It is an incontrovertible fact that, with the spread of English as a lingua franca (ELF), we are at present witnessing “an unprecedented linguistic situation” in which “a language has reached truly global dimensions, across continents, domains, and social strata... accelerated by the dramatic expansion of electronic communication through the internet” (Seidlhofer, 2011).

ELF as a contact language – with a sociolinguistic function, differentiated according to place, time, and context – is in constant growth and expansion. While it brings obvious advantages to its users as enabling them to ‘language’ across lingua-cultural boundaries, researchers in ELF also recognize that it also gives rise to different dilemmas that need to be addressed. ELF, for example, is inevitably involved in the socio-political, religious and economic issues that come up in the critical situations generated by unprecedented displacement and migration, where it is the principal, and sometimes the only means of interaction and mediation. In the field of education, an enlarged and increasingly diversified community of ELF speakers at universities, schools, and in occupational domains, raises questions as to how conventional ideas about the language are appropriate to this new situation.

ELF study is then a particularly significant one in the present globalized world and so creating occasions for international debate about its wider implications and the dilemmas it raises becomes a necessary task for academic and educational institutions to undertake. The International Symposium “English Lingua Franca: Expanding Scenarios and Growing Dilemmas” aims to provide the setting for such a debate whereby some of the most prominent figures in the field can exchange and discuss their ideas and findings.
Program

APRIL 6th

h.15:30 Opening Ceremony
Chair: Prof. Federico Masini
Address by the Rector, Prof. Eugenio Gaudio

Participants:
Prof. Matilde Mastrangelo, Head of ISO (Istituto Studio Orientali) Department
Paul Sellers, Director British Council Italy
Gloria Berbena, Minister Counselor US Embassy in Rome.

h.16:00 Plenary Speaker: Prof. Barbara Seidlhofer (University of Vienna)
Concepts of competence.

h.16:30 Q & A

h.16:45 Plenary Speaker: Prof. Em. Henry G. Widdowson (University of Vienna and London)
Lingual capability and virtual language.

h.17:15 Q & A

h.17:30 Plenary Speaker: Dr. Marie-Luise Pitzl (University of Vienna)
Creativity and re-metaphorized idioms in spoken ELF interactions.

h.18:00 Q & A

h.18:30 Wine Tasting “Boccadigabbia” – Civitanova Marche (MC)

APRIL 7th

h.9:30 Chair: Prof. Donatella Montini (Sapienza University, Rome)
Plenary Speaker: Prof. Maurizio Gotti (University of Bergamo)
English as a lingua franca in the academic world: Trends and dilemmas.

h.10:00 Q & A

h.10:15 Plenary Speaker: Prof. Donna Tatsuki (Kobe City University of Foreign Studies, Kobe, Japan)
English as a lingua franca: When East meets West.

h.10:45 Q & A

h.11:00 Coffee Break

h.11:15 Plenary Speaker: Prof. Maria Grazia Guido (with Prof. Lucia Errico and Prof. Pietro Luigi Iaia) (University of Salento, Lecce)
Modern and ancient migrants’ narratives through ELF: An experiential-linguistic project in responsible tourism.

h.12:00 Chair: Prof. Maria Grazia Guido (University of Salento, Lecce)
Roundtable on ELF and Migration

Participants:
Prof. Pietro Luigi Iaia (University of Salento, Lecce)
Analysing English as a lingua franca in migration movies: Pragmalinguistic features and socio-cultural characterizations of scripted interactions.
Prof. Mariarosaria Provenzano (University of Salento, Lecce)
ELF and linguistic accessibility in EU migration laws: A critical discourse analysis of text reformulations.
Dr. Laura Centonze (University of Salento, Lecce)
‘ELF’ subtitling in pedagogic contexts: From audiovisual translation to audiovisual mediation.

h.13:00 Lunch Break

h.14:05 Chair: Prof. Marina Morbiducci (Sapienza University, Rome)
Plenary Speaker: Prof. Hugo Bowles (University of Roma Tor Vergata)
English-medium instruction: Myths, models and the challenge of ELF

h.14:45 Roundtable on ELF at School and Teacher Education

Participants:
Prof. Lucilla Lopriore (University of Roma 3)
Voicing beliefs and dilemmas from WE- and ELF-aware reflective teacher education contexts: Teachers’ personal responses to rapidly changing multilingual contexts.
Prof. Paola Vettorel (University of Verona)
Prof. Pietro Luigi Iaia (University of Salento, Lecce)
‘ELF’ subtitling in pedagogic contexts: From audiovisual translation to audiovisual mediation.

h.16:45 Chair: Prof. Henry G. Widdowson
Round up session and closing remarks
(all plenarists and panelists)

h.17:30 A Farewell in Music (MUSA Blues Choir of Sapienza University)

h.20:00 Social dinner

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