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Semitic, Sicilian-Italian and English Elements in Literary Maltese in the 2nd decade of the 3rd Millennium - preliminary observations

The careful analysis of Aquilina's Maltese-English Dictionary conducted by Joseph Brincat brought the results often quoted in the many linguistic works concerning the composition of the Maltese lexicon: 32,4% - Semitic (Arabic) element; 52,5% - Italian-Sicilian element; 6,1% - English element. Another revised analysis of Aquilina's etymologies brought the Semitic element 10% down (22,4%). Nevertheless, those analyses do not necessarily reflect the prevalence of this or another lexical element in the literary Maltese. The written form of the language doesn't have to imitate the current use of the language with its lexical trends; it could reproduce the author's approach to the Maltese lexical heritage (e.g. prevalence of the lexica of Semitic origin). This paper is a preliminary analysis of the lexical components in selected prosaic texts, printed after 2010, written by the following Maltese writers: John A. Bonello, Sharon Calleja, Michael Cini, Mark Anthony Fenech, Victor Fenech, Karmenu Mallia, Pierre J. Mejlak, and Trevor Zahra. The goal of the analysis is to demonstrate if the contemporary (mostly popular) prose shows preponderance of Semitic, Sicilian-Italian or English elements.