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length and (c) simple linguistic interpretation. The combination of the three methods allows both to investigate the style of the particular presidential speeches in powerful linguistically comprehensive view and to observe the development trends of the specific genre of inaugural addresses during the more than 200 years long history. The corpus comprises inaugural addresses of all US presidents from George Washington to Barack Obama (57 texts in total).

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Abstract. From the 1960s onwards, the mathematician René Thom (1923-2002) carried out important contributions to the mathematical modelling of morphogenesis (analysis of forms). The proposed concepts (singularity, structural stability, catastrophe, bifurcation) were re-used in several social sciences, particularly in linguistics. They allowed a Gestalt-like approach, in opposition to the then dominant logico-combinatorial ones, and met some cognitivist trends and connectionist models. Jean Petitot was the first to show interest in the application of Thom's work to linguistics and he developed many studies accordingly.

This article is based on an interview between J. Petitot, J. Léon and S. Loiseau held on the 27 of September, 2014. While preserving the oral style of free conversation, it also includes references, developments and mathematical statements added by the authors.

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