

# The reduction of *complex terms* (CT) in different LSP

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# Our goals:

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- To observe the behaviour of complex terms in texts by analysing corpora related to different LSP in two romance languages: French and Italian;
- To study textual typologies in relation with the reduction mechanism;

## A definition of complex terms?

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complex units, whose components are separated by a space and which are syntactically connected. The resulting unit denominates a concept belonging to a LSP  
(Collet, 2000)

ex: agriculture [head] biologique  
[expansion]



## A definition of reduction

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It is determined by the fall of one of its constituents of a complex terme in a LSP text.

It represents the discourse dynamics of a CT.

(Collet, 2004)

# Reduction can be:

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- A textual device: anaphora;
- A lexical process: creation of variants;

ex: Metodo di produzione biologica

Variants:

METODO VS METODO BIOLOGICO



# The starting point

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The starting point of our project has been a **trilingual glossary** (French, Russian, and Italian) about organic agriculture. Later, we decided to analyse other LSP, in order to evaluate the validity of our method of research.



# Our subject domains:

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- Organic agriculture;
- Desalination of water;
- Natural park.

# First results:

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- *The reduction may lead to a formal evolution of a complex term;*

## **PRODUIT ISSU DE L'AGRICULTURE BIOLOGIQUE:**

- FR - ***Produit biologique***

## **PRODOTTO OTTENUTO DA PRODUZIONE BIOLOGICA:**

- IT - ***Prodotto biologico***:



# First results:

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- *Reduction is connected to textual typologies: high constraining texts (Sabatini 1999: 150) register a lower degree of variation;*
- *Context has a central role in disambiguating variants resulting from reduction mechanism;*

# Some examples: the role of context:

- *L'incredibile, l'indicibile è stato approvato a larga maggioranza da burocrati che sembrano sempre più rappresentare se stessi. L'approvazione di questo nuovo Regolamento Europeo **sull'agricoltura biologica** è un passo indietro che **il biologico** europeo ora deve affrontare e che sicuramente risponde a logiche che non sono quelle di **chi lo produce e lo consuma.***

*Les produits "**bio**", pour **biologiques**, connaissent un véritable succès. La demande décolle à tel point qu'elle est supérieure à l'offre. La gamme de produits est de plus en plus large : des légumes à la viande en passant par les œufs, tous les produits végétaux et animaux ont leur label 100 % naturel.*



## Future goals:

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- To study relations between CT and their reduced forms;
- To analyse external factors influencing reduction of CT;
- To compare reduction to other mechanisms as: abbreviation, ellipsis;;
- To verify how software can recognize CT and their reduced forms;

# Thanks!

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