LEXICAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE VALENCIAN TOPONYMIC ATLAS (VTA)

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Abstract. Lexical contributions of the Valencian Toponymic Atlas (VTA). The Valencian Toponymic Atlas (VTA) encompasses over 50,000 living toponyms, gathered from living voices across the Land of Valencia in its areas of Castilian and Catalan linguistic base alike. The materials result from field interviews with old informants and local connoisseurs (shepherds, hunters and peasants), carried out by graduates in linguistics, history and geography. Such interviewers were trained in the methodology of both cartography and onomastic surveying, since all the toponymy gathered is located and sited on a map scale 1:10,000. Therefore the toponymic scale is low and the gathered corpus has been conditioned by its reference to cartography. Therefore, the toponymic rate is low: about 2,20 toponyms/km². The present corpus for the VTA is in ways of approval and publication by the Acadèmia Valenciana de la Llengua (AVL), the institution with legal jurisdiction over Valencian onomastics and inheritor of the sustained work carried out by the Directorate General for Language Policy of the Generalitat Valenciana since 1994, coordinated from its inception by the tireless Ms Aigües Vives Pérez Piquer. The compilation has allowed, for the first time, to count on a corpus gathered on the ground without the errors of the former cartography, affecting both the location of toponyms and, particularly, wrong spellings, hispanicized Valencian toponyms, etc. It has also made possible a presentation from the utmost respect to the oral toponym, dressed up with the normative orthography while maintaining both the dialectal and archaic lexical varieties, as well as avoiding corrections or interpretations which, made without the complement of a thorough historical documentation, would have been a source of many ultracorrections. This VTA constitutes, therefore, the first step towards a future all-time comprehensive compilation of Valencian toponymy. Such a large corpus, gathered by over 230 interviewers from the mouths of the most qualified connoisseurs in Valencian toponymy, is a treasure kept and made available to everyone, enriching our collective heritage, serving both geographers and historians, helping experts in linguistics to properly write local toponyms and contributing many teachings and linguistic novelties to linguistics and onomastics scholars. I therefore consider it appropriate to present this preliminary approach called Second Seminar of Methodology in Toponymy and Language Revival, a lexical contributions made by the VTA as well as an assessment of its content.

Rezumat. Contribuțiile lexicale ale Atlasului Toponimic Valencian (VTA). Atlasul Toponimic Valencian (VTA) cuprinde peste 50 000 de toponime în uz, colectate de la “vocile vii” de pe teritoriul Valenciei în arealele sale cu bază lingvistică Castiliană și Catalană. Materialele au rezultat din aplicarea în teren a unor interviuri adresate informatorilor în vârstă și cunoscerilor locali (păstori,
vânători și țărani) de către absolvenți în domeniul lingvisticii, istoriei și geografiei. Astfel de intervievatori au fost instruiți în ceea ce privește metodologia folosită atât în cartografie cât și în cercetarea onomastică; mai ales de când toate toponimele colectate au fost localizate și amplasate pe o hartă cu scara 1:10000, cu alte cuvinte, fondul lexical colectat a fost condiționat de referințele sale la cartografie. Prin urmare, rata toponimelor este scăzută: în jur de 2,20 toponime/km². Fondul toponomic curent pentru VTA este pe cale de a fi aprobat și publicat de către Academia Valenciană de Litere (AVL), instituție cu jurisdicție legală în ceea ce privește onomastica Valenciană și moștenitoarea activității susținute și desfășurate de către Direcția Generală pentru Politica de Limbă a Generalitat Valenciana din 1994 și coordonată încă de la începuturile sale de către neobosita Aigües Vives Pérez Piquer. Procesul de compilare a permis, pentru prima dată, bizzuirea pe un fond lexical coles de pe teren, fără erori ale celei dintâi cartografii, afectând atât localizarea toponimelor, dar mai ales ortografiele greșite, hispanizarea toponimelor Valenciene, etc. De asemenea, acesta a făcut posibil o prezentare de la cel mai mare respect la toponimele orale, pusă la punct cu ortografia normativă, în timp ce menținerea varietăților lexice, atât cele legate de dialect cât și cele arhaice, precum și evitarea corecturilor sau interpretărilor ar fi fost o sursă de multe ultracorecții dacă ar fi fost făcute fără o analiză aprofundată și completă a întregii documentații istorice. Prin urmare, acest VTA constituie primul pas spre o viitoare compilație comprehensivă a toponimiei Valenciene. Un fond atât de vast, adunat de un număr de peste 230 intervievatori, pe cale orală, de la cei mai calificați cunoscători în toponimia Valenciană, reprezintă o coșmar păstrată și disponibilă oricui, îmbogățind moștenirea noastră colectivă, servind atât geografilor cât și istoricilor, experților în lingvistică pentru a scrie corect toponimele locale și contribuind la multe învățături și noutăți lingvistice pentru oamenii de știință din domeniul lingvisticii și onomasticii.

Key words: toponyms, Valencian Toponymic Atlas.
Cuvinte cheie: toponime, Atlasul Toponimic Valencian.
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Aiguadolç / Rocafort. Example of Latin adjectives with two endings, passing to Catalan with a single form for both masculine and feminine, before originating a feminine.

Alberca. Arabism alive up to the 15th century.

Alforí. Arabism alive in Valencia until very recently, meaning ‘granary’.

Algar. Arabism meaning ‘water cave’.

Algoleja. Arabism alive up to the 16th century, meaning ‘meander’.

Asnet < ASINETU. Popular evolution of a derivate of ase (ass) < ASINU.

Atzavara. Arabism, today in decline before “pitera” (agave).

Auzell < AVICELLU ‘bird’. Today the word “pardal” is general in Valencian.

Bate < BAJULU ‘mayor’. Today it is still known in nicknames and street names under the form balde. Today replaced by alcalde.

Brugars / burgal. Derivates of bruc ‘heather’. Burgal is a metathesis and a change of suffix of brugar.

Bullent < BULLIENTE ‘boiling’.


Canadella. Diminutive of the old form CANNA > cana meaning small reedbed.

Cint < CINCTU ‘tight’. Remains of the ancient form. Today the Aragonese word cinto is present in the whole land.

Cossa / cós < CURSA / CURSU. It refers to the ancient Roman way, with a popular evolution.

Denes / Setenes < DECENA / SEPTENA, ancient way of counting, today alive in the form dotzena ‘dozen’.

Devallades, Vallada. Witness of the verb davallar ‘lower’, today also dying out.

Empriu < AEMPRIVU ‘lands of common property, banal lands’.

Escaig. Perhaps from the Indo-European ‘retall, escapoló’.

Espioca. A derivate of the verb espiar ‘to spy’ with suffix –occa. Place to watch the sea.

Esplugues < SPELUNCA ‘cave’. Originating from the name.

Feixa < FASCIA ‘plot’. Replaced by bancal.

Fembra < FEMINA ‘female’. Today completely replaced by femella.

Fonguda. Analogic participial of the verb fondre ‘to melt’, instead of fos.

Garganta. Derivate of the root garg-, this form is common in Catalan up to the 16th century.

Hortal < HORTALE ‘land plot’.

Jana < DIANA. In other areas or languages meaning ’witch’.

Jussana / Sussana < DEORSU + ANA ‘the lowest part’. Because of popular etymology in the Costera county, known as Sussana.

Madremany / Formany: the ending witnesses the Latin MAGNU ‘great’ > many. Both are medieval family names.


Mareny < MARITIMU. Also in Catalan evolves into maresme.

Mesell < MISELLU ‘withered, miserable’.

Obaga < OPACA ‘opaque, shady place’. Excepting the north, the term hombria / umbria is alive today in most of the country.

Onque < AVUNCULU ‘uncle’. A popular variant of oncle.

Peiró ‘creu de terme’, ‘city limit cross’, alive in the north of the Castelló province.

Péleg < PAELAGUS ‘washing place’.

Perencisa / perenxisa < PETRA INCISA. Witness of the formal variant pera ‘stone’ and the word encís ‘broken’.
Plet < PLACITU ‘lawsuit’. This variant shows that it has also existed. Today alive only in pleit, surely a remainder of the medieval form, perhaps backed by the Castilian form.
Porçons < PORTIONES ‘water portions’. Brother to Los Alporchones in Murcia, it is pronounced Porçons or Purçons in different towns.
Pregó / prigó < PROFUNDU. Today only known in the literary language. In some places the Barranc Pregó ‘Deep Ravine’ is called today Barranc Fondo, as in Albaida.
Presseguer < PERSICARIU ‘apricot tree’. Besides the toponym, we find a street in the city of Valencia, “perseguer”, and the word is still alive in the north.
Quadrella < QUADRU + ELLA. A diminutive, still alive in the irrigated area around Castelló de la Plana.
Sentiu < SENTICE ‘plant’. It could well originate from the toponym of Lleida La Sentiu.
Sinoga < SINAGOGA. Perhaps remainders of the ancient common word.
Somera < SUMM + ARIA ‘the highest part’. Also alive somera ‘female ass’.
Uixola – Uixó < OSTIU + OLA and –ONE. Both must be witnesses of the substantive uix ‘exit’, still alive in the verb auxiar ‘throw out’.
Ver (pi) < VERU ‘true’ opposed to false pine.
Vermellar < VERMICULU + ARE. The adjective roig ‘red’ has erased vermell except in the south of the country. We also have the name Bermell, but names are far more ephemere than toponyms.

b) Evidence of intermittent or temporal phonetic developments that failed to become general patterns, as well as dialectal forms. This section requires resorting to documents from previous centuries in order to build a sound opinion. For instance:
Abugot. Velarization of the vowel e of abegot ‘bumblebee’.
Albureca. Intermittent change of the voiced dental into r, as in Alameda > Alamera.
Algevar < Atzevar and Dotge < dotze. Palatalization of the voiced alveolar fricative. There are but very few words presenting this pattern.
Arcúnia / Alcúrnia. Arguenya / Alguenya, Armaig / Almaig. Closing of the palatal e > i in contact with a palatal consonant.
Atzaneta / Atzenet, Salzadella. As in Pinatellada, with a parallel process e... é > a... é.
Benenzar < BENETZAR, with a vocalic change by dissimilation of aa and change from alveolar affricate into nz.
Bítols < Vítors. Dissimilation of rs into ls.
Bolta. The labiodental v of volta, in contact with the labial-velar vowel, became dissimilated into bilabial B already in a distant past.
Caullà. Simplification of cogullada, with dissimilation of ou > au.
Creveta. Consonantization of Creueta, as happens with other derivations: bou > bover.
Eixèricit. We observe the normal change cs > ix.
Estral. Elimination of d- due to vacillations between the derivates of suffixes de + ex and – ex, together with the weakness of the dental before the stress, due to syntactic phonetics.
Flare. Dissimilation of vibrant flap in frare < FRATER.
Flissura. Simplification of three palatal consonants in two, as in quixal: FREIXURA > flissura.
Fontanars < Fontanals. An old change of flaps, perhaps due to a change in the suffix.
Francés. However difficult it is to assert whether this family name stems from the first name Francesc or the adjective francés, we observe here the simplification of the group esc
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> ës, normal since the 16th century. In many cases we know for sure that it stems from Francesc.
Gargori. A metathesis of Gregori and opening of e + r > ar.
Jagant. An assimilation of the atonic e to a tonic a.
Maixquera. A medieval palatalization of sk into ixk.
Natzaret. A derivate of llatzeret by popular etymology. We observe the change of e...é into a...é.
Olbits. Epenthesis of the final consonant t after the vowel i, as in geni > genit.
Paixarella. Stemming from the Valencian bird Paixarell, present in the written norm under the form passerell.
Pinatellada. A derivate of pinetell, with the ever general opening of e...é into a.
Porxinos < PORCINOS. Palatalization of Ce, i.
Pra < PRADA. Simplification of the post-stress –d– in places where it is common today.
Prat > parat. Anaptyxis of a vowel.
Quebrassa. CREPACEA > crebassa > quebrassa, with metathesis.
Rajos > raijos. Evolution of the voiceless palatal affricate in the biphoneme i + voiced palatal fricative. It is endemic in the north of the Castelló province.
Remua. Elimination of the –d– in general in the south.
Rúbia. Before the surprise of a toponym formed on a blond woman, we discovered that it was a spontaneous evolution of the toponym Atzúbia, with the same rotacism in the voiced alveolar affricate than today’s dotze>dosre.
Sària. Simplification of RRY into Ry.
Sorts > sots. Elimination of the vibrant implosive, as in dimarts and the family name Ots<HORTS.

  c) Formal variants within the Land of Valencia. In many cases we could establish isoglosses as in cadolla; cocò or clotxa; jone and junc; but, in general, they all live scattered everywhere. The same differences happen in the appellative words:
Abeletjar / Albellatjar / Albelatge
Alfadali / Alfardi-
Aliacrans / alacrans
Àliga / àguila
Assagador / asehador. Assagador is the etymologic form, but its pronunciation in e - perhaps due to analogy with segar- is majoritary.
Bega / Vega. The Bega in the Ribera county, between Sueca and Cullera, was documented so already in the Middle Ages, however the toponym seems of foreign origin.
Buscarró / buixcarró and Cascarra / caixcarra. The same pattern as in peixquera.
Cadolla / Codolla / Godolla. The first two are pretty general variants.
Campello / Campiello / Campillo. All these forms stem from the Aragonese < CAMPELLU, not from the Mozarabic.
Cim / xim. Xim is alive between the Albaida Valley and the Safor county and is also a trend of palatalization of ce, i.
Foieta / Foeta.
Gentisclar / llentisclar.
Joncar / juncar.
Llacorellar / llecorella
Llagosta / Llangosta
Mànega / Màniga

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Matalap / matalaf. In the Castilian-speaking area we find matalàs.
Montanyar / muntanyar.
Naiximent: even though in many maps we find naixement, which is the only normative
form, naiximent is the medieval form and the only one alive in Valencian.
Òbila / òliba.
Orso. We never find ós.
Penyacendra. ‘I’ represents the evolution of de, where the –d– falls and e > i as if it were
the copulative conjunction.
Pobill / pubil.
Pouet / povet and Boveral / boeral
Querenets / carena
Roll d’aigua / assarb
Rugla / Rungla
Saldonar / Saulonar
Salvatxó / fardatxo
Solsida / ensulsida
Sopalma / sopalmo / sobalma / subalma
Sortanella / sortonella. Sortonella is the etymologic form.
Tea / teda. In many studies we find either teia or teda, but the only one alive is tea.
Xumenera / ximenera / aixumenera.
In many cases we have only found one variant, which could be used to trace isoglosses with
words from other territories. For example: Clavill, Murta, Alguazil, Paraís,Giner.

d) Toponyms with controversial etymologies. Many names lack at first sight a
clear origin or explanation, for which reason we leave their assessment for a future time
when we will count on ancient documentation. For example:
Badell. The Badell river may originate either from VADELLU or from Vedell, with the
change e...é > a...é.
Grapat, which according to Coromines would be related to gripau ‘toad’, could also
possibly be the noun grapat ‘handful’, since there are similar names, such as font de la
Petaca, font del Gamelló, etc.
Vilaret, apparently a metathesis and apheresis of l’Olivaret.
And so on with other cases such as Clariano and Agrillent (I believe my proposals in
former papers clarify the issue), Aiguar, Termenet, Porxinos, Arxipèl. In Oró, the evolution
ACERONE > auró > Oró remains unclear.

e) Hispanicisms, adapted or not, are generally alive in border areas between
Valencian and Castilian-speaking towns. For instance, the Devadillo from Picassent stems
from l’Elevadillo; Gorgoróbio is a name coined by Aragonese shepherds, Fos may originate
from the Aragonese FOS, with two possible etymologies –FOSSUM or FOCE
– despite
Coromines’ claim at Oncat, s.v. fou.
Very often, some hispanicisms originated from an old name like Verdejo –a family name
from the town of Alfafara- documented already in the 15th century and commonly
pronounced Verdeixo; or Galtero, from the 18th century. Many of these non-Catalan
lexemes have been documented since the Middle Ages and would come together with the
Aragonese lexemes. Their settlement shows how easily have rooted rare or less frequent
elements to designate the territory. It is worth noting that, besides border toponyms, those
stemming from nicknames or family names are easily transportable by speakers. A sample
with further examples:

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Acebador. The verb cebar, pronounced in some places with a v (acevar) could also be Catalan < CIPARE, but its geographic distribution does not back this hypothesis.
Agüelo. Common word since the 17th century.
Alcornoque and Alcornocar. Isogloss that has penetrated the Plana county.
Algarroba. In the same area, the appellative garrofa is alive.
Almanaque. Modern toponym in an area where people say l’Almanac.
Almendroler. It is an ametleral or almeleral.
Arboleda. A group of trees.
Arranque. A colloquial word.
Bohío. People pronounce it el BuXio, the Castilian way, being a toponym imported from Cuba at the beginning of the 20th century.
Buitrera. Place with many buitres or voltors ‘vultures’.
Cabeço. Together with cabeç, it designates smaller tossals ‘hills’.
Caiçó. In the Castilian-speaking area, it is called caicón.
Cano, el. This toponym is so deep-rooted in the Land of Valencia that it has been thought to be of Mozarabic origin.
Caporutxo. The ending –utxo has an Aragonese origin. However, the word is very well known in spoken Valencian, particularly in the expression “fer el meu caporutxo/caparrutxo”. I do not believe it is of Mozarabic origin.
Castellarejo. The adaptation of the Castilian suffix –ejo is surprising, but it is well alive.
Cata, la. A place where tasting is performed, called in popular Valencian catar.
Collado. Word discussed by Coromines, who considered it Mozarabic however the ending makes it impossible.
Colpeo. Mongrel substantive of colp and golpear.
Desetxat. The area is full of toponyms adapted to Valencian.
Encarnelles. Word also present in Murcia.
Fonderaco. It has been considered Mozarabic, but it is clearly Aragonese.
Forato. Valencian adapted to Castilian.
Guargo. Remains of Aragonese diphthongation.
Guendo / Duende. The first form is well rooted in spoken Valencian.
Judeu ‘judío’. A mongrel of jueu and judío.
Junquerejos. In the same area we find the toponym Juncaret with the same meaning.
Madronyal / Modronyal. The word alborser is also well alive.
Majadafría. Toponym coined by Aragonese transhumance.
Pato. Word coexisting with ànec, but very vigorous.
Pavo. Colloquial word coexisting with titot and gall d’indi.
Penyascales. Toponym in an area free of Castilian terms excepting el Cerro, however it is difficult to explain in Catalan.
Querido. Originating from a nickname.
Reco. It shows the effort made to adapt foreign toponyms.
Redonda. Word of Aragonese origin brought by shepherds, also alive in Occitan, documented already in the Middle Ages.
Sangria. It replaces the ancient toponym la Sagnia to designate a water source.
Sombrías. Hispanicism with Valencian ending, like umbrial.
Somos, los Somos. Aragonese or affective pronunciation of the word som < SUMMU ‘height’.
Terrericos Pardos. An example of the suffix –ico, also well rooted in Valencian.
Vallejo. A small valley.

Xarco. A very ancient word, as is Xorro.

f) Residential developments. The proliferation of foreign names to designate residential developments is one of the problems of our toponymy. A law protecting toponymic heritage is required here. For example:

Mutxavista. Name created by imitation of the toponym Mutxamel.

Paraiso. Having a name as dynamic as Paraiso, this toponym is incomprehensible for the development, if not indeed due to the hitherto secondary or residual role of Valencian.

Saplaya, combining the simple possessive sa (ex. sa casa, ma mare) and the Castilian playa, since saplatja did not sound alive in the development site.

Nicknames and Hypocorisms. A good deal of toponyms have their origin in nicknames and hypocorisms, especially in those coined after the 19th century. Such nicknames are a source of headaches for etymologists lacking a proper documentation and a deep knowledge of the local microhistory. For instance, in the interpretation of the toponyms El Gafaüt and el Torrater, Coromines attempts risky explanations, not knowing perhaps that their etymology or origin was, in fact, two nicknames, as I have proved somewhere else. For example:

Camaenalt. Cantalasdeu, coined from a recurrent expression by the landlord.

Catxoles ‘catxotxes’.

Entraisale. Castilian is used here in a humorous way, as it happens in a percentage of nicknames.

Fole. Because that person always repeted this interjection.

Juano.

Llobero

Maicalles.

Milantes, el tio.

Minxo, because he liked food.

Panou. A traditional Easter cake.

g) Anthroponyms, first names and last names. These are also numerous, but in general are easy to study and work out, as Albentosa, Cayetano and Anselmo. Very often the names are masked, as in Perolit < Pere d’Olit, Plangamell < Pla d’en Gamell o Llomandilla < Lloma d’Andilla.

i) Word families with different suffixes. The toponymy gathered gives an insight into the derivative richness of Valencian. For example: Covarxa, Covarxella, Covarxet, Covarxo, Covarxota.

h) Anthroponyms, first names and last names. These are also numerous, but in general are easy to study and work out, as Albentosa, Cayetano and Anselmo. Very often the names are masked, as in Perolit < Pere d’Olit, Plangamell < Pla d’en Gamell o Llomandilla < Lloma d’Andilla.

j) Survival of unusual suffixes, as in

Abrell, Covatella, Vilella, < ELLU, diminutive.

Abret < ITTU, diminutive

Felipons < ONE

Fenassosa, Palmosa and Matoa < OSA

Jussera / Somera < ARIA

Llobero / Xopero / Domenguero < suffix of Castilian origin –ERO < ARIU.
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Peixerona / Comona / Sortonella < UNDA. Vallesa < ENSA. It stems perhaps from the family name and not from the common appellative. Vinet, Carraixet < ETU.

k) Popular words unknown to young speakers:
Arrabassada ‘wasteland turned into farmland’.
Balma ‘cave’.
Bitxac ‘little bird’.
Bustal ‘rock’ or ‘land surface of the mas or farm for common use of neighbours, used particularly as threshing floor or as barn surface’.
Cleda ‘fence’.
Covantoll < cova en toll
Edrets. Referring to the edros or évols.
Hedra. Many people believe that the proper Catalan term is heura, and when they find hedra they change it for heura in their notes.
Judia ‘fredaluga’.
Llonga ‘llarga’.
Marrada ‘desviació’.
Menescal ‘veterinari’.
Penella ‘land plot’.
Perxàs ‘roofed building next to a mas’.
Tomellar. Derived from tomello ‘thyme’.

1.2. Castilian-speaking area
We would like to encourage the study of the Castilian-speaking area of the Land of Valencia, of either Aragonese and Murcian base, since those of us devoted to Catalan linguistics rarely take it into account, and neither do those studying Spanish linguistics. However, its study is essential to properly understand Valencian Catalan; as well as Aragonese, vulgar Castilian and Castilian dialects. Precisely the gathering of toponymy from the Western area of the Land of Valencia shows us that a great number of Castilian and Catalan isglosses are intertwined, in particular in language border areas, thus attaching a great value to the materials of the VTA. Let us see some of the contributions:

a) Valencian lexicon in a non-Catalan-speaking area, morphologically adapted or not. There is much fossilized toponyms, showing us the onomastic principle that the rarest words are the ones that settle best in toponymy. I also evinces the linguistic interference between Aragonese and Catalan speaking settlers in the north, and the superposition of Castilian over Valencian in the south. We find particularly this toponymy in the border area. For example:
Albelló
Albereda
Aljub
Bacoro
Baladre
Bañat
Bateig
Calderons
b) Many toponyms receive the same name in and from both language areas, especially when they designate important toponyms. This phenomenon causes that the official denomination uses a double name. Accordingly, when studying them, we will take into account that these toponyms may have originated in either area, before they became popular and finally general:

Espadà / Espadán
Penyagolosa
Matamón
Perenchisa
Campello
Charchanet
Carraixet
c) Many names – toponyms exist independently in both linguistic areas. We shall bear it in mind, as well as their referents, before we can give an etymologic opinion of a particular toponym, either an interpretation of the toponym or its filiation. For example:

Ababolar
Agres (Anna) / Agres
Alacranches – alacrances
Arbolaje / albellatge
Árboles / álbers > Arbes, by popular evolution in the Valencian-speaking area.
Ardacho – Fardacho / Fardatxo
Boscarró – buscarrón
Burgal / brugal
Canadilla / canadella
Cantalar
Crebada – crebantada.
El Ofra / L’Ofra
Fangachar
Fuchina / fugina
Gamellón – gamella
Hiedra / hedra
Hoya / fóa
Huertacha – Covarcho – Urgacho – Furgacho
Jarea / Xarea
Lastras / llastra
Madroñal / madronyal
Miococha / milotxa
Morciguillo / mosseguello
Picayo / picaio
Querencia / carència
Rabosa, in both areas
Rodeno / pi rodeno
Roder / roder
Toba / àtoba
Torratero / torrater

Phonetic traits common in vulgar Castilian, Aragonese or Murcian:

Boalaje. Loss of the pre-stress v.
Cardaire. Use of the pejorative –aire suffix, of Occitan origin.
Cavo. From the Catalan Cau.
Charcum. Use of the Valencian pejorative collective suffix –um.
Clo / Clote. Adaptation of the Valencian clot, eliminating the final consonant or adding a final –e.
Collo. Adaptation of the Valencian with a final vocal –o, felt as Castilian.
Derecera. Anaptyxis of e before r.
Glea. Loss of d after the stress, as in southern Valencian.
Guargos (Chóvar). Aragonese diphthongation of Gorgu.
Jonjordana. Aspiration of the f of font.
Juésar. Aspiration and diphthongation of the F of Fossar.
Montul and Purtel. Adaptations of the palatal Catalan Montull and Portell.
Peacicopán. Elimination of the intervocal d.
Pijer. Aspiration of the labial ver.
Tuesa. Equivalent to the Catalan Tossa.
e) Many toponyms are formed on nicknames, names and hypocorisms, such as:
Nel / Nelo
Juano
Sento
f) A number of toponyms appear to have a double suffix -Valencian or Castilian- or a double pronunciation adapted to the local way of speaking. For example:
Artichuela / Artijuela
Bicorb / Bicuerbe
Cocón / Cocons / Cocones
Garrofèro / Fustero
Palomaret / Palomarejo
Palop / Palope
Portichol / Portichuelo
Tejaret / Tejarico

2. LIMITATIONS OF THE VTA MATERIALS

The interview method as well as the task force and the proofreader are reliable. However, the use of VTA materials to conduct research on diacronic linguistics, or the historical evolution of toponymy, presents some problems, including the standardization of the toponym. This is due to the lack of historical perspective and the ignorance of ancient sources documenting the toponym. Veru often, we consider that the proposal is provisional, since in a number of cases we have realized that many toponyms have experienced changes, blurring the original toponym. Before we can formally declare a toponym, we need to contrast the documented forms throughout history of that particular toponym with its contemporary form, and study its evolution applying the methodology of historical Grammar in order to seize its etym and decide which form is the most suitable to fix and convey the name. In the absence of this study, the Onomasticon Cataloniae by Coromines has been one of the decisive bases, but we now know that, in many cases, the lack of documentation also induced the master of onomastics to commit some errors. Therefore, the AVL hopes to undertake a documentation task of all Valencian toponymy in a near future.

This task presents, broadly speaking, three major shortcomings which are easily solvable by means of further study and toponymy spotting:

a) Need of historical documentation prior to proposing a sound form, as some recent papers show. For example, in some of the cases studied:
Cinc vs / from Cint
Derrames vs Benarraes
Fadri vs Alfadadi
Fosc vs Fos
La Batalla vs Batalla
Lexical contributions of the Valencian Toponymic Atlas (VTA)

Lluïssades vs llossa lluïda, not from Lluis.
Malles vs Mallades
Molinell is an adaptation of the Aragonese Molinello, as Vaïllo and Vello from Vadello / Vadillo
Pospelat vs Tòspelat
Rüedes is an evolution of Rouredes
Suderma vs Sort Erma

b) The regularization of toponyms very often masks Valencian dialectal variation. To prevent it, the VTA database maintains the forms as they were collected. However, when it comes to conveying them, some generalizations have been made according to the normative language in order to avoid excessive variety. For example:
Anoer / Anoguer / Anouer: Anoer has not been transcribed.
Assagador / Assegador. Assagador has been the preferred form (until now).
Cadolla and Codolla.
Covilar and Cubilar. Covilar has been the preferred form.
Diumenge and Domenge, both after their origin.
However, both variants have been accepted for the following cases:
Güendo and Uendo: the first form has been preferred over the second.
Llentisclar / Llentiscar. Llentiscar has not been normalized.
Mànega and màniga.
Miracle and milacre.
Quebrasa and cabrasa. Quebrassa has been the preferred form.
Quincaller / Quinquiller. Quincaller has been the preferred form.

c) Local monographic studies to decide with a geographic, historical and linguistic backing many normative proposals of Valencian toponyms, especially toponyms of foreign origin, in particular names of residential developments, beaches or new complexes, which should be replaced by traditional names. For example, El Teleraco of Aielo de Malferit should be written El Telégrafo, its original, non distorted name, or rather recover the ancient name Alt d’Eixea.
La Ponderosa, from the name of a farm in a popular TV series, should recover its traditional name of el Dumeit.

3. CONCLUSIONS

a) The lexemes present in the toponyms are the same as the lexicon contained in the oral language and alive in those very places it designates.

b) There is a high number of nicknames as a toponymic base, requiring a collection and study of living nicknames prior to studying the origin and etymology of many current toponyms.

c) The present VTA must be completed with a medieval VTA and a terminological corpus from historical documents, at least up to the 19th century. Without it, we will not be able to trace back the meaning and origin of many names with certainty.
d) We find in our toponymy linguistic interferences with other languages present in the territory: the Valencian-speaking area contains many hispanicisms and the Castilian-speaking area many Catalanisms. According to the historical documentation studied, this phenomenon is usually very old. Llíria and Alcudia de Veo stand as paradigms of these interferences.

e) The materials gathered by the VTA are the base of the maps prepared by the Institut Cartogràfic Valencià and the Instituto Geográfico España, which are divulged in every town within the leaflet collection “Toponímia dels pobles valencians”, of which over one hundred issues have been published.

f) The knowledge of Valencian lexicon has been greatly improved with this work. A new path has been equally opened for the study of Aragonese and Murcian subdialects in the linguistic border areas in the Western strip of the Land of Valencia.

NOTES

1) The publication of the VTA, due by end of 2007, will contribute a wide introduction where the methodology will be explained for the collection and identification of toponyms. This paper owes much to it.

2) I will only transcribe the word, without the articles or adjectives attached to it. I will also skip locating it in a town, excepting those cases where I consider it necessary to explain its value. In order to make the presentation and the article lighter, I always back the data with information from the Diccionari Català-Valencià-Balear (DCVB) by F.B. Moll, the DECat and the OnCat by Joan Coromines. But also from many opinions present in a number of my papers. For example, in the following articles:

-“Aproximació a una toponímia d’aigües en català al País Valencià” (1988), in: Col·lecció d’Urbanisme Musulmà, 29, Ajuntament de Benissa, pp. 115-141;
-“Toponímia d’origen castellà” (1995) in Materials de Toponímia: Estudis de Toponímia Valenciana, Denes, pp. 1207-1216;
-“La toponímia de serra de la Vall d’Albaida” (1998), in: Toponímia. Més allà de les fronteres lingüístiques, Quaderns de Sintagma, pp. 41-52;
-“La frontera lingüística castellano-catalana en el País Valenciano” (2003), in: RFR 18 (2001), pp. 213-260; and

3) Very often we find toponyms with different formal variants according to their local pronunciation. For example, Hortijola / Hortitxola and Llepassa / Llapassa. In these cases, we hesitate between using the normative spelling or keeping the local pronunciation. In the first case, the best option is to keep both pronunciations, since both are historical according to OnCat, IV, 422: Hortitxola would be Mozarabic –or rather Aragonese- while Hortijola would be its Arabized pronunciation. However, if we proceed thus here, why not do the same in Portitxol and Portijol? In the second example and according to the norm, we transcribe llapassa in both cases.
4) In the Valencian-speaking area we happen to find a number of Castilian toponyms such as forato, devadillo or madronyal, while in the Castilian-speaking area we find a number of Valencian toponyms such as capoll, cap or cocons.

5) This is not the appropriate place to study each toponymic term from the point of view of the Aragonese language, owing to the lack of historical perspective. However, in many cases, a toponym of alleged Valencian origin can originate from a previous Aragonese -not Catalan- form. Valencian lexica can be found in the *Diccionari Valencià*, published by editorial Bromera, 1995.

I have not studied every case either, but should we do it, we would doubtlesly find out that Valencian toponyms originate from a) an ancient toponym of the area before its hispanicization, such as bateig and baladre, in Elda; a border toponym such as aljub or tolls in Veo or Tous, c) nicknames such as garrofa, etc.

6) In his study about the toponym Penyagolosa, Emilio Nieto concluded that the name of the mountain would have been coined in the Aragonese-speaking area. See his “Dues notes breus de toponímia valenciana: Penyagolosa, Les Useres”, in: *Sintagma* 12, pp. 5-18.

7) I have already discussed the etymology of both the word roder ‘runaway, bandit’ and the toponym el Torrater, and I disagreed with Coromines. Now, with the current documentation, I am more confident about my opinion.

8) A second phase of interviews has started as an attempt to enlarge the number of toponyms collected. We believe that this second survey will gather a further 20,000 toponyms. Accordingly, the most important toponyms of the Land of Valencia will be collected and located on a map.