



AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE

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TITLE: STEREOTYPED REPRESENTATION OF THE FOREIGNER IN EGYPTIAN CINEMA

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ABSTRACT:

The cinema in Egypt was born in 1896 with showings in Alexandria and Cairo, where the Foreigner was, since the beginning, a fundamental part. In this, as in so much else in Egypt's history, geography played its crucial part. Standing between East and West, Egypt was a meeting place and a meltingpot at the end of the XIX century.

In fact, the number of Europeans increased dramatically in that century. Some 90% of them lived in cities, comprising about 10% of the population, to say nothing of the settled communities, i.e. the Turkish and the Armenian. Then, 85-90% of foreigners were English, French, Italian, Greek, Turkish and Armenian. These are the subject of the study.

The study examines how foreigners are linguistically stereotyped in Egyptian cinema and why, through the analysis of a spoken corpus of about five hours.

The corpus is extracted from the Egyptian featurefilms in the time span between 1932 (the first talkie) and 1970 (the end of Nasser era, significant for this research), of actors playing the aforementioned foreign characters.

The analysis is carried on various linguistic levels: phonological, morphological, syntactic and phonological; to point out the common features among the different foreigner linguistic performances. The aim is to determine how they vary respect to Egyptian Arabic, and to verify their likelihood.

Moreover, some extra-linguistic variables are considered, such as speech rate, lexical diversity, social class, profession, appearance and not lastly the name. These types of extra-linguistic variables are less relevant. Yet, they will be examined with less focus.

Besides, a socio-historical investigation is carried out, in order to answer another question: why some foreigners are stereotyped and others (namely the Armenians) are not.

In this paper, I aim to show the finding of my study so far.

AUTHOR'S ACADEMIC PROFILE: Ashraf Hassan, is a PhD student at the University of Naples L'Orientale, in the field of Africa, Asia and Mediterranean. He worked as interpreter and instructor of Arabic language in different institutions in Egypt, Germany (Uni Martin-Luther & Max-Planck-Institut) and Italy (Uni Macerata & Uni Bergamo).