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

Papapicco, Concetta

ABSTRACT

In addition to becoming a global phenomenon, the spreading of the new Coronavirus, following the declaration of a pandemic state, has generated excessive acc study is to investigate how the coronavirus situation is described in journalistic communication. Starting from La Repubblica online, as a reference journalistic n phenomenon, the excessive accessibility to sources of information (Infodemia) can be modulated by the "how" the phenomenon is described by the journalists. T SketchEngine software (Thomas, 2016) was carried out first, then supported by a Diatextual Analysis (Papapicco & Mininni, 2019). The results show the presenc

1. INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of January 2020, the attention of the medical-scientific community and the dissemin (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 as of March 11, 2020, ar there was a high level of contagion, understood as the spread of the virus, but also as the spread o Organization to coin the term Infodemia to give "a name" to the phenomenon of excessive information. these days when fear of the coronavirus was raging, to point at perhaps the greatest danger for global s in the rumble of echoes and comments of the global community on real or often invented facts ([Cinelli

2. THE STUDY

The general purpose of the exploratory study was to investigate how the coronavirus situation was descr a reference journalistic magazine, the research aimed to understand the way in which journalistic com restrictive measures of social distancing in the Italian context. The study starts from the hypothesis tha phenomenon, the excessive accessibility to sources of information (Infodemia) can be modulated by proposed in the exploratory study is quanti-qualitative (mixed) method. A Content Analysis ([Mayring, support of the Content Analysis, a Diatextual Analysis ([Papapicco & Mininni, 2019](#)) was carried out. T texts, that is the online articles of *La Repubblica* on the topic of coronavirus, Subjectivity, Argumenta "How" the are events related to coronavirus in the online articles of *La Repubblica* about COVID19 phe

2.1 Corpus, Objective and Methodology

Starting from *La Repubblica* online, as a reference journalistic magazine, the database "Archivio Ele
"Coronavirus" and "Covid19". The advanced search has returned 100 articles divided into national and
analyzed, is the result of the advanced research on the database of archive and, therefore, the set of a
objective, the research, in an exploratory phase, aimed to understand the way in which journalistic comm
spread of contagion and restrictive measures of social distancing in the Italian context. The study starte
social representation of the phenomenon, the excessive accessibility of sources of information (Infodem
The methodology proposed, in fact, in the exploratory study is quanti-qualitative (mixed) method. A Cor
was carried out first. In support of the Content Analysis, a Diatextual Analysis (Papapicco & Mininni, 2

2.2 Results

The results of the exploratory study demonstrate the presence of a contrast between an "unexpected eve
in the references to places and times, with adjectives related to closing and the use of status verbs. Th
opposition of the analyzed terms. The contrast exists at the spatial level ("regional" vs "national"), at t
the action ("To Leave" vs "To Remain"). This logic of contrast outlines the way in which the Infoden
coronavirus in Italy (Papapicco, 2020). The contrast, therefore, does not attenuate, but intensifies the fe
representations about the current pandemic. Therefore, the mediated social representation that is bui
emergency, but the verb "strike" contributes to creating a representation of passivity, as if this emerge
research aims to extend the corpus by collecting more articles and compare the results with other Italian

Bibliography

Baronchelli, A. (n.d.). The emergence of consensus: a primer. *Royal Society Open Science*, *5*(2), 17218

Cinelli, M., Quattrociocchi, W., Galeazzi, A., Valensise, C. M., Brugnoli, E., Schmidt, A. L., Zola,
Scientific Reports, *10*(1), 16598. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-73510-5

Mayring, P. (2004). Qualitative Content Analysis. In E. von Kardorff, I. Steinke, & U. Flick (Ed
http://www.mim.ac.mw/books/Uwe%20Flick,%20Ernst%20von%20Kardoff,%20Ines%20Steinke%20Ed

Mininni, G. (2014). *Psicologia culturale discorsiva* (Franco Angeli). https://www.ibs.it/psicologia-cultu

Papapicco, C., & Mininni, G. (2019). "BR…EXIT". A DIATEXTUAL ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC
Discourse Analysis Across Disciplines, *11*(2), 27–40. https://doi.org/10.5209/CLAC.53494

Papapicco, C. (2020). Informative Contagion: The Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Italian journalism. https://doi.org/10.29333/ojcmt/7938

Thomas, J. (2016). *Discovering English with Sketch Engine*. Versatile. http://www.versatile.pub/store/p(