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“Palcoscenico”: una voce anomala retrodatabile

Salvatore Claudio Sgroi

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLI, 1 (2012), pp. 7-18

SUMMARY

Thanks to Google books, the A. identifies the compound scenico palco 1674 C. Torre and antedates too the variant palco scenico at 1780 in “Gazzetta ufficiale” and the modern form palcoscenico at 1825, Reale Museo Borbonico. He analyses the irregular plural of palcoscenico in Italian grammars. He dates the plural (with double inflection) of the endocentric compound palchi scenici at 1819 De-Coureil, and the plural (with only the final inflection) of palco-scenici at 1840 Bernani and 1841 Lampato and palcoscenici at 1877 in “Rivista Europea”. He points out that the plural palchi scenici, with the inflection in both the head and determinant, prevailed in the first half of the nineteenth century. The current plural palcoscenici (with only the final inflection) shows the evolution of the complex lexeme (palcoscenico) from a “living compound”, i.e. a “semantic and morphological compound” (palchi scenici), to a “dead compound” (palcoscenici), a semantic nonmorphological compound.

English lingua franca: Reality or Fiction? Assessing the Debate on the Status of English as Language of Global Communication

Maicol Formentelli

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLI, 1 (2012), pp. 19-48

SUMMARY

The prominent role of English as language of global communication has long been acknowledged in the literature. Quite recently, a new research paradigm has made its way into the discussion, aimed at investigating the use of English as Lingua Franca (ELF) in international exchanges. The present paper constitutes an attempt to assess the main positions in the current debate on ELF communication. On the one hand, some scholars consider ELF as an emerging independent variety characterized by distinctive formal features and interactional strategies that guarantee successful communication among non-native speakers of English. On the other hand, other researchers challenge this view and regard ELF as a register and the putative distinctive traits as features of learner’s interlanguage systems. In the concluding part of the paper, the thorny issue concerning the role of participants’ native languages and cultures in shaping ELF discourse is addressed, by reviewing the main hypotheses put forward in recent studies.

Lingua speciale e performances in L2

Lorenzo Zanasi

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLI, 1 (2012), pp. 49-66

SUMMARY

There are many terms in Italian to translate the English expression “language for specific purposes”. These terms provide information about the degree of specialization of the language and the type of communication taking place, but they don’t tell us anything about the linguistic and communicative competencies of the speaker. These definitions generally assume to an ideal native speaker.

In this paper we present the results of a survey on the linguistic needs of migrant workers in Italy, led by the Institute for Specialised Communication and Multilingualism of European Academy of Bolzano. We show how their linguistic performances at work reflect a variety of communicative styles and fields of language variation that the recognized terminology does not make immediately transparent.

Imparare la costruzione passiva in Italiano L2

Elena Nuzzo

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLI, 1 (2012), pp. 67-84

SUMMARY

This paper presents the results of a cross-sectional study on the acquisition of passive voice by learners of L2 Italian. The aim of the study is to observe and describe, within the theoretical framework of Processability Theory, how learners acquire the ability to topicalise the patient of a transitive event by assigning it the grammatical function of subject in a passive sentence. In order to do so, two tasks specifically devised for eliciting passive constructions are administered to 41 learners of different ages, L1s and cultural backgrounds, and to a control group of 50 native speakers of Italian with similar characteristics.

Le risposte al complimento in italiano e in tedesco. Analisi di corpora di parlato

Miriam Ravetto

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLI, 1 (2012), pp. 85-122

SUMMARY

Using a conversation analytic methodology, the paper compares Italian and German compliment responses given in informal situations, among university students and friends. The data show that both Italian and German native speakers frequently accept

compliments. Rejections are rare in Italian interactions as well as in German ones. The two language and cultural groups differ in the selection of compliment response types. Italians prefer to reply to compliments thanking the interlocutor for his/her positive evaluation, while German corpus reveals a high frequency of samples, in which the complimented person tests the truthfulness of the speech act and the sincerity of the compliment giver by means of direct questions (f.e. *denkst du das wirklich?*, ‘do you really think that?’). Finally, in both participants groups the choice of the compliment response type is influenced by the complimented item/trait. In Italian data compliments on physical appearance and possessions are often directly accepted, whereas positive evaluations of character traits and abilities favor the displaying of Limited Acceptance or Non-Acceptance responses. In contrast, in German corpus compliments on character aspects are accepted more frequently than the ones on appearance, possessions or personal skills.

*L'accento straniero. Uno studio
sulla visibilità vs invisibilità del migrante dal punto di vista intonativo*

Augusto Carli, Maria Chiara Felloni

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLI, 1 (2012), pp. 123-144

SUMMARY

This work proposes the application of AMPER research framework to the study of Italian L2 prosody with the purpose of investigating the “visibility” or “invisibility” of Rumanian speakers living in the city of Parma. The idea of “visibility” (and its opposite “invisibility”) are here proposed as the two poles of a continuum related to the degree of similarity of migrants’ speech production to the native speakers’ speech production: migrants will be defined “invisible” if they are judged linguistically homogeneous to the local community by local native speakers. Recent theories in the field of language acquisition, while reducing the importance of biological factors (e.g. age), emphasize the role played by the social and psychological features of the individuals in the process of second language learning. This study suggests that migrants’ L2 language intonation, regardless of speaker age, gender, occupation and duration of stay in the host community, is more likely to be judged in perception tests like similar (or equivalent) to the intonation of native speakers if migrants feature a broad social network. On the contrary, L2 intonation of migrants who interact less with the host community and consequently featuring a narrow social network, tend to reproduce the L1 intonation. Native speakers of the host community judge the latter group less integrated in local linguistic space, thus more “visible”. Perception tests indicate two preliminary results: first, migrants seem to be aware of the importance of intonation as a social group identification index and second, migrants social network factor may be more important than age and duration of stay in the host community in the L2 acquisition process. Although it’s not possible to say that migrants’ integration in the host community is the key factor in L2 learning process (our tests were based on a small corpus of prosodic-only sound stimuli applied to few Rumanian informants), preliminary results suggest that further research on L2 prosody based on

the AMPER framework could lead to more interesting observations.

*Scrittura e sordità: problemi di analisi e di rappresentazione
tra linguistica e semiotica.*

Cecilia Gazzeri

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLI, 1 (2012), pp. 145-166

SUMMARY

This article presents the results of the analysis of a corpus consisting in texts written by deaf people, outlining data relative to the presence of non-standard linguistic forms and some hypotheses to interpret them. After describing the forms and analysis tools used, we consider the processes implied in passing from signed language to written language. This passing is understood as a semiotic translation from a multi-linear and multi-modal linguistic system, which allows to “say” and at the same time to “show” what is said, to a linear and discrete linguistic system, which only possesses the dimension of “saying”.

*La creatività linguistica: un modello interpretativo
dei fenomeni semiotici nei contesti di supercontatto*

Simone Casini

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLI, 1 (2012), pp. 175- 198

SUMMARY

Our current social context is characterized by forms of contact which had never happened in previous eras and the result at a linguistic level is the interaction between linguistic realities on a qualitative and quantitative grades that are profoundly different from the past. This is the paradigm for diversification of diversity, the model of superdiversity. And therefore we wonder if in the global society in the twentieth century which is characterized by superdiversity are the categories of language contact and linguistic interference sufficient to handle trends in negotiation of the meaning (an example: Weinreich, 1963). Or if it's necessary to resort to new conceptual models that can take advantage of the forms of semiotic creativity.

The urban areas are the more representative contexts where to consider the possible applications of the model of linguistic superdiversity, and in that line we want to use the model of Linguistic Landscape (Landry, Bourhis, 1997; Ben-Rafael, 2009; Ben-Rafael, Shohamy, Barni, 2010) as a conceptual and methodological approach to study in vivo the linguistic diversity in context of daily linguistic use.