

assimilation to their Romance environment is reflected in the increasing number of hybrid names within the Langobardic territories of Italy. The degree of acculturation is evident both in the phonology and the morphology as well as the semantics of the names.

There are several phonetic-phonological phenomena, which reflect the degree of the Langobards' acculturation and assimilation showing the extent of Germanic-Romance interference. One of these is the grapho-phonetic representation – in particular the preservation or transformation – of Germ. /w/ in Langobardic anthroponyms until 774. Germ. /w/ is usually preserved both in lexis and in personal names. However, it can also undergo a process of Romanization, from which the form <gu> can result. In addition, Germ. /w/ can be found in various other forms depending on its position within a word, e.g. when it is the initial sound in the second part of compound names, it tends to acquire vocalic quality. A sound inquiry into the grapho-phonetic representation of the half-vowel /w/, which takes into account the diatopic distribution and the chronology of the respective sources, is likely to yield a more differentiated assessment of this phenomenon. The following study thus examines the various spellings of Germ. /w/ in relation to its different positions - initial position or initial sound in the second part of compound names. Further criteria are the chronology of the sources and their geographical distribution. The study is mainly based on the records contained in the *Codice Diplomatico Longobardo*.