SPECULAZIONI SULLA COMPLESSITÀ LINGUISTICA IN UN QUADRO TIPOLOGICO

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Studi Italiani di Linguistica Teorica e Applicata, anno LIII, 2024, numero 1

Abstract

The paper aims to clarify the concept of complexity from a typological per-spective. This study involves a survey of various definitions of linguistic complexity. Different types of complexity are distinguished (e.g. absolute complexity and relative complexity or complexity for the user) and are related to different linguistic approaches. Furthermore, we provide an analysis of complexity from a typological perspective, dis-cussing the limitations that interlinguistic analysis poses to the concept of complexity. To assess the viability of the Typological complexity, languages from the two opposite parameters of minimal and maximal morphological complexity are considered.

The contribution, in conclusion, demonstrates that we can consider typological complexity only at the local level and we can relate complexity to the synthesis index. The greater the number of morphemes on a word shown by a language, the greater is its degree of complexity. It is not, however, possible to adopt other types of complexity (e.g., complexity for the user) with a typological approach.