

**Erica Autelli**

University of Innsbruck

Austria

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4473-4252>

## Phrasemes in Genoese and Genoese-Italian Lexicography

**Abstract.** In this work, an overview on the state of the art of phrasemes in dialectal monolingual and bilingual lexicography will be given, focusing on the Genoese and Genoese-Italian lexicography. First, *Genoese* will be defined and then followed by a summary of the already existing Genoese and Genoese-Italian dictionaries. It will be shown that the Genoese lexicography lacks many important aspects, amongst others also the matter of phrasemes and their equivalents. *GEPHRAS*<sup>1</sup> is the first dictionary (focusing on *Genoese PHRASemes*) documenting both synchronic and diachronic phrasemes, with particular focus on collocations, idioms, comparative, communicative and structural phrasemes. The project will serve as model for further phraseographical studies and will help preserving Genoese.

**Key words:** *phraseography, phraseology, Genoese, Italian, dialect*

### 1. Introduction

Phraseology has achieved much importance in the last few decades, also as far as the Italian language is concerned (cf. e.g. Mollica 2015: 13). Still, phrasemes (according to a broad definition, cf. e.g. Burger <sup>3</sup>2007) are not part of the studies based on many varieties and dialects spoken in Italy (cf. Cini 2005: 275), although some Tuscanian phraseological dictionaries even date back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century (cf. Autelli in progress). Most of the dialect dictionaries in Western Europe appeared in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (cf. Piirainen 2006: 197). Phrasemes do not only change as the years pass by, but are also used in several ways in the different geographic areas

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<sup>1</sup> The project (P31321) is financed by the Austrian Science Fund FWF. Since July 2020 *GEPHRAS2*, a follow up project (P33303-G), has started. Also this project is financed by the Austrian Science Fund FWF. Both projects are led by Erica Autelli.

and can vary in every single language community (cf. Piirainen 2007: 530). Piirainen (2007) states that “[l]inguistic research on the phraseology of dialects is still in its infancy” (538) and that “[d]ialect phraseology is virtually non-existent in international or national compendia of dialectology” (533), as one does not often find idioms or collocations labeled as such in dialect lexicography (cf. Piirainen 2007: 533). This is partly the case with Genoese lexicography, which mostly includes proverbs and, eventually, some sayings, but until 2018, no so-called idioms or collocations (see chapter 3 for more information).

Many dialect dictionaries were compiled by laymen and there are only certain dialect dictionaries that welcomed phrasemes indicating them as such. With the exception of many Finnish dialect dictionaries containing phrasemes but not clearly classifying them (particularly idioms and proverbs are often incorrectly labeled), within the most well-known lexicographic works containing phrasemes or phrases listed as such are to be found the *EDD* (Wright 1898–1905), where they are labeled with “Phr.” (Piirainen 2007: 534) and *The New Hungarian Dialect Dictionary* (Lörinczy/Hoszu 1979–2010). The latter is structured by its linguistic phraseological units. Lately, dialect dictionaries seem to include more phrasemes (cf. Piirainen 2007: 534); however, in the case of Genoese, only a small part of phrasemes have been documented so far and they need to be labeled as such as in *GEPHRAS* (see chapter 3). Croatian, Russian and Low German dialect West-Münsterländisch studies are within the first based on dialectal phrasemes (cf. Matešić 1988; Piirainen 2000; Autelli in progress) and slowly there is a growing awareness of and interest in phraseology in dialect and/or in the other varieties (cf. e.g. Burger (2002); Zürrer (2007)). Since the 90s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there have been more and more studies on contrastive phraseology. Still, many aspects have not been analyzed yet, in particular, there is the need to register more phrasemes in more languages (cf. Korhonen 2007: 587).

The term “phraseology” can be interpreted in several ways according to the different definitions (cfr. Autelli in progress). It can for example imply idioms or, generally speaking, phraseological units (cf. Zybatow 1998: 149–154). Proverbs have a much longer tradition in lexicography (cf. Piirainen 2007: 532), also in Italian dialect dictionaries (cf. Fanfani 2007: 981). In particular, Staglieno (1869) worked on the Genoese proverbs and in the 60s, Franceschi started a project for an *Atlante Paremiologico Italiano* (cf. Fanfani 2007: 918).

As far as idiomatic expressions is concerned, it is not always clear what exactly constitutes an idiom (cf. Dobrovol’skij 1995: 13). Usually idioms have

non compositional meaning, but they can have many more features such as opacity and figurative meaning (cf. Zybatow 1998: 155–156). Usually dialects are more flexible than the standard languages, so one is more likely to find more equivalents for a particular concept. Dialects also often contain somatisms (cf. Piirainen 2007: 535). However, it can also happen that some phraseological units have no correspondents in another variety (cf. Aijmer 2007: 566). In this case, they have zero equivalence and one needs to compensate with other translation strategies (cf. Korhonen 2007, 578). If a phraseme has one (exact) equivalent it is monoequivalent, while if it has more than one, it is polyequivalent (cf. Korhonen 2007, 577). In translation it can happen that the translator paraphrases, even though exact equivalents exist (cf. Zybatow 1998: 155). This also depends on the language knowledge of the translator. For a lexicographic work it is important to find the exact equivalents of the phrasemes that would work in different contexts and/or to explain their use. The different equivalents can have different syntactic structures (cf. Korhonen 2007: 580), but there are also many more factors that should be taken into account when translating (e.g. different cultures, regional customs, “[c]ulture-boundness of phraseological meaning” (Sabban 2007: 595), connotations and domains (cf. Sabban 2007: 596)).

Mogorrón Heurta (2014) argues that the same phrasemes have sometimes been associated with different regions in different dictionaries and thus there are still discrepancies (cf. Mogorrón Huerta 2014: 138). Pamies Bertrán (2017b) points out that some scientists maintain that it would be important to develop such studies through corpora and sociolinguistic analyses (through questionnaires) (cf. Cuadrado Rey 2016: 97–110). It could also be added that if no (phraseological) corpora already exist, it is important to peruse already existing dictionaries as a base and to ask people whose mother tongue is the diatopic variety and/or who know the diatopic variety well to participate in projects or questionnaires. One more important goal would be that of developing phraseological ATLAS (cf. Nikoláeva 2011: 16; cf. Pamies Bertrán 2017a: 25):

Un ejemplo muy cercano a este objetivo serían los trabajos realizados por dialectólogos del Centro Universitario di Geoparemiologia de Florencia (Franceschi 1994, 1999, 2000), el proyecto BFQS sobre las variedades “nacionales” en la fraseología de Bélgica, Francia, Suiza y Quebec (Lamiroy et al. 2010) o el proyecto badare, una base de datos de refranes meteorológicos en los dialectos de toda la Rumania (Gargallo et al. 2005–2008, 2010, 2011). (Pamies Bertrán 2017b: 62)

In particular, collocations have not been analysed much in dialectal phraseological works (cf. Pamies Bertrán 2017b: 67). Diatopical, diaphasical and

distritical varieties and (quasi) synonyms represent another challenge (cf. Pamies Bertrán 2017b: 69–70). One should distinguish between literal free combinations that are not considered as standard language and (figurative or semi-figurative) phrasemes used in certain contexts by a certain speaking community: mostly, the latter are interesting for the fields of dialectal phraseology (cf. Pamies Bertrán 2017b: 72).

## 2. Genoese dictionaries

### 2.1. A definition of Genoese

Genoese has been classified as part of Ligurian, but its status is still controversial (cf. Holtus / Metzeltin / Pfister 1989; Toso 1998; Autelli 2021), as it has been argued that it also belongs to the dialects above the isogloss La Spezia-Rimini and according to some, also to the Gallo-Italic dialects. It is also important to mention that it is actually a category on its own as it only shares certain features with other dialects and languages (cf. Autelli 2021). As for the term *Genoese* itself, there are many different definitions of it, as it is spoken in different varieties throughout Liguria. Other varieties of Ligurian are also to be found in adjacent areas (Tuscany, Piedmont and France), in Argentina (La Boca, Buenos Aires) and in the ex-Genoese colonies (in Corsica, in Sardinia and in the Principality of Monaco) (cf. Beniscelli / Coletti / Còveri 1992: 45; Toso 2002b: 26; Guasoni / Toso 2010: 10; Toso 2010).

In this work, the term *Genoese* refers to the urban diatopic variety of Genoa (which is mostly shared approximately in the area between Bergeggi and Moneglia, cf. Toso 2002a), but also to a Ligurian variety which is “definitely endangered” (UNESCO Atlas of the World’s Languages in Danger 1995–2010). However, there has lately been a revival of it, mainly due to newspapers, TV, music, theatre, poetry, cultural associations, courses, (didactic) books and Genoese programmes (cf. Autelli 2021), and it is estimated that around 460,000 people speak Genoese today (cf. Acquarone 2015a: 119). Phraseography could possibly play an essential role in helping preserve Genoese.

### 2.2. Status quo of the Genoese (and Genoese-Italian) lexicography

Although we can find several Genoese (and Italian) dictionaries and, additionally, the oldest documents in Genoese to be found date back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, there is still a lot of work to be done in the (written as well

as oral) registration of Genoese, especially as far as phraseology is concerned (see chapter 2.3.1.).

As in many other dialects (cf. Piirainen 2007: 533), the beginnings of Genoese lexicography date back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the following works (for more information see Autelli 2021): the very well-known *Vocabolario genovese-italiano* (1851, <sup>2</sup>1876) by Casaccia, the works by Olivieri (1841, 1851), the *Vocabolario domestico genovese-italiano con un'appendice zoologica illustrato con tavole* (1857) and the *Vocabolario domestico genovese-italiano* (1868) by Paganini, *Proverbi in genovese con i corrispondenti in latino e in diversi dialetti* (1869) by Staglieno and the *Vocabolario tascabile genovese-italiano per il popolo* (1873) by P.F.B.. In the 20<sup>th</sup> and in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the following dictionaries have been published so far (cf. Autelli 2021): *Dizionario moderno genovese-italiano e italiano genovese* (1910) by Frisoni, the *Nuovo vocabolario genovese-italiano* (1955) by Gismondi, the *Dizionario italiano-genovese* by Canevagli (1977), the *Vocabolario delle parlate liguri* (VPL, 1985–1992) by Toso / Petracco Sicardi / Cavallaro (1985–1992), the *Dizionario genovese pei bambini: primo insegnamento oggettivo in cromolitografia* by Schmucker (1981), *E parolle do gatto* and *E parolle de l'amö* by Dolcino (e.g. 1975, 1978), *Ancora proverbi genovesi* (1977) by Petrucci, the collection of *Parolacce genovesi* by De Carlo (1994) and the pocket dictionary by Toso (1998). Recently published dictionaries include the works by Olivari such as *Zeneise riso ræo* (2003, <sup>2</sup>2006), the *Moderno dizionario rapido genovese-italiano italiano-genovese con Rimario* by Pessino (1995 e <sup>2</sup>2011), the *Nuovo Vocabolario Italiano-Genovese* by Bampi (2008), the *Dizionario genovese* and the *Dizionario italiano-genovese* by Agostino (2006, 2013), the *Piccolo Dizionario Etimologico Ligure* by Fiorenzo Toso (2015c), the *Traduttore Italiano Genovese – TIG* and the *Modi di dire Genovesi: 1233 modi di dire tradotti e commentati con la pronuncia di tutte le parole genovesi* by Bampi (2015a, 2015b), as well as the online lexicographic works *Tolte dal Cassetto* (2004) and the 'Dizionario Italiano-Genovese' *Parole di Genova* (2009). In 2018, another Genoese-Italian dictionary was published (Bampi 2018). *GEPHRAS* (Autelli et al. 2018–2021, see chapter 3) is the newest and, together with *GEPHRAS2*, the only Genoese-Italian online dictionary which focuses on phraseology (especially on collocations and idioms) that includes the pronunciation of the phrasemes.

### 2.3. Problems of the Genoese (and Italian) dictionaries

Generally speaking, Genoese and Genoese-Italian lexicography unfortunately lacks many important aspects. First of all, the dictionaries do not have as many lemmas as one would expect and most of the time, they are fairly

unsystematic (with a few exceptions). The choice of criteria for the entries is random, of an amateur and non-scientific nature, and the contents is often simply copied from other dictionaries. Moreover, there are certain limitations as far as the possibility for searching lemmas is concerned (e.g. only from one direction to the other and only a few varieties). Further, most of the time it is not clear whether the words are still in use (and in which area), what their exact equivalent really is, what their register and connotations are, etc. Most of the time, no phonological correspondent is given, except for a few dictionaries where the graphemes of single lemmas are also given (see for example Figure 3).

In addition, there is the problem of the orthography. Several proposals have been made (cf. Acquarone 2015c), but only three dictionaries have been using the new proposal for orthography of 2015 so far, namely the *Piccolo dizionario etimologico ligure* (Toso 2015), *GEPHRAS: The ABC of Genoese in Italian Phrasemes (Collocations and Idioms)* (Autelli et al. 2018–2021, see chapter 3) and *GEPHRAS2: The D-Z of Genoese in Italian Phrasemes (Collocations and Idioms)* (Autelli et al. in progress). Another problem are the so called *paròlle do gatto*, i.e. swearing that has not been listed in certain dictionaries because it is considered too vulgar. However, such words are actually quite popular in the Genoese speaking community and they have entered many other books and types of collections and/or glossaries, especially those on sayings and proverbs.

### 2.3.1. Phrasemes in Genoese (and Genoese-Italian) dictionaries

Not many studies exist on dialectal phraseology (cf. Autelli / Konecny / Lusito in print). This is also an issue for lexicography, where phraseology is still subordinate to other fields (cf. Pamies Bertrán 2017, 57–58). As far as the phrasemes in Genoese (and Genoese-Italian) dictionaries is concerned, the dictionary entries are often anything but complete. As mentioned before, the phrasemes are not often labeled as such and not even mentioned in the preface (e.g. P.F.B. 1873 and *Tolte dal Cassetto* 2004). Casaccia (21876) uses one graphic symbol (that he calls “paragrafo” (usually “§”, in Casaccia it rather looks like an “S”)) in his Genoese-Italian lexicographical work: he writes in the user guide preceding the lemmas that “Il paragrafo [...] indica la frase, il dettato, il proverbio, ecc. dipendenti dal verbo, nome, ecc. riempitivo, a cui soggiaciono”.

In the following, several screenshots with entries of Genoese dictionaries will be given in order to provide an overview of the structure of the dictionaries:

Figure 1. Entries in the small online Genoese-Italian dictionary *Tolte dal Cassetto* 2004

Source: [www.toltealcassetto.it/genova2004\\_dialetto\\_dizionario\\_a-c.htm](http://www.toltealcassetto.it/genova2004_dialetto_dizionario_a-c.htm)

As one can see in Figure 1, some dictionaries are actually a kind of glossary, with single words and a few word combinations that are given in an extra box as part of examples (see the examples under the entry *Can (Chen)*, but not indicated as phrasemes).

Figure 2. Entries in the Italian-Genoese dictionary *TIG*

Source: [www.zeneize.net/itze/lemmi.asp?chiave=a](http://www.zeneize.net/itze/lemmi.asp?chiave=a)

In Figure 2 one can see that in *TIG* one can find some chunks as separate entries (such as *a tentoni = a tastón*) – still, phrasemes are not indicated as such.

Figure 3. Entries in the *Dizionario Italiano-Genovese. Parole di Genova* (2009)

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the entry for 'Camallo' on the website www.paroledigenova.net. The page includes a navigation menu, a sidebar with 'Z E' logo, and the main content area. The entry for 'Camallo' is detailed, including its etymology (from Italian 'camello'), pronunciation, and a table of phonetic transcriptions. Below the table, there are sections for 'Camallo sui vocabolari storici', 'Voci correlate', and 'Categorie'.

Info	Grafia ufficiale	Grafia semplificata	Pronuncia (SAMP)
es. n.	camallo	camallo	[kaˈmalla]
es. p.	camalli	camalli	[kaˈmali]

Source: www.paroledigenova.net/ze/index.php?title=Camallo.

In Figure 3 one can see an example taken from the '*Dizionario Italiano-Genovese*'. *Parole di Genova* (2009, now not to be found online anymore). Usually, no phrasemes were given in the upper part of the entry, but one could find some as part of some examples taken from other dictionaries. One could find the phonetic transcription of the single lexeme but one could not listen to it.

Figure 4. Entries in Genoese-Italian dictionary by Casaccia (1851)

The screenshot shows a page from the dictionary 'Genovese-Italiano' by Casaccia (1851). The page is divided into two columns of text. The left column contains entries for 'piccinire, Coartare', 'A STREPELLI', 'A STREUPPE', 'ASTROFOGGIÀ', and 'ASTRÛNÒU'. The right column contains entries for 'sono esser presi', 'ATTACCÀ', and 'ATTASTÀ'. The text is in a traditional Genoese dialect.

Source: Casaccia 1851: 36.

In Casaccia (1851, see Figure 4) one can find chunks as entries such as *a taston*. In the entry, one can read that it is often used as part of a proverb, but it is given only in the Italian explanation. Other phrasemes are often indicated by a paragraph, but no distinction within the individual kinds of phrasemes is made. Moreover, the paragraph also indicates other data such as citations. From a phraseodidactic point of view, the explanations of idioms are useful, but they are written in a type of Italian that is not standard nowadays.

Figure 5. Entries in the Genoese-Italian dictionary by P.F.B. (1873)

A stùffòu. <i>A calca.</i>	Attempòu. <i>Attempato.</i>
A taston. <i>A tastone.</i>	Attende. <i>Attendere. Aspirare.</i>
A teito. <i>Sotto tetto.</i>	Attende ò sorchetto, ecc. <i>Tendere l'aiuolo.</i>
Atelliè. <i>Officina. Laboratorio.</i>	Attenzion. <i>Attenzione.</i>
Äto. <i>Alto. Elevato.</i>	Atterrà. <i>Atterrare, Abbatere.</i>
A tocca saro. <i>A birri e ladri.</i>	Atterrenà. <i>Ammontare.</i>
A tocchetti. <i>A minuzzolì.</i>	Atterri. <i>Atterrire.</i>
A tocchi. <i>A brani.</i>	Attesà. <i>Stirare, Tendere.</i>
A tombolon. <i>A tombolo.</i>	Attestà. <i>Attestare.</i>
A tòrsio. <i>A dòndolo.</i>	Attèsccegà. <i>Attossicare.</i>
A tracolla. <i>Ad armacollo.</i>	Attilàse. <i>Attilarsi.</i>
Atrettanto. <i>Altrettanto.</i>	Attilòu. <i>Attilato. Dipinto.</i>
Atrimenti. <i>Altrimenti.</i>	Attiràse. <i>Attirarsi.</i>
Atro. <i>Altro.</i>	Attissà. <i>Attizzare.</i>
Attaccà. <i>Attaccare. Appiccicare.</i>	Attornia. <i>Attorniare.</i>
Attaccalite. <i>Accattabrighe.</i>	Attortignà. <i>Attortigliare.</i>
Attaccàse. <i>Appigliarsi. Aggrapparsi.</i>	Attortignàse. <i>Aggrovigliarsi.</i>
Attaccàse con ün. <i>Altercare.</i>	Attortignòu. <i>Attorcigliato.</i>
Attaccàse a-i spegi. <i>Apporsi al sole.</i>	Attraccà. <i>Afferrare.</i>
Attaccavesti. <i>Attaccapanni.</i>	Attrazion. <i>Attrazione.</i>
Attaccòu. <i>Attacato. Guasto.</i>	Attressà. <i>Attrazzare.</i>
Attämassòu. <i>Malfatto. Tànghero.</i>	Attressatüa. <i>Attrazzatura.</i>
	Attressatüa. <i>Intrecciatura.</i>
	Attristà. <i>Attristare.</i>
	Attristàse. <i>Contristarsi.</i>
	Attrovà. <i>Ritrovare.</i>
	Attrovèuia. <i>Cortesia, Man-</i>

Source: P.F.B. 1873: 36.

In Figure 5 we can see that there are dictionaries that list phrasemes as single entries, but they are not indicated as a separate category (see, for example, the last two examples at the bottom of the first column).

In Figure 6 one can see that some phrasemes are also to be found as simple entries, for example, in Paganini. However, they are not designed as such and they are not always in alphabetic order and are thus sometimes difficult to find.

As far as the pronunciation in Genoese is concerned, only a few Genoese dictionaries made or make it possible to find the phonetic transcription, such as in the *Dizionario Italiano-Genovese. Parole di Genova* (2009) and in Bampi's work (2015c), but both barely indicate the pronunciation of word

Figure 6. Entries in the domestic Genoese-Italian dictionary by Paganini (1837)

<p>cava premendola, il quale s'insala, e si serba per condimento.</p> <p>L'Uva, stando in sulle generali, si distingue in <i>bianca, rossa, e nera</i>; in <i>serrata o fitta</i>, e <i>spàrgola</i> (cioè con grappoli ad àcini rari); in <i>Uva per far vino, mangeréccia, serbevole</i></p> <p>In particolare poi l' uva suol avere il nome della vite che la produce, e questa lo trae da qualche speciale carattere, dal luogo donde prima ci venne o dov'è esclusivamente coltivata ec.</p> <p><b>ALEÀTICO</b>, <i>Aledico</i> e più comunemente <i>Leàtico</i>, s. m.</p> <p><b>ARBAËUA</b>. V. <i>Gianchetta</i>.</p> <p><b>BARBARÓSSA</b>, <i>Barbaróssa</i> s. f.</p> <p><b>ÛGA BARBERA</b>, <i>Uva barbera, Barbarina</i>. È nera, e primeggia tra le uve del basso Monferrato.</p> <p><b>ÛGA BRAIËUA</b>, <i>Uva bracchetto</i>, È indigena del contado di Nizza.</p> <p><b>ÛGA CANAIËUA</b>, <i>Uva canaiòla, Canaiòla, Canaiuola</i>. È nera, più serrata che spargola, e per la sua dolcezza piace molto ai cani.</p> <p><b>ÛGA CORNETTA</b>, <i>Uva galletta, Galletta</i>, Sorta d' uva di due fatte, cioè bianca e nera, la quale ha i granelli lunghetti e</p>	<p><i>Moscadèlla bianca, e il Moscatellone di Spagna o di Salamanna</i>, bianco esso pure.</p> <p><b>NEBBIËU</b>, <i>Nebbiòlo</i>.</p> <p><b>ÛGA PIGNËUA</b>, <i>Pignuòla bianca, Uva claretta di Nizza</i>.</p> <p><b>ÛGA TRÈGGIA</b>, <i>Pergolese</i>, Spezie d' uva duràcine e grossa, detta anche <i>Pèrgola</i> e <i>Brumèsta</i>, la quale basta sulla pergola tutto il verno, e ce n'ha della bianca, della rossa, e della nera. V. Crescenz. 4. 4. 13.</p> <p><b>VERMENTIN</b>, <i>Vermentino</i>.</p> <p><b>ÛGA SARVÈGA</b>, <i>Lambrusca, Raverusto, Ravirusto, Affricogna, Uoizzolo</i>, Frutto del Lambrusco, che è sorta di vite salvatica.</p> <p><b>ZEBIBBO</b>, <i>Zibibbo</i>, Uva passa che ci viene in barili o in cestelli di Levante e di Sicilia. <i>Zibibbo</i> dieci pure una spezie d' uva ottima e dura che ha i granelli bislunghi. Ve n' ha della bianca e della rossa.</p> <p><b>ÛGA PASSA</b>, <i>Uva passa o pàssola o pàsula</i>, che il volgo dice <i>Uva pàssera</i>, Uva quasi cotta sulla vite dal sole, o seccata in forno - V.</p> <p><b>ÛGHETTA</b>, <i>Uva di Corinto, Uva pàsola di Corinto</i> ecc., Uva d' àcini piccolissimi, che</p>
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Source: Paganini 1837: 90.

combinations (i.e. phrasemes). Moreover, no pronunciation audio is provided, which is offered in *GEPHRAS* (and in *GEPHRAS2*). This should help people learn Genoese and, especially, assist in preserving the language.

### 1.3.2. The phrasemes and their equivalents

Dictionaries in Genoese (and Genoese-Italian) mostly deal with single words, or if the translations of phrasemes are provided, they are often incomprehensible. In the following, a few examples of phrasemes found in these dictionaries (based on the lemma *àia*, 'air') with their translations will be given in order to show some of the problems of the equivalents given:

- (1) The Italian equivalents (also collocations or idioms) are not those of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, e.g.:
  - a. "*do paize* = aria nativa" (Casaccia 18762: 17; Frisoni 1910: 12)  
→ Today, the Italian collocation would be, depending on the context, "*l'aria natia / di casa*".
  - b. "*cangiâ* - = mutare paese" (Frisoni 1910: 13)  
→ Today, the collocation would be that of "*cambiare aria*", "*cambiare paese*". "*Mutare paese*" would mean something different (lit. 'to mutate the country').

- c. "*destende all'* - = sciorinare" (ibid.)  
 → Except for the fact that the object is missing, the modern collocation could possibly be "stendere, appendere, mettere all'aria".
- (2) Sometimes, the connotations of the phrasemes (incl. idiomatic expressions) are missing:
- d. "*vive d'* - = campar con poco, vivere miseramente" (ibid.)  
 → What is the connotation of the first equivalent? This is not clear in the entry.
- (3) The objectoids and/or valence aspects are missing, such as in:
- e. "*avei l'* - = rassomigliare, (fig.) aver alterigia, burbanza" (Frisoni 1910: 12)  
 → Apart from the fact that the translation would have to be changed, in the Genoese collocation it is not shown what follows *äia* (*di qrc.*).
- (4) Sometimes, only one meaning is given, such as in:
- f. "*andare con le gambe all'* - = andare in rovina, in malora" (ibid.)  
 → Problem: this could also be used in its literal meaning and not only as an idiomatic expression.
- g. "*cacciâ all'* - = mettere a soqqadro, sossopra" (ibid.)  
 → Apart from the fact that "sossopra" is not commonly used nowadays, it is not clear whether the combination can be also used in its literal meaning.
- (5) Sometimes the translation is literal or it is not clear whether the meaning is literal or idiomatic and/or what the reference is, such as in:
- h. "*ëse basso d'* - = aver poca altezza (detto di locale)" (Frisoni 1910: 13)  
 → Can this only be used literally or can the phraseme also be figurative? And what exactly is meant by "locale"?
- (6) The reference is not clear, such as in:
- i. "*ëse per l'* - = essere in disordine, in scompiglio" (ibid.)  
 → In this case it is also not clear what it refers to (a person? A place?).
- (7) Often, some equivalents are given, but others are missing or wrong, such as in:
- j. "*ësighe quarcosa per l'* - = bollire qc. in pentola, esservi dell'oscuro all'orizzonte" (ibid.)  
 → The modern Italian equivalent could be "c'è qualcosa nell'aria (fig.)"; if one uses "c'è qualcosa che bolle in pentola", it should also

be specified that it is used in its figurative meaning; the second equivalent is not clear because it is not clear how or in what context it is used.

(8) Often, some words are written in capital letters even when they should not be, such as in:

k. “- *averta* = Aria aperta, dicesi dell’Aria di campagna, che è libera e non impedita dalle case, ecc.” (Casaccia <sup>2</sup>1876: 17)

→ The translation and the explanation are correct, but the capital letter is not (the reason it is like this is that the lexicographer decided to indicate the lemmas in this manner).

(9) Sometimes the explanations are not accurate, such as in:

l. “- *finn-a* = aria gelata, brezza, brezzolina” (Frisoni 1910: 12), Casaccia (<sup>2</sup>1876: 17) translated it as “Aria sottile, Aria gelata e cruda, specialmente la notte e la mattina di buon’ora; altrim. Brezza, Brezzolina V. *Brixa*”)

→ “gelata” is not correct as an equivalent and definition as given by Casaccia.

(10) Giving an explanation rather than a true equivalent, such as in:

m. “Addôçise l’äia = Raddolciare l’aria o il tempo, dicesi quando l’aria di fredda e cruda, diviene placida e benigna” (Casaccia <sup>2</sup>1876: 17)

→ It is not clear how to say this in Italian.

(11) The translation is not exact and the context is missing, such as in:

n. “*tiâ all’[/]per l’* - = sparare in aria” (Frisoni 2005: 13)

→ Is this entry about sport or the military or something else?

Through a new phraseological project (*GEPHRAS*, see next chapter for more information), additional problems were identified for the translations of the phrasemes. The next question we will try to answer is: how to handle or should one handle the problems identified above? Further studies on the translations will follow.

### 3. *GEPHRAS*

So-called bilingual collocations dictionaries are still quite rare, not only as far as languages are concerned, but also regarding dialects and diatopic varieties. Although collocations dictionaries are very useful for users, there are only a few bilingual ones, such as those by Ilgenfritz / Stephan-Gabinel / Schneider (1989), Benson / Benson (1993), Hollós (2014), Konecny /

Autelli (in progress), by Berti / Pinnavaia (in progress) (cf. Berti / Pinnavaia 2014: 515). A dialectal bilingual collocations dictionary is therefore a *novum* in several fields, in particular in linguistics and phraseology, lexicography and translation.

The aim of *GEPHRAS: The ABC of Genoese and Italian Phrasemes (Collocations and Idioms)* (cf. Autelli et al. 2018–2021) is that of creating a free phraseological Genoese-Italian online dictionary (on <https://romanistik-gephras.uibk.ac.at>), with focus on collocations and idiomatic expressions. The project team has created a dictionary with 100 Genoese lemmas beginning with <a>, <b>, <c> and their diacritic varieties such as <æ> and <ç>. For the future, additional funds are foreseen to complete the dictionary with the remaining letters of the alphabet (through the follow up project *GEPHRAS2*, which will also include sample sentences and the IPA transcription of the phrasemes). This work is based on the urban variety of Genoese. However, in addition to the research based on dictionaries and on the translations of Italian phrasemes by Genoese native speakers, it is possible to collect and integrate further suggestions from the users who speak other varieties of Genoese. Indeed, more than 10,000 people surf the internet in Genoese (cf. Acquarone 2015b: 30) and would be able to contribute by sending an e-mail (to [gephras@uibk.ac.at](mailto:gephras@uibk.ac.at)) with their proposals and suggestions. This is important as a typical problem of dialects is that “the mental phraseological lexicon, independently of the regional origin of the informants, varies considerably among speakers, especially as far as phraseological units are concerned which are marked as colloquial in current dictionaries” (Schmidlin 2007: 557).

By doing this research, the equivalents of the phrasemes are given in Italian, starting with the hypothesis that Genoese, despite not having the same status of Italian, has its own particularities (i.e. divergencies), also with regard to phrasemes and their conceptualizations (Autelli / Konecny 2015: 189) and needs to be learned as a separate diatopic variety. In addition to this, historical collocations and idioms (dating back to 1815) which can be found in *DESGEL: Dizionario Etimologico Storico Genovese E Ligure* (Toso in progress) are added to the entries. In each entry, collocations and idioms are separated and listed first according to their morpho-syntactic structure (the homepage allows many different types of searches), then in alphabetical order and, finally, further details on register and synonyms are given.

Anybody willing to learn or improve his/her Genoese can use the dictionary, particularly people speaking Italian with no knowledge of Genoese, but also people who would like to learn more on their own or use it for productive purposes. As Genoese co-exists with Italian (although it is not much spoken in the urban area), teachers of Genoese would also be able

to use this dictionary with their students in class, also using the pictures of the dictionary for phraseodidactic purposes. All in all, this project represents a complete innovation in the Genoese lexicographic area and is very important for the documentation and the survival of Genoese. Moreover, this work could serve as a model for many other language varieties and dialects (especially the endangered ones) where no similar lexicographic works exist yet.

### 3.1. The entries in *GEPHRAS*

#### 3.1.1. The choice of the 100 “basic” lemmas

As no basic vocabulary of Genoese exist yet and the project only runs until April 2021, 100 substantives were collected as noun bases for the entries of the dictionary. The choice of the substantives is based on the following criteria and is handled as described below:

1. The 100 substantives serve as noun bases for the entries.
2. The substantives begin with the letters A, B and C, including their diacritic varieties.
3. As the letter C has far more words than A and B, the 100 words were not divided into three equivalent parts.
4. All 100 words are still in use and quite common in the Genoese community (here, the Genoese partners involved in the project play an important role for their language competence).
5. As Casaccia (<sup>2</sup>1876) is still the most important Genoese dictionary, all the chosen lemmas must also be part of it, with the exception of the so-called *paròlle do gatto*, which is swearing or vulgar language (such as *bellin*, also very common as *belin*, meaning ‘dick’/‘cock’), that is not included in Casaccia’s dictionaries.
6. *Paròlle do gatto* are included even if they have been excluded in many dictionaries (as they represent a part of the common usage).
7. The 100 lemmas are phraseologically relevant.
8. The lemmas should be listed in at least 3 Genoese dictionaries.
9. The lemmas are written according to the proposal of orthography of 2015 (cf. Acquarone 2015c).
10. Terms that begin with other letters other than A, B, and C today (e.g. *erbo*, which was once written with *æ*) are not included.
11. The Genoese lemmas and phrasemes are translated into Italian.
12. The most part of the phrasemes are taken from dictionaries and added by Genoese native speakers.

13. Further Italian phrasemes that are missing are added (also with the help of *Sketch Engine*) and translated into Genoese.
14. The dictionary is online (<https://romanistik-gephras.uibk.ac.at>). Although the dictionary is monodirectional (Genoese-Italian), one can also look for single words and phrasemes in both languages.
15. The entries are divided in case of homonymy, but not in case of polysemy.
16. Polyfunctional words such as *ciù* or *bon* are not included.
17. No modified forms (except for plural forms) such as diminutives and superlatives are included.
18. The lemmas belong to the language of everyday life and to several semantic fields, such as animals, food, city, society, house and furniture, people, clothing, nature as well as vulgar language.
19. In order to choose the lemmas, several kinds of dictionaries, most importantly the generic ones, but also didactic materials and booklets of sayings were perused.
20. All the lemmas are written in small capital letters (contrary to most Genoese-Italian dictionaries, such as those by P.F.B. (1873), Casaccia (1876), Frisoni (1910) and Schmucker (1981).
21. Vulgar language is limited in the dictionary as it is highly phraseological and there would be too much material on it in comparison to the rest.

### 3.1.2. The structure of the entries

The structure of the entries includes: lemma, Italian equivalent(s), etymology, collocations<sup>2</sup> [currently  $N + Adj/AdjP$  (or  $Adj + N$ ),  $N + PreP$ ,  $N + relative\ clause$ ,  $Prep + Adj + N$  (or  $Prep + N + Adj$ ),  $N + Prep + N$  (lemma),  $N (Subj) + V$  (or  $V + N$  (predicative complement of the subject)),  $V + N$  (*DirObj* or its predicative complement),  $V + N$  (*IndirObj* or its predicative complement, or else agent complement)], further structures, idiomatic expressions [ $N + Adj/AdjP$  (or  $Adj + N$ ),  $N + PreP$ , (lemma) as (part of a) *Subj* or (part of a) predicative complement, (lemma) as (part of a) *DirObj* (including subordinate clauses), (lemma) as (part of an) *IndirObj* (including subordinate clauses), (lemma) as part of further idioms]. Also phrasemes in which the lemma is part of comparisons, part of communicative phrasemes or of structural phrasemes as well as historical phrasemes found in *DESGEL* (Toso in progress) are included.

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<sup>2</sup> Within the section “collocations” we refer to a broad definition of collocation, thus also including very frequent free word combinations in order to preserve Genoese, but also including compounds that need to be learned similarly as collocations.

A simplified entry will be given in order to give a concrete example (based the lemma *arma*, ‘weapon’):

Figure 7. The sample entry of *arma* (‘weapon’) in Autelli et al. (2018–2021)

**arma**

arma

**Collocations**

**N + Adj/Prep (or Adj + N)**

Genese	Italian
arma antica	arma antica
arma atomica	arma atomica
arma automatica	arma automatica
arma biologica	arma biologica
arma chimica	arma chimica
arma esplosiva	arma esplosiva
arma bianca	arma bianca
arma inoffensiva	arma inoffensiva
arma potente	arma potente
arma proibita	arma proibita
arma scarregia, arma descarregia (stius.)	arma scarica
arma segretta	arma segreta

**N + Prep**

Genese	Italian
arma à doi taggi	arma a doppio taglio
arma d'offesa	arma d'offesa
arma da difesa, arma de defesa	arma da difesa
arma da fuoco / da punta / da taglio / da tiro	arma da fuoco / da punta / da taglio / da tiro

**N + relative clause**

Genese	Italian
arma ch'a fonzio'ra ben	arma efficace

**N + Prep + N (arma)**

Genese	Italian
chiamata a-e arma	chiamata alle armi
classe d'arma	piazza d'armi
porto d'arma	porto d'armi
trafigante d'arma	trafficante d'armi

**V + N (Di/Oi) or its predicative complement)**

Genese	Italian
abbassà o arma	deporre le armi
accattà un'arma	acquistare un'arma
adduvivà un'arma, devvivà un'arma	comprare un'arma
allivà un'arma	usare un'arma
arivivà un'arma, rivivà un'arma	impiegare un'arma
asconde un'arma	affilare un'arma
bandì un'arma	ritirare un'arma
caregà un'arma	sequestrare un'arma
consegnà un'arma	nascondere un'arma
depofo un'arma	bandire un'arma
descarregà un'arma	caricare un'arma
delagnì un'arma	consegnare un'arma
dirize un'arma contra ogn.	deporre un'arma
manezgà un'arma	scaricare un'arma
manovivà un'arma	delenere un'arma
piggivà o arma	dirigere un'arma contra ogn.
portivà un'arma contra ogn. o ogn., portivà un'arma in sua dicit. o ogn.	rivolgere un'arma contra ogn.
posivà un'arma	maneggiare un'arma
reggivà o arma	manovrare un'arma
sequestivà un'arma	prendere le armi
sà fieu un'arma	puntare un'arma contra ogn.
vende de arma	portare un'arma su ogn. o ogn.
	posare un'arma
	riprendere le armi
	sequestrare un'arma
	tirare fuori un'arma [sem.]
	stoderare un'arma
	vedere armi

Historical Phrasemes Found in DESGEL	
Historical phrasemes found in DESGEL	
Genoese	Italian
A-e arme!	crinando all'arma all'arma ogni gharzon (1747: DESGEL)
arma gianca	sercando un'arma gianca d'uria e buria (l m. s. XVII: DESGEL)
crinà a-e arme	crinando all'arma all'arma ogni gharzon (1747: DESGEL)
pòsà un'arma	vol' ghe farei posà n' arme à terra (1771: DESGEL)

Image



«Vegnì à l'arma gianca».

[ZE] O scignificato de st'espression idiomatica, ancheu feua de deuvia, o fù rappresento da unna persona che, con unna spà pontà verso a terra (ò sia, unna de tante «arme gianche» ch'èstè), a parla con franchessa e sincerità à unna segunda persona.

[IT] Il significato di quest'espressione idiomatica, oggi disusata, è rappresentato da una persona che, con una spada puntata a terra (ossia una fra le tante «arme bianche» esistenti), parla con franchezza e sincerità a un secondo individuo.

[EN] The meaning of this idiom (lit. 'to come to a white/blank weapon'; 'to speak freely'), which is no longer in use, is portrayed by a person in dark clothing speaking to another honestly and bluntly, while holding a white sword (one of the so called 'arme gianche', 'white weapons') that is pointed to the ground.

[DE] Die Konzeptualisierung dieses heute nicht mehr gebräuchlichen Idioms (Bedeutung: 'in aller Offenheit sprechen', wört. 'zur weißen / blanken Waffe kommen') wird durch einen Mann in dunklem Gewand dargestellt, der mit einem anderen offen und unverblümt spricht und sich dabei auf ein Schwert (jenseit auf eines der sog. 'blanken Waffen' bzw. 'Blankwaffen') stützt, das er in Händen hält und welches entsprechend der wörtlichen Bedeutung weiß ist.

Source: <http://romanistik-gephras.uibk.ac.at/lemma?entry=16>

As one can see, the entries are put in alphabetical order underneath each morphosyntactic category. Further details such as [volg.] (= vulgar), [dis.] (= disused) and [neg.] (= negative connotation) are also to be found in the dictionary (in square brackets []). As far as synonyms are concerned, they are listed underneath one another in order to allow for the single registration (especially for the pronunciation) of phrasemes. In the case the use is the same as in Genoese, the most similar Italian equivalents are listed as first, otherwise priority is given to the register. It is also possible to find the explanation of the idiomatic expressions. One can also find visualizations of some Genoese phrasemes (one Genoese phraseme per each lemma) at the bottom of each page.

### 3.1.3. The online interface

For the project, an end-user website (as mentioned above, on <https://romanistik-gephras.uibk.ac.at>) was developed in order to enable guests to search for words and phrasemes. The data is stored in an open-source

database system (MariaDB). The site is implemented in English, Italian, Genoese and German. It contains a static landing page with project information: the project, dictionary (= where the database is uploaded), illustrations, team, partners, contacts, bibliography, news. A subsite (= “dictionary”) lists all (100) Genoese (basic) words that are currently stored in the database, with the possibility to retrieve detailed information for each entry. On the top right of the “dictionary”, there is a search mask that represents the core functionality of the website. The search mask itself enables the users to:

- search for a single word (in either Genoese or Italian),
- search for a phraseme, e.g. for a collocation such as *ægua storbia* (‘murky water’) or an idiom such as *avei l’ægua inta bocca* (‘make somebody drool’),
- search with placeholders, collocations and idiomatic expressions, but also other kinds of phrasemes (structural, communicative and comparative),
- in order to use the special characters of Genoese (ç, æ, ä, â, à, î, î, ì, ë, è, ê, ö, ô, ò, ü, û, ù, ñ), an on-screen keyboard including these characters has been implemented; however, “similar” letters will also be found, so that no matter what orthography one uses, one will be able to find the entry in the dictionary,
- upon submitting the search query, a results list is presented to the users, which contains:
  - a list of single words that match the input (in Italian or Genoese) (it is also possible to write only parts of one word anticipated or posticipated by the symbol \*, e.g. typing *ægu\** one can find *ægua* ‘water’ or *ægue* ‘waters’),
  - a list of collocations that match the input (in Italian or Genoese),
  - a list of idioms that match the input (in Italian or Genoese),
  - a list of all other kind of phrasemes that match the input (in Italian or Genoese).
- an audible preview of the correct pronunciation in both Italian and Genoese for each result entry,
- the pronunciation of phrasemes is recorded as WAV, then converted to mp3 for the homepage; the pronunciation button is to be found after the word combination (i.e. on the right side),
- no pronunciation for the historical word combinations (taken from *DES-GEL*) is provided as the pronunciation would not be authentic,
- an autocompletion of the search terms is incrementally presented to the user as the search mask is filled (= it means that one can see some proposals of phrasemes while typing).

### 3.1.4. The images in *GEPHRAS*

Only a few Genoese dictionaries provide images (e.g. Schmucker 1981, mainly for children), and these often show the meaning of only one word. If word combinations accompany images, usually only the figurative or the literal meaning is given. Drawings of phrasemes are more often found in booklets or collections of sayings, such as in Ferrando / Ferrando 1979, where both literal and figurative meaning is given, which is quite rare:

Figure 8. *Andâ a cantâ in sciûnn'a[t]ra carassa*



Source: Ferrando / Ferrando 1979.

The illustrated phraseme (lit. ‘to go singing on another trellies, which actually refers to “a person who tries something out but is unwelcome because of his/her levity”’) shows the literal meaning with a trellies and the idiomatic meaning is made visible through the image of the man who does not want to welcome the person who has just arrived. Only one aspect could still be emphasized: that of the levity of the person waiting.

As *GEPHRAS* should help users learn and improve their Genoese, in addition to the Genoese phrasemes, their translations in Italian and their pronunciation are given. Moreover, each lemma is accompanied by an illustration

of one of the Genoese phrasemes. The illustrations are drawn by the Genoese artist Matteo Merli. The aim of the images is to highlight the divergent (but sometimes also convergent) conceptualizations of Genoese phrasemes from Italian ones. Both the literal and the idiomatic meaning of the Genoese phraseme is included in the picture. Two examples can be found below (one collocation on Figure 8 and one idiom on Figure 9):

**Figure 9.** *Æña affogâ* (= lit. 'sand on fire', which actually means 'hot sand')



Source: <http://romanistik-gephras.uibk.ac.at/lemma?entry=3>

**Figure 10.** *Anima longa* (= lit. 'soul long', which actually means 'beanpole')



Source: <http://romanistik-gephras.uibk.ac.at/lemma?entry=15>

As one can see, both the literal and the phraseological meaning of the Genoese phrasemes *æña affogâ* and *anima longa* are shown. In Figure 8, one can see that the sand is literally on fire and very hot – that is why the man's feet hurt. In Figure 9, you can see the literal meaning, which is 'soul long'; when the Genoese say somebody is a 'long soul', they actually mean that a person is very tall. We hope in this way to help assist with the learning, improving and preserving of Genoese.

Thanks to Almyria Wilhelm from the Department of American Studies of the University of Innsbruck for her help with the proofreading.

#### 4. Conclusions

It has been shown that most of the Genoese (and Genoese-Italian) dictionaries lack many crucial aspects, partly due to their non-scientific nature, the lack of a systematic procedure, and problems with orthography, pronunciation, and especially phrasemes and their equivalents.

For the fields of phraseology/linguistics, lexicography and translation and for the survival of Genoese as a language, it is important to create an innovative lexicographic work such as *GEPHRAS* (and *GEPHRAS2*), which allows for the broadening of the collection of (actual and historical) phrasemes. This dictionary can also serve as a model for other phraseological works on other varieties, including languages, regionalisms and dialects.

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## **Phraseme in genesischer und genesisch-italienischer Lexikographie**

### **Zusammenfassung**

Dieser Artikel zeigt, dass die dialektale Phraseographie noch in den Kinderschuhen steckt, u.a. da sehr viele dialektale Wörterbücher erst in der 2. Hälfte des 19. Jahrhunderts erschienen sind und häufig von Laien verfasst wurden. Vor allem was die Phraseologie anbelangt, weisen die meisten Wörterbücher des Genuesischen (einsprachig sowie Genuesisch-Italienisch) keine Systematik im Hinblick auf ihre Konzeptionskriterien auf. Viele der zweisprachigen Wörterbücher zeigen insbesondere Schwächen in Bezug auf die Angabe der italienischen Äquivalente. Das an

der Universität Innsbruck angesiedelte FWF-Projekt *GEPHRAS* (Autelli et al. 2018–2021) stellt in der die diatopische Variation betreffenden Phraseographie insofern ein Novum dar, als es der lexikographischen Erfassung unterschiedlicher Arten von Phrasemen – Kollokationen, idiomatischen Redewendungen, komparativen, kommunikativen und strukturellen Phrasemen – besondere Aufmerksamkeit schenkt. Hierbei strebt das online frei zugängliche Wörterbuch auch an, den Erhalt des Genuesischen zu fördern. Das Wörterbuch listet (in morphosyntaktischer und innerhalb der Einträge in alphabetischer Ordnung) geläufige Phraseologismen des Gegenwarts-Genuesischen und –Italienischen sowie historische Phraseme des Genuesischen auf. Darüber hinaus verfügt es über Audiodateien, die sowohl die genuesischen als auch die italienischen Phraseme wiedergeben, sowie über Zeichnungen, welche zu didaktischen Zwecken sowohl die wörtliche als auch ggf. die idiomatische Bedeutung der Wortverbindungen abbilden. In *GEPHRAS* wurden 100 substantivische, mit den genuesischen Graphemen <a>, <æ>, <b>, <c> und <ç> beginnende Lemmata phraseographisch erfasst. Geplant ist, das Wörterbuch in einem Folgeprojekt (*GEPHRAS2*) durch die Erfassung weiterer Lemmata (beginnend mit den Graphemen <d> bis <z>) zu vervollständigen. Zudem sind mit der IPA-Transkription der Phraseme sowie der Aufnahme von Beispielsätzen auch konzeptionelle Neuerungen vorgesehen.