

# Multilingual Map of Europe: identity and diversity

5th assignment: Mapping selected  
minority languages of Europe



**Professor:** Magdalena Wrembel et al.

**Date:** 9/4/21

**Course code:** AMU1500

**Names:** Batsiou Dafni, Bułhak Milena

# Lombard(y), Italy

**Language family:** Indo-European>Italic>Romance>Italo-Western>Western>Gallo-Iberian>Gallo-Romance>Gallo-Italian

<https://www.ethnologue.com/language/lmo>



## 1. Size and Vitality

- The language has more than 1,000,000 users.
- The language is not being sustained by formal institutions, but it is still the norm in the home and community that all children learn and use the language.

<https://www.ethnologue.com/size-and-vitality/lmo>

From Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lombard\\_language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lombard_language)

Lombard is a language spoken by millions of speakers in Northern Italy and Southern Switzerland, including most of Lombardy and some areas of neighboring regions, notably the eastern side of Piedmont and the western side of Trentino, and in Switzerland in the cantons of Ticino and Graubünden. Within the Romance languages, they form part of the Gallo-romance group.

Lombard dialects are also heard in Brazil (Santa Catarina).

3.9 million native speakers

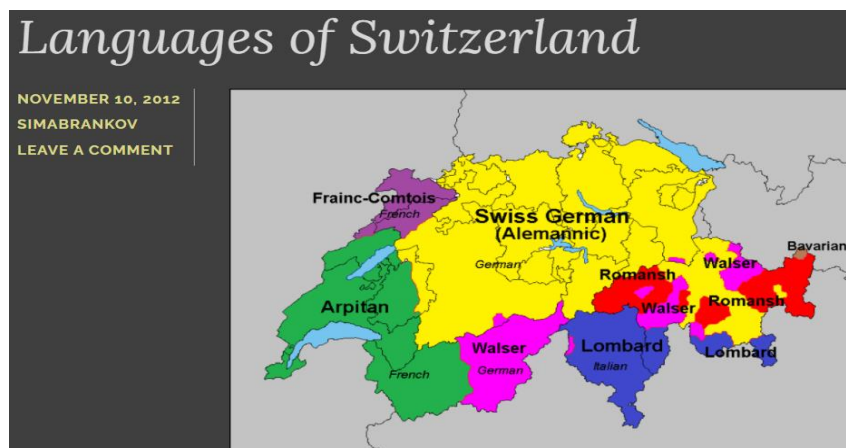
Lombard language is still classified as a Gallo-Romance language

## 2. Status

Lombard is considered a minority language, structurally separate from Italian, by Ethnologue and by the UNESCO Red Book on Endangered Languages. However, Italy and Switzerland do not recognize Lombard speakers as a linguistic minority. In Italy this is the same as for the most other minority languages, which are normally considered Italian dialects - despite the fact that they belong to different subgroups of the Romance language family, and their historical development is not derived from Italian.

## 3. Speakers

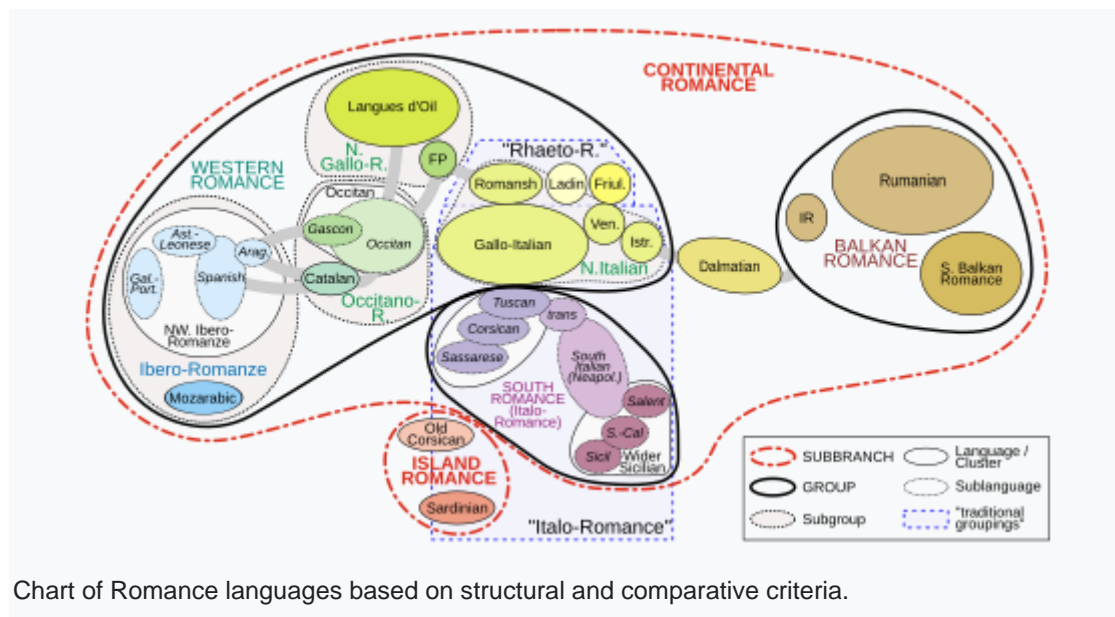
Historically, the vast majority of Lombards spoke only Lombard. With the rise of Standard Italian throughout Italy and Switzerland, one is not likely to find fully monolingual Lombard speakers, but a small minority may still be uncomfortable speaking the dominant Italian. Surveys in Italy find that all Lombard speakers also speak Italian, and their command of each of the two languages varies according to their geographical position as well as their socio-economic situation. The most reliable predictor was found to be the speaker's age: studies have found that young people are much less likely to speak Lombard as proficiently as their grandparents did. In fact, in some areas, elderly people are more used to speaking Lombard rather than Italian, even though they know the latter as well as the former.



ITALIAN DIALECTS

## 4. Classification

Lombard belongs to the Cisalpine or Gallo-Italic group of languages, which shares features with Gallo-Romance languages and other Western Romance languages.



## Varieties

Traditionally, the Lombard dialects have been classified into the Eastern, Western, Alpine, and Southern Lombard dialects.

The varieties of the Italian provinces of Milan, Varese, Como, Lecco, Lodi, Monza and Brianza, Pavia and Mantua belong to **Western Lombard**, and the ones of Bergamo, Brescia and Cremona are dialects of **Eastern Lombard**. All the varieties spoken in the Swiss areas (both in canton Ticino and canton Graubünden) are Western, and both Western and Eastern varieties are found in the Italian areas.

The varieties of the Alpine valleys of Valchiavenna and Valtellina (province of Sondrio) and upper-Valcamonica (province of Brescia) and the four Lombard valleys of the Swiss canton of Graubünden, although they have some peculiarities of their own and some traits in common with Eastern Lombard, should be considered Western. Also, dialects from the Piedmontese provinces of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola and Novara, the Valsesia valley (province of Vercelli), and the city of Tortona are closer to Western Lombard than to Piedmontese. Alternatively, following the traditional classification, the varieties spoken in parts of Sondrio, Trento, Ticino and Grigioni can be considered as Alpine Lombard, while those spoken in southern Lombardy such as in Pavia, Lodi, Cremona and Mantova can be classified as Southern Lombard.



## LOMBARD DIALECTS

- Western Lombard
- Eastern Lombard

© 2001 Z. Batzarov, L. Mangiat, M. Giusepp  
[www.orbilat.com](http://www.orbilat.com)

## 5. Usage

Standard Italian is widely used in Lombard-speaking areas. However, the status of Lombard is quite different in the Swiss and Italian areas, such that the Swiss areas have now become the real stronghold of Lombard.

### In Switzerland

In the Swiss areas, the local Lombard varieties are generally better preserved and more vital than in Italy. No negative feelings are associated with the use of Lombard in everyday life, even with complete strangers. Some radio stations and television programmes, comedies in particular, are occasionally broadcasted by the Swiss Italian-speaking broadcasting company in Lombard. Moreover, it is common for people in the street to answer in Lombard during spontaneous interviews. Even some television ads in Lombard have been reported. The major research institution working on Lombard dialects is located in Bellinzona, Switzerland (CDE - Centro di dialettologia e di etnografia, a governmental (cantonal) institution); there is no other comparable institution in Italy to this one. In December 2004, CDE released a dictionary in five volumes, covering all the Lombard varieties spoken in the Swiss areas.

## In Italy

Today, in most urban areas of Italian Lombardy, people below the age of 40 speak almost exclusively Italian during their everyday conversations because of schooling and television broadcasts in Italian. However, in peripheric Lombardy (Valtellina, Lake Como, Bergamo, Brescia, Lodi), Lombard is still vital.

That is from a number of historical and social reasons: its usage has been historically discouraged by Italian politicians, probably as it was regarded as an obstacle to the attempt to create a 'national identity'.

The right-wing party, Northern League, has been supportive of Lombard (and of the varieties of Northern Italy in general) while in the past the left-wing parties were the ones supporting the local varieties. Thus, speaking a dialect, which originates from a group of some minority languages, might be politically controversial in Italy.

A certain revival of the use of Lombard has been observed in the last decade, when the use of Lombard has become a way to express one's local identity and to distance oneself from Roman-oriented mainstream Italian culture. The popularity of modern artists singing their lyrics in Lombard dialect is also a relatively new but growing phenomenon involving both the Swiss and Italian areas.

## 6. PRONUNCIATION (source: <https://omniglot.com/writing/lombard.htm>)

### Vowels & diphthongs

a	aa	ai	au	e	ee	ei	eu
[a]	[a:]	[ai]	[au]	[e/ɛ]	[e:]	[ɛi]	[eu/ɛu]
i	ii	o	oeu	ò	ó	ô	oo
[i/j]	[i:]	[u]	[o]	[o]	[u]	[u/o]	[u:]
u	uu						
[y/w]	[y:]						

### Consonants

b	c	ch	cc	d	f	g	gh
[b]	[tʃ/k]	[k]	[tʃ]	[d]	[f]	[dʒ/g]	[g]
gg	gn	gu	h	j	l	m	n
[dʒ]	[ɲ]	[gy]	∅	[j]	[l]	[m]	[n]
qu	r	s	p	ss	s'c(c)	sc	s'g(g)
[kw]	[r]	[s/z]	[p]	[s]	[stʃ]	[sk/ʃ]	[sdʒ]
sg	t	v	z	zz			
[ʒ/zg]	[t]	[v]	[z/s]	[s]			

- c = [tʃ] before i or e / but [k] elsewhere
- g = [dʒ] before i or e / but [g] elsewhere
- s = [z] between vowels and after consonants
- h = [h] in the valleys near Bergamo but [Ø] in the rest of Lombardy
- At the end of words / voiced consonants are voiceless: eg qoand [kwant]/serv [serf]

### Sample texts in Lombard

A disen: "La canzon la nass a Napoli",  
e certament gh'hann minga tutt i tòrt,  
Surriento, Margellina, tutt i pòpoli  
i avrann cantaa almeen on milion de vòlt.

### Translation

It is said: "Music is born in Naples"  
and they are surely partly right.

Sorrento, Mergellina have been sung  
by everybody about a million times.

From (*O mia bèla*) *Madunina* by Giuvann D'Anzi

A popular song dedicated to the Madonnina, the golden Virgin Mary statue placed  
on top of the highest spire of the Milan Dome.

### Text in Orobic/Oriental (Eastern) lombard

Töcc i véser umà i nas líber e precis en dignità e diricc. I è dotacc de rizú e de  
coscenssa e i ga de comportà-s, de giü con l'óter, en spírit de fradelanssa.

To exemplify how the Lombard dialect may sound like, we attach an audio file  
of Dafni's friend speaking.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t6R0SBhhNAfCUQp-VMNKtZoIf9v102K6/view?usp=sharing>



<https://sblanguagemaps.wordpress.com/category/uncategorized/>