# LINGUISTICA COMPUTAZIONALE

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# INTRODUCTION

The idea of creating a Bulletin dedicated to Linguistic Data Processing had been for several years in the mind of the people connected with the ILC (*Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale del CNR:* Institute of Computational Linguistics of the National Research Council), with the Pisa University Department where mathematical and computational linguistics is taught, and with the International Summer School on Computational and Mathematical Linguistics.

This idea has now taken shape, following a proposal put forward to the Scientific Committee of ILC by Prof. Della Corte, and approved by the authorities of the National Research Council. *Linguistica Computazionale* begins publication with this number and should come out every six months, at least to start with.

Specialized journals in the field of Linguistic Data Processing already exist, often connected with Associations or specific Centres of interest. Other journals also contain articles related to Linguistic Data Processing. It is certainly not our intention to come out with a duplicate of these journals, which, moreover, in one way or another, we often co–operate with.

Rather, we want *Linguistica Computazionale* to be of a specific nature, divided into two sections of more or less the same size, one for technical and scientific articles, the other containing information.

The articles (three or four in each number, in different languages, with abstracts in English or French in all cases) will be drawn from the various

fields of Linguistic Data Processing. It is our considered opinion, as we have already stated on several occasions, that what must be encouraged and promoted, because still today, in our view, they are not sufficiently developed, are exchanges and cooperation between the various fields and centers of activity in Linguistic Data processing, ranging from text processing to lexicographic analysis and natural language understanding. After all, the methods and instruments devised in each field are of general use and interest and the problems being faced are largely common to one and all, even though points of view may differ. Moreover, we have attempted to orientate the activity of the Institute of Computational Linguistics, previously the **Linguistic Division** of the **CNUCE, in this direction.**

The aim of the information part of the Journal is, above all, to familiarize scholars in other countries with the work being done in Italy. For this purpose, there will be a special section which will contain short reports and news items on projects in Italy. Each number will also contain fuller reports on the activity of one centre or project in Italy or abroad. Other special sections (reports of conferences) begin with the present number or will begin in future issues, such as reviews of books, articles and working papers, as my collegues A. Cappelli and L. Gori explain in their editorial note.

Another feature of *Linguistica Computazionale* will be the publication of special numbers containing the transactions of conferences, round-tables, summer schools, and such like, organized by the Istitute of Computational Linguistics and by bodies which work together with it.

In this connection, I should like to point out that this first number of our journal happens to coincide with the workshop «On the Possibilities and Limits of the Computer in producing and publishing Dictionaries», organized by the European Science Foundation and due to take place in Pisa from the 20th to the 22nd of May.

In this number, B.Quemada talks about the aims of this Workshop. The article by T.Lentz, «An integrated computer-based system for creating the Dictionary of the Old Spanish Language», and those by, A. Michiels, J. Mullenders and J. Noël who are both taking part in the meeting, are connected with the themes of the Workshop.

Finally, I wish to thank the authors and all those who have helped in the launching of *Linguistica Computazionale* and in the preparation of this first issue in particular.

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