

## PRESS RELEASE



## THE “MATEL” (Metalinguistic Awareness Tests In European Languages) LLP Project: SCOPE, OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### ***FINAL CONFERENCE***

Friday, November, 20, 2015

9.15-5.30 pm

Faculty of Letters and Philosophy – University of Rome “SAPIENZA”

Villa Mirafiori Via C. Fea, 2.

*This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication[communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.*

On November, the 20th, 2015, at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy-University of Rome "SAPIENZA", Villa Mirafiori, Room V, the Final Conference of the "MATEL" (Metalinguistic Awareness Tests in European Languages) LLP Project took place, with the programme specified at the end of this report.

The event had been announced throughout the whole University of Sapienza one week before with the Newsletter usually sent by the "Comunicazioni e avvisi" service, as reported below.

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## Newsletter della settimana dal 16 al 22 novembre 2015

SettoreUfficioStampa\_e\_Comunicazione@uniroma1.it

12 nov

### **Conferenza/Internazionale** **The European "Matel" Project**

venerdì 20 novembre 2015, ore 09.15  
aula V - villa Mirafiori  
via Carlo Fea 2, Roma

Venerdì 20 novembre, presso villa Mirafiori, si terrà la conferenza internazionale di presentazione degli obiettivi e dei risultati del progetto europeo LLP "MATEL" (Metalinguistic Awareness Tests in European Languages). Il progetto, che ha visto coinvolti Italia, Spagna, Austria e Canada, prevedeva la validazione di test di consapevolezza metalinguistica (CML) in varie lingue europee, la traduzione in tedesco e la creazione di materiali educativi di potenziamento della CML.

Interverranno docenti delle Università di Venezia Cà Foscari, Granada, Vitoria Gasteiz, Innsbruck, Québec-à-Trois - Rivières (Canada), ricercatori ISTC-CNR e INDIRE-MIUR. Saranno presenti, inoltre, docenti di Roma1, RomaTre e Tor Vergata.

#### **Info**

Maria Antonietta Pinto - Dipartimento di Psicologia dei Processi di Sviluppo e Socializzazione

[mariantonietta.pinto@uniroma1.it](mailto:mariantonietta.pinto@uniroma1.it)

T (+39) 06 49917658

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The location of Villa Mirafiori had been chosen not only for its academic prestige but also because of a well established collaboration between the Coordinator of the MATEL Project, Prof. Maria Antonietta Pinto and Prof. Oreste Floquet (French Linguistics-SAPIENZA) which has recently resulted in a new research project funding, aimed at developing metalinguistically-based teaching materials in French and German. The role of Prof. Floquet, although originally not included in the MATEL Project, is bound to open new collaboration perspectives with the Canadian Partner, Prof. Sonia El Euch, inasmuch as they both work for the diffusion of French language across the world.

The opening talk was given by the invited Plenary Speaker, Prof. Paolo Balboni (“Ca’ Foscari”- University of Venice), in the form of a video-recorded interview, conducted by the Coordinator, Prof. M.A. Pinto, and projected onto the screen of the Conference Room. This interactive modality added authenticity to the overall message from Prof. Balboni and opened the way to the successive presentations of each Partner.

The Coordinator outlined the objectives and the main achievements of the project during its two years of life.

Then, Prof. P. Núñez Delgado (University of Granada), Prof. D. Lasagabaster (University of the Basque Country), Prof. S. El Euch (University of Québec-à-Trois Rivières-Canada), Prof. U. Jessner, together with Dr B. Hofer and Mrs. C. Pellegrini (all three from the University of Innsbruck), presented the major outcomes of their research in their respective countries, the educational impact it has had so far, and the potentialities for both research and education in the near future.

After the lunch break there were interventions from participants not included in the MATEL project but conducting research in fields very closely related to the main focus of the project, i.e., metalinguistic awareness (MLA).

Prof. O. Floquet (French Linguistics - SAPIENZA University) presented his research on MLA in French as FLE, using tests largely inspired by those involved in the MATEL project; Dr R. Morani (Researcher at the INDIRE-MIUR, a research institute associated to the National Education Ministry), presented research on MLA in Italian monolingual children at primary level; Prof. M. Orsolini and Dr. S. Melogno, together with Prof. Pinto (SAPIENZA University) showed the relevance of MLA assessment in clinical practice. Finally, Prof. V. Volterra (ISTC-CNR-Italy / Institute of Science, Technology and Cognition- National Research Council- Italy), outlined the long awareness raising process carried out by the Deaf community in Italy during the last forty years as to the status of Italian Sign Language (LIS).

The Conference was attended by 87 students (beyond the room capacity: 80 places), as attested by their signatures on an attendance sheet, mostly coming from the Modern Languages curriculum, and by a significant number of invited professors of the Universities of Roma “SAPIENZA”, Roma Tor Vergata and Roma Tre. The talks were given in four different languages: Italian, French, Spanish and English, with considerable flexibility in shifting from one language to another, according to the preferences expressed by the audience. Beyond variability in languages at oral level, all the slides projected onto the screen were in English, as requested, and this version will be uploaded on the MATEL website ([www.matelproject.com](http://www.matelproject.com)).

The Conference was closed at 5,30 pm, as foreseen.

The following photos portrait some significant moments of this successful event.



Prof. El Euch (University of Québec-à-Trois Rivières) and Prof. Pinto (University of Rome SAPIENZA) showing the book on MLA they published in 2015, a milestone and a starting point for research using French MLA tests in the French-speaking world and in plurilingual contexts.



Prof. P. Núñez Delgado (University of Granada) presenting the significance of the results obtained with the Spanish THAM-2 for research and education in Spain at the end of primary and Junior school level.



Prof. D. Lasagabaster (University of the Basque Country) presenting the results and the impact of the Spanish THAM-3 in Spain at High school and university students level.



Prof. U. Jessner, Dr Barbara Hofer and Mrs. C. Pellegrini (University of Innsbruck) presenting Innsbruck University's contribution to the MATEL Project and its relevance for research in multilingual contexts.



Prof. O. Floquet (French Linguistics-SAPIENZA) presenting his research with acceptability French tests on learners of French as L2.



Prof. V. Volterra showing the many publications that contributed to the awareness of the linguistic status of sign languages in Italy during the past forty years



Prof. Jessner and Prof. Volterra exchanging opinions during the lunch break.

Les étudiants de la Faculté de Lettres et Philosophie - SAPIENZA qui assistent à la Conférence ont droit à l'obtention de 2 CPU.  
 Students of the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy who will attend the Conference have right to 2 CPU.  
 Studenti della Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia hanno diritto a 2 CPU.  
 CONTACTS: [area11@uniroma1.it](mailto:area11@uniroma1.it) ; [marianonietta.stoccolunghi@uniroma1.it](mailto:marianonietta.stoccolunghi@uniroma1.it)

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**9:15**  
 Welcome from the organisers  
**Maria Antonietta PINTO**  
 and **Oreste FLOQUET** (Sapienza-Italy)

**9:30-10:00**  
 Plenary speaker  
**Paolo BALBONI**  
 (Università Ca' Foscari, Venice)  
 Metalinguistic awareness:  
 an interview with Paolo Balboni

**10:00-10:30**  
**Maria Antonietta PINTO**  
 (Sapienza-Italy)  
 The Coordinator's Team  
 (Irene BRACONE, Federica MICALE,  
 Sara SPANO')  
**Gabriella CANDILERA**  
 & **Paolo ILICHTO** (SdP-Italy)  
 The MATEL Project: objectives  
 and achievements

**10:30-11:00**  
**Pilar NUÑEZ DELGADO** (UGR-Spain)  
 MLA in Spanish - L1 with the THAM2:  
 perspectives in research and education



**11:00-11:30**  
 Coffee break

**11:30-12:00**  
**David LASAGANASTER** (UPV/EHU- Spain)  
 Fostering university students'  
 metalinguistic awareness:  
 the THAM-3 in action

**12:00-12:30**  
**Sonia EL EUCH** (UCR-Canada)  
 Metalinguistic awareness using  
 the French THAM-3: Current realities  
 and future possibilities

**12:30-13:00**  
**Ulrike JESSNER** (UIBK-Austria)  
 MLA in German - L1 with the NMT-2  
 and NMT-3: perspectives in research and  
 education

**13:00-14:00**  
 Lunch break

**14:00-14:30**  
**Oreste FLOQUET** (Sapienza-Italy)  
 MLA in French as FLE with  
 metalinguistic tests: perspectives  
 in research and education

THE EUROPEAN "MATEL" PROJECT<sup>1</sup>

Metalinguistic Awareness Tests in European Languages

Scope, objectives and achievements

FINAL CONFERENCE

Friday, November 20th, 2015

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Faculty of Letters and Philosophy  
 University of Rome SAPIENZA

Via Carlo Fea, 2. Room V

**14:30-15:00**  
**Raimonda MOHANI**  
 (Researcher at the INDIRE-MIUR)  
 Children's awareness of fairy tales:  
 evidence from discussion activities  
 in the classroom

**15:00-15:30**  
**Margherita ORSOLINI & Sergio MELOGNO**  
 (Sapienza-Italy)  
 The relevance of ML assessment  
 with atypically developing children:  
 an emblematic case study

**15:30-16:00**  
 Coffee break

**16:00-16:30**  
**Virginia Volterra**  
 (I.S.T.C.-CHR Rome-Italy)  
 The ongoing route of the Italian  
 signing community toward increasing  
 metalinguistic awareness

**16:30-17:30**  
 Discussion and closure



