

SENZA E LA CONNESSIONE ANTICIRCOSTANZIALE: TRA
VARIAZIONE TIPOLOGICA E USI DISCORSIVI

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this work is to describe the connective function of *senza*, which encodes the absence of a relation, instead of its presence. After examining the privative function of *senza* at the prepositional level, we will analyze its connective function as anticircumstantial: the two clauses connected by *senza* are indeed linked by virtue of their *not* being a circumstance one for the other. After exploring the linguistic diversity attested in the expression of this function and discussing the most important trends, we will place the Italian construction within a broader typological picture. The corpus-based analysis of *senza* in spoken Italian will then allow us to describe more thoroughly the anticircumstantial semantics of the connective, revealing the central role of speakers' expectations. The use of connective *senza* indeed activates a *frame* of habituality, which in turn generates an expectation of circumstantiality between the two linked clauses. It will be argued that the denial of this circumstantiality by means of *senza* leads to deny an expectation present in the context, giving rise to opposite and counterexpectative readings.