

SU *TANTO* CONNETTIVO

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Studi Italiani di Linguistica Teorica e Applicata, anno L, 2021, numero 1

ABSTRACT

The authors identify and describe in the first part of this paper a series of connective instances (in number of 8) of the *it. tanto*, some of them well known, others less or not known and semantically amazing. *Per se* a measure adjective (and pronoun and adverb), meaning literally. “so much”, “a lot of”, etc., *it tanto* (← *lat. tantus, tantum*) lends itself easily to the expression of consecution as antecedent in correlative structures; and symmetrically to the expression of various cause relations; as well as, of course, of the comparison of equality (*tanto...quanto* “as much as”). But *tanto* is also the core element of two other peculiar idiomatic constructions (“constructions” also in terms of the Construction grammars), whose semantics and pragmatics undergoes here in the second part of the paper an in-depth analysis: *i*) the *tanto* “of irrelevance”, where the *tanto-clause* is acting as a relativizer of the weight of a preceding proposal, question or assertion etc.; *ii*) the *tanto* “of substantial equivalence” between two alternatives (choices of) behaviours, often with the effect of discrediting the very action actually realized.