



GÖTEBORGS  
UNIVERSITET

# A Digital Dictionary of Romance Word Families

**CHRISTINA LINDQVIST & MÅRTEN RAMNÄS**

# A Digital Dictionary of Romance Word Families

Planned project

Aim:

Create an open access online digital dictionary of French, Italian and Spanish word families

# A Digital Dictionary of Romance Word Families

## Collaborators

Michele Colombo, Professor of Italian, Stockholm University (PI)

Isabel Pujol Payet, Associate Professor of Spanish, University of Girona

Elisabeth Gibert-Sotelo, Lecturer of Spanish, University of Girona

Mårten Ramnäs, Lecturer in French, University of Gothenburg

Christina Lindqvist, Professor of French, University of Gothenburg

# Why word families?

- Useful concept from a language learning and teaching point of view (e.g. Nation 2001) – if you know one family member you should be able to learn and/or recognize other members of that family
- Frequently used in SLA research on the English language
- Rarely used in SLA research on French or other Romance languages (Ramnäs & Lindqvist, 2021)
- A frequency-based French word family list is currently being developed (Cobb, Lindqvist & Ramnäs, in progress)

- No digital multilingual dictionary of word families
- Point of departure:  
Colombo and D'Achille's (2019) dictionary of Italian word families



- Word families created by taking into account etymology, lexicography, morphology and semantics, in a Romance perspective
- Foster intercomprehension between Romance languages
- Open access tool for learners, teachers and researchers

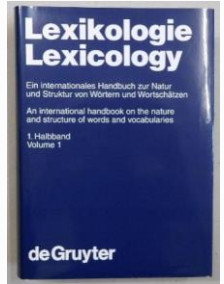
# Research questions

- To what extent is it possible to relate one word to one another on the basis of their roots?
- How can we build a word family using coherent criteria valid for French, Italian and Spanish at the same time?
- What is the best lexicographic solution for presenting a word family to the reader?
- Which are the word families that are most important for language learners?

Research on word families has been carried out within different fields

### Lexicology

Cruse, David *et alii* edd. (2002). *Lexicology*. Berlin: de Gruyter, chapt. XVIII *The architecture of the vocabulary II: Word families* (by Franz Hundsnurscher, Gerhard Augst, Jochen Splett, Claude Gruaz, Gerda Haßler)



### Language acquisition and morphology

Bauer, Laurie & Nation, Paul (1993). "Word families". *International Journal of Lexicography*, 6, 253-279

### Lexicography

Augst, Gerhard (2009). *Wortfamilienwörterbuch der deutschen Gegenwartssprache. Studienausgabe*. Tübingen: Niemeyer.



### Semantics

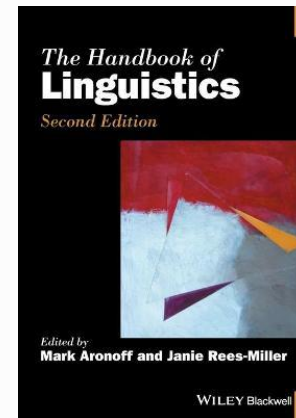
Hernández Arocha, Héctor (2014), *Las familias de palabras. Relaciones entre morfología, semántica y estructura argumental en las raíces “dec(ir)” y “sag(en)”*. Berlin: de Gruyter.



What is a word family? The answer is not straightforward

"A word family is composed of all the words derived from a given root" by means of derivational affixes [David Alan Cruse, "The Lexicon", 2003]:

*nation, national (adj.), national (n.), nationally, nationalize, denationalize, nationality, nationalism, nationalist, international, transnational, nationhood, etc.*



"A word family consists of a base word and all its derived and inflected forms that can be understood by a learner without having to learn each form separately" [Laurie Bauer, Paul Nation, "Word Families", 1993]

**Table 1.** Additions to a word family at different levels of inflection and affixation

Word families			
2	develop develops developed developing	wood wood's woods wooded	bright brighter brightest
3	developable undevelopable developer(s) undeveloped	woody woodiest woodier woodiness	brightly brightish brightness
4	development(s) developmental developmentally		
5	developmentwise semideveloped antidevelopment	wooden	brighten
6	redevelop predevelopment	anti-wood	

- the reference to a base word assumes that every word family has one
- the reference to inflected forms brings into word families grammatical words related to the same lexeme without a clear gain
- the reference to derived forms roughly coincides with Cruse's definition that falls within derivational morphology

“Morphological synchronic word families” present some shortcomings:

- they (usually) fail to account for lexical relationships that entail weak suppletion: It. *ragione* ‘reason’, *razionale* ‘rational’
- they (usually) fail to account for lexical relationships where a root is linked with a non-recurrent affix (*unifix* in Igor Mel’čuk’s terms): Sp. *candela* ‘candle’, *candelabro* ‘candle holder’; It. *dente* ‘tooth’ *dentifricio* ‘toothpaste’
- they present an asymmetry between word families where the common root is a lexeme (Fr. *nation*, *national*, *nationalité*, etc.) and word families where it is not: Fr. *sociable* ‘sociable’, *société* ‘society’, *associer* ‘to bring together’, *association* ‘association’, etc.
- they sometimes rely on folk etymology leaving behind scientific criteria: in his *Wortfamilienwörterbuch* Augst lists Germ. *Gastronomie* ‘gastronomy’ (< O.Gr. γαστρονομία) under Germ. *Gast* ‘guest’



Italian diachronic word families

A diachronic word family may be defined as follows: "A word family is composed of all the words of a given language etymologically linked to the same lexical ancestor"

Two key concepts:

1. Lexical ancestor. Choosing Lat. RERI 'to calculate', 'to think', SOCIUM 'associate' is the way to connect It. *ragione*, *razionale* and Fr. *sociable*, *société*, *associer*, *association* respectively

2. Lexical ancestry. It entails morphological processes such as derivation or composition, but goes beyond, linking the words on the basis of the recognition of a common root: It. *dente*, *dentifricio*, Fr. *demain*, *lendemain*, Sp. *candela*, *candelabro*

## Word families

**free base + productive affix**

*Fr. revoir, Sp. natural*

**free base + non-productive  
affix/unifix/other**

*Sp. emanar, Fr. patriote*

**bound base + productive affix**

*Fr. recevoir, Sp. rural*

**bound base + non-productive  
affix/unifix/other**

*Sp. evacuar, Fr. pilote*

- Lexical ancestry is about words with a free base
- Lexical ancestry comprehends cases of folk etymology: Fr. *choucroute* ‘sauerkraut’ < Alsatian *Sürkrüt*, parallel to German *Sauerkraut*, reanalysed as a compound formed of *chou* ‘cabbage’ and *croûte* ‘crust’

Considering lexical ancestry it is possible to list different degrees of regularity in the formal and semantic distinction between words:

1. Maximal regularity occurs between a root word and its descendants that are also its derivatives (especially with productive affixes), such as It. *bello*, *bellezza*.
2. Medium-high regularity occurs between a root word and its descendants that are not its derivatives, such as Fr. *demain*, *lendemain*.
3. The medium-low regularity occurs between words belonging to the same family that are linked neither by derivation nor by lexical ancestry, such as Sp. *razón*, *racional*.
4. The minimum regularity occurs between words belonging to different families that has no link whatsoever, such as Port. *vida* and *sol*.



36 entries

## CINGERE

v. 'avvolgere intorno al corpo', 'circondare' (part. perf. CINCTUS)

**cingere** v. • circondare • (*lett.*) avvolgere intorno al corpo [da CINGERE v.]

> **cinta** s.f. • recinto • cintura per indumenti [da CINCTAM part. perf. f. di CINGERE v.]

>> **cintare** v. • circondare con una cinta

> **cinto** s.m. • (*lett.*) cintola

>> **cintola** s.f. • cintura per indumenti

>> **cintolo** s.m. • (*tosc.*) fascia o nastro per stringere qcs.

> **cintura** s.f. • striscia di cuoio o di tessuto che si porta per stringere alla vita gli abiti • oggetto di varia forma e dimensione, atto a cingere persone o cose con funzione di sostegno, protezione e sim. [da CINCTURAM s.f.]

>> **cinturare** v. • nello sport, trattenerne un avversario afferrandolo alla vita

>>> **Cinturato®** s.m. • nome commerciale di pneumatico provvisto di una cintura di rinforzo sotto il battistrada

>> **cinturino** s.m. • striscia di vari materiali che serve per trattenerne, sostenere e allacciare diversi oggetti, come orologi o borsette

>> **cinturone** s.m. • grossa cintura usata per appendervi la fondina o le giberne [dal fr. *ceinturon* s.m., da *ceinture* s.f. 'cintura']

> **accingere** v. • (*lett.*) cingere; **accingersi** • prepararsi a fare qcs. [da ACCINGERE v., form. da AD- e CINGERE v.]

> **circumcingere** v. • (*lett.*) circondare [dal lat. tardo CIRCUMCINGERE v., form. da CIRCUM- e CINGERE v.]

> **discingere** v. • (*lett.*) togliere dai fianchi ciò che li cinge [da DISCINGERE v., form. da DIS- e CINGERE v.]

>> **discinto** agg. • di persona, che è vestita in modo scomposto o succinto [da DISCINCTUM part. perf. di DISCINGERE v.]

> **incinta** agg. • di donna nel periodo della gravidanza [da INCINCTAM 'cinta intorno' part. perf. di INCINGERE v., nel senso di 'gravidà', adattamento paretimologico di INCINTEM agg.; la parola è stata reinterpretata come form. da IN- neg. e CINCTAM, perché le donne incinte non potevano indossare la cintura]

> **archeol.** spazio tra un ordine di gradini e l'altro nei teatri e anfiteatri greco-romani [da PRAECINCTIONEM s.f., da PRAECINGERE v.]

> **procinto** s.m. • solo nella loc. *in procinto di*, sul punto di [da PROCINCTUM s.m. 'assetto da guerra', form. da PRO- e un deriv. di CINGERE v. (sottinteso ARMA s.n.pl. 'le armi')]

> **recingere** v. • cingere tutto intorno [dal lat. tardo RECINGERE v. 'cingere di nuovo o ripetutamente', form. da RE- e CINGERE v.]

>> **recingimento** s.m. • (*lett.*) il recingere • ciò che cinge qcs.

>> **recinto** s.m. • spazio circondato da una barriera • ciò che recinge qcs.

>>> **recintare** v. • chiudere con un recinto

>> **recinzione** s.f. • il recingere • recinto

>> **ricingere** v. • cingere di nuovo [dal lat. tardo RECINGERE v., form. da RE- e CINGERE v.]

> **scingere** v. • (*lett.*) slacciare un indumento

> **succingere** v. • (*lett.*) avvolgersi alla vita con una cintura le vesti troppo lunghe [da SUCCINGERE v. 'cingere', form. da SUB- e CINGERE v.]

>> **succinto** agg. • di indumento, che lascia scoperta una buona parte del corpo • breve, sintetico

>> **succintorio** s.m. • paramento usato dal papa nella Messa solenne [dal lat. tardo SUCCINCTORIUM s.n. 'grembiule', da SUCCINCTUS part. perf. di SUCCINGERE v.]

**cingia** s.f. • sporgenza orizzontale su una parete rocciosa [da CINGULAM s.f. 'striscia di pelle o altro usata per legare']

**cinghia** s.f. • striscia di pelle o altro usata per legare [da CINGULAM s.f.]

> **cinghiale** s.m. • mammifero selvatico simile al maiale, caratterizzato da una fascia di setole chiare intorno al collo [dalla loc. (PORCUM) SINGULAREM 'porco solitario', cui si è sovrapposta *cinghia* s.f., per la cinghia di setole bianco-giallognole intorno al collo]

> **cinghiare** v. • stringere con la cinghia • (*fam.*) colpire con la cinghia

>> **cinghiatura** s.f. • il cinghiare un animale

> **cinghiata** s.f. • colpo di cinghia

**cingolo** s.m. • catena formata da un nastro di segmenti collegati da ganci, nella quale si ingranano le ruote di un autoveicolo [da CINGULUM s.n. 'striscia di pelle o altro usata per legare']

> **cingolato** agg. • di veicolo, munito di cingoli

nesting  
macrostructure

alphabetical  
order except for

- first entry
- descendants
- prefix words

## CINGERE

v. 'avvolgere intorno al corpo', 'circondare' (**part. perf.** CINCTUS)

**cingere** v. • circondare • (*lett.*) avvolgere intorno al corpo [da CINGERE v.]

➤ **cinta** s.f. • recinto • cintura per indumenti [da CINCTAM part. perf. f. di CINGERE v.]

➤➤ **cintare** v. • circondare con una cinta

➤ **cinto** s.m. • (*lett.*) cintola

➤➤ **cintola** s.f. • cintura per indumenti

➤➤ **cintolo** s.m. • (*tosc.*) fascia o nastro per stringere qcs.

➤ **accingere** v. • (*lett.*) cingere; **accingersi** • prepararsi a fare qcs. [da ACCINGERE v., form. da AD- e CINGERE v.]

➤ **recingere** v. • cingere tutto intorno [dal lat. tardo RECINGERE v. 'cingere di nuovo o ripetutamente', form. da RE- e CINGERE v.]

➤➤ **recingimento** s.m. • (*lett.*) il recingere • ciò che cinge qcs.

➤➤ **recinto** s.m. • spazio circondato da una barriera • ciò che recinge qcs.

➤➤➤ **recintare** v. • chiudere con un recinto

➤➤ **recinzione** s.f. • il recingere • recinto

**cengia** s.f. • sporgenza orizzontale su una parete rocciosa [da CINGULAM s.f. 'striscia di pelle o altro usata per legare']

## CINGERE

*ceindre* v. 'to put sth around sth; to surround' [from CINGERE v.]

- *ceinture* f.n. 'belt'
- ‣ *ceinturer* v. 'to girdle'
- ‣ ‣ *ceinturage* f.n. 'the action of girdling'
- ‣ ‣ *ceintureur, -euse* m.n. 'sb who girdles'
- ‣ *ceinturier* m.n. 'sb who makes belts'
- ‣ *ceinturon* m.n. 'large belt used to carry weapons'
- ‣ ‣ *ceinturonner* v. 'to belt with a large belt'
- ‣ ‣ *ceinturonnier* m.n. 'sb who makes belts'
- *enceindre* v. 'to surround'
- ‣ *enceinte* f.n. 'surrounding wall'
- ‣ *enceinte* adj. 'pregnant'
- ceintrer* v. 'to bind the sides of a boat with ropes' [from \*CINCTURARE v.]
- *ceintrage* m.n. 'the action of binding the sides of a boat with ropes'
- *ceintre* m.n. 'boat fender made of ropes'
- cingler<sup>1</sup>* v. 'to lash; to strike iron' [from *sangle* f.n.]
- *cinglage* m.n. 'the action of striking iron'
- *cinglement* m.n. 'the action of lashing'

*cingler<sup>2</sup>* v. 'to sail' [from O.Norse *sigla* v. × *cingler<sup>1</sup>* v.]

- *cinglage<sup>2</sup>* m.n. 'boat route'
- cintrer* v. 'to shape as a curved surface; to bend' [from \*CINCTURARE v.]
- *cintrage* m.n. 'the action of bending'
- *cintré* m.n. 'curved surface; coat hanger; (arch.) 'scaffolding supporting an arch or a vault'
- *cintréuse* f.n. 'bending machine'
- *décintrer* v. 'to remove the scaffoldings supporting an arch or a vault'
- ‣ *décintrage* m.n. 'the action of removing the scaffoldings supporting an arch or a vault'
- ‣ *décintrement* m.n. 'the same as *décintrage*'
- sangle* f.n. 'girth; strap' [from CINGULAM f.n.]
- > *sanglade* f.n. 'stroke of strap'
- > *sangler* v. 'to strap on'
- > *sanglon* m.n. 'end of a strap'
- succinct, -incte*

## CINGERE

ceñir v. 'to put sth around sth; to surround'

[from CINGERE v.]

‣ *ceñideras* pl.f.n. 'garment used by workers to cover their trousers'

‣ *ceñido* adj. 'tight'

‣ *ceñidor* m.n. 'belt'

‣ *ceñidura* f.n. 'the action of putting sth around sth'

‣ *ceñimiento* s.n. 'the same as *ceñidura*'

‣ *ceño* m.n. 'fence or ring that surrounds sth'

‣ *cincha* f.n. 'girth'

‣ ‣ *cinchar* v. 'to girth'

‣ ‣ ‣ *cinchadura* f.n. 'the action of girthing'

‣ ‣ ‣ *descinchar* v. 'to remove or loosen the girths'

‣ ‣ ‣ *recinchar* v. 'to girdle'

‣ ‣ *sobrecincha* f.n. 'overgirth'

‣ *cincho* m.n. 'hoop'

‣ cinta f.n. 'strip, ribbon'

‣ ‣ *cingatorda* f.n. 'hemp net used to catch tunas'

‣ ‣ *cingarazo* m.n. 'blow given with the flat part of a sword'

‣ ‣ *cintería* f.n. 'set of strips'

‣ ‣ *cintero* m.n. 'sb who makes strips'

## Dictionaries of word families

‣ cintura f.n. 'waist'

43

‣ ‣ *cinturilla* f.n. 'waistband'

entries

‣ ‣ *cinturón* m.n. 'belt'

‣ ‣ *acinturar* v. 'to tighten'

‣ *desceñir* v. 'to untie a belt'

‣ ‣ *desceñidura* f.n. 'the action of untying a belt'

‣ encinta adj. 'pregnant'

‣ ‣ *encinta*<sup>2</sup> v. 'to make pregnant'

‣ *precinta* f.n. 'tax band'

‣ *precinto* m.n. 'seal'

‣ ‣ *precintar* v. 'to seal'

‣ ‣ *receñir* v. 'to tie again a belt'

‣ recinto m.n. 'enclosure'

‣ sucinto adj. 'concise'

‣ ‣ *sucintarse* v. 'to be concise'

cejo m.n. 'esparto thread' [from CINGULUM m.n.]

cimbra f.n. (arch.) 'scaffolding supporting an arch or a vault' [from a word linked to Fr. *cintre* m.n.]

‣ descimbrar v. 'to remove the scaffoldings supporting an arch or a vault'

‣ ‣ *descimbramiento* m.n. 'the action of removing the scaffoldings supporting an