

New Words for Maltese

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Abstract: *The expansion of Maltese vocabulary goes on at a fast pace and the language is well poised to face the challenges of modern technology. Aquilina's Maltese-English Dictionary is in need of a 'Supplement' to include (i) the neologisms created in his English-Maltese Dictionary, (ii) words which had not come to his knowledge, and (iii) new words that have come into Maltese due to the progress of the communications industry, computerization, and other branches of technology and the technical sciences. A slight modification of an etymological nature in the derivation of verbs of Italian or Sicilian origin is also called for.*

Keywords: *lexicography, neologisms, etymology.*

Introduction

The following is a list of words and phrases not found in Prof. Joseph Aquilina's two-volume *Maltese-English Dictionary* (1987, 1990) (M-E). It is far from being an exhaustive list, but only a sample of a very much longer one that has been in the collection process since the publication of Volume II of the dictionary, in 1990.

The list is a varied one meant to demonstrate not only words which had not come to Aquilina's knowledge in the course of the compilation of his monumental lexicon but also to register a number of neologisms imported into Maltese or coined after the completion of that publication.

Among the latter figure technical and scientific words some of which are found in his four-volume *English-Maltese Dictionary* (1999–2000) (E-M) and others which I coined in the course of several translation works undertaken for the Malta Standards Authority. Others are found in legislative documents and reflect the progress of the communications industry, computerization, and various branches of technology and the technical sciences.

It was Aquilina's conviction that Maltese had the necessary tools to stand by itself in the rendering of scientific, technical, and technological concepts thought by some to be untranslatable into Maltese. His *English-Maltese Dictionary* proves that he was right. To those who doubted the practicality of translating such words into Maltese, he would retort: 'The time will come when they will be used. I'm looking at

the future.’ With Malta’s membership of the EU and the consequent advent of the translation industry, the terminology used in both dictionaries is being found fundamental and sets the standards for the present and the future.

My long collaboration with him, and the three years I passed editing and completing the *English-Maltese Dictionary* after his demise in 1997, were instrumental in my coping with the challenges faced by a language moulded and spoken by barely half-a-million people that had to find its proper place among seemingly richer languages spoken by millions, or, as in the case of English (from which we normally take our technical vocabulary) which has spread as a sort of lingua franca all over the world, much to the concern of linguists and also governmental exponents of other widely-used languages.

Some entries in the present contribution have to be read along with the main entry in Aquilina’s M-E dictionary. His main entry is repeated and is then followed by a + sign preceding a new derivative, meaning, or phrase. It is a style which he devised when envisaging the format a ‘Supplement’ should take. In this case I have, in the main, restricted this format to roots of Semitic origin. In a Supplement, the system would have to be followed also in respect of lexemes of Romance or English origin.

One should also note that in spite of the heavy borrowings we are having from English, the traditional influence of Romance (mainly Italian) is still prevalent. To quote one example: many words from English ending in the suffix *-ation* are adapted to the Italian *-azione* pattern, and therefore take the Maltese suffix *-azzjoni*.

Verbal etymologies

One will also note that in the etymological entries of words of Italian origin I have adopted a system that differs slightly from the traditional one adopted by Aquilina, Serracino-Inglott, and others, the only exceptions being some entries in the *Il Mezzo Vocabolario Maltese-Italiano del ’700* (ed. A. Cassola, 1996) – e.g. the citation form *terqem* (= *torqom*, ‘adornarsi’; or the Imperative *mur*, ‘andare’; *tenni*, ‘raddoppiare’) – and V. Busuttil’s Maltese-English, English-Maltese dictionaries of 1900 and 1934.

Rather than deriving the Maltese form from the Infinitive of the Italian (the same applies for Sicilian), I have derived it from the 3rd person singular of the Imperfect; e.g. *iġġemella* < It. *gemella*, present, 3rd person singular, infinitive *gemellare*. This is consonant with Prof. Manwel Mifsud’s approach as expounded in his *Loan Verbs in Maltese – A Descriptive & Comparative Study*, Leiden, New York, Köln 1995, and my views as expressed in ‘Revisiting Maltese Etymologies’ published in *The Sunday Times* [of Malta], on 7 November 2004.

Mifsud favours an origin from the Imperative due to the master/administrator – natives/colonials relationship. From Norman times onwards – the formative period

of Modern Maltese – the inhabitants were at the receiving end, their masters (all coming through Sicily and South Italy at least till 1530) administering the island and ‘ordering’ them about. But then he rightly also cites the frequency criterion which tends to favour a derivation from the Imperfect.

Possibly, this second root-base must have had the edge because socio-linguistically the development of a language depends much on its everyday usage in the normal intercourse of parlance which could hardly show a preponderance of imperatives over the more ordinary exchanges, in the case of Maltese expressed in the Imperfect and Perfect Forms, inherent in the goings-on of daily life.

As for verbs of English origin, one has to retain the reference to the English Infinitive, but then I would add ‘on an Italian loan verbs pattern’. The strength of the centuries-old practice of constructing loan verbs on the Romance pattern is such that these English verbs were categorized as if naturally into the Maltese 3rd person singular of the Perfect and took the gemination of the initial consonant (+ initial euphonic vowel) so common to loan verbs of Sicilian and/or Italian origin.

I believe that any revision of an etymological nature has also to take into account the growing corpus of recently-available material belonging to Siculo-Arabic, or Medieval Sicilian, to which a substantial percentage of Maltese basic vocabulary may be related. Certain similarities are too obvious to be ignored.

A final note. The reference system used *infra* conforms to that of Aquilina’s Maltese-English Dictionary.

AĊĊESS|A, v.t. (imperf. +a, pp. ~at, vn. ~ar) (computing) To access a programme, site, etc. [*< Eng. (to) access, to obtain or retrieve (information) from a storage device, on an It. loan verbs pattern. Note that the M. verb ends in an /-a/ and not in /-ja/ as is the general rule with loan verbs of Eng. origin]*

ADRENALI, a.inv. Adrenal. [Aq E-M] ~NA, n.f. Adrenalin (a hormone secreted by the adrenal ductless glands and affecting circulation and muscular action; extracted from animals for medicinal use). ~NEMI|J|A, n.f. An excess of adrenalin in the circulation of the blood. [*< Eng. adrenal; It. adrenalin-a; -emia]*

AFFIDABBLI, a.inv. Reliable, that/who can be relied upon. [*< It. affidabile]*

ALKOHOL|IDROMETRU, n.m. (pl. ~idrometri) Alcoholhydrometer. ~OMETRIKU, a.m. (f. ~ometrika, pl. ~ometriċi) Alcoholometric. ~OMETRU, n.m. (pl. ~ometri) Alcoholometer. [*< Eng. on an It. word-pattern]*

BANKASSIGURAZZJONI, n.f. (fin.) Bancassurance (agreement between an insurance company and a bank to sell insurance through the bank’s outlets). [*< It. bancassicurazione]*

BIJOĊID|A, n.f. (pl. ~i) (chem.) Biocide. ~ALI, a.inv. Biocidal. [*< It. biocida; Eng. on an It. word-pattern]*

BORONJ|A [Aq E-M], n.f. (pl. ~i) (bot.) Boronia (an Australian shrub of the genus *Boronia*). [*< L. sc. name]*

BORŽIST|A [Aq E-M], n.m. (pl. ~i) Bursar (a student holding a bursary – Scottish usage). [*< It. borsista (Zing.)]*

(I)ĊĊATTJ|A/(I)ĊĊETTJ|A, v.i. (imperf. +a, pp. ~at, vn. ~ar) To chat (mainly used in the sense of chatting via a computer system). [*< Eng. in an It. loan verbs pattern]*

ĊIRKA, n.f. also [Bus] *kwestwa*, collection of alms, quest (term used for the quest made by Capuchin Friars, a usage now obsolete). [*< It. cerca, questua dei frati degli ordini mendicanti (Zing.)]*

- ĊIRKOSKRIZZJONI**, n.m. (pl. *~ijiet*)
Boundary: [Vat II, 2ed, p. 156] *~ ekkleżjastika*,
(eccles.) boundary of a province, diocese,
etc.). [< It. *circoscrizione*]
- ĊITER**, n.c. (pl. *~s*) (gen. used by children at play)
Cheater. (D)ĊĊITJ[A], v.t. (imperf. +a, pp. *~at*,
vn. *~ar*) To cheat. [< Eng.; the v. fr. Eng. on
an It. loan verbs pattern]
- ĊNETT[A]** + n.f. (pl. *~i*) A stone that serves to
prop another stone or stones in a rubble wall
(*hajt tas- sejjieh*). [This meaning, given to me
by mason Salvu Mallia of Hal Balzan, is quite
similar to meaning 2 quoted by Aq M-E from
Sol]
- ĊOMBIN** + [Ghawdex] Clothes peg.
- DAHAL** + **DAHHAL** + [Salvu Darmanin, Il-
Marsa] To put (a horse) through its paces (*dam
wisq biex dahhal iż-żiemel fil-mixja tieghu*,
he took too long to put the horse through its
paces).
- DGHAJSA** + Dessoulavy C.L. defines *dghajsa*
as a small boat, 'same as in Turkish.' He says
that the meaning might be "small black-
painted [boat] and compares with "دغس
darkness; in Spiro, دغس be dim)" and then
adds 'but it might be argued that the word is a
late-medieval one and derives from the Doge,
either of Genoa or of Venice. The boat rather
resembles a gondola.' (*Gate of the East and
Garden of Semitic Roots*, Vol. II, p. 264;
London 1941)
- DILWENT**, n.m. (pl. *~i*) Diluent, diluting
substance. [< Eng. *diluent*/It. *diluyente*]
- (I)DDIŻABILIT[A], v.t. (imperf. +a, pp. *~at/
diżabilitat*, vn. *~ar/diżabilitar*) To disable
(gen. a person). Note: The word *handikappat*
is often used for *diżabilitat*, but the verb
**ihhandikappja* is not used at all. [< It.
disabilita, present, 3p. sing.; inf. *disabilitare*]
- Eko-** Morpheme < Gr. meaning 'house' used in
compound words denoting ecology or
ecological. Exx. **EKOLOĠIJA** (see Aq M-E).
~KONTRIBUZZJONI, n.m. (pl. *~jiet*) Eco-
contribution. *~SFERA*, n.f. Ecosphere.
~SISTEM[A], n.f. (pl. *~i*) Ecosystem.
~TASSAZZJONI, n.f. Ecotaxation.
~TOSSIKOLOĠIKU, a.m. (f. *~ika*, pl. *~iċi*)
Ecotoxicological. [< It. *eco-contribuzione*; -
sfera; -*sistema*; -*tassazione*; -*tossicologico*]
- ENKOWDJ[A]**, v.t. (imperf. +a, pp. *~at*, vn. *~ar*)
(computers) To encode. [< Eng. on an It. loan
verbs pattern]
- ESTER[U]**, a.m. (f. *~a*, pl. *~i*) Foreign (kummerċ
~u, foreign trade; *relazzjonijiet ~i*, foreign
relations). [< It. *estero*]
- EŻERĊITAZZJONI**, n.f. (pl. *~jiet*) Seminar,
exercise [Vat II, 2ed, p. 184] *id-diskussjonijiet
ul-~jiet tal-kors*, the discussions and seminars
during the course. [< It. *esercitazione* (Zing.)]
- FASTIDJU** + also *tqaghbir*, harassment in the
phrase *~ sesswali*, sexual harassment.
- FESTEĠĠJAMENT**, n.m. (pl. *~i*) Celebration
(*fis-sena 2005 f'Hal Balzan saru ~i f'ghelug
it-tliet mija u hamsin sena mit-twaqqif tal-
parroċċa*, in the year 2005 Balzan celebrated
the three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of
the erection of the parish). [< It.
festeggiamento, *celebrazione di qlcu. o qlco.
con una festa*; *festeggiamenti*, insieme delle
manifestazioni con cui si festeggia qlco.
(Zing.)]
- FILJOLANZA**, n.f. Filiation (1. Being the child
of one or two persons – COD. 2. (theol.) (i)
the becoming, or the being, a son – SOD. (ii)
the relationship of man to God as his Father).
[< It. *figliolanza*, relazione o dipendenza
spirituale o intellettuale simile a quella che
intercorre tra padre e figlio (Zing.)]
- FIREX** + *tferrex*, to go around from one place to
another ([Mosta] *ommi, li ghandha tmenin
sena, ma torqodx wahedha d-dar imma
titferrex daqqa ghandi u daqqa ghand hija
jew il-bniet*, my mother, who is eighty years
old, does not sleep on her own at home but
sometimes sleeps at my place, other times at
my brother's or sisters').
- FJORELLIN** [Aq E-M], n.f. (bot.) (pl. *~i*) also
fjurett, fjur żghir, floret (a small flower). [<
It. *fiorellino*]
- FLORIBUND[A]** [Aq E-M], n.f. (pl. *~i*) (bot.)
Floribunda (any of the several varieties of
cultivated hybrid roses whose flowers grow
in large sprays – Collins). [< Late L.]
- FORMULA** + (pharm.) *~ maġistrali*, the magistral
formula; *~ ufficjali*, the official formula.

*This is a sign for a hypothetical formation.

- ĠEMELLAĠĠ** [Aq E-M], n.m. (pl. *~i*) Twinning (of two cities, regions, etc. in two different countries). (D)~[A [*Il-Mument* 26.10.03], v.t. (imperf. +a, pp. *~at/ġemellat*, vn. *~ar/ġemellar*) To twin. [< It. *gemell-aggio*; -a, present, 3p. sing.; inf. *gemellare* (Zing.)]
- ĠELL**, n.m. (pl. *~ijiet*) Gel (a jelly-like substance applied to the hair before styling in order to retain its style - Collins). [< Eng.]
- ĠIARDA** in (topon.) *Sqaq* ~ at L-Iklin, Giarda Lane. [cp. It. *giarda*, (veter.) neoformazione ossea prodotta da traumi ripetuti e localizzati sulla faccia laterale del garretto di Equini e Bovini (Zing.), ult. fr. Ar. *ġarad*]
- ĠIBED + ĠEBBIED**|A, n.f. (pl. *~iet*) A tool used by whitewashers to spread paint over a surface (~ *tal-halib*, a wooden or plastic tool used by tile layers to spread a liquid cement mixture over wall or floor tiles; the iron tool used by plasterers to clean drain pipes, described by Aq under this word, is called ~ *tal-katusi*).
- ĠUDAIZZANT**, a.m. (f. *~a*, pl. *~i*) Said of a Jew who wanted to submit pagan converts to Christianity to Jewish rites, esp. circumcision. [< It. *giudaizzante*, cristiano che mantiene e adotta credenze e abitudini, costumi, riti propri del giudaismo (Batt.)]
- ĠURISPERIT**, n.m. (leg.) (pl. *~i*) [D. Agius Muscat, *Il-Mument* 4.07.04 p. 16 gives pl. *ġurisperiti*] Court expert, legal expert. [< It. *giurisperito* (Zing.)]
- GALBAN**|U [GhBM Eż 30,34], n.m. (pl. *~i*) (bot.) Galbanum (any of several Asian umbelliferous plants). [< It. *galbano*]
- GALJARDETT**, n.f. (pl. *~i*) A banner used on official occasions by Catholic Action groups. [< It. *gagliardetto*]
- GWARNIĊAR**, n.m. (pl. [Diz. Tek. p. 280 under *square metre*] *~a*), Frame maker. [Local formation fr. *gwarniċ*]
- GWIEWEL** in (topon.) *Tal-*~, an area in Mqabba. [cp. Ar. *جوال* rover, wanderer (Elias)]
- GHAMEL** + (billiards, snooker) To pot a ball (~ *is-sewda*, he potted the black).
- GHARUKAŻA** [Aq E-M under *kaza*²] Disgrace [Dr Vincent Depasquale recalls hearing the word used in the M. sense on a Sicilian TV station 'some six years ago' - 14.06.04]
- GHASEL** + Various terms used in honey making: ~ *fix-xehda*, comb honey; ~ *fix-xehda ppressat/mghoddi mill-pressa*, pressed honey; ~ *li beda jiffermenta*, baker's honey; ~ *bla trab tal-fjuri* (pollen) *jew li tnixxef aktar milli suppost*, drained honey; ~ *mehud minn xehda bi žmiratur*, extracted honey; ~ *biż-żahar tal-fjura*, blossom honey; ~ *li terhi l-pjanta jew il-fjura mal-weraq jew maz-zokk*, honeydew honey; *biċċa xehda bl-~ b'kollox u mgharrqa fl-~*, chunk honey.
- G Hassa** + [Ghawdex, Archbishop J. Mercieca] *dahal fil-~*, he is getting old.
- HALAT** + [Ġ. Dimech, *Hal Balzan* p. 138] Mahlet, an area in Birkirkara near a windmill, close to Hal Balzan. [poss. meaning 'a place where corn and barley are mixed' with which cp. *مخلوط* *makluṭ*, mixture, blend (Wehr)]
- HARAQ** + To exasperate (*meta narak ma tridx taqta' t-tipjip tahrāqni*, when I see you refusing to give up smoking I get exasperated/you exasperate me).
- HAREĠ** + To broadcast (esp. an advertisement) (*issa nieqfu biex nohorġu r-riklami*, we now stop (the programme) to broadcast the advertisements; *x'hin se johroġ il-programm?*, at what time will the programme go on air?. + To calculate/give a price (*ohroġli l-prezz ta' din il-kwalità ta' żejt*, calculate the price of this brand of oil; *il-kont tax-xoghol ~ oghla milli stennejt*, the price of the work was higher than I expected).
- HARES** + [P. Catania, L.J. Scerri (eds), *Naxxar*, 2001, p. 85] **MAHRAS**, min.n.m. (pl. *mhares*) Look-out station. [cp. Ar. *محرس* un enciente fermée de murs et assez grande pour loger une petite garnison... (Dozy)]
- IDENTIKALITÀ**, n.f. Identicality. [< Eng. on It. word-pattern]
- ILLIBAT**, a.m. (f. *~a*, pl. *~i*) (mainly eccles.) 1. Pure, chaste; unblemished (*mara ~a*, a virgin; (fig.) *vittma ~a*, a pure victim). 2. Blameless; upright; spotless. [< It. *illibato*]
- IMPJANT**|A, v.t. (imperf. +a, pp. *~at*, vn. *~ar*) (dentistry, surgery) To implant (e.g. an artificial tooth into the gum in a way that is becomes part of it). ~**ABBLLI**, a.inv. Implantable (*apparat ~*, (surg.) implantable device). ~**AZZJONI**, n.m. (pl. *~azzjonijiet*) Implantation. [< It. *impiant-a*, present, 3p sing.; inf. *-are*; *-abile*; *-azione*]
- INDIRIZZ**|A, v.t. (imperf. +a, pp. *~at*, vn. *~ar*)+

- To address a problem, etc. (*l-istharrig kien ~at ghar-rappreżentanti tas-setturi tan-negozju u tas-servizzi*, the survey was addressed at representatives of the trade and services sectors; *il-ministeru qed j~ l-problema tan-nuqqas ta' bajd*, the ministry is addressing the problem of scarcity of eggs). [The M. usage seems to derive from the Eng. usage of 'to address', but cp. It. (fig.) indirizzare il pensiero, la parola a qlcu. (Zing.)]
- INTUBAZZJONI**, n.f. (pl. ~i) (med.) Intubation (insertion of a tube). [< It. *intubazione*]
- JON|E** [Aq E-M]/**JON|U**, n.m. (pl. ~i) (phys.) Ion (an electrically charged atom or group of atoms formed by the loss or gain of one or more electrons – Collins). ~**IKU**, a.m. (f. ~ika, pl. ~içi) Ionic. [< It. *ion-e; -ico*]
- KAMPANOLOGIJA**, n.f. Campanology, the art or skill of bell-ringing. [< It. *campanologia*]
- KARMELU, IL-**, n.m. A monastery of cloistered Discalced Carmelites (*Il~ ta' Lisieux*, the Discalced Carmelites' monastery at Lisieux). [< It. *Il Carmelo*, usage common to Discalced Carmelites in Italy and elsewhere]
- KONJIZZJONI**, n.f. Cognizance (*il-maġistrat ha ~ tal-każ*, the magistrate took cognizance of the case). [< It. *cognizione*]
- KORRED|O** (obs. but current till the mid-1900's), n.m. (pl. ~i) Trousseau (for a bride); layette (for a new-born child). (**IK~|A**, (imperf. +a, pp. ~at/*korredat*, vn. ~ar/*korredar*) To support an application, request or petition with documentary evidence ([Notice by the Chapter of the Birkirkara Basilica calling for applications to fill the post of a canon vacated by the death of Rev. S. Ellul, March 2004] *it-talba trid tkun korredata bid-dokumenti*, the request/application has to be supported by documents). [< It. *corred-o; -a*, present, 3p. sing.; inf. -are, fornire di tutto ciò che è necessario o utile (Zing.)]
- KULTUR**, n.m. (f. ~a, pl. ~i) A member of the Society of Christian Doctrine (commonly known as MUSEUM) charged with the formation of 16 and 17-year olds (called *kandidati*, candidates) who aspire to become full members (*soċċi*) of the Society. [< It. *cultore*, chi coltiva una scienza o un'arte (Zing.) with local specific meaning]
- KWANTIFIKAZZJONI**, n.f. (pl. ~jiet) Quantification. [< It. *quantificazione*, although the actual derivation could be fr. Eng. on an It. word-pattern]
- LAQLAQ** [in GhBM Ger 8,7] *il~ ta' l-ajru*, [RSV] the stork in the heavens, [NEB] the stork in the sky.)
- LEJN**, n.m. (pl. ~s, ~ijiet) (traffic, sport) Lane (*il~ ta' barra*, (traffic) the fast lane, (sport) the outer lane; *il~ tal-karozzi tal-linja*, the bus lane; *iċ-ċampjin Awstraljan qieghed fir-raba'* ~, the Australian champion is in lane four). [< Eng. *lane*, a division of a road for a stream of traffic; a strip of track or water for a runner, rower or swimmer in a race – COD]
- LEVIRAT**, n.m. (bibl.) Levirate (the Jewish Levite Law, Deut 25,5, prescribing that a man had to marry his brother's widow if she had no fruit from her first husband). [< It. *levirato*/Eng. *levirate*]
- LGD|A** [Salvu Darmanin, Il-Marsa], n.f. (pl. ~iet) A (horse's) lead. [< Eng.]
- LISTA + il~**, set pieces for a music examination. [< Eng. *list*]
- LITEM + II LITEM**, v.t. (pp. *m~*) To orphanize, to make an orphan. [< Ar. **يَتَمَّ** *jattam* II, render quelqu'un un orphelin (Kaz.)]
- LOBB**, n.m. Lob. **IL~|A**, v.t. (imperf. +a, pp. ~at, vn. ~ar) To lob (a ball, etc. over s.o.'s head, a wall, etc.). [< Eng. on an It. loan verbs pattern]
- LOPP|A** [Ġ. Dimech, *Hal Balzan* p. 130], n.f. (pl. *lopop*, ~i) Tassel (used also at the end of a suspended oil-lamp). [The meaning could have developed from its resemblance to a tuft of hair or to the husks of wheat, with which cp. It. *loppa*, rivestimento dei semi de cereali e di altre piante che si stacca con la trebbiatura (Zing.)]
- MADONNARI** [J. Muscat, Ir-Rabat], n.pl. Votive paintings dedicated to Our Lady. [cp. It. *madonnaro*, chi dipinge immagini sacre, spec. della Vergine, sui marciapiedi e sulle piazze (Zing.)]
- MAJLA, IL-**, (topon.) Name of a small sandy bay at the far end of *Wied iż-Żurrieq* where women and nuns used to swim and not be seen by men. Inhabitants of *Iż-Żurrieq* refer to the place as *Il-Bajja tas-Sorijiet*. **WIED IL-MALJA**, (topon.) The part of *Wied Iż-Żurrieq* leading to this bay. [The physical configuration of the area, an inclination at the

- point where *Wied Hoxx* leads to *Wied il-Majja*, suggests poss. comparison with Ar. مَيْلَة n. d'un. de مَيْل inclination (Dozy)]
- MANSWINARJ|U** [Il-Qrendi], n.m. (obs.) Vice parish priest. [< It. *mansionario*, antico titolo di cappellano, con beneficio, addetto alla custodia di una chiesa, con obbligo di residenza (Zing.)]
- MASKL|A**, n.f. (pl. ~i) (billards, snooker) Snooker (*ta ~*, he laid a snooker (for his opponent). [prob. a variant of *maskra* in that a ball is positioned in a way that prevents a direct shot at another ball 'hidden' by a third between them])
- MATRINJ|A**, n.f. (pl. ~i) Step-mother. [< It. *matrigna*]
- MNEJK|A** [Ghawdex], dim.n.f. (pl. ~iet) also *habbata*, door-knocker. [Local formation seemingly restricted to Ghawdex; poss. dim. of *manku* on Semitic Maltese pattern]
- MONITOR/MONITER**, n.m. (pl. ~s) Monitor (**1.** Person employed to listen and report on radio and television broadcasts. **2.** Apparatus for testing transmissions by radio, etc. **3.** Apparatus for detecting radioactivity, tracing flight of missiles, etc. **4.** Television screen used in studio to check and select transmissions. **5.** A computer screen).
- IM~J|A**, v.t. (imperf. +a, pp. ~at/monitorjat, vn. ~ar/monitorjar) To monitor. ~**AGĠ**, n.m. (pl. ~aġġi) Monitoring. [< Eng.; the v. is derived fr. Eng. on an It. loan verbs pattern; It. *monitoraggio* (Zing.)]
- MONOSAKKARIDI**, n.pl. (chem.) Monosaccharides (a simple sugar; any of a number of sugars not decomposable into simpler sugars by hydrolysis). [< It. *monosaccaridi*]
- MULTIPL|U**, n.m. (pl. ~i) (matem.) Multiple (a quantity that contains another quantity for a number of times without producing a remainder when they are divided). [< It. *multiplu* (Zing.)]
- MUTAĠEN**, n.m. (pl. ~i) (chem.) Mutagen (a substance that causes a genetic change). [< Eng. combined formation fr. *mutat(ion)* + *-gen*]
- NARRATOLO|GU**, n.m. (f. ~ga, pl. ~gi/[*Sijon* 2, 2001, p. 22 gives ~gi which is also sometimes used]) A scholar of narratology; one who studies narratology. ~**ĠIJA**, n.f. Narratology (in semiotics, the theory and critical methodology of narrative forms).
- ~**ĠIKU**, a.m. (f. ~ġika, pl. ~ġiċi) Narratological, pertaining to narratology. [< It. *narratolog-o*; -ia; -ico (Zing.)]
- NEONATALI**, a.inv. Neonatal. [< Eng. *neonatal* It. *neonatale*]
- NIKOTIN|A** + ~**IKU**, a.m. (f. ~ika, pl. ~iċi) Nicotonic (*alkalojdi ~iċi*, nicotinic alkaloids). [*nikotina* ult. derives fr. Fr. fr. New Latin *herba nicotiana*, Nicot's plant, after J. Nicot (1530–1600), French diplomat who introduced tobacco into France – Collins]; It. *nicotinico*]
- NITING**, n.f. Knitting. (**I**)**NNITTJ|A**, v.t. (imperf. +a, pp. ~at, vn. ~ar) To knit (~ *haġa ma' oħra*, to interknit: *kull ma jonqosni hu li ninnittja / nghaqquad il-kmiem mal-korp*, I only have to interknit the sleeves with the body and it will be ready). [< Eng.; the v. is derived fr. Eng. on an It. loan verbs pattern]
- NITROSAMINI**, n.pl. (chem..) Nitrosamines (any of a class of organic compounds with the general formula R₂NNO or RNHNO present in various foods and other products). [< Eng.]
- OMELIST|A**, n.c. (pl. [*Sijon* 2, 2000, p. 19] ~i) (eccles.) Homilist. [< It. *omelista*]
- OMOĠENIZZ|AZZJONI**, n.m. Homogenization (the process of homogenizing). ~**|A**, (imperf. +a, pp. ~at, vn. ~ar) To homogenize. (**1.** v.t. To break up the fat globules in milk or cream to ensure even distribution. **2.** v.t. & i. To make or become homogeneous. [< Eng. on an It. word-pattern. It. has *omogeneizzazione/omogenizzazione* and *omogeneizza/omogenizza* fr. *omogeneizzare/omogenizzare* (Zing.). The v. is derived from Eng. on an It. loan verbs pattern]
- ORGANOLETT|IKU**, a.m. (f. ~ika, pl. ~iċi) Organoleptic (that can be perceived and assessed by the senses). [< It. *organolettico*]
- ORGAN|U**, n.m. (pl. ~i) + (mainly in administrative language) Body, organ (*l-~i kompetenti*, the competent organs/bodies). [< It. *organo*]
- ORIENTALISTIKA** [D. Agius Muscat, *Il-Mument* 4.07.04, p. 17], n.f. The study of oriental languages, religions, customs, etc. [< It. *orientalistica*]
- ORATUR**, n.m. (f. *oratriċi*, pl. [Ġ. Dimech, *Hal Balzan*, p. 48] ~i) (obs.) Petitioner. [< It. *oratore* (Zing. 'arcaica')]

- OSSIDANT**, n.m. (pl. *~i*) (chem.) Oxidant (a substance that acts or is used as an oxidising agent; also called (esp. in rocketry) oxidiser – Collins). **OSSIDIŽABBILTÀ / OSSIDIŽABILITÀ**, n.f. Oxidisability. [< Eng. but cp. It. *ossidante* with same meaning (Zing.); Eng. on an It. word-pattern]
- PEDAN|A**, n.f. (pl. *~i*) Witness stand (*ix-xhud dahal fil-~*, the witness took the stand). [< It. *pedana*, predella, per lo più di legno, su cui poggia un sedile, una cattedra, un altare (Batt.)]
- PEJTER** [L-Imqabba, Iž-Žurrieq], n.m. (pl. *pejtrijiet*) also *pitirross*, robin, redbreast (*Erithacus rubecola*). [prob. corruption of *pitirross*]
- PIXKA** + (fig. usage) *i- wahdu*, he can fend for himself.
- POSTUMETT|A**, n.f. (pl. *~i*) (med.) Aphthous ulcer. [poss. dim. form fr. obs. *postema*, specie di ascesso, di postula, di tumore cagionato da materiale raccolto in qualche parte del corpo (P. Premoli, *Vocabolario Nomenclatore*, 1912)]
- PREMINENT** [Ġ. Dimech, *Hal Balzan*, p. 228], n.m. (pl. *~i*) (eccles.) Highest dignity of a Cathedral or Canonical Chapter. [< Local meaning prob. < It. *preminente*, chi è in posizione di preminenza, di spicco, rispetto ad altri (Zing.)]
- PRESIDENTE**, n.f. Title given to the head of a Female Branch of the Catholic Action. [Local usage poss. on the basis of It. *presidente*, f. (Zing.)]
- PROPJU**, var. of **PROPRJU**, is being increasingly used in the written language in view of the frequent omission of the /r/ in the spoken language.
- PROPRJU** [Aq E-M], n.m. (pl. *P~i*) (liturgy.) Proper (the variable parts of the Liturgy) (*il-P~ tal-Qaddisin*, the Proper of the Saints; *il-P~ tal-Quddiesa*, the Proper of the Mass). [< It. *Proprio*]
- PROPULSJONI** [Aq E-M], n.f. (pl. *~jiet*) Propulsion. [id. ibid.] **PROPULSIV**, a.m. (f. *~a*, pl. *~i*) Propulsive. [< It. *propul-sione; -sivo*]
- PSEFOLOGĠJA**, n.f. Psephology (the statistical study of elections, esp. with regard to the transfer of votes from one party to another, e.g. in a proportional representation system).
- [< It. *psefologia*]
- PUERILI** + Pertaining to children (*vuċijiet ~*, (mus.) children's voices).
- QAFAS** + [Vel] *magħlub ~*, very thin (said of a person – *una persona molto magra*); [id.] (naut.) *qalagh tal-~*, the main-topsail – *vela di gabbia*).
- QALA'** + *mqallghin*, pp. of *qalla'*, finned (said of steel surfaces).
- QATA'** + (billiards, snooker) To pot a ball (~ *s-safra*, he potted the yellow). + *qata' abjad fl-iswed*, to decide definitively ([*Sijon* 2, 1997, p. 5] *din il-problema ma tinqatax abjad fl-iswed fid-dahla tar-rakkont*, this problem is not clearly decided at the beginning of the narrative).
- radjo-** + **~KOMUNIKAZZJONI**, n.f. (pl. *~jiet*) Radiocommunication. **~NAVIGAZZJONI**, n.f. Radionavigation. [< It. *radio-comunicazione; -navigazione*]
- radju-** + **~FARMAĊEWT|IKU**, a.m. (f. *~ika*, pl. *~iċi*) (pharm.) Radiopharmaceutical (consisting of a radioactive compound used in radiation therapy). [< Eng. on an It. word-pattern]
- RANJ|A** [Is-Siġġiewi], n.f. (pl. *~iet*) A kind of net hung (illegally) from a tree to catch birds. [< It. *ragna*, grande rete verticale che si tende ai passi obbligati degli uccelli (Zing.)]
- RAZZA** + [L-Isla] *tar-~ l-basal*, he is/they are of the same ilk (he acts exactly like his other family members).
- REMISSA** + stable (*iž-żiemel inhalluh ir-~ l-Marsa*, we leave the horse at the stable at Marsa).
- REXAQ** + **MTERXQ|A**, n.f. (pl. *~i*, counted pl. *~iet*) also *kelb*, a piece of iron on which one cleans the bottom of one's shoes before entering a house. This is embedded in an upright position at the side of the main door. [Local formation]
- ROTATRIĊI**, n.f. (pl. *~jiet*) Rotary letter-press. [This word, which I used to hear at the Lux Press, is a local formation fr. *rota*]
- (I)RRIBUT|JA**, v.t. (imperf. *+a*, pp. *~at*, vn. *~ar*) (computers) To reboot. [< Eng. on an It. loan verbs pattern]
- RUFFJANA**, **Ir-** [Il-Qrendi] A very small window with close-fitting iron bars through which one could look without being seen. [Poss. connected with the idea that one who spies on people is a *ruffjan*, scoundrel]

SAGRARJ[U]/[V. Chetcuti, *Lehen il-Parroċċa ta' Hal Balzan*, Marzu-Mejju 2004, p. 77]

SAGRALJ[U, n.m. (pl. ~i) A hole in the ground into which water used for washing purificators and other sacred objects was poured (the hole would normally be at the back of the church). [< It. *sacrario* (Zing.)]

SAMA' + *samma'* (*lehen isamma'*, a strong voice (said of a singer); *dak it-tenur (lehn) isamma'*, that tenor has a strong voice (that makes itself heard).

SANTORIMONJ[U [Aq M-E as var. of *santomnja*], n.m. (pl. ~i) + *huk għandu hafna ~i/huk ġej b'hafna ~i*, your brother is very finicky; *is~!*, goodness gracious! [This word, often used as an exclamation, could be a corruption of L. *sanctorum omnium*]

SEKWESTRANT, n.m. (pl. ~i) (chem.) Sequestrant (a substance that mixes chemical compounds with metallic ions). [< Eng. *sequestrant*/It. *sequestrante*]

SEMJOT[**IKA**, n.f. Semiotics (1. The study of signs and symbols, esp. the relation between written and spoken signs and their reference to the physical world or the world of ideas. 2. The scientific study of the symptoms of disease). ~**IKU**, a.m. (f. ~*ika*, pl. ~*ići*) Semiotic. [< It. *semiotica* fr. Gr. *σημειολογία*]

SENJALETIKA, n.f. Road signage. [< It. *segnaletica*]

SFEGATAT, a.m. (f. ~*a*, pl. ~*i*) Die-hard (*Laburist/Nazzjonalist ~*, a die-hard Labourite/Nationalist). [< It. *sfegato*]

SFLASKA, n.f. (pl. ~*i*) (obs.) also *qanneb*, hemp (used by electricians and plumbers to wrap around the female part of a screw-thread). [etym.?)]

SPAVALD, n.m. (f. ~*a*, pl. ~*i*) Swashbuckler, swaggerer. ~**ERIJA**, n.f. Swashbuckling. [< It. *spavaldo*; *-eria*]

STAĠJONALITÀ, n.f. Seasonality. [< It. *stagionalità*]

sub- + ~**KAMPJUN**, n.m. (pl. ~*i*) Sub-sample. ~**LOTT**, n.m. (pl. ~*lottijiet*) Sublot. [I am informed that the use of the prefix *sub-*, as in the Eng. *sublot*, is a favourite with European Union scriptwriters; hence the use of such neologisms in the translation of EU documents into Maltese]

TELA' + (computers) To appear on the screen/

monitor (computer file, etc.) (*m'hemmx għalfejn tghaġġel, aġtjih ċans jitla'*, there is no need to hurry, give it time to appear on the screen). + (billiards, snooker) To play a ball into a specific position (*ghamel il-hamra u ~ għas-sewda*, he potted the red and brought the white in a good position for him to pot the black).

TELEKONTROLL, n.m. (pl. ~*i*) Telecontrol. [< Eng.]

TIRAMANTICĪ [Ġ. Dimech, *Hal Balzan*, p. 148], n.m. (sing. & pl.) Organ blower. [< It. *tiramantici* (Zing.)]

TRASPARENTI [Aq E-M under *film*], n.pl. Transparencies. [< Eng. Note: Under the entry 'transparencies' Aq gives (fotog.) *slajd* and *stampa, skrizzjoni, eċċ. li tidher meta titqiegħed kontra d-dawl*. The difficulty with this word as used under *film* is to provide a sing. that is rendered *trasparenti* in the pl.]

(I)TTRASPON[**A**, v.t. (imperf. +*a*, pp. *traspost*, vn. *traspostar*) (leg.) To transpose (legislation) (*ma' l-adeżjoni ta' Malta fl-Unjoni Ewropea, il-gvern kellu jitrasoni d-Direttivi kollha ta' l-Unjoni fil-kodiċi legali Malti*, on Malta's adhesion to the European Union, government had to transpose all Union Directives into the Maltese legal code). [< It. *trasporre*, present, 3p. sing.; inf. *trasportare*, var. of *trasportare* one of whose meanings is *tradurre in un'altra lingua*. Zing. marks this form as being 'arcaica', which could suggest that the M. is derived from Eng. on an It. loan verbs pattern. The neologism has only been in use since the mid-1990's when EU and EU-related legislation began to be translated into M.]

TROPOSFER[**A**, n.f. (pl. ~*i*) Troposphere (the lower atmospheric layer). ~**IKU**, a.m. (f. ~*ika*, pl. ~*ići*) Tropospheric. [< It. *troposfer-a*; *-ico*]

TURBIDITÀ, n.f. (pl. ~*jiet*) Turbidity (said of muddy water). [< It. *turbidità*]

TURBOLENZ[**A**, n.f. (pl. ~*i*) Turbulence (esp. atmospheric). [< It. *turbolenza*]

UNANIM[**U**, a.m. (f. ~*a*, pl. ~*i*) Unanimous (*il-mozzjoni għaddiet b'vot ~*, the motion was passed *nem con*; *votazzjoni ~a*, a unanimous vote; *il-membri tal-kumitat kienu ~i fid-deċiżjoni tagħhom*, the committee members were unanimous in their decision). [< It. *unanime*. ESI writes *unanimi*, a.c., and Aq

unanmi, a.inv.]

URBAN, a.m. (f. *~a*, pl. *~i*) Urban (*popolazzjoni ~a*, urban population; *zoni ~i*, urban areas/zones). [Vat II, 2ed., p. 335] **~IZZAZZJONI**, n.f. Urbanisation. [<Eng. / It. *urban-o*; -izzazione]

UTENT, n.m. (f. *~a*, pl. *~i*) User. [< It. *utente*. The use of the M. word seems to be recent and mainly restricted to legislative documents]

VALIDAZZJONI, n.f. (pl. *~jiet*) Validation. [< It. *validazione*]

VERSEĠĠJATUR, n.m. (f. *~a/verseġġjatriċi*, pl. *~i*) Poetaster, writer of mediocre or bad poetry. [< It. *verseggiatore*]

VEST|A, v.t. (+ bi) (imperf. +a, pp. *~it*, vn. *~ar/ ~ir*) (mainly leg.) To vest (+ in) (*il-kumitat jista' vjesti kull wiehed mill-membri bir-rappreżentanza legali tieghu*, the committee may vest its legal representation in any one of its members); (+ with) *il-kummissarju ~ih bl-awtorità li jittratta l-każ ta' insubordinazzjoni*, the commissioner vested him with the authority to deal with the case of insubordination). **VESTI**, n.f. Capacity, a specified position or function (*hu segretarju fil-ministeru, imma f'~ oħra jdur il-klassijiet ta' filgħaxija*, he works as a secretary at the ministry, but in another capacity he goes around checking on evening classes). [< It. *veste*, present, 3p. sing.; inf. *vestire*; the possibility of an Eng. origin on an It. loan verbs pattern is slight, the word having mainly a legal usage where It. terminology prevails; It. *veste*]

VIĊENDAR|U, n.m. (pl. *~i*) (eccles.) (obs.) A priest administering a church before its erection as a parish church, now called *amministratur*. In the case of a chapel he is called *rettur*. [Poss. local formation; *vicendario* is not registered in It. dictionaries but cp. It. *vicendare*, *avvicinarsi* in un incarico a rotazione (Batt.)]

VIZZJU + Habit ([heard at Birżebbuġa] *kellu ~ jmur jistad kuljum*, he had the habit of going fishing everyday; [heard at the Folksinging Festival 2001] *se tkompli dan il-~/u tkun wiehed mill-ghannejja*, you will continue this habit/and become a folksinger). [The word, fr. It. *vizio*, strictly speaking means 'vice, bad habit' but sometimes it is used in a positive

sense as in the two quotes heard by the author]

VOLFRAMIT [Aq E-M under *peanut*], n.m. (min.) Wolframite (a black to reddish-brown mineral, a compound of tungsten, iron and manganese – Collins). [< Eng./It. *wolframite*]

WEJVI, a.inv. Wavy (hair), set in or having waves (hair) (*xagħar ~/immewweg*, wavy hair; *ghamlet xagħharha ~*, she had a cold wave). [< Eng.]

WERĊ + [Diz. Tek. p. 134] *toqob wereċ*, half blind holes (i.e. holes which go half through a piece of wood, iron, etc.).

XAMM + **XAMMIEM|A** + 3. (term used by drug addicts) Inhalant. [Local formation]

XKATLATUR + *~ b'karta ramlija*, sander; *~ għamla ta' diska*, also *~ diska*, disk type sander.

XPAKKUN, n.m. (f. *~a*, pl. *~i*) Braggart. [< It. *spaccone*]

ŽIEMEL + [Salvu Darmanin, il-Marsa] *~ borqni/ mimli*, well-built horse; [id.] *~ halliel/ma tafdahx*, a skittish horse.

ŽDINGAT [Aq M-E; Dr Vincent Depasquale recalls hearing the word from a Sicilian peasant whom he had asked for direction in the area of Acitrezza. The peasant replied, 'la strada è sdingata' – 14.06.2004]

ŽGRAMMATIKATUR|A, n.f. (pl. *~i*) A grammatical mistake; ungrammaticality, ungrammaticalness. [< It. *sgammaticatura*]

ŽGWARDA + *~ ta' quddiem*, end-paper at the beginning of a book; *~ ta' wara*, end-paper at the end of a book.

ŽOOLOĠ|JA, n.f. Zoology. **~IKU**, a.m. (f. *~ika*, pl. *~iċi*) Zoological. **ŽOOLOG|U**, n.m. (f. *~a*, pl. *~i*)/**ŽOOLOGIST**, n.m. (f. *~a*, pl. *~i*)/**ŽOOLOGIST|A**, n.c. (pl. *~i*) Zoologist. [< It. *zoolog-ia*; -ico; -o; *zoologist* < Eng.; *zoologista* < Eng. on an It. word-pattern]

ZEZZ|A, n.f. (pl. *~i*) Babies' word for *kalzetta*, sock, stocking.

ZINTLU + [Is-Siġġiewi] *ghamel ~*, he made a lot of fuss.

ZIZZANJA, n.f. (bot.) also *sikrana*, rye grass (*Lolium tumulentum*). [< It. *zizzania*. I recall Dun Ġorġ Preca using the word during MUSEUM lessons.]