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PLURILINGUISMO E IMMIGRAZIONE NELLA SOCIETÀ ITALIANA REPERTORI, USI LINGUISTICI E FENOMENI DI CONTATTO A cura di Marina Chini

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*Ristrutturazione dei repertori e 'lingue franche' in situazione immigratoria.
Appunti di lavoro*

Gaetano Berruto

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLVIII, 1 (2009), pp. 9-28

SUMMARY

The paper deals with two main topics. First, the restructuring of linguistic repertoires

by immigrant groups as a migration consequence. Second, the emerging of a code used with the functions of a lingua franca in the intraethnic and interethnic communication among such groups. Discussing the repertoires exhibited by Ghanaians, Nigerians, Pakistanis and Peruvians before the migration and then in the host community, different patterns of repertoire restructuration are sketched out. They may consist either in a simplification of plurilingual and diglottic (or triglottic) repertoires or in a complexification of monolingual repertoires (as it is for instance the case of Peruvians). The different groups usually learn the language of the host community rapidly, developing Italian interlanguage varieties, which acceptably well fulfil the functions of a general vehicle of out-group communication. It is nonetheless noteworthy, that, specially among Pakistanis, a recurrent employment of Italian-English code-mixing seems to play also the role of a lingua franca in the interactions with indigenous, Italian-speaking people. Of course this concerns the first generation migrants only, being the situation of the second generation significantly different. In the sum, the macrosociolinguistic phenomena we observe in immigration situations in Italy are of considerable interest for the general theory and description of language contact and plurilingualism.

Contatto e variazione nell'italiano di stranieri: la formazione di una varietà etnica

Alessandro Vietti

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLVIII, 1 (2009), pp. 29-54

SUMMARY

The goal of the study is to combine the sociolinguistic notion of ethnolect with Myers-Scotton's 4M theory. The case under investigation is the variable frequency of a Spanish borrowing (Sp. *de* vs. It. *di*) in a corpus of Italian L2 of Peruvian first generation immigrant women in Turin. The leading hypothesis is to analyze the variation of *de/di* under the effect of four independent variables: social network, level of acquisition, syntactic function (4M variable) and preceding phonological context.

Two alternative multivariate methods (logistic regression and classification trees) are compared.

In the logistic regression model the speaker's social network turns out to be the most important explanatory variable (in strong interconnection with acquisition). Connective (OLSM) and preposition (BLSM) syntactic function also favour the occurrence of the Spanish form *de*.

The classification trees (CHAID) model highlights the interconnection among supposed independent variables allowing a better understanding of the relational structure of the sample of observations. The main results are that syntactic functions and the level of acquisition exert their effect only in interaction with different social environments: in (a) relationally poor and mono-ethnic encapsulated networks, Spanish seems to have a prominent role in assembling the morpho-syntactic frame, whereas in (b) more urbanized integrated networks the occurrence of *de* becomes more a matter of acquisition and accuracy in L2

production. The provisional conclusion is that in (a) we are probably dealing with fossilized learning varieties, but in (b) we can hypothesize a different sociolinguistic object, perhaps the first step towards the formation of an ethnic variety.

*Presupposti metodologici della raccolta di dati in contesti plurilingui urbani.
Bilanci e prospettive*

Carla Bagna

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLVIII, 1 (2009), pp. 55-72

SUMMARY

This paper describes research methodologies used by the *Centro di eccellenza della ricerca "Osservatorio linguistico permanente dell'italiano diffuso fra stranieri e delle lingue immigrate in Italia"* at the Università per Stranieri di Siena for mapping the new plurilingualism in Italy. The Centre uses traditional tools, but has also created innovative and technologically advanced tools for surveying the presence of immigrant languages in Italy.

The observation of the Linguistic Landscape represents one of the approaches used at the Centre to continually monitor the language situation of the Italian language abroad (Bagna, Barni, Vedovelli, in press), within the language market (Calvet, 2002) or the new global linguistic order (Maurais, 2003); within Italy, the Centre's purpose is to describe changes in the linguistic space due to the contact of the Italian language with old (regional) and new (immigrant) linguistic minorities (Barni, 2006, 2008). The aim of the research is to reconstruct the forces of interactions between languages and to describe the results of language contact in the linguistic space by collecting the traces of change, from a large range of observation points, and to measure the new uses of languages in relation to the dynamics of the phenomenon.

*Repertori complessi e atteggiamenti linguistici:
gli immigrati di origine ghanese in provincia di Bergamo*

Federica Guerini

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLVIII, 1 (2009), pp. 73-88

SUMMARY

The present paper focuses on the Ghanaian immigrant community in Bergamo, which represents one of the largest African group in the area; the aim is to describe the community linguistic repertoire (originating from the combination of

the Ghanaian repertoire and the Italian one), as well as the speakers' attitudes towards the various codes at their disposal. It is argued that the community repertoire has a complex inner structure, characterised by the presence of more than one code at each level, as well as by the potential extension of single codes on more than one level. It is common knowledge that complex repertoires cannot avoid long term mutations; as time passes, their internal structure is likely to become more simplified by the loss of one (or more) of the linguistic systems composing it. The repertoire of the Ghanaian immigrant community does not elude this common evolution: indeed, the presence of high prestige 'official' languages (like English and Italian) combined with the limited prestige presently enjoyed by most Ghanaian languages and vernaculars represent the most serious threat to the repertoire inner complexity.

*La vitalità delle lingue immigrate:
un'indagine a campione tra minori stranieri a Bergamo*

Ada Valentini

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLVIII, 1 (2009), pp. 89-106

SUMMARY

This article presents an analysis of data collected from children of immigrant families living in Bergamo (Northern Italy): Oral interviews based on a questionnaire were conducted with more than 120 children/adolescents attending primary and secondary schools (scuola primaria e secondaria di primo grado) and aged 6 to 18. The data presented here deal with language maintenance issues in immigrant communities: The degree of linguistic diversity is assessed; besides that, self-reported language use in family and friendship domains is discussed. According to self-reported language use, the Arabic group is characterized by a greater use of the first language rather than the Spanish-speaking group, between children and mothers and among friends. This is probably due to 1) the low competence degree in Italian as an L2 among Arabic women; 2) the core value assigned to Arabic by the Arabic community: Arabic has a significance as a sacred language and is a unifying bond among Arabs from different countries.

*Scelte di lingua e atteggiamenti di immigrati a Pavia e Torino:
l'incidenza della variabile del genere in famiglie di minori stranieri*

Marina Chini

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLVIII, 1 (2009), pp. 107-134

SUMMARY

The paper presents a quantitative analysis of the language choice patterns of young immigrants (414) and of their parents, living in the area of Pavia and Turin (North-Western Italy), with a particular focus on the role of the variable of sex. Their attitudes towards their first language and towards (present and/or future) life in Italy and in the birth country are also briefly investigated.

On the whole some major trends are attested, such as a certain degree of language maintenance within immigrant families (especially those coming from North Africa and China) and sometimes also in conversations with non Italian friends, a decreasing language shift towards Italian along the scale 'brothers and sisters > parents > grand-parents', as well as some cues indicating a sufficiently positive integration in the new context (70% display a middle to high relationality index with Italian people). As for the role of the gender variable, a higher competence and a more frequent use of Italian can be attributed to the fathers of young immigrants, a higher L1 maintenance within the family is displayed for the sons, while a greater tendency to use both languages (L1 and L2) within the family is typical for mothers and daughters, whereas fathers and sons prefer to use only L1 or sometimes only L2 in this context. Language choice and attitudes of female immigrants are often polarised between a more conservative stance, linked to L1, especially in some cases, and a more "progressive" L2-oriented stance. Our results confirm some trends attested in other minority language contexts and add some new insights on the complex role of gender in migration.