ARBËRESH LEXICOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE (ALeA)

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The ALeA (Arbëresh Lexicographic Archive) is a project of computational lexicography, sponsored by the Laboratory of Albanology of the Department of Languages and Sciences of Education at the University of Calabria, for the systematic linguistic collection of heritage of the Albanian communities in southern Italy. The ALeA is divided into two main areas of access: a literary lexicon and a dialectal lexicon. The literary area ensures the collection of literary works (prose and verse) of all Italo-Albanian authors who produced written testimonies from the fifteenth to the nineteenth century. It also provides transcription, translation, commentary and concordance of lexical contents contained therein through a careful philological processing of manuscripts and/or typescripts. The dialectal area lists lexical items of Arbëresh spoken dialects, both synchronically and diachronically. From the synchronic point of view, dialectological investigations on field use the following collection and implementation tools of lexical data: the Atlas Linguarum Europae, whose structure has been digitalized, and thus represents the first example of digitalized ALE; the Italian Linguistic Atlas, the Dialectological Atlas of the Albanian Language, the Swadesh List, and specific questionnaires already used for the Linguistic Albanian Atlas. Lexical data are organized in individual lexical lemmatized forms. Each form gives access to: (i) a documentary section, where there are both the ethnotexts (proverbs, phraseology, poems, nursery rhymes) and extra-textual and multimedia information (photographs, drawings, videos, multimedia scheme of the ALE Genealogical Tree, multimedia maps of toponyms), and (ii) purely linguistic information (pronunciation of the lemma, phonetic transcription, Italian translation, meanings, grammatical classification). Moreover, there are other sections: "morphology", "lexicology" and the reference to the diachronic perspective in the "etymology" section. Lexical data are completed with two further special sections: "Visual lexicon" and "linguistic maps". In the first one, lexical contents are organized in semantic fields (e.g., the human body, the loom, household objects, etc.); while linguistic maps illustrate the phenomena of linguistic variation in the Arbëresh area of southern Italy.