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This paper analyzes some of the semantic and pragmatic uses of the complementizer *che* in two different corpora, from Salento and Bologna. Beginning with a traditional classification of the uses of the polyvalent *che* (Berruto, 1987), the aim is to conduct an in depth examination of the semantics and pragmatics of the complementizer. On the one hand, the diversity of meanings that the complementizer assumes (from a semantically empty particle to a connective conjunction) is highlighted; on the other, the information structure of the sentence (topic - comment) is analyzed in order to verify how it is influenced (and modified) by the complementizer. Some important similarities were encountered in the two corpora: beginning with the fragmentation of the informative content, moving onto the preference for topicalized sentences, and finally the general tendency of coordination.

Briefly, we believe that the semantic and pragmatic domains can explain uses of the complementizer in a variety of communicative contexts and may be a starting point for a more specific study on language change.