



SEX IN ROMANCE: PERSPECTIVES TO GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN ROMANCE LANGUAGES

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Abstract Book

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Body, Subjectivation and Otherness in a Short Story by Clarice Lispector: a Materialist Reading on Enunciation, Language and Literature

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Through a series of analyzes of Lispector's works, it was possible to identify repetitions in paraphrasing and polysemy procedures (ORLANDI, 2023) as well as in the role dynamics between different enunciators (ibidem): alternation of pronouns that can be associated with the first and/or third person singular. Therefore, it is not a grammatical alternation, but a syntactic and political arrangement (in the ideological and unconscious spheres). The enunciative analysis of the short story “Amor” (LISPECTOR, 1998) allows us to reflect on the relationships between the enunciating subject, object relationships and the constitution of images (unconscious and ideological) of the body (thus, also of gender). In this context, something about experiences in/of/about literature as an enunciative event may shift as a constitution, formulation and circulation of experiences in material and historically constituted forms (ORLANDI, 2023) in Brazilian language and literature. Therefore, we can say that, under these conditions, a gap/an unsaid element in the historicity and narrativity regarding subject, body and gender becomes (im)possible to be remembered in the hegemonic and/or already established places of enunciation (ZOPPI-FONTANA, 2019) in literary practices in the face of the Ideological State Apparatuses (ALTHUSSER, 2008)? In the tension between subjection and resistance, how can processes of subjectivation, places of enunciation, functioning of written language and constructions of bodies and genders be affected? These are questions that, in this work, are posed as a result of the reading gesture about writing processes and subjectivation in Clarice Lispector.

Keywords: Clarisse Lispector, Psychoanalysis, Discourse Analysis, Body, Object.

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IncluInstIt: un corpus per studiare il linguaggio di genere e il linguaggio inclusivo in Italiano

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Questo intervento propone una ricerca sugli usi di linguaggio di genere e di linguaggio inclusivo nell'italiano usato su Instagram. I dibattiti riguardo genere e lingua in Italia sono stati avviati negli anni '80 all'interno di ambienti istituzionali, ad es., le Raccomandazioni di Sabatini (1986), e le discussioni più recenti hanno avuto particolare risalto nel mondo digitale e dei social media. Si è passati da una discussione che, all'interno delle norme dell'italiano, chiedeva un maggior e più corretto uso delle forme femminili a quella contemporanea in cui si è aggiunta la necessità di uscire dal binarismo, con le proposte di strategie - prettamente morfologiche come -ə-*, -u, -y, -x che vanno oltre il sistema di genere dell'italiano standard (Boschetto 2015, Comandini 2021, Formato & Somma 2023, Formato 2024).

Lo studio esamina un corpus di testi in italiano provenienti da Instagram (IncluInstIt) con l'obiettivo di indagare come i parlanti di italiano stanno utilizzando queste strategie. Centrale nella costruzione del corpus è il concetto di 'specialized corpus' (Baker 2010, 10) e si è seguito il procedimento indicato da Di Cristofaro (2023) che ha portato al download di 4834 post (che includono file .txt, video e immagini). Successivamente è stato effettuato uno studio pilota sull'uso del morfema inclusivo/non binario schwa (-ə) che ha mostrato che i parlanti stanno creando forme con questa strategia, ad es. tuttə, lə, altrə ma anche che la forma si trova in molte occorrenze in isolamento, utilizzato in riflessioni metalinguistiche come esempio di linguaggio inclusivo.

Questo primo studio e i successivi che riguarderanno le altre strategie hanno come obiettivo quello di contribuire alla ricerca sul tema, creando una metodologia che possa essere applicata ad altre lingue e un corpus che possa dare informazioni rilevanti sull'uso contemporaneo.

Keywords: linguaggio inclusivo, sessismo linguistico, linguistica dei corpora, italiano digitale

IncluInstIt: a Corpus for Analyzing Italian Gendered and Inclusive Language on Instagram

This study proposes research on the use of gendered and inclusive language Italian as used on Instagram. In Italy, debates regarding gender and language began in the 1980s within institutional settings, such as Sabatini's Raccomandazioni (1986), while more recent discussions have gained particular prominence in digital spaces and on social media. The debate has evolved from advocating for a more frequent and fairer use of feminine forms within the norms of Italian to the contemporary discourse beyond the gender binary. This shift has led to the proposal of morphological strategies — such as -ə, -*, -u, -y, -x — that extend beyond the standard Italian gender system (Boschetto 2015, Comandini 2021, Formato & Somma 2023, Formato 2024).

I created a corpus of Italian texts from Instagram (IncluInstIt) with the aim of investigating how Italian speakers are employing these strategies. The construction of the corpus is based on the concept of a 'specialized corpus' (Baker 2010, 10), following the methodology outlined by Di Cristofaro (2023), which resulted in the collection of 4,834 posts (including .txt files, videos, and images). A pilot study was subsequently conducted on the use of the inclusive/non-binary morpheme schwa (-ə), revealing that speakers are actively creating forms with this strategy, such as tuttə, lə, altrə. However, the research also found that this form frequently appears in isolation, often used in metalinguistic

reflections on inclusive language as an example rather than being employed in actual communicative practices.

This initial analysis, along with future investigations on other strategies, aims to contribute to research on this topic by developing a methodology applicable to other languages and providing a corpus that offers relevant insights into contemporary usage in Italian.

Keywords: inclusive language, linguistic sexism, corpus linguistics, digital Italian

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Actitudes lingüísticas de hablantes de español ante el lenguaje inclusivo e igualitario. Estudio contrastivo entre Valencia (España) y Guadalajara (México)

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En la actualidad, el debate sobre el lenguaje igualitario y no sexista se encuentra en un momento de mucha vitalidad. Las reflexiones acerca de su empleo trascienden las fronteras del debate más allá del terreno lingüístico y cada vez es más común encontrar aportaciones desde otros medios, como el periodístico, el político o las redes sociales.

A pesar de existir bibliografía de referencia elaborada por especialistas en la materia en los que se describen los usos no igualitarios y se proponen diversas alternativas lingüísticas para construir textos igualitarios e incluyentes (Instituto Cervantes, 2021, Rodríguez, 2022, Calero, 1999, García Meseguer, 1994, entre otros), aún son muchos los tópicos y clichés que existen en contra del lenguaje igualitario y que manifiestan las reticencias de uso de los usuarios y usuarias de la lengua (Quilis *et al.* 2024, Martín Barranco, 2022, Fernández Casete *et al.* en línea, Pano, 2021).

En este sentido, nuestro objetivo se centra en averiguar cuáles son las actitudes lingüísticas ante el lenguaje igualitario en dos zonas dialectales distintas (Valencia, España y Guadalajara, México), en dos generaciones diferenciadas, por medio de las entrevistas sociolingüísticas recogidas en el corpus CoLaGe (Corpus for the Study of Language and Gender in Spanish). Si bien, ambas zonas comparten la misma lengua, difieren en sus comportamientos sociales en cuanto a cuestiones de género, ámbito en el cual la sociedad mexicana se muestra más conservadora que la española (Hausmann *et al.*, 2014, Social Watch, 2012, INEGI, 2016, Comisión Europea, 2017).

Palabras clave: lenguaje igualitario, lingüística de corpus, actitudes lingüísticas, sociolingüística

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Linguistic Attitudes of Spanish Speakers Toward Inclusive and Gender-Fair Language: A Comparative Study Between Valencia (Spain) and Guadalajara (Mexico)

At present, the debate surrounding gender-fair and non-sexist language is experiencing a period of significant vitality. Reflections on its use go beyond the boundaries of linguistic discourse and increasingly include contributions from other spheres such as journalism, politics, and social media.

Although there is a substantial body of reference literature produced by specialists in the field that describes non-inclusive language practices and proposes various linguistic alternatives for constructing inclusive and gender-fair texts (Instituto Cervantes, 2021; Rodríguez, 2022; Calero, 1999; García Meseguer, 1994, among others), numerous stereotypes persist that oppose gender-fair language and reflect the reluctance of many speakers to adopt it (Quilis et al., 2024; Martín Barranco, 2022; Fernández Casete et al., online; Pano, 2021).

In this regard, our objective is to determine the linguistic attitudes toward gender-neutral language in two different dialectal regions (Valencia, Spain, and Guadalajara, Mexico), across two different generations, through sociolinguistic interviews collected in the CoLaGe corpus (Corpus for the Study of Language and Gender in Spanish). While both regions share the same language, they differ in their social behaviors regarding gender issues—an area in which Mexican society tends to be more conservative than Spanish society (Hausmann et al., 2014; Social Watch, 2012; INEGI, 2016; European Commission, 2017).

Keywords: gender-fair language, corpus linguistics, linguistic attitudes, sociolinguistics

El léxico erótico en la comedia romana y su traducción al castellano renacentista

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Durante el Renacimiento, las traducciones de los clásicos latinos desempeñaron un papel fundamental en la configuración del léxico de las lenguas romances. Por lo que se refiere al léxico relacionado con el género y la sexualidad, es obligado hacer referencia a la traducción de las comedias antiguas de Plauto y Terencio (siglos III-II a.C.), debido al papel cardinal que desempeña la trama amorosa en estas obras.

En esta comunicación estudiaremos cómo se tradujeron en el Renacimiento castellano (principalmente durante el siglo XVI, con traductores como Francisco López de Villalobos, Juan Timoneda o Pedro Simón Abril) los lexemas nominales, adjetivales y verbales con que se describen los procesos eróticos, abarcando desde los sentimientos o las causas que los provocan hasta el acto sexual, ya sea en el marco de relaciones maritales o, sobre todo, extraconyugales y meretricias. Encontramos términos relativos a la belleza física, al matrimonio, al divorcio, a la prostitución, al deseo, al sexo y a la violación, así como numerosas metáforas y eufemismos para referirse al amor y a la amistad, ya que, después de todo, “el lenguaje amoroso es sentido como un lenguaje prohibido” (López Gregoris 2002: 18).

Veremos qué decisiones toman los traductores de estas comedias, lo que, además de ser un medidor certero de su posicionamiento ideológico y de su grado de libertad, nos permitirá extraer conclusiones sobre cómo se conceptualiza el amor en la lengua castellana renacentista.

Palabras clave: comedia romana, traducción renacentista, léxico erótico

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Erotic Lexicon in Roman Comedy and its Translation into Renaissance Spanish

During the Renaissance, translations of the Latin classics played a fundamental role in shaping the lexicon of the Romance languages. As far as the lexicon related to gender and sexuality is concerned, reference must be made to the translation of the ancient comedies of Plautus and Terence (3rd-2nd centuries BC), due to the cardinal role played by the love plot in these plays.

In this paper I will study how the nominal, adjectival and verbal lexemes describing erotic processes were translated in the Castilian Renaissance (mainly during the 16th century, with translators such as Francisco López de Villalobos, Juan Timoneda or Pedro Simón Abril), ranging from feelings or the causes that provoke them to the sexual act, either in the context of marital relations or, above all, extra-marital and meretricious relations. We find terms relating to physical beauty, marriage, divorce, desire, sex and rape, as well as numerous metaphors and euphemisms to refer to love and friendship, since, after all, “the language of love is felt as a forbidden language” (López Gregoris 2002: 18).

We will see what decisions the translators of these comedies make, which, in addition to being an accurate measure of their ideological position and degree of freedom, will allow us to draw conclusions about how love is conceptualized in Renaissance Spanish.

Keywords: Roman Comedy, translation in the Renaissance, erotic lexicon

Does speakers' gender affect the use of verbs in the first-person singular in Spanish?

Evidence from Mexico and Spain

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Previous research has identified significant differences in the frequency of use of certain grammatical categories in women's and men's speech. This presentation investigates whether gender influences the use of first-person singular verb forms in spoken Spanish.

In addition to gender (female or male), we consider Spanish variety (Mexico or Spain) and age group (30–40 vs. 60–70) as independent variables. We also incorporate a social-psychological measure of gender-role self-concept (Kachel et al. 2016) in order to assess the informants' self-perceived femininity and masculinity.

Unlike prior studies on gender and use of grammatical person categories (e.g. Argamon et al. 2003), which tend to draw on heterogeneous textual data, our study is based on a highly comparable dataset consisting of sociolinguistic interviews collected in Valencia (Spain) and Guadalajara (Mexico). This type of data allows to control for the discourse topics and the activation of speaker's gender as part of the discourse topic. Importantly, a distinction has been made between productive uses of the first-personal singular verbs (e.g. *Digo que ha llegado* 'I say that he has arrived') and their use as discourse markers (e.g. *digo yo* 'I say') (Brenes-Peña 2020).

The quantitative analysis suggests that women use significantly more first-person singular verbs, both in their productive forms and as discourse markers, than men. Drawing on a complementary qualitative analysis, we propose that these gender differences reflect a broader tendency for female speech to be more affiliative, interpersonal, and (inter)subjective than male speech (Park et al. 2016).

Keywords: gender, first-person singular verbs, Mexican Spanish, Peninsular Spanish, sociolinguistic interviews

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Gender-Inclusive Language and Regional Languages

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In 1997, Moreau identified four types of linguistic variation: diatopic variation (based on geographical factors), diastratic variation (linked to social class), diaphasic variation (depending on the communicative situation), and diachronic variation (related to historical evolution) (1997, 283-284). However, she did not exclude the possibility that other factors could influence language use.

It was not until 2018, with the work of Alpheratz, that the concept of diaethical variation emerged, defined as « a variation rooted in awareness of gender, identity, equality, and the performativity of language » (2018, 7). This 'new' type of variation highlights the impact of social and identity-related issues on linguistic practices, particularly within the framework of gender-inclusive language.

By gender-inclusive language, we mean linguistic use that aims for the equal representation of all genders.

While debates on gender-inclusive language often focus on the use of a standard language, regional languages and/or diatopic variations seem to be largely overlooked. Yet, regional languages, like gender-inclusive language, contribute to the construction of speakers' identities and already offer interesting linguistic solutions that deserve further exploration.

This article aims to examine the interaction between regional languages and gender-inclusive language, with a particular focus on Francophone and Hispanophone contexts. We will explore to what extent these two dimensions, far from being incompatible, can enhance each other. The article also addresses the issue of language policies and the place of regional languages in relation to a so-called standard language.

Keywords: gender-inclusive language, regional languages, linguistic variations, sociolinguistic

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Queering The Game in Marseille: Do Female Rappers Subvert Hetero-Capitalist Order?

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Rap music in dominant representations is often perceived as a misogynist art (hooks, 1994), where sexist stereotypes (Rose, 1994) and *male gaze* circulate abundantly (Vettorato 2012). Studying artistic practices of female rappers in sociolinguistics and discourse analysis allows us to make this statement more complex (Lesacher 2013). Our starting point is a one-year ethnographic fieldwork in Marseille, carried out with underground and semi-professional female rappers. This research implied the constitution of a corpus including 80 song lyrics, semi-directive interviews and participant observation in 60 concerts.

We first observe that female rappers' linguistic practices do not appear in opposition to their colleagues' practices; the dominant visual, musical and linguistic codes that have become mainstream in this genre circulate in their works. Women in rap music mainly refuse to be labelled as "feminist rappers" or considered militant, although the rise of intersectionality makes them revise this position (Djavadzadeh 2015; 2021). We observe that female rappers tend to engage in a dialogic relationship with these dominant codes to abide by the expectations of the music industry and gain in visibility. We realize that in the music industry, as in any socioeconomic context, the heteronormative order goes hand in hand with the capitalist order. This dialogic relationship does not imply that these codes are reproduced without any distance. For this reason, using a critical approach to discourse, we examine how female rappers in Marseille contribute to spread but also to subvert and weaken the codes of the hetero-capitalist order and how, doing so, they are queering the game.

Keywords: female rappers, Marseille, discourse analyses, hetero-capitalist order

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Joys and Perils of Gender Neutrality: How the French Senate passed a Bill to ban *Écriture Inclusive*

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This paper examines the political and linguistic dimensions of the debate surrounding the proposed ban on *écriture inclusive* (gender-inclusive writing) in France. Using a combination of argumentation theory and critical discourse analysis, the study analyzes the Senate debate preceding the vote on October 30, 2023. The ban, spearheaded by right-wing Senator Pascale Gruny, aimed to prohibit inclusive writing in official communications, advertisements, and workplace documents. The analysis reveals how power relations and ideologies are embedded in the discourse, reflecting broader tensions within French society concerning language, identity, and cultural hegemony.

The study highlights the use of logical fallacies, including *ad hominem* attacks and slippery slope reasoning, by opponents of inclusive writing, who frame it as an existential threat to the French language and culture. Conversely, advocates argue for the necessity of inclusive language in fostering equality and representation. The debate underscores the deeply entrenched resistance to modifying established linguistic norms and the role of language policy in shaping societal attitudes.

By exploring the interplay between grammatical and societal gender, this paper contributes to the growing interest in gender-neutral and inclusive language within Romance linguistics. It offers insights into the polarized nature of the debate in France and underscores the challenges of fostering a calm and constructive approach to these issues.

Keywords: *Écriture inclusive*, linguistic prescriptivism, culture wars, feminization, non-binary language.

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Sex and the German Gaze on Hispanic Culture: Hispanisms in German Pop Music

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This contribution examines the functions of Hispanisms in contemporary German pop music from a sociolinguistic perspective. It focuses on the extent to which lyrical code-switching (Picone 2024) and the use of Spanish lexemes reinforce sexist and exoticizing stereotypes of Hispanic cultures. For example, in the song *Mamacita* (Saibou & Culcha Candela 2021) we find:

- (1) *mamacita* - sie schmeckt wie Berlin *a la playa*
(en. *mamacita* - she tastes like Berlin *a la playa*)

We argue that this ‘German gaze’ on Hispanic culture continues a long-standing *Schlager Music* tradition: since the mid-20th century, Spain and Latin America have been romanticized as loci of exotic longing (Dietrich 2002).

Empirically, our study is based on a corpus of 20 song lyrics – drawn from commercially successful genres such as *German Hip-Hop* – published over the past fifteen years. Using *AntConc*, we first extract all instances of Hispanisms and conduct a quantitative analysis of their distribution. In a second step, we examine the most frequent borrowings, asking which semantic frames (*FrameNet*) they reconfigure and to what extent they reinforce stereotypes – such as the female ‘Latina’ as a sexualized object (Pressler 2019).

Our analysis is situated against the backdrop that, although Spanish speakers constitute a minority, Spanish is considered as a language of prestige in Germany (Grünewald/Küster 2020) and is currently gaining traction as a contact language with considerable ‘street credibility’ and commercial appeal (Gruber/Postlep 2023). The study provides new insights into how linguistic representations are instrumentalized to stereotype Hispanic cultures.

Keywords: Sociolinguistics, Corpus-Based Analysis, Gender Stereotypes, Hispanisms, Cultural Exoticization

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(Non-)Sexist Language in Spanish Politics: The Role of Ideology and Discourse Genre

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This study examines the use of (non-)sexist language in Spanish political discourse. The debate on linguistic sexism in Spanish revolves around two main perspectives (Escandell-Vidal 2020, 225-226): some argue that the use of the generic masculine (e.g. *los ciudadanos*) contributes to the invisibilization of women and therefore promote non-sexist languages strategies, such as epicenes and collectives (e.g. *la ciudadanía*), double forms (*los ciudadanos y las ciudadanas*) and the generic feminine (e.g. *las ciudadanas*). Others believe that language itself is not sexist and therefore should not be altered to reflect social changes. By analyzing linguistic choices in both parliamentary speech and X posts, this study empirically analyzes the extent to which Spanish politicians avoid the generic masculine and adopt inclusive alternatives. It also evaluates the role of extralinguistic factors such as political ideology, gender and age in shaping these strategies.

In parliamentary speech, a marked preference for the generic masculine is observed, predominantly used by right-wing parties and men. In contrast, left-wing parties as well as women more frequently employ non-sexist alternatives, such as epicenes and collectives. The results of the X data also reveal that right-wing parties, such as VOX, tend to maintain traditional linguistic practices, while left-wing parties, like Podemos, implement non-sexist language strategies more often. The results indicate that on X, where direct voter engagement is key, politicians prompt more strategic language use, aligning with the political identity and values of their parties. The adoption of (non-)sexist language thus seems to serve as an ideological tool for political self-representation.

Keywords: non-sexist language, political discourse, parliamentary debate, X posts, inclusive language

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Do Gender and Sexual Orientation Stereotypes Encompass Morphosyntactic Features? Experimental Evidence from Mexico and Spain

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Gender stereotypes are omnipresent and encompass a variety of domains such as personality traits, interests, and appearances (Kite et al., 2008). Regarding languages, especially voice stereotypes have been subjected to rigorous methodological testing (see review by Simpson & Weirich, 2020). Using a minimal pair paradigm and employing an experimental approach, we investigate whether gender stereotypical beliefs include morphosyntactic feature, such as preferences for grammatical person, referential expressions, personal versus impersonal constructions, and types of reported speech.

For doing so, we asked 252 participants from Mexico and Spain to rate paired sentences differing in morphosyntactic style and indicated which variant was more likely produced by a woman, a gay man, or a lesbian woman. While some morphosyntactic features were marking speaker gender (e.g., the use of first- and second-person singular was ascribed to women), others are indicative for women's sexual orientation (e.g., the use of impersonal structures was ascribed to lesbians) and men's sexual orientation speakers (e.g., use of direct reported speech was ascribed to gay men). Notably, contrary to our hypothesis, stereotype adherence did not differ significantly across nationality, gender, or age groups. These findings suggest a shared set of linguistic stereotypes across both societies, raising questions about their cultural pervasiveness, and contributes to our understanding of how morphosyntactic variation operates as a social index.

Keywords: gender stereotypes, sexual orientation, morphosyntactic features

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The Seductive Voice: A Sociophonetic Analysis of Vocal Strategies in French-Speaking Belgium

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This study explores how voice is used as a seduction strategy among French-speaking Belgians. Inspired by Arnold (2018), it draws on his experimental design, using simulated voicemail recordings to compare vocal behavior in friendship and courtship contexts. Adapting a mixed-methods approach, the research combines acoustic analysis (pitch, melody, speech rate) with qualitative methods (semi-structured interviews and questionnaires). Data were collected through speech simulations involving flirtation, refusal, and compliment scenarios.

Preliminary qualitative insights from thirty self-identified heterosexual participants (men and women) suggest that a seductive voice is typically perceived as lower-pitched, slower, and more controlled — qualities associated with confidence, authority, and attractiveness. Participants also reported awareness of gendered vocal norms, often linking deeper voices with masculinity and virility, and higher-pitched, softer voices with femininity, gentleness, and charm. This dual perception underscores the complex interplay between vocal attributes, perceived desirability, and sociocultural gender expectations (Eckert & McConnell-Ginet, 2013).

Quantitative acoustic analyses, currently underway, aim to identify and characterize the vocal strategies actively employed by individuals to convey seductiveness, exploring how specific acoustic features correlate with intentional communicative practices. Overall, this study contributes to understanding how voice is strategically manipulated in interpersonal attraction contexts, offering deeper insights into language practices, gender performance and the role of voice in constructing social identities (Butler, 1999; Foulkes & Docherty, 2006).

Keywords: sociophonetics, seductive voice, gendered communication

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Pluricentric and National Perspectives during Belgian, French, and Swiss Parliamentary Discussions on Gender-inclusive Language

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Gender-inclusive French language has become a target of political initiatives. Since the debate that started in France in 2017 as a result of a textbook written in inclusive writing, law propositions, motions, and decrees regarding gender-inclusive language have been presented in French-speaking countries. However, as French is an official language in more than one nation, the following question arises: what is the relation between different French-speaking regions when it comes to regulating gender-inclusive language (cf. Lüdi 1991, 168)?

This study examines parliamentary discussions in Belgium (Parliament of the Federation Wallonia-Brussels, 13 October 2021), France (Senate, 30 October 2023), and Switzerland (National Council, 7 June 2022 and Council of States, 14 December 2022) regarding the regulation of gender-inclusive language. The study applies pluricentric and national points of view to examine argumentation during the parliamentary discussions: as French can be seen as a pluricentric language, or as a language with *pluricentric practices* (Lüdi 1991; 2014), the study aims to discover how pluricentric and, on the other hand, national perspectives (cf. Autere & Lämsäsalmi 2024) of French language are expressed in the parliamentary discussions, and how these perspectives serve as argumentative strategies (Perelman & Olbrechts-Tyteca 2008).

Preliminary results show that besides the national context, the role of other French-speaking areas is discussed, representing for example authority or (anti)model for the regulation of gender-inclusive language. Nevertheless, these perspectives are also questioned by some legislators, which indicates that pluricentric gender-inclusive French language is an ambiguous question in language policy.

Keywords: gender-inclusive language, French, pluricentrism, language policy, argumentation

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An Experimental Investigation of the Innovative Suffix *-ə* in Italian

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Many morphological innovations have been proposed to expand the boundaries of gender binarism in Italian. To test the interpretation of the innovative suffix *-ə* to designate people of unknown, unspecified, or nonbinary gender, we designed an experimental study adapting to Italian the sentence-picture matching task used by Bradley and colleagues (2019).

The analysis set out to establish (i) whether the adoption of the suffix *-ə* entails immediate activation of a nonbinary gender referent (or nonbinary group) or a mixed gender group; (ii) whether the comprehension of sentences containing this suffix requires higher processing costs, by looking at participants' reaction times; finally, (iii) whether the masculine form, endowed with a dual meaning (specific vs. generic), triggers the specific interpretation more frequently.

Our results show that the plural suffix *-ə* seems to have a better chance of reaching a wider pool of users, as participants performed better when compared to their scores with the singular suffix *-ə*. Plural *-ə* can be used to refer to nonbinary-only groups or mixed groups, despite its higher processing costs.

Replicating previous results (Gygax et al. 2021), the masculine form tends to be associated with a male-only group, thus ruling out the possibility that it could serve as a generic form, representative of several genders. However, its substitution with neutral forms still poses problems: when no gender information can be retrieved, participants tend to resort to the male interpretation (i.e., default value).

Keywords: inclusive language use, grammatical gender, degendering and regendering strategies, innovative suffixes, Italian.

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Translating Sexual Orientation in an Asylum Interview Interpreted between French and Finnish

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In this talk, I analyze how the narrative of discrimination based on sexual orientation as the foundation of an asylum claim undergoes a process of transformation, or *translation in a wide sense* (Satsuka 2015; Tsing 2015: 62), resulting in an asylum narrative characterized by various textual manipulations (see Bouhamidi 2024).

To this end, I examine key sequences in an asylum interview interpreted between French and Finnish, the corresponding passages in the written record of the interview, and the final decision. I focus on the most important constraints and affordances mobilized by the participants, namely the asylum seeker, the immigration agent, and the interpreter. The data are part of a larger corpus obtained from the Finnish Immigration Service (research permit #MIG-2012091).

I consider translation – or transfer between systems of knowledge – to occur on four levels in this context. The first level consists of the asylum seeker's explaining in French his multimodal experience of discrimination, thus *transforming* or *verbalizing* observations, thoughts, and affects, but also verbal exchanges in French and (especially) other languages. On the second level, the interpreter, an L2 speaker of French like the asylum seeker, *interlingually translates* the asylum seeker's account from French into Finnish. On the third level, the immigration agent *intermodally translates* or *entextualizes* (Bucholtz 2009) the interpreted account into a typewritten interview record based on the interpreter's renderings. Finally, on the fourth level of translation, parts of the written record are *interepistemically translated* (see Bennet & Neves 2024) into a decision made by another immigration agent.

Keywords: sexual orientation, asylum seekers, translation and interpreting, French, Finnish

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Lenguaje inclusivo y representaciones mentales: un estudio experimental sobre el masculino genérico y otras alternativas

Inclusive language and mental representations: An experimental study on the unmarked male and other alternatives

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The plural masculine is used in Italian and Spanish as an unmarked gender that can refer both to exclusively male groups and to mixed groups formed by men and women (Escandell, 2020; Giusti, 2022). Studies based on experimental methodologies verify whether the interpretation of masculine nouns in the plural referring to people tends to be inclusive of both genders (Gygax et al., 2008; Niessen, 2013; Zunino & Stetie, 2022).

The present study extends the scope of analysis to cases of absence of stereotype and tried to verify whether the mental representation of native speakers of Italian and Spanish in the use of the plural masculine as an unmarked gender tends to be inclusive or exclusive. To this end two experiments were designed based on perception surveys in which nouns referring to different non-stereotyped human groups had to be judged by the informants as mixed or exclusively male referents.

The experiments were carried out with 88 students from Ca'Foscari University and 88 students from National University of Colombia. It is assumed that nouns with the grammatical masculine ending generate more exclusionary mental representations compared to inclusive alternatives (Azzalini & Giusti, 2019). However, the analysis using mixed-effects logistical models does not fully support the initial hypothesis (Hosner & Stanley, 2000). Not all inclusive alternatives effectively guide referential resolution work.

Keywords: inclusive language, italian, spanish, experimental pragmatics, psychopy

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Investigating the Romance Languages as the Most Gendered in the World

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While the past few decades of research in queer linguistics have produced a substantial body of literature that alerts us to the prescriptive gendered constraints of individual languages, comparative and typological studies are much more rarely conducted (e.g. Hellinger & Motschenbacher, 2015; Kaplan & Papadopoulos, 2023), though they consistently reveal that current definitions of linguistic gender are too limited for the study we wish to undertake. To this end, this presentation outlines a more humanistic definition and theory of *gender in language* that is supported by a typology of gendered linguistic features, some of which are more common crosslinguistically (e.g. *lexical*, *affixal*, and *pronominal* gender), and others which are more typologically rare, such as *classifiers* which select for normative gender, *orthographic* gender, *particle* gender, and *sign* gender, whereby the expression of normative gender in signed languages can have a unique morphemic, bodily dimension. Finally, a scale of embeddedness of gender in language is proposed and used to draw preliminary conclusions about the most and least gendered languages of the world. At the far end of this scale are languages with a masculine-feminine *morphosyntactic* system of gender marking, and in particular the Modern Romance languages which require gender agreement with almost every single grammatical category. These conclusions will be used to contextualize the degree of misgendering possible in different languages, to advocate for the legitimization of gender-inclusive forms, and to defend the right to adequate linguistic gender self-expression for all people, especially trans, nonbinary, and other queer people.

Keywords: structural gender linguistics, grammatical gender, gender-inclusive language, linguistic typology

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Diversity Grammaticalized: *-es* in Gender Inclusive Spanish

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Given the mismatches between social and grammatical gender, some Spanish varieties show a so-called new inclusive gender, expressed by the *-e* morpheme (Abeledo et al. 2023; Papadopoulos 2022; Mendivil 2020). With introspective data, we will argue a semantic distinction between *-e* (as in *amigue*) and *-es* (as in *todes*), that between inclusion and diversity. In dialogue with a previous morphosyntactic analysis (Fábregas 2022), we will maintain that *-e*, a [human] classifier, grammaticalizes inclusion, i.e. the minimization of assumptions about individuals' gender identity. In contrast, we will now try to establish that *-es* grammaticalizes diversity, i.e. the inference of an heterogeneous group given three axes: 1) gender identity (e.g. man vs. woman), 2) gender conformity (e.g. cisgender vs. transgender), and 3) sexual orientation (e.g. heterosexual vs. non-heterosexual) (Phellas 2012).

Mainly, diversity requires a group (therefore the need for plural marking) with at least two individuals with different values on said axes: examples in (1) need diverse groups to be acceptable. Diversity is not compositionally derivable from mere [human] and [plural] referents, since other nominal expressions with said features do not necessarily presuppose diversity (2).

- (1) a. ***Todes les profes vinieron a la fiesta.***
All.INC the.INC teachers.INC came to the party
'All the teachers came to the party'
- b. ***Otres amigas vinieron a la fiesta.***
Others.INC friends.INC came to the party
'Other friends came to the party'
- c. ***Algunes alumnes vinieron a la fiesta.***
Some.INC students.INC came to the party
'Some students came to the party'
- (2) a. ***Todas las personas que ejercen la docencia vinieron a la fiesta.***
All the people who work-in teaching came to the party
'All the people who teach here came to the party'
- b. ***Quienes ejercen la docencia vinieron a la fiesta.***
Those-who work-in teaching came to the party
'Those who teach here came to the party'

The main consequence of this proposal for Spanish gender morphology lies in the more precise characterization of the meaning of gender markers, which distinguish between strategies for referring to individuals, regardless of their gender (inclusion), and heterogeneous groups of individuals (diversity). Both grammatical elements contain an expressive meaning of progressive attitude towards social issues (Pastrán *et al.*; Gutzmann 2019; Aguilar-Guevara 2014), the driving force behind these attested linguistic changes.

Keywords: gender inclusive Spanish, diversity marker, gender semantics, social meaning, expressive meaning

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Simplification and Inclusion in Institutional Italian. A First Study on the ALIAS Corpus

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This work aims to present the first results of the analysis conducted on the ALIAS corpus, a collection of institutional texts written by Italian public universities about *alias* careers (Addabbo et al. 2019).

The first phase of our work has the goal to map the state of the art about today academic institutional communication dedicated to trans* and non-binary people (Pepponi 2024). First, the corpus was subjected to a machine-assisted manual annotation, to recognize and analyse the different lexical and morphosyntactic strategies (Comandini 2021; Thornton 2022) referring to people applying for *alias* careers. Then, we tested the corpus readability by using the READ-IT tool (Dell'Orletta et al. 2011), extracting the text whose global readability was closer to the corpus average score.

The second phase revolves around two qualitative experiments. The first one required that more than 100 freshmen students analyse the average text, to recognise critical text spans and, if necessary, to re-write them in a more inclusive version. In the second experiment, a linguist re-wrote the same text merging together gender fair standard language strategies and techniques for clear, accessible and readable bureaucratic Italian (Cortelazzo & Pellegrino 2002), to demonstrate that institutional writing can successfully address these two issues together.

The goal of this work is to constitute a task force able to provide at least two outputs: national guidelines for a non-binary gender fair institutional writing, as well as standardised, flexible, easy to read and accurate text models about *alias* careers that a wide range of university can adopt with the least number of adjustments.

Keywords: alias career, institutional Italian, corpus linguistics, gender fair language, language simplification

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The CoLaGe Corpus for the Study of Language and Gender

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The purpose of this talk is (1) to present a new corpus resource for the study of sociolinguistic variation in Spanish, the *CoLaGe Corpus for the Study of Language and Gender*, produced within the research project *Gender, Society and Language Use: Evidence from Mexico and Spain*, and (2) to showcase some case studies already realized using the *CoLaGe* data.

While Language and Gender studies are a well-established field in the Anglosphere (for overviews, see Mulac, Bradac, and Gibbons 2006; Plug et al. 2021), they have received relatively little attention in Hispanic linguistics. The *CoLaGe* corpus aims at providing data for disentangling aspects of gender, sexuality and society by analyzing two speaker communities sharing a language but differing with regard to social parameters (Valencia/Spain and Guadalajara/Mexico; see, e.g., Hausmann et al., 2014, Social Watch, 2012, INEGI, 2006). Methodologically, our goal is to enrich the notion of “gender” as a sociolinguistic variable by combining linguistic and social-psychological methods. For instance, we elucidate whether gender differences in language use are better accounted for by using scalar social-psychological measures such as the Traditional Masculinity-Femininity Scale (Kachel, Steffens & Niedlich, 2016) instead or alongside discrete gender variables. The *CoLaGe* consists of various data types: sociolinguistic interviews, role-plays simulating conflictive situations, picture description tasks, and social-psychological surveys, providing us with a rich linguistic dataset complemented with multifaceted information about the informants’ gender, sexuality, values, and attitudes. The informants were selected from two age categories (30–40 and 60–70), keeping socioeconomic background constant to increase comparability. The *CoLaGe* totals 111 hours of recorded speech from 127 informants and over a million words of transcribed corpus data to be published by the end of 2025.

In addition to providing an overview of the newly published corpus, I will present some interesting findings from case studies focusing on gender and amount of talk in conflictive situations and gender and the use of direct reported speech – two areas where previous research has identified gender differences in Spanish and other languages.

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Implicit Language in Political Discourse on Twitter: Interaction with Gender and Political Ideology

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This paper examines the effects of gender and political ideology on the use of implicit language in political discourse on Twitter (now X), drawing on studies that apply corpus linguistics methods to implicit political communication (see e.g., Brocca, Garassino & Masia 2016; Garassino, Brocca & Masia 2019; Garassino, Masia & Brocca 2022). Implicit communication reduces epistemic vigilance, enabling speakers to hide their intentions and increasing the acceptance of questionable content (Reboul 2017; Lombardi Vallauri 2019).

This study analyzes 400 messages from four Italian politicians, selected by gender (woman/man) and political orientations (right-wing/left-wing). The tweets were manually analysed and categorised according to implicit strategies employed and their pragmatic functions. Firstly, we conducted a quantitative analysis, exploring the similarities and differences in the use of implicit strategies between politicians of different gender and political orientation; secondly, we adopted a qualitative approach to integrate the quantitative findings with an in-depth analysis of the pragmatic functions of the messages.

Our results suggest different tendencies in the use of implicit strategies between male and female politicians as well as between left-wing and right-wing politicians. Women and right-wing politicians tend to employ *implicits of responsibility*, namely presuppositions; men and left-wing politicians seem to favour structures that implicitly convey content, namely implicatures and vagueness.

Nonetheless, the analysis suggests that in some cases the implicit strategy use is primarily linked to the message's pragmatic function. For example, the pragmatic function of *criticism* seems to favour the use of presuppositions, regardless of the speaker's gender or political stance.

Keywords: pragmatics, political discourse, implicit communication, gender

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Insults in the Feminine in Argentinian Spanish: Rudeness and Subtle Sexism in Language

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In recent years, several debates have been generated, particularly in Spanish and other languages, about linguistic sexism. These discourses mainly focus on the fact that the morphological masculine, in its unmarked form, is used to include the feminine as well (Bengoechea 2009, Campagnoli 2015, Formanowicz et al. 2013, among many others). However, it is crucial to recognise that this is only one facet of the broader spectrum of such sexism (see Ramírez Gelbes 2023).

This paper explores various insulting expressions prevalent in colloquial speech in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in particular those related to maternal prostitution or female genitalia. The aim is to show that sexism subtly permeates language through open discourtesy, as conceived within the framework of pragmatic linguistics, according to the views of, for example, Bernal (2008), Fuentes Rodríguez (2010) or Carrillo (2017).

To achieve this, the research employs a double methodology. Firstly, an exhaustive bibliographical review of insults was carried out, using sources such as the *Diccionario argentino del lunfardo*. Secondly, a survey was carried out among young university students in the Buenos Aires region to identify the insults most frequently used, the frequency with which they are used and the degree of intensity they attribute to them.

Despite the absence of explicit sexist intent in these expressions, and under the light of critical discourse analysis (Fairclough 2003), an opaque devaluation of women is embedded in the language that often goes unnoticed even by those who openly support gender equality. Ultimately, this study contributes to an understanding of the subtle ways in which language perpetuates gender bias by shedding light on an aspect that deserves attention in the pursue of gender equity.

Keywords: gender, linguistic sexism, discourtesy

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Sociophonetics of /s/ in the Spanish of Guadalajara (Mexico) and Valencia (Spain)

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This study examines the sibilant phoneme /s/ in Spanish, focusing on the social meanings of “/s/ sharpness” in one Mexican and one Spanish dialect. First, we offer a literature review of the phonetics and sociophonetics of /s/ in Spanish and other languages (e.g. Linville 1998, Stuart-Smith 2007, Fuchs & Toda 2010, Walker et al. 2014, Halonen & Vaattovaara 2017, Zimman 2017, Brogan & Bolyanatz 2018, Kachel et al. 2018). The concept of centre of gravity (weighted mean of frequencies) as a measurement of “/s/ sharpness” is also discussed. This introduction sets the stage for a broader understanding of how /s/ can function as a socially meaningful variable related to gender, sexual orientation, dialect and social class.

We then present the data acquired through a phonetic elicitation task within the CoLaGe research project (Posio 2021-2025). The recordings of 111 participants in this task produced around 12 hours of semi-spontaneous speech. The frequency values (in Hertz) for the centre of gravity of /s/ will be statistically analysed in relation to the speakers’ variety of Spanish, age, gender and gender-role self-concept (based on participants’ responses to a questionnaire on feminine vs. masculine behaviour). The presented results will explore how /s/ sharpness may index social identities in these two varieties of Spanish.

By combining the methods of acoustic phonetics and social psychology, this study contributes to ongoing discussions about how phonetic features participate in the construction of social meaning and identity across speakers, dialects and languages.

Keywords: sociophonetics, sibilants, gender, age, Spanish

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Los «neutros» del español actual: estatus gramatical e implicaciones referenciales

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En esta comunicación nos proponemos confrontar desde unas coordenadas estrictamente glotológicas los distintos tipos de *neutro* del español contemporáneo que implican a los morfemas de género. Parte del foco se pondrá en el neutro de unidades comunes a todos los geoelectos, sociolectos y registros del castellano (es el caso de sustantivos pronominales como *esto/eso/aquello*, *ello*, *algo* y *nada*, o de signos dependientes como el referente pronominal de atributo *lo* o el artículo homónimo). Por otra parte, también prestaremos especial atención al neutro innovador y diastráticamente restringido que se encamina, bien a expresar el carácter no binario de la persona referida, bien a servir de alternativa al llamado *masculino genérico* como mecanismo para evitar la indicación del sexo de los individuos denotados: «Elles son muches»; «Más rápido se pilla a le mentirose que a le coge [*sic*]» (ejs. de Gubb 2013).

Para ello, se ha atendido a las interacciones entre género y número, al comportamiento de los diversos neutros en la reproducción pronominal y, muy especialmente, a las pautas que cada uno de ellos le proporciona al destinatario de cara a la asignación de referente. También será preciso contemplar el fenómeno de la neutralización de la oposición morfológica de género, que no siempre se resuelve bajo la forma de suplencia del masculino.

El análisis aplicado combina los principios teórico-metodológicos del funcionalismo gramatical del español (cf. San Julián Solana 2014: 18-23) con otros de tipo semántico y pragmático, al tiempo que rehúye toda clase tanto de activismo como de sesgo prescriptivo.

The “neuters” of contemporary Spanish: Grammatical status and referential implications

The aim of this paper is to confront, from strictly glottological perspectives, the different types of neuter in contemporary Spanish that involve gender morphemes. Part of the focus will be on the neuter of units common to all regional, social and contextual varieties of Spanish language (such as the pronominal nouns *esto*, *eso*, *aquello*, *ello*, *algo* and *nada*, or dependent signs such as the pronominal attribute referent *lo* or the homonymous definite article). Furthermore, we will also pay special attention to the innovative and socially restricted neuter, which aims either to express the non-binary nature of the person referred to or to serve as an alternative to the generic masculine as a mechanism to avoid indicating the sex of the individuals denoted: “Elles son muches”; “Más rápido se pilla a le mentirose que a le coge [*sic*]” (examples from Gubb 2013).

To this end, attention has been paid to (i) the interactions between gender and number, (ii) the behavior of each kind of neuter in pronominal reproduction, and particularly (iii) the instructions that each of

them provides to the recipient of the message when assigning a referent. It will also be necessary to consider neutralization of the morphological gender opposition, which is not always resolved in the masculine form.

The applied analysis combines the theoretical and methodological principles of Spanish functional grammar (cf. San Julián Solana 2014: 18-23) with other semantic and pragmatic principles, while avoiding any kind of activism or prescriptive bias.

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Moral Guardians of Brazil: Bolsonaro and Evangelical Discourse in Relation to Gender and Sexuality

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This article explores the intersection of Jair Messias Bolsonaro's political rhetoric and evangelical discourse in Brazil, particularly in relation to gender and sexuality. Bolsonaro is not only a political leader but a religious symbol who applies religious language to justify patriarchal values, homophobia, and ultraconservative stances. He strategically adopts Pentecostal churches rhetoric that positions him as a divine protector of the nation against the so-called "gender ideology."

Pentecostal churches in Brazil nowadays function not only as religious institutions but as powerful political actors that not only endorse Bolsonaro's conservative policies but have also helped him achieve legitimacy among conservative voters. Moreover, they contribute significantly to shaping public debates around gender and sexuality, as influential evangelical leaders, such as Edir Macedo or Silas Malafaia, play a key role in constructing and disseminating this discourse, which we suggest Bolsonaro integrates into his speeches.

The analysis examines how Bolsonaro establishes a moral hierarchy rooted in the populist strategy of creating binary oppositions where heterosexual men are framed as defenders of the nation while LGBT individuals, feminists and women in general are portrayed as threats. A key aspect will be how Bolsonaro's rhetoric reflects sermons from evangelical leaders, focusing on metaphors of battle, family values protection, and moral purity. Using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), we aim to identify linguistic strategies that help him construct the political and cultural hegemony of conservative values.

Keywords: Bolsonaro, evangelical churches, discourse analysis, gender, sexuality

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Gender and Institutional Prestige in Turn Allocation: A Case Study of the Italian Political Talk Show *Porta a Porta*

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Talk shows are asymmetrical conversational settings (Tolson 1991), in which the host typically shapes the interaction and exercises conversational power over guests in terms of topic choice and turn allocation (Linell & Luckmann 1991; Clayman & Heritage 2002). The use of interruptions as turn taking devices seems to correlate with gender both in ordinary conversations (e.g., Zimmerman & West 1975; Tannen 1994; Orcutt & Mennella 1995) and in structured settings (cf. Baffy 2020 on US Senate intelligence hearings).

This contribution is dedicated to the interplay between gender and institutional prestige in the management of conversational turns in TV talk shows. We will analyse interviews conducted by Bruno Vespa, host of *Porta a Porta*, with Italian politicians Matteo Renzi and Giorgia Meloni at two stages of their careers: first as party leaders, then as Prime Ministers. First, we will conduct a quantitative analysis of the effect of politicians' gender and institutional role on turn allocation strategies. Second, we will analyse our data qualitatively, considering the use of discourse markers, speakers' communicative intentions, and any relevant multimodal cues.

Our preliminary results show that, in our corpus, both gender and institutional prestige have a significant effect on the use of interactional resources for conversational control. For instance, when interviewing Meloni, Vespa takes up a turn without interrupting her twice as often when she is Prime Minister than he did when she was party leader, while with Renzi the difference is negligible.

Keywords: conversational analysis, turn allocation strategies, Italian political talk show, gender, institutional prestige

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Gender, Identity, and Language Change in the 21st Century: A Case Study of Anglicisms in Spanish youth language

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In the 21st century, Western societies have undergone significant shifts, particularly in social and gender norms (Aarts *et al.* 2013; Jenkins 2009). This research examines how these changes have influenced language use, focusing on borrowings, specifically anglicisms, words that retain traces of their English origin (e.g., *party*; Drange 2009, 162; Gómez Capuz 2000), in Spanish teen language. Increased exposure to English through media platforms and streaming services has amplified the use of anglicisms throughout the 21st century (Roels *et al.* 2021).

Concretely, the study has two main objectives: (1) to analyze how shifting social norms have affected the speech of boys and girls in the 21st century, particularly whether gendered linguistic differences have decreased, and (2) to explore the role of gender in 21st-century language change, examining which social group led the diffusion of these borrowings and whether girls, traditionally considered as promoters of standardized and prestigious forms (Blas Arroyo 2005), adopt them more frequently than boys, or if their spread is balanced across all social groups.

To address these questions, we use two corpora that include sociolinguistic information about participants: COLAm (Jørgensen 2007; 2013), which captures youth conversations in early 21st-century Madrid, and CORMA (Enghels *et al.* 2020), which represents contemporary Madrilenian youth language. The data will be analyzed considering speakers' gender and functional parameters (i.e. function and usage motive). We hypothesize that girls, as traditional innovators of prestigious and standard forms, adopt these types of borrowings more actively and lead their diffusion within the speech community.

Keywords: language change, 21st century, gender, anglicisms, youth language

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« Iel est petit ou petite, ou petit·e ? »

How to Agree with the French Inclusive Pronoun *iel*?

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As for many other languages, new gender inclusive pronouns have emerged for French too, among which *iel*. This pronoun was added to the online version of the *Petit Robert* dictionary in 2021, a decision met with severe criticism (Carrier & Chicoine, 2022; Zsombok & Tarjanyi, 2023).

The integration of *iel* within the French grammatical system raises challenges concerning agreement in predicative constructions, as neither masculine (*iel est petit* ‘3SG.NEUT is small.M’) nor feminine (*iel est petite* ‘small.F’) agreement seem appropriate to convey *iel*’s inclusive nature. Several alternatives have emerged, such as the use of typographical symbols to combine masculine and feminine ending (*iel est petit·e* ‘small.M.F’), or the adoption of new morphological endings (*iel est petix* ‘small.NEUT’) (Alpheratz, 2018; Kaplan, 2022).

Although several studies investigated inclusive language in French – including the pronoun *iel* – from several perspectives, the issue of agreement has not been addressed in a systematic manner yet (but see Díaz & Heap, 2020). The present contribution aims at filling this gap by investigating agreement with *iel* (and plural *iels*) on adjectival and nominal predicates, and past participles, through the analysis of a corpus of examples extracted from French web pages by means of the online tool *SketchEngine* (Kilgariff et al., 2014).

Initial analysis of the results reveals that, predominantly, typographical solutions are used, for example the *point médian*, despite the fact that the use of such forms is highly controversial (Viennot, 2022). Nevertheless, traditional forms, in particular masculine ones, still represent a considerable part of the examples.

Keywords: French, gender agreement, inclusive language, neopronouns

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**“Samba’o na cara da sociedade:”
A Quare Linguistic Account of Brazilian Portuguese**

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U.S. research has traditionally concentrated on race and gender through physical appearance, sexuality, and anatomical biology, neglecting their linguistic and semiotic aspects until the late 20th century. Welcoming a “Quare Linguistic Anthropological approach” (Lane 2019, 10), this study unearths the disparate ways Afro-Brazilian trans* communities do extraordinary things at all levels of language (phonetic, lexical, and discursive) to defy discrimination, exclusion, and a narrowing of quare futurities. Engaging the reality competition series *Drag Race Brasil* (S1. Ep1-12; 2023) as a prime site of non-normative linguistics, this work establishes Pajubá within a Black queer—or quare—theorization examining how Black trans*ness is sociolinguistically mediated. This analysis aims to answer the following questions: (1) How do Afro-Brazilian trans* communities draw on lived experiences to create new forms of speech or add to the linguistic lexicon to negotiate their identity and place in the world? (2) What does the unsusceptible function of Pajubá tell us about our unchallenged doctrines concerning broader understandings of gender/sexual identity, race relations, and socioeconomics? Such introspection provides a three-pronged analysis of Pajubá to interrogate the role of sentence framing denoting emotion, each chapter centering on endearment, shade, or neutrality, in the Afro-Brazilian Drag Queens’ transmission and transformation of culture. Alongside the television excerpts, commentary from its official Instagram account will complement the ethnographic analysis. Pajubá illustrates how racialized trans* communities use lived experiences to craft new forms of speech, accentuating the role of everyday communication in negotiating racialized trans* identities.

Keywords: Afro-Latin American Studies, digital ethnography, queer of color critique, Pajubá, sociocultural linguistics

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Spanish T-V Pronoun Choice and Male Sexuality in Ibagué, Colombia

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This conference presents results from a research project into the use of second person pronouns and male sexuality in the city of Ibagué, Colombia. Second person personal pronouns in Spanish demonstrate the T-V distinction, that is that they mark social distance and relationship. Studies in Colombia have shown that a difference exists between men and women in terms of their second person pronoun of choice, and several studies have suggested a possible difference between heterosexual and homosexual use of the pronouns in men. This presentation discusses the results from a survey applied to 452 men which examined the pronoun-of-choice in 39 different social relationships. The survey results show that there are statistically different uses of the T-V pronouns among hetero- and homosexual men in Ibagué, but that this difference is not reflected across all social relationships. The results indicate that heterosexual men are more careful in indicating greater social distance than homosexual men. Additionally, the surveys indicate a greater degree of pronominal creativity in heterosexual men in terms of the pronoun *vos*.

Keywords: T-V pronouns, second person pronouns, language and gender, language and masculinity.

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