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e didattica delle lingue nei
contesti sportivi

Sociolinguistic Dynamics and
Language Teaching in Sports

a cura di Raymond Siebetchu

Studi e ricerche

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Università per Stranieri di Siena

Edizioni Unistrasi



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INTRODUZIONE

Sono ancora limitati gli studi sistematici relativi alle questioni sociolinguistiche, interculturali e didattiche nei contesti sportivi. Lo ribadiscono gli autori di questo volume, i quali sono tra i pochi che hanno affrontato tali questioni nell'ultimo decennio. Eppure, il mondo dello sport si sta configurando come un luogo investito dal contatto multiculturale e contraddistinto da una frequente e dinamica mobilità di persone, di lingue e di culture. È doveroso ricordare che sono consistenti gli studi relativi al linguaggio giornalistico sportivo in generale e in particolare a quello calcistico, come lo ricordano i contributi su questo tema in questo volume. Mi limito a ricordare il saggio di Giacomo Devoto (1939), *Le lingue speciali: le cronache del calcio*, in «Lingua nostra», I (1939), pp. 17-21, probabilmente uno dei primi in Italia su questo tema. Si pone quindi l'esigenza di descrivere le macroforme del contatto fra idiomi nel contesto sportivo attraverso ricerche capaci di associare le attività sportive alle teorie semiotiche, sociolinguistiche e didattiche dimostrandone il valore applicativo anche a sostegno di azioni di programmazione educativa e di sviluppo culturale del territorio. Il Convegno Internazionale *Dinamiche sociolinguistiche e interculturali nei contesti sportivi* tenutosi il 15 e il 16 novembre 2018 presso l'Università per Stranieri di Siena, il primo di questo tipo in Italia, ha cercato di colmare questa carenza accogliendo proposte di comunicazione da parte di studiosi italiani e stranieri le cui ricerche sono dedicate alle questioni sociolinguistiche e interculturali nello sport. Il presente volume raccoglie una selezione dei contributi presentati in occasione del Convegno senese.

Si tratta probabilmente del primo volume sulle dinamiche sociolinguistiche e didattiche nello sport in Italia. Una peculiarità di questa pubblicazione è che propone riflessioni dei principali studiosi che si occupano attualmente del binomio Lingua e Sport secondo le prospettive di vari ambiti disciplinari come la sociolinguistica, la linguistica educativa, la demografia nonché i processi di mediazione, traduzione, interpretariato e gli effetti delle migrazioni nel sistema sportivo. La dimensione interdisciplinare del volume propone un confronto non solo tra varie discipline intorno allo stesso tema, ma anche tra i vari quadri teorico-metodologici utilizzati. Un altro elemento di confronto che si ritiene di notevole interesse è la diversità delle discipline sportive trattate nel volume. In questo senso, i contributi fanno riferimento sia agli

sport collettivi che agli sport individuali. Sono inoltre presi in considerazione tanto gli sport maggiormente diffusi e praticati che quelli meno praticati. Tra le discipline analizzate nel volume vi sono, ad esempio, il calcio, la pallavolo, la pallacanestro, il rugby, l'atletica leggera, il tennis e le arti marziali, tra cui la lotta. Questa diversità di discipline sportive consente di proporre un quadro pressoché complessivo della situazione sociolinguistica nello sport italiano e di quello che succede in altri paesi.

Un'altra peculiarità di questo volume è che alcuni degli autori, oltre ad essere giovani studiosi/e di questioni sociolinguistiche e didattiche delle lingue nello sport, sono anche atleti di fama internazionale con numerosi trofei vinti. Questa presenza di ricercatori-sportivi tra gli autori dimostra la necessità di creare un dialogo scientifico tra due ambiti apparentemente distanti ma in realtà molto legati. Anche grazie al contributo degli sportivi in questo progetto editoriale, la cifra contenutistica del volume rende egregiamente conto della valenza applicativa dei contributi, collegata, appunto, al vissuto linguistico quotidiano degli sportivi. Oltre al mondo dello sport e alla pura ricerca scientifica, un'attenzione nel volume viene data anche alla scuola e a vari contesti sociali, come i centri di accoglienza per richiedenti asilo, a dimostrazione della volontà di combinare proposte applicative concrete alle riflessioni teoriche discusse nel volume.

Il volume è articolato in quattro sezioni: *Plurilinguismo nello sport*, *Didattica delle lingue nello sport*, *Lessico dello sport: terminologie, traduzioni e cronache giornalistiche* e *Dinamiche migratorie e interculturali nello sport*. I contributi presentati, che propongono delle ricerche di taglio quantitativo e qualitativo, fanno riferimento a diversi approcci metodologici: analisi dei dati demo-statistici sulla popolazione sportiva, questionari sociolinguistici, interviste, analisi dei corpora (radiocronaca, telecronaca e cronaca online), osservazione partecipante, esperienza sul campo (attività didattiche).

La sezione intitolata *Plurilinguismo nello sport* raccoglie contributi che si basano sulle dinamiche linguistiche e la gestione del plurilinguismo nelle società sportive. In alcuni casi si tratta dei primi lavori sull'argomento in Italia.

Lo studio di **Raymond Siebetchu** illustra i risultati delle ricerche condotte nell'ambito del progetto *Multisport. Immigrazione e sport italiano: una prospettiva multiculturale per l'integrazione* del Centro di Eccellenza della Ricerca dell'Università per Stranieri di Siena. La ricerca presenta alcuni modelli di analisi delle dinamiche sociolinguistiche nel calcio, con un'attenzione particolare al plurilinguismo. Vengono proposte una serie di attività didattiche sviluppate nei contesti calcistici sulla base dei bisogni linguistici degli apprendenti. **Eva Lavric**, attraverso il suo contributo, illustra i principali risultati delle ricerche condotte all'interno dell'*Innsbruck Football Research Group*. Attraverso tali ricerche, l'autrice dimostra che, a differenza di quanto si potrebbe pensare, il plurilinguismo ha un ruolo preponderante nelle squadre di calcio ed è necessario anche per il rendimento sul terreno di gioco. Lo studio propone, infine, alcune riflessioni per le ricerche future. **Annalisa Sandrelli**, dal suo canto,

riporta un caso di studio, condotto presso il Centro Tecnico Federale di Coverciano, che si basa sulle esperienze e le percezioni degli aspiranti allenatori rispetto alle questioni linguistiche. L'obiettivo dello studio è quello di identificare i temi ricorrenti e le buone pratiche in riferimento alle competenze linguistiche nel calcio. Il capitolo di **Sara Colombo** si concentra su una squadra di Serie A, l'Atalanta BC. Nel suo studio, l'autrice descrive la politica linguistica della squadra e le misure per metterla in atto. Un'attenzione particolare è dedicata anche al Settore Giovanile della squadra, per il quale la formazione linguistica riveste un ruolo notevole. La ricerca illustrata da **Francesca Gallina** traccia un quadro del plurilinguismo nel mondo del rugby italiano e, in particolare, della Benetton Rugby di Treviso, una delle squadre italiane che milita in un campionato transnazionale. Il contributo rivela che nonostante la massiccia presenza di numerose lingue nel repertorio linguistico dei giocatori e dei tecnici, l'inglese assume una posizione dominante nella comunicazione dentro e fuori dal campo. Nel contributo di **Giulia Gaggiotti** vengono prese in esame le dinamiche e le strategie messe in atto dalle società cestistiche per garantire la comunicazione con i giocatori stranieri. Lo studio analizza pertanto le buone prassi sul tema dell'integrazione con un'attenzione particolare alla mediazione linguistica interculturale, sondando la modalità specifica dell'interpretazione dialogica. **Irene Siragusa**, nella sua trattazione, propone una riflessione sui servizi linguistici nei campionati internazionali di atletica leggera. L'autrice analizza in particolare il repertorio linguistico degli atleti, nonché il ruolo e il valore delle lingue durante gli eventi sportivi. Il contributo delinea, infine, le barriere linguistiche e i processi di mediazione linguistica durante tali manifestazioni. Lo studio di **Mirella Ricca**, invece, si riferisce alle dinamiche sociolinguistiche nel campionato professionistico di pallavolo femminile. Il contributo pone l'attenzione sull'analisi del repertorio linguistico delle giocatrici ma anche sulle scelte linguistiche durante gli allenamenti e le partite. Tale studio rivela un'apertura nei confronti del plurilinguismo e una consapevolezza rispetto all'importanza del mediatore linguistico.

La sezione dedicata alla *Didattica delle lingue nello sport* illustra alcuni percorsi didattici sviluppati nell'ambito di progetti universitari, scolastici e di associazioni culturali. Questa sezione valorizza la dimensione applicativa del volume.

Il contributo di **Alessandra Fazio**, **Elisa Fiorenza** ed **Emanuele Isidori** rende conto delle attività dell'Università del Foro Italoico nell'ambito del progetto europeo ESTPORT. Gli autori descrivono il percorso e i corsi di lingua personalizzati realizzati per colmare le lacune formative e per facilitare la transizione degli atleti d'élite nel mondo del lavoro. **Maria Carmela D'Angelo**, nel suo saggio, s'interroga sulla necessità di un sillabo nello sport individuando alcune indicazioni utili alla costruzione di uno o più sillabi-guida per l'insegnamento della lingua italiana speciale dello sport. Le sue proposte rispondono alla volontà di soddisfare i bisogni linguistici di varie categorie di persone, le cui professioni sono legate allo sport. Le riflessioni proposte da **Gianluca Baldo** offrono una sintetica presentazione dei bisogni assai specifici dei

calciatori della Serie A in generale e in particolare di quelli dell'Udinese Calcio. L'autore propone inoltre alcune strategie didattiche elaborate sulla base sia dell'articolata rete di fattori in gioco, sia degli obiettivi urgenti fissati dai committenti. Nel suo lavoro, **Giorgia Motta** propone una metodologia didattica alternativa con lo scopo di offrire agli apprendenti un diverso percorso di avvicinamento a una lingua straniera. Basandosi sulle passioni dei suoi studenti, l'autrice illustra alcune attività didattiche per l'insegnamento dello spagnolo nelle scuole elementari e medie partendo dal calcio e dalla musica. Il contributo di **Alessandra Castorrini** presenta un progetto con classi di richiedenti asilo di livello A1 sviluppato entro la Cooperativa Cefal Emilia-Romagna. L'autrice illustra le articolazioni del progetto "Let's play" dedicato all'integrazione dei richiedenti asilo attraverso lo sport, adottando un approccio di Simulazione Globale concentrato sui bisogni educativi degli apprendenti. L'intervento di **Paola Russo** illustra alcune attività didattiche rivolte a studenti-calcatori adolescenti stranieri di livello A2/B1 interessati ad acquisire una buona padronanza dell'italiano attraverso il gioco del calcio. Questa disciplina sportiva è pertanto presentata come spunto per l'insegnamento/apprendimento dell'italiano L2 in classi ad abilità differenziate.

La terza sezione dal titolo *Lessico dello sport: terminologie, traduzioni e cronache giornalistiche* raccoglie contributi capaci di affrontare il tema del lessico dello sport da prospettive di analisi molteplici che richiamano a diverse anime della ricerca linguistica come il linguaggio settoriale, la traduzione e la comunicazione online.

Il contributo di **Maurizio Viezzi** focalizza l'attenzione sul modo in cui vengono designate le specialità dell'atletica dai giornalisti di *Track & Field News*. Questi ultimi attingono a una gamma più o meno ampia di espressioni creative, spesso caratterizzate da assoluta sinonimia e, dunque, perfettamente intercambiabili, ancorché talvolta di difficile comprensione per chi non disponga di adeguate competenze tematiche o linguistiche. Dal suo canto, **Lorenzo Zanasi** prende in esame le caratteristiche del lessico di alcuni sport di combattimento come le arti marziali miste e il *jiu jitsu* brasiliano soffermandosi sulle dinamiche sociolinguistiche, fortemente orientate al plurilinguismo, che si manifestano nella pratica sportiva di questi metodi di lotta. L'autore descrive inoltre l'apparato metaforico che connota la terminologia di queste discipline. **Roger Baines** si concentra invece sull'industria del calcio ed esplora i processi identitari e di globalizzazione che ne derivano. Concentrando l'attenzione su Twitter, l'autore approfondisce le pressioni legate alla gestione dell'identità dei grandi marchi sulle pratiche di traduzione. Lo studio di **Stefania Spina** si prefigge di indagare la cronaca giornalistica scritta del calcio. L'autrice delinea alcune tendenze recenti della cronaca giornalistica legate a tre fenomeni di tipo lessicale, testuale e discorsivo: l'uso di un particolare tipo di tecnicismi, il carattere espressivo ed emotivo del discorso e la sua caratteristica di brevità e immediatezza. Anche **Antonio Daniele** si occupa di cronaca sportiva, ma sposta l'attenzione su un confronto tra la cronaca radiofonica e quella televisiva, dal monopolio RAI alla piattaforma SKY. L'autore analizza l'uso

della lingua italiana nel giornalismo sportivo, considerato come uno dei campi nei quali può risultare efficace un esame e un bilancio degli esiti del quadro lessicale via via maturato negli anni mediante il vettore massmediale. Sempre rimanendo nell'ambito della cronaca giornalistica calcistica, lo studio di **Giacomo Klein** si propone di analizzare la lingua delle telecronache sportive negli ultimi decenni in Italia. Il contributo individua alcuni elementi caratterizzanti del linguaggio della telecronaca e analizza il suo sviluppo da un punto di vista diacronico dagli anni '80 ai giorni nostri. **Nebojsa Radović** suggerisce, infine, un taglio specifico relativo all'analisi della cronaca sportiva. L'autore si sofferma sulle metafore nel discorso sportivo con un riferimento particolare alle cronache televisive italiane delle partite di tennis. L'articolo illustra varie forme di metafora e osserva come quella della guerra sia preferibilmente usata dai commentatori televisivi.

La sezione dedicata alle *Dinamiche migratorie e interculturali nello sport* testimonia il carattere interdisciplinare del volume facendo riferimento a contributi con taglio geo-statistico, storico e sociologico. Questi ambiti forniscono degli spunti importanti per gli studi sociolinguistici.

Il contributo di **Raffaele Poli** propone un'analisi di stampo demo-statistico relativa alla mobilità internazionale dei calciatori negli ultimi 25 anni. I dati che l'autore espone sono stati elaborati dal gruppo di ricerca del *CIES Football Observatory*, gruppo specializzato negli studi demografici inerenti al mercato del lavoro in ambito calcistico. Tali dati confermano il trend sempre più crescente dei calciatori stranieri in Europa e il loro impatto sulle scelte linguistiche nelle squadre di calcio. **Nicola Porro**, nel suo saggio, ricostruisce con un approccio storico-sociologico i legami tra emigrazione italiana ed esperienza sportiva. L'autore, facendo riferimento agli emigrati italiani, dimostra che se in Argentina l'associazionismo sportivo ha concorso potentemente ad accumulare capitale sociale, negli Usa i percorsi di mobilità sono stati caratterizzati da una forte impronta campionistica. **Saverio Battente** concentra la sua riflessione sulla dimensione storica dello sport come strumento di integrazione culturale. Le considerazioni dell'autore si aggirano intorno alla figura dell'eroe in Italia a partire dal Novecento. Il contributo dimostra come le gesta atletiche di personaggi dello sport abbiano contribuito a creare un'identità condivisa, tra culture, religioni ed etnie distinte, sia attraverso l'emigrazione italiana all'estero che attraverso l'immigrazione straniera in Italia. Il saggio di **Sandra Kyeremeh** indaga le forme attraverso le quali l'italianità, il senso di appartenenza e la "bianchezza" vengono costruite all'interno dei contesti sportivi italiani. L'autrice dimostra che l'utilizzo della *Critical Race Theory* può aiutare nell'analizzare la complessità dei modi grazie ai quali lo sport ed i corpi delle sportive sono implicati in lotte tanto per il riconoscimento sociale e legale, quanto per l'inclusione nella "comunità immaginata" italiana. **María Soledad Balsas** focalizza l'attenzione sulle dinamiche sociolinguistiche riguardanti la recezione transnazionale del calcio italiano in Argentina. Partendo da un approccio etnografico virtuale, il contributo sottolinea il potenziale della televisione transna-

zionale per minare la natura nostalgica dell'immaginazione diasporica e i suoi imperativi di identificazione e appartenenza.

Prima di concludere questa presentazione, desidero ringraziare il DADR – Dipartimento di Ateneo per la Didattica e la Ricerca – e il suo Direttore, Massimo Palermo, per avere inserito il Convegno internazionale da cui deriva questo volume tra i “Grandi eventi” del DADR per l’anno 2018. Un sincero ringraziamento anche al Rettore Pietro Cataldi per il suo prezioso supporto durante l’organizzazione del Convegno. Ai Centri CE (Centro di Eccellenza della Ricerca), CLUSS (Centro Linguistico di Ateneo), CILS (Centro di Certificazione dell’Italiano come Lingua Straniera) e ai loro rispettivi direttori Massimo Vedovelli, Carla Bagna e Sabrina Machetti, rivolgo i miei sentiti ringraziamenti per il sostegno finanziario e la fiducia accordata sia in occasione dell’organizzazione del convegno che nella cura degli Atti. A nome di tutti gli autori desidero ringraziare in modo particolare tutti i revisori anonimi, i cui suggerimenti hanno consentito di migliorare la qualità dei contributi presenti in questo volume. Ringrazio anche il Comitato Scientifico e il Comitato Organizzatore del convegno il cui lavoro ha consentito di invitare a Siena studiosi italiani e stranieri, i cui interessi di ricerca si aggirano attorno al binomio Lingua e Sport. In riferimento al Comitato Organizzatore, un ringraziamento speciale va a Paola Savona e Rosalia Guidoni per il loro impegno anche a supporto della cura redazionale del volume. Rivolgo, infine, un sincero ringraziamento al Comitato Scientifico della Collana *Studi e Ricerche* dell’Università per Stranieri di Siena, che ha accettato di ospitare gli Atti di questo primo convegno senese sulle dinamiche sociolinguistiche nello sport, e al Comitato di Redazione della Collana per il prezioso lavoro durante tutte le fasi della pubblicazione.

Siena, novembre 2020

Raymond Siebetchu

INTRODUCTION

To date, only very few works have systematically dealt with sociolinguistic dynamics in sports. This is confirmed by the authors of this volume, who are precisely among the few who have addressed these issues in the last decade. Yet, sport could be considered a complex ecosystem characterized by multicultural contact determined by the frequent and dynamic mobility of people, languages and cultures. Previous studies mainly focused on sports journalism and particularly football, as the ensuing contributions about this topic will underline. An instance is Giacomo Devoto (1939)'s, *Le lingue speciali: le cronache del calcio*, in «Lingua nostra», I, pp. 17-21, probably one of the first dealing with this theme in Italy. The need therefore arises to describe the macro-forms of contact between languages in sports through works which aim at associating sporting activities with semiotic, sociolinguistic, and educational linguistic theories. Furthermore, the idea is to illustrate the value and effects of sport in support of educational planning and cultural development actions implemented in specific areas. In particular, the link between language and sports is a very interesting issue which stimulates a reflection about identity expressions and a rethinking of immigrants' and citizens' integration. The International Conference on *Sociolinguistic and Intercultural Dynamics in Sports*, held on November 15th-16th 2018 at the University for Foreigners of Siena, was the first of its kind in Italy and sought to contribute to filling this gap by welcoming contributions by Italian and foreign scholars whose research is dedicated to sociolinguistic and intercultural issues in sports. These proceedings collect a selection of papers presented during the conference.

This book is probably the first volume entirely devoted to sociolinguistic dynamics and language teaching in sports in Italy. The publication innovatively collects the reflections of the main scholars on language and sports and combines different disciplinary perspectives, such as sociolinguistics, educational linguistics, demography as well as the processes of mediation, translation, interpreting and the effects of migration on the sports system. The interdisciplinary dimension of the volume offers a comparison not only between various disciplines around the same theme, but also between various theoretical-methodological frameworks. Another element of comparison of considerable interest is the diversity of the sports disciplines

covered in the volume. The contributions refer to both collective and individual sports. The most popular, most practiced, as well as the least practiced sports are taken into consideration. Among the disciplines analyzed in the volume we find football, volleyball, basketball, rugby, athletics, tennis, and wrestling. This diversity of sports disciplines allows to offer quite a complete overview of the sociolinguistic situation in Italian sports and to give an idea of what is happening in other countries.

Another interesting aspect of this volume is that some of the authors, in addition to being young scholars of sociolinguistic and language teaching issues in sports, are also renowned athletes who have won numerous trophies. Hence, the need to fuel the scientific debate between two apparently distant but actually very closely related areas. Thanks to the contributions of athletes, the book presents works with both theoretical and practical implications. In addition to sports and pure scientific research, attention is also given to education and various social contexts, such as asylum seekers centers, aiming to combine theoretical reflections with practical issues.

The book is divided into four thematic sections: *Plurilingualism in sports*; *Language teaching in sports*; *Sports language: terminology, translation and news reports*; *Migration and intercultural dynamics in sports*. The contributions, based on quantitative and qualitative studies, move from different methodological approaches: the analysis of demo-statistical data, sociolinguistic questionnaires, interviews, corpus analysis (radio and TV commentaries, online news, specialized journals), participant observation and language teaching activities.

The first section, entitled *Plurilingualism in sports*, collects contributions on linguistic dynamics and the management of plurilingualism in clubs related to different sports disciplines. In some cases, these are the first works on the topic in Italy.

Raymond Siebetchu's study illustrates the results of research conducted within the *Multisport project. Immigration and Italian sport. A multicultural perspective for integration* at the University for Foreigners of Siena. The study presents some analysis models of sociolinguistic dynamics in football, with attention to plurilingualism. The author discusses some language teaching activities developed in football contexts based on and considering the linguistic needs of the learners. **Eva Lavric** describes the main results of a study conducted within the *Innsbruck Football Research Group*. Through her research, the author shows that, unlike what one might think, multilingualism has a predominant role in football teams and is also necessary for players' performance on the pitch. The author concludes her article by suggesting some research questions for future research. **Annalisa Sandrelli**'s paper reports on a case study carried out at the Italian Federal Coaching Centre in Coverciano (Florence), which investigated trainee coaches' experiences and perceptions of "the language gap". The aim of the study is to identify recurring themes and best practices referring to language skills in football teams. **Sara Colombo**'s chapter focuses on

an Italian Serie A team, Atalanta BC. In her study, the author describes the team's language policy and explores the measures adopted for its implementation. Particular attention is allocated to the team's Youth Sector, for which language education plays a predominant role. The research illustrated by **Francesca Gallina** focuses on plurilingualism in Italian rugby – in particular in Treviso's Benetton Rugby, one of the Italian teams playing in a transnational league. The contribution shows that, despite the massive presence of numerous languages in the linguistic repertoire of both players and coaches, who come from different countries, English takes on a dominant position in both on- and off-pitch communication. **Giulia Gaggiotti's** contribution examines the dynamics and strategies implemented by Italian basketball clubs to manage communication with foreign players. The study analyzes good practices on the topic of integration with attention to intercultural linguistic mediation, probing the specific modality of dialogical interpretation. **Irene Siragusa** focuses her reflection on linguistic services during the international athletics championships. The author analyzes the linguistic repertoire of athletes, as well as the role and value of languages during sporting events. The contribution also outlines the language barriers and linguistic mediation processes during these events. **Mirella Ricca's** study describes sociolinguistic dynamics in the professional women's volleyball championship. The contribution illustrates the players' linguistic repertoires and their linguistic choices during training and matches. The study shows a certain degree of openness towards plurilingualism and an awareness of the importance of the language mediator.

The section devoted to the *Teaching of languages in sports* presents some language teaching activities developed within school, university, and cultural association projects. This section enhances the practical dimension of the volume.

The contribution by **Alessandra Fazio, Elisa Fiorenza** and **Emanuele Isidori** focuses on the issue of student-athletes' dual career. The authors illustrate the activities at the University of the Foro Italico within the European ESTPORT project. In particular, they describe the path and personalized language courses created to fill any training gaps, with the support of technology, aimed at facilitating the transition of elite athletes into the professional world. In her paper, **Carmela D'Angelo** investigates the need for a syllabus related to language teaching activities in sports by identifying some useful guidelines for syllabus design for Italian language teaching. The proposals respond to the linguistic needs of various student categories, whose professions are related to sports. The reflections by **Gianluca Baldo** offer a concise presentation of the very specific needs of Italian league Serie A players in general and, narrowing the focus onto the *Udinese Calcio* team. The author also proposes some language teaching strategies developed on the basis of both the articulated network of factors involved and the immediate objectives set by the teams. In her work, **Giorgia Motta** suggests an alternative language teaching methodology with the aim of offering learners' different tools to learn a foreign language. Based on the students' interests and attitudes, the author illustrates some language activities for

teaching Spanish in elementary and middle schools based on football and music. **Alessandra Castorrini**'s contribution presents a project in A1-level asylum seeker classes developed within the CEFAL Emilia Romagna Region Association. The author illustrates the nodes of the *Let's play project* based on the Global Simulation approach. The project focuses on learners' educational needs and promotes the integration of asylum seekers through sport. **Paola Russo**'s paper illustrates some language teaching activities aimed at A2/B1-level foreign student-footballers interested in acquiring adequate skills in L2 Italian through football. This sports discipline is viewed as a starting point for teaching and learning L2 Italian in mixed-ability classes.

The third section, *Sports language: terminology, translation and news reports*, gathers contributions related to sports from multiple perspectives and about different aspects of linguistic research such as sectorial language, translation and online communication.

Maurizio Viezzi's contribution focuses on the way athletic specialties are designed by journalists of *Track & Field News*, who draw on a variably wide range of creative expressions. These often rely on absolute synonymy and expressions are fully interchangeable, albeit sometimes difficult to understand for those who do not have adequate thematic and linguistic skills. **Lorenzo Zanasi**, on his part, examines the lexicon of some combat sports such as mixed martial arts and Brazilian *jiu jitsu* focusing on sociolinguistic dynamics, which appear to be strongly oriented towards plurilingualism. The author also describes the metaphorical apparatus connoting the terminology of these disciplines. The chapter written by **Roger Baines** deals with the translation of tweets in football. The author specifically focuses the attention on the influence of brand identity management on translation practices on Twitter in the football industry. **Stefania Spina**'s study aims to investigate the football press report genre and to outline some of its recent trends, linked in particular to three lexical, textual and discursive phenomena: the use of a particular type of technicality, the expressive and emotional tone of the speech and its brevity and immediacy. **Antonio Daniele** also deals with sports reporting but shifts the attention onto the comparison between radio and television reporting, from the RAI monopoly to the SKY platform in Italy. The author analyzes Italian language use in sports journalism, considered as one of the fields in which the awareness of the lexical framework gradually developed over the years by the mass media can be effective. Still remaining within the field of football journalism, **Giacomo Klein**'s study aims to analyze the language of sports commentaries in Italy in the last decades. The contribution identifies some characteristics of the language of television commentaries and analyzes its development from a diachronic point of view from the 80s to the present day. **Nebojsa Radović** also deals with TV commentaries, but he dwells on metaphors in sports discourse with reference to the Italian television reporting of tennis matches. The article illustrates various types of metaphors and notes how the most common structural metaphor in this context is "Match is war".

The fourth session, dedicated to *Migration and intercultural dynamics in sports*, testifies to the interdisciplinary nature of the volume, including contributions with a demo-statistical, historical, and sociological perspective. These areas provide important starting points for sociolinguistic studies.

Raffaele Poli's contribution proposes a demo-statistical analysis related to the international mobility of players in European teams in the past 25 years. Data were processed by the research group within the *International Centre for Sports Studies* (CIES), a team who specializes in demographic studies on the labour market in football. The data confirm the growing trend of foreign players in Europe and their impact on language choices in football teams. In his paper, **Nicola Porro** reconstructs the links between Italian immigration and sports in Argentina and the United States through a historical-sociological approach. The author shows that while sports associations in Argentina have powerfully contributed to the accumulation of social capital, mobility in the USA has been characterized by a strong footprint in sports events. **Saverio Battente** starts a historical reflection on the theme of sport as a tool for cultural integration, through the figure of the hero in Italy starting in the Twentieth century. The contribution demonstrates how the athletic deeds of sports personalities have contributed to creating a shared identity between distinct cultures, religions, and ethnicities, both through Italian emigration abroad and immigration in Italy. **Sandra Kyeremeh**'s contribution investigates the forms through which Italianness, a sense of belonging and "whiteness", are built within Italian sports. The author shows that the use of Critical Race Theory can help investigate the complexity of the ways in which sports and the bodies of women athletes are involved in struggles for social and legal recognition, as well as inclusion in the Italian "imagined community". **María Soledad Balsas** focuses her attention on the sociolinguistic dynamics regarding the transnational reception of Italian football in Argentina. Based on a virtual ethnographic approach, the contribution underlines the potentiality of transnational television to undermine the nostalgic nature of diasporic imagination and its imperatives related to the process of identification and belonging.

Before concluding the introduction to this volume, I would like to thank DADR – the Department for Teaching and Research at the University for Foreigners of Siena – and its Director, Massimo Palermo, for including the international conference this volume stems from among DADR's "major events" for the year 2018. Sincere thanks also go to the Chancellor Pietro Cataldi for his support during the organization of the conference. My heartfelt thanks to CE (Center of Excellence for Research), CLUSS (University Language Center) and CILS (Certification of Italian as Foreign Language) and their respective directors Massimo Vedovelli, Carla Bagna and Sabrina Machetti for the financial support and trust given both during the organization of the conference and the writing of the conference proceedings. On behalf of all the authors, I would particularly like to thank the anonymous reviewers, whose comments and revisions have improved the quality of the contributions in both form and content.

INTRODUCTION

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Siena, November 2020
Raymond Siebetchu

IV SEZIONE – *IV SECTION*

DINAMICHE MIGRATORIE E
INTERCULTURALI NELLO SPORT

*MIGRATION AND INTERCULTURAL
DYNAMICS IN SPORTS*

RAFFAELE POLI
(UNIVERSITÉ DE NEUCHÂTEL /
CENTRE INTERNATIONAL D'ÉTUDE DU SPORT)

FOOTBALL AND PLAYER MIGRATION: A GEO-HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper presents a geo-historical analysis of the international mobility of football players. It focuses on the situation observed in Europe during the last 25 years. Although this paper does not claim to have any great theoretical ambitions, it has been influenced by works carried out by Bale / Maguire (1994), Maderer *et al.* (2014), Lanfranchi / Taylor (2015). The studies of these authors are based on the concepts of migration, mobility and sport illustrating their importance to understand sport dynamics today and their link with the history. For Maderer *et al.* (2014), after the Bosman ruling in 1995, the cultural diversity of professional football teams in Europe has increased considerably. Recruiting players regardless of their nationality allows football clubs to make use of a global talent pool and to combine the specific strengths of individuals with different cultural backgrounds. With the international mobility in football teams, as argued by Giulianotti / Robertson (2009), quoted in Bergh / Ohlander (2018: 254), football should also be regarded as contributing significantly to globalisation processes. For Taylor (2007), the concept of globalization is an active ingredient in most analyses of player migration.

It is important to observe that the geo-historical data we present in this article have not only the role to propose tools that can be used for the purposes of pure scientific knowledge related to geo-historical issues, but above all to demonstrate their application value in support of educational programming and sociological and sociolinguistics studies. Referring to sociology of sport we can mention the works of McGovern (200), Giulianotti (2008) as well as the one of Ravenel / Poli (2015) and Ravenel / Poli / Besson (2018). Among the numerous scholars who use geographical data to propose sociolinguistics analysis, we recall for instance Siebetcheu's sociolinguistics of football studies which consider geo-statistical data as part of methodological framework to interpret the link between multilingualism, migration and football (cfr. Siebetcheu 2016; 2017; his chapter in this volume). Our data are frequently used either by football teams or by mainstream and alternative media to describe statistical dynamics in football teams in their various facets. Actually, football and migration issues emerged as a key debating point for newspaper, radio and television journalists (Taylor 2006: 7).

All the data presented comes from the research work of the CIES Football Observatory. This group within the International Center for Sports Studies notably specialises since 2005 in the demographic study of the labour market in football. All the data are carefully elaborated from the crosschecking of several sources according to a fine methodology. The data gathering was carried out by combining the information from different electronic databases, from websites of federations and official websites of clubs. The details for each player include different criterions (age, height, position played, whether they have played at least one match for an "A" national team, as well as the country in which they started playing football) (Besson *et al.* 2008; Poli *et al.* 2018). In this work we will focus on this last criterion because it allows us to identify "expatriate" footballers, playing outside of their native country, which they left following recruitment by a foreign club. This allows us to produce robust statistics which are fully comparable both temporally (evolution) and spatially (per country). More information is available online on the CIES Football Observatory website at football-observatory.com, notably in the items "Reports" and "Posts". The website also includes an Atlas of Migration allowing users to highlight the main destination countries per expatriate origin.¹

2. EXPATRIATE PLAYERS IN FOOTBALL CLUBS

Since its professionalization, football implied the migration of coaches and players (Lanfranchi / Taylor 2001). With respect to the latter, however, legal constraints were rapidly introduced to hinder their international mobility. Quotas were implemented across countries to limit the number of foreign players that clubs could employ. As

1 Cfr. <https://football-observatory.com/IMG/sites/atlas migr/>.

noted above, on the 15th December 1995, the European Court of Justice ruled on the “Bosman” case. Quotas for communitarian players in European Union countries were abolished. Transfer indemnities for footballers out of contract were also forbidden. This gave players more room for mobility both within and across national borders.

Since 1995, the proportion of expatriate footballers in squads increased steadily. The notion defines players who grew up in a different association from that of their employer club and who left their first association following recruitment by a club overseas. This definition allows us to only take into account players who migrated for football-related reasons. Just before the Bosman ruling, the percentage of expatriates in clubs from the five major European championships was 20.7%. Ten years later, this percentage was already up to 38.8%. On the 1st of October 2015, reached 46.3%. This strong upward trend clearly illustrates the internationalisation of the European football players’ labour market. Focusing his research on English football league (1946-1995), that is before the Bosman ruling, McGovern (2002) presents a case study of a labour market where globalization could reasonably be expected. In finding that the market is characterized by a process of internationalization, McGovern (2002)’s study shows how this process is influenced by a range of economic, social and political factors that have distinctly national or British origins. More specifically, the study argues that two decades ago the expansion in overseas recruitment was shaped by the risk averse way in which employers deal with that which makes labour unique as a commodity: its variability and plasticity. Consequently, McGovern (2002) concluded that English clubs tended to draw heavily on those foreign sources that most resemble local sources in terms of climate, culture, language and style of football (for example, Scotland, Ireland, Australia and northern Europe, especially Scandinavia).

Date	Percentage
1995	20.7%
2005	38.8%
2015	46.3%

Tab. 1 *Percentage of expatriate players, big-5 leagues (1995-2015).*

The relative presence of expatriate players among squad members also increased in the 31 top division European leagues surveyed. It went up from 34.7% in 2009 to a new record high of 39.7% on the 1st of October 2017. Since 2015, the internationalisation process accelerated: on average +1.1% per year compared to about +0.5% between 2009 and 2015.

Date	Percentage
2009	34.7%
2010	35.8%
2011	35.5%
2012	36.3%
2013	36.9%
2014	36.8%
2015	37.5%
2016	38.6%
2017	39.7%

Tab. 2 *Percentage of expatriate players, 31 European top divisions (2009-2017).*

The percentage of players who already moved abroad during their career also highlights the strong internationalisation trend in the football players' labour market. On the 1st of October 1995, about one quarter of big-5 league footballers had already migrated for football-related reasons during their career. This proportion progressively increased to reach 54.3% on the 1st of October 2015.

Data	Percentage
1995	24.9%
2005	41.9%
2015	54.3%

Tab. 3 *Percentage of players having migrated during career, big-5 leagues (1995-2015).*

Henceforth, a majority of players in the 31 top division European leagues surveyed also experienced international migration during their football career. This percentage increased every year since 2009. It went up from 46.4% on the 1st of October 2009 to 54.6% eight years later. This is a further clear indication of the growing transnational structure of the footballers' labour market.

Data	Percentage
2009	46.4%
2010	47.8%
2011	47.9%
2012	49.0%
2013	49.6%
2014	50.3%

2015	51.2%
2016	52.7%
2017	54.6%

Tab. 4 *Percentage of players having migrated during career, 31 European top divisions (2009-2017).*

The internationalisation of football players' careers has gone hand in hand with the decrease in the average age of the first transfer to a foreign team. At big-5 league player level, this value went down from 23.04 years in 1995 to 21.52 ten years later. A further decrease took place during the following decade. Nowadays, a player from the five major European championships has on average migrated 21.05 years of age.

Data	Percentage Age
1995	23.04
2005	21.52
2015	21.05

Tab. 5 *Average age of first international migration, big-5 leagues (1995-2015).*

The same trend of earlier migration was observed since 2009 at the level of 31 top division European leagues. During the nine years studied, the average age of first international migration went down from 22.2 to 21.7 years. This finding confirms the strength of changes observed in the European labour market for footballers.

Data	Percentage Age
2009	22.20
2010	22.13
2011	22.05
2012	21.94
2013	21.81
2014	21.74
2015	21.71
2016	21.77
2017	21.70

Tab. 6 *Average age of first international migration, 31 European top divisions (2009-2017).*

The decrease in the average age of first international migration is related to the increase of the number and percentage of footballers moving abroad before the year of their 18th birthday. In 1995, only 0.56 players per big-5 league team experienced international migration as minors (10% of all migrant players). Twenty years later,

there were almost four times more players in this case in point (14% of all football migrants).

Date	Percentage Number
1995	0.56
2005	1.39
2015	2.01

Tab. 7 *Number of players who migrated as minors per club, big-5 leagues (1995-2015).*

The amount of players who migrated as minors per club also increased in the 31 European top divisions analysed. From 0.94 on the 1st of October 2009, the average number per team went up to a record high of 1.38 in 2017. In 2009, players who moved abroad before to turn 18 represented 8.2% of all players who already experienced international migration during their career. This percentage reached 9.9% in 2017.

Date	Percentage Number
2009	0.94
2010	1.01
2011	1.05
2012	1.16
2013	1.26
2014	1.28
2015	1.27
2016	1.32
2017	1.38

Tab. 8 *Number of players who migrated as minors per club, 31 European top divisions (2009-2017).*

3. ORIGINS OF EXPATRIATE PLAYERS

Today, expatriate footballers are present in all professional leagues worldwide. In May 2019, they represent 21.4% of players active in the 147 leagues from 98 national associations studied. Brazil is clearly at the top of the rankings for countries exporting footballers. In total, 1,330 players having grown up in Brazil play in the 147 leagues covered in this report. Brazilians are present in 85 associations out of 98. This reflects the unique role played by Brazil in supplying professional footballers worldwide.

With over 800 expatriates, France and Argentina also stand out from the crowd as exporting nations. Overall, almost a quarter of expatriates are from Brazil, France or Argentina (22.5%). The principle exporters from other continents are Nigeria for

Africa (10th place, 361 expatriates), the United-States for North America (25th, 145), Japan for Asia (30th, 128) and Australia for Oceania (35th, 101).

Countries	Players	Countries	Players	Countries	Players
Brazil	1330	Colombia	382	Belgium	217
France	867	Croatia	374	Senegal	203
Argentina	820	Nigeria	361	Ivory Coast	202
Serbia	458	Uruguay	325	Ukraine	196
England	431	Ghana	286	Slovakia	176
Spain	427	Portugal	279	Cameroon	170
Germany	394	Netherland	277	Sweden	160

Tab. 9 *Top 21 most represented origins among expatriates.*

If we equate the number of expatriates to the population resident in the country of origin, Iceland is at the top of the rankings. There is one Icelandic footballer abroad for every 5,458 inhabitants of the island. Uruguay is third place behind Montenegro and ahead of five other nations of ex-Yugoslavia (Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Macedonia). Only countries with at least 50 expatriates have been included in this analysis.

Countries	Inhabitants per expatriate	Expatriates	Countries	Inhabitants per expatriate	Expatriates
Iceland	5.458	59	Ireland	33.504	135
Montenegro	7.221	86	Denmark	35.968	155
Uruguay	10.409	325	Portugal	37.986	279
Croatia	11.561	374	Scotland	49.028	108
Serbia	20.954	458	Paraguay	49.052	134
Slovenia	23.432	88	Argentina	49.670	820
Bosnia Herzegovina	24.297	158	Belgium	50.724	217
Macedonia	28.432	74	Jamaica	52.981	52
Northern Ireland	30.183	60	Norway	53.739	92
Slovakia	30.909	176			

Tab. 10 *Number of inhabitants per expatriate, by association of origin.*

4. PRINCIPLE DESTINATIONS OF EXPATRIATE PLAYERS

Two European countries are the biggest importers of footballers: England (728 players, 139 of which are citizens of other UK nations) and Italy (636). In third place is an emerging force on the world football stage: the United States (575 players). You have to go down to 11th place to find the second non-European country: Mexico (289 imported players).

Countries	Players	Countries	Players	Countries	Players
England	728	France	330	Slovakia	200
Italy	636	Greece	304	Romania	194
United States of America	575	Mexico	289	Austria	187
Spain	516	Netherlands	271	Slovenia	184
Portugal	508	Scotland	250	Chile	179
Turkey	455	Poland	232	Czech Republic	170
Germany	379	Cyprus	210	Hungary	168

Tab. 11 *Top 21 principle importing countries, number of expatriates.*

In relative terms, the strongest presence of expatriates by club and by league was recorded in the Cypriot top division with an average of 17.5 expatriates per team. Major League Soccer in the United States and Canada is the only non-European competition in the top twenty of this ranking. As for Belgium, it is the only country to be represented by two leagues: First Division A and First Division B.

Leagues	Exp/club	% Exp
1.Division_Cyprus	17,5	63,1
Serie A_Italy	16,1	54,5
Primeira Liga_Portugal	16,0	59,3
Süper Lig_Turkish	15,7	55,7
First Division A_Belgium	15,4	57,4
Premier League_England	15,2	59,1
Premiership_Scotland	14,6	52,9
Super League_Greece	13,2	47,5
Bundesliga_Germany	13,1	48,2
Premier League_Armenia	12,7	44,9

Tab. 12 *Greatest number of expatriates per club, by league.*

The South American championships are over-represented among those whose clubs employ, on average, the least number of players imported from abroad. There are almost no expatriates in the Brazilian Serie B and C. Only six championships from UEFA member countries figure in the top twenty of the rankings.

Leagues	Exp/club	% Exp
Serie D_Brazil	0,1	0,5
Serie C_Brazil	0,6	1,8
Segunda División_Uruguay	0,8	4,6
Serie B_Brazil	0,8	2,5
Prim B Nacional_Argentina	0,8	2,9
Persha Liga_Ucraina	0,8	3,3
Premier League_Jamaica	0,8	2,4
Primera B_Colombia	0,9	3,0
Premier League_Ghana	0,9	3,8
1.Division_Belarus	1,1	5,5

Tab. 13 *Least number of expatriates per club, by league.*

5. TRANSFER NETWORKS

As can be seen from table 14, the main migratory routes in football are linked either to linguistic and historical reasons (Brazil-Portugal; Argentina-Spain) or to linguistic and geographical reasons (Argentina-Chile; England-Wales; Croatia-Slovenia; Ireland-England; France-Luxembourg, etc.). For this reason, Taylor (2006) observes that

the movement of footballers from country to country and continent to continent is thus much more than the product of the current economic and power relations of world football. It reflects a complex set of linkages between specific countries, or sets of countries – linkages that often have deep social, cultural and historical roots (Taylor 2006: 7).

The most frequented migratory route originates from Brazil and ends in Portugal (261 players). The migration of Argentinians to Chili (116 players) is the second principle axis. Two migratory channels departing from England also involve many footballers: the first ends up in Scotland (113 players), while the second leads to Wales (92 players).

Migratory routes	Players	Migratory routes	Players	Migratory routes	Players
Brazil-Portugal	261	Ireland-England	72	France-Spain	59
Argentina-Chile	116	Brazil-Japan	69	Slovakia-Czech Rep.	57
England-Wales	92	Argentina-Spain	66	Belgium-Netherlands	57
Argentina-Mexico	87	France-Luxembourg	65	France-Italy	56
France-England	87	Brazil-Italy	65	Austria-Germany	50
Croatia-Slovenia	80	France-Turkey	63	Uruguay-Argentina	49
Germany-Turkey	74	Argentina-Italy	62	Spain-England	47

Tab. 14 Principle worldwide migratory routes.

The Brazilians constitute the only truly global force in the footballers’ labour market. Though Portugal remains by far the privileged destination (261 players), many Brazilians are to be found in other European countries (Italy, Spain, Ukraine, Turkey, Greece, etc.), in Asia (Japan, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, South Korea, Thailand, etc.) and in the Americas (principally the United States and Mexico).



Fig. 1 Principle migratory routes for Brazilians.

6. CONCLUSION

The international mobility of footballers has risen steadily over the years. Expatriates represent about a fifth of the total number of active players in the leagues analysed. This percentage increases to 26% at the level of the championships from UEFA member countries, almost 40% by taking only into account top divisions and 50% for the five major European leagues only. During last year, the number of expatriates has increased for each of the three principle exporting countries: Brazil (+64 players, +4.8%), France (+37 players, +4.3%) and Argentina (+57, +7.0%). Alone, these countries export almost a quarter of footballers (22.5%). The number of Spaniards abroad has also strongly increased (+61, +14.3%). This is the second biggest increase in absolute terms after that of the Brazilians. England and Italy are the chief importing countries of footballers. The professional clubs of these countries employ 728 and 636 expatriate footballers respectively. Without taking into account the 139 citizens of the other UK nations present in England, it is in Italy where we find the greatest number of players imported from abroad.

The internationalisation and globalisation of the labour market for footballers will most probably continue to grow in the following years. As McGovern (2002), globalization is an inexorable free market process that fundamentally changes the nature of economic competition. This occurs alongside the attempt by the majority of clubs to generate profits through the transfer of players. But the radical notions of labour market globalization are fundamentally flawed since they fail to account for the ways in which labour market behaviour is socially embedded (McGovern 2002). Within this framework, footballers tend to be considered as commodities. However, the consideration of human aspects like the cultural and linguistic adaptability is more than ever important to allow players to settle well and fully develop their potential. These aspects surely deserve more attention by professional teams worldwide. Based on the above, our study show that «at the heart of the argument are two basic contentions: first, that football migration is nothing new, but has a long and complicated history; and second, that it should non be isolated from general migratory trends and patterns» (Taylor 2006: 7).

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