

Abstract:

The main aim of this thesis is to explain and describe the basic aspects of the language situation in Gibraltar.

In the introduction is briefly summarized the cultural and historical context in which the question of Gibraltarian nationality and linguistic identity are developed.

The theme of the other chapters is the issue of the concept itself. Llanito, Yanito or Gibberish are some of the terms that are used in linguistics to refer to a typical speech used by habitants of Gibraltar only. In this chapter are presented the linguistic theories on the origin and development of the specific terminology.

The following chapter contains phonetic, morphosyntactic and lexical characteristics of the analysed language structure. The description of each plane is connected and put into the context.

The fourth chapter explores the influence of the major European languages in Gibraltarian speech.

Other chapters describe dictionaries Yanito and the influence of this language structure on literature and media.

Key words: llanito/yanito, bilingualism in Gibraltar, language code-switching, morfosyntactic structures, linguistic and social interaction, dictionaries.