

Maiden, Martin. 1995. A proposito dell'alternanza *esce, usciva*, in italiano. *Lingua Nostra* 56. 37-41.

The aim of the article is to provide a new explanation for the alternation of unaccented /u/ to accented /ɛ/ in the verb *uscire* 'go out, leave'. Etymological dictionaries claim it a result of the blending of two words: *escire* 'exit' and *uscio* 'carry', but, as it has been already noted by Tekavčič, in other cases of such lexical blending whole paradigm of the verb is affected, not just singular forms plus 3rd person plural, as it is the case with *uscire*.

The fault of Tekavčič's analyses is that it implies the mutual exclusiveness of phonological, morphological and lexical processes. The development of the verb *uscire* can be solved if we allow the interplay of those three factors. The morphological factor that must be taken into account is the existence of the morphological pattern that contrast first and second person plural to the rest of the paradigm. Such a pattern can be seen for the Italian suppletive verbs *andare*, 'go', and *finire* 'finish'. In other verbs the same pattern is manifested by the insertion of /-isk-/.