Bridging the gap between code-switching, translanguaging, and diasystematic construction grammar: multilingual interactions in the StraParlaTo corpus.

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Documentation and studies on plurilingual practices of mobile individuals in Italy are still emergent (Bonomi & Sanfelici 2018). Accordingly, the currently available corpora implicitly subscribe to a monolingual view where such practices are underrepresented; moreover, also the varieties of Italian spoken within these communities are still poorly documented.

The main objective of the project "DiverSIta: Diversity in spoken Italian" was to fill this gap by creating a corpus of plurilingual spoken Italian in the most numerous migratory communities in Turin and Bologna. Within this project, the data collection was carried out adopting a community-based approach (Czaykowska-Higgins 2009) aimed at maximising the social impact of our research. One of the outcomes of such an approach is that it allows the researcher to obtain a privileged view, not only on the variety of Italian spoken by individuals with a migratory background, but also on the multilingual practices developed within the community.

Drawing on the abovementioned oral data, we will analyse plurilingual practices observed in the Peruvian, Moroccan, and Romanian communities of Turin and reflect on what theoretical framework can best account for this type of data. While "traditional" code-switching theory (e.g. Auer 1999) is able to capture emergent structures in bilingual talk and provides a sound theoretical basis for quantitative analyses, some types of multilingual interaction are still difficult to account for, and this includes specifically interactions involving structurally similar languages as is the case for Italian and Spanish (see "congruent lexicalisation" in Muysken 2000).

Conversely, from a translanguaging perspective (Li 2018), by focussing more systematically on speaker's agency and on social meanings, we will be able to discuss how the non-separation in usage between Italian and the heritage language can be strategic for the speakers and represents, in some contexts, the default communicative mode.

Finally, we will argue that Diasystematic Construction Grammar (Höder 2018) offers a compatible framework to analyse translingual productions from a structural perspective, which is often absent in translanguaging studies. This framework describes the cognitive entrenchment of constructions that are shared by the two languages and gradually contribute to the formation of a multilingual constructicon made of diaconstructions that are not language-specific. However, most of the research has focused so far on structurally similar languages: in this respect, the StraParlaTo corpus allows us to explore contact involving structurally similar languages (e.g. Italian and Spanish), as well as, more distant ones such as Romanian and, to a larger extent, Moroccan Arabic.

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