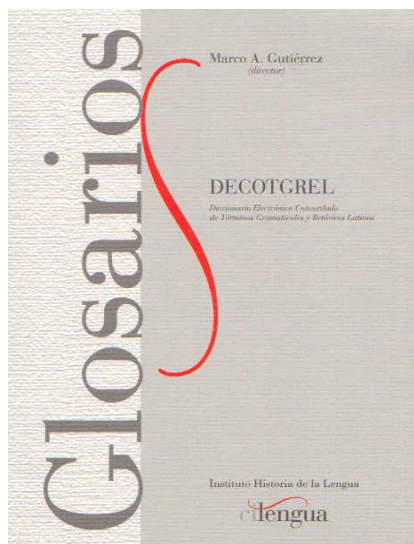


**Marco A. Gutiérrez (director), DECOTGREL, *Diccionario Electrónico Concordado de Términos Gramaticales y Retóricos Latinos*, Instituto Historia de la Lengua, Cilengua, San Millán de la Cogolla, 2013, 1120 p. (Dana Dinu)**



*Diccionario Electrónico Concordado de Términos Gramaticales y Retóricos Latinos* (DECOTGREL) is a valuable and comprehensive lexicographical work initiated and led by Professor Marco A. Gutiérrez from Universidad de País Vasco, Facultad de Filología y Geografía e Historia, Departamento de Estudios Clásicos. It was published in the Glosarios collection, a journal sponsored by Instituto Historia de la Lengua Española, Centro Internacional de Investigación de la Lengua Española – Cilengua and it is the first in the series of electronic dictionaries. DECOTGREL is the most recent achievement of the research team led by Professor Marco A. Gutiérrez, aiming to highlight from multiple perspectives the work of Priscian, the Latin grammarian “más relevante de Antigüedad”

(p. 12). The publishing of this dictionary is part of the upward trend that lexicographic activity has known in the last decades within the current trend of applied linguistics due to the great development of all domains of activity.

A major step which led to this project was carried out between 1997 and 2003, a period of time in which the research team published eight volumes containing concordances and indexes of the full work of the Latin grammarian<sup>1</sup>. This certainly proves good knowledge and familiarization of the team with the whole Latin text of *Institutiones Grammaticae*. DECOTGREL lemmatizes terms from only a part of this work of the Latin grammarian, from different points of view, with methods and purposes other than the previous works on Priscian of the same authors.

The fact that the chosen corpus is a technical treatise belonging to Late Latin does not mean that it is less susceptible to be investigated by modern methods in order to highlight its contribution to the development of language science in general and to specialized vocabulary of the field of grammar and rhetoric, in particular. Thus, this dictionary lemmatizes the grammatical and rhetorical terms from books XVII and XVIII of Priscian’s work known as *Ars minor*.

DECOTGREL has two parts distinct both in form and content. The former is of a theoretical nature and the latter of a practical nature. Obviously, between them there is a reciprocal link, the former containing the theoretical premises and the latter the

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<sup>1</sup> GARCÍA, Cirilo, GUTIÉRREZ, Marco A., DÍAZ DE ALDA, Carmen, *Prisciani institutionum grammaticalium librorum XVII et XVIII indices et concordantiae*, Hildesheim – Zürich-New York, Olms & Weidmann, 1999, 2 vols.; GARCÍA, Cirilo, GUTIÉRREZ, Marco A., *Prisciani institutionum grammaticalium librorum I- XVI indices et concordantiae*, Hildesheim-Zürich – New York, Olms & Weidmann, 2001, 4 vols. GARCÍA, Cirilo – GUTIÉRREZ, Marco A., *Prisciani operum minorum grammaticalium indices et concordantiae*, Hildesheim-Zurich – New York, Olms & Weidmann, 2003, 2 vols.

application of these premises. Moreover, the former part functions as a “user guide” for the latter.

The printed book (90 pages) serves as an introduction and consists of three chapters preceded by a *Foreword* (p. 7-8) written by José A. Pascual, the Director of Instituto Historia de la Lengua – Cilengua under whose auspices this dictionary was published. He defines this dictionary as “a grammatical dictionary in the broad sense of the term”, characterized by “clarity of references” and “hierarchical organization” of different “points of view” through which an “ordered” and “balanced” whole is created and, he emphasizes, whose “different parts are judiciously connected, thus providing the researcher’s possibility of seeing how the terms function through the use made of them by grammarians, also enabling him to find out what later grammarians have said about them, because the data are complemented with a bibliography in which explicitness and completeness are also sought” (p.7).

The *Presentation* (p. 9-26) of the dictionary begins with a few *Preliminary considerations* (p. 9-11). They are very important in order to understand on the one hand, the underpinning idea of this dictionary and, on the other hand, its relationship with other similar works.

Marco A. Gutiérrez mentions two books published in recent decades namely *Index Grammaticus: An Index to Latin Grammar Text* (1990), by Valeria Lomanto and Nino Marinone, and *A Lexicon of Latin Grammatical Terminology* (2007), by Samantha Schad, which fall within the same field of interest and are important landmarks for his dictionary, but to which he refers in a critical way in some respects. He points out that the two dictionaries treat the lexical material “with more or less traditional methods” (p. 9) that “substantially limit the interest and usefulness that they can have for modern researchers” (ibid.) He also notes that in the first of these works, *Index Grammaticus*, there are mainly two such limitations. For instance, it includes all the terms that appear in the Latin grammar treaties, but does not mention any distinction between these technical terms and their homonyms in common language. There is no reference to the context in which the grammatical terms are used. As regards the *Lexicon* of Samantha Schad, her approach is more complex in terms of lexicographical methods, Marco A. Gutiérrez notes (p. 10), but shows inconsistencies in exploiting all the opportunities offered by these methods.

Therefore, the criteria for the selection of the terms are not always clear, as Pierre Swiggers also notes in the review of this dictionary<sup>2</sup>. Because of this methodological fault sometimes uncertainty occurs, whether a word or another belongs to technical and scientific lexicon. This may result in ambiguity concerning the lexicographical act itself, encroaching the “systematization” and “homogenization” of the lexical material and thus the “harmonization of the results” (p. 11).

Therefore, since the purpose of DECOTGREL is not merely “to correct and increase the amount of terms and information” existing in other dictionaries, his coordinator presents the *Methodological principles* which he designed and strictly followed.

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<sup>2</sup> Bryn Mawr Classical Review 2009.02.03, Samantha Schad, *A Lexicon of Latin Grammatical Terminology*. *Studia Erudita*, 6. Pisa/Rome: Fabrizio Serra Editore, 2007. Reviewed by Pierre Swiggers, K.U. Leuven, <http://bmc.brynmawr.edu/2009/2009-02-03.html#n42>

Thus, the first issue discussed in this paragraph is that of the *Selection of terms* (p. 11-14) in the corpus and also the reasons why from all the work of Priscian only the last two books known as *Priscianus Minor* have been chosen. The first reason concerns the author of the corpus and is that Priscian is appreciated as the most important Latin grammarian. The second reason concerns the work and consists in its “formal complexity” resulting from “the abundant use of Latin and Greek in presenting Greco-Latin grammatical theories.”

With regard to the selection of terms, obviously the most important criterion was that they should be “grammatical”, i.e. to express grammatical notions, however “metagrammatical” words were taken into account, i.e. “related to how to write a grammar treatise”. Moreover, all the words were taken into consideration “likely to have a (semi)-technical use”, obviously in the domains of concern, grammar and rhetoric.

This very comprehensive approach makes DECOTGREL exceed the limits of a mere dictionary and be closer to an encyclopaedic work derived from the author’s intention to provide a tool designed not only to be read, but to be “a research instrument with its own autonomy”.

The section *Principles of systematization and classification* (p. 14-18) describes the theoretical bases and practical mechanisms that allow the identification and classification of words as technical or specialized terms in a certain area.

Thus, an important principle is that the authors do not make a categorical distinction between lexicography and terminology, but they treat them as ‘complementary’ disciplines and therefore they approach the lexicographic domain from the perspective of terminology defined by Guerrero Ramos (2003: 124) whom they quote: “A multidimensional discipline having linguistic, cognitive and communicative units” (p. 15). An important aspect to note is the interference of grammatical terms with, on the one hand, words in common use, and on the other hand, terms of related disciplines such as rhetoric and poetics whose “secondary or contextual values are not necessarily identical”. (p. 18) Further, there is a section entitled *Formal disposition of lemmas and of registration of information* (p. 18-19), explaining in concreto how the principles are applied in the dictionary. This section is of vital importance for anyone who wants to use with maximum benefit the results of this work. The most important is the paragraph called *Lemmatization* (19-20) which is structured along the following lines: subparagraph «A»: *Greek equivalents* (p. 20); subparagraph «B»: *Presence in other lexicographical tools* (p. 20-21); subparagraph «C»: *Structure and categorization* (p. 21-22); subparagraph «D»: *Thematic and bibliographic references* (p. 22-23); subparagraph «E»: *General principles for the arrangement and organization of the contents* (p. 23-26). The arrangement of the lexical material in each entry strictly follows the order described in this paragraph.

Actually, the lemmatization in many cases consists of a “hierarchical multilemmatization” which means that words having the same root are found together in a single entry and appear in the following order: verb, noun, adjective, preposition, adverb. The alphabetical order is strictly followed only in the case of the first term marked in bold letters. In the same way the presence of a term within the fragment where it is quoted is highlighted. If an entry has more than one word, two types of signs may appear between the words, >> double right angle bracket or > simple right angle bracket to indicate whether they occur separately or indistinctly in the cited

fragments (p. 19-20). There are also other signs used to mark different situations, but I will not mention them here. I think that a list of all the abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols used in the dictionary in order to have readily access to their significations would be helpful.

Subparagraph «A», *Greek equivalents*, refers to the fact that it contains the Greek equivalent of the Latin term and frequently more than one. It may happen that in the consulted literature the Greek equivalent is not found or is intentionally omitted as irrelevant. This is indicated by the abbreviation <*s.c.*> meaning that the term belongs to *Sermo communis*.

Subparagraph «B» entitled *Presence in other lexicographical tools* contains other very useful information provided by this dictionary because it refers to four important lexicographical tools with the following acronyms: (*ThLL*) – *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae* 1900; (*DicTGG*) – *Diccionario de terminologia gramatical griega* (1985) by Bécares Botas; (*LexLGT*) – *A Lexicon of Latin Grammatical Terminology* (2007) by Samantha Schad and (*IndG*) – *Index Grammaticus: An Index to Latin Grammar Text* (1990) by Valeria Lomanto, Nino Marinone.

Subparagraph «C», *Structure and categorization* is very complex and is subdivided into two parts. The former, C1, is related to sections and subsections of subparagraph «E». Section «0» («*In genere*») may have four different forms numbered «0», «0.0», «0.1», «0.2» according to the number of the meanings of the indexed term, in an order that corresponds to the four numbers as follows: absence of generic meaning; meaning rather generic but having some relation to the grammatical use; semi-technical meaning acquired in a particular context; generic meaning which does not refer to descriptive-normative facts labelled «*per figuram*». The latter subdivision, C2, is equally sophisticated and uses three types of symbols to mark the same number of information about a term. Thus, the sign  $\approx$  marks a word that can work in certain situations as a synonym of the lemmatized word,  $\neq$  marks an antonym, and the sign  $\langle$  marks a word that has a complementary relationship with the lemmatized term. Finally, if a term is not used with a specialized meaning it is marked by <*s.c.*>, i.e. <*sermo communis*>.

Subparagraph «D», *Thematic and bibliographic references*, contains the comprehensive and relevant literature which underpins the theoretical approach of this dictionary. The cited authors are mentioned in alphabetical and chronological order, from Antiquity to the present. This section is particularly interesting to understand the next subparagraph considered by Marco A. Gutierrez as “a real neuralgic centre of DECOTGREL”.

Thus, Subparagraph «E», *General principles of disposition and organization of the contents*, even if it is the last, it is not the least. It refers to two complementary principles: the principle of gradual organization of the matter from general to specific and the principle of “formal hierarchy”. These principles underlie the eight sections which subdivide this paragraph, each having more or fewer subsections forming what the authors call General Hierarchical Disposition. Section I: *Artes*, subsections: *ars* (*grammatica, rhetorica, poetica*, etc.), *auctor*. Section II: *Constructiones*, subsections: *sermo, constructio, oratio*. Section III: *Partes orationis*, subsections: *verbum, participium, nomen, pronomen, praepositio, adverbium, coniunctio, interiectio, articulus*. Section IV: *Accidentia*, subsections: *declinatio, modus-tempus, persona, genus, numerus, vox, comparatio, qualitas, quantitas*. Section V: *Elementa*,

subsections: *littera*, *diphthongus*, *syllaba*. Section VI: *Prosodia*, subsections: *sonus*, *accentus*, *distinctio*. Section VII: *Per figuram*, subsections: *per adiectionem*, *per detractionem*, *per immutationem*, *per transmutationem*. Section VIII: *Res metrica*, subsection: *metrum*.

The chapter containing the *Bibliographical references* (p. 27-64) shows the extended dimension of the research that underpins this lexicographical approach, carefully highlighting for other researchers what has been written about ancient grammars and grammarians, particularly about Priscian, especially in recent decades.

*Index verborum* (p. 65-89) concludes this book which serves both as an introduction and a “user guide” of the dictionary properly so called. It is again a very useful and appropriate tool allowing prompt identification of the presence or absence of a term or another in the list of approximately 550 terms lemmatized in the dictionary which has the electronic form.

What I have presented so far does not claim to encompass DECOTGREL in all its complexity. Obviously, I have highlighted only some aspects pertaining to the form and method. Nevertheless, it is clear that we are before a well-articulated construction, based upon a long thought conception, carefully prepared according to the current linguistic trends and requirements of modern researchers which thus have at hand another valuable investigation tool in all respects. The lexicographic material, known in depth and mastered due to a long work on Priscian’s text, is selected, systematized, organized, classified, harmonized according to clear principles and consistently followed methods.

This dictionary deserves a thorough analysis, because it was meant not to be just a book for punctual consultation, but a reference book for all those who study ancient linguistics and grammaticography and also a reliable source for other research topics.

The amplitude, the complexity and the quality of the provided information confirm what I said at the beginning of this review and has also been noted by others that DECOTGREL has the qualities of an encyclopaedic dictionary of Latin grammar and rhetoric.