

**John and/or Giovanni Florio.  
Tradition and Innovation in Florian Studies**

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**Metalinguistic labelling in Florio's *A Worlde of Words* (1598)**

This paper is part of a project on the history of the metalanguage of English linguistics in the period 1500-1700. Source selection is a critical aspect of the project presenting multiple challenges, since, in a period predating the establishment of philology and linguistics as academic disciplines, language-related discussions are to be found not just in grammar books and language manuals, but in works pertaining to different fields and presenting a large variety of aims. Building on previous research that has explored the potential of (semi-)automated methods of source retrieval (Andreani and Russo 2023), I propose to focus on John Florio's *A Worlde of Words* (1598), which was identified as a treasure trove for the study of metalinguistic terminology.

Within the scope of the conference, my paper aims to contribute a historical linguistics and lexicographical perspective on Florio as an observer of language and linguistic phenomena, which is informed by scholarship on Florio's didactic manuals and dictionaries (Considine 2022; Montini 2019) and by the rising interest in bilingual vernacular lexicography as a source for the study of (a) the development of linguistics and (b) of attitudes towards linguistic phenomena, such as language variation (Cormier 2008; Zimont 2020).

My contribution will present the methodological approach to source selection and analysis, intending to explore such aspects as the nature of metalinguistic labelling in Florio and its consistency; the extent to which awareness of language variation (whether regional, diastratic, diaphasic or other) in both English and Italian is displayed; whether any hierarchy of varieties is suggested.

Further aspects for consideration may include typographical conventions and whether the labelling system adopted by Florio appears to presuppose any prerequisite linguistic knowledge from his readers.

**Selected references**

Andreani, A., Russo, D. 2023. "Building a Corpus of the Metalanguage of English Linguistics 1500-1700: Methodological Issues." *Linguistica e Filologia* 43, 151-174.

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Cormier, Monique C. 2008. 'Usage labels in the Royal Dictionary (1699) by Abel Boyer', *International Journal of Lexicography*, 21: 153-71.

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Zimont, Elizaveta. 2020. 'Variation diatopique dans la lexicographie français ↔ néerlandais aux XVI<sup>e</sup> et XVII<sup>e</sup> siècles : réception et usage des marques diatopiques.' In *Essays in the history of dialect studies. From ancient Greece to modern dialectology*, edited by Raf Van Rooy. Münster: Nodus Publikationen.