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## ABSTRACTS

### **Joëlle Ducos: Neology and Mediaeval studies: the genesis of French for specific purposes**

Neology can be seen as a major phenomenon during the Middle Ages, alongside the use of Latin and pre-humanism. But to study this requires a broader chronology than usual, i.e. as from the first attestations, taking into account a great variety of procedures and usages. Medieval terminology emerges as a complex entity of innovation where all the possibilities of linguistic creation are used. Progression is far from linear: terms appear, disappear or remain without any clearly perceptible causes, posing the question of a model which could explain how terms are formed, how they emerge and how they are disseminated.

**Keywords:** neology, terminology, science, Middle Ages

### **David Trotter: Ephemeral neologisms: how science and words have evolved**

This paper examines the durability of neologisms in medieval French and beyond, concentrating in particular on words derived from Arabic and transmitted through Latin translations. An examination of the Old French *Chirurgie d'Albucasis* suggests that a high proportion of the technical terms from Arabic are attested only in that translation. Three of the Latin manuscripts of Albucasis contain proto-glossaries, probably a principal means by which technical loanwords could be transmitted; but these, in fact, are by no means exclusively glossaries to the text, but rather wider-ranging synonyma. A part of one of the manuscripts (British Library, MS. Additional 36617) is transcribed to make the point. The study also looks at the medical Arabicisms still present in the TLF, and those listed in vol. XIX of the FEW, and finds that there are very few. The conclusion is that the existence of (in this case) Arabic loanwords in an Old French translation does not mean that any lasting impact has been made on the lexis of French. Most of the words in the Albucasis translation have disappeared.

**Keywords:** neologism, surgery, glossary, Arabic

### **Michèle Goyens: What becomes of neologisms in mediaeval scientific French: a question of morphology?**

This article discusses a series of criteria that can be used to formulate research hypotheses regarding the lexicalization or the disappearance of neologisms created during the Middle Ages. In concrete, a previous analysis of neologisms used in certain translations of medical texts have revealed the large majority of borrowings from Latin, next to formations in the vernacular French language, like derivatives. Moreover, borrowings from Latin seem to lexicalize more easily. In this contribution, we would like to explore in

particular the possible influence of morphological characteristics of the neologism on its lexicalization in the language. We pay special attention to criteria emphasized for Modern French by psycholinguistic studies, in order to discuss the way in which they can be applied to a corpus of medieval neologisms.

**Keywords:** neology, morphology, “diagrammaticity”

### **Jean-Patrice Boudet and Matthieu Husson: The vocabulary of astronomy in Old French: the case of the tables and canons of circa 1271**

MS Bernkastel-Cues 215 contains an unedited set of astronomical tables and canons in French. Probably written around 1271 these are a new and unique opportunity to deepen our knowledge of the astronomical terminology in old French. The present study establishes, from this material, a glossary of 130 terms and proposes a first internal and contextual analysis of it on the semantical, dialectal and morphological levels.

**Keywords:** Astronomy, table, terminology, old French

### **Yela Schauwecker: The science of the stars in the court of Charles V: how can neologisms be identified in an Old French text?**

If the notion of neologism is already difficult to define in the case of a modern language, it proves to be even more difficult when it comes to historical languages, such as Old French. Since on the one hand, we lack the data to distinguish spontaneous formations and hapaxes from creations which made their way from the level of speech (*parole*) to that of language (*langue*), all rare words or unique attestations are potentially unusual usages, thus potential neologisms. On the other hand however, it is not at all easy to identify neologisms in an Old French text, e.g. the astronomical and astrological texts written and translated on behalf of Charles V in the later 1360s. Even many of the usages marked by authors or scribes explicitly as *estrange*, i.e. “unusual” and “new,” turn out to be not French derivations from Latin roots, but Latin words forged together with French endings on a relatively fixed pattern (F. Duval, 2011, 508). Determining neologisms on grounds of dictionaries of the Ancient French language does not work either, because, especially when it comes to scientific writings, only a very small percentage of the available material had found its way into the dictionaries so far, and, what is more, supposed neologisms mostly turn out to be French adaptations of terms deeply rooted in the European discursive tradition. Thus, the only method that seems to yield reliable results is to consider the “social aspect” of the neologism—not in its original sense that lexical homogeneity for a given concept helps distinguish hapaxes from well-established lexical creations, but the other way round, since lexical variety seems to enable us to identify concepts for which a satisfying equivalent in Old French has not yet been found. In addition, analyses made of a choice of terms from the corpus seem to indicate that more neologisms tend to be found among astronomical terms than among astrological terms.

**Keywords:** neologism, astronomy, astrology, terminology, translation

### **Xavier-Laurent Salvador: Semantic neologies and adaptations in the encyclopaedic discourse in the *Bible Historiale***

This article presents a problem of medieval French traductology applied to Bible translations from Latin to the vernacular. The French translator tries to avoid the loss of

information due to the supposed weakness of vernacular idioms, and hits on the idea of proving his fidelity to the original sacred text. The comparison between Latin and vernacular shows (1) alteration of the original dictum close to semantic neology; (2) new senses of imported means from the classical languages; (3) rewriting of the original text revealing the gap existing between the horizon of expectations of the ancient text and its translation.

**Keywords:** neologism, translation, Bible, terminology

**M<sup>a</sup> Caterina Manes Gallo and Henri Portine: The phrases *prendre effet* or *prendre fin*: a fixed expression or neologism?**

The purpose of this paper is to show that the neologization process depends on discourse strategies closely related to social activities in a specific domain (here, the domain of Law). It is centered on French *prendre effet* and *prendre fin*. The authors show how *prendre effet* is not only a set expression but also a neologism, in opposition to *prendre fin*. The analysis is partly based on Guillaume's notion of "subduction".

**Keywords:** neologization, discourse, semantic, subduction, law

**Catherine Resche: Anthroponyms in economics: another way into specialised fields and their culture**

This paper raises the question of anthroponyms as terms, underlining their usefulness as neonyms. It insists that, in the field of research into specialised fields, such as economics, anthroponyms represent an entry point not only into the concepts they denote, but also into the history of economic thinking and into the culture of the domain and its specialists. Based on a corpus of 418 such terms, the analysis first focuses on their components, and then reviews their limits as well as the advantages that can be derived from observing them, especially for a linguist. As mirrors of the themes and ideas that have marked the discipline over time, they offer a rich source of inquiry.

**Keywords:** anthroponyms, the history of economic thinking, culture, limits, advantages

**Sylvie Vandaele: From the neologism to the field of knowledge: the case of Life Sciences**

In recent years, a plethora of new terms designating various subfields of the life sciences and biomedicine have emerged. These new terms, which are listed in thesauri for the purpose of scientific article indexing, play an essential role in the partitioning of academic disciplines and thus provoke a reorganization of the body of knowledge. However, they are the result of a dynamic interplay between several factors: for sure, those of a scientific nature, but also social, political, and human factors. We performed a comparative analysis, between English and French, of some Medical Subject Headings (MeSH). This was done in order to recapitulate the sequence of events of their genesis and identify those which could explain certain peculiarities of the English and French arborescences, the latter being the French translation of the former. This diachronic study therefore focuses on the process of neology formation; neologisms may become canonical within a given field, often through a symbolic action by a researcher.

**Keywords:** diachrony, life sciences, biomedicine, naming, field of knowledge, genetics, molecular biology, genomics