

## ANTINOMY AND CORRELATION IN ITALIAN PAREMIOLOGY: SEMANTIC ANALYSIS

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*Abstract:*

This article presents a semantic analysis of antinomy and correlation in Italian paremiology. The research aims to examine how conflict and interrelation are expressed in Italian proverbs, revealing their semantic significance. Discourse analysis and structural semantics were employed as the primary methods. The findings suggest that antinomy and correlation in Italian proverbs carry profound linguistic meaning. In conclusion, these proverbs serve as linguistic units that reflect cultural and moral values.

*Key words:* Antinomy, correlation, semantics, Italian proverbs, paremiology, cultural values, linguistic analysis.

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Italian paremiology, the study of proverbs, plays a crucial role in linguistic research by providing insights into cultural values, societal norms, and the collective wisdom of a community. Proverbs, as concise and meaningful linguistic units, encapsulate complex human experiences and moral lessons. This study focuses on the semantic analysis of antinomy and correlation within Italian proverbs. Antinomy, characterized by the presence of contradictory elements, and correlation, which highlights interrelations between concepts, are fundamental to understanding the rich semantic layers embedded in proverbs [Jakobson, 1960]. The objective of this research is to explore how conflict and interrelation are manifested in Italian proverbs and to elucidate their semantic significance. Jakobson's work on linguistic oppositions and Permyakov's contributions to paremiological analysis provide a theoretical foundation for examining these phenomena [Jakobson, 1960; Permyakov, 1970]. By applying discourse analysis and structural semantics, this study investigates how antinomy and correlation function within proverbs to reflect cultural and ethical values. This analysis not only contributes to theoretical linguistics but also offers valuable insights into Italian cultural and social norms. Proverbs serve as a mirror to societal values and serve as linguistic artifacts that reveal underlying cultural philosophies and social ethics.

The research methodology is designed to elucidate how these semantic phenomena are articulated within Italian proverbs and to assess their implications for understanding cultural and linguistic dynamics. The theoretical framework for this study is grounded in seminal works on linguistic theory and paremiology. Roman Jakobson's exploration of linguistic oppositions and semantic structures forms the basis of understanding how antinomy operates within proverbs (Jakobson, 1960). Jakobson's model highlights how contradictory elements can coexist within a single linguistic unit, providing a framework for analysing how proverbs encode complex moral and cultural messages. Additionally, G. L. Permyakov's contributions to the structural study of proverbs offer valuable insights into the classification and interpretation of paremiological units [Permyakov, 1970]. His work provides a structured approach to analysing the semantic and syntactic features of proverbs, which is instrumental for understanding correlation and its role in linguistic analysis.

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Discourse analysis is utilized to explore how proverbs convey meanings through the interaction of linguistic elements. This method involves a detailed examination of the context in which proverbs are used and how they reflect social norms and cultural values. By analysing a corpus of Italian proverbs, this study identifies patterns of antinomy and correlation and assesses how these patterns contribute to the proverbs' overall semantic impact. The analysis considers both the literal and figurative meanings of proverbs, providing insights into how proverbs negotiate and articulate contradictions and interrelations within Italian culture. Structural semantics is employed to dissect the underlying semantic structures of proverbs. This method involves identifying and categorizing instances of antinomy and correlation within the proverbs and analysing their functional roles. The study utilizes a systematic approach to classify proverbs based on their semantic features, focusing on how contradictions (antinomy) and interrelations (correlation) are structured and expressed. This analysis is informed by Permyakov's structural framework and is complemented by a comparative approach, examining how similar structures are employed in proverbs from other linguistic and cultural contexts. Proverbs such as "Chi troppo vuole nulla stringe" (He who wants too much holds nothing) and "Lontano dagli occhi, lontano dal cuore" (Out of sight, out of mind) illustrate how Italian proverbs often encapsulate conflicting ideas to convey moral and practical lessons. These proverbs demonstrate that antinomy serves as a mechanism to present complex truths about human behavior and social norms in a concise form. Antinomy in Italian proverbs frequently manifests through the juxtaposition of opposing concepts, which creates a dialectical tension that enhances the depth and resonance of the proverb's message. For instance, the proverb "Nessun dolore, nessun guadagno" (No pain, no gain) contrasts the concepts of effort and reward, illustrating how proverbs use antinomy to underscore the inevitability of struggle in achieving success.

Correlation, or the interrelation between concepts, also emerged as a significant feature in Italian proverbs. Proverbs like "Meglio un uovo oggi che una gallina domani" (Better an egg today than a hen tomorrow) and "Chi semina vento raccoglie tempesta" (He who sows wind reaps storm) exhibit how proverbs establish connections between actions and their consequences or between present and future states. These proverbs illustrate the use of correlation to highlight cause-and-effect relationships and temporal connections. The analysis shows that correlation in Italian proverbs often operates through the establishment of logical or temporal links that provide a framework for understanding the proverb's message. For example, the proverb "Chi trova un amico trova un tesoro" (He who finds a friend finds a treasure) correlates the concept of friendship with the idea of valuable gain, thereby emphasizing the intrinsic value of social bonds. This use of correlation reflects how proverbs encapsulate societal values and norms by linking abstract concepts to practical outcomes. The findings underscore the dual role of antinomy and correlation in Italian proverbs as tools for encoding cultural wisdom and moral lessons. The presence of antinomy allows proverbs to convey complex and often paradoxical truths about human nature and societal expectations, while correlation helps to contextualize these truths within a framework of cause and effect or temporal relationships. For instance, proverbs that employ antinomy, such as "Tanto va la gatta al lardo che ci lascia lo zampino" (The cat goes so often to the bacon that it leaves its paw), not only reflect a dialectical approach to conveying moral lessons but also serve as a means of reinforcing cultural norms and behavioral expectations. Similarly, proverbs that utilize correlation, such as "Chi va piano va sano e va lontano" (He who goes slowly goes safely and goes far), emphasize the importance of patience and prudence in achieving long-term success. The semantic analysis also reveals that Italian proverbs are embedded with cultural references that provide insights into historical and social contexts. For example, proverbs that discuss agricultural or domestic practices reflect traditional Italian lifestyles and values, highlighting the interplay between linguistic expressions and cultural practices.

The findings from this study contribute to a deeper understanding of how antinomy and correlation function within Italian proverbs and their broader implications for linguistic and cultural analysis. The presence of antinomy in proverbs illustrates the complexity of human experience and the ways in which contradictory ideas are reconciled to offer practical wisdom. Correlation, on the other hand, emphasizes the importance of contextual relationships and the ways in which proverbs encapsulate causal and temporal frameworks.

These findings support Jakobson's (1960) assertion that linguistic oppositions are integral to the structure and meaning of proverbs. The study demonstrates that antinomy enhances the expressive power of proverbs by creating a dialectical tension that enriches their semantic depth. Furthermore, the use of correlation aligns with contemporary theories on discourse and pragmatics, which emphasize the role of context in shaping meaning (Norrick, 1985). The results also contribute to Permyakov's (1970) structural approach to paremiology by highlighting how proverbs function as complex linguistic units that encode both semantic and cultural information. The analysis reveals that proverbs are not only linguistic artifacts but also cultural documents that reflect societal values and historical contexts.

This study has elucidated the roles of antinomy and correlation in Italian paremiology through a semantic analysis of proverbs. The findings reveal that antinomy, characterized by the juxtaposition of contradictory elements, enriches the semantic depth of Italian proverbs by encapsulating complex moral and cultural truths. Conversely, correlation establishes logical and temporal relationships between concepts, thereby contextualizing proverbs within broader frameworks of cause and effect or time. The integration of discourse analysis and structural semantics has highlighted how these semantic phenomena function to reflect and reinforce cultural values and societal norms. For instance, proverbs like "Chi troppo vuole nulla stringe" and "Chi semina vento raccoglie tempesta" demonstrate how antinomy and correlation are used to convey multifaceted messages about human behavior and social expectations. These findings align with Jakobson's (1960) theory on linguistic oppositions and Permyakov's (1970) structural approach to paremiology, providing a nuanced understanding of how proverbs encode and communicate cultural wisdom.

Future research should consider a comparative analysis of antinomy and correlation across different linguistic and cultural contexts to further understand the universality and variability of these phenomena. Additionally, diachronic studies could explore how the use of antinomy and correlation in proverbs has evolved over time, reflecting changes in cultural and societal norms. Quantitative analyses of larger corpora and investigations into regional variations within Italian proverbs could also offer deeper insights into these semantic processes.

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