# 5

# *Demonstratives*

## 5.1 Forms of the demonstrative adjectives and pronouns: *questo* (and *sto*), *quello*, etc.

**TABLE 5.A**

| | Singular | Plural |
|---|---|---|
| Masc. adjective | *questo/quest'* | *questi* |
| Masc. pronoun | *questo* | |
| Masc. human subject pronoun | *questi* | |
| Fem. adjective | *questa/quest'* | *queste* |
| Fem. pronoun | *questa* | |

| | Singular | Plural |
|---|---|---|
| Masc. adjective | *quel/quell'/quello* | *quei/quegli* |
| Masc. pronoun | *quello* | *quelli* |
| Masc. human subject pronoun | *quegli* | |
| Fem. adjective | *quella/quell'* | *quelle* |
| Fem. pronoun | *quella* | |

The demonstrative adjectives have a number of variant forms: *quel*, *quell'*, *quello*, *quei*, *quegli*, *quella*, *quelle*. The difference between them is like that between the variant forms of the definite article (*il*, *l'*, *lo*, *i*, *gli*, *la*, *le*), for which see 4.1. Thus *quel*, like the definite article *il*, occurs before nouns and adjectives beginning with a consonant – unless the consonant is *s* + consonant, *z-*, *ps-*, etc., in which case *quello* (like *lo*) is used. Plural *quei* occurs before most consonants, and *quegli* before *s* + consonant, *z-*, etc., and vowels, exactly like the plural articles *i* and *gli*. For *questo* and *questa* elision of the vowel before another word beginning with a vowel is optional, but particularly common where a sequence of two identical vowels (e.g., *questa anima*) would otherwise arise:

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *questo libro* | 'this book' | *questi libri* |
| *quest'uomo* | 'this man' | *questi uomini* |
| *questo spazio* | 'this space' | *questi spazi* |
| *questa cosa* | 'this thing' | *queste cose* |
| *quest'anima* | 'this soul' | *queste anime* |
| *quel libro* | 'that book' | *quei libri* |
| *quell'uomo* | 'that man' | *quegli uomini* |
| *quello spazio* | 'that space' | *quegli spazi* |
| *quella cosa* | 'that thing' | *quelle cose* |
| *quell'anima* | 'that soul' | *quelle anime* |

**The adjective *sto* = *questo***

*Sto* (*sti*, *sta*, *ste*) is perceived by most Italians as a shortened form of the adjective *questo*, to which it is identical in meaning (it is often spelled as *'sto*). It is extremely frequent in informal speech, but avoided in formal discourse and writing (apart from its appearance in the words *stasera* 'this evening', *stamane*, *stamattina* 'this morning', *stanotte* 'last night', *stavolta* 'this time'):

| | |
|---|---|
| *Non mi piace mica sta macchina.* | 'I really don't like this car.' |
| *Sti cretini non ci capiscono un fico secco.* | 'These idiots don't understand a damned thing about it.' |

## 5.2 Meaning of *questo* vs. *quello*

The demonstrative *questo* corresponds by and large to English *this*, and is distinguished from *quello* (roughly 'that') in that *questo* is 'first-person oriented': it is applied to anything which the speaker(s) or writer(s) view as *close* to them in space or time, or with which they present themselves as in some way closely concerned or associated). In writing and speaking, such 'closeness' may simply constitute 'that which is most recently mentioned', for example:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Cosa sia stato quel trauma lo espresse poeticamente un altro giovane, meno che ventenne, Ugo Foscolo, nell'ode 'Bonaparte liberatore'. Lo descriverà nuovamente, in prosa questa volta, due anni dopo, in una dedica a Bonaparte.* | 'What that trauma was, was expressed poetically by another young man, still not twenty, UF, in the ode "BL". He describes it again, this time in prose, two years later, in a dedication to Bonaparte.' |

*Questo* and *quello* can also mean, respectively, 'latter' and 'former':

| | |
|---|---|
| *Insomma, sembra che il peccato sia regolato dalla stessa legge che regola la virtù; sia anche quello, non meno di questa, una forma di virtù.* | 'So it seems that sin is regulated by the same law as virtue; that the former, just as much as the latter, is a kind of virtue.' |

The next example involves simple spatial proximity to the speaker, who is giving directions from the steps on which she stands towards some shops in the distance:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Deve scendere questa scaletta, sempre dritto, e poi continuare fino a quei negozi laggiù.* | 'Go down these steps, straight ahead, and go on until those shops down there.' |

*Quest'ultimo* is also sometimes used for 'the latter':

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| | |
|---|---|
| *Proprio la settimana avanti andava al campo insieme a una zia e a un'altra donna, e quest'ultima aveva messo il piede su una mina ed era saltata in aria.* | 'Just the week before she was going to the field with an aunt and another woman and she [the latter] had stepped on a mine and been blown up.' |
| *Un giorno si verificò l'allagamento dei locali di cui la Casa editrice era conduttrice e la maggior parte dei libri subì notevoli danni. Dopo avere invano richiesto il risarcimento del condominio, essa si decise ad intraprendere una azione legale contro quest'ultimo.* | 'One day the premises run by the publishing house were flooded, and most of the books were seriously damaged. After unsuccessfully seeking compensation by the condominium, it [i.e., the publishing house] decided to sue the latter [i.e., the condominium].' |

Noun phrases containing *questo* and *quello* can be reinforced, respectively, by *qui/qua* and *lì/là* (see 5.15):

| | |
|---|---|
| *Vuoi questo tovagliolo qui o quello lì?* | 'Do you want this napkin (here) or that one (there)?' |
| *Quelli là non hanno la minima idea di quello che pensiamo noi.* | 'Those people (there) haven't the faintest idea what we think.' |

For the use of *questo* where English might employ a definite article (e.g., *Amava questo sport* 'He loved the sport'), see 4.13.

## 5.3 *Codesto*

The difference between *questo* and *quello* might broadly be described as 'first-person oriented' vs. 'not first-person oriented'. But there is another demonstrative, *codesto* (sometimes also *cotesto*), which is now generally considered archaic (and limited in current usage to bureaucratic language), except by many Tuscans, in whose usage it remains current. It is a 'second-person oriented', being centred on the *addressee* in much the same way that *questo* is centred on the speaker/writer.

| | |
|---|---|
| *Togliti cotesta camicia, è zuppa di sudore!* | 'Take off that shirt [you're wearing], it's soaked with sweat.' |
| *Per carità, signora mia, non dica codeste cose.* | 'Please, madam, don't say those things [that you're saying].' |

Use of *codesto*, rather than *questo*, may also serve simply to maintain the addressee's interest in what is being said, or as a way of involving the addressee in this discourse: *codesta idea* might be 'this idea [that I'm going to tell you about]':

| | |
|---|---|
| *Mi stia a sentire un attimo, che le volevo proporre codesta idea che mi è venuta in mente l'altro giorno.* | 'Just listen to me a moment: I wanted to show you this idea which I had the other day.' |

*Codesto/cotesto* also corresponds, sometimes, to English 'such a . . ., such . . .':

| | |
|---|---|
| *Si mise a fare un discorso trotskista, ma suo padre gli obiettò che codeste idee non avevano nessun valore.* | 'He started talking Trotskyism, but his father protested that such ideas had no value.' |

## 5.4 The demonstratives *questo* and *quello* as personal pronouns

We see in 6.26 that the third person pronouns *lui*, *lei* and *loro* principally refer to persons, and *esso* and *essa* are restricted to elevated discourse. So what pronom-

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inal forms serve to represent 'non-persons' in ordinary discourse? In fact extensive use is made of *questo* and *quello*:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Nel passaggio ci sono delle fotocopiatrici e queste stanno sempre accese.* | 'In the passage there are photocopiers and they are always on.' |

*Questo* and *quello* may also be used of persons, in informal speech, although the effect may sound slightly discourteous and even derogatory, especially if the demonstratives are accompanied by *lì* or *là* (e.g., *quello lì* 'that bloke').

A factor in the choice between *lui*, *lei*, etc. and the demonstratives seems to be the speaker's attitude towards the person referred to. *Lui* and *lei* may express sympathy for, or particular interest in, the person; *questo*, *questa*, etc. suggest a negative attitude towards, or lack of interest in, the person.

It has been observed (Calabrese, in Renzi 1988: 624) that use of the demonstrative pronouns with reference to persons is less acceptable if the noun is a proper name, in which case *lui*, *lei*, etc. tend to be preferred:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Dopo che Carlo m'ha visto con la fidanzata, lui* [not *questo*] *è scoppiato a ridere.* | 'After Carlo saw me with my girlfriend, he burst out laughing.' |

## 5.5 The pronouns *questi* 'he', 'the last mentioned [person]', 'the latter', *quegli* 'he', 'the former'

The demonstrative pronouns *questi*, and the now rare *quegli*, have in common with the pronoun *egli* that they are (i) singular only, (ii) refer only to male humans and (iii) are encountered mainly in formal registers; most grammars also state that they should be used only as subject pronouns. They refer to a person previously mentioned in the discourse ('this man', 'he'), and *questi* often serves to indicate the most recently mentioned:

| | |
|---|---|
| *In un articolo su Giovanni Paolo II, per evitare troppe ripetizioni, questi verrà menzionato di volta in volta come «il papa», «il pontefice».* [Serianni 1988: 207f.] | 'In an article on John Paul II, to avoid excessive repetition, he will be called variously "the pope", "the pontiff".' |
| *Arrossì e pregò il portiere di guidarlo; quegli acconsentì volentieri.* | 'He blushed and asked the porter to lead the way; he [the porter] willingly agreed.' |

*Questi* may sometimes be opposed to *quegli*:

| | |
|---|---|
| *. . . e che l'occasione serva a riconciliare i due ex amici* [. . .] *sperano sia George Eastman sia Alessandro Haber: questi, modestissimo critico di provincia, stretto dalla solitudine, quegli, titolare di uno squallido club sportivo.*[1] | '. . . and that the occasion should help to reconcile the two former friends is the hope both of GE and AH: the latter, a very minor provincial critic, constrained by solitude, the former, the owner of a squalid sports club.' |

## 5.6 The type *quelli del municipio* = 'the town hall people'

The phrase *quello/quelli di* + X is colloquially used to mean 'the X man'/'the X people':

[1]Example cited by Serianni (1988: 237).

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| | |
|---|---|
| *Sono venuti quelli del gas.* | 'The gas people have come.' |
| *Ho parlato con quello dello scarico.* | 'I talked to the man at the rubbish dump.' |

## 5.7 The pronouns *questo*, *quello*, *ciò* 'this', 'that', referring to assertions/propositions

Both *questo* and *quello* (always masculine singular) can be used to refer to a previous assertion, proposition or question. Italian tends to use *questo* in such cases, where English more readily employs 'that':

| | |
|---|---|
| *—Si rifiuta di rimborsarci.* | 'He's refusing to refund us.' |
| *—Questo proprio non lo sopporto!* | 'I'm just not having that!' |
| *—Ognuno ha i suoi difetti.* | 'We all have our faults.' |
| *—Questo è vero.* | 'That's true.' |
| *—Il suo intervento giova o nuoce alla causa per la quale egli si batte, o dice di battersi?* | 'Does his intervention help or hinder the cause he's fighting for, or claims to be fighting for?' |
| *— Questo sì che è un interrogativo fondato.* | 'That certainly is a valid question.' |

The pronoun *ciò* might also have been used in the above examples. Apart from its use as a declarative marker (19.9) in *cioè*, *ciò* is mainly characteristic of formal and literary registers:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Il principe aveva troppa esperienza per offrire a degli invitati siciliani, in un paese dell'interno, un pranzo che si iniziasse con un* potage, *e infrangeva tanto più facilmente le regole dell'alta cucina in quanto ciò corrispondeva ai propri gusti.* | 'The prince was too experienced to offer Sicilian guests, in a village in the interior, any lunch that started with a *potage*, and he broke the rules of *haute cuisine* all the more readily because that suited his own tastes.' |
| *Firmò silenziosamente la lettera e con ciò se ne andò, senza dire una parola.* | 'He signed the letter in silence, and with that he left, without saying a word.' |

Note also *per questo* . . . or *perciò* = 'that's why . . .', 'for that reason':

| | |
|---|---|
| *Mi hanno richiamato inaspettatamente a Roma. Per questo non ho potuto telefonarti.* | 'I was unexpectedly called back to Rome. That's why I couldn't phone you.' |
| *La loro risposta è insolente e perciò inaccettabile.* | 'Their answer is insolent and therefore unacceptable.' |

The Italian equivalent of English 'that means . . .', where 'that' does not carry contrastive stress, is usually simply *vuol dire*:

| | |
|---|---|
| *'Energumeno'. Che vuol dire?* | '"Energumen". What does that mean?' |

## 5.8 The type *La situazione è sempre quella* 'The situation is still the same'

| | |
|---|---|
| *Povero Carlo, non sembra più quello* (or *lui*). | 'Poor C, he no longer seems himself.'/ 'Poor C, he isn't what he used to be.' |
| *Purtroppo la situazione è sempre quella.* | 'Alas the situation is what it always has been/is just the same as ever/hasn't changed a bit.' |

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## 5.9 Pronominalization of adjectives: the type *quello francese* = 'the French one'

English 'pronominalizes' adjectives by using the structure 'article + adjective + one(s)', or 'that/those + adjective'. The Italian equivalent is usually '*quel*, etc., + adjective':

| | |
|---|---|
| *Questi fatti piacevano parecchio alla gente, perché erano molto più verosimili di quelli veri.* | 'People really liked these facts, because they were much more plausible than the real ones.' |
| *Poi abbiamo reso l'ambiente più caldo sostituendo i mobili moderni con quelli antichi.* | 'Then we made the ambience warmer by replacing modern pieces of furniture with antique ones.' |
| *Io ho sempre pensato che il Paese dovesse risolvere la questione comunista, la questione fascista e la questione cattolica. Quelle comunista e fascista sono ormai archiviate.* | 'I always thought that the country should resolve the communist question, the fascist question and the Catholic question. The communist and fascist ones are now cut and dried.' |

Note the following differences between 'demonstrative adjective + noun' and 'demonstrative pronoun + (nominalized) adjective':

| **demonstrative adjective + noun** | | **demonstrative pronoun + (nominalized adjective)** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *quel francese* | 'that Frenchman' | *quello francese* | 'the French one' |
| *quegli austriaci* | 'those Austrians' | *quelli austriaci* | 'the Austrian ones' |

Note that it is also possible (though less common) to express 'the French one', etc., by means of the definite article + noun:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Di questi vini mi piace più il francese che l'italiano.* | 'Of these wines I like the French one better than the Italian one.' |

But in partitive constructions (see 4.20, 21), e.g., 'some French (ones)', the preposition *di* + article is normally used:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Ho del francese e dell'italiano.* | 'I have some French and some Italian [wine].' |
| *Ci sono dei brutti e dei belli.* | 'There are some ugly ones and some beautiful ones.' |

## 5.10 'Verbless' uses of *questo*

| | |
|---|---|
| *—Ma ti hanno pagato, vero?* | 'But they did pay you, didn't they?' |
| *—Questo sì, ma i soldi non bastano.* | 'That's true,/They did, but the money isn't enough'. |
| *—Hai anche pulito gli stivali di Massimo?* | 'Have you cleaned M's boots, too?' |
| *—Questo no, ma pazienza!* | 'I haven't done that, but I'll get round to it!' |

Usually characteristic of formal discourse is the following structure, with *questo* following the noun. In effect, this is a kind of relative structure, equivalent to 'which is a . . .', etc.:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Ebbi una telefonata dalla Tibiletti che mi faceva le sue rimostranze perché aveva saputo che io avrei portato la cocaina, circostanza questa non vera.* | 'I had a call from T who told me off because she'd heard I was supposed to have been bringing in cocaine, but this was not the case.' [lit. 'a circumstance this not true'] |

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| | |
|---|---|
| *Volevano ballare in mezzo alla strada, comportamento questo davvero scandaloso agli occhi dei vicini.* | 'They wanted to dance in the street, which was really scandalous behaviour in the eyes of the neighbours.' |

## 5.11 Some idioms and expressions with *questo* and *quello*

- *In quel di* + name of place or region = 'in the region of':

| | |
|---|---|
| *È nato cinquant'anni fa in quel di Perugia.* | 'He was born 50 years ago in the Perugia region.' |
| *Ci fu una volta un paesino in quel di Verona.* | 'Once upon a time there was a little village in the Verona region.' |

- *In quella* = 'at that moment':

| | |
|---|---|
| *In quella il telefono squillò.* | 'At that moment the phone rang.' |

- *Questa* often appears in ironic or jocular exclamations:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Questa è bella!* | 'There's a fine thing!' |
| *Questa è nuova!* | 'Here's a turn up for the books!' |
| *Ci mancava anche questa!* | 'That was all we needed!' |

- *Questo di . . .* or *questa di . . .* 'all this about':

| | |
|---|---|
| *Questo dei polli è un mucchio di cavolate.* | 'This story about the chickens is a pack of lies.' |
| *Questa dell'IVA è una fregatura.* | 'All this stuff about Value Added Tax is a rip-off.' |

## 5.12 The demonstrative pronoun *costui* (and *colui*), etc.

The following pronouns refer to human beings only, and are restricted to formal and written language. In particular, the use of *colui*, etc. as a demonstrative pronoun (corresponding to *quello*) is now extremely rare and old-fashioned, and *quello*, etc. is preferred instead (but *colui* is regularly used in relative constructions – see 7.17). They may function as subjects or non-subjects.

| | **Masculine** | **Feminine** |
|---|---|---|
| Singular | *costui* (*colui*) | *costei* (*colei*) |
| Plural | *costoro* (*coloro*) | *costoro* (*coloro*) |

| | |
|---|---|
| *È venuto il momento di parlare della padrona di casa. Se finora non ho detto niente di costei, è perché . . .* | 'The time has come to talk of the landlady. If I have said nothing about that lady hitherto, it is because . . .' |
| *E costui ebbe per due o tre giorni un bel da fare nel seguirli di ristorante in ristorante.* | 'And this fellow [that I'm telling you about] for two or three days was saddled with following them from restaurant to restaurant.' |

*Costui* may have a pejorative ring when it is used 'deictically' (i.e., not to refer to somebody just mentioned but to point to a person: 'that person over here'):

| | |
|---|---|
| *Ma chi si crede di essere costui?* | 'Just who does that bloke over there think he is?' |

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## 5.13 Demonstratives of kind and manner: *così*, *tale*

*Così* is an adverb meaning 'thus', 'so', 'to such a degree', 'in that way', 'such (a) + adjective'. It usually precedes the adjective; the structure 'such (a) + adjective + noun' is '*un* + noun + *così* + adjective'. It may also be used as an adjective 'like that', 'of that kind', in which case it always follows the noun:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Era così lontano che non si vedeva nemmeno.* | 'It was so far away you couldn't even see it.' |
| *Quando noto una contraddittorietà così palese, ne resto turbato.* | 'When I notice such an obvious contradiction, I am disturbed by it.' |
| *Noi a un pastrocchio così non parteciperemo mai!* | 'We will never take part in such a farce!' |
| *Non lo avrei mai creduto così.* | 'I should never have thought him [to be] like that.' |

Less commonly, *così* may also follow the adjective. The effect is to emphasize *così*:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Bello così non credevo che fosse.* | 'I didn't think he was *that* handsome.' |
| *Cose grandi così non ne ho viste mai.* | 'I've never seen things *that* big.' |

*Tale* is an adjective, and usually precedes the noun; 'such (a) + noun' is '*un tale* + noun'. It also has an adverbial form, *talmente*, which may be used in much the same way as adverbial *così*:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Non avrei mai creduto a una tale storia.* | 'I would never have believed such a story.' |
| *Ma vanno evitati il tabacco e l'alcol. Tali sostanze nuociono sicuramente alla salute.* | 'Tobacco and alcohol should be avoided. Such substances are certainly damaging to one's health.' |
| *Non lo avrei mai creduto tale.* | 'I should never have thought him [to be] like that.' |
| *Menocchio, venutone a conoscenza, ne rimase talmente scosso da esporla diffusamente.* | 'M, having come to learn of it, was so affected by it as to expound it far and wide.' |

When *tale* is itself modified by *che* . . . or *da* . . ., it follows the noun:

| | |
|---|---|
| *È di una bontà tale che non te la puoi neanche immaginare.* | 'He is of a goodness such as you can't even imagine.' |
| *Era un urlo tale da far venire i brividi.* | 'It was a shriek such as to make you shudder.' |

Alternatives to *tale* are *simile*, *siffatto*, *del genere*, and the now archaic *cotale*:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Fra marito e moglie è impensabile un simile litigio.* | 'Such an argument is unthinkable between husband and wife.' |
| *Siffatte stupidaggini sono ormai finite.* | 'This kind of silliness has now stopped.' |
| *Non farei mai una cosa del genere.* | I'd never do anything like that.' |
| *Cotale comportamento è scandaloso.* | 'Such conduct is scandalous.' |

## 5.14 'Text-internal' demonstratives: *suddetto* 'above mentioned', etc.

Peculiar to written texts and chiefly characteristic of bureaucratic and legal usage are various expressions meaning 'above-mentioned': *suddetto*, *summenzionato*, *anzidetto*, *suesposto*:

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| | |
|---|---|
| *Per i motivi suddetti non posso accettare.* | 'For the above-mentioned reasons I cannot accept.' |
| *Il suddetto si presentava in condizioni pessime.* | 'The above-named presented himself in an extremely poor condition.' |

## 5.15 Demonstratives of place:[2] *qua, là*, etc.

*qui/qua* 'here' (*costì/costà* 'there') *lì/là* 'there'

The relation between *qui/qua* and *lì/là* is very close to that between *questo* and *quello*: *qui/qua* is 'first person oriented', and *lì/là* are 'non-first-person oriented'. *Costì/costà* are mainly used in Tuscany and are 'second-person oriented', like *codesto* (see 5.3); outside Tuscany, they are likely to be perceived as antiquated:

| | |
|---|---|
| *È meglio che io rimanga qua e che tu rimanga là.* | 'It's better for me to stay here and you to stay there.' |
| *Là in America ne combinerà di tutti i colori.* | 'He'll be up to goodness knows what (over) there in America.' |
| *Da qui a lì saranno ottocento chilometri.* | 'It must be 800 km from here to there.' |
| *Resta costà, non ti muovere, vengo a prenderti io.* | 'Stay there and don't move; I'll come and get you.' |

These demonstratives can also be used to refer to points in time 'here', 'at this point' vs. 'then', 'at that point':

| | |
|---|---|
| *Vorrei continuare il mio lavoro ma qui mi devo fermare un attimo.* | 'I'd like to continue my work but here [i.e., now] I must stop a moment.' |
| *Di qui a un po' ci siamo.* | 'We'll be there shortly.' [lit. 'A little from here we're there.'] |
| *Di lì a poco incontrano un mulo.* | 'Shortly afterwards they meet a mule.' [lit. 'A little from there they meet a mule.'] |

There is a further difference between the forms with the vowel *a*, and those with *i*. Those with *i* are essentially 'punctual': they refer to clearly defined, focused, 'points' in space or time; those in *a* are 'areal', and have a vaguer, more diffuse reference, which helps to explain why only the *a* forms are encountered in certain expressions denoting general but not specific position, or general motion in a particular direction: *qua e là* 'here and there' (as in *girava qua e là* 'he wandered hither and thither'), *di là* 'over there', 'over that way', 'beyond', *di qua* 'over here', 'this way', 'on this side', *più in là* 'further away', *più in qua* 'closer in', *quaggiù* 'down here', *laggiù* 'down there', *quassù* 'up here', *lassù* 'up there'. There is thus a distinction between *Non passare di là* 'Don't go that way', and (the rather unusual) *Non passare di lì* 'Don't go through that specific spot'.

| | |
|---|---|
| *Si diceva che avesse un'altra famiglia in una città di là dal mare.* | 'He was said to have another family in a city over the sea.' |
| *Infatti eccolo lì che esce dalla porta delle scale.* | 'There he is, just there coming out from the stairway door.' |
| *E lì conobbi l'uomo più dolce e grande che abbia mai incontrato.* | 'And there [in that place] I met the sweetest and greatest man I've ever known.' |

[2]Temporal demonstratives, such as 'then', 'now', etc., are dealt with in 13.16.

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## 5.16 *Qui, qua, lì, là* + locative term: *lì vicino* 'near there', etc. *Laggiù/quaggiù* 'down there/here'

The words *qui, qua, lì, là* may be followed by the locative terms *accanto, addosso, davanti, fuori, intorno, vicino, dentro, contro, dietro, oltre, presso, sotto, sopra*. These correspond to English 'locative term + here/there':

| | |
|---|---|
| *C'è un bar qui vicino?* | 'Is there a bar near here/nearby?' |
| *Li trovammo lì dietro.* | 'We found them behind there.' [or 'behind that'] |
| *Là dentro ci sarebbe un cinghiale.* | 'There's supposed to be a boar in there.' |
| *Qua sotto non c'è niente.* | 'There's nothing down here.' |

*Su* and the locative adverb *giù* combine with *qua* and *là* to form *quassù* 'up here', *lassù* 'up there', *quaggiù* 'down here', *laggiù* 'down there':

| | |
|---|---|
| *Quella pietra laggiù potrebbe essere quella che cerchiamo.* | 'That stone down there could be the one we're looking for.' |
| *Portateli quassù!* | 'Bring them up here.' |

## 5.17 Demonstratives of identity: *l'albero stesso* 'the very tree', 'the tree itself'

The demonstrative adjective and pronoun *stesso* serves to underline *identity*. It corresponds to English 'the self same . . .', 'the very . . .', or 'the . . . itself', 'that . . . (and no other)'. In this use, *stesso* has a more literary counterpart *medesimo*.

| | |
|---|---|
| *È morto il giorno stesso in cui tu sei nata.* | 'He died the very day you were born.' |
| *Mia madre stessa non mi vuole più a casa.* | 'Even my mother won't have me at home any more.' |
| *È sempre la stessa storia: non vuoi mai metterti sotto a studiare.* | 'It's always the same old story: you just won't buckle down to studying.' |

Also, with personal pronouns:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Io stesso preferisco rimanere a casa.* | 'I, too, prefer to remain at home'. |
| *Me l'avete detto voi stessi di non toccare i fili.* | 'You yourselves told me not to touch the wires'. |
| *L'hanno visto loro stessi.* | 'They saw it themselves.' |

In the sense of 'the self same . . .', *stesso* (*medesimo*) precedes the noun; in the sense of emphatic 'him-/her-/itself, themselves' it may precede or follow:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Avevano letto lo stesso articolo.* | 'They'd read the same article.' |
| *Avevano letto l'articolo stesso.* | 'They'd read the article itself.' |
| *Ha offeso gli dei stessi./Ha offeso gli stessi dei.* | 'He's offended the very gods.' |

*Stesso* may serve to add emphasis to possessive adjectives, and is then roughly equivalent to English 'own':

| | |
|---|---|
| *Ti presterò la mia stessa barca.* | 'I'll lend you my/my very own boat.' |
| *Aveva dimenticato il suo stesso nome.* | 'He had forgotten his own name.' |

## 5.18 What is the difference between *stesso* and reflexives?

English uses 'him-/her-/itself, themselves' for two different purposes: to emphasize identity, or as reflexives. English-speakers are liable to confuse these

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two functions in Italian. The Italian reflexive pronouns are used where the subject of the sentence carries out some action on (or for) himself/herself/itself:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Anna parla di sé.* | 'A talks about herself.' |
| *I giudici lo fanno per sé.* | 'The judges do it for themselves.' |

*Stesso*, on the other hand, is an emphatic adjective which simply emphasizes identity and is *not* reflexive.

| | |
|---|---|
| *Anna stessa parla.* | 'A herself [and no other] speaks.' |
| *I giudici stessi lo fanno.* | 'The judges themselves do it.' |

Pronouns corresponding to English emphatic 'his-, her-, itself', etc., are formed simply by placing *stesso* after an ordinary personal pronoun:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Lei stessa lo fa.* | 'She herself does it.' |
| *I giudici lo fanno loro stessi.* | 'The judges themselves do it.' |

Of course it is perfectly possible for *stesso* to modify a genuinely reflexive pronoun. In the following examples the underlinings in the English translations express the fact that the reflexive pronoun in English would also carry heavy, emphatic, stress. Note that when *stesso* is combined with *sé*, *sé* usually loses its accent:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Capisco te, ma non capisco me stesso.* | 'I understand <u>you</u>, but I don't understand <u>myself</u>.' |
| *Lei parla di se stessa.* | 'She talks about <u>herself</u>.' [i.e., 'her very self'] |
| *I giudici criticano se stessi.* | 'The judges criticize <u>themselves</u>.' [i.e., 'their very selves'] |

Note that *se stesso*, rather than *sé*, must be used in the following cases:

- where the pronoun is the predicate of *essere*, *sembrare*, *diventare*:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Non sembra più se stesso.* | 'He no longer seems himself.' |
| *Potrai ridiventare te stessa.* | 'You'll be able to become yourself again.' |

- where the pronoun refers to the direct or indirect object of a main clause, rather than to the subject:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Giovanni lo costringeva a parlare di se stesso.* | 'G forced him to talk about himself.' [Where 'him' and 'himself' both refer to, say, Marco.] |

## 5.19 *Stesso* not equivalent to English '-self' where '-self' means 'as far as X is concerned' or 'on his/her/its own'

English '-self' can also serve to focus or contrast some noun as opposed to others. Thus 'I myself' might be equivalent to 'as far as I'm concerned', 'for my part', 'I personally', etc., and in such cases Italian uses not *stesso* but other devices for focusing or highlighting the noun. For example:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Marco personalmente preferisce rimanere a casa.* OR | 'M himself prefers to remain at home.' |
| *In quanto a/Per quanto riguarda M, preferisce rimanere a casa.* | 'As for M/As far as M is concerned, he prefers to stay at home.' |

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Where English 'him-, her-, itself', etc., means 'alone', 'on his own', etc., 'unassisted', 'single-handed', the equivalent Italian expression is usually *da* + stressed reflexive pronoun', or *da solo*:

| | |
|---|---|
| *La porta si chiude da sé.* | 'The door closes itself/is self-closing/closes automatically.' |
| *I miei amici mi hanno abbandonato e ho dovuto fare tutto da me.* | 'My friends left me and I had to do everything myself/on my own.' |
| *Non puoi farlo da solo.* | 'You can't do it yourself/on your own.' |

## 5.20 The difference between *stesso* and *uguale*

Both words correspond to English 'same'; the difference is that *stesso* can mean either 'the very same' or 'just like', whereas *uguale* is 'just like' (but not 'the same one'). *Stesso* is normally accompanied by the definite article, and *uguale* by the indefinite:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Io e lei avevamo lo stesso foulard.* | 'She and I had the same scarf.' [either 'shared a scarf' or, simply, 'wore a scarf of the same design'] |
| *Io e lei avevamo un foulard uguale.* | 'She and I had the same scarf.' [i.e., 'of identical design'] |

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