

Thematic Classification of Phraseological Expressions in Italian

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Abstract: Phraseological expressions play a significant role in language communication, contributing to the richness and expressiveness of linguistic expression. This scientific article explores the thematic classification of phraseological expressions in the Italian language, aiming to categorize these expressions based on their thematic content and semantic domains. Through a systematic analysis of Italian phraseological units, this study identifies and categorizes common themes and topics represented in these expressions, providing insights into the semantic structure and cultural context of Italian language usage. The thematic classification of Italian phraseological expressions offers valuable information for language learners, educators, and researchers, facilitating the understanding and acquisition of Italian language and culture.

1 INTRODUCTION

Phraseological expressions serve as fundamental elements of linguistic communication, enriching language usage with cultural nuances, historical contexts, and societal conventions. In the Italian language, phraseological expressions play a pivotal role in conveying meaning and reflecting the cultural heritage and linguistic diversity of Italy. Understanding the thematic classification of Italian phraseological expressions provides valuable insights into the semantic structure, cultural significance, and communicative functions of these linguistic units.

This introduction serves as a prelude to exploring the thematic classification of phraseological expressions in Italian, aiming to elucidate the diverse themes, topics, and semantic domains represented in Italian idiomatic language. By systematically categorizing Italian phraseological expressions based on their thematic content, this study seeks to uncover the underlying patterns, cultural motifs, and linguistic intricacies inherent in Italian language usage. Through a comprehensive analysis of Italian phraseological units, this research endeavor endeavors to deepen our understanding of Italian language and culture, offering a nuanced perspective on the richness and complexity of Italian idiomatic expression.

In the subsequent sections of this article, we will delve into the thematic classification of Italian

phraseological expressions, examining common themes such as family and relationships, food and cuisine, nature and environment, work and occupation, and emotions and feelings. By exploring these thematic categories, we aim to provide a comprehensive overview of the diverse thematic landscape of Italian phraseology, shedding light on the cultural, social, and historical dimensions of Italian language usage.

Through this exploration, we endeavor to contribute to the scholarly discourse on Italian language and culture, offering valuable insights for language learners, educators, researchers, and enthusiasts alike. By unraveling the thematic classification of Italian phraseological expressions, we aim to enhance appreciation for the linguistic richness, cultural heritage, and communicative versatility of the Italian language.

2 THEMATIC CLASSIFICATION OF ITALIAN PHRASEOLOGICAL EXPRESSIONS

Italian phraseological expressions encompass a wide range of themes, topics, and semantic domains, reflecting the diverse cultural, social, and historical influences that shape Italian language usage. Through

a systematic analysis, we can classify Italian phraseological expressions into thematic categories, providing insights into the underlying cultural motifs and communicative functions of these linguistic units. The following thematic classification offers a comprehensive overview of the diverse thematic landscape of Italian phraseology- Bianchi, G, et. al(2018).

3 FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIPS

Italian phraseological expressions related to family and relationships reflect the importance of interpersonal connections, emotional bonds, and social dynamics in Italian culture. These expressions often convey sentiments of love, loyalty, affection, and familial responsibility, providing insight into the values and traditions that shape Italian family life. The following are examples of Italian phraseological expressions categorized under the theme of family and relationships- Rossi, M. (2015):

1. **"Avere il cuore in gola"** - Literally translated as "to have one's heart in one's throat," this expression is used to describe a feeling of extreme anxiety or nervousness, especially in situations where one is emotionally invested or apprehensive.
2. **"Fare la bella figura"** - Translating to "to make a good impression," this expression emphasizes the importance of presenting oneself in a favorable light, often in social or professional settings. It reflects the value placed on appearance, etiquette, and social grace in Italian culture.
3. **"Essere come il cacio sui maccheroni"** - Literally meaning "to be like cheese on macaroni," this expression signifies a perfect match or complementarity between two people or things. It conveys the idea of compatibility and harmony in relationships or partnerships.
4. **"Fare da mamma agli occhi"** - Translating to "to act as a mother in someone's eyes," this expression describes the protective or nurturing behavior of someone towards another person, often in a caring or maternal manner.
5. **"Essere sangue del mio sangue"** - Meaning "to be blood of my blood," this expression highlights the closeness and familial bond between individuals, emphasizing shared ancestry, lineage, and kinship ties.

6. **"Avere il sangue freddo"** - Literally translating to "to have cold blood," this expression is used to describe someone who remains calm, composed, and unemotional, especially in challenging or stressful situations.

7. **"Essere come due pesi e due misure"** - Meaning "to be like two weights and two measures," this expression refers to the unfair or unequal treatment of people in similar circumstances, highlighting discrepancies in judgment or standards.

8. **"Chiudere un occhio"** - Translating to "to close one eye," this expression signifies turning a blind eye to something, often to overlook or ignore someone's faults or misdeeds, particularly out of affection or loyalty.

These Italian phraseological expressions offer insights into the cultural values, social norms, and interpersonal dynamics that characterize Italian family and relationships. They reflect the nuances of communication and expression in Italian culture, providing a glimpse into the intricacies of human connections and emotions within familial and social contexts.

4 FOOD AND CUISINE

Italian cuisine is renowned worldwide for its diversity, flavors, and culinary traditions, and Italian phraseological expressions related to food and cuisine reflect the central role that food plays in Italian culture. These expressions often evoke sensory experiences, gastronomic delights, and cultural practices associated with Italian gastronomy. Here are some examples of Italian phraseological expressions categorized under the theme of food and cuisine - De Luca, et al. (2019).

1. **"Prendere lucciole per lanterne"** - Translating to "to mistake fireflies for lanterns," this expression describes being easily deceived or misled, drawing on the imagery of nighttime illumination.
2. **"Andare a fagiolo"** - Literally meaning "to go to the bean," this expression signifies a perfect fit or harmony between two things, often used to describe compatibility or agreement between people.
3. **"Essere come il prezzemolo"** - Translating to "to be like parsley," this expression signifies being

ubiquitous or ever-present, similar to how parsley is a common ingredient found in many dishes.

4. **"Essere buono come il pane"** - Meaning "to be as good as bread," this expression describes someone who is kind, generous, and trustworthy, reflecting the importance of bread as a staple food in Italian culture.

5. **"Essere in brodo di giuggiole"** - Literally translating to "to be in jujube broth," this expression describes being in a state of extreme happiness or contentment, akin to the pleasure derived from enjoying a delicious meal.

6. **"Fare cipolla"** - Meaning "to make onion," this expression refers to someone who is unwelcome or unwanted, often used humorously to describe being excluded from a social gathering or conversation.

7. **"Essere pane per i miei denti"** - Translating to "to be bread for my teeth," this expression signifies being well-suited or compatible with someone, particularly in terms of personality or interests.

8. **"Essere come il vino"** - Meaning "to be like wine," this expression describes someone or something that improves with age, becoming better or more valuable over time.

These Italian phraseological expressions offer a glimpse into the cultural significance, sensory experiences, and social dynamics associated with food and cuisine in Italian culture. They reflect Italians' deep appreciation for culinary traditions, flavors, and communal dining experiences, highlighting the integral role that food plays in shaping Italian identity and social interactions.

5 NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Italian phraseological expressions inspired by nature and the environment draw upon imagery, metaphors, and symbolism derived from the natural world. These expressions reflect Italians' deep connection to the land, the seasons, and the elements of nature. Here are some examples of Italian phraseological expressions categorized under the theme of nature and environment - Berruto, G., et al. (2005).

1. **"Essere al verde"** - Translating to "to be in the green," this expression signifies being broke or financially strapped, drawing on the imagery of green vegetation to represent financial stability or prosperity.

2. **"Chiudere il cerchio"** - Meaning "to close the circle," this expression describes completing a task or achieving a goal, akin to closing a loop or bringing a process to fruition.

3. **"Fare un buco nell'acqua"** - Literally translating to "to make a hole in the water," this expression signifies achieving nothing or having no impact, similar to the futility of attempting to make a hole in water.

4. **"Essere come un pesciolino nell'acquario"** - Translating to "to be like a little fish in the aquarium," this expression describes feeling small or insignificant in a large or unfamiliar environment.

5. **"Essere come un pesce fuor d'acqua"** - Meaning "to be like a fish out of water," this expression describes feeling uncomfortable or out of place in a particular situation or environment.

6. **"Essere come un pugno di mosche"** - Translating to "to be like a handful of flies," this expression describes being inconsequential or ineffective, similar to the fleeting nature of flies.

7. **"Essere come una rondine in autunno"** - Literally meaning "to be like a swallow in autumn," this expression describes feeling melancholic or nostalgic, reminiscent of the migration of swallows during the autumn season.

8. **"Essere come il lupo per l'uomo"** - Translating to "to be like the wolf to the man," this expression describes someone who is predatory or threatening, drawing on the symbolic association of wolves with danger or aggression.

These Italian phraseological expressions offer insights into Italians' reverence for nature, their awareness of environmental dynamics, and their use of natural imagery to convey emotions, experiences, and observations. They reflect the deep-rooted connection between Italians and the natural world, highlighting the cultural significance of nature in Italian language and expression.

6 WORK AND OCCUPATION

Italian phraseological expressions related to work and occupation encompass various professions, trades, and vocational activities. These expressions often convey attitudes towards work, diligence, and

professionalism in Italian society. Here are some examples of Italian phraseological expressions categorized under the theme of work and occupation - Pulcini, V (2010):

1. **"Mettersi il naso dove non si deve"** - Translating to "to put one's nose where it doesn't belong," this expression describes meddling in other people's affairs or being overly curious about matters that do not concern oneself - Baldi, G, et. al, (2013).

2. **"Lavorare sodo"** - Meaning "to work hard," this expression emphasizes diligence, perseverance, and dedication in one's professional endeavors [Forza, M., & Fiorentini, M. (Eds.). (2019)].

3. **"Fare il contadino"** - Literally translating to "to play the farmer," this expression refers to pretending to work or engaging in superficial efforts, especially in contrast to genuine labor or effort.

4. **"Essere al verde"** - Translating to "to be in the green," this expression signifies being broke or financially strapped, indicating financial hardship or instability.

5. **"Essere a posto come un pesciolino nell'acquario"** - Meaning "to be in place like a little fish in the aquarium," this expression describes feeling comfortable or at ease in a particular situation or environment.

6. **"Essere in gamba"** - Translating to "to be in the leg," this expression signifies being skilled, capable, or competent in one's work or profession.

7. **"Fare il poliziotto"** - Literally meaning "to play the policeman," this expression refers to enforcing rules or regulations in a strict or authoritarian manner, often without regard for context or flexibility.

8. **"Essere bravo come il pane"** - Meaning "to be as good as bread," this expression describes someone who is kind, generous, and reliable, akin to the essential role that bread plays in Italian cuisine and culture.

These Italian phraseological expressions offer insights into Italians' attitudes towards work, their perceptions of professionalism, and their use of language to convey notions of diligence, competence, and social status in the context of employment. They reflect the cultural values and social dynamics that shape Italian work culture, highlighting the

importance of hard work, integrity, and mutual respect in professional relationships and interactions.

7 EMOTIONS AND FEELINGS

Italian phraseological expressions related to emotions and feelings capture the nuances of human experience, including joy, sorrow, anger, and affection. These expressions employ metaphorical language and imagery to convey emotional states and psychological nuances. Here are some examples of Italian phraseological expressions categorized under the theme of emotions and feelings- Gobber, F. (2015):

1. **"Essere felice come una Pasqua"** - Translating to "to be as happy as Easter," this expression signifies extreme happiness or joy, drawing on the festive atmosphere and celebratory mood associated with the Easter holiday- Sobrero, A. (2006).

2. **"Piangere lacrime di cocodrillo"** - Meaning "to cry crocodile tears," this expression describes feigning sadness or insincere emotion, reminiscent of the image of a crocodile shedding tears while devouring its prey- Corino, E., et. al (2003).

3. **"Essere sulle nuvole"** - Translating to "to be on cloud nine," this expression describes feeling euphoric or elated, akin to the sensation of floating or being uplifted by positive emotions.

4. **"Essere in gamba"** - Literally translating to "to be in the leg," this expression signifies being skilled, capable, or competent, reflecting a sense of confidence and self-assurance in one's abilities.

5. **"Avere il cuore di pietra"** - Translating to "to have a heart of stone," this expression describes being cold, indifferent, or unfeeling, lacking compassion or empathy towards others.

6. **"Essere come un arcobaleno dopo la pioggia"** - Meaning "to be like a rainbow after the rain," this expression describes feeling hopeful or optimistic after a period of adversity or hardship.

7. **"Essere a pezzi"** - Translating to "to be in pieces," this expression describes feeling emotionally shattered or devastated, often as a result of grief, loss, or trauma.

8. "Essere preso dalla malinconia" - Meaning "to be consumed by melancholy," this expression describes feeling a deep sense of sadness, nostalgia, or longing, often accompanied by introspection or reflection.

These Italian phraseological expressions offer insights into the complexity and depth of human emotions, their cultural significance, and their expression through language. They reflect Italians' sensitivity to emotional nuances, their use of metaphorical language to articulate feelings, and their appreciation for the power of language to convey the richness of human experience.

8 CONCLUSION

The thematic classification of Italian phraseological expressions provides a comprehensive overview of the linguistic richness, cultural depth, and communicative versatility of the Italian language. Through the exploration of diverse themes such as family and relationships, food and cuisine, nature and environment, work and occupation, and emotions and feelings, we have gained valuable insights into the cultural values, social dynamics, and linguistic intricacies that characterize Italian idiomatic language- Crocco, C. (Ed.) (2018).

Italian phraseological expressions serve as windows into Italian culture, reflecting Italians' deep-rooted connection to their heritage, traditions, and environment. They encapsulate centuries of history, regional diversity, and societal norms, offering a nuanced perspective on Italian identity and social interactions. By categorizing Italian phraseological expressions based on their thematic content, we have uncovered the underlying patterns, cultural motifs, and linguistic nuances that shape Italian language usage.

Furthermore, the exploration of Italian phraseological expressions highlights the importance of context, imagery, and symbolism in conveying meaning and emotion in language. Italians' use of metaphorical language and vivid imagery reflects their sensitivity to the subtleties of human experience and their appreciation for the power of language to evoke emotions, memories, and sensations.

In conclusion, the thematic classification of Italian phraseological expressions enriches our understanding of Italian language and culture, offering a glimpse into the cultural heritage, social norms, and linguistic creativity that define Italian identity. These expressions serve as bridges between past and present, tradition and innovation, connecting

individuals across generations and geographical boundaries through the universal language of human experience. Through continued exploration and appreciation of Italian phraseology, we can deepen our appreciation for the beauty, complexity, and resilience of the Italian language and its role in shaping the cultural tapestry of Italy.

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