

intuitu chi a stu giuvini innocenti, Stefanu, ci stavanu distruggennu la vita comu a tanti bravi pirsuni. Na vita di spiranza, illusioni e ingenuità. Forsi pir chistu, na sera chi tutti tranni Stefanu jerunu a vidiri la partita, Rusalia jiu nta la so camera e vittu a Stefanu sdraiatu. Era pietrificatu. “Di chi ti scanti, babbu?” ci dissi. Guardau di sut’occhju la so figura chi nonustanti i so trentanovi anni mostrava un pruflu giuvanili. Purtava i capiddi niuri scioti supra i spaddi, aveva nu sguardu allettanti e un sorrisu siducenti. Cu na strana calma cuminciau a sbuttunarsi la camicetta finu a quannu non ristau ddà in reggipettu cu assoluta sirinità e disinvoltura. L’inibizioni di Stefanu svaniu supra la via du Paradisu. La matina doppu, davanti a un caffè, in un brevi mumentu privatu dumannau a Rusalia si avia rimorsi. “No”, dissi, “m’avia sempri cunziddiratu un cucuddu, ora mi sentu na farfalla. Sulu na vota, e basta!”, dissi. Stefanu fu cunnannatu pir assuczioni mafiusa a quattru anni di carceri. Comu un omu scunfittu ora scrissi na littra a Milena dicennu chi non si aspettava chi idda lu aspittassi. Stu rumanzu non finisci ccà, va avanti. *The Ocean in the Well* è la storia di du’ culturi e di tanti destini chi si incrucianu. È la mappa beni disignata e chiaramente tracciata di l’oturi Ninu Famà, chi metti in luci l’emigrazioni, la puvirtà, l’onestà, l’amuri, la vita in carceri, la supputazioni umana, la fiducia e la capacità di pigghiari decisioni senza rimorsi. Stu rumanzu putissi sicuramente divintari un film ntrissanti! Vi lu cunsigghiu vivamenti!

Gaetano Cipolla, *Learn Sicilian II, An Advanced Textbook Focusing on Building Vocabulary, Reading and Writing Abilities, and Understanding the Various Sicilian Parrati*. Mineola: Leags, 2021, 384 pp. e un CD. Costa \$34.00

Ricenzioni di Eryk Wdowiak

Si trova la “Doti di Fidiricu” nta *Learn Sicilian II*

Lu me nntentu ccà è di ricinsiri lu novu libbru di testu di Gaetano Cipolla, *Learn Sicilian II*, ma prima di cuminciari vogghiu diri ca chisti sunnu li imprissioni di na pirsuna ca mparau lu sicilianu comu quinta lingua. Allora legghiu stu libbru richiamannu a la menti comu mparai li altri lingu.

Ci sunnu tanti approcci di nznari na lingua stranera. Unu di sti approcci è di nznari la grammatica ejo l’usavi pi mparari lu polaccu. Ma na lingua è chiù di palori e frasi. Lu primu volumi d’u prufissuri Cipolla, *Learn Sicilian / Mparamu lu sicilianu* usa l’approcciu modernu e cumunicativu. Suttalinia lu parrari, l’ascutari, lu legghiri e lu scriviri. E presentan puru la cultura siciliana, dannu nfirmazioni supra li città chiù mpurtanti, li pirsunaggi mitologici e li

Stefano had gone to see the game, Rosalia went to his room and saw Stefano lying down. He was petrified. “What are you afraid of, silly?” She whispered. He gazed sideways at her figure that despite her thirty-nine years showed a youthful profile. She wore her black hair loose on her shoulders, had a tantalizing look and a seductive smile. With a strange calm she began to unbutton her blouse till she stood there in her bra with absolute serenity and ease. Stefano’s inhibition vanished on the way to Heaven. The next morning, over coffee, in a brief private moment he asked Rosalia if she had regrets. “No” she said, “I always felt like a cocoon, now I feel like a butterfly. One time only, that’s it” she said. Stefano was convicted of association with the mafia and sentenced to four years in prison. As a defeated man now he wrote a letter to Milena saying that he did not expect her to wait for him. This novel does not end here, it goes on. *The Ocean in the Well* is the story of two cultures and many destinies criss-crossing one another. It is the map well designed and clearly traced by Nino Famà, the author, who shines a spotlight on emigration, poverty, honesty, love, life in prison, human endurance, confidence and the ability to make decisions with no regrets. This novel could certainly become a good movie! I highly recommend it!

Gaetano Cipolla, *Learn Sicilian II, An Advanced Textbook Focusing on Building Vocabulary, Reading and Writing Abilities, and Understanding the Various Sicilian Parrati*. Mineola: Leags, 2021, 384 pages with an accompanying CD. It costs \$34.00.

Reviewed by Eryk Wdowiak

The “Gift of Frederick” is in *Learn Sicilian II*

This is a review to review of the new Sicilian language textbook, *Learn Sicilian II*, by Gaetano Cipolla, but first I want to say that these are the impressions of a person who learned Sicilian as a fifth language. So I read this book with memories of learning other languages.

There are numerous approaches to teaching a foreign language. One of them is to teach the grammar and I used it to learn Polish. But a language is more than words and phrases. The first volume published by prof. Cipolla, *Learn Sicilian / Mparamu lu sicilianu* used the modern communicative approach. It emphasizes speaking, listening, reading and writing. It also presented Sicilian culture. It provided information about the most important cities, about mythological characters and about Sicilian products. The reader learned about

prodotti siciliani. Lu litturi mpara di pueti, scinzati, scritturi e autri pirsuni mpurtanti nta la storia dâ Sicilia

Ma pi cupriri la vasta cultura siciliana, bisugnava un secunnu libbru. C'eranu ancora spazii vacanti ca lu prufissuri vuleva inchiri. Iddu vuleva dari nfurmazioni chiù dittagghiati e apriri novi campi di studiu. E lu fici criannu *Learn Sicilian II*.

Stu novu volumi prisumi ca lu studenti havi già na canuscenza generali dû sicilianu. Picchissu quasi tuttu lu libbru è scrittu in sicilianu. Comu libbru di testu, cuntenu li reguli grammaticali e li esercizzii ca aiutanu a li studenti a ripassari la grammatuca e a espanniri la so canuscenza. E scrivennu stu volumi, lu prof. Cipolla vosi tucari temi non esplorati ntô primu volumi, trattannu aspetti storici di la lingua e presentannu ntrissanti piculiarità linguistichi ca si sentunu in certi paisi.

Un aspettu straudinariu di stu volumi è lu trattamentu di li diffrenzi ca esistunu tra li varii parrati siciliani. Chistu è lu primu testu ca spiega comu funziona la variazioni diatopica in Sicilia. Lu libbru nun nzigna comu si parra a Missina o a Catania. Si voi nzignariti a parrari lu missinisi o lu catanisi, stu libbru ti aiuta, ma l'obbiettivu è chiddu di dari a li studenti li mezzi pi identificari li diversi parrati e di capiri ca lu sicilianu resta sempri na lingua. Infatti li diffrenzi ca si sentunu riguardanu sulu nta la lingua parrata, nun la lingua scritta.

Nautru aspettu mpurtanti di *Learn Sicilian II* è lu studiu di comu si formanu li palori siciliani. Mparannu a usari li prifissi, suffissi e ricanuscennu li currispunnenti ntra li disinenzi nglisi e siciliani lu studenti junci cuntinara di palori a lu so vocabulariu. E pò applicari li reguli pi capiri palori ca non ha mai vistu prima. Na cosa surprinnetti ca emergi di lu studiu di li prifissi, suffissi e disinenzi è la nutevuli sumigghianza ca existi tra lu sicilianu e lu nglisi ca risali a la cumuni dirivazioni di li du' linguì dû latinu. (50% di li palori nglisi dirivanu di lu latinu) E lu testu dimustra sta dirivazioni cu tanti esempi.

Ma in tutta franchizza, *Learn Sicilian* è lu libbru ca leggiu stannu assittatu supra u divanu cu li pedi nta l'aria. Lu prufissuri Cipolla avissi a ricurdaricci a li so studenti di fari li compiti.

Sì. Giustu. S'hannu a fari li compiti...E pirdunativi quannu nun li faciti picchi stu libbru è na gioia di leggiri.

Comu mparai cinqu linguì? Nascivi e criscivi nta li Stati Uniti, allura Ngrisi. Spagnolu à scola superiori. Na pocu di Polaccu di mè patri.

E supra lu me scaffali, me matrisi mi sò libbra di testu pi la lingua taliana. Era troppu giovani pi capirli, ma sapia zoccu vulia. Allora mi misi ntôn ariu a Bulogna. Quannu arrivamu, lu me cumpagnu di cammara dissi: "Chista nun è l'Italia ca m'aspittava." Essennu siculu-miricanu, aveva nautra mmaggini di l'Italia nta sò menti. Jo puru.

Ma jo vuleva mparari lu sicilianu. Ma prima mparai lu talianu e lu polaccu.

poets, scientists, writers and other people important to the history of Sicily.

But to address the vast Sicilian culture, a second book was needed. There were still some empty spaces that Prof. Cipolla wanted to fill. He wanted to provide more detailed information and open new fields of study. And he accomplished that with the new volume entitled *Learn Sicilian II*. This new volume assumes that the student already has a general knowledge of Sicilian. For this reason, almost the whole book is written in Sicilian. As a textbook, it contains the rules of grammar and exercises that help students review as well as to expand their knowledge. In this new volume, Prof. Cipolla touched on subjects not explored in the first volume, he treated historical aspects of the language and presented interesting linguistic peculiarities that can be heard in some towns.

The extraordinary feature of this volume is its treatment of the different dialects one can hear on Sicily. This is the first text that explains how the diatopic variations function in Sicily. The book does not teach you how to speak as they do in Messina or Catania. If you want to learn Messinese or Catanese, this book will help you, but the objective is more fundamental: to provide students with the means to identify the various *parrati* and to understand that Sicilian is still one language. In fact the differences one hears exist primarily in the spoken language, not the written language. From this point, the student learns to identify the differences that he hears in the spoken language.

Another important feature of *Learn Sicilian II* is its study of how Sicilian words are formed. Learning how to use prefixes, suffixes and recognizing how English word endings correspond with Sicilian endings helps students to add hundreds of words to their vocabulary. They can apply these rules to understand words that they have never seen before. From the study of prefixes, suffixes and ending a surprising fact emerges: that there is a remarkable similarity between Sicilian and English that's based on their common derivation from Latin (50% of English words are derived from Latin). And the text illustrates this derivation with many examples.

But frankly, *Learn Sicilian* is the book that I read while sitting on the couch with my feet in the air. Prof. Cipolla had to remind his student to do the homework exercises.

Yes. That's right. You have to do the homework. ... And forgive yourself when you don't because this book is a joy to read.

How did I learn five languages? I was born and raised in the United States, so English. Spanish in high school. Some Polish from my father. And on my shelf, my mother put her Italian language textbooks.

I was too young to understand them, but I knew I wanted to. So she put

Pi mparari lu talianu (e lu spagnolu prima), studiavi libbra ca usanu l'approcciu modernu e comunicativu ca usa *Learn Sicilian*. Pi mparari lu polaccu, comu dissi prima, studiavi cu libbra di testu ca privilegiavanu la grammatica, comu *Introduction to Sicilian Grammar* di Kirk Bonner.

Si si duna adenza â grammatica, scrivennu un quaternu di appunti e compiti, si pò mparari na lingua lestu lestu. Ma ci vonnu puru matiriali supplimentari ca mettunu la lingua in cuntestu. E chistu doppu tuttu dimostra lu bisognu d'un libbru chiù avanzatu.

E picchissu lu prufissuri Cipolla, nta lu CD c'accompagna lu volumi, ncludiù n'antologia di testi siciliani ca non cumparunu nta lu testu stampatu. Lu CD cuntene matiriali supplimentari ca sfidanu lu studenti a fari progressi chiù granni. Cuntene puru autri matiriali didattici: li risposti a li esercizzii chiù difficili, l'audiu di li litturi, li traduzioni nglisi di li litturi chiù longhi, e *The Sounds of Sicilian*.

Li du' volumi nzignanu la cultura, comu parranu li siciliani, chi diciunu, chi barzelletti cuntanu. Certu, picchi li siciliani hannu un sensu di l'umorismu. Chi storiì cuntanu. Chi puisii recitanu. Certu, picchi li siciliani cuntanu storiì e recitanu puisii.

Cu la pubblicazioni di lu secunnu volumi ora li studenti universitari hannu a sò disposizioni l'equivalenti di du' anni di studiu. Lu primu libbru si usa già a l'Università di Tunisi e puru in America. A l'Italian Charities of America si offerunu corsi di sicilianu usannu stu libbru comu testu. Ma cu stu secunnu volumi li studenti ponnu veramenti spicializzarsi in Studi Siciliani, cumminannu tali sequenza di du' anni cu autri corsi di cultura, littiratura e storia siciliana.

Pi ddi studenti ca accettanu di spicializzarsi in Studi Siciliani (e pi ddi Siciliani cu li pedi nta l'aria), *Learn Sicilian / Mparamu lu sicilianu* e *Learn Sicilian II* grapunu "li catinazzi fatati" dà "doti" chi nni lassò Fidiricu II, chi comu ni ricorda Carlo Puleo, "la persimu dintra miliuna di valiggi."

Lu primu libbru grapi ddi catinazzi furnennu na lingua standardizzata. Poi, avennu graputu lu curredu, *Learn Sicilian II* aumenta lu nostru vocabulariu e mappa la lingua standardizzata a ogni parrata di sicilianu, lassannuni gudiri la puisia d'ù nostru paisi e la puisia di l'autra banna di l'isula.

Learn Sicilian II ti nvita a grapiri li vecchi valiggi dà to famigghia. Dda dintra ci trovi un tisoru.

me on a plane to Bologna. Upon arrival, my roommate's first words were: "This is not what I thought Italy would look like." Being a Sicilian-American, he had a different image of Italy in his mind. So did I.

I wanted to learn Sicilian. But first I learned Italian and Polish. To learn Italian (and Spanish before that), I studied textbooks that use the modern, communicative approach that *Learn Sicilian* used. To learn Polish, as I said before, I studied textbooks that focus on the grammar, like *Introduction to Sicilian Grammar* by Kirk Bonner.

If you focus on the grammar, keeping a notebook full of notes and homework exercises, you can learn a language quickly. But you have to find for yourself the supplementary material that puts the language in context. And this, after all, demonstrates the need for a more advanced book.

And this is why Prof. Cipolla included an anthology of Sicilian texts that do not appear in the printed version in the CD that accompanies the volume. The supplementary materials challenge the student to make more progress. The CD also contains other didactic materials: the answers to the most difficult exercises, the audio of the readings and the English translations of the longest readings and *The Sounds of Sicilian*.

The two volumes teach the culture, how Sicilians speak, what they say, what jokes they tell. Because Sicilians have a sense of humor. What stories they tell. What poetry they recite. Because Sicilians tell stories and recite poetry.

With the publication of the second volume, university students have at their disposal the equivalent of two years of study. The first book is already used at the University of Tunis as well as in America. Italian Charities of America offers courses in Sicilian using this book as a text. But with the second volume students can now major or minor in Sicilian Studies by combining such a two-year sequence with other courses in Sicilian culture, literature and history.

For students who choose to major in Sicilian Studies (and for those Sicilians with their feet in the air), *Learn Sicilian* and *Learn Sicilian II* unlock the "magical bolts" to the "gift that Frederick left us," which Carlo Puleo reminds us has been "lost in millions of suitcases."

The first book unlocks those bolts by providing a standard language. Then, having opened the chest, *Learn Sicilian II* builds our vocabulary and maps the standard language to each dialect of Sicilian, allowing us to enjoy the poetry of our hometown and poetry from the opposite side of the island.

Learn Sicilian II invites you to open your family's old suitcases. You'll find a treasure inside.