

Informative Contagion: The Coronavirus (COVID 19) in Italian journalism

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ABSTRACT

In addition to becoming a global phenomenon, the spreading of the new Coronavirus, following the declaration of a pandemic, is to investigate how the coronavirus situation is described in journalistic communication. Starting from La Repubblica phenomenon, the excessive accessibility to sources of information (Infodemia) can be modulated by the "how" the phenomenon is reported. A SketchEngine software (Thomas, 2016) was carried out first, then supported by a Diatextual Analysis (Papapicco & Mininni, 2022).

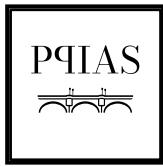
1. INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of January 2020, the attention of the medical-scientific community (SARSCoV-2) emerged in Wuhan in China at the end of 2019.

Italy had 12.462 confirmed cases according to the Istituto Superiore di Sanità and there was a high level of contagion, understood as the spread of the virus, by the World Health Organization to coin the term Infodemia to give "a name" to the phenomenon of these days when fear of the coronavirus was raging, to point at perhaps the beginning of the rumble of echoes and comments of the global community on real or often

2. THE STUDY

The general purpose of the exploratory study was to investigate how the coronavirus was reported in a reference journalistic magazine, the research aimed to understand the way in which restrictive measures of social distancing in the Italian context. The study starts from the phenomenon, the excessive accessibility to sources of information (Infodemia) proposed in the exploratory study is quanti-qualitative (mixed) method. A Content Analysis, a Diatextual Analysis (Papapicco & Mininni, 2022)



texts, that is the online articles of *La Repubblica* on the topic of coronavirus, and “How” the are events related to coronavirus in the online articles of *La Repubblica*

2.1 Corpus, Objective and Methodology

Starting from *La Repubblica* online, as a reference journalistic magazine, the “Coronavirus” and “Covid19”. The advanced search has returned 100 articles di analyzed, is the result of the advanced research on the database of archive and objective, the research, in an exploratory phase, aimed to understand the way in spread of contagion and restrictive measures of social distancing in the Italian c social representation of the phenomenon, the excessive accessibility of sources c The methodology proposed, in fact, in the exploratory study is quanti-qualitative was carried out first. In support of the Content Analysis, a Diatextual Analysis ([I](#)

2.2 Results

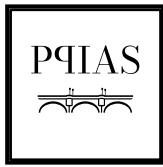
The results of the exploratory study demonstrate the presence of a contrast between in the references to places and times, with adjectives related to closing and the opposition of the analyzed terms. The contrast exists at the spatial level (“region the action (“To Leave” vs “To Remain”). This logic of contrast outlines the way coronavirus in Italy ([Papapicco, 2020](#)). The contrast, therefore, does not attenuate representations about the current pandemic. Therefore, the mediated social re emergency, but the verb “strike” contributes to creating a representation of pas research aims to extend the corpus by collecting more articles and compare the r

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