

Abstract

The Lectures on Poetry have developed in German areas since the second half of the 20th century. They are series of academic lessons in which authors present themselves and their poetic choices. The Lectures on Poetry of writers with a migration background are important tools to analyse the language both as an instrument of literary expression and as a means of communication. This holds particularly true if the authors are non-native German speakers who live in a German speaking country and have a plurilingual identity characterised by intercultural experiences.

In this paper, I carefully analysed some Lectures on Poetry of writers awarded with the Chamisso Prize, considering them as boundary texts between linguistic and intercultural autobiography of migration and as a collection of observations about language. I focused my analysis on the German language, understood as both a sense of belonging to a community and as a means of communication and integration in plurilingual and intercultural societies in German speaking countries. Thanks to these studies, I could map the biography of the analysed intercultural authors and collect information about the geographical, historical, cultural and social reality, in which they live. Moreover, I found out that intercultural authors have an interest both for their mother tongue and for their second language, they have been learning. In the second case, they underline the importance to write and translate in German in order to improve the linguistic and intercultural awareness. According to SCHIEWER (2003), I performed a so called 'epochal linguistic documentation' on the German language. This analysis highlights several issues related to plurilingualism and interculturality, and provides the meaning and the importance of the German language for immigrants, who live in German speaking countries.