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## The expression of substitution in Italian: a corpus-based analysis

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The aim of my contribution is to propose an analysis of the strategies used to express the substitutive contrast in spoken Italian and to identify possible correlations between the use of certain strategies and the communicative context.

According to the literature, the substitutive relation can be encoded through:

- subordinative configurations ([*sub. conj.* p], [q] or [q], [*sub. conj.* p]);
- coordinative/juxtapositive configurations ([p], [(*subst. conn.*) q]);
- paratactic correlatives configurations ([*neg.* p] (and) [(*subst. conn.*) q]);

for each of which Italian possesses a set of dedicated markers: *invece (di/che)* (instead (of/that)), *piuttosto (che)* (rather (than)), *anzi/anziché* (rather (than)) and *bensì* (but).

However, in this contribution I hypothesise that the above-mentioned strategies constitute only a part of the repertoire available to the speaker to express substitution and that the communicative context can be particularly relevant in choosing one or the other strategy.

In order to verify the foregoing, I used the KIParla corpus (Mauri et al. 2019) and in particular the KIP module. This module in fact contains free conversations, lectures, examinations, student receiving and semi-structured interviews, thus enabling the analysis of diaphasic variation phenomena.

What emerged from an initial pilot investigation is that in spoken usage, and particularly in less formal communication contexts, less specific strategies (but equally effective in expressing the relation under investigation) are often used. Such non-traditional strategies consist of non-conjunctive lexical items that acquire substitutive value only in given contexts (profrastic *no*, adverbs *in realtà/in verità* (in fact/ in truth)). In other cases, there are no explicit strategies at all, and the two entities are connected by simply belonging to the same 'semantic field' and to the same syntactic unit.

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