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## Uninflectedness in Italian nouns and adjectives

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We address the development of uninflectedness over time in Italian nouns and adjectives, contributing to a typology of factors that allow us to predict whether an item is uninflectable (see Fedden 2019 for a similar approach).

D’Achille & Thornton (2003) have shown that uninflectedness in Italian nouns has increased in the course of time (Table 1):

	13 <sup>th</sup> century	end of 20 <sup>th</sup> century
tokens	2.4%	8.6%
lexemes	2.7%	9.5%

Table 1 – Percentage of uninflected noun tokens and lexemes in a small corpus of 13th and late 20th century Italian

Even the factors that correlate with a noun’s uninflectability increase and complexify over time: while in the 13th century only nouns ending in a stressed vowel are uninflected, later other classes of nouns become (entirely or partially) uninflectable: nouns ending in unstressed *-e*, in *-i*, in a consonant, and finally masculine nouns in *-a* and feminine nouns in *-o*, where a noun’s gender plays a role in determining uninflectability. These nouns are understood to have developed uninflectability because they contrast with the most system-adequate classes of inflectable nouns in Italian, masculine nouns in *-o* and feminine nouns in *-a*. D’Achille 2005 has further shown that even within these prototypically inflecting classes of nouns some items are now becoming uninflected.

The behaviour of uninflectable Italian adjectives in diachrony has not been investigated. The presentation will fill this gap, by investigating adjectives with the same method used by D’Achille & Thornton 2003. Adjectives, having a four-cell paradigm, have a potential for partial uninflectedness within a single paradigm. Preliminary results seem to point to a smaller rate of uninflectedness in Italian adjectives wrt. nouns; this possibly reflects a more pronounced necessity of having overt exponents of contextual inflectional feature values vs. inherent ones.

**References:** • D’Achille, P. (2005). L’invariabilità dei nomi nell’italiano contemporaneo. *Studi di Grammatica Italiana* XXIV, 2005 [2007], 189-209. • D’Achille, P. & A. M. Thornton (2003). La flessione del nome dall’italiano antico all’italiano contemporaneo. In N. Maraschio & T. Poggi Salani (eds.), *Italia linguistica anno Mille – Italia linguistica anno Duemila. Atti del XXXIV Congresso della Società di Linguistica Italiana*. Rome: Bulzoni, 211–230. • Fedden, S. 2019. To agree or not to agree? A typology of sporadic agreement. In M. Baerman, O. Bond & A. Hippisley (eds.), *Morphological perspectives: Papers in honour of Greville G. Corbett*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 303-326.