Bilateral and unilateral requests:  
The use of imperatives and Mi X? interrogatives in Italian

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Extract (1)  PranzoMarani:00.16.36, “Pass me the plate”

1 Mum:  *incomincio con un primo giro.*  
*begin-PrtND-IS with a first round*  
*I’ll begin with a first round*

2  
(1.3)/((continues to put lamb on plate))

3 Mum:  *oh* , ((to Agata))  
*hey,*

4 Agata:  ((passes plate to her neighbour))

5 Mum:  *[incomincio con un primo giro]*  
*begin-PrtND-IS with a first round*  
*I’ll begin with a first round*

6  
[((Aldo walks back into the dining room))

7 Agata:  ((holds up her own plate while Mum puts lamb on it))

8 Mum:  *dopo ve ne do un altro (giro)*  
*after you(p)-DT PrtClt give-PrtND-IS one other round*  
*then I’ll give you another (round)*

((10 seconds omitted during which Aldo takes his seat and lays his table napkin on his lap))

9 Mum:  *Aldo passami il piatto.*  
*Aldo pass-IMP.2S=me the plate*  
*Aldo pass me the plate.*

10 Aldo:  ((passes plate to her))

((16 seconds omitted))
11 Mum: ((passes plate back to Aldo))

12 Aldo: grazie
    thanks

**Extract (2)** PranzoMarani: 00.27.01, “{Are} you pass{ing} me a plate”

1 Aldo: 
    *mi p(hh)assi un [pia(hh)]ttino, (     )* *(entering the room, to Aldo))*
    me-DT pass-PrIND-2s a plate-DIM
    {are} you p(hh)ass{ing} me a pla(hh)te, (     )

2 Dad: 
    *E:h .hhh no:: io:::* *(to Aldo)*
    PCL no I
    we:ll.hhh no:: l:::

3 Friend: 
    *è: da:: da da lunedì che studio giorno e notte*
    be.PrIND.3s from from Monday that study:PrIND-1s day and night
    it's:: since:: since I've been studying day and night since Monday

4 Aldo: 
    *((gets a plate from the cupboard behind him))*

5 Friend: 
    *(c)huckles)*
    *Ecenerino è rimasto senza£*
    Cenerino be.PrIND.3s remain-PstPp without
    £there's none left for Cenerino£

**Extract (3)** Albertonipranzo:00.42.35, “Put it down”

1 Olga: *vuoi acqua?*
    want-PrIND-2s water
    {do} you want water?

2 Tina: 
    *((gazes at her own glass))*

3 Rosa: 
    *[che bello scialle nonna ((to Tina))]*
    what beautiful shawl grandma
    what a beautiful shawl grandma

4 Tina: 
    *(c)huckles)*
    *si ma:: ho paura: che::,* *(grabs her glass and gazes at bottle))*
    yes but have.PrIND-1s fear that
    yes bu::t I fea:r thaat,

5 Olga: *metti giù.*
    put-NnPst-2s down
    put {it} down.
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6 Tina: ((sets down the glass on the table))

7 Olga: ((pours water in her glass))

8 Tina: grazie
thanks

Extract (4)

CentroDonne:00.07.19, “Cut ”

1 ((players finish to count points from cards))

2 ((Flavia gathers cards))

3 [((Flavia starts shuffling))

4 Clara: [te toca a ti. ((to Flavia, points at her))
you-DT touch-PrInd-3s to you
it’s your turn.

5 Flavia: ((gazes at Clara))

((2 minutes omitted during which Flavia continues shuffling the cards))

6 Silvia: adeso vinzem Clara e dopo ghe da’o el cambio al Danilo.
now win-NnPst-1p Clara and after DT give-PrInd-1s the change at-the Danilo
now we’re going to win Clara and then I’ll take over for Danilo

7 (1.0)/((Silvia turns and looks at where Danilo is sitting))

8 Silvia: vabem che me par che l’è:::
PCL that me-DT seem-PrInd-3s that SbClt be:PrInd-3s
actually it looks like he:::

9 Clara: [ah l’è là via
PCL SbClt be:PrInd-3s there away
well he’s down there

10 ch’el:: [: ch’el (zu-)] ch’el zuga,
that SbClt that SbClt (play) that SbClt play-PrInd-3s
he is::: he’s (pla-) he’s playing,

11 Flavia: [ ch’el zuga. ] ((finishes shuffling))
that SbClt play-PrInd-3s
he’s playing

12 Bice: [°ch’el zuga.°]
that SbClt play-PrInd-3s
°he’s playing°
13 Clara: *vara che gh’è [trá- ((to Silvia))]
look-IMP-2s that ExClt be.PrIND.3s tranquillity
*look, everything is qu-

14 Flavia: *[alza ((puts the cards in front of Clara))]
cut.cards-IMP.2s
cut.

15 Clara: [.hhhh gh’è tranquilità: ((to Silvia, while gazing at the cards and cutting them))]
ExClt be.PrIND.3s tranquillity
*.hhhh everything is quiet

16 Silvia: [(( ) a zugar
to play-INF
( ) to play

**Extract (5)** Diego&Anna:00.51.20, “Are you passing me a chewing gum?”

1 Diego: *no: il venerdì
no the Friday
no: on Friday

2

3 Anna: [(cè ma)
PCL but
(I mean but)

4 Diego: [cè mercoledì e venerdì sarà [(     )
PCL Wednesday and Friday be:FUT-3s
I mean it should be Wednesday and Friday (     )

5 Anna: [eh allora il venerdì
PCL then the Friday
well then on Friday

6

7 Anna: *era il venerdì: e:::
be-IPF-3s the Friday and
it was on Friday and:::

8 *mi dai mi passi una:: i-a- vigorsol? ((points))
me-DT give-PrIND-2s me-DT pass-PrIND-2s one Vigorsol
{are} you giving {are} you passing me a::: i-a- Vigorsol?¹

9 Diego: ((turns, reaches out and gets the pack of chewing gum))

¹ A brand of chewing gum.
((17 seconds omitted of jokes about the owner of the pack of chewing gum, their host, who is not present in the room))

10 Anna: *bè al massimo siamo contenti di riveder Roberto no,*

PCL at maximum be-PrInd-1p glad of see.again-INF Roberto no

**well in any case we'll be glad to see Roberto again won't we,**

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**Extract (6)** BiscottiPome01:00.25.35, “Are you bringing me another fork?”

1

(4.4)

2 Furio: ↑*mm hhh* ((while chewing))

3 (0.8)/((Furio continues chewing))

4 Furio: *Sofia (. ) mi ↑por↓ti u-* ((chewing))

Sofia me-DT bring-PrIn-2s

*Sofia {are} you bring{ing} me a-*

5 (0.5)/ ((Furio continues chewing))

6 Sofia: *si dimmi.* ((comes closer to the table))

yes say-imp-2s=me-DT

yes tell me.

7 (0.9)/ ((Furio finishes chewing and swallows))

9 Furio: *un'altra for↑che↓tta*

one other fork

*another fork?*

10 Sofia: *si* ((nods))

yes

11 (0.6)

12 Sofia: *non ti ↑pia↓ce quella li,*  ((referring to fork that Furio has in his hand))

not you-DT please-PrIN-3s that there

you don't like that one?

13 Furio: *no ne voglio due,*

no PrtClt want-PrIN-1s two

*no I want two,*

14 Sofia: *((chuckles)) £[ti por]↓to un col↑te↓llo,*

you-DT bring-PrIN-1s one knife

£should I bring you a knife?

15 Furio: *[anzi] *((gets another fork he just spotted on the table))

rather/instead

*or rather*
16 Furio:  

*non serve ho uso- uso sta qua.*

not serve-PrIN-3s have-PrIN.1s use- use-PrIN-1s this here

*never mind, I use- I'll use this one.*

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**KEY TO INTERLINEAR GLOSSES**

1 = first person; 2 = second person; 3 = third person; DIM = diminutive suffix; DT = dative
ExClt = existential clitic; F = feminine; GER = Gerund; IMP = Imperative; INF = Infinitive; IPF = Imperfect; M = masculine; NnPst = Non-Past tense; p = plural; PCL = particle; Pr = present tense; PrINd = Present Indicative tense; ProClt = pronominal clitic; Pst = past tense; PstPp = Past Participle; PrtClt = partitive clitic; s = singular; SbClt = subject clitic

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**REFERENCES**


