

Abstract – Lucrezia Sabia – Negative Prefixation with *non-*: A Construction Morphology Account

This study explores the formal and semantic properties of [*non-X*] structures (i.e., words prefixed with *non-* ‘non-’) in contemporary written Italian, with a focus on the interface between morphology and semantics. As the literature overview points out, extensive research on negative prefixation with *non-* has been conducted for the English and French languages; however, the Italian prefix has yet to be investigated. The aim of the current study is to fill this gap through a corpus-driven approach. A dataset of 2155 tokens extracted from the CORIS corpus, divided into nominal and adjectival occurrences, was annotated for both formal and semantic parameters. The annotation results were then analysed by means of descriptive and inferential statistics tools.

The study outcomes identify four semantic values for the prefix in [*non-N*] structures: contradictory, contrary, privative, and non-prototypicality. As it concerns the semantics of *non-* in [*non-Adj*] structures, a suppressive value was identified. The existence of significant correlations between the meanings of *non-* and the formal and semantic characteristics of the bases entering the [*non-X*] pattern allowed to develop an Inheritance Hierarchy of [*non-X*] constructions, according to Construction Morphology approach.