

*L'italiano federale svizzero: elementi per una ricognizione*

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ABSTRACT

The linguistic variety we deal with in this paper is the so-called Federal Italian (It. *italiano federale*) of Switzerland, i.e. the Italian that is spoken and written in Bern by the Federal administration and the Parliament. Whilst it is a little-known and neglected variety, Federal Italian plays an important role from a political, institutional and linguistic point of view. The aim of this contribution is twofold. First, we broadly outline the evolution which brought Federal Italian to the current situation; we will consider some quantitative aspects and, above all, the qualitative dimension of this variety, which is in contact with other languages and needs to fully perform the function of official language of the State. Second, we consider and explain some of the strictly linguistic issues arising in press releases by the Swiss Confederation and in legal and normative language. Our analysis will be wide-ranging and will deal with lexical, syntactic, textual and register phenomena.