

*CREATIVITY and INNOVATION
in
LANGUAGE STUDIES
1st International CILS Conference*

Local and Global, Global and Glocal

John Trumper and Marta Maddalon

Abstract

Economic development suggests ready parallels with new developments in linguistic repertoires. In the modern world progressive abandonment of the local in favour of a wider, worldwide, dimension does not mean that other trends are not possible or present. The most logical result would seem to be the gradual disappearance of local varieties (geographical), replaced by other types of variety (chiefly social). They represent the social dialects of a rigorously standardized language, as for example in Britain, certainly not in Italy.

However, such trends are not mutually exclusive, globalizing trends do not exclude the survival, even revival, of local situations. The language history of many countries requires categories to be re-adjusted and new analyses to be performed in order to redefine the present state. Two different poles may be recognised as well as a number of intermediate situations. Countries with a strong, long-existing standard have seen drastic modifications. External pressures may become internal, immigrants' desire to give their languages autonomous dignity brings new pressures to bear in creating anti-standards; this is compounded with new attitudes towards standard formation and standard negation (social dialects now create anti-standard pressures). At the opposite pole, countries with a recent history of linguistic unity have never endemically spread a strictly unitary code at the spoken level. In such cases it may be useful to study the dynamic relations between local patois and regional dialects (geolinguistic variation), between these and minority languages and new immigrant languages, perhaps even more so immigrants' often dialectal version of the host language.

*Università della Calabria - Italy
December 14th - 16th, 2009*

*CREATIVITY and INNOVATION
in
LANGUAGE STUDIES
1st International CILS Conference*

When we chose this topic we had in mind an ongoing discussion central to modern sociolinguistics. Over the last weeks, however, dialects, dialect-teaching, anti-unitary trends, the very role of dialect and complex repertoire problems have become more central in Italian political debate, invading Italian newspapers.

*Università della Calabria - Italy
December 14th - 16th, 2009*