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## **CONTACT PHENOMENA WITHIN REFUGEE CENTRES IN ITALY**

This paper aims to provide a general overview of the effects of language contact within “extraordinary reception centres” (CAS) in Italy, taking into account migrants coming from Pakistan. Given a general overview of the linguistic background of these migrants, the research focuses on the usage of the Italian language, both with nationals and other refugees or Italian workers within the centre. The linguistic repertoire of the migrants will be first introduced looking at the Pakistani context, where there are two official languages (Urdu and English) and more than seventy minority languages (Rahman, 2006), five of which are spoken by over 90% of the population as mother tongue (Eberhard *et al.*, 2019), then looking at the real practices of the speakers, which led to the creation of a new variety of urban Punjabi, used in the big cities in Punjab. This new variety is made out of insertions of Urdu and English items in a Punjabi frame, which can be categorised as insertions of single constituents and morphological integrations (Muysken, 2000), as in this extract “*Merī **problemāñ merī tensionāñ Pākistān par ai***”<sup>1</sup>. Upon their arrival in Italy, these migrants add the Italian language to their repertoire, and they find themselves using it in a wide range of situations. Being CAS created to accommodate a high number of migrants, this situation leads migrants to make use of all the resources available to them. In particular, the Pakistani informants object of this research make use of Italian through two communicative strategies: on the one hand Italian is used as *lingua franca* (Swann *et al.* 2004) within the refugee centre, both with workers and other refugees; under a grammatical point of view, on the other hand, Italian (as Urdu and English previously in Pakistan) is becoming part of their variety of urban Punjab in the form of insertions of single constituents or fixed expressions, as in “*CAMPAGNA main kué calāndā*”<sup>2</sup>. Other detailed examples, including some deictic contextual information, will be provided in order to illustrate the abovementioned phenomena. The corpus at the base of this research consists of about eight hours of recordings of spontaneous conversations, taken in a refugee centre located in Abruzzo, in different communicative contexts, mainly informal, sometimes a bit more formal, both with nationals and other refugees or Italian speakers.

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHY***

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<sup>1</sup> The English words are in bold, the Urdu word is underlined.

<sup>2</sup> Italian in capital letters.

Swann, J., Deumert, A., Lillis, T., & Mesthrie, R. (2004). *A Dictionary of Sociolinguistics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.