## **Contents**

Ack	cknowledgements			
1.	New migrations and L2 Italian: an introduction			
1.1.	The variable "literacy" between sociolinguistics and second language acquisition	9		
1.2.	The lack of non-literate learners in second language acquisition research	10		
	The Italian case: between acquisition and description of varieties  1.3.1. Varieties and learner varieties in the descriptions of Italian 1.3.2. Migration and plurilingualism in Italian research  The research: source and goals	12 17 21 23		
2.	Studies on L2 acquisition by adult migrants			
2.2. 2.3.	European studies on adult immigrants The theory of the basic variety Italian SLA research: the functionalist framework Functionalist perspectives: general principles	27 31 35 37		
3.	Second language acquisition and literacy			
3.2.	What definition of "literacy"? The many consequences of literacy Literacy and second language acquisition 3.3.1. The cognitivist perspective 3.3.2. The linguistic perspective	43 44 50 51 55		
4.	New migration, new learners and old variables			
4.2.	Old and new variables Plurilingual repertoires 4.2.1. Migrants' repertoires and their features 4.2.2. Previous known languages and second language acquisition	61 62 62 64		
4.3.	Exposure and input	66		

	4.3.1.	Naturalistic acquisition: a complex construct	66
	4.3.2.	Properties of the input	68
	4.3.3.	Input and grammar	71
5.	Construc	ting a new corpus: reasons, method, problems	
5.1.	The conte	ext of the research	75
5.2.	The corpu	us: participants and data collection	83
	5.2.1.	Selection of the research sample	83
	5.2.2.		88
	5.2.3.		93
5.3.	Collecting	g data from the migrant population: problems and	- 100
	challenge		
5.4.	Transcrib	ing and interpreting	105
6.	The acqu	isition of the verb in adult learners with limited literac	y
6.1.	Introducti	ion	113
6.2.	The enco	ding of tense, aspect and modality in Italian	114
6.3.	Tense, as	pect and modality in L2 Italian	124
	6.3.1.	The pragmatic phase: pre-basic interlanguages	126
	<i>6.3.2</i> .	From pragmatics to grammar: basic interlanguages	129
6.4.	The emer	gence of morphosyntax: the post-basic continuum	143
	6.4.1.	8 7	145
	6.4.2.	, o	151
	6.4.3.	The morphological encoding of finiteness	162
7.	Literacy	and other variables: towards a conclusion	
7.1.	The conti	nuum of morphosyntax	169
7.2.	The role of	of literacy	171
7.3.	Towards	a conclusion	174
Tra	ınscriptioi	n conventions	177
Abl	breviation	s	178
Ref	erences		179