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This paper researches the language shift dynamics in an Italian family living in the English city of Cambridge, and focuses mainly on the variation in the use of the three varieties of repertoire (Italian dialect, Standard Italian and English) in four children, aged between 50 and 65 years old. The present study questions whether the birth order can be considered as a sociolinguistic variable in the process of language shift or other sociolinguistic variables must be taken into account. In so doing, we will investigate the role of Italian identity perceived by the interviewees in order to explain the variation in the in use of the three varieties.