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Kelmtejn fuq il-Malti

A couple of words about Maltese

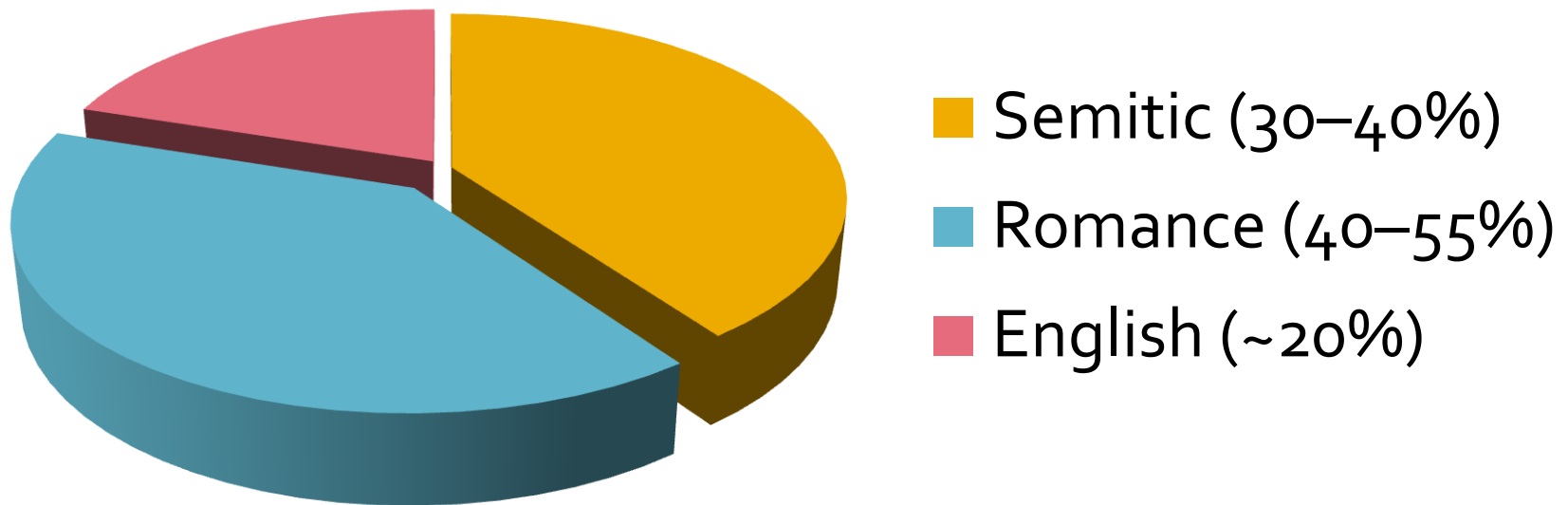
GF Summer School
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Malta



Maltese: an overview

- South-central Semitic², descended from Siculo-Arabic
- Latin alphabet, plus: Ċ Ġ Ħ Ż
- Heavily influenced by Romance and English^{4,5}



Semitic word roots ¹

- K-T-B : Notion of “writing”
 - Verb: **kiteb** (he wrote)
 - Noun: **ktieb** (a book)
 - *Mimated* noun: [bil-]**miktub** ([in] writing)
- Ḥ-R-Ġ : Notion of “out”
 - Verb: **ḥriġna** (we went out)
 - Verbal noun: **ḥarġa** (an outing)
 - Active participle: **ḥiereġ** ([he is] coming out)

Romance-origin words 3

- *centro* (Italian) / *centru* (Sicilian)
 - Noun: *ċentru*
 - Adjective: *ċentrali*
 - Verb/Participle: *ċentralizzat*
- *industria* (Italian)
 - Noun: *industrija*
 - Adjective: *industrijali*
 - Verb/Participle: *industrijalizzat*

English loanwords

- “new” or “technical” words (standardised)
 - fridge (N) – *frigg*
 - computer (N) – *kompjuter*
- Replacing Semitic words (less accepted)
 - worry (V) – *iwworrija* (vs. *inkwieta*)
 - attach (V) – *etteċja* (vs. *ehmeż*)

Progress so far

- Verb morphology for Semitic-origin verbs
 - Smart paradigms, e.g.: `mkVerb "kiteb"`
- Noun morphology and basic lexicon (~180)
 - Singulative, collective, dual, det. & indet. Plural
- Numerals

Goals for Summer School

- Numerals + nouns
 - Collective noun forms
- Verbs
 - Complete Semitic
 - Start Romance, English
- Adjectives
- Beyond...

References

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Nirringrazzjakom!