

Sull'uso e il non-uso della virgola. Considerazioni su un corpus di narrativa italiana
e le sue traduzioni in francese

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Studi Italiani di Linguistica Teorica e Applicata, XLVII, 1 (2018), pp. 145-164

Abstract

The present study examines the use of punctuation, especially commas, in 21st-century Italian narrative. The analysis is based on both syntactic and textual criteria. The corpus consists of 50 novels and their translations into French. A contrastive analysis thus complements the study in order to better expose the characteristics specific to Italian punctuation. The analysis reveals for instance that, contrary to French, Italian does not require that clause limits be marked inside the sentence with commas (*La nonna \emptyset quando mi vede \emptyset per poco non muore di infarto (ma se hai novant'anni \emptyset è il minimo)*). When one observes individual sentence constituents, it appears that right-dislocations require a comma, whereas left-dislocation is possible without a comma even in the case of long constituents, especially direct objects. In French translations, dislocation is always combined with the use of commas.