

Intralingual Metamorphoses: Subtitling the Italian TV series *Il commissario Montalbano* into English(es)

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Abstract

This investigation stems from the collection of the English subtitles – the only type of audiovisual translation available – of *Il commissario Montalbano*, the 37-episode Italian TV series produced by RAI (1999-2021) which, over the years, has enjoyed international recognition. Indeed, at present, there exist three English subtitled versions supplied by just as many independent companies: the DVD set distributed by Acorn Media (2010-2022) and the BBC (2008/2012-2022) broadcast in the UK – both titled *Inspector Montalbano* – are clearly detectable as British English; the MHz (2015?-2021) streaming in the USA – renamed *Detective Montalbano* – is undoubtedly identifiable as American English. Though limited to the 50 instances including mistranslations of Sicilianisms (see Furiassi, forthcoming), this analysis focuses on the cases in which the same Italian dialogue is rendered by means of distinct subtitles depending on the variety of English considered. Therefore, by discussing a sample of subtitles in which different translation choices are apparent, the aim of this piece of research is to highlight the intralingual metamorphoses present therein and to speculate on their plausible motivations.

References

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Bio-sketch

Cristiano Furiassi is Associate Professor of English Linguistics at the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Modern Cultures of the University of Turin, Italy, where he gained a PhD in 2005 after being awarded, in 2003, a Marie Curie fellowship at the University of Bergen, Norway. He is also the recipient of the 2006 *Laurence Urdang EURALEX (European Association for Lexicography) Award*, formerly *Verbatim Award*. In 2010 he authored the volume *False Anglicisms in Italian* (Polimetrica, 2010), prefaced by Manfred Görlach, which received 'honourable mention' at the 2012 *ESSE (European Society for the Study of English) Book Awards*. He co-edited, with Virginia Pulcini and Félix Rodríguez González, *The Anglicization of European Lexis: From Words to Phraseology* (John Benjamins, 2012) and, with Henrik Gottlieb, *Pseudo-English: Studies on False Anglicisms in Europe* (De Gruyter Mouton, 2015). In 2015 he completed a three-month research stay at the University of the West Indies, Barbados, under the supervision of Jeannette Allsopp, founder and former director of the Centre for Caribbean Lexicography.