from the 14th century and before the first half of the 16th century, when Tuscan replaced Sicilian as a language of public communication.¹⁰ Before the release of the project, access to a limited group of Sicilian texts, dating before the end of the 14th century, was only granted by TLIO (*Tesoro della Lingua Italiana delle Origini*) database.¹¹

The first version of the *corpus*, that was also published in CD-ROM in 2008, consisted of 103 texts (66 literary texts and 37 documents). After the last update, released on December 2011, the *corpus* now consists of 260 texts (76 literary texts, 184 documents), with 1.116.538 occurrences and 67.961 forms. A new update is expected in 2014. These goals are significantly conducted from a Romance perspective, given that: 1) Sicily has always been a center of intense cultural inter-

5 For a description of the activity of the Centro since its foundation in 1951, cf. Sottile (2011). Since 2009, the Centro has been directed by Giovanni Ruffino. Also refer to the website <<http://www.csfls.it>>.

6 After Li Gotti, the series was directed by Giuseppe Cusimano and Antonino Pagliaro, cf. Sottile (2011).

7 It should be noticed that the last published volumes, the edition of 154 14th-century archival papers by Gaetana Maria Rinaldi and the edition of the *Rebellamentu* by Marcello Barbato, provide for the first time a complete linguistic description, that could serve as useful prolegomena to a grammar of medieval Sicilian, cf. Rinaldi (2005) and Barbato (2007), (2010a) and (2010b).

8 The VES (*Vocabolario etimologico siciliano*) was partially carried out by Alberto Vàrvaro in 1986 (the published volume was a partial edition, covering the letters A–L); the project is being accomplished with the VSES (*Vocabolario storico-etimologico del siciliano*), now completed and thoroughly revised, published in 2014 by the Centro and the Société de linguistique romaine.

9 Cf. *infra*, § 5.

10 For a discussion of the first vernacular occurrences in Sicily, cf. Vàrvaro (1995, 228): “preziosi sono i testi di archivio in greco, in arabo e in latino, i soli che attraverso i volgarismi romanzi e i nomi di luogo e di persona permettano di avere informazioni anche sul periodo anteriore al 1220 ca.”.

11 Through the extraction of a “sottocorpus” in GATTO; the list of texts, to which needs to be added Rinaldi (2005), is provided by Pagano (2003, 170s.).

action and exchange in the Mediterranean area, and that 2) several texts are translations (*volgarizzamenti*) which tradition is thus entwined with the traditions and cultural background of their sources (Latin, Tuscan, Catalan, French). As an example, thanks to this approach the existence of a line of translations from Catalan to Sicilian during the 15th century was recently demonstrated, thus allowing to reconsider the scholarly consensus according to which Sicilian vernacular translations were either “volgarizzamenti verticali” from Latin or “volgarizzamenti orizzontali” from Tuscan.¹² The existence of a *corpus* has also played a central role in resolving an issue of attribution, thus allowing to ascribe to the same translator two *volgarizzamenti* from the 15th century (Raxunamentu XVIR and RegulaBenXVB),¹³ as outlined by Pagano (2013).

2 The database

The database <<http://artesia.oivi.cnr.it>> has been accessible and searchable online since July 2008, giving access to texts, except copyright-protected materials, and providing the possibility to query the *corpus* with the on-line tool of the lexicographical software GATTO (Gestione degli Archivi Testuali del Tesoro delle Origini), realized by Domenico Iorio-Fili within the OVI (Opera del Vocabolario Italiano).¹⁴ GATTO, which tools permit the creation and the interrogation of textual *corpora*, as well as a layered lemmatization, allows the user to conduct refined linguistic and lexicographical investigations and to generate indexes, concordances, lists of forms and lemmas.

Each text included in Artesia is associated with an identification tag, that contains a brief reference to the title, to its dating and editor (e.g. ValMaxXIVU identifies Accursu da Cremona’s translation of Valerius Maximus’ *Facta et dicta memorabilia*, dating to the 14th century and edited in Ugolini 1967; CantoEtnaXVC identifies the didactic poem composed by Andria di Anfusu in 1408, edited in Cusimano 1951).¹⁵

¹² For further details, cf. Milana (2004), Pagano (2004) and Pagano (2005).

¹³ The first text, *Lu Raxunamentu di l’abbati Moises e di lu beatu Germanu supra la virtuti di la discretioni* is the translation of the second *Conlatio de discretione* by Johannes Cassianus, cf. Raffaele (2009), who has postdated the text to 1510–1550 (cf. Raffaele 2009, 127s.); for further details and a comparison with the tradition of Tuscan translations of the *Conlatio*, cf. Raffaele (2012). The latter text is a translation of the interpolated tradition of the *Regula sancti Benedicti*, ed. Branciforti (1953, 56–119, 226–229). For the text tags used in the *corpus*, cf. § 2.

¹⁴ Cf. Iorio-Fili (2006) and (2007).

¹⁵ Cf. Ugolini (1967) and Cusimano (1951–1952, 41–46).

One of the main purposes of Artesia, in fact, has been to create a philological laboratory, where critical editions that require a methodical revision or significant adjustments in conformity to the modern editorial criteria are systematically reexamined, and most importantly, unpublished texts are edited and studied.¹⁶ The latest update gives access to:

- all the texts published in the “Collezione di testi siciliani dei secoli XIV e XV” edited by the Centro di Studi filologici e linguistici siciliani (<<http://www.csfls.it>>);¹⁷
- documents: including documentary sources is vital for the aim of covering as many linguistic registers as possible, since they grant access to a rich mine of lexicographical information concerning material life, as confirmed by the 14th-century archival papers edited by Rinaldi (2005) and previously demonstrated by the dowry and inheritance inventories, dating back to 1439–1456, edited by Bresc (1995); however, it must be pointed out that, though non-literary texts are a great part of the Sicilian written production, this field has not been fully explored and inventoried yet,¹⁸ especially with regard to the 15th-century, and that a comprehensive catalogue of Sicilian documents, whose compilation is planned to start soon, isn’t available at the moment;¹⁹
- revised editions: already published texts have been revised with regard to punctuation, paragraphematics and word segmentation (especially in case of phonosyntactic gemination); each case of revision or interventions is reported by a specific note in GATTO;
- unpublished texts studied and edited within the research group of the University of Catania: among the noteworthy texts, that have increased the knowledge about the medieval Sicilian culture, are the *Raxunamentu di l’abbati Moises* (RaxunamentuXVIR, ed. Raffaele 2009);²⁰ a life of S. Christine (SCristinaXVP);²¹ S. Vincenzo Ferrer’s miracles (SVincenciuXVP);²² the 15th-century version of the *Istoria di Eneas* (EneasXVS);²³ the *Tractatu di savietati*

¹⁶ Cf. as an example Pagano (2012, 126), where the discovery of two unknown zodiacs is announced.

¹⁷ The 154 14th-century documents edited by Gaetana Maria Rinaldi are considered the most significant input to the database up to date, cf. Rinaldi (2005).

¹⁸ Vårvaro (1995, 228).

¹⁹ Cf. Vårvaro (1995, 228): “Non abbiamo un repertorio delle fonti comparabile a quelli disponibili per Lazio [...] e Liguria”.

²⁰ Cf. n. 12.

²¹ Translation of the *vita* from Iacopo da Varazze’s *Legenda aurea*, cf. Pagano (1999).

²² Ed. Pagano (2000).

²³ Ed. Spampinato (2002).

(SavietatiXVM);²⁴ the chronicle *Lu acquistamentu di lu Regno di Sichilia* (AcquistamentuXVC);²⁵

- unpublished texts, some of which are presently available in electronic edition specifically prepared for Artesia: i.e. *Vita di S. Eustasiu* (SEustasiuXVP),²⁶ two vernacular translations of treatises on farriery (MascalciaXVLR, MascalciaXIVDC).²⁷

Specific attention is also paid to critical apparatuses, that are usually neglected in *corpora*, thus leading to a relevant enrichment of the linguistic material available and, in a few cases, to considering editorial revisions. Moreover, the constitution of the *corpus* has the aim of favoring the perspective of witnesses altogether with edited texts, especially if the textual tradition includes significant rearrangements.²⁸ A few examples: Folena's critical edition of the *Istoria di Eneas* (EneasXIVF) was based on a 14th-century witness, but the 15th-century witness of this text (EneasXVS) has been recently edited;²⁹ the same study is being carried with the *Valeriu Maximu*, with the editing project of the 15th-century witness of the text.

The constitution of a reliable *corpus* of texts also pursues the aim of stimulating researches in diachrony,³⁰ hopefully calling into question the existence of a "siciliano tre-quattrocentesco" and its scientific reliability.³¹

3 Textual tradition

In addition to the database, Artesia offers an online catalogue of the texts included in the *corpus* (<<http://artesia.unict.it>>), that can be searched through various indexes: access to descriptive pages is granted through a comprehensive alphabetical list of authors and anonym texts (*Autori/Opere*), through a list of

²⁴ Ed. Milana (2004).

²⁵ Ed. Cannavò (2006).

²⁶ Translation of the *vita* from Iacopo da Varazze's *Legenda aurea*, ed. Pagano (2011b).

²⁷ Cf. La Rosa (2000) and Di Costa (2001).

²⁸ The principle of the "doppia verità" defined by Avalle (1985, 375): the 'truth' borne by the text and the 'truth' borne by the witnesses.

²⁹ Cf. Spampinato (2002).

³⁰ Cf. Mocciaro (2009).

³¹ As discussed in Pagano (2003).

know authors (*Autori*), and a list of titles (*Opere*).³² An author page contains a brief biographical description, along with dates of birth and death and a list of attributed works. A text page offers – along with the name of the author, if known, and incipit/explicit of the referential edition – information about its datation, the macrogenre (prose/poetry), the genre (i.e. religious poetry, hagiographic text, scientific treatise), the typology (original work/translation), and, if it's a translation (*volgarizzamento*), the language of the source. Specific attention is paid to the textual tradition: each witness is identified by a tag, by its location, shelfmark and datation, followed by incipit and explicit of the text in each manuscript. A complete account of the referential edition, other editions and bibliographical references are provided. The user can make selective queries or cross-search the data (i.e. extract translations from a specific language, with dating restrictions).

The manuscript section (*Manoscritti*) provides a list of manuscripts that witness Sicilian texts, with a description of the content, which can be viewed in sequential or alphabetical order. Each work is linked to its description page. If available, a digital reproduction of the ms. is provided. Other sections provide a list of incipits (*Incipit/Explicit*) and a complete list of biographical reference for the study of medieval Sicilian (*Bibliografia*), with the possibility of selective searches (i.e. referential editions, studies, linguistic studies, reviews).

4 Quaderni di Artesia

Artesia also edits a collection of essays, “Quaderni di Artesia”, directed by Mario Pagano, Ferdinando Raffaele and Margherita Spampinato. The aim of the series is to provide an agile outcome of the group research, along with the regular updating of the web site (<<http://artesia.unict.it>>) and of the data bank (<<http://artesia.oiv.cnr.it>>); new critical editions, linguistic and literary studies are published in both electronic and printed edition, with a common ground – approaching the study of medieval Sicilian from a Romance perspective.

³² The design of the catalogue and its online outcome is based on the model of TLioN (*Tradizione della Letteratura Italiana online*), directed by Claudio Ciociola (Scuola Normale Superiore), <<http://www.tlion.it/>>.

5 Toward a Vocabolario del Siciliano Medievale (VSM)

The design of a structured *corpus* leads to the constitution of an electronic dictionary. The development of a dictionary of medieval Sicilian has been advocated long before the start of the project *Artesia* by Ruffino (1989, 337), whose wish has been recently taken up by Brincat (2011) and Pagano (2011a) and (2012). With the latter contribution, along with the first experiments of lemmatization, limited to single texts, and a discussion of technical issues in Arcidiacono (2013), the project has eventually taken a first step towards its realization.

The next step in the development and analysis of the *corpus*, its integral lemmatization, is expected to take place when the next version of GATTO (ver. 4) is released: as shown by Iorio-Fili (2010), this version will allow a process of semi-automatic lemmatization of the *corpus*, thus considerably reducing the required time to accomplish this task. The goal is to offer an advanced lexicographical model through a comparative analysis of the TLIO entry model,³³ aiming to the development of explicit marking criteria aligning with international standards: a first attempt to define the microstructure of the VSM with a XML/TEI entry model has been recently carried out.³⁴

Given that the growth and updates of the database itself require the tweaking of a defined lexicographical orientation, the constitution of a dictionary, in fact, presupposes a preliminary reflection, both theoretical and technical, on the nature of the desired outcome. The TLIO will undoubtedly act as a reference model: the on-line publication, beside confirming the digital orientation of the project *Artesia* as a whole, will allow, through constant updates, immediate availability to the user.

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³³ Cf. Beltrami (2013).

³⁴ Cf. Arcidiacono (2013).

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