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© Ксения Александровна Аксенова^{1✉}, Дмитрий Анатольевич Беляев²,
Сергей Алексеевич Кутومانов³, 2021

^{1, 2}Липецкий государственный педагогический университет
имени П. П. Семенова-Тян-Шанского,
Липецк, Россия,

¹aksenova89@mail.ru, <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9355-4464>

²dm.a.belyaev@gmail.com, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8062-1039>

³Белгородский государственный национальный исследовательский университет,
Белгород, Россия,

³kutomanov@bsu.edu.ru, <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5599-9075>

© Kseniya A. Aksenova^{1✉}, Dmitriy A. Belyaev², Sergey A. Kutomanov³, 2021

^{1, 2}Lipetsk State Pedagogical P. Semenov-Tyan-Shansky University,
Lipetsk, Russia,

¹aksenova89@mail.ru, <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9355-4464>

²dm.a.belyaev@gmail.com, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8062-1039>

³Belgorod National Research University,
Belgorod, Russia,

³kutomanov@bsu.edu.ru, <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5599-9075>

Регулярные механизмы метафоризации количественных значений в итальянском и французском языках: компаративная аналитика

Аннотация. В статье рассматривается процесс метафоризации количественных лексем как основной принцип образования квантификаторов. В частности, применяется структурный подход, основанный на сочетании таких методов анализа материала, как сопоставительно-типологический метод, контекстуальный анализ и метод словарных дефиниций. Внимание уделяется главным образом выявлению качественных параметров, т. е. некоего набора свойств, который характеризует множества, обозначаемые исследуемыми квантификаторами. Все установленные параметры анализируются в компаративном ключе. В результате выделены и охарактеризованы основные сходные показатели, такие как пространственное местоположение, динамичность, оценочность, однородность, одновременность / последовательность.

Ключевые слова: количество, квантификация, квантификаторы, качественные параметры, квантитативная метафора.

Regular mechanisms for the metaphORIZATION of quantitative meanings in Italian and French: comparative analytics

Abstract. The paper aims at identifying metaphORIZATION of quantitative lexemes as a basic means to form quantifiers. The research objective is to develop a classification of qualitative parameters for the Italian and French quantifiers. In particular, a structural approach is used, based

on such methods of material analysis as the comparative-typological method, contextual analysis, and the method of lexicographic definitions. The authors pay attention to the identification of qualitative parameters, a set of properties that characterizes the quantifiers under study. All identified parameters are analysed in a comparative manner. The authors have pointed to such parameters as deicticity, statics / dynamics, connotation, homogeneity / heterogeneity, simultaneity / sequence.

Keywords: quantity, quantification, quantifiers, qualitative parameters, quantitative metaphor.

Introduction

The **relevance** of the research undertaken is primarily determined by the fact that the concept of QUANTITY is one of the fundamental concepts in the worldview in any language. Linguistic embodiment of quantitative relations has been thoroughly examined in various lexicological studies. However, the representation of this concept by the Latin-based languages, in particular, the Italian and French languages, has not been sufficiently analyzed; the question of metaphorization and semantic “behavior” of quantitative lexemes is of significant interest for cognitive linguists.

The **aim** of the research is to determine the main mechanisms related to the metaphorization of quantitative meanings of the Italian and French quantifiers referring to an indefinitely large number. The article discusses the metaphorization of quantitative lexemes as the key principle to form quantifiers. The main focus is on identifying qualitative parameters, i.e. a set of properties that characterizes the quantifiers under study. **Scientific originality of the study** lies in the fact that the Italian and French quantitative vocabulary is for the first time analyzed through the lens of metaphorical representation of the concept INDEFINITE QUANTITY. **As a result**, the most significant qualitative parameters have been identified, and a comparative analysis of the qualitative parameters of the Italian and French quantifiers has been carried out.

According to the goal the following research **tasks** were put forward:

- to compile a list of quantifiers of an indefinitely large number by the material of the modern Italian and French languages;
- to highlight the main qualitative parameters of the quantitative lexemes under study;
- to carry out a comparative analysis of the qualitative parameters for the examined quantifiers.

To achieve the specified goal and solve the stated tasks, a structural approach was used based on the following **methods**: the comparative typological method, contextual analysis, the method of componential analysis, the method of lexicographic definitions, and comparative analysis.

The main part

The **theoretical basis** of the research consists of the publications of N. Chomsky¹, L. A. Shestak¹, T. A. Fesenko², A. A. Chelnokova³, focused on the basic metaphor in the

¹ Khomskiy N. *Iazyk i myshleniye. Iazyk i problemy znaniia* [Language and thinking. Language and knowledge issues]. Blagoveshchensk: BGK im. I. A. Boduena de Kurtene, 1999. 253 p.

linguistic picture of the world, as well as the embodiment of different types of quantity in the language. In addition, the works of S. O. Shvachko⁴, and L. D. Chesnokova⁵, were taken into account, where the concept of QUANTITY was viewed through the lens of its syntactic features. An important aspect of the study is the analysis of the lexical units, the definition of the mechanisms and stages of metaphORIZATION, which became possible thanks to the works of E. V. Rakhilina and Li Su-Khon⁶, E. V. Fedyaeva⁷, J. Doetjes⁸, A. Meillet⁹, giving a description of the quantitative semantics.

The practical value of the study is that the results obtained can be used in theoretical and practical classes in comparative linguistics of the Italian and French languages, as well as in special courses and special seminars on cognitive linguistics. The obtained data can be applied in the process of educational and methodological pursuits when writing textbooks,

¹ Shestak L. A. Bazovaia metaforika v iazykovoi kartine mira (na materiale iazykov raznykh tipov) [Basic metaphors in the language picture of the world (by the languages of different types)]. *Frazeologiya i miroponimanie naroda: materialy Mezhdunarodnoi nauchnoi konferentsii: v 2 ch.* [Phraseology and world outlook for the people; Proceedings of the International research conference: in 2 parts; ed. by V. T. Bondarenko]. Tula: TGPU im. L. N. Tolstogo, 2002, part 1, pp. 124–128.

² Fesenko T. A. Kognitivnaia sistema: struktura i mental'nyi status [Cognitive system: structure and mental status]. *Filologiya i kul'tura: materialy III Mezhdunarodnoi nauchnoi konferentsii (Tambov, 16–18 maia 2001 g.)* [Philology and culture: Proceedings of the III International research conference (Tambov, May 16–18, 2001); ed. by N. N. Boldyrev]. Tambov: TGU im. G. R. Derzhavina, 2001, part 1, pp. 94–98.

³ Chelnokova A. A. Vyrazhenie razlichnykh vidov kolichstva v iazyke (na materiale nemetskogo iazyka) [The expression of different types of quantity in the language (by the German language)]. *Vestnik SamGU* [Vestnik of Samara State University], 2007, no. 5/2, pp. 229–234.

⁴ Shvachko S. O. Eksterioryzatsiya piznaval'nogo protsesa [Exteriorization of the cognitive process]. *Shvachko S. O. i dr. Zashchita kvantifikatsii: lingvokognitivnyi aspekt* [Quantification means: linguistic and cognitive aspects]. Sumy: SumDU, 2007, pp. 14–22.

⁵ Chesnokova L. D. Kategoriya kolichstva i sintaksicheskie struktury [Quantity category and syntactic structures]. *Voprosy iazykoznanii* [Topics in the study of language], 1981, no. 2, pp. 44–52.

⁶ Rakhilina E. V., Li Su-Khon. Semantika leksicheskoi mnozhestvennosti v russkom iazyke [Semantics of lexical plurality in Russian]. *Voprosy iazykoznanii* [Topics in the study of language], 2009, no. 4, pp. 13–40.

⁷ Fedyaeva E. V. Kategoriya “kolichstvo” – universal'naya bazovaia kategoria chelovecheskogo soznaniya [Category “quantity” – a universal basic category of human consciousness]. *Aktual'nye problemy filologii i metodiki prepodavaniya inostrannykh iazykov: materialy Mezhdunarodnoi nauchno-prakticheskoi internet-konferentsii (oktiabr' – noiabr' 2007 g.)* [Topical problems of Philology and Methods of Teaching Foreign Languages: Proceedings of the International research and practice Internet conference (October – November 2007); ed. by A. M. Leont'yeva]. Novosibirsk: Bystro!, 2007, pp. 111–118.

⁸ Doetjes J. Quantification at a distance and event relatedness. *Linguistics in the Netherlands*, 1994, vol. 11, iss. 1, pp. 13–24.

⁹ Meillet A. L'évolution des formes grammaticales. *Linguistique historique et linguistique générale*; ed. par É. Champion. Paris: Librairie Ancienne Honoré Champion, 1921, pp. 130–148.

teaching aids, compiling dictionaries of various types, as well as writing term papers and graduate qualification works.

The concept “QUANTITY”, as well as the concepts “TIME”, “SPACE”, “QUALITY” has a universal nature. These concepts are central to the entire concept sphere and are encoded in the language using both grammatical and lexical means¹. Quantity is the most important conceptual element not only of any language, but also of human thinking itself, which is directly and bilaterally related to language. In each specific language, the history of the development and formation of this category is different, but there are common reference points of its evolution. Many prominent linguists dealt with studying this category. Linguistics today also pays close attention to the category of quantity. The comparative approach is of particular importance for the study, which consists in comparing the quantitative category in various languages of the Indo-European language family. Such studies allow us to reveal interesting linguistic and cultural information, which is highly significant, both for the formulation of theoretical postulates and for practical research in the outlined way. The individual linguistic elements that make up the category of quantity are being thoroughly examined, such as: number, quantitative etymology, numeral name and many others.

The quantitative relations inherent in objective reality are verbalized definitely, approximately and indefinitely. “The very category of uncertainty is primarily the result of some, if not absolute, unrecognizability and, moreover, unknowability of any object. However, it was precisely the emergence of ‘indeterminate’ in various languages at later stages that became one of the main achievements related to the developed cognitive apparatus of thinking.

The concept of an indefinite quantity arises in the same way as the concept of an approximate set – at the cognitive level, but with an orientation towards objective reality. Thus, the indefinite quantity combines both the characteristics of a definite and the features of an indefinite quantity.

The quantifiable reliability of the surrounding reality is found in the semantic field of any developed language, thus, the ways of expressing some quantity include all levels of the language paradigm: not only phraseological and lexical levels, but also morphological and syntactic ones.

But if the traditional reflection of quantitative relations in language, which is the subject of our consideration, is described in a very exhaustive manner, then a more thorough and detailed study of quantitative relations, in such languages as Italian and French, has not yet been made and deserves our attention.

This work analyzes the quantitative vocabulary of the Italian and French languages. By quantitative vocabulary, we mean linguistic units (quantifiers) that, in particular, indicate a certain number. The quantifier also measures or estimates the degree of what is being

¹ Razorenov D. A. Grammaticheskii kontsept “Vremia” v angliiskom iazyke [Grammar concept of time in English]. *Filologicheskie nauki* [Philological Sciences], 2010, no. 3, pp. 70–76.

quantified. Any quantifier answers the question <How much or How many or To what degree so and so?>¹.

Quantifiers are capable of conveying ideas of measurement, intensification, and quantification. With the help of a quantifier, the speaker reflects the quantitative component of the surrounding reality².

I want both books.

The unions have always tried to improve the lot of their members.

*An avalanche of books fell off the shelf*³.

The object of our research is subject names, which in their original meaning refer to specific objects, but as part of the nominal genitive construction “N of N”, combined with another subject name, usually denoting a set of objects, they undergo a semantic shift and become quantifiers with the meaning of an indefinitely large amount or an indefinitely small amount, something like “very much or very little”.

For example, the words like “mountain” or “sea” are a prime example of English quantifiers. In their original meaning, both of them denote natural objects, however, as part of the nominal genitive construction “N of N” these lexemes start referring to the meaning of “an indefinitely large amount” (cf.: a mountain of books, a sea of people). Thus, these lexical units no longer denote some objects, but estimate (and overestimate) some indefinitely large quantity.

It is important to note that when becoming quantifiers lexemes lose some components of their original meaning, but retain some other semantic components, which, along with the quantitative meaning itself, constitute their semantics. In other words, quantifiers differ in qualitative parameters, the analysis of which seems to be the most interesting and important task of studying quantifiable vocabulary.

According to our data⁴, there are 23 French quantifiers of an indefinitely large number:

armée, avalanche, cargaison, déluge, désert, fleuve, flot, flux, forêt, inundation, lac, liasse, mer, moisson, monceau, montagne, océan, onde, pelletée, pétée, pile, pluie, torrent / army, avalanche, cargo, deluge, desert, river, flood, stream, forest, inundation, lake, bundle, sea, harvest, heap, mountain, ocean, wave, shovel, fart, pile, rain, torrent.

¹ Sepir E. *Izbrannye trudy po iazykoznaniyu i kul'turologii* [Selected works in linguistics and cultural studies]. Moscow: Progress, 1993. 656 p.

² Rakhilina E. V. *Lingvistika konstrukcii* [Construction linguistics]. Moscow: Azbukovnik, 2010. 584 p.

³ Avalanche. WoordHunt. Available at: <https://woordhunt.ru/word/avalanche> (accessed: 25.12.2020).

⁴ Bordyugova K. A. Osobennosti grammatikalizatsii predmetnykh imen-kvantifikatorov neopredelenno-malogo kolichstva (na materiale frantsuzskogo i russkogo iaazykov) [Grammaticalization features of quantifiers of indefinitely small number (by the material of the French and Russian languages)]. *Vestnik Cherepovetskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta* [Cherepovets State University Bulletin], 2015, no. 8 (69), pp. 41–44.

This list includes only concrete names, but not all words possible in a prepositional genitive construction with the meaning “a lot”, like *charibotée, masse, multitude and the like*, since their initial meaning already implies some quantity, so their analysis is beyond the scope of our study.

Our material reveals two major sources of metaphors for an indefinitely large amount. The first, like the previous ones, refers to static metaphors – those in which the idea of a large number arises from the constant properties of objects in the reality, as a rule, having some correlations with their static visual image; the second source is associated with the nature of dynamic objects, it generates a dynamic metaphor, which is significantly different from static objects.

Let us further consider the set of properties that characterizes the quantity denoted by the listed French quantifiers.

Deicticity

Quantifiers often reflect the location of the observer / speaker in space.

The quantifiers *forêt, mer, océan* indicate the position of the observer at the edge of a given space, but slightly higher so that the eyes could capture some indefinitely large quantity that fills this space: *mer – grande quantité de liquide répandu: une mer de sang.* (cf. *une forêt de mains* (students sitting below the teacher)).

The deictic component is highly crucial for dynamic multitudes. For the most part, they have the semantics of movement directed towards the end point (towards the observer) or addressed to someone, for example, *avalanche, fleuve, flux, pluie, torrent* etc. Cf. *avalanche – grande quantité de choses qui arrivent, surviennent en même temps: une avalanche de catastrophes.* Cf. *flux – grande abondance de choses ou de personnes qui semblent couler: un flux de paroles sans suite.*

It is interesting to note that the word *fleuve* (*cours d'eau finissant dans la mer et souvent formé par la réunion d'un certain nombre de rivières*) does not have in its semantics an indication of the addressee or the end point of movement (a mass of liquid flows past observer): *des fleuves de larmes.*

Simultaneity / sequence of elements of an indefinitely large quantity (objects or events).

This feature is also important for “dynamic” sets and is noted in the semantics of such quantifiers as *flux, déluge, inondation, onde, pluie* etc. Cf. *inondation – afflux considérable de quelque chose simultanément: Inondation d'un marché par des produits étrangers; pluie – grande quantité, abondance soudaine de choses en même temps: une pluie d'injures.*

Another property is the rapid **growth** of some quantity in the process of its formation: *flux – grande abondance de choses ou de personnes qui semblent couler: un flux de paroles sans suite.*

Connotation

Some quantifiers express negative connotations: *avalanche, déluge, inondation, épidémie.* For example: *une avalanche de catastrophes.* Cf. *inondation – afflux considérable de quelque chose négatif: Inondation d'un marché par des produits*

étrangers.

The negative connotation is also observed in *déluge – surabondance (de quelque chose qui coule): déluge de larmes; épidémie – ce qui touche rapidement et dans un même lieu un grand nombre de personnes en se propageant comme une épidémie: une épidémie de suicides.*

Homogeneity

Some quantifiers describe precisely many homogeneous objects, for example: *avalanche – grande quantité de choses qui arrivent, surviennent en même temps; épidémie – ce qui touche rapidement et dans un même lieu un grand nombre de personnes en se propageant comme une épidémie.*

In the definitions of quantifiers, the component “heterogeneity” is not fixed, but it can be revealed with the help of the lexical context, for example: *océan d'arbres (different trees are implied), un torrent d'injures (different kinds of damage, etc.).*

In Italian, according to our calculations, there are 25 quantitative lexemes:

afflusso, arma, bagaglio, branco, diluvio, esercito, fascio, fila, fiume, groviglio, invasione, manica, marea, mondo, montagna, mucchio, nuvola, oceano, parte, pioggia, raffica, spazzatura, squadra, torrente, valanga, voragine / influx, corps, luggage, gang, flood, army, stack, row, river, tangle, invasion, flock, sea, peace, mountain, heap, cloud, ocean, group, hail, squall, garbage, team, stream, avalanche, abyss.

Let us further consider the properties that characterize the quantities denoted by the listed Italian quantifiers.

Deicticity

Quantifiers often reflect the location of the observer / speaker in space.

Vertically oriented objects are presented in such a way that the observer is standing at their foot and is looking upward.

The quantifiers *marea, mondo, oceano* indicate the location of the observer at the edge of a certain space, when one can gaze at the quantity that fills the space (cf. *una marea di gente, un mondo di opportunità di fronte a te, un oceano di mais* (the observer is rising over the cornfield).

The spatial component is also essential for dynamic quantities. For the most part, they have the semantics of movement directed towards the end point (towards the observer). These are *afflusso, diluvio, fiume, valanga*. Cf. *valanga – gran quantità, mucchio: Per Natale ho ricevuto una valanga di biglietti di auguri / I received an avalanche of greeting cards for Christmas*. Moreover, in the French language we are talking about a set of, first of all, unfavorable phenomena, objects, properties, etc., in Italian we do not observe any negative connotation. Cf. *diluvio – figurato rafforzativo: quantità: un diluvio di proteste da parte degli utenti / We register a stream of protests from users*. In this case, a negative connotation appears.

Simultaneity / sequence of elements of multitude (objects or events).

This feature is observed in the semantics of such quantifiers as *afflusso, diluvio, pioggia, raffica, torrente, valanga* etc. Cf. *afflusso – figurato affluenza: un afflusso di turisti;*

pioggia – grande quantité, abondance soudaine de choses en même temps: une pluie d'in-jures.

The additional property is the **unexpectedness**, the **suddenness** of the quantity occurrence. Cf. *Diluvio – una grande quantità di messaggi improvvisi (un torrente di abusi / parole / critiche); valanga; pioggia: caduta o impeto improvviso di molte piccole cose o gocce di liquidi.*

Another property is the swift **growth** of the set in the process of its formation: *valanga – gran quantità, mucchio: una valanga di biglietti di auguri.*

Connotation

Some quantifiers express a negative connotation: *diluvio, invasione, pioggia, raffica.* For example: *un diluvio di proteste; un'invasione di cavallette; una pioggia di proiettili; una raffica di insulti.*

Homogeneity

Some quantifiers describe precisely sets of homogeneous objects, for example: *valanga – grandi quantità di cose che accadono, accadono nello stesso momento; torrente – che colpisce rapidamente un gran numero di persone in un unico luogo, diffondendosi come un torrente.*

And if in the system of English quantifiers it is suitable to speak about one more property of quantifiers – “presumptiveness” (a term by E. V. Rakhilina and Li Su-Khon), that is, an expression of a special type of meaning – “set – stock”, among the Italian and French quantifiers we have observed no lexemes with a similar meaning.

Thus, the following qualitative parameters can be distinguished in the studied quantifiers of an indefinitely large number (the information is presented in Table).

Table

Qualitative parameters related to the studied quantifiers
of an indefinitely large number

ITALIAN QUANTIFIERS	FRENCH QUANTIFIERS
Deicticity: <i>marea, mondo, montagna, mucchio, oceano, valanga, voragine;</i> Statics / dynamics: <i>montagna, mucchio, bag, bagaglio; fiume, valanga, torrente, pioggia;</i> Connotation: <i>diluvio, invasione, pioggia, raffica;</i> Homogeneity / heterogeneity: <i>valanga, torrente;</i> Simultaneity / sequence: <i>torrente, diluvio, valanga, nuvola, fiume, pioggia</i>	Deicticity: <i>forêt, mer, océan;</i> Statics / dynamics: <i>forêt, mer, océan; avalanche, fleuve, flux, pluie, torrent;</i> Connotation: <i>déluge, torrent, inundation, épidémie;</i> Homogeneity / heterogeneity: <i>avalanche, épidémie; océan, torrent;</i> Simultaneity / sequence: <i>flux, déluge, inundation, onde, pluie</i>

Conclusions

As a result of the comparative analysis, we have found that by the material of the two analyzed languages, the similarity is observed in such parameters as **deicticity, dynamics, connotation, homogeneity, simultaneity / sequence**.

It is necessary to mention such a similar parameter as **connotation**. The negative connotation in the semantics of quantifiers of an indefinitely large number is a common phenomenon, but in the Italian language we observe atypical behavior of such a quantifier as *valanga – gran quantità, mucchio: Per Natale ho ricevuto una valanga di biglietti di auguri*. In French this lexeme has a distinctly negative connotation.

Thus, in addition to the idea of a large number, Italian and French quantifiers also describe the qualitative parameters of the indefinitely large quantities.

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Сведения об авторах

Ксения Александровна
Аксенова /
Ksenia A. Aksenova

Кандидат филологических наук, доцент, <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9355-4464>, aksenova89@mail.ru, Липецкий государственный педагогический университет имени П. П. Семенова-Тян-Шанского (д. 42, ул. Ленина, 398020 г. Липецк, Россия) / Candidate of Philological Sciences, Associate Professor, <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9355-4464>, aksenova89@mail.ru, Lipetsk State Pedagogical P. Semenov-Tyan-Shansky University (42, ul. Lenina, 398020 Lipetsk, Russia).

Дмитрий Анатольевич Беляев /
Dmitriy A. Belyaev

Доктор философских наук, профессор, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8062-1039>, dm.a.belyaev@gmail.com, Липецкий государственный педагогический университет имени П. П. Семенова-Тян-Шанского (д. 42, ул. Ленина, 398020 г. Липецк, Россия) / Doctor of Philosophical Sciences, Professor, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8062-1039>, dm.a.belyaev@gmail.com, Lipetsk State Pedagogical P. Semenov-Tyan-Shansky University (42, ul. Lenina, 398020 Lipetsk, Russia).

Сергей Алексеевич Кутоманов /
Sergey A. Kutomanov

Кандидат философских наук, доцент, <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5599-9075>, kutomanov@bsu.edu.ru, Белгородский государственный национальный исследовательский университет (д. 85, ул. Победы, 308015 г. Белгород, Россия) / Candidate of Philosophical Sciences, Associate Professor, <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5599-9075>, kutomanov@bsu.edu.ru, Belgorod National Research University (85, ul. Pobedy, 308015, Belgorod, Russia).

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