

# Il declino dello studio dell'italiano in Canada. Fattori sociolinguistici e didattici

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*Abstract*

*The Decline in the Study of Italian in Canada. Sociolinguistic and pedagogical factors*

*In the last few decades, there has been a noticeable decline in enrollments in Italian courses at all levels of education in Canada. Among the likely factors for this decline are the growth of new technologies and the inefficacy of pedagogical methods of instruction, which have affected how the language is perceived. Another key factor is the fact that the current generation of descendants of post-war Italian immigrants no longer have an ethnically-based attachment to the language. This study aims to explore these factors on the basis of a survey carried out in 2018 involving students enrolled in Italian courses at two levels – high school and university. The goal was to determine if technology, pedagogy, and changing demographic make-up of students were indeed factors impacting enrollments. The results are then examined in terms of the pedagogical and motivational responses that they imply.*

**Keywords:** italian pedagogy, technological factors, immigration factors, enrollment decline, motivation.