



## Towards the construction of a multilingual online phraseological dictionary Spanish-Croatian-Italian: presentation and methodological foundation.

Towards an online multilingual dictionary of idioms (Spanish/Croatian/Italian): presentation and methodological basis.

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### SUMMARY

This article presents the *Digital Multilingual Phraseological Dictionary (DFMD)*, the result of the research project being developed at the Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (Italy). In order to support the preparation of this dictionary, the first part of this paper outlines the state of the art on the current lexicographic panorama of Spanish, Croatian and Italian, and illustrates the overall objectives of the project. Subsequently, the main characteristics of the future lexicographic tool are analyzed and the criteria adopted for the selection of the DFMD nomenclature are *detailed*.

**Keywords:** Digital humanities. Dictionary. Phraseology. Spanish. Croatian. Italian.

### ABSTRACT



This paper focuses on *Diccionario fraseológico multilingüe digital* (DFMD), an online multilingual dictionary of idioms which is currently in progress in Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy). In order to legitimize our project, the first part of this essay presents an overview of Spanish, Croatian and Italian existent lexicography and, secondly, describes the main aims of the project. Later, we analyse the most important features of this lexicographical tool and explain which criteria have been adopted to select the terminology used in DFMD.

**Keywords:** Digital Humanities. Dictionary. Idioms. English. Croatian. Italian.

## 1. Introduction<sup>1</sup>

This article aims to address a gap detected in the field of multilingual phraseography: the lack of a digital lexicographic tool (and not digitized of existing material) that deals with the phraseological units, here reduced to the second sphere of Corpas Pastor (1996), the locutions, from the multidirectional consideration of three languages in particular: Spanish, Croatian and Italian. This 'lexicographic gap' has already been noted by other previous research projects, highlighting, in particular, the one focused on the construction of the Contrastive Dictionary of Spanish-German Verbal Valences (CSVEA) and the project Lexicographic Portal: Multilingual Dictionary of the Nominal Phrase (PORTLEX), both developed at the University of Santiago de Compostela. In addition, it is worth noting the work that has been carried out at the University of Alicante by the Phraseology and Multilingual Translation Research Group (Frasyttram), dedicated to the creation of a multilingual digital dictionary (Catalan, French, Italian, Russian, English, Polish and Chinese) of verbal locutions.

The design and creation of a dictionary of these particularities corresponds, basically, to the need felt by university students when they are in the autonomous learning process (Nomdedeu, 2009, p.2) of the three languages mentioned (Spanish, Croatian and Italian); since

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<sup>1</sup> This work is the result of collaboration between the three authors. Even so, it should be noted that Valero Fernández is the main author of sections 2.1., 3.2. and 3.3.; Dal Maso, from the sections 3.1. and 3.3.; and Lončar, from Chapters 2.2. and 2.3. Paragraphs 1., 2. and the bibliography have been drafted jointly.



in Croatia the philological career necessarily involves a double degree in two philologies, Spanish and Italian, for example; at the same time that in the departments of Hispanic studies of Iberian vocation, Spanish and another Iberian language (Galician, Catalan, and / or Basque) are usually studied in parallel. Similarly, students in Italy who choose to pursue a first- or second-cycle degree in "Lingue e Culture Moderne" (L11) will obtain a degree in two philologies. Along with Spanish, whose number of students continues to increase year after year, in eight universities in Belpaese – those of Bari, Chieti-Pescara, Firenze, Padova, Torino, Trieste and Udine, in addition to Ca' Foscari Venezia – it is also possible to study Croatian.

As stated in the Common European Framework of Reference (1st ed. 2001 [ed. esp. 2002], 2nd ed. 2018) and in the Curricular Plan of the Instituto Cervantes (2006), the mastery of the phraseological set within a foreign language is considered relevant, since, given the degree of complexity that the phraseological units contain in themselves due to their intrinsic characteristics (idiomaticity, (in)variation, pluriverbality, Montoro del Arco, 2006, pp.110-111) compared to other mono- and pluriverbal constructions, not always the results obtained in other types of resources satisfy the translation requirements. Among them, the attention to the diatopic, diaphasic or diastatic marks that are linked to certain locutions, the cultural value rooted in the UF or the relevance of the lexicographic example so that the students understand the use of a certain unit and can use it accordingly in their speech: repair, for example, in the trinomial *it. faccia tosta / esp. hard face (or face) / cr. bezobrazan*, which is attached to the informal registration of the language and should, therefore, contain in its lexicographic article both the appropriate diaphasic mark and examples of use. In other words, according to the words of Maldonado González (2013, p.41) and his questioning of the current functionality of the dictionary, we are committed to defending that today, although lexicographic tools "are no longer physically so present in our work table", they still cannot be replaced "by a set of programs and websites".

Faced with this demand, it was decided to start an international project in which lexicographers and linguists from three universities actively collaborate: the University of Castilla-La Mancha (Spain), the Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (Italy) and the University of Zadar



(Croatia). The research work, due to the magnitude it wishes to achieve in its final fruit, has been structured in different phases, hence the integral construction of the DFMD is achieved through the gradual development of different multilingual phraseological repertoires, each of them corresponding to a specific semantic field.

In order to accommodate our objectives, in the following pages there is an exhaustive review of the lexicographic and phraseographic material available in the three working languages, constituting the starting point of certain actions on the creation of the DFMD. Thus, in section 2.1. the most relevant list of digital monolingual dictionaries is collected; in 2.2. those of a bilingual nature are joined; finally, in 2.3 the phraseological dictionaries are compiled. Next, the focus is on the presentation of the DFMD, as well as the criteria and sources that have given rise to it. Accordingly, on the one hand, in 3.1. the description of the research project can be seen, on the other hand, in 3.2. and 3.3. the criteria followed for the preparation of the DFMD and the lexicographic works that have acted as a corpus, respectively, are illustrated. The investigation closes with some final conclusions.

## 2. Digital lexicographic and phraseographic background

The aforementioned research project, once its peremptory wording has been reached, will give rise to the Digital Multilingual Phraseological Dictionary (DFMD). This lexicographic tool, as its name intentionally manifests, is nourished by three particularities: the specialized nature of its nomenclature, only made up of locutions, the multilingual nature of its lexicographic results (Spanish, Croatian and Italian) and its approach (not only modality of access) digital. As a result of these characteristics, it was considered essential to examine the current lexicographic panorama, delving into those works that account for the phraseological units in their micro- or macrostructure, and paying attention to the publication format. As a result, the following types of dictionaries are stated in the art:

- i. digital monolingual dictionaries available in Spanish, Croatian and Italian;



- ii. analogue and/or digital bilingual dictionaries existing between the three working languages: Spanish-Croatian/Croatian-Spanish, Italian-Croatian/Croatian-Italian, Spanish-Italian/Italian-Spanish;
- iii. analogue and/or digital phraseological dictionaries in Spanish, Croatian and Italian.

However, those web pages with the function of online translation dictionaries such as WordReference, Glosbe, Linguee or Reverso are discarded from this exploration, which would require an exhaustive examination to verify their true informative quality (Nomdedeu, 2009, p.7). This determination is based on the opinion that, for the moment, they move away from the complete and careful lexicographic work that is expected to be achieved in our project, as they correspond rather to variegated works in which the results found are disparate from each other and do not exceed "the linguistic combination that you want to consult in the case that the dictionary is multilingual" (Gelpí, 2011. p.318). Thus, review, verbigracia, in the elements of the article that will be inserted in the DFMD such as: diasystematic marks, grammatical, cultural and pragmatic information, or examples of use, among others, omitted, on the contrary, in this type of dictionaries. Similarly, collaborative dictionaries [e.g. the Wikizionario or the Dizionario Italiano de la Associazione Lingua Italiana (s.d.a)] and those that Chiari (2012, p.97) calls "aggregatori di fonti lessicografiche" (such as The free dictionary) depart from the phraseographic project, as they are lexicographic portals that gather the lexicographic information contained in other works or pages (Domínguez, 2019, p.63); hence, "salvo i casi in cui presenta parole emergenti o significati emergenti e gergali non ancora registrati dai dizionari, non conviene consultare il Wikizionario, ma i dizionari in rete da cui trae informazioni" (Marello & Marchisio, 2018, p.49).

## 2.1. Digital monolingual dictionaries

Given that in other previous research inventories have been provided as a history manual of effective analog monolingual lexicography in the three languages (see Álvarez, 2011; Haensch &



Omeñaca, 2004; Rodríguez, 2016, for Spanish; Calvo, 2015; Della, 2007 for the Italian; and, finally, Samardžija 2019, as well as the lexicographic list gathered by the Institute of Croatian Language and Linguistics on its website), our examination focus was on the digital dictionaries (or failing that, digitized) of free access for the three languages of interest. However, the examination was extended to analogue works in cases where this is indeed the only existing medium.

As for peninsular Spanish, two general online dictionaries with free access are considered essential:

- Royal Spanish Academy; Asociación de Academias de la Lengua Española (2014, 23rd ed. updated in 2019): *Diccionario de la Lengua Española (DLE)*, <https://www.rae.es/>;
- Maldonado González, María Concepción (2012, 9th ed.): *Clave. Dictionary of use of current Spanish (Clave)*, <http://clave.smdiccionarios.com/app.php>.

For the part that touches the Croatian language, as stated in Valero Fernández & Mušura (2019, p.93), "to date, the first [...] The real digital diccionaristic basis of the Croatian language is the Hrvatski jezični portal" (HJP) (Croatian language portal). Recently, in 2019 the Školski rječnik hrvatskoga jezika (Birtić, 2012) (School Dictionary of the Croatian Language) by Željko Jozić (2019), Lana Hudeček and Milica Mihaljević, previously published on paper in 2012, has also been published online. It is a normative dictionary, with two types of reference: v., which indicates the most acceptable word, and →, which leads from the words considered "unacceptable" to the normative ones. In the phraseographic field, it can be said that both digital resources of the Croatian language host a phraseological repertoire, although neither of them grammatically lematized, and the ŠRHJ, due to its size and recipients, brings a reduced material. It should also be noted that ŠRHJ, together with Hrvatski pravopis (Croatian Spelling) and Hrvatska gramatika (Croatian Grammar), is part of the digital resources of the Institute of Croatian Language and Literature, whose main objective Mrežnik project is the preparation of a large monolingual Croatian dictionary online (not previously published on paper). Due to the



scarcity of digital sources, the corpus of Croatian UF will be expanded with the phraseological repertoire of dictionaries printed on paper (v. 3.3.), excluding in this section the sources of restricted access or available on a CD, as they are not considered digital.

Finally, Italian digital monolingual lexicography is represented by seven dictionaries:

- De Mauro, Tullio (2014): Nuovo De Mauro (NDM), <https://dizionario.internazionale.it/>;
- Devotee, Giacomo; Oli, Gian Carlo (2012): Dizionario Devoto-Oli (DDO), <https://www.wordreference.com/definizione/>;
- Gabrielli, Aldo (2015): Grande Dizionario Hoepli italiano (GDHI), <https://dizionari.repubblica.it/italiano.html>;
- Istituto Treccani (2008): Vocabolario Treccani (VT), <http://www.treccani.it/vocabolario/>;
- Olivetti, Enrico (2003-): Dizionario Italiano Olivetti (DIO), <https://www.dizionario-italiano.it/>;
- Sabatini, Francesco, Coletti, Vittorio (2007): Sabatini Coletti. Dizionario della lingua italiana (SC), [https://dizionari.corriere.it/dizionario\\_italiano/](https://dizionari.corriere.it/dizionario_italiano/);
- VV. AA. (2014): Grande Dizionario di italiano (GDI), <http://www.garzantilinguistica.it/>.

It is worth noting that in all but one case these are digitized editions of printed works; indeed, only the Italian Dizionario Olivetti has been conceived from the beginning in digital format.

## 2.2. Bilingual dictionaries

If the analysis is oriented towards the work carried out between the Spanish and Croatian languages, it should be clarified that the results obtained are not prolific for our research, since no digital dictionary is documented (not even in the field of digitization of printed bilingual lexicographic works) by both Spanish and Croatian commercial lexicography (Valero & Mušura,





2019, pp.95-100). Therefore, this situation leads us to affirm that the digital tools available (of a general and specialized nature) between Croatian and Spanish are null, since only printed works have been made so far. Specifically, when it comes to bilingual lexicography between Spanish and Croatian, we can name, for the moment, only one bilingual dictionary of considerable volume that meets the essential lexicographic requirements: the Španjolsko-hrvatski rječnik: Spanish-Croatian Dictionary (2017, 6th ed.) (ŠHR) by Vojmir Vinja.

However, we must also mention another reference of difficult access and little known of the Croatian consul in Punta Arenas, Mr. Rubén Katušić-Cvjetković (2012), whose masterpiece (elaborated for fifteen years) saw the light in 2012 in two volumes of considerable size (1150 pages each) and in its own edition. This is the Hrvatsko-španjolski rječnik I (A-O) and II (R-Ž) (Croatian-English dictionary) (HŠR). The HŠR, although the product of a non-linguist author, is of special interest in the phraseological repertoire of the Chilean variety.

It should be noted that other fractional dictionaries, published in paperback editions and in most cases for tourist purposes, such as Langenscheidtov univerzalni rječnik španjolsko-hrvatski / hrvatsko-španjolski (LURb) (Langenscheidt universal Dictionary Spanish-Croatian/Croatian-Spanish) (2000, format 11 x 8 cm), by Vojimir Vinja, or the Hrvatsko-španjolski rječnik (HŠRb) (Croatian-Spanish dictionary) (format 11.5 x 16.5 cm), by Cvjetanka Božanić (2005).

On the other hand, we must add the encyclopedic octolingüe dictionary by Tomislav Ladan (2010), entitled Osmojezični enciklopedijski rječnik (OER) (Octolingüe Encyclopedic Dictionary) (1987-2010, in eight volumes), which, starting from the Croatian macrostructure, brings the microstructure in seven languages; Russian, English, German, French, Italian and Latin. This is the only work in which, although partially, a link was obtained between the three languages. In fact, by way of illustration, in case of consulting the entry oko1 [eye] and its second corresponding meaning, it is appreciated how of the Croatian locution imati dobro oko the Spanish equivalent is achieved to have a good eye and its corresponding value of 'knowing how to choose' and for the Italian aver occhio, also with the same meaning.





With regard to bilingual Croatian-Italian lexicographic work and vice versa, Italian-Croatian, in addition to the aforementioned OER, two reference works are currently available:

- Deanović, Mirko; Jernej, Josip (2012a, 10th ed. extended): Hrvatsko-talijanski rječnik: Croatian-Italian vocabolario (HTR) (Croatian-Italian dictionary);
- Deanović, Mirko; Jernej Josip (2012b, 15th ed. expanded and amended): Talijansko-hrvatski rječnik: Italian-Croatian (THR) vocabolario (Italian-Croatian dictionary).

In these two volumes you can obtain the Croatian correspondences of the Italian phraseologisms (and vice versa) present in the microstructure; for example, in the *it. occhio* entry of the THR are recorded, among others, the verbal locutions *dar nell'occhio* ('to draw attention') and *tener d'occhio* ('to watch'), together with their Croatian equivalents *udarati u oči* and *pripaziti na što*.

As in the case of bilingual lexicography between Croatian and Spanish, in that of Italian and Croatian a large number of resources are also dispensed with in the form of practical dictionaries, conversation manuals, pocket dictionaries (in both directions), the proliferation of which is due both to the closeness and historical relations between the two peoples, as well as the long tradition of teaching Italian in Croatia. Due to the multitude of sources, in this work we will not mention any of them. It should be noted that the history of Croatian lexicography is very marked by bilingual and multilingual lexicography, being the first work of Croatian lexicography precisely a small Italian-Croatian dictionary, *L'Opera nuova che insegna a parlare la lingua schiavonesca alli grandi alli piccoli et alle donne* (The new work that teaches speaking the Slavic language to the great, to the little ones and the ladies) by Pietro Lupis Valenciano, a merchant of Spanish origin, printed in 1527 in Ancona, Italy, in the printing press of Bernardino Guerraldy.

As far as the bilingual lexicography of Spanish and Italian is concerned, users currently have a fairly large set of printed dictionaries, as can be seen in the Analytical Repertoire of Bilingual Dictionaries.<sup>2</sup> We point out, among others, for being works of reference today, due to

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<sup>2</sup> Vthat is the Portal of contrastive Spanish-Italian linguistics, directed by St. Vincent (Contrastiva, s.d.; <http://www.contrastiva.it/wp/>).



their medium or large format: Il dizionario di spagnolo: dizionario spagnolo-italiano, italiano (VOX) (2005, DSVOX) by Secundí Sañé (2005) and Giovanna Schepisi, Grande Dizionario Hoepli Spagnolo. Dizionario spagnolo-italiano. Italian-Spanish dictionary (2009, 3rd ed., GDHS) by Laura Tam and, finally, Il grande dizionario di spagnolo Zanichelli. Dizionario spagnolo-italiano, italiano-spagnolo (2012, GDSZ) by Rossend Arqués and Adriana Padoan.

Faced with the abundance of analog dictionaries, the presence of only three open dictionaries is found on the network, all digitized from printed editions:

- Tam, Laura (2009, 3rd ed.): Grande dizionario Hoepli spagnolo. Dizionario spagnolo-italiano. Italian-Spanish dictionary (GDHS), [https://www.grandidizionari.it/dizionario\\_spagnolo-italiano.aspx](https://www.grandidizionari.it/dizionario_spagnolo-italiano.aspx);
- VV. AA. (2007): Dizionario spagnolo De Agostini. Spagnolo-Italian/Italian-spagnolo (DSDA) <http://www.sapere.it/sapere/dizionari.html>;
- VV. AA. (2017): Lo Spagnolo compatto Zanichelli. Dizionario spagnolo-italiano, italiano-spagnolo (SCZ), [https://dizionari.corriere.it/dizionario\\_spagnolo/](https://dizionari.corriere.it/dizionario_spagnolo/).

On the other hand, there do not seem to be digital dictionaries, to the exclusion of the Dizionario di Spagnolo (DSALI), that is, the collaborative dictionary of the Associazione Lingua italiana (s.d.b), and of the Dizionario Spagnolo Olivetti (2006-, DSO) by Enrico Olivetti, still in the process of elaboration, which contains to date some 30 000 slogans.

### **2.3. Analogue and/or digital phraseological dictionaries**

As already announced in the introduction, the revision of the monolingual phraseographic panorama of the three languages found that there is still a very large area to be cultivated and, even more, if we refer to multilingual phraseological lexicographic works, the main reason that drove our phraseographic project. In fact, with the exception of the Multilingual Proverb (2009), directed by Julia Sevilla Muñoz and M.a Teresa Zurdo Ruiz-Ayúcar, no results were found from dictionaries specialized in the phraseological field that attended to the three languages and that are particularized by their multilingual and digital character.



As for the peninsular Spanish phraseography on paper, they stand out for their authentic feat:

- Seco, Manuel; Andrew, Olympia; Ramos, Gabino (2018, 2nd ed.): *Diccionario fraseológico documentado del español actual* (DFDEA);
- Penadés Martínez, Inmaculada (2002): *Diccionario de locuciones verbales para la enseñanza de español* (DICLOCVER);
- Penadés Martínez, Inmaculada (2005): *Diccionario de locuciones adverbiales para la enseñanza de español* (DICLOCADV);
- Penadés Martínez, Inmaculada (2008): *Diccionario de locuciones nominales, adjetivas y pronominales para la enseñanza de español* (DICLOCNAP);
- Varela, Fernando; Kubarth, Hugo (2004, 2nd ed.): *Diccionario fraseológico del español moderno* (DFEM).

To these works, the work carried out by Penadés Martínez in his *Dictionary of idiomatic locutions of current Spanish* (2019) (DiLEA) must be incorporated. It is also worth mentioning the implementation, by ASALE, of the project related to the *Pan-Hispanic Phraseological Dictionary* (DFP), which, as stated in the report of the first meeting of the *Inter-Academic Commission* (Tenerife, May 28-30, 2018), will result in a "dictionary of locutions for general use, descriptive, synchronous, semasiological, modular and digital".

As for the Croatian language, it should be noted that there are two phraseographic works of reference:

- Matešić, Josip (1982): *Frazeološki rječnik hrvatskoga ili srpskog jezika* (FRHSJ) (*Phraseological Dictionary of Croatian or Serbian*);
- Menac, Antica; Fink Arsovski, Željka; Venturin, Radomir (2014): *Hrvatski frazeološki rječnik* (HFR) (*Croatian phraseological dictionary*).

As far as the former is concerned, it is the first phraseological dictionary of considerable volume of the language (called *Croatian-Serbian* or *Serbo-Croatian* until 1991) made on Croatian



phraseological material. It is characterized by using a simple plant, which consists of phraseological unity, its meaning and an example of use taken from literary sources or recreated. As a peculiarity of this dictionary (and object of many of its criticisms) highlights the so-called "phraseological material potential", that is, figurative words that, according to the author, can be used as phraseologisms. For its part, the second available phraseological dictionary, published in two editions (2003, 1st ed., 2014, 2nd ed.), is today considered a reference work of Croatian phraseology.

Within the Croatian monolingual phraseology, the project Rječnik hrvatskih animalističkih frazema (Dictionary of Croatian Zoomorphic Phraseological Units) (RHAF), published in 2017 by several authors (Vidović, 2017), is curious.

A bilingual Croatian-Italian phraseological dictionary is also available. This is the so-called Hrvatsko-talijanski frazeološki rječnik: Croatian-Italian phraseological vocabulary (HTFR) (Croatian-Italian phraseological dictionary), by Antica Menac and Zorica Vučetić (1995), which saw the light in 1995, inside the Mali frazeološki rječnici library (Small Phraseological Dictionaries), initiated by the zagreb phraseological school (Lončar, 2016). It is a small dictionary, A4 format, of 123 pages, published in a circulation of 500 copies, which is represented in the form of a list of Croatian phraseological units and their equivalents in Spanish. E.g.: otvoriti oči komu [open someone's eyes] – aprir gli occhi a qcn., far conoscere qcs. a qcn., fare ravvedere qcn.; o gutati očima koga [swallow someone's eyes] – mangiare (divorare) with gli occhi qcn.

Within the multilingual phraseography, it is also worth mentioning the Hrvatsko-romansko-germanski rječnik poredbenih frazema (HRGRPF) (Phraseological dictionary of Croatian stereotyped comparisons-Romance languages-Germanic languages) published in 2016 by several authors (Fink-Arsovski, Lončar, 2016). Stereotyped comparisons (in the form of Croatian verbal, nominal, adjectival and adverbial locutions) are accompanied by the phraseological meaning, two examples of use and their phraseological equivalents in French, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, English, Dutch, German and Swedish. In case of zero equivalence, the box of the microstructure is displayed empty, considering the dictionary editor that this information also provides valuable contrastive information. Note, by way of example, **Table 1:**



**Table 1.** Entrance of 'oko' [eye]

<b>OKO</b>   <b>čuvati kao oko u glavi</b> <i>koga, što</i> <i>čuvati koga, što, paziti na koga, na što, Svelikom se pažnjom odnositi prema komu, prema čemu</i> <i>Ovce i vinograd čuvao je kao oko u glavi. (N)</i> <i>Vi ste mislili da Slavine slike ne vrijede. (...) Da ste znali koliko će njene slike vrijediti, čuvali biste ih kao oči u glavi da ih bolje možete prodati, zar ne? (Iveljić)</i>	
francuski	<b>garder (conserver)</b> <i>quelque chose comme la prunelle de ses yeux</i>
portugalski	-
španjolski	<b>save something like &lt;a&gt;the apple of his eye, take care (pamper i sl. ) to someone like &lt;a&gt;the apple of his eye</b>
talijanski (dell'occhio)	<b>custodire qualcuno, qualcosa eats the pupilla degli occhi</b>
engleski eye	<b>keep (guard, cherish, protect) sb, sth as (like) the apple of your eye</b>
nizozemski	<b>bewaren als zijn oogappel</b>
njemački	<i>jmdn., etw. hüten wie seinen Augapfel</i>
švedski	<b>sköta ngn, ngt som en ögonsten</b>

Source: Own elaboration

At the end, it is worth mentioning two lexicographic products in formation, which are part of the aforementioned Mrežnik, the base of placements and the base of phraseologisms. Both being in the making, to date they offer only a list of placements and phraseologisms.

Italian has the following printed phraseological dictionaries:

- Lapucci, Carlo (1993): Dizionario dei modi di dire della lingua italiana: (DMDLI-L);
- Lurati, Ottavio (2001): Dizionario dei modi di dire (DMD-L);
- Pittano, Giuseppe (2009): Dizionario dei modi di dire (DMD-P);
- Quartu, Monica; Rossi, Elena (2012, 2nd ed.): Dizionario dei modi di dire della lingua italiana (DMD-QR);
- Sorge, Paola (2011, 3rd ed.): Dizionario dei modi di dire della lingua italiana (DMDLI-S).



To these works can be added the digitized version, freely accessible on the network, of the latest edition of the Dizionario dei modi di dire della lingua italiana (2012, 2nd ed., DMD-QR), made by Monica Quartu and Elena Rossi. The current phraseographic panorama is completed by the printed dictionary of Secundí Sañé and Giovanna Schepisi, Spagnolo idiomático. Dizionario spagnolo italiano di frasi idiomatiche, colloquiali e gergali (2013, SI), which is at the present time the only bilingual work dedicated to the phraseology of Spanish and Italian. It is, however, a monodirectional tool, which only allows searches from Spanish to Italian. As the authors state in the introduction, the corpus collected covers more than 26,000 idiomatic expressions –that is, locutions, sayings and placements– which, in most cases, are usual in today's Spanish. Each entry in the dictionary provides the Italian equivalent, whether it is another phraseology, a simple lexy or a literal paraphrase, preceded by one or more marks of use (e.g. colloq., raro, lett., iron.) and sometimes followed by an example taken from a contemporary literary work or from another era. When searching, for example, for the side motto (see Table 2), the user is faced with the following information:

side s.m. fianco, lato

**Table 2.** 'Side' entrance

side s.m. fianco, lato

- ◆ **of side** di lato
- ◆ **go** sideways(*colloq.* ) avere poche possibilità di farcela
- ◆ **on all four sides** **1** da ogni lato, da ogni parte: *the flames of the villa were seen, burning on all four sides* (B. PÉREZ GALDÓS) si vedevano le fiamme della città, che bruciava da ogni parte **2** dai quattro lati, sia dal lato dei nonni paterni che materni: *you will know that we are on all four sides a dignified family* (Á. GANIVET) Lei saprá che noi siamo da tutt'e quattro i lati una famiglia eccellente.

Source: Own elaboration.



Below, in Table 3, a summary table is presented with all the dictionaries highlighted in the main body on the previous pages:

	ENGLISH (E)	CROATIAN (C)	ITALIAN (I)
<b>Digital monolingual dictionaries</b>	<i>DLE</i> (2014, 23rd ed.) and <i>Clave</i> (2012, 9th, ed.)	<i>HJP</i> (2006) and <i>ŠRHJ</i> (2019)	<i>NDM</i> (2014), <i>DDO</i> (2012), <i>GDHI</i> (2015), <i>VT</i> (2008), <i>DIO</i> (2003-), <i>SC</i> (2003-2007) and <i>GDI</i> (2014)
<b>Digital bilingual dictionaries</b>	<b>E-C:</b> Non-existent	<b>C-E:</b> Non-existent	<b>I-C:</b> Non-existent
	<b>E-I:</b> <i>GDHS</i> (2009, 3. <sup>to</sup> ed.), <i>DSDA</i> (2007) and <i>SCZ</i> (2017)	<b>C-I:</b> Non-existent	<b>I-E:</b> <i>GDHS</i> (2009, 3. <sup>to</sup> ed.), <i>DSDA</i> (2007) and <i>SCZ</i> (2017)
<b>Printed bilingual dictionaries</b>	<b>E-C:</b> <i>ŠHR</i> (2017, 6. <sup>a</sup> ed.)	<b>C-E:</b> <i>HŠR</i> (2012)	<b>I-C:</b> <i>THR</i> (2012, 15th ed.)
	<b>E-I:</b> <i>DSVOX</i> (2005), <i>GDHS</i> (2009, 3. <sup>to</sup> ed.), <i>IGDSZ</i> (2012), among others	<b>C-I:</b> <i>HTR</i> (2012, 10th ed.)	<b>I-E:</b> <i>DSVOX</i> (2005), <i>GDHS</i> (2009, 3. <sup>to</sup> ed.), <i>IGDSZ</i> (2012), among others
<b>Digital monolingual phraseological dictionaries</b>	<i>DILEA</i> (2019)	Non-existent	<i>DMDH</i> (2012)
<b>Printed monolingual phraseological dictionaries</b>	<i>DFDEA</i> (2018, 2nd ed.), <i>DICLOCVER</i> (2002), <i>DICLOCADV</i> (2005), <i>DICLOCNAJ</i> (2008) and <i>DFEM</i> (2004, 2nd ed.)	<i>FRHSJ</i> (1982), <i>HFR</i> (2014), <i>DUFZ</i> (2017)	<i>DMDLI-L</i> (1993), <i>DMD-L</i> (2001), <i>DMD-P</i> (2009), <i>DMD-QR</i> (2012, 2. <sup>to</sup> ed.) and <i>DMDLI-S</i> (2011, 3. <sup>to</sup> ed.)
<b>Printed bilingual phraseological dictionaries</b>	<b>E-C:</b> Non-existent <b>E-I:</b> <i>SI</i> (2013)	<b>C-I:</b> <i>HTFR</i> (1995)	<b>I-E:</b> Non-existent
<b>Multilingual dictionaries</b>	<i>OER</i> (1987-2010) and <i>HRGRPF</i> (2016)		

### 3. Dictionary construction

This third chapter deals with three components: in the first part, the configuration of the project itself will be addressed, that is, it will be specified at what moment the project and the





collaborating institutions arise; in the second, the metal-lexicographic features of the DFMD will be made explicit, focusing on its multilingual, phraseological and digital idiosyncrasy; in the latter, the criteria underpinned in that research will be set out.

### **3.1. Description of the project**

The project described in this work was consolidated in January 2020, as a result of the official training of the research group composed of teaching and research staff from three university centers: the Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (reference headquarters of the group), the University of Zadar and the Castilla-La Mancha University. In turn, this project is part of the framework of the research that is being carried out in the Dipartimento di Studi Linguistici e Culturali Comparati of the Venetian Athenaeum, after the ministerial recognition of that same department as "Dipartimento di eccellenza (2018-2022)" (<https://www.unive.it/pag/33801/>).

In addition to the existing literature on lexicographic and phraseographic issues, the research that has given life to this project is that recently carried out, jointly or disjointedly, by some of the members of the group. Among them, we point out Lončar & Dal Maso (2018), in which the purpose of elaborating a Spanish-Croatian-Italian online phraseological dictionary is outlined for the first time, Dal Maso (2019a, 2019b, 2020), Valero Fernández & Mušura (2019), Valero Fernández & Lončar (2019, 2020). Containing reflections on functional interlinguistic equivalence in the phraseographic field, these works represent the basis on which the conception of the DFMD and its consequent development is based.

As previously mentioned, the final objective that our research group intends to achieve is the preparation of the DFMD, that is, a digital multilingual phraseological dictionary in which the functional correspondences between the phraseological collections of the three languages considered are accounted for and, possibly, in a successive stage of enlargement, of other languages. Given the obvious complexity involved in the development of such a tool, it has been decided to articulate the development of the DFMD in a sequence of projects that will gradually complete the information contained in it.



In the first stage of this path, we proposed to create an initial version of the DFMD (the DFMDsom) focused on the lexicographic treatment of a specific plot of Spanish, Croatian and Italian phraseology, that is, the locutions with somatisms. Due to this, the initial phases of our project are focused on delimiting which are the locutions that are part of the macrostructure of the DFMDsom and on designing a lexicographic plant according to the metal-lexicographic characteristics that are pursued. Both aspects are not only essential for the preparation of the DFMDsom, but will also be taken into account in the successive extensions of our dictionary. As a result of this aim, after preparing the DFMDsom, other repertoires of locutions will be elaborated with lexical constituents belonging to different semantic fields: among others, the zoomorphic elements (DFMDzoo), botanical (DFMDbot), chromatic (DFMDcrom) and meteorological (DFMDmet), raw materials (DFMDmat), food and beverages (DFMDgastr).

### **3.2. Description of the DFMD**

A dictionary, among many other particularities, is defined by the laborious and long writing process. Being consistent with this, the generic characteristics that the future dictionary will have in its global approach are detailed; however, they cannot be taken as immovable, since, starting from the intention of publishing the results on its website uninterruptedly, all the necessary changes will be executed during its continuous writing. In short, it is desired to provide the interested public (our students) with a useful tool updated and according to the linguistic reality of the moment.

For the characterization of the Digital Multilingual Phraseological Dictionary, the criteria combined in Domínguez Vázquez (2019, pp.52-54) have been followed. Thus, roughly, it stands out for being a multilingual phraseographic tool (Spanish-Croatian-Italian), from the quantitative point of view; from the qualitative, for considering equally all the working languages, for an interlinguistic relationship of the type 'lenguanlenguan', that is, to the relationship of all languages with all.

The DFMD is a lexicographic work of a specialized nature in its nomenclature whose lexicographic structure differs considerably in contrast to that of a general dictionary, since, from



the outset, its slogans are constituted by at least two components (Tristá, 1998, p.177) with all the difficulties (and lexicographic decisions) that derive from this fact. In turn, it must be specified that the macrostructure – understood as "all the inputs arranged according to a certain computer criterion" (Porto, 2002, p.135) – is nourished only by locutions. Therefore, although under the marbete of phraseological units there are also other units such as sayings, placements and phraseological statements, the repertoire of units that can be consulted is reduced exclusively to that of locutions.

The next feature of the DFMD is that of its consideration as a multilingual dictionary, in particular, of three languages: two Romances, Spanish and Italian, and one Slavic, Croatian. The fact that it covers three languages makes the DFMD the direct result of international work, whose most arduous task is equated with that of "giving equivalents of lexical units of a source language (or source language) in a target language (also called the target language or target language)" (Haensch & Omeñaca, 2004, p.247).

As a multilingual dictionary or also called polyglot, it should be noted that it is also based on a multidirectional work. This means that you start from the three languages to reach the rest of them; in other words, this dictionary aspires to be a truly multilingual tool by granting an identical status to the three agglutinated languages (Domínguez, 2019, p.51). In this way, the perfect interlinguistic correspondence will be obtained in the three feasible directions in the coming times. By way of illustration, this circumstance is manifested in the trinomial esp. brain drain / it. fuga di cervelli / cr. odljev mozgova [\*brain flow]. Likewise, if a locution of a starting language does not correspond to a UF in one or both target languages, a simple lexy or a literal translation of the conveyed content will be provided, as it happens, for example, in esp. mess / it. errore, gaffe / cr. zajeb (the latter colloquial, snug).

The next qualifier of the DFMD is that of a digital nature and, as such, it must have "minimum levels of quality", as determined by Maldonado González (2016, pp.205-206), among which are: the importance given to hypertext, the modification in the type of information (e.g. the lexicographer resorts to the idea of giving the user an image just by placing the cursor in the locution to the pilpil) or the resolution time of a doubt. Lončar & Valero Fernández (2020, p.4),



on the other hand, noted the relevance of considering technical aspects such as: the type and format of the interface, the optionality in the searches of the constituents of a locution, the addition of the audiovisual and multimodal component, and the system of autosave and dissemination with other users of the searches carried out. However, given the economic and human resources, for the moment it has been decided to have only a free and open access web interface, although the relevance of having an interface designed for mobile devices is valued.

In short, the DFDM wants to achieve a liberalized tool of corsets imposed by paper (e.g. single order in lemmatization, disconnected annexes, scarcity of images and omission of audiovisual material), that is, in the words of Maldonado González (2016, p.204):

What is the point of handling alphabetical order, for example? What is the point of knowing how to find the canonical form of a word (that which was lematized in bold)? What is the usefulness for the user of consulting appendices with specific information? What does a work that presents the text linearly without letting us access it from another search pattern other than the register of a certain lemma?

Finally, although they exceed the limits of the present research, it is intended to finalize the description of the DFMD, referring to the potential user: the adult student of Spanish, Croatian or Italian as a foreign language. The precise demarcation of the target audience was, in fact, the starting point of all the investigations that served as a prelude to the DFMD. It shares, therefore, the belief of Maldonado González (2019, p.103) of the vital importance of the precise and exact definition of a lexicographic project, both in its "continent" and in its "content," depending on the target audience to which it was addressed.

### **3.3. Research corpus**

Regarding the research corpus of the lexicographic project, it is essential to pay attention to two aspects: the metalinguistic sources and the filters applied for the preparation of the DFMD corpus.



Thus, in direct connection with the first point, it should be stated that, for the extraction of the corpus of work in the Spanish language, all the locutions recorded in the five reference works detailed below have been emptied (see also Figure 1):

- Seco, Manuel; Andrew, Olympia; Ramos, Gabino (2018, 2nd ed.): *Diccionario fraseológico documentado del español actual* (DFDEA);
- Penadés Martínez, Inmaculada (2002): *Diccionario de locuciones verbales para la enseñanza de español* (DICLOCVER);
- Penadés Martínez, Inmaculada (2005): *Diccionario de locuciones adverbiales para la enseñanza de español* (DICLOCADV);
- Penadés Martínez, Inmaculada (2008): *Diccionario de locuciones nominales, adjetivas y pronominales para la enseñanza de español* (DICLOCNAP);
- Penadés Martínez, Inmaculada (2019): *Diccionario de locuciones idiomáticas del español actual* (DiLEA).

For Croatian, lexicographic sweeping of 8 dictionaries will be considered desirable (see Figure 2). Due to the scarcity of digital resources and the long phraseographic tradition (even within general dictionaries) of Croatian lexicography, in the compilation of the corpus we have decided to include all the important monolingual and phraseological dictionaries of the Croatian language printed on paper. In addition to the aforementioned FRHSJ, HFR, HRGRPF and RHAF, the following works are involved:

- Anić, Vladimir (1991): *Rječnik hrvatskoga jezika* [Dictionary of the Croatian Language] (RHJA);
- Anić, Vladimir et al. (2002): *Hrvatski enciklopedijski rječnik* [Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Croatian Language] (HER);
- Anić, Vladimir (from 2006): RHJA reissued in several editions under the title *Veliki Anićev rječnik hrvatskoga jezika* [Anić's Great Dictionary of the Croatian Language] (VARHJ);

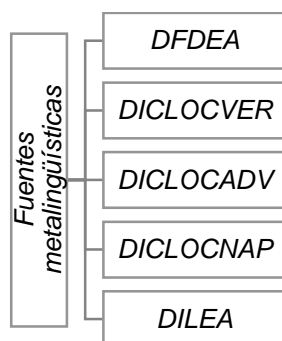


- Jojić, Ljiljana (2015) (coord.): Veliki rječnik hrvatskoga standardnog jezika [Great dictionary of the standard Croatian language], known by its acronym VRH 'summit, peak';
- VV. AA. (2000): Školski rječnik hrvatskoga jezika [School Dictionary of the Croatian Language] (ŠRHJ).

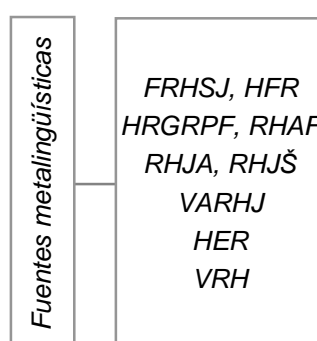
Ultimately, for Italian, the phraseological units will result from the revision of four dictionaries (see Figure 3). In the absence of Italian phraseographic repertoires as complete as those available in the Spanish language, it has been considered appropriate to review two monolingual dictionaries – one printed (GRADIT), one online (VT) – and two paper phraseological dictionaries (DMD-QR and DMDLI-S):

- De Mauro, Tullio (2007): Grande dizionario italiano dell'uso (GRADIT);
- Quartu, Monica; Rossi, Elena (2012, 2nd ed.): Dizionario dei modi di dire della lingua italiana (DMD-QR);
- Sorge, Paola (2011, 3rd ed.): Dizionario dei modi di dire della lingua italiana (DMDLI-S).
- VV. AA. (2008): Vocabolario Treccani (VT).

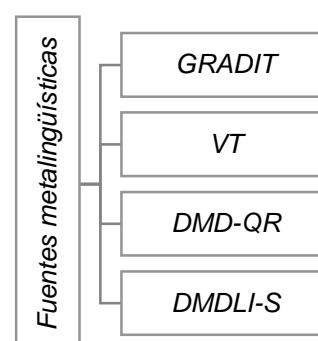
**Figure 1. Spanish Sources**



**Figure 2. Croatian sources**



**Figure 3. Italian Sources**





On the other hand, regarding the criteria for the selection of locutions, for the design of the DFMD attention has been paid to four principles of a functional, diatopic, diaphasic and lexical nature respectively.

- i. The functional criterion refers to the different types of locutions contemplated. In this sense, a priori, all locutions can be part of the corpus of the DFMD, since the sphere of locutions is contemplated in its entirety. As a result, our dictionary will include nominal, adjective, adverbial, verbal, pronominal, prepositional and conjunctive locutions.
- ii. The diatopic criterion is based on the compendium of those locutions belonging to peninsular Spanish. The reason for this decision is twofold: on the one hand, the dictionaries indicated as metal-lexicographic sources restrict their nomenclature, precisely, to this variety of Spanish; on the other, the opinion of the authors of the DFDEA (2018, p.XIII) is shared:

[...] to write with the same rigor as with respect to Spain the particular phraseological information of each of the Latin American countries, we would have had to employ a much greater effort of twice as much (in personnel, in means and in time) than that used for Spain.

As for Croatian, only standard locutions recorded in lexicographic sources will be included. Similarly, for Italian it will be chosen to omit all those locutions that do not belong to the current standard Italian or that are ascribed to a specific isogloss of this language; as a result, in the phase of extraction of the corpus will not be considered phraseologisms such as *non ricordarsi dal naso alla bocca* ('having bad memory') or *avere le fette di salame davanti agli occhi* ('not seeing something obvious'), which in the *Vocabolario Treccani* are considered for regional use.

- iii. The diaphasic criterion is based on the extraction of all locutions indistinctly from the register of use, in other words, all phraseological units are contemplated, both those not marked and those marked by their inclusion in a formal, informal/colloquial register (e.g. *at the finger*) or *malsonant* (e.g. *eating the pussy*).





- iv. Finally, the lexical criterion alludes to the presence, in the canonical form of all the collected locutions, of at least one noun belonging to the referent semantic field. As a result, for the DFMDsom, locutions that have at least one somatic lexical component (e.g., hair loss, head heating, fingers crossed, etc.) have been selected.

## Conclusions

The project presented in this essay aims to contribute, on the one hand, to the development of digital phraseography, solving, specifically, the existing gap in terms of interlinguistic correspondences between Spanish, Croatian and Italian; on the other hand, it aims to provide university students with a tool of free access and easy consultation, capable of promoting the understanding and use of phraseology in the three reference languages.

Since "locutions and other phraseological units invade languages, [...] it is difficult to deepen their knowledge without facing these anomalies" (Ruiz, 2001, p.17), especially in the case of the Spanish language, which is characterized by a constant and frequent use of UF (Leal, 2011, p.58); hence, the preparation of the DFMD is presented in principle as a tool focused on facilitating both ELE students and students of Italian and Croatian.

In short, through the gradual development of the DFMD, it advocates the promotion of quality research with an international projection and aspires to provide an instrument that represents a significant advance in the phraseographic knowledge of Spanish, Croatian and Italian, at a time when:

Not recognizing the precarious situation that lexicographic practice is going through and, therefore, the corresponding decline in the publishing market of dictionaries would only be explained by the search for pretexts that justify the determined academic commitment to continue in the task those who have dedicated a good part of our research efforts to Lexicography. (Hernandez, 2018, p. 9) .

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