



## Research

For approximately twenty years several members of C.I.S. have been involved in interuniversity research projects concerning the spontaneous, non-guided acquisition of Italian as a second language. The first of these projects, going by the name of Linguistics, Language Acquisition, theory and methodology, coordinated at a national level by Anna Giacalone Ramat and at a local level on behalf of the Bergamo research group by Monica Beretta, was financed in 1985 by the Ministry of Education, with the provision of 40% of the required funding. The topics dealt with were, as far as the local research group was concerned, the rules for word formation and phonology. In the following twenty years researchers concentrated on the acquisition of the ways in which temporality and, subsequently, modality may be expressed through language.

Over the past few years attention has been paid also to syntax, with projects aimed mainly at the acquisition of ways to express negation and subordination. A book edited by Anna Giacalone Ramat has recently been published offering a synthesis of the research activities which have been carried out for over ten years. This volume is entitled *Towards Italian. Routes and strategies for acquisition*, published by Carocci, (Rome) 2003 and includes contributions by several members of the Centre.

Some members of C.I.S. were also part of the Bergamo Research Group concerned with the Coordinated – Agency Project in 2000 entitled *Foreign Language Immigration in Italy* and whose national coordinator was Massimo Vedovelli. This project dealt with research into the linguistic features of some immigrant communities in Bergamo and its province.

For further details see

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