

*Da una lingua all'altra: funzioni discorsive e identitarie della commutazione di codice
in una famiglia di immigrati italiani residente a San Paolo del Brasile*

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SUMMARY

This contribution analyzes the discursive and identity functions of code switching present among the members of various generations of the same family living in the city of São Paulo, Brazil. The family studied consists of two first-generation, one second-generation and two third-generation members. The data on which the analysis is based consists of films of a convivial gathering, which was later transcribed. The study, based on an interactional-conversational approach, highlighted that the head of the family, guiding the conversation towards Italian, contributed towards eliciting, in himself and in the researcher, the capacity to speak Italian as a salient trait of their identity. On the other hand, the second generation, despite being able to speak Italian, complied with the guidance as long as possible only to please the researcher, whereas in general they tended to restrict their Italian to nouns related to food, family relations and a few other words. Although the second-generation members tended to use more Portuguese, the ties to Italian culture and traditions was very strong. This implies that the language-identity ties are not established a priori, but rather depend on the general guidance of the speakers and contextual circumstances that determine the choice of language.