

## **English influence on written standard Italian: A new concept of regional dialect**

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Contemporary Italian is undergoing a process of restandardization, in which features that were previously considered non standard are being included in the standard language, towards the emergence of a new standard variety. Neostandard Italian (Berruto, 1987) incorporates many lexical terms borrowed from English (Bisetto, 2003; Bombi 2005, Rosati, 2005; Rogato, 2008; Szpingier, 2008; Gobber, 2011), which tend to replace preexisting Italian words (e.g. *break/pausa*). Moreover, neostandard Italian is differentiated on a regional basis (Cerruti, 2011), yet, to my knowledge, the distribution of regional patterns in neostandard Italian has not been assessed up to now. This paper surveys the patterns of regional diffusion of the English borrowings in neostandard Italian through site-restricted web searches, a computational model for geographic information retrieval for the analysis of regional lexical variation (Author, 2013; Author et al., forthcoming). The values of continuous lexical alternation variables (e.g. *step/pass*, *stress/tensione*) are automatically gathered in about 500 online newspaper websites based in over 150 locations in Italy and then calculated as proportions. Statistical techniques analyze spatial autocorrelation values (e.g. Grieve et al., 2011). The results provide a picture of the regional distribution for the preference of the English and the Italian version for each onomasiological concept.