

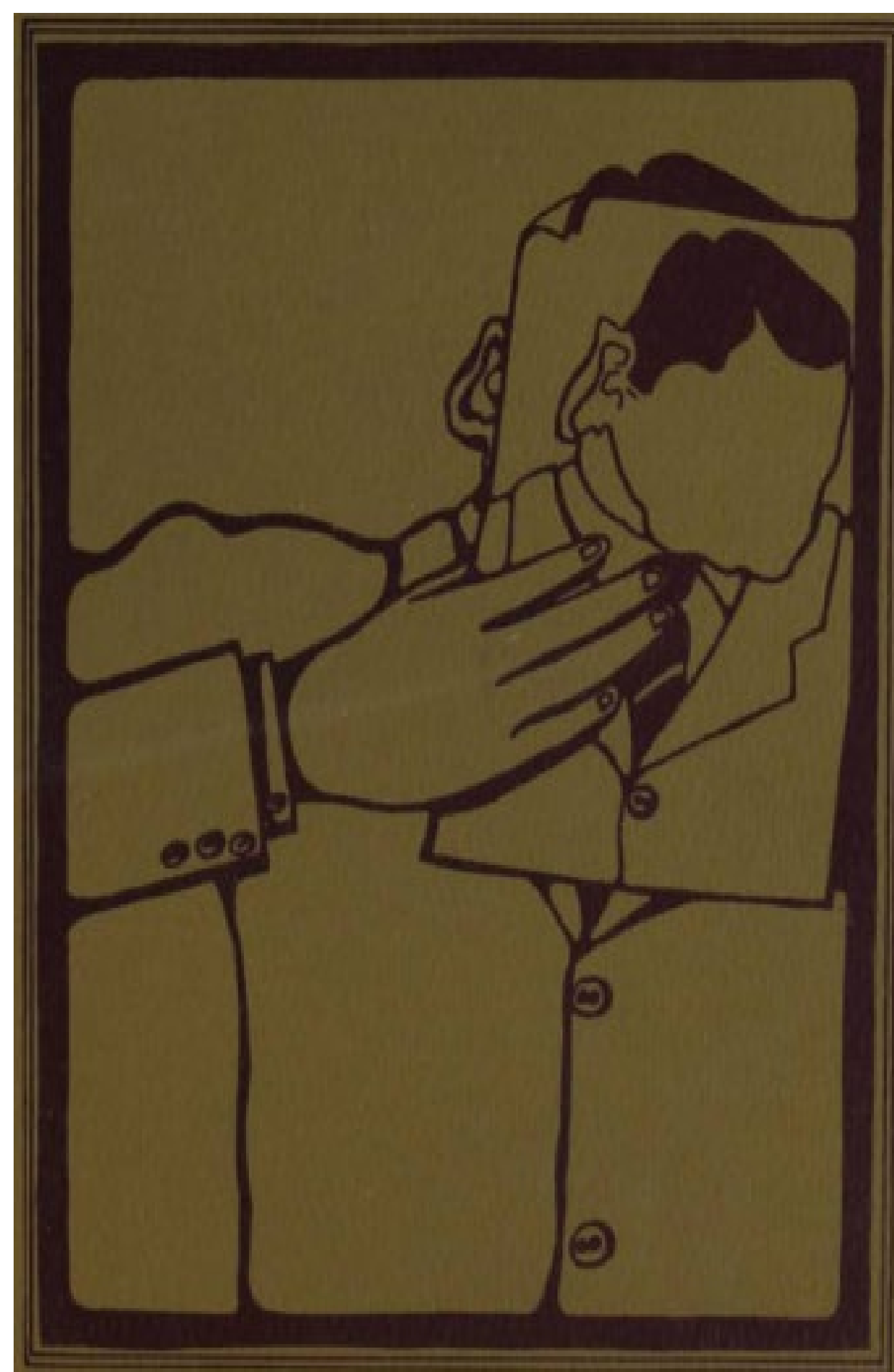


Tabù di pudore e pruderie nei dialetti salentini: per un'analisi areale del lessico interdetto in Terra d'Otranto

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The lexicon pertaining to sexuality, human anatomy, and bodily functions has been subject to linguistic interdiction. Whether due to a presumed 'evocative power' of certain terms or in observance of more or less rigid social norms, speakers tend to avoid direct reference to the prohibited referents, opting instead for euphemistic expressions whose interpretation can, at times, prove challenging. This tendency becomes even more pronounced when examining the phenomenon of linguistic taboo in dialectal contexts: the scarcity of data and the limited reliability of the information available significantly complicate efforts to document and analyze the phenomenon in areas that, until only a few decades ago, remained predominantly dialect-speaking. This paper aims to outline the linguistic and geographical boundaries of interdicted lexicon and the substitution strategies employed in its place (such as *chiacónə*, *cùrciu*, *facciòmmini*, etc. for 'female genitalia'; *antropí*, *jònəla*, *mèndula*, etc. for 'male genitalia'; *caruppare*, *mpanare*, *rrāscari* for 'to have sexual intercourse', and so forth) within the dialects spoken in the historical region known as Terra d'Otranto, as documented in G. Rohlfs' *Vocabolario dei dialetti salentini*.



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