

## Osservazioni sugli esiti romanzi di lat. *laxāre*

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### ABSTRACT

*This paper discusses the controversial question of the Romance outcomes of Latin *laxāre* 'to let'. The problem raised by these outcomes can be formulated as follows: where does the initial consonant of *d*-forms (<*laxāre*) come from? Is the change of [l] into [d] phonetically regular? If so, how to explain that in some Romance varieties it is limited to the outcomes of *laxāre*? On the basis of dialectological evidence, it is suggested that the initial *d*-stop is the result of a fortition process, and this process is taken to have first originated in imperative contexts, probably due to the high frequency of these contexts.*