

Maltese Loanword Typology

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Maltese is renowned for the mixed nature of its vocabulary, with lexical items of Semitic and of Romance origin coexisting in a harmonious whole. While there have been many previous studies on the composition of the Maltese vocabulary, these do not permit a general typological assessment since they do not select the lexical concepts to be examined in a systematic way comparable with studies of other languages. The Loanword Typology project (Haspelmath & Tadmor 2009a; 2009b) provides just such a systematic basis for cross-linguistic comparison. The presentation will examine Maltese vocabulary from the perspective of the Loanword Typology project, compiling percentages of vocabulary origin not only for all of the approximately 1500 lexical concepts included in the project database, but also for individual semantic fields and word classes.

References:

Haspelmath, Martin and Uri Tadmor (eds.). 2009a. *Loanwords in the World's Languages: A Comparative Handbook*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Haspelmath, Martin and Uri Tadmor (eds.). 2009b. *World Loanword Database*. Munich: Max Planck Digital Library, 1344 entries. <http://wold.livingsources.org/vocabulary>.