

## **THE SEARCH FOR THE COMMON LANGUAGE IN THE EUROPEAN CULTURE: “PROFECIES” FROM THE ITALIAN 1800S IN THE FRAME OF SOME 1900S’ PROVOCATIONS**

---

**Astori Davide**

*University of Parma, Italy*

---

‘Which language for Europe’ is not a secondary subject in this so difficult economic and politic contemporary conjunction; a real union will only exist when – to follow a famous citation – the European citizens will be made. Healthy and concrete democratic citizenship is based on collective values and ideals, on the culture of participation, and on a shared vision of the word. These intentions will be hardly (to use an euphemism) able to come true without a common communication tool. The linguistic question is so important for the Old Continent that it appeared absolutely clear to the first dreamers of a united Europe. From such point of view the present article will analyse contributions of thought of some scholars, among them Fathers of Italy and Europe (Giuseppe Garibaldi, Carlo Cattaneo, Giuseppe Mazzini , etc.) in the context of provocations of the 20 century (the Esperanto project, with its meaningful relationship with the Comenian sensibility as well with the Kantian vision of an ‘eternal peace’, the revival of Latin, the ‘joke’ Europanto, and some other linguistic projects of different forms of planned English), to discuss the ideal and cultural bases of a debate which totally involves the European level of linguistic democracy and ecology, to substrike the multilingual and multicultural nature of the history of our Continent.