

PUBLIC SELECTION BASED ON QUALIFICATIONS AND INTERVIEW FOR THE AWARDING OF NO. 8 EXPERIENCED GRANTS LASTING 36 MONTHS AND NO. 2 EARLY STAGE GRANTS LASTING 12 MONTHS FOR CONDUCTING RESEARCH PURSUANT TO ART. 22 OF LAW NO. 240/2010 AT THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE RESEARCH PROGRAMME CALLED "STARS SUPPORTING TALENTED RESEARCHER" - ACTION 1 FOR THE YEAR 2019-2021 - 1^a TRANCHE - TYPE A - (CUP: F56C18000670001)

announced with decree of the Chancellor Rep. no. 126/2019 of 28.02.2019 and posted on the official registry of the University on 28.02.2019

CODE N. 8

RESEARCH PROJECT

"History of Linguistics in the first Edition of: Enciclopedia Italiana Treccani (1829-1937)"

Research structure: Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Duration of the grant: 36 months

Scientific Area: 10 - Antiquities, philology, literary studies, art history

Academic recruitment field: 10/F3 - Italian linguistics and philology

Academic discipline: L-FIL-LET-12 - Italian linguistics

Scientific Director: Prof. VENIER Federica

1) Objective:

The project aims to carry out a comprehensive study of the linguistic items present in the first edition of the Treccani encyclopedia (1929 -1937) with the purpose of giving a new perspective to the history of Italian linguistics in the first half of the twentieth century.

2) Theoretical framework:

History of Italian linguistics and history of linguistics in Italy: the sample surveys carried out have brought to light the central role of Italian linguistics in the European culture of the time and the close network of relations that Italian linguists had with their European contemporaries. This has never been sufficiently highlighted in current academic writing.

3) Research project description:

Devoto, Migliorini, Schiaffini, Tagliavini, Terracini are just a few of the linguists who collaborated with the *Enciclopedia italiana* in the thirties. The Linguistic Section was overseen by Bertoni and until 1933 its chief editor was Migliorini who was then replaced by Maver. As set out in the objectives, the project aims to carry out a comprehensive study of the linguistic items present in the first edition of the Treccani encyclopedia (1929 -1937) with the purpose of giving a new perspective to the history of Italian linguistics in the first half of the twentieth century. To this aim, it will be necessary to research and review the work thoroughly and systematically and, by analysing the manuscripts, piece together the history of the Linguistics Section.

Initial investigations that were carried out on a sample during a preliminary phase have revealed a wealth and quality of material that is of great scientific interest. First of all, the data collected highlight an interesting network of collaboration and hint at the reasons that lie behind some of the choices. At the same time, it is possible to say that analysing many of the terms is an innovative way of interpreting the ideological-cultural mechanisms of the *Enciclopedia*: linguistics was not unaffected by the historical context and the promoters of the *Enciclopedia*, but was tied to the political situation. A diachronic study of the terms thus reveals a progressive conforming to Fascist principles in the work.

There is not only a link with the history of Italy; many terms which straddle several disciplines (linguistics, metrics, Italian literature, Ancient literature, ethnology, etc.) clearly reveal the interdisciplinary nature of the work. One important aspect of the research will therefore be to trace the connections between the

Linguistics Section and the other sections, beginning with the Italian Section in which Bruno Migliorini had a fundamental role as editor.

The project will undoubtedly obtain significant results in the course of three years but it is also conceived as a much broader research course whose results will be fundamental in order to participate in the international programme Horizon 2020. In recent years numerous contacts regarding linguistic historiography have been made with Italian and foreign universities through exchanges and contracts as visiting professor.

Key-words: Italian Encyclopaedia; History of linguistics; History of Italian linguistics; History of the Italian language.

4) Timescale:

The first year will be dedicated to researching and reviewing the terms present in the *Enciclopedia Italiana* (approximately 300000 terms) in order to select all the terms connected to linguistics and alike. This investigation will be accompanied and facilitated by a consultation of manuscript sources – starting with the Linguistics Section – present in the Treccani Institute.

The second year will be dedicated to studying, organising and describing each individual item. In parallel, with the help of archive sources, the history of the Linguistics Section and its connections with the other Sections will be pieced together. In this way, it will be possible to understand the role played by individual linguists and why certain lexical choices were made.

Finally, the third year will serve to organise the results of the research and to render them usable and accessible. A volume will be published on the topic and a web-site will be set up with the results of the linguistic research for online consultation.

5) Expected results:

The originality of the research consists above all in considering for the first time the linguistic material present in the first edition of the *Enciclopedia italiana* in its entirety. In fact, although some terms have been examined individually by critics by virtue of their authoritative editors, there has never been a comprehensive study based on researching and reviewing the entire work able to understand the cultural value of the terms and the contribution given by the different collaborators. To this purpose, given both the need satisfied by the *Enciclopedia* to make scientific knowledge accessible and the political-ideological grip it was written in, another innovative aspect of the research is to highlight the impact the *Enciclopedia* had in Italy on an entire discipline and on its leading figures, some of whom were forced to emigrate in the thirties. Treccani was in fact a formidable ideological apparatus devised to express the modern nature of Fascist Italy.

The effect of this project on the advancement of research lies in its originality. The linguistic scrutiny, the thorough analysis of the terms, the study of the manuscripts and the examination of the various collaborations will lead to a growth in our knowledge of specific sectors. Yet, the main aim of the project is much more ambitious. It is to reinterpret the history of Italian linguistics in the early twentieth century both in the way it developed in Italy and in the way it responded to studies from abroad. Although there are already papers on this topic, taking the Treccani *Enciclopedia* as the focal point will make it possible to observe linguistics at the time from a new perspective.

Bibliography:

– Paola Benincà, *Linguistica e dialettologia italiana*, in Giulio C. Lepschy, *Storia della linguistica*, vol. 3, il Mulino, Bologna 1994, pp. 525–644

– Domenico Santamaria, *Benvenuto Aron Terracini esegeta di Graziadio Isaia Ascoli. Storiografia e teoria linguistica*, Edizioni dell'Orso, Alessandria 2015

– Rosanna Sornicola, *Storicismo e strutturalismo nella linguistica italiana del Novecento: per un recupero dell'identità linguistica italiana*, soon to be published with ATTI SLI di Milano. The latter traces on the one hand the parallels between some Italian linguists (in particular between Terracini, Devoto and Pagliaro) and on the other hand between the Italian linguists and European linguistics. There does not seem to be a panorama of the history of Italian linguistics from an overall perspective. There are numerous contributions about individual authors and there are a few, important works dedicated to the history of linguistics (after the already mentioned, pioneering work *Storia della linguistica* in three volumes edited by Giulio C. Lepschy, see the valuable works written by Giorgio Graffi). A rethinking of nineteenth and twentieth century Italian linguistics is, however, absent and this is another good reason for undertaking the research proposed here.