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Lexical diversity and the issue of the basilect/acrolect distinction in Lingua Franca

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In their typological survey of pidgins, Parkvall and Bakker (2013) observe that pidgin discourse is characterized by an exceptionally low type-token ratio. Taking this observation as its starting point, the present paper examines the type-token ratio in Lingua Franca, a contact language traditionally classified as a pidgin. The study is based on a unique mini-corpus consisting of parallel translations in Lingua Franca and four comparator languages: Italian, Spanish, French and English. The paper shows that the type-token ratio of the Lingua Franca variety reflected in the mini-corpus matches, and in parts surpasses, those of its Romance lexifiers and English. The study expands our knowledge of the basilect/acrolect distinction in Lingua Franca and contributes to the discussion about the role of lexical diversity in the typological categorization of contact languages.

Keywords: Romance languages; pidgins; language contact; parallel corpora; type-token ratio; lexical richness

1. Type-token ratio in pidgins

In their cross-linguistic typological survey of pidgins, Parkvall and Bakker (2013: 34-35) observe that pidgin discourse is characterized by an exceptionally low type-token ratio. The type-token ratio, or TTR, is a measure of lexical richness of a text or speech sample computed by dividing "the number of unique words (types) . . . by the total number of words (tokens)" (Robinson 2008: 142); this measure may be expressed as a percentage (Baker 2006: 52; see also Adendorff 1995: 181; Crystal 2008: 276). The low TTR of pidgins has been explained by their limited lexicons, a feature compensated for by a high degree of multifunctionality of the lexical items, and which is traceable to the limited lexicons and low (or at least lowered) TTR of foreigner-directed speech and learners' interlanguages, the speech varieties whose combination forms the major part of the input to pidgin formation (Ferguson and DeBose 1977; Mufwene 1997; Siegel 1997: 132; Roche 1998: 120; Dawaele and Pavlenko 2003: 125; Ayafor and Green 2017: 47).

In their discussion of the issue, Parkvall and Bakker note that the number of pidgins for which the TTR has been measured is limited. They reference as examples the studies by Heine (1979), Juvonen (2008) and Robinson (2008), in which the TTRs of specific pidgins were found to be lower than in their lexifiers or English. Heine (1979: 91-92) reports that the TTRs of Fanakalo and Kenya Pidgin Swahili are considerably lower than those of Zulu and Standard Swahili, their respective lexifiers, while Juvonen (2008: 335-336) reports on similar disparity based on a comparison of texts in Chinook Jargon and English. Parkvall and Bakker's (2013) observation is further confirmed by data from English-lexified Cameroon Pidgin English (Ayafor and Green 2017: 47; Green and Ozón 2019: 63) and French-lexified Français Tirailleur (Skirgård 2013: 27-28). Table 1 contrasts the TTR values of several pidgins with those of several samples of English; the percentages have been culled from or computed on the basis of the data reported in the cited publications. The English language figures from Juvonen (2008) reflect the author's analysis of two short stories, and the one from Baker (2006) is based on a sample of informal

conversations from the British National Corpus. The nature of the Fanakalo data shown is addressed in Adendorff (1995).

Table 1: Type-token ratios in English and selected pidgins

LANGUAGE	TYPES	TOKENS	TTR	SOURCE PUBLICATION
Cameroon Pidgin English	N/A	N/A	3%	Ayafor and Green (2017: 47)
Chinook Jargon	381	8,255	5%	Juvonen (2008: 335)
Français Tirailleur	1,464	10,083	15%	Skirgård (2013: 27)
Fanakalo	233	1,446	16%	Adendorff (1995: 180)
English	1,370	4,908	28%	Juvonen (2008: 336)
English	761	2,297	33%	Juvonen (2008: 335)
English	N/A	N/A	33%	Baker (2006: 52)

In this paper, the TTR diagnostic is applied toward elucidating the taxonomic status of and internal variation in Lingua Franca (LF), a Romance-lexified contact language of the Mediterranean. Although traditionally classified as a pidgin, LF is known to possess a number of non-pidgin-like characteristics at all structural levels, including lexical, morphological and syntactic. For example, in contrast to typical pidgins (Parkvall and Bakker 2013), it displays such structural features as inherited definite and indefinite articles, gender agreement in the noun phrase, morphological expression of aspect, well-developed derivational morphology and functional use of differences in the word order (Operstein 2017, 2018a, 2018b, 2022). Approaching the taxonomic status of LF from the perspective of its lexical diversity allows bringing a fresh angle to bear on the issue,[1] while at the same time affording an insight on the internal variation in LF.

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows. Section 2 supplies a brief introduction to LF, as relevant to the issue of its ambiguous categorial status, Section 3 details the results of the present study of lexical richness, and Section 4 discusses the implications of the study's findings for the issue of the typological categorization of LF, particularly as regards its division into distinct basilectal and acrolectal varieties.

2. Lingua Franca

Lingua Franca is a Romance-lexified contact vernacular which was used for interethnic communication in lands bordering the Mediterranean from the medieval, or at least early modern, period until well into the second half of the nineteenth century. General Faidherbe,[2] whose military career included two stints spent in Algeria, offers a succinct description:

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[1] Cf. congruent remarks in Selbach (2008: 56) regarding the need to pay greater attention to the study of lexicon in contact languages.

[2] Louis Léon César Faidherbe, a military man, colonial administrator, polyglot and multifaceted scholar (Robert et al. 1891: 590-592).

Depuis longtemps, les Italiens, les Espagnols, les Français ont des relations commerciales les plus suivies avec les Turcs de la partie orientale du bassin méditerranéen et avec les Arabes établis dans la Berbérie. Il s'est formé, pour les rapports entre ces peuples, un idiome rudimentaire, depuis longtemps désigné sous le nom de *langue franque*. Molière en a donné des échantillons plus ou moins exacts dans plusieurs de ses comédies. Depuis la conquête de l'Algérie, les Français l'appellent le *sabir*. (Faidherbe 1884: 107)

[Italians, Spaniards, French have long had regular commercial relations with Turks from the eastern part of the Mediterranean basin and with Arabs established in Barbary. A rudimentary language was formed for intercourse between these peoples, long known under the name of *lingua franca*. Moliere gave more or less accurate samples of it in several of his comedies. After the conquest of Algeria, the French call it *sabir*.]

The first scientific description of LF was provided by Hugo Schuchardt, in the now classic article published in 1909 but based on materials assembled by Schuchardt decades earlier (Schuchardt 1909). In his study, Schuchardt traced the external history of LF, outlined its most salient structural features and identified the major print sources that underlie our knowledge about this language. The most substantial among these is a 107-page long learner's dictionary-cum-phrasebook published anonymously in Marseilles in 1830 under the title *Dictionnaire de la langue franque ou petit mauresque, suivi de quelques dialogues familièrs et d'un vocabulaire de mots arabes les plus usuels; à l'usage des Français en Afrique* [Dictionary of Lingua Franca or Petit Mauresque, followed by a few familiar dialogues and a vocabulary of the most common Arabic words, for the use of the French in Africa] (Anonymous 1830). This publication, together with the phrases in LF supplied in Diego de Haedo's *Topographia e Historia general de Argel* (Haedo 1612), represent the backbones of the extant documentation of LF; both describe and illustrate with examples the LF variety or varieties spoken in Algiers. The remaining textual samples are either extremely brief or, for one reason or another, are less reliable than the documentation provided by these sources[3] (Foltys 1984-1985; Cifoletti 1989; Camus Bergareche 1993; Arends 1998; Couto 2002).

Though LF is routinely pigeonholed as a pidgin, the issue of its taxonomic categorization is far from being settled. The various positions regarding its classification are summarized in the following encyclopedia article:

Although Lingua Franca is traditionally categorized as a pidgin language, there is some reason to qualify this classification. As was already observed by Schuchardt (1909), some of its linguistic features, such as the generalized use of the infinitive, suggest that Lingua Franca may perhaps be more accurately viewed as a form of Foreigner Talk. Other linguists (e.g.

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[3] Cf. similar assessment by Camus Bergareche (1993: 418-419): "El conocimiento moderno de la lingua franca se basa fundamentalmente en dos textos de épocas muy diferentes. En primer lugar, disponemos de los datos que proporciona el fraile español Diego de Haedo en su *Topographia e Historia general de Argel*, de 1612. […] Además de la *Topographia* […] de Haedo, disponemos también del *Dictionnaire de la Langue Franque ou Petit Mauresque*, publicado en Marsella en 1830 para uso de los soldados franceses destinados a Argelia. […] Fuera de estos dos testimonios, los textos en lingua franca son pocos y muy breves" [Modern knowledge of Lingua Franca is based mainly on two texts from very different periods. First, we have the data provided by the Spanish monk Diego de Haedo in his *Topographia e Historia general de Argel* of 1612. In addition to Haedo's *Topographia*, we have the *Dictionnaire de la Langue Franque ou Petit Mauresque* published in Marseilles in 1830 for the use of the French soldiers destined for Algeria. Aside from these two sources, the texts in Lingua Franca are few and very short].

Minervini 1996) have claimed that it should rather be seen as a second-language variety of Italian. And since Italian and Spanish, the languages that formed the basis for Lingua Franca, were closely related dialects rather than separate languages five centuries ago, it might perhaps more appropriately be categorized as a koiné, i.e. the product of dialect convergence. (Arends 2005: 625)

In an an effort to clarify the issue, I have shown in a series of works (Operstein 2017, 2018a, 2018b, 2018c, 2022) that the LF variety recorded in the main documentary sources, Anonymous (1830) and Haedo (1612), displays a high degree of morphosyntactic continuity with LF's Romance lexifiers, and argued that this continuity speaks against categorizing LF as a pidgin and in favor of viewing it as a pidgin-koine, or as encompasing both pidgin-like and koine-like lects. The present paper adds to this effort by approaching the issue of LF's taxonomic status, as well as internal variation, from the perspective of its discourse.

3. Lexical richness in Lingua Franca

The study of LF's lexical richness is enabled by the inclusion in Anonymous (1830) of a learner's phrasebook in which French sentences are juxtaposed with their translations in LF. The phrasebook comprises 141 sentences, which contain common colloquial exchanges such as greetings, asking about someone's health, asking and telling time, and talking about weather. The value of the phrasebook for a study of LF discourse is further enhanced by the availability of period- and register-appropriate translations of the LF sentences in all of its major lexifiers – Italian, Spanish and French – as well as in English.

As shown in detail in Operstein (2018d), the French-LF phrasebook in Anonymous (1830) was modeled after the French-Italian phrasebook in Vergani (1823), a popular textbook for French-speaking learners of Italian. The popularity of the Vergani text ensured its translation into other major European languages, including Spanish and English. Thanks to these translations, we are now in possession of a unique parallel mini-corpus (Cysouw and Wälchli 2007) in five languages – LF, French, Italian, Spanish and English[4] – in which the translational equivalents match not only in terms of historical period but also in reflecting the casual spoken registers of the respective languages. The stylistic compatibility of the texts is particularly relevant in view of the known fact that different registers and modalities of the same language can display widely diverging TTRs: for example, written and spoken English diverge considerably in their lexical richness (Baker 2006: 52), and written Swedish uses twice as many lexical types as spoken Swedish (Alwood 1998).

The French-LF phrasebook in Anonymous (1830) is divided into eight thematic dialogues. The translational equivalents are given in the Appendix to this paper, with the LF and French versions taken from Anonymous (1830: 93-98), the Italian version from Vergani (1823: 199-210), the Spanish version from Rementería y Fica (1826: 192-205) and the English version from Guichet (1855: 182-189). Since some of the French prompts in Anonymous (1830) are slightly simplified in relation to their models in Vergani (1823) (see Operstein 2018d), the corresponding

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[4] The inclusion of the English version is prompted by Juvonen's (2008) study of the TTR in Chinook Jargon, in which the author relies on a comparison with dialogue-rich texts in English.

translations in Italian, Spanish and English have been modified accordingly,[5] and missing sentences have been supplied, including, where available, from Rolandi (1823).

The TTR figures for the individual dialogues are shown in Table 2, expressed as percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.[6] The three rows devoted to Dialogue 8 require an explanation. This dialogue differs from the others in that only the first four sentences are shared across all languages, while the remaining part is shared only by French and LF. Consequently, Table 2 devotes three rows to this dialogue: the row labeled "Dialogue 8 (shared portion)" gives the TTR for the sentences shared by all languages, the row labeled "Dialogue 8 (Fr-LF [part])" gives the figure for the portion shared only by French and LF, and the row labeled "Dialogue 8 (Fr-LF [all])" gives the figure for the complete dialogue in French and LF.

Table 2: Type-token ratios in the five languages (individual dialogues)

TEXT	LINGUA FRANCA	FRENCH	ENGLISH	SPANISH	ITALIAN
Dialogue 1	39%	44%	44%	45%	54%
Dialogue 2	47%	47%	50%	53%	56%
Dialogue 3	56%	61%	55%	61%	67%
Dialogue 4	58%	64%	60%	55%	75%
Dialogue 5	49%	52%	55%	52%	67%
Dialogue 6	57%	54%	58%	56%	68%
Dialogue 7	53%	47%	46%	55%	55%
Dialogue 8 (shared portion)	71%	70%	81%	81%	78%
Dialogue 8 (Fr-LF [part])	63%	61%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dialogue 8 (Fr-LF [all])	61%	56%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 3 presents the TTR figures for the entire mini-corpus. The row labeled "All dialogues" contains the overall TTRs based on all lexical types. The row labeled "All dialogues (-4)" contains the TTR figures obtained by excluding four highest-frequency word types in each language (see, e.g., Baker 2006: 52 on the lowering impact of high-frequency items on TTR). The highest-frequency lemmas in each language are shown in (1) below. The basis for the calculation of the overall TTRs is given in Table 4. Throughout, inflected forms of a verb, adjective, noun or personal pronoun were counted as a single word type; the articulated prepositions in Romance languages and LF and the forms *cannot* and *don't* in English were counted as separate types. The Romance and LF verbs are cited in Table 4 in the Romance infinitive form, the adjectives in the Romance masculine singular form, the nouns in the Romance singular form, and personal pronouns in the Romance subject form.

Table 3: Type-token ratios in the five languages (all dialogues combined)

TEXT	LINGUA FRANCA	FRENCH	ENGLISH	SPANISH	ITALIAN
All dialogues	29%	30%	31%	33%	35%
All dialogues (-4)	39%	40%	42%	42%	42%

(1)   TTR with and without four highest-frequency word types

a. LINGUA FRANCA

TTR (all word types):	144 types : 505 tokens = 0.285 (29%)
TTR (without 4 highest-token word types):	140 types : 363 tokens = 0.386 (39%)
4 highest-token word types:	*mi* 'I' (47)
	ti 'you (sg.)' (40)
	star 'to be' (32)
	per 'for, by, DOM'[7] (23)

b. FRENCH

TTR (all word types):	172 types : 574 tokens = 0.3 (30%)
TTR (without 4 highest-token word types):	168 types : 420 tokens = 0.4 (40%)
4 highest-token word types:	*je* 'I' (48)
	il 'he' (43)
	être 'to be' (32)
	vous 'you (sg.)' (31)

c. SPANISH

TTR (all word types):	162 types : 497 tokens = 0.326 (33%)
TTR (without 4 highest-token word types):	158 types: 381 tokens = 0.415 (42%)
4 highest-token word types:	*V.* 'you (polite)' (61)
	ser 'to be' (20)
	que (conjunction) (19)
	hacer 'to do' (16)

d. ITALIAN

TTR (all word types):	167 types : 472 tokens = 0.354 (35%)
TTR (without 4 highest-token word types):	163 types : 391 tokens = 0.417 (42%)
4 highest-token word types:	*essere* 'to be' (29)
	fare 'to do' (19)
	che (conjunction) (17)
	definite article (16)

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[7] Differential object marker.

e. ENGLISH
TTR (all word types):   181 types : 585 tokens = 0.309 (31%)
TTR (without 4 highest-token word types):   177 types : 424 tokens = 0.417 (42%)
4 highest-token word types: *be*   (53)
                                                       I   (46)
                                                       you   (34)
                                                       it   (28)

Table 4: Lexical types and their occurrence as tokens

	LINGUA FRANCA		FRENCH		SPANISH		ITALIAN		ENGLISH	
1	ablar	8	à	6	á	12	a	5	a	5
2	acoussi	3	adieu	1	abrir	1	abbastanza	1	acquainted	1
3	adios	1	ainsi	1	acompañar	1	acqua	1	a little	2
4	agoua	2	aise	2	adelantarse	1	adagio	1	adieu	1
5	aki	2	aller	10	adios	1	addietro	1	ail	1
6	al	3	s'(en) aller	1	agradecer	2	addio	1	all	1
7	amigo	2	ami	2	agua	1	affannoso	1	and	2
8	andar	14	apporter	1	aguardar	1	al	2	answer	1
9	aposto	1	s'asseoir	1	al	1	alcuno	1	any	1
10	aprir	1	assez	1	alegrar	1	amico	2	anything	1
11	assicourar	1	assurer	1	algo	1	andare	10	assure	1
12	avanti	1	attendre	1	alguna	1	apposta	1	at	2
13	baschiar	1	avancer	1	amigo	2	aprire	1	away	1
14	basta	1	avec	2	andar	2	ascoltare	1	bad	1
15	bastantza	1	avoir	14	apostar	3	assaggiare	1	be	53
16	bello	1	beau	1	aquel	1	aspettare	1	believe	7
14	béné	1	bien	10	aquí	1	assicurare	1	bet	3
18	bentana	1	bientôt	1	así	3	avanti	1	better	1
19	bisogna	1	bon	1	asegurar	1	avere	14	boil	1
20	bisognio	4	brave	1	atrasarse	1	bastare	1	breakfast (n)	1
21	bonou	9	café	3	azucar	1	bello	1	breakfast (v)	2
22	cadiéra	1	ce	5	ayer	1	bene	6	bring	1
23	café	3	cela	7	bajar	1	benissimo	1	brother	1
24	caldo	2	chaise	1	bastar	1	buono	1	but	1
25	capir	2	chaleur	1	bien	7	caffè	3	by	1
26	casa	5	chaud	1	bueno	3	caldo	2	can	2
27	cascar	1	chauffer	1	café	3	capire	2	cannot	1
28	cativo	1	chez	3	calentar	1	caro	1	chair	1
29	chità	1	chose	2	calentura	1	casa	5	coffee	3
30	colatzioné	1	comme	2	calle	1	cattivo	1	cold	1
31	comé	4	comment	3	calor	2	che	17	come	5
32	con	2	complimens	1	cargo	1	che (conj)	10	compliment	1
33	conoschir	3	comprendre	2	casa	5	chi	2	comprehend	1

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34	contento	1	connaissance	1	celebrar	1	chiudere	1	contrive	1
35	counchar	8	connaître	2	cerrar	1	ci (adv)	1	country	1
36	cosa	9	croire	7	ciudad	1	città	1	delicious	1
37	crédir	4	dans	2	cómo	3	colazione	3	directly	1
38	dar	1	de	12	comprender	2	come	3	do	22
39	del, della	2	de suite	1	con	2	complimento	1	don't	1
40	dgiousto	2	déjeuner (v.)	2	conocer	3	con	3	door	1
41	di	13	déjeuné (n.)	1	cosa	1	conoscenza	1	doubt (n.)	1
42	dispiacher	1	délicieux	1	creer	7	conoscere	2	doubt (v.)	1
43	domani	1	demain	1	cualquiera	1	cosa	4	enough	1
44	doubio	1	demeurer	1	cuando	2	così	3	ever	1
45	doubitar	1	se dépêcher	1	cuatro	1	credere	7	false	1
46	é	1	descendre	1	dar	2	da	1	fast	1
47	ellou	7	dire	7	de	9	dal	1	father	1
48	falso	1	donner	1	deber	1	dare	1	fever	1
49	far	2	doucement	1	decir	1	del	2	fine	1
50	fazir	6	doute	1	decirse	1	delizioso	1	for	2
51	fébra	1	douter	1	dejar	1	di	15	four	1
52	forà	3	du	4	del	1	dire	4	French	1
53	francis	1	eau	1	delicioso	1	dirsi	1	friend	2
54	fratello	1	écouter	1	desayunar	2	dispiacere (v)	1	from	1
55	frédo	1	elle	3	desayuno	1	domani	1	genteel	1
56	genti	2	en (pron.)	8	despacharse	1	dove	3	gentleman	2
57	giorno	1	en (prep.)	1	despacio	1	dubbio	1	give	2
58	gouerra	1	ensemble	2	dia	1	dubitare	1	glad	1
59	goustar	1	entendre	4	digo	3	e	2	go	15
60	grandi	1	entrer	1	dónde	3	egli	13	go down	1
61	gratzia	3	et	2	duda (n.)	1	entrare	1	good	3
62	iéri	1	étouffante	1	dudo	1	essere	29	happy	1
63	il, la	11	être	32	echar	1	falso	1	haste	2
64	in	5	exprès	1	él	9	fare	19	have	8
65	indiétro	1	fâché	1	el, la	10	febbre	1	he	19
66	intrar	1	faire	15	ello	14	finestra	1	hear	3
67	laschiar	1	falloir	1	en	7	francese	1	heat	1
68	logo	1	faux	1	entender	2	fratello	1	hither	1
69	mangiar	1	fenêtre	1	entre	1	freddo	1	home	2
70	mangiaria	2	fermer	1	eso	1	fretta	1	house	2
71	meïo	1	fièvre	1	esta	1	garbo	1	how	4
72	métir	1	fort	2	estar	7	giorno	1	I	46
73	mi	47	français	1	expresión	1	godere	1	if	1
73	mirar	8	frère	1	exprofeso	1	grande	1	in	6
75	molto	1	froid	1	falso	1	guerra	1	it	28
76	mouchou	8	gager	2	francés	1	il, la	16	just	1
77	mountar	1	goûter	1	frio	1	in	5	know	2
78	nada	1	grand	1	gracias	1	insieme	2	late	1

79	no	3	guerre	1	grande	1	intendere	3	leave	1
80	non	13	heure	5	guerra	1	io	11	let us	2
81	nouova	1	hier	1	gustar	1	jeri	1	listen	1
82	oundé	1	homme	1	haber	7	là	1	like	1
83	oun, ouna	3	ici	1	hablar	2	lasciare	1	live	1
84	oun poco	3	il	43	hacer	16	luogo	1	long	3
85	ora	5	je, moi	48	hay	1	meglio	1	main	1
86	orlogio	1	jour	1	hermano	1	mettere	1	make	4
87	ové	2	le, la	13	hora	3	mio	4	man	1
88	padre	1	là	1	ir	8	molto	2	mister	2
89	païsé	1	laisser	1	junto	2	moltissimo	1	more	1
90	palabra	2	long-temps	2	llover	1	ne	7	morning	1
91	parte	1	maison	2	mal	1	necessario	1	much	2
92	pensar	6	mauvais	1	mañana	1	no	4	my	3
93	per	23	mettre	1	mas	1	non	12	news	1
94	piacher (n)	1	mieux	1	mejor	1	nulla	1	no	5
95	piacher (v)	1	mon, ma	3	menester	1	nuovo	1	not	8
96	piou	1	Monsieur	7	mi, mio	4	obbligato	1	nothing	1
97	poco	1	monter	1	mil	1	ora	3	now	1
98	poco poco	3	montre	1	muchísimo	1	oriuolo	1	o'clock	5
99	porta	1	ne	13	mucho (adj.)	1	padre	1	obliged	2
100	portar	1	nécessaire	1	mucho (adv)	4	paese	1	occasion	1
101	poudir	3	non	4	muy	2	parere	1	of	7
102	premoura	1	nous	4	nada	1	parlare	2	on	1
103	presto	1	nouveau	1	no	15	parola	2	open	1
104	pronto	1	obligé	2	nuevo	1	pensare	1	out	2
105	qoualqué	2	on	3	oír	3	per	2	place	1
106	qouando	2	où	3	padre	1	pezzo	2	please	3
107	qouatro	1	oui	3	país	1	piacere (v.)	2	purpose	1
108	qouello	1	ouvrir	1	palabra	2	piovere	1	put	1
109	qouesto	7	parier	1	para	1	più	1	rain	1
110	qué	9	parler	2	parecer	1	poco	2	ready	1
111	qué (conj)	2	parole	2	pasar	1	porta	1	return	1
112	quérir	8	pas	8	paseo	1	portare	1	say	5
113	qui	1	pays	1	pensar	2	potere	3	see	8
114	respondir	1	penser	2	poco	2	prendere	1	seem	1
115	saloutar	1	père	1	poder	3	presto	1	shall	2
116	sarar	1	peu	1	priesa	1	pronto	1	should	1
117	scaldar	1	place	1	probar	1	proposito	1	shut	1
118	scométir	3	plaire	2	pronto (adj)	1	purtroppo	1	since	1
119	sé	1	pleuvoir	1	pronto (adv)	2	qua	1	sir	2
120	sentar	2	plus	1	puerta	1	qualche	2	sit down	1
121	sentir	5	point	1	puro (adj)	1	quando	2	slow	1
122	servir	2	porte	1	qué	15	quattro	1	slowly	1
123	si	3	se porter	3	que (conj)	19	quello	3	so	3

#										
124	siémé siémé	2	pour	2	querer	9	questo	3	some	2
125	Signor	6	pouvoir	2	quién	2	ringraziare	1	soon	1
126	soubito	1	prendre	1	relox	1	rispondere	1	sorry	1
127	spasségiar	1	pressé	1	responder	1	scaldare	1	something	1
128	spétar	1	prêt	1	salir	2	salire	1	speak	2
129	star	32	propos	1	sentarse	1	sbrigarsi	1	street	1
130	strada	1	quand	2	sentir	1	scendere	1	sugar	1
131	tardi	1	quatre	1	señor	6	scommettere	3	sufficient	1
132	tempo	6	que	10	ser	20	se (conj)	1	suffocating	1
133	ténir	9	que (conj)	14	servir	2	sedere	1	take	2
134	thé	2	quel, quelle	5	si	2	sedia	1	taste	1
135	ti	40	quelque	2	sí	2	sentire	1	tea	2
136	tornar	1	qui	3	silla	1	servire	2	that (dem.)	4
137	touto	1	quoi	1	sobre	1	Signore	6	that (conj.)	2
138	tropo	1	remercier	1	sofocar	1	spasso	1	thank	1
139	tré	1	répondre	1	su	4	stare	8	the	10
140	vénir	5	retarder	1	subir	1	strada	1	there	4
141	vento	1	revenir	1	suficiente	1	subito	1	think	2
142	véro	3	rien	1	sugeto	1	sulla	2	this	2
143	volir	1	rue	1	tarde	1	suo	1	three	1
144	zoukro	1	sa	1	té	2	si (pron.)	1	time	1
145			savoir	1	tener	6	sì	3	to	15
146			sembler	1	tiempo	6	tardi	1	together	2
147			servir	2	todo	1	tè	2	tomorrow	1
148			si	1	tomar	1	tempo	4	too	3
149			sortir	1	traer	1	tenere	1	town	1
150			sucre	1	tres	1	tirare	1	true	3
151			suffire	1	un, una	6	tornare	1	truth	1
152			sur	1	un poco	2	tre	1	understand	2
153			temps	4	V.	61	tutto	1	upon	1
154			tantôt	1	venir	5	un, una	8	use	1
155			tard	1	ventana	1	un poco	3	useful	1
156			thé	2	ver	8	uomo	1	very	4
157			tout	1	verdad	4	uscire	2	walk	1
158			trois	1	viento	1	vi (adv)	1	walk up	1
159			trop	1	vivir	1	vedere	7	war	1
160			un, une	5	volver	1	venire	6	warm	1
161			un peu	3	y	2	vento	1	watch	1
162			valoir	1	yo	8	verità	1	water	1
163			venir	5			vero	3	we	4
164			vent	1			voi, vi, ve	14	weather	3
165			verité	1			volere	8	well	6
166			ville	1			vostro	5	what	17
167			voir	8			zucchero	1	when	2
168			votre	4					whence	1

169		vouloir	9					where	2
170		vous	31					who	3
171		vrai	3					will	9
172		y	5					window	1
173								windy	1
174								wish	1
175								with	3
176								word	2
177								would	4
178								yes	2
179								yesterday	1
180								you	34
181								your	5

4. Discussion

The figures for the complete mini-corpus in Table 3 show that the overall TTR of the LF variety captured in Anonymous (1830), which is 29%, is only slightly lower than the corresponding figures for French (30%), English (31%), Spanish (33%) and Italian (35%). Discounting four highest-frequency lexical types in each language, the corresponding figures become even closer: 39% for LF, 40% for French and 42% for each of English, Spanish and Italian. In six out of eight dialogues, the TTR of LF either equals or surpasses those of one or more of the comparator languages (see Table 2). A computation of the TTR of the LF samples in Haedo (1612), likewise, yields the substantial figure of 43%: based on the glossary of LF words from this source assembled in Cifoletti's (1989: 163-164), Haedo's combined LF samples contain the total of 101 lexical types and 233 tokens (see Operstein 2022: 363-364). These results indicate that the lexical richness of the LF variety or varieties documented in Anonymous (1830) and Haedo (1612), the two publications widely acknowledged as the most reliable sources of information about LF, is not only significantly higher than those of typical pidgins but is comparable with those of LF's lexifiers and English. This, in turn, argues against lumping these varieties of LF with pidgins.

In Operstein (2018c, 2022) I suggest that the linguistic reality covered by the umbrella label of LF is best seen as a structural continuum ranging from basilectal, or pidgin-like varieties, which are the most removed from the Romance structural type, and acrolectal or koine-like varieties, which are structurally closer to the Romance lexifiers. I also argue (Operstein 2018c: 353-355) that the basilectal/acrolectal distinction in LF is likely to have correlated with the dominant languages of its typical users, with basilectal varieties more likely to be produced by non-Romance language speakers and acrolectal ones by speakers of various Romance languages, which necessarily includes both L1 and proficient L2 speakers.

The issue of the basilectal/acrolectal distinction in LF is reflected in some of the documentary sources. Perhaps the clearest testimony that addresses this distinction is provided by Alfred Morel-Fatio, a distinguished French Hispanist who was one of Hugo Schuchardt's correspondents. In a letter to Schuchardt dated 9 February 1882, Morel-Fatio, who resided in Algiers at the time, conceptualizes what is clearly a difference between two varieties of LF as one between "two Linguas Francas". According to Morel-Fatio, each variety is confined to its

own communicative space: one is used by Arabs and Berbers in their contacts with the Christian population, while the other is current in the multilingual milieu of the port, where it aids mutual comprehension among Romance-language speaking sailors:

> Ici, autant que je puis le constater, il y a deux langues franques: La première est parlée au port entre les marins des divers pays romans qui se comprennent à l'aide du gemeinromanisch; la seconde est celle qu'emploie les Arabes et Kabiles pour se faire comprendre de la population chrétienne. (Morel-Fatio 1882; also cited in Nolan 2020: 73)

> [Here, as far as I can tell, there are two Lingua Francas: the first is spoken at the port among sailors from various Romance countries who understand one another with the help of gemeinromanisch [common Romance]; the second is the one used by Arabs and Kabyles for making themselves understood by the Christian population.]

Morel-Fatio's testimony is particularly valuable in light of his combined scholarly and native-speaker expertise in the Romance languages that underpin LF. An earlier testimony to the same effect is given by the authors of Anonymous (1852),[8] who comment on the existence of two distinct varieties of LF, *petit sabir* and *grand sabir*, describing the former as "le *sabir* primitif, dans toute sa simplicité originelle" [the primitive *sabir*, in all its original simplicity] and the latter as "le *sabir* revu, corrigé et considérablement augmenté" [a revised, amended and considerably expanded *sabir*] (quoted in Cifoletti 1989: 195). Though the authors of the anonymous piece believe that this distinction postdates the French conquest of Algeria, Cifoletti (2004: 50) suggests that it dates from an earlier period and, in related publications, correlates it with a difference in the social status of LF's users:

> Certo si può pensare che la lingua franca anteriore al 1830 fosse parlata in modi differenti nei diversi strati sociali, e che le persone del ceto più umile non la conoscessero così bene come i maggiorenti di Algeri; sarebbe un'ipotesi sensata, che disgraziamente però non ha riscontri nei documenti. (Cifoletti 1994a: 147)

> [It may certainly be thought that Lingua Franca that predates 1830 was spoken differently in different social strata, and that persons from the lower class did not know it as well as the notables of Algiers; this would be a sensible hypothesis which, unfortunately, finds no corroboration in the documents.]

Although pre-1830 sources may provide no direct contemporaneous evidence for the existence of a distinction between acrolectal and basilectal LF, this is likely to be due not to the absence of the distinction but to the nature of the documentation, which is both scant and skewed. With respect to this latter issue, Cifoletti notes (1994b: 167) that the European travellers who commented on LF during the period of Barbary piracy tended to place this contact language in the mouths of elevated personages, such as the dey, his dignitaries or corsair captains. One has to wait until the latter half of the nineteenth century to come across copious snippets of LF as spoken by members of the humble classes, such as porters, servants and street urchins. This difference in the social status of the reported speakers of LF correlates with marked differences in its grammar and lexicon, as extensively argued by Cifoletti (1991, 1994a, 1994b).

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[8] Schuchardt (1909: 457), without an explanation, identifies the authors of this piece as MacCarthy and Varnier.

A noticeable lexical difference between pre- and post-1830 LF samples, apart from an influx of French words, looks superficially like relexification with Arabic vocabulary. For instance, Faidherbe's (1884) list of LF words includes Arabic *bezzef* where Anonymous (1830) used Italian *molto* or Spanish *mucho* 'much, very', and Arabic *toubib* where Anonymous (1830) had *médiko*, from Italian *medico* and/or Spanish *médico* 'doctor'; and it also uses Arabic *macache* for general negation (Cifoletti 1989: 203-204, 1991: 36). In Jellinek (1882), similarly, we find *bono besef* 'very good', *makash bono* 'not good' and *Moi makash tenir padron* 'I have no master'; the underlined lexical choices differ from their equivalents in Anonymous (1830), cf. *molto bouno* ~ *mouchou bonou* 'very good', *non contento* 'unhappy', *non tenir doubio* 'there is no doubt'. Mayet (1886) has *djemel* 'camel' where Anonymous (1830) had *camello*.

A principled structural difference is found in the verb: where both Haedo (1612) and Anonymous (1830) distinguish between imperfective and perfective forms, as in *andar / andato* 'go', post-1830 sources display only the former form, derived from the Romance infinitive (Cifoletti 1994a: 146, 1994b: 166; Operstein 2018a). Anonymous (1852) specifically notes that there is "[u]n seul temps pour les verbes" [a single tense for all verbs] (quoted in Cifoletti 1989: 194); Roches (1904: 10), who notes that *sabir* is used by Algerian and Tunisian sailors in their communication with Europeans, observes that "tous les verbes sont invariablement à l'infinitif" [all the verbs are invariably in the infinitive]. This and other structural differences may be observed by comparing the examples in (2a-c) below, from Anonymous (1830), with those in (2d-g), culled from some of the later sources. Thus, the example in (2d) has no articles before the nouns *sbanioul* 'Spaniard' and *bourrico* 'donkey' and no preposition in *andar labrizou* 'go to prison'; this state of affairs contrasts with that seen in (2a-c), where the articles and prepositions are present and used in a rule-governed, Romance-like fashion (see Operstein 2017 for details). The examples in (2e-g) have dispensed with lexical verbs and functional elements like copulas and articles altogether. The sentences in (2a-c), on one hand, and (2e-g), on the other, clearly stand on opposite ends of a structural continuum in which the former cluster represents the acrolectal and the latter, the basilectal end. The sentence in (2d) is in some ways intermediate between the two poles: e.g., unlike the latter set of examples, it does contain lexical verbs and the definite article in *labrizou*[9] and, unlike the former, it dispenses with some other functional elements (see the discussion in Cifoletti 1994a).

(2)   a.   *sé il Françis sbarkar, Algiéri star perso.*
             if the French disembark.IMPF Algiers be.IMPF lost
             'Si les Français débarquent Alger est perdu.'
             'If the French disembark, Algiers is lost.'
             (Anonymous 1830: 98)

    b.   *mi andar in casa del Signor.*
             1S go.IMPF in house of.the gentleman
             'Je vais chez Monsieur M.'
             'I am going to the house of Mr. (M.).'
             (Anonymous 1830: 95)

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[9] Faidherbe's (1884: 108) list of LF words includes *brizou* 'prison'.

c.   *ti   fato   colatzioné?*
        2s   make.PF   breakfast
        'Avez-vous déjeuné?
        'Have you had breakfast?'
        (Anonymous 1830: 96)

d.   *Sbanioul chapar   bourrico,   andar   labrizou.*
        Spaniard steal   donkey   go   prison
        'The Spaniard stole a donkey and went/will go to prison.'
        (Faidherbe 1884: 108)

e.   *Arbi   djemel,   moi   fousil,   fantasia*[10] *besef.*
        Arab   camel   I   gun   arrogance   much
        'Un Arabe a voulu voler mon chameau; j'ai pris mon fusil et j'ai tiré.'
        'An Arab wanted to steal my camel; I took my gun and shot.'
        (Mayet 1886: 69)[11]

f.   *Djemel   morto*
        camel   dead
        'mes chameaux se tueront'
        'My camels will kill theselves'
        (Mayet 1886: 59)

g.   *moi   morto*
        I   dead
        'ich bin hin'
        'I am done for'
        (Jellinek 1882: n.p.)

The surge in Arabic vocabulary and simplification of the grammatical system in post-1830 LF samples may be unrelated to their chronology; they may reflect a shift of the observational perspective rather than a change in the object of observation. It is likely that the attention of observers like Haedo (1612), Pananti (1817) and Anonymous (1830), who commented on LF before the onset of the European colonial history in the area, was drawn towards its more familiar, Romance-like lects, as spoken by the leading notables. By contrast, the European travellers of the colonial period, who flocked to the Orient in search of the exotic and the picturesque, were more poised to observe the less familiar aspects of the lands they visited; with regard to LF, this translates into the more basilectal lects, found among the population segments less acculturated to European ways. The simpler grammar and increased Arabic vocabulary of the later LF samples may be one aspect of this change in perspective. The social changes in the wake of the French conquest, including exile of the last dey of Algiers and deportation of the Ottoman authorities and many of the janissaries (McDougall 2017: 52), had an impact on the profile of typical LF users as well.

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[10] This LF word is famously polysemous; Faidherbe (1884: 108) does not even attempt to define it and writes that this is "un mot qui résume tout" [a word that sums up everything].
[11] See also Cifoletti (1994: 146).

Sources from the post-conquest period reinforce one another in noting the antagonism between the indigenous and European segments of the colonial society, polarized, as one travel guide puts it, between "the pushing, driving, money-making nineteenth century" at one extreme and "the romantic, half-savage, wholly mysterious world of Haroun-al-Rashid" at the other (Seguin 1878: 193). From the same guidebook we learn that LF is "not yet wholly forgotten" in the Arab town of Algiers, where the traveller will be better served by a smattering of Italian than knowledge of French because "the Arab had an instinctive preference for anything *not* French" (p. 204). The pronounced and deep-seated differences between the French and the Arab towns extended to their linguistic ecologies, carving out a space for the continued use of LF:

Ici, on parle toutes les langues de l'Europe; là, on ne parle que la langue insociable de l'Orient. De l'une à l'autre, et comme à moitié chemin des deux villes, circule un idiome international et barbare, appelé de ce nom de *sabir*, qui lui-même est figuratif et veut dire «comprendre». Se comprend on? se comprendra-t-on jamais? Je ne le crois pas. (Fromentin 1881: 20)

[Here [in the French town], all the languages of Europe are spoken; there [in the Arab town], only the unsociable language of the Orient. From one town to the other and, as it were, halfway between the two, circulates an international and barbaric language called by this name of *sabir* which is itself figurative and means «to understand». Do we understand each other? Will we ever? I don't think so.]

In summary, the high degree of structural continuity between the LF varieties recorded by Haedo (1612) and Anonymous (1830), on one hand, and LF's Romance lexifiers,[12] on the other, suggests that the authors of both these works focused on the acrolectal end of the LF continuum. The substantial lexical diversity of the LF dialogues from Anonymous (1830) and LF samples from Haedo (1612) corroborates this conclusion. The fact that the LF varieties of Haedo (1612) and Anonymous (1830) belong to acrolectal LF is not fortuitous: both works were intended for Romance-language speaking audiences, and both were written by authors who spoke Romance languages, natively in the case of Haedo (1612), non-natively but proficiently in the case of Anonymous (1830) (Camamis 1978; Operstein 2019). Based on the preceding discussion and the research cited at the beginning of this paper, it is likely that, if a suitably long sample of basilectal LF ever comes to light, its TTR will be lower than those reported in this study and closer to those of pidgins.

Appendix

Dialogue No. 1

FRENCH	LINGUA FRANCA	ITALIAN	SPANISH	ENGLISH
Cela est vrai.	qouesto star véro.	È vero.	Es verdad.	It is true.
Cela n'est pas vrai.	qouesto non star véro.	Non è vero.	No es verdad.	That is not true.

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[12] As shown by, among others, Cornelissen (1992), Baglioni (2017) and Operstein (2017, 2018a, 2018b, 2018c, 2022).

Cela n'est que trop vrai.	qouesto star tropo véro.	Quest' è pur troppo vero.	Esta es la pura verdad.	That is but too true.
J'en doute.	mi doubitar di questo.	Ne dubito.	Lo dudo.	I doubt it.
Il n'y a point de doute.	non tenir doubio.	Non v'è dubbio alcuno.	No hay duda alguna.	There is no doubt.
Que voulez-vous parier?	cosà volir scométir?	Che volete scommettere?	Qué quiere V. apostar?	What will you bet?
J[a] gagerais quelque chose.	mi scométir qualqué cosa.	Scommetterei qualche cosa.	Apostaría cualquiera cosa.	I would bet something.
Je gagerais ce que vous voudrez.	mi scométir cosa ti quérir.	Scommetterò quel che volete.	Apostaré lo que V. quiera.	I will bet what you please.
Croyez-moi, je puis vous l'assurer.	ti crédir per mi, mi poudir asicourar per ti.	Credetemi; ve lo posso assicurare.	Créame V. puedo asegurárselo.	Believe me, I can assure you of it.
C'est ainsi.	star acoussi.	È così.	Es así.	It is so.
Je crois que oui.	mi pensar si.	Credo di sì.	Creo que sí.	I believe so.
Je crois que non.	mi pensar no.	Credo di no.	Creo que no.	I believe not.
Je dis que oui.	mi ablar si.	Dico di sì.	Digo que sí.	I say yes.
Je dis que non.	mi ablar no.	Dico di no.	Digo que no.	I say no.
Sur ma parole.	per la palabra di mi.	Sulla mia parola.	Sobre mi palabra.	Upon my word.
Je dis la vérité.	mi ablar dgiousto.	Dico la verità.	Digo la verdad.	I speak the truth.
Je vous crois.	mi crédir per ti.	Vi credo.	Os creo.	I believe you.
Je n'en crois pas une parole.	mi non crédir ouna palabra.	Non ne credo una parola.	Yo no creo una palabra.	I do not believe a word of it.
Je ne saurais croire.	mi non poudir crédir.	Non posso crederlo.	No puedo creerlo.	I cannot believe it.
Cela est faux.	qouesto star falso.	Quest' è falso.	Es falso.	That is false.

Dialogue No. 2

FRENCH	LINGUA FRANCA	ITALIAN	SPANISH	ENGLISH
Bon jour, Monsieur.	bon dgiorno Signor.	Buon giorno, Signore.	Buenos dias, señor.	Good morning, sir.
Comment vous portez-vous?	commé ti star?	Come state?	Cómo está V.?	How do you do?
Je suis bien, et vous.	mi star bonou, é ti.	Sto bene, e voi.	Estoy bien, y V.?	Well, and you?
Je suis bien aise de vous voir.	mi star contento mirar per ti.	Godo di vedervi.	Celebro verle á V.	I am glad to see you.
Je vous remercie.	gratzia.	Vi ringrazio.	Muchas gracias.	I thank you.
Puis-je vous	mi poudir servir	Posso servirvi in	Puedo servir á V.	Can I be useful

FRENCH	LINGUA FRANCA	ITALIAN	SPANISH	ENGLISH
servir en quelque chose?	per ti per qualké cosa?	qualche cosa?	en algo?	to you in anything?
Je vous suis fort obligé.	mouchou gratzia.	Vi sono molto obbligato.	Lo agradezco á V. mucho.	I am very much obliged to you.
Donnez une chaise à Monsieur.	ti dar una cadiéra al Signor.	Date una sedia al Signore.	Dad una silla al señor.	Give a chair to the gentleman.
Il n'est pas nécessaire.	non bisogna.	Non è necessario.	No es menester.	There is no occasion.
Je suis bien comme cela.	mi star béné acoussi.	Sto bene così.	Estoy muy bien así.	I am well like this.
Comment se porte votre frère?	commé star il fratello di ti?	Come sta il vostro fratello.	¿Cómo lo pasa su hermano de V.?	How does your brother do?
Il se porte fort bien.	star mouchou bonou.	Sta benissimo.	Muy bien.	He is very well.
Est-il à la maison?	star in casa?	È egli in casa?	¿Está en casa?	Is he at home?
Non, il est sorti.	no, star forà.	No, è uscito.	No, ha salido.	No, he is gone out.
Et Monsieur votre père comment est il?	E il padré di ti commé star?	E il vostro padre, come sta egli?	¿Y como está su padre de V.?	And your father, how does he do?
Il n'est pas bien.	non star bonou.	Non sta bene.	No está bien.	Not well.
Qu'a-t-il?	cosa ténir?	Che ha?	¿Qué tiene?	What ails him?
Il a la fièvre.	ténir fébra.	Ha la febbre.	Tiene calentura.	He has a fever.
J'en suis bien fâché.	Dispiacher mouchou per mi.	Me ne dispiace moltissimo.	Lo siento mucho.	I am very sorry for it.
Y a-t-il long-tems que vous n'avez vu Monsieur M.?	molto tempo ti non mirato Signor M.?	È un pezzo che non avete veduto il Signor N?	Ha mucho que no ha visto V. al señor N.?	Is it long since you saw Mr. N.?
Je l'ai vu hier.	mi mirato iéri.	L'ho veduto jeri.	Lo vi ayer.	I saw him yesterday.
C'est un brave homme.	star bouona genti.	È un uomo di garbo.	Es un buen sugeto.	He is a genteel man.
Quand vous le verrez faites lui mes complimens.	quando ti mirar per ellou saloutar mouchou per la parté di mi.	Quando lo vedrete, fategli i miei complimenti.	Cuando V. le vea dele V. mil expresiones.	When you see him, give my compliments to him.
Adieu mon ami.	Adios amigo.	Addio, mio amico.	Adios, amigo mio.	Adieu, my friend.

Dialogue No. 3

FRENCH	LINGUA FRANCA	ITALIAN	SPANISH	ENGLISH
Que fesons-nous?	cosa counchar?	Che facciamo?	¿Qué hacemos?	What do we do?

Que faut-il faire?	cosa bisognio counchar?	Che si ha da fare?	¿Qué debe hacerse?	What is to be done?
Qu'en pensez-vous?	qué pensar?	Che ne pensate?	¿Qué piensa V.?	What do you think of it?
Que voudriez-vous faire?	cosa ti quérir counchar?	Che vorreste fare?	¿Qué quisiera V. hacer?	What would you do?
Fesons comme cela.	bisognio counchar acoussi.	Facciamo così.	Hagámoslo así.	Let us do so.
Il me semble qu'il vaudrait mieux.	mi pensar star meïo.	Mi pare che sarebbe meglio …	Me parece que sería mejor….	It seems to me that it would be better….
Si j'étais à votre place je ferais.	sé mi star al logo di ti, mi counchar, ou fazir.	S' io fossi in luogo vostro, farei …	Si fuese que V. haría…	If I were in your place, I would do….
A quoi servira tout cela?	qué servir touto qouesto?	A che servirà tutto questo?	¿De qué servirá todo eso?	Of what use will all this be?
Laissez-moi faire.	ti laschiar counchar per mi.	Lasciatemi fare.	Déjelo V. á mi cargo.	Leave me to contrive.

Dialogue No. 4

FRENCH	LINGUA FRANCA	ITALIAN	SPANISH	ENGLISH
Qui est là?	qui star aki?	Chi è là.	¿Quién es?	Who is there?
Entrez.	intrar.	Entrate.	Entre V.	Come in.
D'où venez-vous?	oundé ti vénir?	Di dove venite?	¿De dónde viene V.?	Whence come you?
Je viens de chez moi.	mi vénir della casa di mi.	Vengo di casa mia.	Vengo de mi casa.	I come from home.
Où allez-vous?	ové ti andar?	Dove andate?	¿A dónd[e] va V.?	Where are you going?
Je vais me promener.	mi andar spasségiar.	Vado a spasso.	Voy á paseo.	I am going to walk.
Je vais voir un ami.	mi andar mirar oun amigo.	Vado a veder un amico.	Voy á ver á un amigo.	I am going to see a friend.
Je vais chez Monsieur M.	mi andar in casa del Signor.	Vado dal Signor N.	Voy á casa del señor N.	I am going to Mr. N.'s.
Voulez-vous que j'aille avec vous?	ti quérir mi andar con ti?	Volete ch' io venga con voi?	¿Quiere V. que le acompañe?	Shall I go with you?
Oui, allons ensemble.	si, andar siémé siémë.	Sì, andiamo insieme.	Sí, vamos juntos.	Yes, let us go together.
Venez ici?	ti vénir aki?	Venite qua.	Venga V. aquí.	Come hither.
Montez, descendez.	ti mountar, ti baschiar.	Salite. Scendete.	Suba V. Baje V.	Walk up. Go down.
Allez-vous en.	andar fora.	Andatevene.	Váyase V.	Go away.
Sortez de la maison.	andar fora di casa.	Uscite di casa.	Salga V. de casa.	Go out of the house.

FRENCH	LINGUA FRANCA	ITALIAN	SPANISH	ENGLISH
Dépêchez-vous.	fazir ou counchar presto.	Sbrigatevi.	Despáchese V.	Make haste.
Revenez de suite.	tornar soubito.	Tornate subito.	Vuelva V. pronto.	Return directly.
Allez doucement.	andar poco poco.	Andate adagio.	Ande V. despacio.	Go slowly.
Je suis pressé.	mi tenir prémoura.	Ho fretta.	Tengo priesa.	I am in haste.
Asseyez-vous.	ti sentar, ou ti sédir.	Sedete.	Siéntese V.	Sit down.
Attendez un peu.	spétar oun poco.	Aspettate un poco.	Aguarde V. un poco.	Wait a little.
Ouvrez la fenêtre.	aprir la bentana.	Aprite la finestra.	Abra V. la ventana.	Open the window.
Fermez la porte.	sarar la porta.	Chiudete la porta.	Cierre V. la puerta.	Shut the door.

Dialogue No. 5

FRENCH	LINGUA FRANCA	ITALIAN	SPANISH	ENGLISH
Écoutez.	sentir.	Ascoltate.	Oiga V.	Listen.
M'entendez-vous?	sentir per mi?	M' intendete?	¿Me entiende V.?	Do you hear me?
Comprenez-vous?	capir?	Capite?	¿Comprende V.?	Do you understand?
J'entends bien.	mi sentir bonou.	Intendo bene.	Entiendo bien.	I understand well.
Je vous comprends un peu.	mi capir oun poco per ti.	Vi capisco un poco.	Comprendo á V. un poco.	I comprehend you a little.
Que dites-vous?	cosa ti ablar?	Che cosa dite?	¿Qué es lo que V. dice?	What do you say.
Répondez-moi.	respondir per mi.	Rispondetemi.	Respóndame V.	Answer me.
Qui est-ce Monsieur qui vous parlait tantôt.	qui star qouesto signor qué poco poco ablar per ti.	Chi è quel Signore, che parlava con voi poco fa?	¿Quién es aquel señor que hablaba con V. poco ha?	Who is that gentleman who spoke to you just now?
Le connaissez vous?	ti conoscir per ellou?	Lo conoscete?	¿Le conoce V.?	Do you know him?
J'ai entendu parler de lui.	mi sentito ablar di ellou.	Ho sentito parlare di lui.	He oído hablar de él.	I have heard of him.
Je l'ai vu chez vous.	mi mirato in casa di ti.	L'ho veduto in casa vostra.	Lo he visto en su casa.	I saw him at your house.
Où demeure-t-il?	ové sentar?	Dove sta di casa?	¿En dónde vive?	Where does he live?
Dans la grand'rue.	in strada grandi.	Sulla strada grande.	En la calle grande.	In the main street.
De quel pays est-il?	di qué païsé star?	Di che paese è?	¿De qué pais es?	Of what country is he?

Il est français …	star francis …	È francese.	Es francés.	He is French.
Y a-t-il long-temps que vous le connaissez?	mouchou tempou di conoschir per ellou?	È un pezzo che lo conoscete?	¿Hace tiempo que V. lo conoce?	Have you known him long?
Il y a peu de temps.	ténir poco tempo.	Poco tempo fa.	Hace poco tiempo.	Not long.
Je serais bien aise de faire sa connaissance.	mi ténir piacher conoschir per ellou.	Avrei a caro di far la sua conoscenza.	Me alegraría mucho de conocerlo.	I should be very happy to be acquainted with him.
Nous irons le voir ensemble.	bisognio andar mirar per ellou siémé siémé.	Andremo insieme a vederlo.	Irémos juntos á verlo.	We will go together to see him.
Quand il vous plaira.	qouando piacher per ti.	Quando vi piacerà.	Cuando V. quiera.	When you please.
Nous irons demain.	bisognio andar domani.	Andremo domani.	Irémos mañana.	We will go tomorrow.

Dialogue No. 6

FRENCH	LINGUA FRANCA	ITALIAN	SPANISH	ENGLISH
Avez-vous déjeuné?	ti fato colatzioné?	Avete fatto colazione?	¿Ha desayunado usted?	Have you breakfasted?
Non, Monsieur.	non, Signor.	No, Signore.	No señor.	No, sir.
Vous venez à propos, le déjeuné est prêt.	ti venir dgiousto, la mangiaria star pronta.	Venite a proposito; la colazione è pronta.	Viene V. á tiempo, el desayuno está pronto.	You come in good time, the breakfast is ready.
Je suis venu exprès pour déjeuner avec vous.	mi venouto aposto per far mangiaria con ti.	Son venuto apposta per far colazione con voi.	He venido exprofeso á desayunar con V.	I am come on purpose to breakfast with you.
Bien, que voulez-vous prendre?	bonou? qué ti quérir mangiar.	Bene. Che cosa volete prendere?	Bien, ¿qué quiere V. tomar?	Good; what will you take?
Ce qu'il vous plaira.	qouello qué ti quérir.	Quel che vi piacerà.	Lo que V. guste.	What ever you please.
Voulez-vous du café?	ti quérir café?	Volete il caffè?	¿Quiere V. cafe?	Will you take coffee?
Apportez le café.	portar café.	Portate il caffè.	Traiga V. café.	Bring coffee.
Faites chauffer de l'eau; je veux faire du thé.	fazir scaldar agoua; mi quérir counchar thé.	Fate scaldar dell'acqua; voglio far del tè.	Caliente V. agua: quiero hacer té.	Make the water boil, I will make some tea.
N'en faites pas pour moi, le café me suffit.	non counchar per mi, il café basta.	Non ne fate per me; il caffè mi basta.	No lo haga V. para mi; el café me basta.	Don't make any for me; coffee is sufficient.

French	Lingua Franca	Italian	Spanish	English
J'ai du thé délicieux; je veux que vous en goûtiez.	mi tenir thé mouchou bonou; mi quérir ti goustar per ellou.	Ho un tè delizioso; voglio che l'assaggiate.	Tengo un té delicioso; quiero que V. lo pruebe.	I have some delicious tea; I wish you to taste it.
Je vous suis bien obligé.	mouchou gratzia.	Vi sono molto tenuto.	Lo agradezco á V. muchísimo.	I am much obliged to you.
Mettez-y un peu plus de sucre.	ti métir oun poco piou zoukro.	Metteteci un poco più di zucchero.	Eche V. mas azucar.	Put a little more sugar.
J'en ai assez.	mi ténir bastantza.	Ne ho abbastanza.	Tengo suficiente.	I have enough.

Dialogue No. 7

French	Lingua Franca	Italian	Spanish	English
Quelle heure est-il?	qué ora star?	Che ora è?	¿Qué hora es?	What o'clock is it?
Quelle heure croyez-vous qu'il soit?	qué ora ti pensar star?	Che ora credete che sia?	¿Qué hora piensa V. que sea?	What o'clock do you think it is?
Je pense qu'il n'est pas trois heures.	mi pensar non star tré ora.	Credo che non siano le tre.	Creo que no son las tres.	I believe it is not three o'clock.
Il est bientôt quatre heures.	poco poco star qouatr'ora.	Saranno presto le quattro.	Pronto serán las cuatro.	It will soon be four o'clock.
Il n'est pas tard.	non star tardi.	Non è tardi.	No es tarde.	It is not late.
Voyez quelle heure il est à votre montre.	mirar qué ora star al orlogio di ti.	Vedete che ora è al vostro oriuolo.	Vea V. qué hora es en su relox.	See what o'clock it is by your watch.
Elle ne va pas bien.	non andar bonou.	Non va bene.	No anda bien.	It does not go well.
Elle avance, elle retarde.	andar avanti, andar indiétro.	Va avanti; va addietro.	Se adelanta, se atrasa.	It goes too fast; it goes too slow.
Quel temps fait-il?	Comé star il tempo?	Che tempo fa?	¿Qué tiempo hace?	How is the weather?
Il fait beau temps.	il tempo star bello.	Fa bel tempo.	Hace buen tiempo.	It is fine weather.
Il fait mauvais temps.	il tempo star cativo.	Fa cattivo tempo.	Hace mal tiempo.	It is bad weather.
Il fait chaud.	fazir caldo.	Fa caldo.	Hace calor.	It is warm.
Il fait froid.	fazir frédo.	Fa freddo.	Hace frio.	It is cold.
Il fait du vent.	fazir vento.	Tira vento.	Hace viento.	It is windy.
Il pleut.	cascar agoua.	Piove.	Llueve.	It rains.
Il fait une chaleur étouffante.	fazir caldo mouchou.	È un caldo affannoso.	Hace un calor que sofoca.	The heat is suffocating.

Dialogue No. 8

FRENCH	LINGUA FRANCA	ITALIAN	SPANISH	ENGLISH
Que dit-on de nouveau?	qué nouova?	Che si dice di nuovo?	¿Qué se dice de nuevo?	What news is there?
Je n'ai rien entendu.	mi non sentito nada.	Io non ho inteso nulla.	Nada he oido.	I have heard nothing.
Que dit-on dans la ville?	qué hablar in chità?	Che si dice in città?	¿Qué se dice en la ciudad?	What is said in town?
On dit que nous avons la guerre.	genti hablar tenir gouerra.	Si dice che avremo la guerra.	Se dice que tendremos guerra.	It is said that we shall have war.
La guerre, avec quelle nation?	Gouerra, con qué natzion?	—	—	—
Avec les Français.	con Francis.	—	—	—
Que peuvent faire les Français contre Alger?	qué poudir counchar il Françis contra di Algieri?	—	—	—
Par mer rien, mais par terre ils sont redoutables.	per maré nada, ma per terra il Francis star mouchou forti.	—	—	—
Si les Français débarquent Alger est perdu.	sé il Françis sbarkar, Algiéri star perso.	—	—	—
Je pense que les Algériens ne se batront pas.	mi pensar l'Algérino non combatir.	—	—	—
Le Pacha sera donc obligé de demander la paix.	dounqué bisogno il Bacha quérir paché.	—	—	—
Oui, s'il ne veut périr.	si, sé non quérir morir.	—	—	—
S'il veux la paix les Turcs feront tapage.	sé quérir paché l'Yoldach fazir gribouila.	—	—	—
Pour quoi ne fait-on pas la paix?	perqué non counchar paché	—	—	—
Parce que le Pacha est entêté.	perqué il Bacha tenir fantétzia.	—	—	—

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