

## Multiple languages and multiple voices

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Questa poesia e' stata scritta nel bellissimo Distretto dei Laghi (Brathay Hall, UK). E' stata inspirata dagli uccelli che cantavano in un maestoso albero, non sempre in sintonia gli uni con gli altri, alcune volte rincorrendosi per creare una perfetta armonia, altre volte creando una cacofonia di suoni strani... una metafora del vivere tra due lingue.

Citation Link

This poem has been written in the beautiful landscape of the Lake Districts (Brathay Hall, UK). It has been inspired by the birds singing along in a majestic tree, not always in tune to each other, sometimes chasing each other, making it like a proper harmony, sometimes like a complicated cacophony of strange sounds...., a metaphor for living between two languages.

Se parlo italiano sono ancora una bambina

Se parlo Inglese mi sento fredda e distante

Le parole inglesi sono come un bel vestito elegante per andare al lavoro

Mi sento rassicurata, mi conforta.

Mi da' spazio e coraggio,

Mi crea una certa distanza

e mi sento a mio agio.

If I speak Italian I am still a child

If I speak English it feels cool and distant

English words are like a smart dress

I wear to go to work.

Strangely, it's reassuring and comforting.

It gives me space and courage,

It gives me some distance

and I feel comfortable.

Il linguaggio Italiano e' ricco e complicato,

troppe regole e di convenzioni

di cui non puoi fare a meno.

The Italian language is rich and complicated,

too many rules and conventions

you cannot escape.

Come si spiega la sua ricchezza,  
ritmo e musicalita'?

Le parole italiane sono come "l'aria di casa"

La lingua Italiana mi porta a casa,  
dove sono nata, cresciuta  
nella voglia di explorare altri mondi,  
parlare altre lingue.

Tutte queste parole e ricordi  
riaffirorano polando la mia mente.

Non e' facile decifrare  
quale voce sta parlando,  
quale voce ascoltare,  
quale voce seguire.

E' una cacofonia di voci,  
alcune piu' forti di altre,  
alcune come dei sussurri,  
alcune distanti,  
altre piu' vicine.

Alcune sono stonate,  
altre si ritrovano insieme  
in bellissime armonie,  
come per magia.

Ci sono barlumi di armonia  
in questo sottofondo di voci contrastanti.

Sintonizzarsi con tutte queste voci e'  
stancante e a volte vorrei spegnerle  
o diminuire il volume in cerca di sollievo.

How does that fit with its richness,  
rhythm and musicality?

Italian words are like "home smell".

The Italian language takes me home,  
where I was born and raised,  
wanting to explore other worlds  
and speak other languages.

All these words and memories  
Resurfacing and populating my mind.

It's not easy to decipher  
which voice is speaking,  
which voice to listen,  
which voice to follow.

It's a cacophony of voices,  
some of them louder than others,  
some of them like whispers,  
some of them distant,  
some of them closer.

Some of them out of tune,  
some coming together  
to create beautiful harmonies,  
like magic.

There are glimmers of harmony against  
this background of conflicting voices.

Tuning in to these multiple voices can be  
tiring and exhausting,  
sometimes I wish I could switch them off  
or turn the volume down to get some  
relief.

Sono spesso confusa e frastornata ma ho imparato a conviverci.

Mi sento meno stanca, orache ho imparato a sintonizzarmi e desintonizzarmi,  
come uccelli che volano di ramo in ramo e orientarmi  
in questo continuo vento in movimento.

Ho trovato il mio modo di attraversare questo labirinto per ascoltare le voci degli altri e quelle degli uccelli che cantano in sottofondo.

I am often confused and overwhelmed yet my brain has learnt to live with it.

It is less tiring now as I learned to tune in and out,  
like birds flying from branch to branch,  
and orient myself  
in this ever-moving world wind.

I somehow mastered my way through the maze to listen to others' voices and still hear the birds singing in the background!



## Author

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