

*L'italiano in Svizzera: aspetti del pluricentrismo*

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ABSTRACT

This article deals with features of the Swiss variety of Italian that provides evidence of the development of a new, partially autonomous Swiss standard and thus justifying the hypothesis of assuming Italian as a pluricentric language with two centres of codification, Italy and Switzerland. For this purpose, the dynamics of Swiss multilingualism and its influence on standardization of normativization of Italian in Switzerland are examined. The focus is posed on the relationship between standard language and pluricentrism and on the modelling of the different national standard varieties. Some of the observed features of Swiss Italian varieties are shared with similar phenomena in Italian of Italy, while others derive from the peculiar situation of Italian in Switzerland, one of the official languages of the Confederation, along with German and French, nevertheless in a minority position. These distinctive characteristics, combined with political and administrative peculiarities, induce us to consider Swiss Italian as partially autonomous with respect to Italian of Italy, foreshadowing a slightly different normativization with the formation of a Swiss national standard, at present, however, still at a “rudimentary” stage.