

Plurilinguismo urbano nel cinema italiano contemporaneo:
il caso di *Lo chiamavano Jeeg Robot*

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Abstract

In this paper, I analyze how the urban space and identity are represented in the multilingualism of the new Italian cinema. Specifically, I focus on the film *Lo chiamavano Jeeg Robot* (*They call me Jeeg*), 2015 by Gabriele Mainetti. The film is an intelligent and successful combination of different cinematic genres and depicts a contemporary image of the city of Rome, highlighting its linguistic and human contradictions and complexity.

The main characters – Enzo, Alessia, lo Zingaro – and their language are comic, tragic and grotesque; the constellation of anthropological and linguistic super-diversities represented in this Roman urban space is embedded in a labyrinth of streets and squares, dirty and violent carousels and they are signs of the different languages, colors and the magnetism of language varieties. This magic neorealism, combined with expressionist and grotesque metaphors of our contemporary society, is situated within a context of complex stratified architecture, where the real urban environment symbolizes a dangerous and fantastic city.