

Acknowledgements

When I first met the German linguist Manfred Görlach in 1995 at the ESSE Conference in Glasgow and was taken on board in his project of the *Dictionary of European Anglicisms*, I did not imagine that the study of Anglicisms in Italian would become the core of my research for almost three decades. To Manfred Görlach goes my utmost gratitude for leading me into the fascinating field of lexicology and lexicography! On the completion of Görlach's trilogy, the dictionary itself and the two companion volumes, I embarked on the compilation of a new dictionary of Anglicisms in Italian, a project that unfortunately was never accomplished, as lack of funding, and partly inexperience, brought the compilation to a stop at letter N. Yet, the lesson that I learned is that good research is not a 'solo' enterprise, but the result of teamwork and of the guidance of a strong leader. Needless to say, working with words requires a good deal of perseverance, as meanings are slippery and neologisms emerge overnight, making the job of the lexicographer a never-ending one, without limiting one's scope. But perhaps this is the most exciting part of the linguist's activity – observe, annotate, evaluate, include, exclude, and back again.

In 2014 I joined a new research team, the Global Anglicism Database (GLAD) network, a group of linguists, some of whom had contributed to Görlach' dictionary. This new joint venture aims at monitoring the spread of Anglicisms and related phenomena in the world's languages, also outside the European context, and compile a database of borrowings. The ultimate goal is the same: measure and compare the way in which English is affecting other languages. This time the A–Z word list of Anglicisms in Italian has been completed and is now available online for consultation and, of course, continuous updating.

This volume brings together my experience and research in the field of English-Italian contact and lexical borrowing over the past decades, and my contribution to the Global Anglicisms Database. As an Italian scholar of English linguistics, my bilingual competence and 'divided soul' have given me, I think, a privileged perspective. My concern is not only focussed on what is happening to Italian under the influence of English, but also on what is happening to English under the pressure of its global diaspora. Monitoring the Anglicization of Italian is only part of a much larger perspective on the Anglicization of the world's languages, a pervasive and far-reaching phenomenon that characterizes the linguistic scenario of the 20th and 21st centuries.

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