

Clarissa Stincone

USAGE LABELS IN BASNAGE'S *DICTIONNAIRE UNIVERSEL* (1701)

Abstract Basnage's revision (1701) of Furetière's *Dictionnaire universel* is profoundly different from Furetière's work in several regards. One of the most noticeable features of the dictionary lies in his increased use of usage labels. Although Furetière already made use of usage labels (see Rey 1990), Basnage gives them a prominent role. As he states in the preface to his edition, a dictionary that aspires to the title of "universal" should teach how to speak *in a polite way* ("poliment"), *right* ("juste") and making use of specific terminology for each art. He specifies, lemma by lemma, the diaphasic dimension by indicating the word's register and context of use, the diastratic one by noting the differences in the use of the language within the social strata, the diachronic evolution by indicating both archaisms and neologisms, the diamesic aspect by highlighting the gaps between oral and written language, the diatopic one by specifying either foreign borrowings or regionalisms.

After extracting the entries containing formulas such as "ce mot est...", "ce terme est..." and similar ones, we compare the number of entries and the type of information provided by the two lexicographers¹. In this paper, we will focus on Basnage's innovative contribution. Furthermore, we will try to identify the lexicographer's sources, i.e. we will try to establish on which grammars, collections of linguistic remarks or contemporary dictionaries Basnage relies his judgements.

Keywords Historical lexicography; *Dictionnaire universel*; Basnage de Beauval; seventeenth century; usage labels

References

Basnage de Beauval, H. (1701): *Dictionnaire universel*. La Haye et Rotterdam.

Rey, A. (1990): Les marques d'usage et leur mise en place dans les dictionnaires du XVII^e siècle: le cas Furetière. In: *Lexique 9/ Les marques d'usage dans les dictionnaires (XVII^e, XVIII^e siècles)*. Lille, pp. 17–29.

Contact information

Clarissa Stincone

Université Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3

clarissastincone@live.it

¹ The .txt files digitised with Transkribus and subsequently analysed with BBEdit are flawed (incorrectly separated words, confused or missing letters, etc.). It is possible that some usage labels may have escaped analysis.