



METADATA

Title: The words and the meanings of the Italian language

Other Titles: The development of lexical competence in Italian as FL

Language: Italian

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Abstract

This book covers some of the main topics regarding the words of the Italian language. It studies their history and origins in Greek or Latin, their borrowing from other languages (i.e. Spanish and French) and their evolution over time, following the changes occurring on a historical, social and cultural level. In the book, the semantic system of the Italian language/Italian semantics is firstly examined in the light of the historical-comparative method, which is the one that allows us to interpret the etymology and semantic changes of a large part of the Italian vocabulary. The main goal of the book is to introduce the foreign language student to the acquisition of the semantic-lexical competence, that is, the ability to use online – at the speech stage – the largest possible part of the Italian vocabulary in the most appropriate way and according to the specifications of the Common European

Framework of Reference for Languages. To this end, building on the Lexical Approach and inspired by the natural and the communicative-cultural approach, this study focuses on three "paths" and on contrastive analysis. Thus, an inventory of 5000 words comprising the basic vocabulary of the Italian language is presented (Vocabolario di Base, VdB: De Mauro, 2016), divided into thematic areas (school, family, daily life, etc.) and language concepts (space, time, etc.) as prescribed in the Curricolo di insegnamento dell'italiano Lingua Straniera nei Licei greci (Minniti Gónias, Athens, 2008). The overall aim of this book is to enable the general public to become acquainted with the vocabulary of Italian as a language quite different from the standard form, which is usually presented in grammar books and textbooks intended for "foreign language" students (the so-called italiano didattico).

