

LINGUA E CITTADINANZA ITALIANA: UNO STUDIO SULLA  
VALIDITÀ DELLA VALUTAZIONE LINGUISTICA PER LA  
CITTADINANZA

PAOLA MASILLO

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ABSTRACT

The acquisition of the host country's language is one of the requirements to satisfy integration processes, presumably in the belief that learning the official language and cultural values of a host country can be a guarantee that the 'new' citizens share them (Vedovelli 2005; Van Avermaet 2009). Recent Italian immigration policies have introduced the language requirement for the acquisition of the right to citizenship (Art. 9.1, L. n. 91/1992, *Nuove norme sulla cittadinanza*, updated by L. 132/2018). This paper examines the application of the current legislation in Italy, analysing one of the assessment tools adopted, namely the Italian language proficiency test issued by the CILS Centre of the University for Foreigners of Siena. The aim of the paper is to investigate the language integration policies that are triggered in a country, taking into consideration the test format, the candidates' sociolinguistic profile and analysing the outcome obtained (Bachman 2004; Green 2013).