

Comunicazione e migranti: il gioco delle parole sull'immaginario collettivo

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Abstract

Communication and Migrations: some words that play with the public imaginary

Whenever dealing with migration issues, the very same words we heard for years, be them emergency or illegal immigrants, are still dominating language and public imagination in Italy. How and when were these words born? Who coined, legitimated and disseminated them? Who turned them into culture, and into current prejudices affecting most analyses on the subject? This paper means to trace the history of the use of such words. The most significant materials do not come from the media but from government sources. In recent years words like reception and integration gradually replaced emergency and illegal immigrants, as the result of a new awareness. Nowadays, however, in a sort of snakes and ladders game, government language appears to have set the clock quite back: exclusion sounds now stronger than reception, and rejection than integration.

Keywords: hospitality; exploitation-integration; inclusion; marginalization-legality; illegal immigrants.