

# **Glottometrics 34 2016**

**RAM-Verlag**

**ISSN 2625-8226**

# Glottometrics

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Glottometrics. 34 (2016), Lüdenscheid: RAM-Verlag, 2016. Erscheint unregelmäßig.  
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Bibliographische Deskription nach 34 (2016)

ISSN 2625-8226

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## Hanna Gnatchuk

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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).

## **Claudia Bortolato**

### **Intertextual Distance of Function Words as a Tool to Detect an Author's Gender: A Corpus-Based Study on Contemporary Italian Literature** 28-43

**Abstract.** The aim of this research is to explore the predictive capacity of function words in gender identification. In particular, from the different methods available the intertextual distance approach, as proposed by Labbè, was employed. The corpus analysed consists of 30 extracts from Italian novels, by the same number of authors, written between 1946 and 1967. Overall the corpus comprises over one million word tokens and more than 58,000 word types. The outcomes are in line with previous research that recognises function words as good indicators for the categorisation of writers according to their gender. However, the results of this study seem to be relatively weaker: the level of accuracy for women reached 63.33%, that of men 59.05%. In addition, the analysis of the category of function words as a whole turned out to have more predictive capacity than the two sub-categories considered, namely conjunctions and pronouns.

## **Gabriel Altmann**

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**Abstract.** The article describes the necessity of modeling in terms of hierarchies which are parts of systems and shows some domains in which they can be found.

# **Jacqueline Léon, Sylvain Loiseau**

## **Interview with Jean Petitot**

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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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