

BALI 41

CARLA MARCATO

Abstract

This essay concerns the formation of schools of Italian dialectology, especially in two universities: Turin and Padua.

Studies begin with the teaching of Giovanni Flechia in Turin, Carlo Tagliavini in Padua. Over the years, generations of excellent scholars have followed, contributing to theoretical and methodological reflections on dialectology and promoting numerous and several studies in other universities.

Of particular relevance are the research on dialectal variation and on linguistic geography.

Keywords

Schools of Italian Dialectology; Turin; Padua; Linguistic Geography; Dialectal Variation.

ALESSANDRO ZULIANI

Abstract

The present paper aims to present a series of proverbs and idioms from the first chapter of the first volume of the collection of Iuliu A. Zanne's "Proverbele Românilor din România, Basarabia, Bucovina, Ungaria, Istria și Macedonia", a monument of Romanian paremiology. Each individual proverb, with its corresponding lexical and syntagmatic variants, is translated into Italian and commented.

Keywords

Romania; Romanian Language; Proverbs; Paremiology; Zanne.

ALBERTO BORGHINI

Abstract

The Author analyses a Piedmontese folkloric testimony and determines some associative lines that concern the 'textile fabric' element in the tales of the folk imaginary: textile fabric and figures of the fear; textile fabric and water; textile fabric and moon.

The tales achieves so a symbolic cohesion, some moments of landscape's language and grammar as structure of self-representation.

Keywords

Textile Fabric; Figures of the Fear; Water; Moon; Landscape's Language and Grammar.

MARCO ANGSTER, MARCO BELLANTE, RAFFAELE CIOFFI, LIVIO GAETA

Abstract

In the context of a dramatic language decay, the project DiWaC and its continuation ArchiWals aim at safeguarding the cultural and linguistic heritage of the Walser communities of Gressoney and Issime in the Aosta Valley and of Formazza and Rimella in Piedmont. The projects consist in the construction of a digital archive, which will allow the free accessibility online of the linguistic materials acquired in the database, conveniently elaborated for storing and archiving the specific text types produced by the communities.

Keywords

Cultural Heritage; Endangered Language; Minority Language; Corpus Linguistics.

ERMENEGILDO BIDESE

Abstract

“The children have they said go-they play the ball.” This sentence reproduces in English an instance of syntax uttered by a person who was born in a family speaking a German minority language in Italy, and who has spent her entire life in the minority community. She is a speaker with lower competence of her own native language, as is often the case in lesser-used language communities where only a part of the speakers achieve a full competence in the minority language. This puzzling case raises some compelling questions: (i) How pervasive are the effects of incomplete L1 acquisition in adult minority speakers in the specific environment of the small language minorities? (ii) Where can we find the linguistic reasons for incomplete L1 acquisition in minority communities? Are there early signals in the language production of children born in these communities that might allow us to predict, even before they begin school, how their minority language competence will be like, as adults? In this squib I present some preliminary results based on two pilot studies that I carried out with my research group on two German(ic) minority languages in Italy. In addition I discuss future research perspectives.

Keywords

Minority Languages; Cimbrian; Mòcheno; Low Proficiency; Semi-speaker; Unbalanced Bilingualism.

PIER PAOLO VIAZZO

Abstract

Although “counting the Walser” is an obviously complex and delicate endeavour because of the very difficulty one encounters in defining who should be considered a Walser, both in the past and today, there are reasons suggesting that this issue needs nevertheless to be addressed. Tapping a variety of documentary sources, this short piece aims first of all to provide estimates of the size of the populations of the Walser colonies south of the Alps from the sixteenth century to the present day. An attempt is then made to sort out those who could speak the local German dialects from the other inhabitants. These rough calculations point to a massive decline in the overall number of German-speakers over time and to a growing numerical gap between German-speakers and inhabitants, but also reveal significantly different historical trajectories among the various Walser colonies. While linguistic competence is commonly used as the main indicator of ethnic identity, in the Italian Alps recent demographic and legislative changes have strongly favoured what some scholars call “diffuse ethnicity”, whereby linguistic competence no longer constitutes the most important element for identifying ethnic groups; instead, ethnic identity is increasingly expressed subjectively through ethnic self-assertion. Assessing the presence of, and the scope for, “diffuse ethnicity” in the Walser colonies south of the Alps, and evaluating whether it represents a threat for linguistic minorities (as some fear) or rather an opportunity for cultural revitalization, is an urgent task for both socio-linguistic and ethnographic research.

Keywords

Walser; Piedmont; Aosta Valley; Language Decline; Diffuse Ethnicity.

ANNA GIACALONE RAMAT

Abstract

In this contribution, the activities of the Walser associations of the Lys Valley are illustrated aiming at the safeguarding of their own cultural and linguistic heritage. Furthermore, some reflections on bilingualism and on the issue of language maintenance and decay are offered for future investigation.

Keywords

Language Shift; Cultural Heritage; Sociolinguistic Variables and Language Behavior; Attitudes toward the Language.

PETER ZÜRRER

Abstract

Written documents from Northern Italy's linguistic enclaves are extraordinarily rare. One such document consists of the records of Coquebert de Montbret's investigations, conducted at the beginning of the nineteenth century during the Napoleonic Empire. Apart from general information about the linguistic situation during this era they include data on systematically retrieved idiomatic samples based on the standard text of the parable of the Prodigal Son. So far research has only partially acknowledged these corpora; now they shall be published in a complete version. The aim of our article is to provide information about Coquebert de Montbret's data collection, to describe the planned edition, and to elucidate the importance of the text collection.

Keywords

Coquebert de Montbret; Enquête Coquebert de Montbret; Edition; Issime; Parable of "Figliuol prodigo"; Traduction.

COSTANZA CIGNI

Abstract

The report illustrates the *Comparative Vocabulary of the Walser dialects in Italy*: Volumes I-III of five planned volumes have been printed so far, from 2004 to 2015. This wide-ranging Lexicon is the result of the research on Walser dialects, whose records were originally collected by Piergiuseppe Scardigli (University of Florence) and the so-called GRILAVI research group. The research has been afterwards coordinated and continued by Elisabetta Fazzini (University of Chieti-Pescara).

These mostly unpublished records were collected through a series of surveys conducted between 1973 and 1979 in Piedmont (Formazza, Rima, Macugnaga, Alagna and Rimella), and then they have been completed and compared to edited records of the dialects of all the Walser communities, not only in Piedmont but also in the Aosta Valley, which was originally not included in the GRILAVI investigation.

The headwords of the *Vocabulary* consist of a descriptive section, synchronic and contrastive, and a historical-critical section, that includes aspects of diachronic development.

Future research projects include: the completion of the *Comparative Vocabulary*, a digitized version of it and further lexicological, historical-linguistic and sociolinguistic studies.

Keywords

Walser-German Dialect; Minority; Identity; Heritage; Alps.

RICCARDO REGIS

Abstract

Though often overlooked and rarely theorized, the typification of lexical items is a key issue for both dialectology and areal linguistics. In recent years, an indepth reflection on the concept of lexical type has been carried out by the *Atlante Linguistico ed Etnografico del Piemonte Occidentale* (ALEPO), leading to the development of some general principles for the typification of dialect forms.

This paper aims at applying these principles to a set of data from the *Piccolo Atlante Linguistico dei Walser Meridionali* (PALWaM), its tangled sociolinguistic background being a challenge for both contact linguistics and typification studies.

Keywords

Minority Languages; Lexical Type; Typification; Walser; Romance Languages.

FEDERICA CUSAN, MATTEO RIVOIRA

Abstract

Toponomastic research carried out in Southern Walser colonies makes it possible to appreciate the considerable interest connected to the study of place-names used in these communities. Through them, it is possible to observe, from an original point of view, the cultural and linguistic reflexes of the events of the colonization. However, this research focused almost exclusively on the documentation of the Germanic element, leaving out the Romance component that characterizes, in an elusive way, the toponymic framework of these realities.

Keywords

Walsersprache; Toponomastics; Place-Names; Alps.

LUCA BELLONE

Abstract

The purpose of this essay is to present and describe the features and functionalities of the database *CheSignificaTorino*, the first online tool dedicated to Turin's youth language. The project was born with the aim of sharing a massive volume of lexical and phraseological data obtained through field surveys, by developing a website characterized by brand new interactive features.

Keywords

Italian Linguistics; Sociolinguistics; Corpus Linguistics; Italian Teen Slang; Italian Regional Varieties.