

SOUND CHANGE PATTERNS FROM LATIN IN THE FOLLOWING ROMANCE LANGUAGES:

ITALIAN, SPANISH, PORTUGUESE, AND FRENCH

By

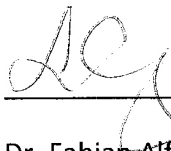
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Statement By Author

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Thesis Abstract:

This project explores the most common sound change patterns from Latin between the following Romance languages: Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and French. Some of the patterns were taken from the book “From Latin to Romance in Sound Charts” (Boyd-Bowman), and some were derived from my own observations as a student of Romance languages. My research methods were relatively simple. As aforementioned, I used a text that explores the sound patterns among those four Romance languages and their relationship with Latin, the language from which they developed. I also used my own ability to compare the four languages and then synthesized the information in a way that is easier to understand. I discovered that these four languages, as derived from Latin, are far more similar than I originally thought, and that the differences between them mainly came about as a result of the inevitable passage of time and evolution of language. This thesis project helped me streamline everything that I have learned as a student of Romance languages. I believe that my project could be used as a tool to make foreign language acquisition more efficient for future students of any one of the five Romance languages that are included.

* = Denotes an irregularity whereas a certain word does not fit the pattern or where the meaning of the word is changed.

1. Words that begin with C and are followed by a vowel: from Latin *campu*

While Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese remain the same as Latin, French differs and instead is written “ch” plus the vowel. While the three former languages have a hard ‘C’ sound, French has a soft sound.

Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
campo	campo	campo	champ

2. Words that end in a consonant and an ‘e’: French reserves the e for feminine forms to distinguish the words from the masculine form.

Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
grande	grande	grande	grand
parte	parte	parte	part

3. ‘A’ (within a word) usually stays the same except in French—if the syllable is open it becomes an ‘e’ and before a nasal it becomes ai:

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
flamma	flamma	llama	chama	flame
mare	mare	mar	mar	mer
caru	caro	caro	caro	cher
pratu	prato	prado	prado	pré
faba	fava	haba	fava	fêve
patre	padre	padre	pai	père
pane	pane	pan	pão	pain
sanu	sano	sano	são	sain
amat	ama	ama	ama	aime
manu	mano	mano	mão	main

4. Sp. = e > Port = ei after or before syllable with ‘a’ vowel: Words in Spanish that have the letter ‘e’ either before or after a syllable with the vowel ‘a’ change to ‘ei’ in Portuguese. However the sound does not change, it is merely emphasized more.

Spanish	Portuguese
canté	cantei
besar	beijar
obrero	obreiro
leche	leite

5. Words that begin with a consonant and are followed with a vowel. “The initial ‘f’ of other romance languages is now represented in Spanish by a formerly aspirated, but now silent ‘h’. Unaffected are learned words or words beginning with the prefix ‘fue’ and sometimes ‘fie’

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
fames	fame	hambre	fome	faim
formica	formica	hormiga	formiga	fourmi
faba	fava	haba	fava	fève
facere	fare	hacer	fazer	faire
ferru	ferro	hierro/fierro	ferro	fer
ficu	fico	higo	figo	figue
filia	figlia	hija	filha	fille
furca	forca	horca	forca	fourche

6. Vowel + consonant + vowel: This rule applies to all languages except for French, which actually shortens the endings of words that follow this pattern in the other three languages. Italian uses the vowel plus the consonants ‘t’/‘c’ while Spanish and Portuguese both use the vowel plus the consonants ‘d’/‘g’. French simply gets rid of the last consonant and vowel (ie- chanté, fourmi, etc.)

Italian	Spanish	Portuguese
v + t + v	v + d + v	v + d + v
cantato	cantado	cantado
v + c + v	v + g + v	v + g + v
formica	hormiga	formiga

7. From the common Latin suffix –arius: The following words follow this pattern where Italian employs the suffix –aio, Spanish –ero, Portuguese –eiro, and French –ier.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
operariu	operaio	obrero	obreiro	ouvrier
januariu	gennaio	enero	janeiro	janvier
februariu	febbraio	febrero	febreiro	février
ursurario	usuraio	usurero	usureiro	usurier
denariu	denaro	dinero	dinheiro	denier (a former coin)
marinariu	marinaio	marinero	marinheiro	marnier (O. Fr.)
furnariu	fornaio	hornero	forneiro	fournier
coquinaria	cucinaia	cocinera	cozinheira	cuisinière
caballariu- horseman	cavallaio – horsetrader	caballero- knight	caveleiro- knight	chevalier- knight
manuaria	maniera	manera	maneira	manière

8. From the Latin suffix -aticu: The following words follow this pattern where Italian employs the suffix -aggio, Spanish -aje, Portuguese -agem, and French -age.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
-aticu	-aggio	-aje	-agem	-age
viaticum	viaggio	viaje	viagem	voyage
linguaticu	linguaggio	lenguaje	linguagem	langange
silvaticu	selvaggio	selvaje	selvagem	sauvage
coraticum	coraggio	coraje	coragem	courage
pagensaticu	paesaggio	paisaje	paisagem	paysage

9. S + consonant remains in Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese. In the initial position prefixed an 'e' in Spanish, Portuguese, and French but in French the 's' generally aspirated and fell. (an acute accent or a circumflex often marks where the 's' used to be)

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
scala	scala	escala	escada	échelle
schola	scuola	escuela	escola	école
scriptu	scritto	escrito	escrito	écrit
scutu	scudo	escudo	escudo	écu
sperare	sperare	esperar	esperar	espérer
spiritu	spirito	espíritu	espírito	esprit
spina	spina	espina	espinha	épine
sponsa	sposa	esposa	esposa	épouse
statu	stato	estado	estado	état
studiare	studiare	estudiar	estudar	étudier
strictu	stretto	estrecho	estreito	étroit
asinu	asino	asno	asno	âne
piscare	pescare	pascar	pescar	pêcher
gastare	gastare	gastar	gastar	gâter
augustu	agosto	agosto	agosto	août
metpsimu	medésimo	mismo	mesmo	même

10. Consonant + e,i : Italian, Portuguese, and French tend to just have the vowel 'e' following a consonant, while Spanish is more likely to diphthongize to 'ie' or 'iu'.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	
pede	(open) piede	pie	pé	ped
heri	ieri	ayer	X (ontem)	hier
fel	fiele	hiel	fel	fiel
mel	miele	miel	mel	miel
tenet	tiene	tiene	tem	tient
decem	dieci	diez	dez	dix
caelu	cielo	ciel	céu	ciel
petra	pietra	piedra	pedra	pierre

ventu	(closed) vento	viento	vento	vent
septem	sette	siete	sete	sept
perdit	perde	pierde	perde	perd
festa	festa	fiesta	festa	fête
ferru	ferro	hierro	ferro	fer

11. In open syllables an accented ‘é’ diphthongizes to ie in Italian, Spanish, and French but never in Portuguese; in closed syllables, ‘é’ diphthongizes only in Spanish

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
centu	cento	ciento	cento	cent
cervu	cervo	ciervo	cervo	cerf
civitate	città	ciudad	cidade	cite
decem	dieci	diez	dez	dix
X	comportamento	comportamiento	comportamento	comportement

12. Consonants ‘c’ + ‘l’ surrounded by vowels from Latin: Italian doubles the ‘c’ and adds an ‘h’ for a hard sound, Spanish gets rid of the ‘c’ and employs a soft ‘j’, Portuguese also loses the ‘c’ and employs the soft ‘lh’, and French drops the ‘c’ and uses –eil, -eille, etc.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
oculu	occhio	ojo	olho	oeil
auricula	orecchio	oreja	orelha	oreille
lenticula	lenticchia	lenteja	lenticilha	lentille
apicula	pecchia	abeja	abelha	abeille
pariculu	parecchio	parejo	parelho	pareil
veclu	vecchio	viejo	velho	vieil
speculu	specchio	espejo	espelho	X (miroir)
genuculu	ginocchio	hinojo (rodilla)	joelho	genou

13. CT- the Latin group CT develops to ‘tt’ in Italian, to ‘ch’ in Spanish, and in Portuguese ‘ite’ and French to ‘it’: This is to say that words deriving from Latin words that use the consonant combination ‘ct’ change in the four aforementioned languages.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
nocte	notte	noche	noite	nuit
octo	otto	ocho	oito	huit
bis coctu (cooked twice)	biscotto	bizcocho	biscoito	biscuit
factu	fatto	hecho	feito	fait
lactuca	lattuga	lechuga	X alface	laitue
satisfactu	soddisfatto	satisfecho	satisfeito	satisfait
lectu	letto	lecho	leito	lit
profectu	profitto	provecho	proveito	profit
dictu	detto	dicho	dito	dit
tectu	tetto	techo	teto	toit

14. Double Consonants- from Latin:

- a. In Italian double consonants remain double both in spelling and in pronunciation
- b. From Latin, Spanish changes 'LL' to ll and 'NN' to ñ; 'RR' stays the same (multiple trill). In Spanish, the consonant combination 'll' is pronounced 'y' and the ñ is pronounced the same as the sounds 'nh' in Portuguese and 'gn' in Italian
- c. Portuguese simplifies all double consonants except 'RR' and 'SS'. The consonant combination 'rr' is pronounced as an English 'h' sound (in Brazilian Portuguese, however in Portugal it is pronounced in the same way, more or less, as it would be pronounced in Spanish) and the combination 'ss' creates a softer sound that when a singular 's' is surrounded by vowels and is pronounced like an English 'z'
- d. In French double letters appear between vowels in spelling but are reduced to single sounds or disappear

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
abbate	abate	abad	abade	abbé
siccu	secco	seco	sêco	sec
bella	bella	bella	bela	belle
flamma	fiamma	llama	chama	flamme
annu	anno	año	ano	an
cuppa	coppa	copa	copa	coupe
terra	terra	tierra	terra	terre
passu	passo	paso	passo	pas
gutta	gotta	gota	gota	goutte

15. Portuguese is the only of the Romance languages to lose the single 'l' and single 'n' between vowels. Portuguese also weakened the double 'l' and the double 'n'.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
voluntate	voluntà	voluntad	vontade	volonté
colore	colore	color	côr	couleur
dolore	dolore	dolor	dôr	douleur
volare	volare	volar	voar	voler
colobra	colubro	culebra	cobra	couleuvre
populu	pópulo	pueblo	povo	peuple
periculu	pericolo	peligro	perigo	peril
solu	solo	solo	só	seul
caelu	cielo	cielo	céu	ciel
filu	filo	hilo	fio	fil

16. From Latin prefix '-qu' and 'qu' within a word: Italian and Portuguese keep the 'qu' pattern, Spanish changes to 'cu', and French changes to 'qu' as a general rule.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
quadru	quadro	cuadro	quadro	carré

quadráginta	quaranta	cuarenta	quarenta	quarante
quale	quale	cual	qual	quel
quínquaginta	cinquanta	cincuenta	cinquenta	cinquante
quinque	cinque	cinco	cinco	cing

17. Open syllables --- ‘e’ > ‘oi’ (French). While with open syllables the ‘e’ remains in Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese, it become ‘oi’ in French.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
mese	mese	mes	mês	mois
tres	tre	tres	três	trois
pesu	peso	peso	pêso	poids
credit	crede	cree	crê	croit
parete	parete	pared	parede	paroi
pira	pera	pera	pera	poire
minus	meno	menos	menos	moins
vedet	vede	ve	vê	voit

18. –ere ending verbs from Latin are retained in Italian; French retains the final –re of the stem. However, Spanish and Portuguese go to –ir/–er endings

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
scribere	scrivere	escribir	escrever	écrire
credere	credere	creer	crer	croire
frigere	friggere	freír	frigir	frire
resolvere	risolvere	resolver	resolver	résoudre
rumpere	rompere	romper	romper	rompre
vendere	vendere	vender	vender	vendre
perdere	perdere	perder	perder	perdre
crescere	crescere	crecer	crescer	croître
mittere	mettere	meter	meter	mettre
vivere	vivere	vivir	viver	vivre

19. The silent ‘h’ at the beginning of words, like in their Latin predecessors, is common in all four languages but spelling changes were made. Italian generally gets rid of the initial ‘h’; Spanish, Portuguese, and French all retain the ‘h’ as a general rule. The word “Hispania” and its derivations are an exception in that all four languages get rid of the initial ‘h’.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
hora	ora	hora	hora	heure
habet	ha	ha	há	a
Hispania	Spagna	España	Espanha	Espagne
hibernu	inverno	invierno	inverno	hiver
hodie	oggi	hoy	hoje	aujourd’hui
herba	erba	hierba	erva	herbe

honore	onore	honor, honra	honra	honneur
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20. The letter ‘I’ in either the stressed or initial positions stays the same from Latin in other Romance languages. However, Italian is the only language that retains the final ‘i’.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
vita	vita	vida	vida	vie
mille	mille	mil	mil	mille
venire	venire	venir	vir	venir
amicu	amico	amigo	amigo	ami
civitate	città	ciudad	cidade	cit�
riparia	riviera	ribera	ribeira	rivi�re
feci	feci	hice	fiz	fis
veni	venni	vine	vim	vins
vicinu	vicino	vecino	vezinho	voisin
viginti	venti	veinte	vinte	vingt

21. From the Classical Latin words beginning with ‘J’ or ‘G’ and that are followed by a vowel: Italian goes to g- or gi-, in order to preserve the soft ‘g’ sound; Portuguese and French go to g- or j-, which also preserves a soft ‘g’ or ‘j’ sound; Spanish has three different developments: words following this pattern have a ‘y’ when coming before an ‘e’ or an ‘a’, if that vowel is stressed (this usually involves words that are stressed on the penultimate syllable); there is no consonant in front if the initial vowel is unstressed; finally words that follow this pattern have a ‘j’ if it comes before an ‘o’ or a ‘u’.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
jam	gi�	ya	j�	d�j�
gemma	gemma	yema	gema	gemme
gypsum	gesso	yeso	g�sso	gypse
gingiva	gengiva	enc�a	gengiva	gencive
jocu	giuoco	juego	j�go	jeu
justu	giusto	justo	justo	juste
junctu	giunto	junto	junto	joint
juvene	giovane	joven	joven	jeune
diurnale	giornale	jornal	jornal	journal

22. Latin words that contain the letters ‘j’, ‘g’, or ‘d’ that are intervocalic and that do not come at the beginning of a word (as in the previous rule) follow this pattern: Italian changes the ‘j’ to ‘gg’, Spanish goes to ‘y’, Portuguese goes to ‘io’, and French goes to ‘i’. Next, Italian changes the ‘g’ to ‘gg’ or ‘ae’ or in some cases (ei. regina), the spelling stays the same; with Spanish there is more intervocalic weakening than with Italian as in the examples below, which is also the case more or less for Portuguese and French. As with the intervocalic ‘d’, it is more difficult to predict the sound changes in the other four Romance languages.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
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maju	maggio	mayo	maio	mai
majore	maggiore	mayor	maior	majeur, maire
lege	legge	ley	lei	loi
fugire	fuggire	huír	fugir	fuir
magistru	maestro	maestro, maestre	mestre	maître
page(n)se	paese	país	país	pays
regina	regina	reina	raihna	reine
radiu	raggio, razzo	rayo	raio	rayon
video	veggio	veo	vejo	vois
mediu	mezzo	medio	meio	mi: midi, demi
hodie	oggi	hoy	hoje	aujourd’HUI
corrigia	coreggia	correa	correa	courroie
exagiu	saggio	ensayo	ensaio	essai

23. The ‘l’ plus consonant rule, from Latin, remains unchanged in Italian but regularly vocalizes to u in French. With “popular” words Latin ‘al’ goes to ‘au’ or ‘ou’ in French, ‘ou’ in Portuguese, and ‘o’ in Spanish.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
alteru	altro	otro	outro	autre
talpa	talpa	topo	toupeira	taupe
multu	molto	mucho	muito	((beaucoup))
auscultare	ascoltare	escuchar	escutar	écouter
cultellu	coltello	cuchillo	cutelo (faca)	couteau

24. The ‘l’ plus vowel rule, from Latin, becomes ‘gli’ in Italian, ‘j’ in Spanish, ‘lh’ in Portuguese, and ‘il(l)’ in French. It is important to consider other rules in conjunction with this rule. For example, the word ‘foglia’ in Italian also begins with an ‘f’ in Portuguese and French, but begins instead with a silent ‘h’ in Spanish (see rule #5).

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
filia	figlia	hija	filha	fille
palea	paglia	paja	palha	paille
folia	foglia	hoja	folha	feuille
alliu	aglio	ajo	alho	ail
miliu	miglio	mejo	milho	mil
meliore	migliore	mejor	melhor	meilleur
consiliu	consiglio	consejo	conselho	conseil
taleare	tagliare	tajar, tallar	talhar	tailler
colligere	cogliere	cojer	colher	cueillir
muliere	moglie	mujer	mulher	moillier (old French)

25. The singular intervocalic ‘n’, from Latin, is retained (generally speaking) in Italian, Spanish and French, although French tends to diphthongize the vowel that precedes the intervocalic ‘n’, as is the case with the words “sain”, “main”, “vain”, etc. This creates a nasal sound, which also happens in Portuguese. However, Portuguese has a sound change and eliminates the intervocalic ‘n’ altogether. In some cases, the ‘n’ is eliminated and there is a nasal ‘a’ (ã) before where the ‘n’ would have been, usually followed by an ‘o’. In other cases, the ‘n’ is eliminated and the vowels are diphthongized, or the ‘n’ and preceding vowel is eliminated. With other words, the intervocalic ‘n’ is changed to a ‘m’ and there is no vowel to follow it. Still, in other cases, the intervocalic ‘n’ changes to a nasal ‘nh’.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
sanu	sano	sano	são	sain
manu	mano	mano	mão	main
vanu	vano	vano	vão	vain
cane	cane	can ((perro))	cão ((cachorro))	chien
pane	pane	pan	pão	pain
leone	leone	león	leão	lion
sapone	sapone	jabón	sabão	savon
pulmone	polmone	pulmón	pulmão	poumon
lana	lana	lana	lã	laine
vena	vena	vena	veia	veine
catena	catena	cadena	cadeia	chaîne
venire	venire	venir	vir	venir
tenere	tenere	tener	ter	tenir
fine	fine	fín	fim	fín
bonu	buono	bueno	bom	bon
caminu	camino	camino	caminho	chemin
vicinu	vicino	vecino	vizinho	voisin
spina	spina	espina	espinha	épine
cocina	cucina	cocina	cozinha	cuisine

26. From ‘gn’ and ‘ny’ sounds in Latin: Italian changes to ‘gn’, Spanish changes to ‘ñ’, Portuguese changes to ‘nh’, and French changes to ‘gn’ or ‘ign’.

pugnu	pugno	puño	punho	poing
signu	segno	seña	senha	seign
insignare	insegnare	enseñar	ensinar	enseigner
disdignare	sdegnare	desdeñar	desdenhar	dédaigner
seniore	signore	señor	senhor	seigneur
Hispania	Spagna	España	Espanha	Espagne
araneu	ragno	araña	aranha	araignée
balneare	bagnare	bañar	banhar	baigner
balneu	bagno	baño	banho	bain
stanneu	stagno	estaño	estanho	étain

27. Open syllables with the letter ‘o’ in Latin are diphthongized to ‘uo’ in Italian, ‘ue’ in Spanish, and ‘eu’ in French. In close syllables it only diphthongized in Spanish; Portuguese does not diphthongize at all.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
ovu	uovo	huevo	ôvo	oeuf
novu	nuovo	nuevo	novu	neuf
moritur	muore	muere	morre	meurt
jocu	giuoco	juego	jôgo	jeu
movet	muove	meuve	move	meut
potet	può	puede	pode	peut
mordit	morde	muerde	morde	mord
corpus	corpo	cuerpo	corpo	corps
ossu	osso	hueso	ôssu	os
computat	conta	cuenta	conta	compte
coriu	cuoio	cuero	coiro	cuir
somniu	sogno	sueño	sonho	songe
fortia	forza	fuerza	força	force

28. Latin ó: Changes to ‘eu’ in open syllables and ‘o’ or ‘ou’ in closed syllables in French but remains the same in the other three languages.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
flore	fiore	flor	flor	fleur
hora	ora	hora	hora	heur
solu	solo	solo	só	seul
famosu	famoso	famoso	famoso	fameux
bucca	boca	boca	bôca	bouche
musca	mosca	mosca	môscu	mouche
furnu	forno	horno	forno	four

29. From Latin intervocalic ‘p’, ‘b’, ‘v’: The ‘p’ remains in Italian, but changes to ‘b’ in Spanish and Portuguese, and to ‘v’ in French. The ‘b’ becomes a ‘v’ in Italian, Portuguese, and French but stays the same in Spanish. The ‘v’ generally stays the same in all four languages. However, French offers a few exceptions to this rule, as is the case with the words “chef”, “neuf”, and “clef”.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
sapone	sapone	jabón	sabão	savon
sapere	sapere	saber	saber	savoir
capu	capo	cabo	cabo	chef*
caballu	cavallo	caballo	cavalo	cheval
faba	fava	haba	fava	fève
probare	provare	probar	provar	prouver

habere	avere	haber	haver	avoir
debere	dovere	deber	dever	devoir
lavare	lavare	lavar	lavar	laver
vivere	vivere	vivir	viver	vivre
novu	nuovo	nuevo	novu	neuf*
clave	chiave	llave	chave	clef*

30. ‘pl’, ‘cl’, and ‘fl’ plus a vowel developed to ‘pi’, ‘ci’, and ‘fi’ in Italian, to ‘ll’ in Spanish, and to ‘ch’ in Portuguese. French does not exhibit any changes.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
plenu	pieno	lleno	cheio	plein
plovere	piovere	llover	chover	pleuvoir
clamare	chiamare	llamar	chamar	clamer (to shout)
clave	chiave	llave	chave	clef
flamma	fiamma	llama	chama	flamme

31. Intervocalic ‘t’ and ‘d’: ‘t’ usually remains in Italian, but changes to ‘d’ in Spanish and Portuguese, and is lost in French; ‘d’ usually remains in Italian, but is dropped in French and Portuguese, and vacillates in Spanish. Spanish usually retains a softer sound and uses an intervocalic ‘d’, but sometimes it eliminates the intervocalic ‘t’ or ‘d’ altogether from Latin.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
vita	vita	vida	vida	vie
maturu	maturu	maduro	maduro	mûr
rota	ruota	rueda	roda	roue
passatu	passato	pasado	pasado	passé
salutare	salutare	saludar	saludar	saluer
maritu	marito	marido	marido	mari
mutare	mutare	mudar	mudar	remuer
sudare	sudare	sudar	suar	suer
crudu	crudo	crudo	cru	cru
nudu	nudo	desnudo	nu	nu
ridere	ridere	reír	rir	rire
credere	credere	creer	crer	croire

32. From the Latin suffix –tate, Italian changes to –tà; Spanish changes to -tad or –dad; Portuguese changes to -tade or –dade; and French changes to -té. All words with this suffix are feminine in all four languages. This may be one of the most consistent rules between the four languages.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
libertate	libertà	libertad	libertade	liberté

voluntate	volontà	voluntad	vontade	volonté
difficultate	difficoltà	dificultad	dificultade	difficulté
bonitate	bontà	bondad	bondade	bonté
veritate	verità	verdad	verdade	vérité
civitate	città	ciudad	cidade	cite
vanitate	vanità	vanidad	vaidade	vanité
qualitate	qualità	calidad	qualidade	qualité
caritate	carità	caridad	caridade	charité
societate	società	sociedad	sociedade	societé
proprietate	proprietà	propiedad	propriedade	propriété

33. TY (CY) a.k.a. ‘s’-sounds and ‘z’-sounds (from Latin): These sounds have spelling changes to ‘zz’ or ‘z’ or ‘ci’ in Italian, ‘z’ in Spanish, ‘ç’ or rarely ‘z’ in Portuguese, and ‘s’ or ‘ss’ or ‘c’ in French. (nearly all are intervocalic)

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
poteu	pozzo	pozo	poço	puits
acutiare	aguzzare	aguzar	aguçar	aiguiser
tristitia	tristezza	tristeza	tristeza	tristesse
riccitia	ricchezza	riqueza	riqueza	richesse
duritia	durezza	dureza	dureza	duresse
martiu	marzo	marzo	março	mars
sperantia	speranza	esperanza	esperança	espérance
cuminitiare	cominciare	comenzar	começar	commencer
bracchiu	braccio	brazo	braço	bras
lancea	lancia	lanza	lança	lance

34. –tion as a suffix in English has a very regular pattern of sound changes in other Romance languages: Italian goes to –ione, Spanish goes to –ión, Portuguese goes to –ção, and French goes to –tion.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
natio	nazione	nación	nação	nation
actio	azione	acción	ação	action
vacatio*	vacazione	vacación	vacação	vacation
emotio	emozione	emoción	emoção	emotion

*vacatio in Latin means “freedom, exemption, immunity, dispensation” (from <http://latinlexicon.org/definition.php?p1=1167080&p2=v>)

35. Tonic or pretonic ‘U’ usually remains in the Romance languages as it is in Latin but it is pronounced differently in French.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
mur	muro	muro	muro	mur

tu	tu	tú	tu	tu
luna	luna	luna	lua	lune
duru	duro	duro	duro	dur
sudare	sudare	sudar	suar	suer
virtute	vertù	virtud	virtude	vertu
mensura	misura	mesura	mesura	measure

36. Latin ‘pt’ within a word gave Italian ‘tt’, Spanish ‘t’ or ‘ut’, Portuguese ‘t’. ‘it’, or ‘ut’, and French ‘pt’, ‘tt’, or ‘t’. Whenever there are two consonants together in Latin, Italian geminates to the second letter.

Latin	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	French
septem	sette	siete	sete	sept
scriptu	scritto	escrito	escrito	écrit
ruptu	rotto	roto	roto	route
captivu	cattivo	cautivo	captivo, cativo	chétif
baptizare	battezzare	bautizar	boutiçar	baptiser
recepta	ricevuta	receta	receita	recette

37. Latin –X- gave Italian ‘ss’ or ‘sce’/‘sci’; Spanish ‘j’; Portuguese ‘ss’ or ‘x’; and French ‘x’ and ‘is’ (in popular words). In words beginning with EX- plus vowel, Italian and Portuguese pronounced the X as ‘z’. Before a consonant, Latin X was popularly pronounced ‘s’. However, this rule is very irregular.

luxu	lusso	lujo	luxo	luxe
fixare	fissare	fijar	fixar	fixer
sexaginta	sessanta	sesenta	sessenta	soixante
exemplu	esempio	ejemplo	exemplo	example
exercitu	esército	ejército	exército	armée*
exercitu	esercizio	ejercicio	exercício	exercice
extraneu	strano	extraño	extranho	étrange
(de)laxare	lassare	dejar	deixar	laisser

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