

Chapter 3

The Selected Films and Research Objectives

The following audiovisual texts are selected in order to provide a representation of the several dimensions connected to the migrations in movies, from the feelings of estrangement and alienation in different linguistic and socio-cultural contexts, to the stories connected to the Italians searching for better working and life conditions in foreign countries. The movies are also part of the “Cineforum” activity of the Master Course in “Cross-cultural Linguistic Mediation in Immigration and Asylum Domains” organised at the University of Salento. Specific types of interactions will be analysed: from those characterised by asymmetric relations, whose participants are in conflict due to their different cultures, to those marked by generational clashes, to even some examples of symmetrical exchanges, which are included in order to exemplify how the authors try to communicate such differences by means of specific linguistic and extralinguistic characteristics.

The selected movies are reported below:

- *Bend It like Beckham*, about the story of an Indian girl who lives in London, and who wants to be a successful football player, in opposition to the women’s role in her native society;
- *Blood Diamond*, which displays the sociocultural (and linguistic) fragmentation of Sierra Leone in 1999, by means of the opposition between the local people, the Revolutionary United Front, and the Western world;
- *Brick Lane*, which represents the inner struggle of an Indian woman that lives in London after her mother’s suicide, and after being forced to marry an elderly man;
- *It’s a Free World...*, about the story of an English woman who runs a recruitment agency to help migrant workers to find a job, refusing to hire illegal immigrants.
- *Lamerica*, which represents the clash between Italian and Albanian people, when the former see in the foreign country an opportunity to carry out a fraud based on a fictitious shoe company;
- *Looking for Alibrandi*, about the personal growth of Josie, an Australian girl with Italian origins, who tries to fit in the socio-cultural context she lives in, while struggling with her ancestry, mainly embodied by her grandmother.

After providing information in terms of the technical features and general plots, the analyses will be focused on some constant aspects. At first, the

linguistic dimensions will be indicated, to point out how the scripted variations contribute to the definition of the low-status of non-native participants by means of specific lexical and syntactic features. Then, the conversation analysis of some relevant dialogues will allow the identification of both conventional and new moves representing the asymmetric interactions and the speakers' attempts to communicate or impose their illocutionary force, depending on the types of exchanges. Finally, the source and translated scripts will be compared, in order to enquire into the retextualisation of the lingua-franca variations for the target receivers.