

A Corpus of spoken pathological Italian (CIPPS)

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The CIPPS Corpus (Corpus of Pathological/Schizophrenic Spoken Italian) was produced from a collaboration between the “Experimental School of Training in Psychotherapy and Research in Applied Human Sciences - Naples ASL 1” and CIRASS¹ (Interdepartmental Research Centre for the Analysis and Synthesis of Signals of the University of Naples Federico II) and was begun in 2005. It brings together researchers with different academic backgrounds and orientations (linguists, psychologists, and psychiatrists) in order to cope with the challenge of providing language tools for clinical and linguistic analysis (Dovetto and Gemelli 2013).

The *corpus* consists of psychotherapeutic interviews and it contains 17 hours of recordings conducted by a psychiatrist with a phenomenological approach. The orthographic transcription was carried out for 10 hours of recordings: 3 for the first subject [A], 4 for the second [B], 2 for the third [C], and 1 for the fourth [D]. The four patients [A, B, C, D] are all male, have confirmed schizophrenic diagnoses, and are classified into three categories: a) patients in onset/early stages of the disorder; b) patients whose disorders are drug-resistant and chronic; c) chronic patients who do not follow drug therapy. The third patient, in particular, does not take medicine, while others do but in low dosages: this is important to note because some drugs have noticeable effects on patient language production.

Studies of the schizophrenic speech lexicon conducted on spoken corpora suggest new possibilities for the reading of schizophrenic texts, and hold the promise of future developments. The analysis of the corpus confirms the opportunity and urgency to subject to differentiated analysis not only the patients, too often evaluated in accordance with diagnostic macrocategories, but also specific phenomena. It highlights, furthermore, the need for adequate attention toward the totality of the linguistic manifestations of the schizophrenic disorder, not divorced from their related linguistic and extra-linguistic contexts, which constitute the essential foundation and framework both from the point of view of language production taken as a whole (including prosodic analysis) and that of the interpretation of the lexical product.

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