

Phrasal verbs in Veneto in Regional Italian

In this work we intend to examine the distribution of phrasal verbs in the Veneto dialects and in the regional Italian spoken in Veneto. We will show that there are two types of phrasal verbs: semantically transparent ones (like 'go out', 'come in', etc.) in which the preposition and the object form a constituent and can be moved together and non transparent ones (like 'eat up' which corresponds to its English counterpart), in which the preposition and the object do not form a constituent. Among the non transparent ones we will examine in detail two prepositions, which are both aspectual markers and can change the thematic grid of the verb (*fora* 'out' and *su* 'up'). The syntactic split between two classes of V+P constructions is confirmed by a test with three classes of speakers: a) bilingual ones (Veneto and Italian), b) monolingual ones (only Italian but born in Veneto) and c) speakers coming from other regions. Speakers coming from other regions correctly interpret and do not recognize as well formed colloquial Italian transparent phrasal verbs (although standard Italian also has a variant of the phrasal verb with a single lexeme: i.e. *andar fuori* vs. *uscire* for 'go out'), while reject as Veneto and/or do not interpret non-transparent phrasal verb. Moreover, there are interesting differences between the first two classes of speakers: while bilingual speakers recognize all non transparent phrasal verbs as interference from the dialect, though they use them in their everyday conversation, monolingual speakers do not recognize at all non transparent phrasal verbs as interference from the dialect, but judge them as perfectly natural colloquial Italian. From this observation we will draw the following conclusion: the role of bilingual and monolingual speakers in the spreading of V+P phenomena is radically different. Bilingual speakers introduce these constructs into the colloquial language, but keep it for the lower stylistic levels, while monolingual speakers, lacking the comparison with Veneto, generalize its use, spreading it across the stylistic scale. We will try to capture this difference proposing a tentative model of the way stylistic levels and interaction between Veneto and Italian might be represented.