

## Networked constructions of antimafia resistance in a local Italian grammar

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**Context** – This contribution analyzes emerging constructions of Italian counterhegemonic discourse against the mafia, i.e. a counter-narrative in which a relative of an innocent 'Ndrangheta victim tells how a local community denounced acts of violence and symbolic intimidation (1993-2023). Typically, mafia organizations maintain social consensus over a territory by imposing a law of silence. The grammar of Italian civil Antimafia discourse largely remains unexplored (Sambre, 2017)

**Goals** – The main objective of the talk is to document and describe a local, fully contextualized Italian Antimafia grammar in a Southern Italian community, where social resistance was linguistically conceptualized between, well before the so-called San Luca Feud, which led to an increased visibility of the criminal organization outside of Italy (and the Italian language). This grammar emerged as a relative of a mafia victim transformed a private grieving process in a networked set of (public) actions and activities in Bovalino (close to San Luca), reconquering a social geography dominated by crime.

**Theoretical tenets** – Three notions are combined for systematizing this personal Italian Antimafia grammar: (1) the CDS model in CG (R. Langacker, 2008; R. W. Langacker, 2014), with a conceptualizing focus on the temporal unfolding and representation of past-present-future windowing of usage events, (2) intersubjective transitions between and structural connections between the narrator's first-person individual perspective in (past and ongoing) interactions with a vast array of (mafia and, particularly, Antimafia) social actors, such as perpetrators and other victims' relatives (Sambre, 2022), (3) Discourse Space Theory as a spatiotemporal framework (Chilton & Kopytowska, 2018) for understanding relevant spaces which, over time, between Bovalino and San Luca, are reclaimed spatially and/or symbolically by the Antimafia movement (Lanslots et al., 2020).

**Data** – We combine corpus linguistics into contextualized, embodied and materialized (ethnographic) field research, a rich cognitive semiotic and culturally relevant small-scale perspective (Sinha, 2021; Zlatev, 2010). The data are a 2 h in situ ethnographic video interview with Deborah Cartisano, the daughter of the last murdered victim of mafia kidnapping.

**(Expected) results** – We provide a set of predication-based constructions used by the interviewee where three grammatical levels of spatiotemporal and intersubjective construal coincide: (1a) a network of intersubjective positions in which the first-person perspective is extended towards a collective plural *we*, (1b) predicates for expressing antagonisms with perpetrators, (2) temporal constructs for connecting the present story-telling with (tragic) past events and, importantly, future effects of collective memory, (3) spatial positioning in the local geography and their formerly negative and current positive values for the community.

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