

h0 Language and Linguistics

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Priority in this survey has been given to books and monographs.

h1 1

h1 General

L'italiano che parliamo e scriviamo, ed. Sabina Gola, Florence, Franco Cesati, 145 pp., gathers 11 essays on the current situation of the Italian language. The contributions cover a variety of subjects, such as the crucial addition of the Internet for a wider competence of the Italian language in general or the language of songs. Luca Serianni, *Il sentimento della lingua: conversazione con Giuseppe Antonelli*, Bologna, il Mulino, 143 pp., is a passionate dialogue between the author and Giuseppe Antonelli, full professor at the University of Pavia. The tone of the volume is rather informal and the book tackles a number of questions related to Italian. On the same subject is Valeria Della Valle and Giuseppe Patota, *La nostra lingua italiana*, Milan, Sperling & Kupfer, ix + 188 pp. The authors aim to offer answers to common questions on many aspects of the Italian language, as well as observations on its future. *Dal libro a stampa a internet: metamorfosi della ricerca linguistica e letteraria italiana*, ed. Elena Pîrvu, Florence, Franco Cesati, 2019, 352 pp., gathers the proceedings of a conference held in Craiova in 2017. Although the last section strictly deals with Italian literature, the first one offers essays on a variety of subjects (from morphosyntax to social media).

h1 2

h1 History of Italian and *Questione della lingua*

Il manoscritto Saibante-Hamilton 390, ed. Maria Luisa Meneghetti et al., Rome, Salerno, ccxvi + 616 pp., offers a critical edition of the most ancient manuscript of Northern Italian literature. Linguists can find detailed studies of the manuscript's *scripta* and the language of every single work transmitted by the codex. Giuseppe Polimeni, *Come fronda in ramo. Forme e modelli della varietà nell'Italia dei volgari*, Milan, Biblion, 337 pp., collects essays on the evolution of vernacular idioms in medieval Italy. Giuseppe Patota, *La grande bellezza dell'italiano: il Rinascimento*, Bari, Laterza, xii + 366 pp., follows his 2015 publication on Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio. This volume focuses on Pietro Bembo, Niccolò Machiavelli, and Ludovico Ariosto, and their contributions to defining the Italian language. *Lingua delle arti e lingua di artisti in Italia fra Medioevo e Rinascimento*, ed. Alessandro Aresti, Florence, Franco Cesati, 332 pp., gathers the proceedings of a conference held in Liège in 2017. It contains 11 essays on various medieval and Renaissance artists and their language with particular focus on the technical lexicon.

Laurent Vallance, *Les grammairiens italiens face à leur langue (XV^e-XVI^e siècles)*, Berlin, de Gruyter, xi + 752 pp., offers a detailed overview of the Italian grammars of the Renaissance. After dealing with the different methods by the various authors (from Leon Battista Alberti to Ludovico Castelvetro), Vallance focuses on three major innovations in the evolution from Latin to Italian: articles, compound past tenses, and the conditional mood. The volume stands out for the accurateness of the research as well as the richness of its bibliography.

h1 **Contact, Sociolinguistics, Mass and Social Media**

Jean-Luc Egger, *A norma di (chi) legge. Peculiarità dell'italiano federale*, Milan, Giuffrè Francis Lefebvre, xii + 348 pp., focuses on the interlinguistic translations of legal documents in Switzerland. The author, who serves as deputy chief of the section Legislation and Language of the Swiss Federal Chancellery, offers a detailed overview of the subject, stressing out the ethical dimension of juridic language. Claudio Nobili, *I gesti dell'italiano*, Rome, Carocci, 125 pp., studies gestures from a linguistic point of view. The third chapter is of particular interest since it explains the principles behind the redaction of a so-called *gestionario* or dictionary of gestures. Lucia di Pace, *La lingua del bugiardo. Il foglietto illustrativo tra linguaggio specialistico e linguaggio comune*, Florence, Franco Cesati, 137 pp., is a concise yet accurate study of patient package inserts. The author describes the main features of the language of *bugiardi*, highlighting the recent tendency to a wider readability. Annalisa Miglietta, *Sulla lingua del rap italiano. Analisi qualitativa dei testi di Caparezza*, Florence, Franco Cesati, 126 pp., focuses on the songs of the Apulian rapper Caparezza. M. explores Caparezza's seven albums through a rather original statistic/quantitative analysis of the lyrics. *Parole nostre: le diverse voci dell'italiano specialistico e settoriale*, ed. Jacqueline Visconti, Bologna, il Mulino, 169 pp., collects essays on various aspects of sectorial languages and jargons. Riccardo Gualdo, *Gli accoppiamenti maliziosi. Scambi e contatti di lingua, e altro, tra italiane e inglesi*, Florence, Franco Cesati, 123 pp., tackles, in a blatantly playful approach, Italian–English contacts (with particular regard to loan-words and calques). Vera Gheno, *Potere alle parole: perché usarle meglio*, Turin, Einaudi, 160 pp., is a light-hearted volume promoting the ‘conscious’ use of Italian.

h1 **Morphosyntax**

Fédéric Nicolosi, *Topic- und Focus-Markierung im Altitalienischen*, Berlin, de Gruyter, xiii + 227 pp., confirms scholarly interest in syntactic analysis in Old Italian. This monograph focuses on the pragmatic functions of syntactically marked constructions in ancient texts. The final section analyses the formal and functional continuity of these constructions in contemporary Italian, where their use appears to be wider. Anna Maria De Cesare, *Le parti invariabili del discorso*, Rome, Carocci, 124 pp., takes into account invariable particles in Italian. The author acknowledges the validity of this traditional grammar classification, also proposing new internal categories based on the syntactic values of the particles. Vincenzo D'Angelo, ‘“ Eramo”/“erate”: due forme secondarie di 4^a e 5^a pers. ind. imperf. pres.’, *Studi linguistici italiani*, 45:107–134, deals with two uncommon verbal forms of *essere* and follows an article on *savamo* and *savate* by the same author. It particularly stresses the variety of points of view expressed by different grammatical treatises on the matter.

h1 **Lexis and Etymology**

Capitoli di storia linguistica della medicina, ed. Rosa Piro and Raffaella Scarpa, Milan, Mimesis, xi + 290 pp., offers insights into the Italian medical lexicon. The ten essays cover a wide timespan (from the language of some medieval *volgarizzamenti* to the psychiatric studies of the 20th century). *Repertorio Italiano di Famiglie di Parole. Dagli etimi ai significati per arricchire il lessico*, ed. Michele Colombo and Paolo D'Achille, Bologna, Zanichelli, 671 pp., explores Italian words stemming from the same etymon. The book is meant for a wider audience rather than for that usually interested in traditional etymological dictionaries. Alessandro Parenti, ‘Un'altra storia per “facchino”’, *Lingua nostra*, 80:65–96, contests the traditional etymology of the word *facchino*, usually connected to Arabic influences. According to P., the term stems from the Bergamo antroponym *Fachino*. Of particular interest is the chapter ‘Il limen della

parola: Vico, Leopardi e l'etimo' (pp. 453–597) in *In limine. Frontiere e integrazioni*, ed. Diego Poli, Rome, Il Calamo, 816 pp. This part of the volume presents six essays on etymological reflections by Giacomo Leopardi and Gian Battista Vico.

h1 6

h1 Onomastics and Toponomastics

The year 2019 saw a higher number of publications on onomastics and toponomastics than previous years. Alda Rossebastiano, *In loco ubi dicitur ...: microtoponomastica di un villaggio rurale da inediti consegnamenti del secolo XV*, Alessandria, Edizioni dell'Orso, viii + 168 pp., offers an overview of the toponyms and antroponyms of a small village in the Canavese area, in the Piedmont region. The author avails herself of three administrative documents (*consegnamenti*) dating back to 1412, 1444, and 1496. *Sulle orme di Pietro Massia: strumenti e metodi per il rinnovamento della ricerca onomastica*, ed. Alda Rossebastiano, Elena Papa, and Daniela Cacia, Alessandria, Edizioni dell'Orso, 293 pp., pays homage to Pietro Massia. These conference proceedings offer insights into the late linguist, as well as considerations on the future research perspectives in onomastic studies. Roberto Smacchia, *Toponomastica del Lodigiano*. Onomastica, EBS Print, 78 pp., is a monograph on the toponomastics of the Lodi territory, in Northern Italy. According to Smacchia, many toponyms of this area are of Germanic origin. *Ronchi dei Partigiani: toponomastica, odonomastica e onomastica a Ronchi e nella "Venezia Giulia"*, ed. Luca Meneghesso, Udine, Kappa Vu, 219 pp., gathers the proceedings of a conference held in 2014 devoted to toponomastics and onomastics from the Venezia Giulia region.

h1 7

h1 Italian varieties and Sardinian

Il veneziano "de là da mar": contesti, testi, dinamiche del contatto linguistico e culturale, ed. Daniele Baglioni, Berlin, De Gruyter, vi + 257 pp., deals with the expansion of Venetian dialect outside Venice. The volume is divided into three sections tackling different areas: overseas, Dalmatia, Candia, and the Near East. Mirko Volpi, 'Il "Flore de vertù et de costume" secondo il codice S. II. Studio linguistico', *Bollettino dell'Opera del Vocabolario Italiano*, 24:195–284, continues Volpi's research on the manuscript S of *Flore de vertù*. It proposes a thorough linguistic analysis of the language, offering an up-to-date study of the medieval Bolognese vernacular. *Italian Dialectology at the Interfaces*, ed. Silvio Cruschina, Adam Ledgerway, and Eva-Maria Remberger, Amsterdam, Benjamins, 369 pp., contains essays on local dialects, covering the whole peninsula. The comparative approach and the width of the scope are shown, in particular, by the last two essays, which deal with Slavic varieties and Greek dialects. Nicola De Blasi, *Il dialetto nell'Italia unita. Storia, fortune e luoghi comuni*, Rome, Carocci, 219 pp., is divided into three sections: the first debunks some common myths about Italian dialects; the second offers an overview of dialect use in the 20th century and the present time; the last outlines new perspectives and research opportunities. *Itinerari dialettali. Omaggio a Manlio Cortelazzo*, ed. Gianna Marcato, Padua, CLEUP, 376 pp., represents a tribute to the memory of Manlio Cortelazzo, on the tenth anniversary of his passing. It gathers essays by various authors on the subject of Italian local dialects. Maurizio Viridis, *La Sardegna e la sua lingua: studi e saggi*, Milan, FrancoAngeli, 217 pp., offers several contributions devoted to Sardinian. Unlike other studies on this language, the volume presents a number of essays dealing with syntax. Also of note is the Italian translation in Lausberg's important work on Southern dialects: Heinrich Lausberg, *I dialetti della Lucania meridionale*, trans. and ed. Giuseppe Salerno, Florence, Franco Cesati, 349 pp.

h1 8

h1 Learning and Teaching Italian

The interest in learning and teaching Italian is confirmed by the huge number of publications on the topic. Two monographs published by Carocci focus on the subject of written Italian: Fabio Rossi and Fabio Ruggiano, *L'italiano scritto: usi, regole e dubbi*, Rome, Carocci, 282 pp., is a useful handbook dealing with common questions about the proper use of the Italian written language. The final section may be of particular help for university students, as it deals with how to write a Master's thesis or scholarly paper. Daniele D'Aguanno, *Idee e modelli per la didattica nelle scuole superiori*, Rome, Carocci, 258 pp., is for a more specific target. High school teachers can find many suggestions for homework assignments and exercises (with a rich series of examples). Yahis Martari, *Insegnare italiano L2 con i mass media*, Rome, Carocci, 147 pp., shows how the mass media can be a useful tool for non-native speakers wishing to learn Italian. The volume takes into account three different kind of media: pop songs, TV series, and online newspapers. *Lessico ed educazione linguistica*, ed. Federica Casadei and Grazia Basile, Rome, Carocci, 217 pp., aims to create a stronger connection between lexicology and teaching. The essays cover various lexical topics (semantic relations, collocations, etc.) and explore their glottodidactic applications. *Politiche e problematiche linguistiche nella formazione degli insegnanti*, ed. Francesco Avolio, Antonella Nuzzaci, Lucilla Spetia, Lecce, Pensa Multimedia, 320 pp., is prompted by a reflection on the application of the *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*. The aim of the volume is to promote collaboration between different disciplines in the field of Italian pedagogy at all levels. *Educazione linguistica e insegnamento*, ed. Daria Coppola, Pisa, ETS, 214 pp., offers both methodological reflections and practical suggestions for Italian teaching. Raffaella Setti, *La scoperta della lingua italiana. Linguistica per insegnare nella scuola dell'infanzia e primaria*, Florence, Franco Cesati, 132 pp., is a booklet specifically aimed at primary school teachers.