nostic and ideological uncertainty about the value of humanistic studies: there were no good old days. The Italian departments at Columbia and Toronto were not just born. They came about because individuals who were passionate about Italian studies and who had a vision worked tirelessly to establish these departments. Their task was not an easy one but they persevered and were successful. Whatever turn Italian studies take in the future, we need to remember our predecessors and follow their example.

Despite the breadth of subjects in this volume, there were a number of omissions that left this reader somewhat disappointed; as a Canadian publication, it certainly should have discussed the development of Italian studies at Canada's other Ph.D. granting institution, McGill University and it would have been interesting to know how Italian studies got started in Western Canada as well. There was also no discussion of how smaller, regional universities have not only instituted Italian programs but also how they have managed to survive and thrive. Nevertheless, this book remains a worthwhile contribution for Italianists teaching in North America.

ROBERTA SINYOR

York University

Carla Marcato e Fabiana Fusco. *Parlare "giovane" in Friuli*. Alessandria: Edizioni dell'Orso, 1994. Pp. 165.

This book presents the results of field work that was carried out by the authors in order to investigate the linguistic habits and preferences of young Friulians, with reference to the school environment. This study is similar in nature to others (conducted for instance in Milan, Trento and Genoa) which focus on the language of youth (henceforth LY) and its influence on contemporary Italian.

The volume begins with an introduction describing specific characteristics of LY versus other varieties of Italian. There follows a description of the research methodology and an analysis of the data. Informants were chosen among high school students (between the ages of 14 and 20) from three different places: Udine, the capital of Friuli, and two smaller towns, Tolmezzo and Cervignano. Tolmezzo is located in the northern mountainous area, while Cervignano lies in the southern plains of Friuli. However, the statistical analysis and the comparative evaluation of the data provided in this volume are based only on the 205 informants from Udine and Tolmezzo.

The gathering of data was carried out by means of a questionnaire of a type previously used in similar investigations with the intent of facilitating a comparison of the data elicited from young Friulians with those obtained in similar urban environments in other parts of Italy. The first part of the questionnaire is designed to obtain sociolinguistic data from the subjects interviewed, while the second part consists of a word list. The informants were asked whether they were familiar with a series of lexical items (for example *gasato*, *fuori di testa*, *cuccare*) and questioned about their meaning and frequency of use. It is thus possible to evaluate the extent to which terms of nation-wide

diffusion are used in the LY of Friuli. The data gathered from the informants show that in Udine, the major urban center of the Region, which is thus more likely to be influenced by new cultural models, such lexical items come and go more frequently than in smaller towns.

The second part of the questionnaire invites informants to list words which they regard as being part of LY, as well as "everyday words used in a special sense."

An additional, experimental questionnaire was used with a number of informants in Tolmezzo for the purpose of verifying the meaning of lexical items previously recorded in that town. All research tools utilized for the present study are included in an appendix.

The first investigation was carried out in Udine. Ten lexical items, found to be typical of the Udinese LY, were then selected and added to the first section of the questionnaires used in the two smaller towns. This was done in order to establish whether these terms were current there as well, possibly as a result of the fact that Udine may be the center of diffusion of LY in Friuli.

A large glossary, forming chapter V of the book, was compiled from the data obtained by means of the open section of the questionnaire. Each entry contains the definitions and the examples provided by the young informants themselves. The glossary contains in particular a large number of lexical items relating to school life, love and sex, friendship and leisure time activities (see pp. 132-35). The glossary also reflects the various components that enter into LY: colloquial Italian words, neologisms typical of LY, items which have long been current among young people, foreign words, lexemes coming from historical jargons, from drugs slang, from the media (see the classification provided on pp. 136-37). Finally, lexical items derived from Friulian constitute an important component. One of the purposes of this study was to establish whether, in those parts of Italy where a local language or dialect is widely used alongside Italian (as is the case in Friuli), LY is more likely to adopt local elements.

The linguistic situation of Friuli is in fact characterized by the extensive use of the regional language, Friulian, on the part of young people as well. Although, as in other parts of Italy, the local language tends to be gradually abandoned, Friulian is still in many parts of the region the native language of at least part of the population and enjoys a degree of prestige. In fact, lexical items borrowed from Friulian are found more frequently among the data elicited in Tolmezzo, which is located in a mountainous area and thus linguistically more conservative, and this confirms that LY is indeed subject to the influence of the local language in towns where it continues to be widely used.

This book is a very valuable contribution to the study of a fundamental component of the very complex linguistic situation of modern Italy, where the language of youth is very likely to influence dramatically the future evolution of Italian. One is thankful to the authors, who have provided us with a scientifically accurate and methodologically sound description of the LY of one Italian region in which it had not previously been studied.

GIANRENZO P. CLIVIO
University of Toronto