



by Alessandra Castellazzi

Zadie Smith's first novel, *White Teeth*, published in 2000, is about multicultural London, hybrid identities and the power of history. It stages a highly polyphonic cast: the characters speak different varieties of English, ranging from British English to hybridized *englishes* and slang. The aim of this essay is to analyze the Italian translation of the novel, focusing on the superimposition of languages which is the result of British colonial history.