

## THE *DICCIONARI CATALÀ-VALENCIÀ-BALEAR*: PAST, PRESENT AND BEYOND<sup>1</sup>

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### Abstract

This special issue of the journal *Dialectologia* is devoted to the *Diccionari català-valencià-balear* (DCVB). The papers focus on several aspects related to its history, description, current developments, directly and indirectly associated subjects and future perspectives. They represent a sample of the many results that can be obtained by consulting this important work and show that there is still a long way to go in the complete analysis of the DCVB and in the exploitation of the multiple resources that it offers.

### EL *DICCIONARI CATALÀ-VALENCIÀ-BALEAR*: PASADO, PRESENTE Y MÁS ALLÀ

### Resumen

Este número especial de la revista *Dialectologia* está dedicado al *Diccionari català-valencià-balear* (DCVB). Los artículos se centran en varios aspectos relacionados con su historia, descripción, desarrollos actuales, temas directa e indirectamente asociados y perspectivas futuras. Representan una muestra de los muchos resultados que se pueden obtener consultando este importante trabajo y muestran que aún queda un largo camino por recorrer en el análisis completo del DCVB y en la explotación de los múltiples recursos que ofrece.

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## 1. Introduction

This special issue of *Dialectologia* is a collection of papers based on the study and analysis of the *Diccionari català-valencià-balear* (DCVB). The papers focus on several aspects related to its history, description, current developments, directly and indirectly associated subjects and future perspectives. Some of them compare data with current results or open new potential researches.

It is well known that the DCVB is the most complete lexical repertoire of spoken and literary forms of Catalan. It was conceived by a Majorcan priest, Antoni M. Alcover (1862-1932), at the beginning of the 20th century. In 1921, Alcover was joined by his disciple Francesc de B. Moll (1903-1991), who became the secretary of the project and years later, after Alcover's death, he continued the work of compiling and editing the material, in ten volumes.

Thanks to Alcover's and Moll's efforts the *Diccionari català-valencià-balear* has become an exhaustive lexical inventory of the ancient, modern, dialectal, literary, technical and colloquial language. It has an unquestionable value and can still exert an important influence on Catalan lexicographic works.

## 2. The papers

The 10 papers published in this issue represent a sample of the many results that can be obtained by consulting DCVB data and their possibilities of comparison with other research. They are also an invitation to develop further related studies.

Pedro Álvarez de Miranda's paper, "Compositive loan translation: from *Lletraferit* to *letraherido* 'someone who loves literature'", focus on the evolution of the word *letraherido*. This Catalan loanword first was applied to the 'well-read', 'literate', 'someone who has read a lot'. Later on, the meaning evolved to someone 'who feels an extreme passion for literature'. The *Diccionari català-valencià-balear* by Alcover & Moll defines it as "instruït, que ha llegit molt" 'someone instructed, who has read a lot', locates the word in Majorcan and Minorcan dialects, gives as Castilian equivalent

*letrado* 'learned' and it cites two texts which include the word. Some other documentation is explored to prove that the Catalan word *lletraferit* could have a very different meaning from what has today, at least in Castilian.

Eloi Bellés studies the conception of lexicography in Ildefons Rul·lan's work (Palma 1856-1911) and compares it with the one that appears in three lexicographic works by Antoni M. Alcover: the *Mostra de Diccionari mallorquí* (1882), the *Lletra de convit* (1901) and the *Diccionari català-valencià-balear* (1930). His paper "Antoni M. Alcover and Ildefons Rul·lan: Two views about theoretical lexicography at the beginning of the 20th century in Majorca" investigates the relations and similarities between Rul·lan's and Alcover's works.

In "Leo Spitzer's correspondence to Antoni M. Alcover", Germà Colón presents the publication of the letters sent by the Hispanic and Romance philologist Leo Spitzer to the dialectologist and initiator of the *Diccionari català-valencià-balear* (DCVB) Antoni M. Alcover. The correspondence consists of 24 letters, mostly written in German, except for two letters, which are in French. The writings have the purpose of requesting information on aspects related to the etymology of Catalan words and of presenting Spitzer's opinions regarding many words and contributing to their etymology.

In "Dialect dictionaries in Japan: Comparison with Alcover's dictionary (DCVB)", Chitsuko Fukushima compares exhaustive dialect dictionaries in Japan with the *Diccionari català-valencià-balear* (DCVB) in order to explain the coincidences and divergences between them. The author wonders what dictionary of Japanese dialects is equivalent to DCVB. Based on that the exhaustive dictionaries cover all dialectal variation of its language, the lexicographic works edited by Misao Tojo and the scholars in his next generation are compared.

A new comparison is carried out in Lluís Gimeno's paper: "The lexicon of the poem *Seidia* compared with the *Vocabulari del Maestrat* and the *Diccionari català-valencià-balear*". *Seidia* was written by the lexicographer Joaquim Garcia Girona (Benassal 1867-Baeza 1928). He was an important collaborator of Alcover in collecting the lexicon of his area and also published the *Vocabulari del Maestrat*, a

lexicographical work that also recorded lexicon from the Plana de Castelló, Tortosa and Valencia.

Isidor Mari's paper, "Notes on the treatment of variation in the *Diccionari català-valencià-balear* (DCVB)", analyzes the variation tags used in the DCVB with the aims of facilitating their comprehension by the users and of suggesting future more precise characterizations. In the light of the recent criteria of variation, different works of Catalan, Spanish and international lexicography on the representation of the variation in the dictionaries are commented on in detail, and a proposal of synthesis is presented as a conclusion.

In Maria-Pilar Perea's paper, all Alcover's diaries are analysed and the different appraisal elements that appear concerning language and dialects, both from the point of view of the researcher and of the informants, are classified. Some of the prejudices and attitudes detected in the diaries are linked to the prejudices that are the result of the cultural tradition, which started already in the past centuries, but can still be found today, in the opinion of some speakers.

In "Variation of the second person singular of the simple past tense in *twitter*: *hiciste* vs. *hicistes* 'you did', Antonio Ruiz Tinoco analyses the geographical distribution of the -s added to the simple past tense of indicative in several high frequency verbs, i.e. *hicistes* vs *hiciste*. For this purpose, he used a geocorpus formed by geolocated tweets. The data obtained suggest that the traditional explanation of addition by analogy with other verb tenses is still valid, especially in rural areas, although it is not the only factor.

Beatrice Schmid's contribution, "About the labelling in the *Diccionari català-valencià-balear* (DCVB): The example of *argot*", examines the role of the term *argot* in the labelling practice of the DCVB by studying the quantitative, formal and semantic aspects of all labels containing the term *argot*. Particular attention is paid to the analysis of its combinatorics with other labels in order to distinguish between central combinational patterns and peripheral combinations.

Finally, in "Two statistical treatments of Spanish vocabulary: composite indices of frequency and dispersion and principal component analysis applied to ordinal frequencies", Hiroto Ueda explains the characteristics of the collected materials to

carry out the comparative analysis. Next, the author describes the statistical method based on the combination of two important indexes, frequency and dispersion, for which it is proposed to convert gross frequencies into ordinals. Next, Principal Component Analysis is performed to find the important factors within the multitude of current parameters in order to draw clear conclusions on the two methods and their application to lexical studies.

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### **Internet resources**

*Diccionari català-valencià-balear* (<http://dcvb.iecat.net/>)

Antoni M. Alcover's Portal (<http://alcover.iec.cat>)