

## **Lexical borrowing, restoration, and morphological implication: the case of Romance nominal and adjectival prefixes**

It is common agreement that the more frequent type of affixes' borrowing is that resulting from loanwords among related languages or languages in contact. Generally speaking, the more affixes' borrowing is successful, the more the languages involved can show convergence from a morphological point of view (on this topic, see Munske 1996, Raible 1996, Schmitt 2000, Rainer 2002). However, some studies also show that affixes can be restored from ancient languages into more modern languages which borrow them "as such" (a.o. see Rainer 2008 on the restoration of *neo-*).

With this contribution, we aim to present a phenomenon which can be both categorised as lexical borrowing and as a "direct" borrowing of affixes, specifically highlighting an aspect which has not been discussed in literature but which indeed had a significant impact on Romance word-formation.

In particular, we're dealing with a case in which the emergence of a new affix into a Romance language first occurs in the combination of a restored prefix and a native base, and then spread into Modern Latin which, in turn, transfers the prefix to other Romance languages through loanwords. It is, for example, the case of the prefix *extra-*: it is the 18<sup>th</sup> century French scientific language to borrow this prefix "as such" and to attach it to native bases (some of the first words attested are *extrapéritonéal* 1812, *extrathoracique* 1834 etc.); in a second step, these words are "latinized" to be used in international scientific texts (resp. *extraperitonealis* 1875, *extrathoracicus* 1867); as a result, Modern Latin becomes the medium language through which the words prefixed with *extra-* originally coined in French arrive in other languages which, in turn, borrow the prefix "indirectly".

Other similar examples can be found which concern the diffusion of the prefix *anti-* in 18<sup>th</sup> century medical European texts where we find "latinized" formation translated from French such as *anticalculosus*, *anticancerosus*, *antiherpeticus*, *antiemorroidalis*, through which this prefix subsequently spread and is used in all European languages.

Not only are these phenomena peculiar, but they also noticeably contributed to new morphological trends in Romance languages, such as the gradual change from right to left determination (see Iacobini 2023). Nevertheless, a contribution to this change was also offered by other prefixes which followed a more "typical" path of diffusion: those which are restored from Greek or Classical Latin in Modern Latin by cultivated people, and later appear in Romance languages as a result of a huge circulation of the prefixed words coined in Modern Latin (we will briefly look at the history of *anti-* 'opposition', *ex-* and *super-*).

In both cases, however, these and other prefixes reached a high productivity with the diffusion into common language, and developed semantic categories not attested in Latin, such as that of intensification. The passage from original spatial meanings to evaluative functions not attested in Latin show their complete integration into Romance languages.

In conclusion, this contribution allow, on the one hand, to look at two modalities of affixal transmission (direct and indirect) and, on the other, to describe the consequences of borrowing in a broader diachronic and comparative perspective.

The main dictionaries and corpora used for the investigation are cited in the references.

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