



GRIKO IN THE DIASPORA: A CITIZEN SCIENCE JOURNEY

DOCUMENTING, CONNECTING AND REVITALIZING A MINORITY LANGUAGE



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1. BACKGROUND ON GRIKO



2. RESEARCH QUESTIONS



How is Griko used today
by speakers living in the diaspora?



Which linguistic features are
preserved, changed or innovated
in contact with other languages?



How can citizen participation help
in documenting and revitalizing
Griko across borders?

3. CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT TO FIND GRIKO IN DIASPORA ABROAD

The project aims to map and connect Griko speakers
living abroad (Europe and non-European countries).
Through citizen collaboration, networks and events,
we reach people, listen to their stories,
and collect linguistic data.



Community
involvement



Shared
goals



Heritage
preservation

METHODOLOGY: CITIZEN SCIENCE IN ACTION

Community members are co-researchers.
They help to:

- Define research questions
- Provide contacts and linguistic data
- Validate, interpret and give meaning to the data



Data collection methods



Questionnaires
Linguistic features,
translations, lexical items



Semi-structured Interviews
Life stories, emotions,
memories (e.g. fear, migration)

KEY EVENT: ALÙREJA FESTIVAL (2024)

A cultural event created to bring together
Griko speakers from around the world.

- Creative writing workshops in Griko
- Music and contemporary compositions
- Networking and community meetings



Music connects, brings back memories,
and creates new spaces for Griko.

CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT: WHERE RESEARCH CONTINUES

To reach speakers, I take part in every cultural opportunity
and build relationships in authentic contexts.



Griko Film Festival



Griko Language Lessons



Book Presentations



Community and Social Events

Every conversation can open a door to a new story, a new speaker,
a new piece of language.

FIELDWORK: SEEKING SPEAKERS, LISTENING TO STORIES

Beyond organized events, I continue my research on the field every day.
I go to markets, cafés and piazzas, I talk with people, I ask, I listen.



Interview of Pippi
Montinaro and Biagio
Gabrieli (photo M.
Ciprian 2024).



FINDINGS AND IMPACT



LIVING HERITAGE

Diaspora speakers preserve
older forms of Griko,
offering a "living archive"
of the past.



LANGUAGE CHANGE

Griko evolves in contact with
languages like Italian,
French, German and local
dialects, creating new
forms of expression.



DIGITAL CONNECTIONS

WhatsApp and Facebook
groups are key spaces
for communication,
innovation and community
across distances.



CULTURAL INNOVATION

Griko is used in music,
poetry and creative projects,
New words, abbreviations
and "slang" show a dynamic
and creative language.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Participants feel proud of their
heritage and are active in its
protection and transmission
to new generations.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



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FUTURE DIRECTIONS



- Expand the network and sample size
- Conduct ethnographic fieldwork abroad
- Longitudinal studies on language transmission
- Comparative studies with other minority languages

KEYWORDS



Griko
Citizen Science
Diaspora
Language Preservation
Linguistic Heritage
Community Engagement