Studies in quantitative linguistics

Editors
Fengxiang Fan (fanfengxiang@yahoo.com)
Emmerich Kelih (emmerich.kelih@uni-graz.at)
Reinhard Köhler (koehler@uni-trier.de)
Ján Mačutek (jmacutek@yahoo.com)
Eric S. Wheeler (wheeler@ericwheeler.ca)


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The present book can be considered a continuation of two streams in textology initiated by different groups of scholars. The first group consisting of Italian scientists analyzed the 57 end-of-year speeches of 9 Italian presidents since 1949 to 2005 from very different points of view. The investigation resulted in the book edited by M.A. Cortelazzo and A. Tuzzi (2007) containing some statistical vistas but concentrated mostly to political, social, linguistic and cultural matter. The second group was lead by I.-I. Popescu and consisted of linguists and mathematicians who concentrated rather to general aspects associated with texts, namely text characterization, fixed points, vocabulary richness, thematic concentration, compactness, study of autosemantics, the impact of the position in sentence, but also to the possibility of drawing conclusions from text to the morphology of language, etc. This investigation resulted in two books authored by I.-I. Popescu et al. (2009) and I.-I. Popescu, J. Mačutek and G. Altmann (2009).

The present book is a further development of methods introduced by the second stream but fully concentrated to the end-of-year speeches of Italian presidents. Moreover, the updated version of the corpus includes 60 end-of-year speeches of 10 presidents since 1949 to 2008. Our aim was to look at the highest floor of the linguistically perceived reality, namely the sets of word associations, compare these worlds and pursue a possible development in this thematically homogeneous complete corpus. Of course, not everything could be made but besides associations we added some chapters concerning the golden section, Zipf’s law, parts-of-speech analysis and some issues concerning vocabulary richness, continuing the examinations resulting from earlier common publications.

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A.T., I.-I.P., G.A.
Contents

Preface I

1. Introduction 1
2. Associative analysis 5
   2.1. Introduction 5
   2.2. Associative concentration 7
   2.3. The indicator $C_{rel}$ 11
   2.4. The indicator $\kappa_{rel}$ 13
   2.5. The levels 16
   2.6. Cliques 19
   2.7. The associated vocabulary 36
      2.7.1. Thematic concentration 36
      2.7.2. Thematic association 41
   2.8. Degree distribution 44
      2.8.1. Degree spectrum 44
   2.9. The comparison of vocabularies 51
      2.9.1. Method I 51
      2.9.2. Method II 82
      2.9.3. Conclusion 94
3. The golden section 95
4. Zipf’s law 107
   4.1. Validity 107
   4.2. Stratificational approach 112
5. Parts-of-speech diversification 116
   5.1. Zipf’s law 116
   5.2. The indicators $p$ and $q$ 123
6. Vocabulary richness 127
7. Vector comparisons 135

References 155
Author index 158
Subject index 160