

Multilingual FrameNet and Calabria's mafia: Italian video documentaries as conceptual windows on a transnational economic crime scenario

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Context and corpus – This paper offers a cognitively inspired frame-based analysis of two long Italian documentaries about economic mafia activities in Italy and the EU, such as racketeering and money laundering by 'Ndrangheta, the Calabrian mafia, which infiltrates the legal economy globally. Importantly, these documentaries explain the validity of law enforcement in the economic sphere, as well as the increasing contestation by Italian civil society, by means of activist anti-mafia resistance, in Italy and Germany, for instance (Sambre 2017).

Linguistic framework and rationale - Frame semantics and FrameNet (FN) offer a language-independent metalanguage and detailed crime scenario (Boas 2009, Ohara 2012, Baker 2017), based on English data. Despite its generic relevance for the understanding of English LGP, the sequential organization of the FN crime scenario in terms of criminal actors and American legal procedures makes it less suited to describe socio-behavioral aspects of Italian economic mafia culture and (trans-) national policing in Italy and the EU (Sergi 2018). Furthermore, it does not include specialized (Pimentel et al. 2012) criminological concepts about international organized crime (Longo 2010), nor about culturally relevant (Boas 2013) peculiarities of economic anti-mafia, i.e. civil anti-mafia actors/victims and activities foregrounded in discourse. As an idiom, Italian and crime as LGP have been largely absent in (cultural) analyses of the Multilingual FN project (MFN), apart from seminal work on verb valency, high frequency lexical units (Busso & Lenci 2016) or exploratory work on written LSP legal concepts (Venturi et al. 2009).

Objectives and (provisional) results – Our general objective is to reintegrate Italian in the MFN, by means of rereading FN's source English metalanguage based on a realistic recent Italian 'Ndrangheta media discourse c, in order build a corpus-based exploratory lexicon (LUs) and semantic role (FEs) description of economic anti-mafia discourse for: (i) representation of actor types (nominal entities) both in legal and civil anti-mafia; (ii) types of economic mafia offenses and anti-mafia legal or civil action (verbal events, and repressive means); (iii) sectors and (local and regional Italian and non-Italian) places (non-core FEs) associated with (i-ii); (iii) a possible transitivity construction for (anti-)mafia actors as FE core agents and/or undergoers (Hart 2014). (iv) We will then briefly evaluate the results of our linguistic description (i-ii-iii) against the background of criminological research about global 'Ndrangheta and anti-mafia (dalla Chiesa 2014). As a result we and propose an enlarged conceptual English FN crime scenario metalanguage, which from the applied perspective could act as a starting point for describing international organized (economic) crime, actors and events, in other (transnational) cultures and languages.

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