Abstract

De regimine principum, one the most widely read treatises of the late Middle Ages, was composed by Giles of Rome in the years around 1280, and dedicated to the young heir to the French throne, future king Philip IV "the Fair". The book – one of the first Western *specula principis* to draw on Aristotle's moral and political philosophy – was immediately translated into French by Henri de Gauchy (*Livre dou gouvernement des rois et des princes*, 1282), and from French into Italian a few years later (*Livro del governamento dei re e dei principi*, 1288).

After devoting Volume I to the critical edition of the Italian *Governamento*, I present here the linguistic annotation of MS Florence, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, II.IV.129 (= Na), with specific attention to handwriting and spelling (chapter 2), Phonetics (chapter 3), Morphology (chapter 4), and Syntax (chapter 5).

Previous research has already detected some Sienese linguistic traits in MS Na. In 1960 Arrigo Castellani defined the *Governamento* of MS Na as «Sienese», but after many years (in 2000) he himself raised some doubts over the origin of the translation, noting that MS Na displayed not only Sienese linguistic traits, but also many other Tuscan features (from the area of Lucca-Pisa-Pistoia) which called for a different interpretation. However, what had not been done before was an extensive analysis of the spelling, phonetics and morphology of the entire MS, which strongly points to the Sienese origin of this version of the *Governamento* (a summary of the most persuasive arguments is presented in chapter 6 of this volume).

As for chapter 5, it contains an in-depth analysis of the *Governamento*'s micro- and macro-syntax. The investigation draws on recent research on Old Italian syntax, which has been object of a renewed interest over the last decades, culminating in the publication of two fundamental reference works in 2010-2012: the *Grammatica dell'Italiano Antico*, ed. by G. Salvi and L. Renzi (Bologna, il Mulino, 2010, 2 vols.)

and the *Sintassi dell'Italiano Antico*, ed. by M. Dardano (Roma, Carocci, 2012). Chapter 5 also takes into account the relationship between the syntax of the Italian *Governamento* and the syntax of the French *Gouvernement*, thus offering new data to a recently rediscovered field in diachronic syntax: the study of the syntax of the "volgarizzamenti".

Finally, chapter 6 summarizes the most significant results of the linguistic annotation, and – although the analysis of the lexicon will be the subject of Volume III – it anticipates some lexical remarks on relevant terms which confirm the Sienese origin of the text.