

Designations of Professions and Positions in Italian in the Slovene Littoral
as Expression of Linguistic and Cultural Heritage
Poimenovanja poklicev in položajev v Italijanščini v slovenskem Primorju
kot izraz jezikovne ter kulturne dediščine
I nomi di professioni e di cariche professionali in lingua italiana nel territorio sloveno
del Litorale come espressione del patrimonio linguistico e culturale

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Abstract

The paper investigates the role of Italian and Slovene language and culture on designations for traditionally male professions and positions in the language of the Italian national community in Slovenia. We inquired whether and to what extent the use in Italian as a minority language in Slovenia is sensitive to the social and cultural context of the plurilingual and intercultural area of the Slovene Littoral. Results of the research, investigating language use in a corpus text, conducted on primary sources, show that the use of designations for titles, professions and positions in Italian as a minority language in the Slovene Littoral depends on a complex set of variables, which are for the most part sociolinguistic in nature. Linguistic and cultural heritage was observed in individual language variations.

Keywords: Italian, minority language, cultural heritage, gender marking, designations for professions and positions

Izvleček

Članek se ukvarja z vplivom sodobne italijanščine in slovenščine ter kulture na poimenovanje poklicev in položajev, ki so tradicionalno moški, v jeziku italijanske manjšine v Sloveniji. Preučili smo, ali je raba v italijanščini kot manjšinskem jeziku občutljiva na družbeni in kulturni kontekst večjezičnega ter medkulturnega prostora slovenskega Primorja. Na podlagi analize primarnih besedil ugotavljamo, da na rabo poimenovanj za nazive, poklice in položaje v italijanščini kot manjšinskemu jeziku v Slovenskem primorju vpliva kompleksen skupek spremenljivk, ki so v glavnem sociolingvistične narave. Vloga jezikovne in kulturne dediščine prostora variira glede na jezikovne zvrsti in govorne položaje.

Ključne besede: italijanščina, manjšinski jezik, kulturna dediščina, spolna zaznamovanost, poimenovanja za poklice in položaje

Sintesi

L'articolo indaga il ruolo della lingua e della cultura italiana e slovena nelle definizioni di professioni e cariche professionali, tradizionalmente maschili, nella lingua della comunità nazionale italiana in Slovenia. In questa ricerca ci siamo chieste se e in che misura l'uso dell'italiano come lingua minoritaria in Slovenia sia sensibile al contesto sociale e culturale dell'area plurilingue e interculturale del territorio sloveno del Litorale. I risultati della ricerca, che ha indagato l'uso della lingua in un corpus di testi ed è stata condotta su fonti primarie, mostrano che l'uso di denominazioni per titoli, professioni e posizioni

in italiano come lingua minoritaria nel territorio sloveno del Litorale dipende da un complesso insieme di variabili che sono per lo più di natura sociolinguistica. Il patrimonio linguistico e culturale è stato osservato nelle singole variazioni linguistiche.

Parole chiave: italiano, lingua minoritaria, patrimonio culturale, caratteristiche di genere, designazione di genere per le professioni e cariche professionali

Introduction

Since ancient times, Istria has been an area characterised by the presence of different populations, and therefore different languages, which have succeeded one another over the centuries. The coexistence of Slavic and Romance languages in the eastern Adriatic area dates back to the first centuries of the Middle Ages and was preceded 'by a complex process of Romanisation, which in turn covered a complicated, and in many ways obscure dialectic between Celtic (Gallo-Carnic), Illyrian and "Liburnian" [...], all labels whose real *designatum* remains for the most part inaccessible' (Zamboni 1976, 12). Following the first romanisation between 221 BC and 129 BC, the Istrian peninsula was organically included in the 10th Augustan Region of Roman Italy¹ in 27 BC (Crevatin 1975). Until the fifth century, Istria remained economically prosperous and substantially peaceful under the Byzantine administration, but in the sixth century, it suffered the Lombard presence and the Avar-Slavic migrations that weakened the unity of Istrian Romanity. From the encounter of Romance and Slavic worlds emerged *istrioto*, a pre-Venetian variation of ancient Latin, Istroroman in villages below Mount Učka (in Italian Monte Maggiore) and Istrovenetian, that is today the most widely used Italian dialect in Istria. Dante already listed Istrian and Friulian idioms as Italian dialects. Today, Rohlf (1969), Tekavčić (1972), Rosario (1979) and other Italian

linguists continue to classify Istrian idioms into the Northern-Italian linguistic sphere. The different languages that coexisted in the Peninsula for centuries integrated and blended, thus giving rise to a situation that today appears multiform and complex, with heterogeneous linguistic groups. In fact, Istria is characterised by the presence of three standard languages (Italian, Croatian and Slovene), as well as a number of dialects, namely Istrian or Istroroman, Istrovenetian, Istrorumen, Chakavian Croatian dialects, Slovene dialects, Montenegrin from Peroj and other Slavic varieties, although are present in different conditions of consistency (Ursini 1983).

Due to historic events in the first half of the twentieth century, the number of Italian speakers decreased dramatically. At present, the Italian ethnic group in Slovenia is a historic minority and as such protected by the Slovene Constitution and legislation, as well as local regulative documents.² The Italian national community in Slovenia is guaranteed the protection and fostering of the language and culture in various areas of human activity, including education, information, administrative and political administration as well as participation in local and national decisional bodies. In informal communication the Italian nationals mostly use the Istrovenetian dialect, while the standard Italian is the norm in public use, both by Italian nationals and as L2 by other inhabitants of the Slovene part of Istria.

In language contact, interference is a natural phenomenon. In this article we investigate if and to what extent designations for traditional-

¹ The Augustan Regio X, bounded to the north by the Alps, to the south by the river Po, to the west by the valley of the Oglio, and to the east by the river Arsia, encompassed a vast area of today's north-eastern Italy corresponding to the territory of present-day Veneto, Trentino-Alto Adige, and Friuli-Venezia Giulia, to which were added to the west a part of today's eastern Lombardy (provinces of Brescia, Cremona, and Mantua) and to the east the peninsula of Istria (today part of Slovenia and Croatia) (Rebecchi et al. 2004).

² In Slovenia, the Italian national community lives in the four municipalities of the Littoral, namely in Koper, Izola, Piran and Ankaran. In these municipalities Italian is an official language and a member of the Italian national community, elected by Italian national community members, is appointed as vice-mayor when a mayor themselves/ themselves is not a member of the Italian community.

ly male professions and positions in the language of the Italian national community in Slovenia are influenced by the Slovene usage on one hand and, on the other, to what extent they are a continuation of the Italian tradition and culture.

Discussion

In Italian, nouns are a variable part of speech, flexible in gender and number. In Italian grammar, the differentiation between the masculine and feminine gender of nouns is made through inflectional morphology. With epicene nouns, gender is specified by male/female modifiers: *il giornalista* (m.) / *la giornalista* (f.). Italian grammar thus has preconditions for the formation of the feminine to designate (new) professions and positions occupied by women; nevertheless, the use of the neutral masculine (*il ministro Rosy Bindi*) vs the use of the marked feminine (*la ministra Rosy Bindi*) is still debated. Both positions, grammatical male and referential female vs grammatical female and referential female, often argue to the defence of women who occupy prominent positions in society. Advocates of the neutral (unmarked) male form are of the opinion that the reference of the noun is to a position, rather than the person occupying it. They believe that the use of a female form may diminish the female figure holding that position.³ On the other hand, the opponents argue that the reference of the noun, indicating a profession or a position, should be to the person occupying it to reinforce female visibility in traditionally male-dominated fields of occupation.

3 Elsa Fornero, a university professor of economics and former Minister of Labour and Social Policies, recently explained on a talk show that in Academia, in the past the female designation contributed further to unequal treatment of male and female professors, the latter being already in an unequal position. The male colleagues had assistants, while female professors did all the work themselves. Thus, the referential male gender was felt as inclusive, a recognition that female professors shared the academic sphere with their male colleagues (*Di martedì*, La7 3. 11. 2021). The extent to which the unequal treatment of women and men in elite professions and positions is still embedded in Italian culture, emerged from the fact that Elsa Fornero herself used the male referential gender when she spoke about her role as a minister in Mario Monti's government between 2011 and 2013.

Historically, the contemporary Italian feminine ending (-a) and suffixes (-ina, -tore/-trice) were inherited from Latin by the vernacular and later on by the Italian,⁴ except for the suffix -essa that entered Latin and the vernacular from Greek due to its strong influence on early Christianity (Rohlf's 1969). Originally, -essa was used with reference to females' positions and dignities as 'wife of the titled' and 'the titled' and to professions occupied by women: *contessa* (bef. 1300)⁵, 'wife or daughter of a count', from medieval Latin *comitissa(m)*, derived from the masculine *comes*, -it is, 'count'; *dogaressa* (bef. 1389), 'wife of a doge of Venice'; *badessa* (end of 13th c.), 'superior of a nunnery', from the medieval Latin *abbatissam*, derived from the m. *abbas*, -tis, 'abbot'. In addition to their denotative meaning, female forms had a positive connotation, for example *baronessa* (1342), 'wife or daughter of a baron', was also used in the meaning of 'a woman of noble status'. In time, the suffix -essa acquired a negative connotation, partly as opposition to an increasing female presence in positions traditionally held by men and partly due to their historic reference to wives of the titled (Cortelazzo 1995). *Buessa* (18th c.) appeared next to *vacca*, 'cow', in the meaning of 'a dismissible and vulgar woman'. Female forms such as *dottora*, *dottoressa*, *medichessa* and *professoressa* were used in the meaning of 'a wiseacre' (Lepschy et al. 2001). Further on, feminine suffixes with a negative connotation even became productive, for example in the formation of augmentatives *madrigallessa* (16th c.), 'a long monotonous madrigal', *ancorressa* (1829), 'anchor in poor condition, very heavy, with shank and one fluke', and *articolessa* (1868), 'a long and poorly written newspaper article' (Cortelazzo 1995).

In contemporary Italian, derivation from m. -tore to f. -trice or -tora is not problematic and it is still productive (for example, *elettrice*, 'elector',

4 In 1678, Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia, the first woman in the world to receive a degree from a university, was awarded the title *Magistra ed Doctrix Philosophiae* (Maschietto 1978).

5 First mention according to *De Mauro Vocabulary* of Italian (<https://dizionario.internazionale.it/>).

appeared after the right to vote was extended to women in 1946).⁶ On the other hand, the derivation with *-essa*, fully accepted in the nineteenth century grammars,⁷ is today limited to reference to women that hold a secondary role, for example *collaressa* (1956), 'wife of a recipient of an order of knighthood', or to women on the fringes of society, for example *brigantessa* (1955), 'wife of a crook', and in the extended meaning, 'an unscrupulous woman'. Following a troubled semantic development and political intervention,⁸ and perhaps due to its non-Latin origin, the suffix *-essa* has been almost completely replaced by the ending *-a* (*deputata* instead of *deputatessa*, 'member of parliament') and by the use of epicene nouns (*la presidente* instead of *presidentessa*).⁹ Only the well-established forms (*dottoressa*, *professoressa*, *studentessa*, etc.) and ancient forms that are used to designate noble dignities (*baronessa*, *contessa*, *duchessa*, *principessa*) survive.

The disagreement between grammatical and referential gender (i.e. grammatical male and referential female)¹⁰ is, according to Zarra (2017),

6 Serianni 1989.

7 Frati (2009) cites *Sintassi italiana* by Raffaello Fornaciari, published in 1881.

8 The Italian Government has named bodies for equality and equal opportunities between men and women to prepare a comprehensive and detailed overview of gender-biased language use and guidelines for a non-sexist usage of Italian (Sabatini 1986; Fioritto 1997; Robustelli 2012, 2014; Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca 2018).

9 The title of Cortelazzo's article (1995) *Perché non si vuole la presidentessa?*, 'Why is *la presidentessa* rejected', is in line with the recent debate on the reference to the first female Prime Minister in the history of the Republic of Italy, Giorgia Meloni. The position of the leading research centre on Italian, *Accademia della Crusca*, is favourable to the use of the feminine form of the epicene noun *la presidente* to avoid suffixation and maintain a coherence between the grammatical and referential gender, both female. Frati (2009) interprets the suggestion as 'a good compromise', in contrast with Cortelazzo's (1995) observation on the unjust and fierce opposition to the derivation of female forms by means of the suffix *-essa*. Utterly discounting the debate, the Prime Minister's office issued a memo stating that Giorgia Meloni should be addressed as *Il Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri*, a referential masculine gender.

10 Furthermore, designations of women holding positions and professions that were traditionally male appear today in a variety of forms, some of which are barely accepted by the norm: male determinant + male noun (*il ministro*), fe-

not grammatical in nature, but rather sociolinguistic and related to the linguistic sentiment of individual speakers. As Grošelj (2019) correctly points out, the presence of women in traditionally male professions and positions is historically quite recent and it remains to date scarce. As such, it may certainly contribute to a steady and hesitant entry of grammatical female gender to refer to those professions and positions.

In contrast, in Slovene, designations for titles, professions and positions are gender marked and stylistically unmarked.¹¹ From a research conducted by Grošelj (2019),¹² it emerged that a male form may be used with reference to males, as well as to referentially mixed or inclusive gender reference (*sodelovala pa sta tudi dva ministra iz slovenske vlade*, i.e. 'two ministers': a male and a female) and as referentially undetermined gender (*kako bo vsak posamezni sodnik glasoval*, i.e. 'each minister': either male or female) (Grošelj 2019, 308), but never with reference to a female.

The use of the feminine form is neutral, it has no negative or derogative connotation. Even in the oldest documents, reference to females holding titles and occupying prestigious professions and positions is feminine and neutral (Štumberger 2021).¹³ After WW2, under the in-

male determinant + female noun (*la ministra*) and female determinant + male noun (*la ministro*). Also syntactically problematic is the subject-verb agreement (*Mariastella Gelmini, ministro con delega agli Affari Regionali, è intervenuta/il ministro dell'Interno si dice certa*).

11 An exception to the general use of designations for titles, professions and positions in Slovene is the term *tajnik* (m.), *tajnica* (f.) (english *secretary*). The lexical distinction between the feminine *tajnica* 'administrative help' and the masculine *tajnik* 'high official' is still present in the Slovene Standard Language Dictionary (Likar 1970–1991) and persists in the language use, although an official decree neutralised the distinction between the two gender forms (Smolej 2021).

12 The research was conducted on approximately 100 occurrences in the journalistic section of the corpus Kres for the following denominations: *predsednik/predsednica, minister/ministrice, senator/senatorica, župan/županja, sodnik/sodnica, poslanec/poslanka, veleposlanik/veleposlanica, svetnik/svetnica*.

13 As Štumberger (2021, 27) reports, the first Slovene awarded the title of PhD was female, a philosopher Anka Mayer, in 1920 and the news reporting the event used stylistically unmarked gender marking: 'First promotions at the University of Ljubljana will be held tomorrow, July 15, at 11.00

fluence of the Russian and Serbian languages, an unmarked masculine form was introduced in use in official papers and documents to designate titles, professions and positions, but it did not catch on in other communicative contexts, least of all in the journalistic language, and it gradually disappeared completely from use. In the following decades, due to the increasing presence of women holding titles and prominent positions, as well as due to the development of the educational system for new areas of professional activity, new feminine forms entered the Slovene Standard Language Dictionary (Likar 1970–1991) and Modern Slovene Language Lexicon Dictionary (Bizjak Končar and Snoj 2014) (Derganc 2017).

Italian nationals in Istria use a variety of (Italian) language variations, depending on the communication situation. The Italian on the west coast of Istria and in the Kvarner gulf is officially standard Italian, but it is usually replaced by the Istrian-Venetian dialectal variety, particularly in informal conversation and in the family milieu (Milani Kruljac 2001). The standard variety, although it holds the status of the official language besides Slovene in the Slovene Littoral and is protected by law, is a live variety spoken in circumscribed areas and it is used in determinate contexts, such as in school, in means of communication and information designated for the Italian national community, in the Italian department of the public library Srečko Vilhar in Koper, and in associations organised by the Italian community, as well as in public use.

In 2022, recommendations on the use of terminology in administration in Italian for the Istrian region were issued, with all professions stated in the grammatical male gender. In the introduction the authors clarify that the masculine used is neutral and refers equally to males and females (Regione Istriana 2022, authors' translation). We argue that, due to the sociolin-

AM in the former regional chamber hall (region mansion). The following candidates will be promoted: the philosopher (grammatical female gender, AN) Anka Mayer from a prominent family from Vipava and jurists (grammatical male gender, AN) Mirko Kuhelj and Pavel Suver from Ljubljana' (*Slovenski narod* LIII/158, 3, authors' translation).

guistic complexity of the use of the feminine to denote professions and positions, a reference to the formation and use of the grammatical female gender should be made. The corpus-based analytical research of grammatical and referential gender use by the Self-Managed National Community of Italians in the Slovene Littoral (*Comunità Autogestita Costiera della Nazionalità Italiana*, hereinafter: CAN)¹⁴ reveals a bipolarisation in the usage of the female referential gender. Epicene nouns ([*vice*]presidente, consulente, responsabile) are almost consistently used in the grammatical feminine and referential feminine gender (*la [vice]-presidente, la consulente, la responsabile*); only 2 occurrences (13%) of the masculine *il presidente* as grammatical male and referential female gender were found. Feminine forms derived from the m. -tore ([*vice*]direttore) are invariably derived by means of the suffix -trice; no occurrences of -tora were detected.

On the other hand, for denominations of prominent professions and positions with the masculine ending in -o, the reference to women is grammatically male (m. determinant + m. noun: *il vicesindaco italiano di Pirano, Manuela Rojec*) or mixed (f. determinant + m. noun: *la presidenza è stata affidata alla sindaco*). No occurrences were found of female determinant + female noun for the two positions searched (*la ministra, la [vice]sindaca*).

In comparison to the language used by administrative organs, the language of journalism appears to be more favourable to addressing women holding prominent positions and professions in the feminine.¹⁵ The comparative anal-

14 Research was conducted on the text available on the Internet page of the CAN (<https://www.cancostiera.org/sl/component/contact/contact/1.html>). The following occurrences were searched and analysed: *presidente, consulente, responsabile, direttore, direttrice, ministro, ministra, sindaco, sindaca*. Due to the limited capacity of the Internet page archive, all occurrences were taken into consideration. Their number ranges between 13 and 70, and thus has little statistical value, but they are nevertheless indicators of usage tendencies. Occurrences lower than 10 were excluded from further analysis and research.

15 As Zarra (2017) points out, this is true for journalist and publishers affiliated to left-wing politics, while those affiliated to right-wing politics remain more conservative.

ysis of the two main sources of information in Italian produced in Istria, the Radio and Television Programme in Italian at the National Radio and Television Network's Regional Centre situated in Koper (hereinafter: RTVC) and the daily newspaper *La Voce del Popolo* (hereinafter: LVDP)¹⁶ showed a significant difference in gender reference. Results below show occurrences (%) of grammatical female and referential female gender, used to address female *designata*, in RTVC, LVDP¹⁷ and data collected by Zarra (2017) in his comprehensive and up-to-date research of their use in Italian in Italy (hereinafter: Italy).¹⁸

Table 1

	CAN	RTVC	LVDP	Italy
Ministra	0.0	31.2	6.2	36.0
Sindaca	0.0	50.0	4.7	2.2
Assessora	/ ¹⁹	65.6	1.9	3.3
Deputata	/ ²⁰	97.2	86.7	39.5

The Italian language in administration (CAN) appears to be biased for *ministro* and *sindaco*, used as unmarked grammatical male as referential male and female, while it is unbi-

ased for *assessore/assessora* and *deputato/deputata* with consistent unmarked use of the grammatical male and female gender. For leading positions in society, such as ministers and majors, which were traditionally occupied by men, the appearance of women has no bearing on the language of administration in the Italian language in Slovenia. Similar observations were made by Villani (2020), who detected a vague specialisation of terms *la presidente* and *presidentessa*, with the latter used generally for positions considered to be of lesser prestige than institutional roles (*la presidente della Commissione Europea* vs *la presidentessa dell'Associazione Comuni della Marca trevigiana*).

A significantly divergent use can be observed in the language of the media, with a more or less substantial presence of the grammatically female gender for female *designata*. Values for RTVC appear to be extremely high, but a diachronic review shows that a strong divide from the tradition occurred in the past few years. For *ministra*, 0 occurrences were detected in 2018, 3 in 2019, 7 in 2020 and 21 in 2021. Although the transition to the use of the grammatically female gender was gradual, a dramatic increase is observed between 2020 and 2021.²¹

A strong variation in the use of designations can be observed within the journalistic language as well, with values for LVDP that are significantly lower than values for RTVC; in some cases they are even lower than the values for Italy. These results may imply that the LVDP editorial policy is more closely tied to the Italian cultural heritage, deriving from the linguistic substratum in Istria, in particular the Venetian,²²

16 Research was conducted on approximately 200 occurrences of grammatical masculine and referential feminine gender per term, and the relative number of occurrences of grammatical and referential feminine in the same time period. For those with less than 100 occurrences the whole archive was examined. The percentage calculated shows the share of grammatical and referential feminine gender occurrences within all reference to female *designata*, grammatical male and female.

17 The LVDP editorial house is based in Rijeka, Croatia; however, the newspaper is written and read by Italian nationals on both sides of the Slovene-Croatian border, and as such it was included in the research. News supplied by the press agency Adnkronos, based in Italy, was not taken into consideration.

18 Data was collected by means of Internet browser research and subsequently analysed.

19 The denomination was excluded from the research due to a scant number of occurrences: 6 grammatical and referential male and 1 grammatical and referential female.

20 Only 3 occurrences of *deputata* were detected with reference to a female *designata*. However, the grammatically male gender is consistently used as referential male as well, indicating a trend towards a gender-marked use of *deputato/deputata*.

21 Temporally, the increase coincides with the last Janša Government; however, whether there is an actual correlation between the two phenomena has not been determined.

22 The writings attesting to the diffusion of Venetian 'coliniale' (Bidwell 1967) or 'de là da mar' (Folena 1970) are not earlier than the last decades of the thirteenth century, but interesting lexical indications in Latin documents in Istria allow us to hypothesise that the Venetian linguistic type began to take root on the opposite shore of the Adriatic as early as the ninth and tenth centuries. Venetisation of the language began, at least in the areas of most intense economic interest, in the fourteenth century. The dedication of many Istrian towns to doge rule was ratified between

combined with the historic development in the use of denotations in Italy.

From the cross-reference of data on referential gender and text author emerged a substantial personal preference for either male or female referential gender to refer to female *designata*. In the RTVC corpus, Italy-based journalists are far more favourable to the use of the female referential gender than Slovene-based journalists, who are either members of the Italian national community or are Italian citizens living in Slovenia for an extended period of time.

A preference for either referential gender was also observed in the comparison of *designata*, holders of a position or profession. Some female ministers were more likely to be addressed by means of the grammatical male and other by means of grammatical female gender. No explicit denigration or ridiculing is conveyed by the use of the grammatical male gender; however, the choice of the grammatical gender itself may be an expression of the individual speaker's linguistic sentiment (Zarra 2017).

Conclusions

Language and culture are inseparable. Research in Applied Linguistics shows that culture is linked to language semiotically, linguistically and discursively (Kramsch 2014). Language reflects culture and worldview and may affect our cognition or emotion. In terms of designations for titles, professions and positions '[g]rammatical gender has specific linguistic functions, but at the same time it is related to people's perception and experience of reality. [...] [G]rammatical gender [...] is the principal category through which the difference between female and male may be represented symbolically' (Marcato and Thüne 2002, 189).

Language constitutes one of three elements, besides practicing traditions and participating

the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, giving rise to the process of acculturation to the models of Serenissima. Venice was the element that contributed to the process of dissolution of autochthonous neo-Latin languages, but also a powerful factor of re-Romanization in both Istria and Dalmatia (Bartoli and Vidossi 1945; Crevatin 1975; Ursini 1998).

in ethnic associations and organisations, that account for ethnic external identification and distinction (Schmidt 2008). Research shows that even second (Gardner 2001) and foreign language learning (Dörnyei 2003) is critically related to the learner's desire to identify emotionally, at least to a certain degree, with the target language and its culture. Culture-specific traits conveyed through language are a means of ethnic identification in terms of 'communications of a shared system of symbolic verbal and non-verbal behaviour that are meaningful to group members who have a sense of belonging and who share traditions, heritage, language, and similar norms of appropriate behaviour' (Fong and Chuang 2004, 6).

The results of the research we conducted on gender designation in the Italian as a national community language in Slovenia regarding positions and professions traditionally held by men, show a usage that depends on a variety of variables, such as geographical location of the speaker, contact with motherland Italian and with mainstream languages, the prominence of the denoted position or the profession in the society, the person holding it, etc. These individual variables combine with a close relationship to the Romance heritage of the Peninsula and the bond to the motherland civilisation on the part of the Italian national community and result in a linguistic sentiment of speakers (Zarra 2017) towards the designee, or the communicative situation in general, that is at the basis of the choice of the grammatical gender. The underlying century-long Romance cultural substrate emerges at different levels: (i) in the complexity and multiplicity of denominations for a single designee; (ii) in the overall preference for the grammatical male with reference to women and the formation of the feminine by analogy with the epicene nouns (*la ministro*); and (iii) in the linguistic policy that is non-intervening, being conveyed by means of recommendations as opposed to grammar regulations of language use, typical of Slovene.

Povzetek

V večjezičnih in večkulturnih okoljih so interferenca in druge oblike medjezikovnega in medkulturnega vplivanja naraven pojav. Članek se ukvarja z vplivom sodobne italijanščine in slovenščine ter kulture na poimenovanje poklicev in položajev, ki so tradicionalno moški, v jeziku italijanske manjšine v Sloveniji. V jezikih pri poimenovanjih prihaja do velikih razhajanj, pri čemer je slovenščina v osnovi spolno nevtralna, italijanščina pa spolno zaznamovana. Preučili smo, ali je raba v italijanščini kot manjšinskem jeziku občutljiva na družbeni in kulturni kontekst ter torej manj spolno zaznamovana kot v primeru italijanščine v Italiji, ali je jezikovni in kulturni substrat italijanščine v Istri pri poimenovanju poklicev in položajev neobčutljiv na interferenco iz okolja. Na podlagi analize primarnih besedil ugotavljamo, da na rabo poimenovanj za nazive, poklice in položaje v italijanščini kot manjšinskem jeziku v Slovenskem primorju vpliva kompleksen skupek spremenljivk, ki so v glavnem sociolingvistične narave. Vloga jezikovne in kulturne dediščine prostora variira glede na jezikovne zvrsti in govorne položaje.

Riassunto

In ambienti multilingue e multiculturali, le interferenze e altre forme di influenza linguistica e interculturale sono un fenomeno naturale. Questo articolo indaga l'influenza che le lingue e le culture italiana e slovena, qui conviventi hanno nella denominazione di professioni e cariche professionali tradizionalmente maschili nella lingua della minoranza italiana in Slovenia. Esiste un'ampia divergenza nella denominazione tra le lingue, con lo sloveno essenzialmente neutro rispetto al genere e l'italiano invece più specifico rispetto al genere. Nell'articolo abbiamo esaminato se l'uso dell'italiano come lingua minoritaria sia sensibile al contesto sociale e culturale e quindi meno di genere rispetto all'italiano in Italia, o se il substrato linguistico e culturale dell'italiano in Istria sia insensibile alle interferenze ambientali nella denominazione di professioni e cariche professionali. Sulla base dell'analisi di testi primari, concludiamo che l'uso dei nomi per i titoli, le professioni e le cariche professionali in italiano come lingua minoritaria nel territorio sloveno del Litorale è influenzato da un complesso insieme di variabili, che sono principalmente di natura sociolinguistica. Il ruolo del patrimonio linguistico e

culturale dell'area varia a seconda dei generi linguistici e del registro usato.

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