New Words for Maltese

Joe FELICE-PACE, Lic.D.
Lexicographer, Translator
e-mail: josephp@keyworld.net

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. *iggemella* < 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.

**ACCESS|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]


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

**ALKOHOL|IDROMETRU**, n.m. (pl. ~idrometri) Alcoholhydrometer. ~OMETRI|KU, a.m. (f. ~ometrika, pl. ~ometriči) 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]

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

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

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

**(I)ĊĆATT|J|A/(I)ĊĊET|TA**, 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.)]
ČIRKOSKRIZZJONI, n.m. (pl. -ijiet) Boundary: [Vat II, 2ed, p. 156] - ekkležjaštika, (eccles.) boundary of a province, diocese, etc.). [< It. circoscrizione]


ČNETT[A + n.f. (pl. -i) A stone that serves to prop another stone or stones in a rubble wall (maq atas-sejjej). [This meaning, given to me by mason Salvu Mallia of Hal Balzan, is quite similar to meaning 2 quoted to Aq M-E from Sol]

ČOMBIN + [Ghawdex] Clothes peg.

DAHAL + DAHHAL + [Salvu Darmanin, Il-Marsa] To put (a horse) through its paces (tferrex daqqa ghand hija) and compares with "but it might be argued that the word is a late-medieval one and derives from the Doge, as a small boat, 'same as in Turkish.' Re says painted [boat] and compares with.

DILWENT, n.m. (pl. -i) Diluent, diluting substance. [< Eng. diluent/It. diluente]

(D)DIŻABILIT[A, v.t. (imperf. +a, pp. -at/dizabilitat, vn. -ar/dizabilitar) To disable (gen. a person). Note: The word handikappat is often used for dizabilitat, but the verb *ihandikappja is not used at all. [< It. disabilita, present, 3p. sing.; inf. disabilitare]


ENKOWDJ[IA, v.t. (imperf. +a, pp. -ar, vn. -ar) (computers) To encode. [< Eng. on an It. loan verbs pattern]

ESTER[IU, a.m. (f. -a, pl. -i) Foreign (kummerč -u, foreign trade; relazzjonijiet -i, foreign relations). [< It. estero]

EŻERČITAZZJONI, n.f. (pl. -ijiet) Seminar, exercise [Vat II, 2ed, p. 184] id-diskussjonijiet u l-ijiet tal-kors, the discussions and seminars during the course). [< It. esercitazione (Zing.)]

FASTIDIJU + also tqaghbir, harassment in the phrase ~ sesswali, sexual harassment.

FESTEGĦIJAMENT, n.m. (pl. -i) Celebration (fjrevisa 2005 f'Hal Balzan saru -i f'gheluq 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. festaggimento, celebrazione di qleu. o qlo. con una festa; festeggiamenti, insieme delle manifestazioni con cui si festeggia qlo. (Zing.)]

FLIJOLANZA, n.f. Filiation (1. Being the child of one or two persons – COD). 2. (thel.) (i) the becoming, or the being, a son -i; (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] omni, li gandha tmenin sena, ma torqodx wahedha d-dar imma titterrex daqqa ghandi u daqqa ghand bija 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’).

FIORELINO [Aq E-M], n.f. (bot.) (pl. -i) also fjuret, fjur żghir, floret (a small flower). [< It. fiorelino]

FLORIBUNDA [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.) - magistrali, the magistral formula; - uffiċjali, the official formula.

*This is a sign for a hypothetic formation.
**New Words for Maltese**

**ĠEMELLAGĦ** [Aq E-M], n.m. (pl. –i) Twinning (of two cities, regions, etc. in two different countries). [I]–[A] [Il-Mument 26.10.03], v.t. (imperf. +a, pp. –at/ġemellat, vn. –ar/ġemella) 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. ǧārād] [Ghawdex, Archbishop J. Mercieca]

**ĠIBED + GEBBIEDA,** n.f. (pl. –iet) A tool used by whitewashers to spread paint over a surface (~ tal-halib, mehud minn xehda fix-xehda) To broadcast (esp. an advertisement) (issa nieżfu biex nohorq ru-rilkami, we now stop the programme) to broadcast the advertisements; x’hin se johrog il-programm?, at what time will the programme go on air?. + To calculate/give a price (ohrogli l-prezz ta’ din il-kwalita ta’). + To exasperate (meta narak ma tridx taqt’a” t-tipjip tahraqni, when I see you refusing to give up smoking I get exasperated/ you exasperate me).

**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. giurisperiti] Court expert, legal expert. [< It. giurisperito (Zing.).]

**ĠALBANU** [GhBM Eż 30.34], n.m. (pl. –i) (bot.) Galbanum (any of several Asian umbelliferous plants). [< It. galbano]

**ĠALJARDETT,** n.f. (pl. –i) A banner used on official occasions by Catholic Action groups. [< It. gagliardetto]

**ĠWARNIĊAR,** n.m. (pl. [Diz. Tek. p. 280 under square metre] –a), Frame maker. [Local formation fr. ġwarrniċ]

**ĠWIWEEN** in (topon.) Tal-~, an area in Mqabba, [cp. Ar. ǧawwāl, rover, wanderer (Elias)]

**ĠHAMEL** + (billiards, snooker) To pot a ball (~ is-sewa, he potted the black)

**ĠHARUKAŻA** [Aq E-M under każza] 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]

**ĠHASIL** + Various terms used in honey making: ~ fix-xehda, comb honey; ~ fix-xehda ppressat/mghoddi mill-pressa, pressed honey; ~ li beda jiżfermenta, baker’s honey; ~ bla trad tal-fjuri (pollen) jew li nixxej aktar milli suppost, drained honey; ~ mehuż minn xehda bi żmiratur, extracted honey; ~ biz-żarhar tal-fjura, blossom honey; ~ li terh l-pjanta jew il-fjura mal-weraq jew maz-zokk, honeydew honey; biċċa xehda bl~ ~ b’kollox u mgharrqa fl–, chunk honey.

**ĠHASSA + [Ghawdex, Archbishop J. Mercieca] dahal fil--., he is getting old.

**ĦALALT + [G. 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. mgharrq, mixture, blend (Wehr.)]

**ĦARAQ + To exasperate (meta narak ma tridx taqt’a” t-tipjip tahraqni, when I see you refusing to give up smoking I get exasperated/ you exasperate me).

**ĦAREG** + To broadcast (esp. an advertisement) (issa nieżfu biex nohorq ru-rilkami, we now stop the programme) to broadcast the advertisements; x’hin se johrog il-programm?, at what time will the programme go on air?. + To calculate/give a price (ohrogli l-prezz ta’ din il-kwalita ta’). + To exasperate (meta narak ma tridx taqt’a” t-tipjip tahraqni, when I see you refusing to give up smoking I get exasperated/ you exasperate me).

**ĦARES** + [P. Catania, L.I. Scerri (eds), Naxxar, 2001, p. 85] MAHRAS, min.n.m. (pl. mhares) Look-out station. [cp. Ar. محرس un ancien fermée de murs et assez grande pour loger une petite garnison... (Dovzy)]

**IDENTIKALITÀ,** n.f. Identicality. [< Eng. on It. word-pattern]

**ĦILLIBAT,** 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]

**IMPJANTÁ,** 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). ~ABBBLI,a.inv. Implantable (apparat –, (surg.) implantable device). ~AZZJONI, n.m. (pl. –azzjoniżiet) Implantation. [< It. implant-a, present, 3p sing.; inf. -a; -abile; -azione]

**INDIRIZZA,** v.t. (imperf. +a, pp. –at, vn. –ar)+
To address a problem, etc. (I-istharrig kien -at ghar-rappreżentanti tas-setturi tan-negozju u tas-serwizzi), the survey was addressed at representatives of the trade and services sectors; il-ministeru qed j- l-problema tnaqqas 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]

JONIE KULTUR, n.m. (f. KORREDIO KONJIZZJONI, KAMPANOLOGUA, KWANTIFIKAZZJONI, n.f. (pI. 40 To address a problem, etc. Discalded Carmelites' monastery at Lisieux). [< It.]

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KAMPAŅOLOGUA, n.f. Campanology, the art or skill of bell-ringing. [< It. campanologia]

KARMELU, IL-, n.m. A monastery of cloistered Discalded Carmelites (II- ta` Lisiex, the Discalded Carmelites' monastery at Lisieux). [<It. Il Carmelo, usage common to Discalded Carmelites in Italy and elsewhere]

KONJIZZJONI, n.f. Cognizance (il-maġistrat ha ~ tal-kaz, the magistrate took cognizance of the case). [<It. cognizione]

KORREDO (obs. but current till the mid-1900's), n.m. (pl. -i) Trouseau (for a bride); layette (for a new-born child). (1K-IA, (imperf. -a, pp. -a-tkorredat, vn. -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 (soċji) 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` I-ajru, [RSV] the stork in the heavens, [NEB] the stork in the sky.

LEJN, n.m. (pl. -i) (traffic, sport) Lane (il- ~ ta` barra, (traffic) the fast lane, (sport) the outer lane; il- ~ tal-karozzi tal-linja, the bus lane; ic-campjiż Australian qiegħed 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]

LÔDJA [Salvu Darmanin, II-Marsa], n.f. (pl. -iet) A (horse's) lead. [<Eng.]

LISTA + il-~, set pieces for a music examination. [<Eng. list]

LITEM + Il LITTEM, v.t. (pp. m~) To orphanize, to make an orphan. [<Ar. لأح jattam II, render quelqu'un un orphelin (Kaz.).]

LOBB, n.m. Lob. IL-IA, v.t. (imperf. -a, pp. -at, vn. ~ar) To lob (a ball, etc. over s.o's head, a rower or swimmer in a race - COD)

LOPPA [G. Dimch. Hal Balzan p. 130], n.f. (pl. loppop, ~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. madonnari, chi dipinge immagini sacre, spec. della Vergine, sui marcipiedi e sulle piazze (Zing.).]

MAJLA, IL-, (topon.) Name of a small sandy bay at the far end of Wied il-Zurrieq where women and nuns used to swim and not be seen by men. Inhabitants of Il-Zurrieq refer to the place as Il-Bajja tas-Sorijiet. WIED IL-MAJLA, (topon.) The part of Wied il-Zurrieq 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. 1 Man un. de inclinazione (Dozy) MANSWINARJU [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.)] MASKJA, n.f. (pl. ~i) (billiards, snooker) Snooker (tu ~, 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] MATRINJA, n.f. (pl. ~i) Step-mother. [< It. matrigna] MUEJKIA [Ghawdex], dim.n.f. (pl. ~iet) also habbata, door-knocker. [Local formation seemingly restricted to Ghawdex; poss. dim. of munku on Semitic Maltese pattern] MONITOR/MONITER, n.m. (pl. ~er) 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-JJA, v.t. (imperf. +a, pp. ~iamonitorjar, vn. ~arnmonitorjar) To monitor. ~AGG, n.m. (pl. ~agg) Monitoring. [< Eng.; the v. is derived fr. Eng. on an It. loan verbs pattern; It. monitoraggio (Zing.)] MONOSACKARIDI, n.pl. (chem.) Monosaccharides (a simple sugar; any of a number of sugars not decomposable into simpler sugars by hydrolysis). [< It. monosaccaridi] MULTIPLI, 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. multiplo (Zing.)] MUTA~GEN, n.m. (pl. ~i) (chem.) Mutagen (a substance that causes a genetic change). [< Eng. combined formation fr. muta tion] NARRATOLLOGU, n.m. (f. ~a, pl. ~gh) [Sijon 2, 2001, p. 22 gives ~gi which is also sometimes used] A scholar of narratology; one who studies narratology. ~GIJJA, n.f. Narratology (in semiotics, the theory and critical methodology of narrative forms). ~GIKU, a.m. (f. ~gika, pl. ~giçi) Narratological, pertaining to narratology. [< It. narratologo ~i; ~ico (Zing.)] NEONATALI, a.inv. Neonatal. [< Eng. neonatal It. neonatale] NIKOTIN[A + ~IKU, a.m. (f. ~ika, pl. ~ikçi) Nicotonic (alkaloids ~ikçi, nicotinic alkaloids). [nicotina 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)NITTJIA, v.t. (imperf. +a, pp. ~at, vn. ~ar) To knit (~ haqa ma’ ohra, to interknit: kull ma jonqosni hu li innittja / nghaqqad il-kiiem 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 R_NNO or RNHNO present in various foods and other products). [< Eng.] OMELISTA, n.c. (pl. [Sijon 2000, p. 19] ~i) (eccles.) Homelist. [< Eng. ome lista] OMOGENIZZAZZIONI, n.m. Homogenization (the process of homogenizing). ~A, (imperf. +a, pp. ~at, vn. ~ar) To homogenize. (I. 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 omogeneizzata/ omogeneizzata fr. omogeneizzare/omogenizzare (Zing.). The v. is derived from Eng. on an It. loan verbs pattern] ORGANOLETTI[IKU, a.m. (f. ~ika, pl. ~ikçi) Organoletic (that can be perceived and assessed by the senses). [< It. organolettico] ORGANIUM, n.m. (pl. ~i) + (mainly in administrative language) Body, organ (~i kompetenti, the competent organs/bodies). [< It. organo] ORJENTALISTIKA [D. Agius Muscat, III: Mument 4.07.04, p. 17]. n.f. The study of oriental languages, religions, customs, etc. [< It. orientalista] ORATUR, n.m. (f. oratiçi, pl. [G. Dimiech, 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). OSSIDIZABILTÀ / OSSIDI­ZABILITÀ, n.f. Oxidisability. [< Eng, but cp. It. ossidante with same meaning (Zing.); Eng. on an It. word-pattern]

PEDAN[Alt, n.f. (pl. ~i) Witness stand (ix-xhud dalab fi~-, 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, Iz-Żurrieq], n.m. (pl. pejrrijiet) also pitirross, robin, redbreast (Erithacus rubecola). [prob. corruption of pitirross]

PIXKA + (fig. usage) i~ wahdu, he can fend for himself.


PREMINENT [G. Dimech, Hal Balzan, p. 228], n.m. (pl. ~i) (eccles.) Highest dignitary 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.)]

PROPRJU, var. of PROPRJU, is being increasingly used in the written language in view of the frequent omission of the ~i~ 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]

PROPULSIONJONI [Aq E-M], n.f. (pl. ~iet) Propulsion. [id. ibid.] PROPULSIV, a.m. (f. ~a, pl. ~iet) Propulsive. [< It. propulsione; -sivo]

PSEFOLOGIJA, 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).

Joe Felice Pace
New Words for Maltese

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

SAGRALI[U, n.m. (pl. ~) 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. sacramento (Zing.)]

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

SANTORIMONJJU [Aq M-E as var. of santommenja], n.m. (pl. ~i) + huk għandu hafna ~w/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]

SEMJIOT[IKA, n.f. Semiotics (I. 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. ~iči) Semiotic. [< It. semiotica fr. Gr. σημειονοσcko]

SENSIALETTIKA, n.f. Road signage. [< It. segnaletica]

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

SFILASKA, 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; ~riada]

STAGJONALITÀ, n.f. Seasonality. [< It. stagionalità]

sub- + ~KAMPJUN, n.m. (pl. ~i) Sub-sample. ~LOTT, n.m. (pl. ~lotti/Jer). 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 għafieiż għagġel, ahhiti ċans jiżda”, there is no need to hurry, give it time to appear on the screen). + (billiardi, snooker) To play a ball into a specific position (għanel il-hanra u – ghas-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.]

TIRAMANTICI[G. Dimech, Hal Balzan, p. 148], n.m. (sing. & pl.) Organ blower. [< It. tiramanti (Zing.)]

TRASPARENTI [Aq E-M under film], n.pl. Transparencies. [< Eng. Note: Under the entry ‘transparencies’ Aq gives (fotog.) slajd and stampa, skrizjoni, ecc. Ii tidher meta tittieghed 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)TRASPRON[A, v.t. (imperf. ~a, pp. traspọst, vn. tranposat) (leg.) To transpose (legislation) (ma’l-adeżjonij ta’ Malta fl-Unjoni Ewropew, il-gvern kellu jittrasponi d-Direttivi kollha ta’ l-Unjoni fil-kodici legali Malti, on Malta’s adhesion to the European Union, government had to transpose all Union Directives into the Maltese legal code). [< It. trasporto, 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. ~iči) Tropospheric. [< It. troposfer-a; ~ico]

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

TURBOLENZA[A, n.f. (pl. ~iet) Turbulence (esp. atmospheric). [< It. turbolenza]

UNANIM[I, a.m. (f. ~a, pl. ~i) Unanimous (il-mozjoni ghardiet b’vot ~, the motion was passed nem con; votazzjoni ~a, a unanimous vote; il-membri tal-kuIMITA ta’ – i fid-deżjoni ta’għom, the committee members were unanimous in their decision). [< It. unanime. ESI writes unanimi, a.c., and Aq
VOLFRAMIT [Aq E-M under pecanut, n.m. (min.) Wolframite (a black to reddish-brown mineral, a compound of tungsten, iron and manganese – Collins). [< Eng./It. wolframite]

WEIVI, a.inv. Wavy (hair), set in or having waves (hair) (xaghur ~immesweg, wavy hair; ghanlet xagharha ~, she had a cold wave). [< Eng.]

WERC + [Diz. Tek. p. 134] toqob werec, 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) Inhaling. [Local formation]

XKATLATUR + ~ b’karta ramlija, sander; ~ ghamla ta’ disk, also ~ disk, disk type sander.

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

ŽIEMEL + [Salvu Darmanin, il-Marsa] ~ borqni/ mimli, well-built horse; [id.] ~ halliel/mata 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]

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

ŽGWARDA + ~ ta’ quddiem, end-paper at the beginning of a book; ~ tu’ waru, end-paper at the end of a book.

ŽOOLOGIJA[n.f. Zoology. ~IKU, a.m. (f. ~ika, pl. ~ik) Zoological. ZOOLOGIJA, n.m. (f. ~a, pl. ~i) ZOOLOGIST, n.m. (f. ~a, pl. ~i) ŽOOLOGIST, n.c. (pl. ~i) Zoologist. [< It. zoolog-ia; -ieo; -i)/ŽOOLOGIST, a.m. (f. ~a, pl. ~i)/ŽOOLOGIST, n.c. (pl. ~i) Zoologist. [< It. zoolog-ia; -ico; -a; zoologist < Eng.; zoologista < Eng. on an It. word-pattern]

ŽEZZJA[n.f. (pl. ~i) Babies’ word for kalzetta, sock, stocking.

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

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