

La *onward migration* di nuovi italiani e il mantenimento della lingua italiana

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Abstract

The Onward Migration of New Italians and the Maintenance of the Italian Language

This article focuses on the maintenance of Italian among families of new Italians who have migrated to the UK after a long period of life in Italy. The discussion is based on sociolinguistic interviews undertaken with the elder children of these families. The results show that Italian is maintained in the family domain, where the second generation continues to use Italian with siblings. The elder siblings assist their younger siblings in maintaining their Italian proficiency and may use a combination of family languages when communicating with parents when they are not fluent in English. Transnational practices also contribute to the maintenance of online communication with friends and relatives in Italy or with regular visits particularly if a member of the family is still living there. The language is further maintained when Italian is also being taken as an exam at school or studied at the university.

Keywords: onward migration; Italian migration; Italian language; transnational migrants; language maintenance.