

TRÁNSITO DE LENGUAS, TRÁNSITO DE EXPERIENCIAS:
INMIGRANTES DE LA PENÍNSULA ITÁLICA EN EL PUERTO
DE BAHÍA BLANCA Y SU APRENDIZAJE DEL ESPAÑOL COMO
SEGUNDA LENGUA

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ABSTRACT

In this article, we analyze the learning process of Spanish by Italian immigrants settled in the Bahía Blanca port between the 1900s and the 1960s. We start with a review of the linguistic studies referred to the so-called linguistic “assimilation” of the immigrant population and we build as an object of study the acquisition of Spanish as a second language by immigrants, with the purpose of recovering the conflictive dimension of the migratory process. We develop our study from two types of sources: oral and written. In the oral sources, we analyze the construction of domains and representations linked to the learning of Spanish as the language of the receiving society. In the written source, we studied the phonological and orthographic acquisition of Spanish by an immigrant who lived in the port area at the beginning of the 20th century. We conclude that women were also agents of linguistic change and that the process of learning a language can not be considered as linear and definitive at all.