Abstract

This paper contains a preliminary corpus study of oxymorons, a figure of speech so far under-investigated in NLP-oriented research. The study resulted in a list of 376 oxymorons, identified by extracting a set of antonymous pairs (under various configurations) from corpora of written Italian and by manually checking the results. A complementary method is also envisaged for discovering contextual oxymorons, which are highly relevant for the detection of humor, irony and sarcasm.

1 Why oxymorons?

The growing body of research on figurative language in NLP has recently witnessed an expansion from more traditional domains (like idioms, metaphors, metonymy) to other ubiquitous phenomena such as irony, puns and sarcasm. However, other – supposedly more marginal – figures of speech have received less attention so far. The oxymoron is a case in point.

The oxymoron, which has been studied mainly in rhetoric and literature, is “[a] figure of speech in which a pair of opposed or markedly contradictory terms are placed in conjunction for emphasis”, although its meaning has expanded to comprise more generally “a contradiction in terms” (definitions from OED: www.oed.com). Typical examples of oxymorons would be deafening silence, sweet sorrow or awfully good.

The oxymoron is obviously closely intertwined with the semantic relation of antonymy: it is often the union of antonymous items that creates the oxymoron’s paradoxical effect, thus generating a new meaning, which often heavily depends on context. As Gibbs & Kearney (1994: 86) observe, “[u]nderstanding oxymora requires that people access relevant world knowledge to constrain their creative interpretations of seemingly contradictory concepts”.

In this paper, we set out a preliminary investigation of oxymorons based on naturally occurring data from Italian, with a view to contributing to the NLP-oriented research on figurative language by supplying an initial list of oxymorons and oxymoronic structures that can be used for further analyses and for evaluation tasks. The questions that drove our investigation are: What kind of oxymorons do we find in common language? What syntactic constructions are involved in their creation? And above all, how can we detect them in corpora?

In Section 2 we describe the methodology we used to detect oxymorons in corpora of contemporary written Italian. Although our study is based on Italian, the procedure we followed can easily be extended to other languages. In Section 3 we illustrate the main results of our analysis. The full list of oxymorons detected is available in the Appendix. Section 4 outlines another promising complementary methodology to be pursued in future research. Finally, Section 5 discusses possible further developments, with special attention to the challenges oxymorons pose for automatic identification and extraction.

2 Methodology

The procedure we devised to track down oxymorons in corpora of written Italian stems from the observation that these constructions are closely connected with antonymous pairs, which have been the subject of several studies based on their co-occurrence in texts (cf. e.g. Charles & Miller 1989; Justeson & Katz 1991; Lobanova 2012; Kostić 2017).
Our starting point was Jones’ (2002) analysis of English antonyms, which makes use of a list of canonical antonymous pairs to be searched in a corpus of texts from The Independent (approx. 280M words). We therefore translated Jones’ antonymous pairs into Italian and made a selection out of this set, driven mainly by the exclusion of predicative (e.g. confirm ~ deny) and adverbial (e.g. badly ~ well) couples.

This resulted in a list of 17 noun ~ noun antonymous pairs, displayed in Table 1.

| Italian antonymous pairs | English translation |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| amore ~ odio              | love ~ hate         |
| attività ~ passività      | activity ~ passivity|
| caldo ~ freddo            | hot ~ cold          |
| coraggio ~ paura          | bravery ~ fear       |
| distanza ~ vicinanza      | distance ~ proximity|
| dolcezza ~ amarezza       | sweetness ~ bitterness|
| felicità ~ infelicità     | happiness ~ unhappiness|
| giustizia ~ ingiustizia   | justice ~ injustice  |
| guerra ~ pace             | war ~ peace         |
| leggerezza ~ pesantezza   | lightness ~ heaviness|
| lentezza ~ velocità       | slowness ~ speed     |
| luce ~ buio               | light ~ dark         |
| realtà ~ irrealtà         | reality ~ unreality  |
| ricchezza ~ povertà       | wealth ~ poverty     |
| silenzio ~ rumore         | silence ~ noise      |
| vita ~ morte              | life ~ death         |
| vuoto ~ pieno             | emptiness ~ fullness |

Table 1: Starting list of Italian antonymous pairs.

Then we designed an inventory of potential oxymorons. All the constructed couples were searched, as lemmas, in two large corpora of contemporary written Italian: Italian Web 2016 (iTTenTen16, through the SketchEngine platform: https://www.sketchengine.eu/) and CORIS (2017 version; Rossini Favretti et al. 2002; http://corpora.ficlit.unibo.it/coris _eng.html). The results were manually checked.

The above-mentioned inventory of potential oxymorons was built in the following way.

First, we matched each noun of each pair (e.g. odio ‘hate’) with its antonym (amore ‘love’) in either adjectival (amoroso / amorevole ‘loving’) or verbal (amare ‘to love’) form. With this first round of extractions, we obtained combinations such as odio amoroso (lit. hate lovely) and amorevole odio (lit. lovely hate) ‘loving hate’, as well as l’amore odia ‘love hates’, although sequences containing verbs were quite uncommon. However, the search for lemma verbs retrieved also a number of participial forms used as adjectives (as in amore odiato ‘hated love’, where odiato is the past participle of odiare ‘to hate’).

Second, we added contrastive adjective ~ adverb pairs connected to the nouns in Table 1 (e.g. felicità ‘happiness’ ~ felice ‘happy’ > felicemente ‘happily’ + infelicità > infelice ‘unhappy’, gaining felicemente infelice ‘happily unhappy’).

In addition, to enrich data retrieval, we selected lexemes semantically related to the members of the antonymous pairs in Table 1 (synonyms, hyponyms, etc.) from the Grande Dizionario Analogico della Lingua Italiana (Simone 2010). This step was inspired by Shen’s (1987: 109) definition of indirect oxymoron, i.e. an oxymoron where “one of [the] two terms is not the direct antonym of the other, but rather the hyponym of its antonym” (like whistling silence, where whistling is a type of noise). Related lexemes were also searched in the two above-mentioned corpora. For the sake of exemplification, we illustrate some of these paradigmatic expansions for the following three antonymous pairs, for which we retrieved a considerable amount of data:

- caldo ~ freddo (hot ~ cold) → afa ‘stiffness’, calura ‘heat’, fuoco ‘fire’, fiamma ‘flame’ ~ gelo ‘frost’, ghiaccio ‘ice’, grandine ‘hail’, neve ‘snow’, pioggia ‘rain’;
- felicità ~ infelicità (happiness ~ unhappiness) → allegria ‘glee’, contentezza ‘cheer’, gaiezza ‘gaiety’, gioia ‘joy’ ~ afflizione ‘distress’, depressione ‘depression’, disperazione ‘despair’, dolore ‘pain’, sconforto ‘discouragement’, scontento ‘discontentment’, tristezza ‘sadness’;
- silenzio ~ rumore (silence ~ noise) → [silenzio only] ~ boato ‘rumble’, fracasso ‘racket’, fragore ‘clamour’, grido ‘shout’, ululato ‘howling’, urlo ‘scream’.

The final phase of the analysis implied the interrogation of the Sketch Engine Word Sketch tool, which describes the collocational behavior of words by showing the lexemes that most typically co-occur with them, within specific syntagmatic contexts, by using statistical association measures. In this case, we searched for all nouns participating in the antonymous pairs in Table 1 and we manually revised all top results provided the Word Sketch function (thus focusing on the most statistically significant combinations). Beside oxymorons that we had
already retrieved with the previous procedure (e.g. the very frequent *silenzio assordante* ‘deafening silence’), this method allowed us to identify new configurations, for instance sentential patterns where the two opposite nouns are linked by the copula *è* ‘is’ (e.g. *la luce è tenebra* ‘light is darkness’) or prepositional phrases where the two opposite nouns are linked by a preposition (e.g. *il fragore del silenzio* ‘the racket of silence’).

### 3 Results

The multiple-step procedure described in Section 2 resulted in a final list of 376 oxymorons, the first of its kind in Italian, to the best of our knowledge. The full dataset (*Italian oxymorons 1.0*) is provided in the Appendix and released as an Excel file through the University of Bologna Institutional Research Repository (AMSAActa):

http://amsacta.unibo.it/id/eprint/6388

Around 20% of the oxymorons were found in both corpora, whereas the vast majority (almost 80%) was retrieved in iTenTen16, which is much larger than CORIS (4.9 billion vs. 150 million words).

#### 3.1 Syntactic structure

We classified the 376 oxymorons according to their syntactic structure. A quantitative summary is given in Table 2, which reports, for each of the 9 structures we could identify, the number of oxymorons with that structure and the number of antonymous pairs that generate oxymorons with that structure.

| Syntactic structure | N. of oxymorons | N. of antonymous pairs |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| N A                 | 140             | 17                     |
| A N                 | 112             | 17                     |
| S                   | 52              | 11                     |
| Adv A               | 50              | 16                     |
| N Prep N            | 14              | 7                      |
| A A                 | 3               | 1                      |
| V V                 | 2               | 1                      |
| V A                 | 2               | 1                      |
| V Prep N            | 1               | 1                      |
| Total               | 376             | 17                     |

Table 2: Syntactic structures of oxymorons in our dataset.

As expected, the vast majority of the oxymorons in our dataset belongs to noun-adjective combinations, in both orders: [N A] (e.g. *silenzio urlante* ‘screaming silence’, *attività passive* ‘passive activities’) and [A N] (e.g. *raggiante oscurità* ‘glowing darkness’, *disperata felicità* ‘desperate happiness’). These are the only two structures that host oxymorons generated from all the 17 antonymous pairs in Table 1. In our data, [A N] sequences are quite numerous despite the fact that noun-adjective is the unmarked, neutral order in Italian. This may be linked to the fact that the prenominal position for Italian adjectives is generally associated with affect and emphasis (Ramaglia 2010), values that are highly compatible with the oxymoron as a rhetorical device. Several examples in these two classes display participial forms used in adjectival function, e.g. *fiamma bagnata* ‘wet flame’ ([N Prt]) or *infuocato gelo* ‘inflamed frost’ ([Prt N]). We found mostly past participles (see the aforementioned examples), but also a few present participles (e.g. *prossimità distanziante* ‘distancing proximity’).

The third most frequent structure in terms of number of oxymorons is Sentence (S). The examples belonging to this class emerged especially (though not entirely) through the exploration of the Word Sketch function (cf. Section 2). The antonymous nouns in our pairs were found both in copular sentences (e.g. *l’amore è odio* ‘love is hate’, *il silenzio è rumore* ‘the silence is noise’) and in subject-verb sentences (e.g. *il silenzio grida* ‘the silence screams’, *il buio illumina* ‘the dark illuminates (something)’). Some sentence-level oxymorons are borderline cases, since they could be argued to qualify as paradoxes rather than oxymorons (e.g. *il buio è luce* ‘the dark is the light’). We decided to keep them, since the divide between oxymorons and paradoxes is not so clear(-cut): as Flayih (2009) claims, the “oxymoron is sometimes taken as ‘condensed paradox’ and paradox as ‘expanded oxymoron’”.

We also retrieved a considerable number of adverbial oxymorons of the [Adv A] type (e.g. *allegramente depresso* ‘cheerfully depressed’, *luminosamente oscuro* ‘brightly dark’) – which is relevant also in terms of the number of antonymous pairs it represents (16 out of 17, cf. Table 2) – and some [N Prep N] oxymoronic expressions, such as *la tenebra della luce* ‘darkness of the light’. As for the latter category, all examples contain the
preposition di ‘of’, except for il silenzio nel rumore ‘the silence into the noise’, which contains in ‘in’.

Finally, we found other less common structures, such as [A A] (e.g. fredda calda ‘cold hot’), [V V] (where the second verb is a gerund, e.g. gridare tacendo ‘to shout being silent’), [V A] (e.g. urlare muto ‘to scream (staying) mute’), and [V Prep N] (e.g. urlare in silenzio ‘to scream in silence’).

3.2 Antonymous pairs

As for the antonymous pairs taken into consideration (Table 1), we observe a rather unequal distribution in our data in terms of their ability to create oxymorons. Some pairs – such as caldo ~ freddo (hot ~ cold), silenzio ~ rumore (silence ~ noise) or felicità ~ infelicità (happiness ~ unhappiness) – generate a high number of oxymoronic constructions, whereas others are definitely less exploited, like coraggio ~ paura (bravery ~ fear), guerra ~ pace (war ~ peace) or leggerezza ~ pesantezza (lightness ~ heaviness).

Overall, the pairs with the higher number of oxymorons are also those displaying a wider array of syntactic structures (Table 2), but the differences are not so great. All the pairs are represented by at least 3 structures (out of 9 possibilities).

The complete quantitative picture is given in Table 3, where antonymous pairs are reported in English translation (like in the Appendix) for convenience.

| Antonymous pair          | N. of oxymorons | N. of syntactic structures |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| hot-cold                 | 87              | 5                           |
| silence-noise            | 85              | 8                           |
| happiness-unhappiness    | 50              | 4                           |
| light-dark               | 30              | 5                           |
| distance-proximity       | 19              | 4                           |
| love-hate                | 18              | 5                           |
| life-death               | 13              | 4                           |
| reality-unreality        | 11              | 5                           |
| wealth-poverty           | 10              | 5                           |
| sweetness-bitterness     | 10              | 3                           |
| slowness-speed           | 9               | 3                           |
| bravery-fear             | 8               | 4                           |
| activity-passivity       | 7               | 3                           |
| justice-injustice        | 6               | 4                           |
| war-peace                | 5               | 4                           |
| emptiness-fullness       | 5               | 3                           |
| lightness-heaviness      | 3               | 3                           |
| **Total**                | **376**         | **9**                       |

Table 3: Number of oxymorons and syntactic structures per each antonymous pair.

At first glance there does not seem to be a strong and clear driving principle behind the unequal distribution of the pairs in terms of semantics. For instance, we find abstract concepts (e.g. happiness ~ unhappiness, justice ~ injustice) or sensorial concepts (e.g. hot ~ cold, lightness ~ heaviness) at various points of the list in Table 3. However, a more fine-grained semantic analysis and a larger dataset would be necessary to draw more solid conclusions.

Of course, the higher number of semantically related lexemes investigated for some pairs plays a clear role (cf. Section 2). Also the entrenchment of some notorious cases might be relevant. Take for instance silenzio assordante ‘deafening silence’, which occurs 2564 times in the iTenTen16 corpus (plus 1517 times in the reverse adjective-noun order: assordante silenzio). The high token frequency of this specific oxymoron may favor the creation of new oxymorons in the very same conceptual domain (silence ~ noise).

3.3 Morphosyntactic variability

Although the morphosyntactic variation of oxymorons is not the focus of the present study, we can preliminary observe that, according to the data we collected so far, oxymorons are rather flexible structures. In other words, contrary to many multiword expressions (cf., among many others, Sag et al. 2002), oxymorons seem to show a low degree of fixedness.

Many combinations of a noun and an adjective are attested in both orders, although with different frequency (remember that noun-adjective is more neutral than adjective-noun): see the couple silenzio assordante vs. assordante silenzio mentioned at the end of Section 3.2, or tenebra luminosa (9 tokens in iTenTen16) vs. luminosa tenebra (4 tokens in iTenTen16) ‘bright shadow’.

In [N Prep N] oxymorons, the second (non-head) noun may occur in both singular and plural (contrary to Italian multiword expressions belonging to the same pattern, where the non-head noun is morphologically fixed, cf. Masini 2009), although the singular form is generally preferred, e.g.: suono del silenzio ‘sound of the silence’ (380 tokens in iTenTen16) vs. suono dei silenzi ‘sound of the silences’ (7 tokens in iTenTen16).

As for sentential oxymorons, we often found different configurations for the same pair of items; for instance, silenzio ‘silence’ and rumore ‘noise’ are found as: il silenzio è un rumore (che...
‘silence is a noise (that…’), *il silenzio è rumore* ‘silence is noise’, *il silenzio è il rumore (di…)* ‘silence is the noise (of…)’ (all these variants are reported as a single entry – *il silenzio è rumore* ‘silence is noise’ – in the Appendix).

4 A complementary method

Another complementary technique to harvest oxymorons from corpora is, quite trivially, to search the word *ossimoro* ‘oxymoron’. We noticed that, when they come across or use (what they believe to be) an oxymoron, speakers tend to comment on it metalinguistically, as in: *una guerra santa* (grandissimo *ossimoro*) ‘a holy war (huge oxymoron)’ (from CORIS). This behavior allows to detect oxymorons which would probably be missed otherwise.

To test this method we searched the string ['*ossimoro*:*'] in CORIS (retrieving 223 hits). Upon preliminary manual checking, we found a number of valid oxymorons. A few were already included in our list, like *tenebra luminosissima* ‘very bright shadow’ (cf. *tenebra luminosa* ‘bright shadow’ in the Appendix). Another few were examples, related to one of the antonymous pairs we considered (cf. Table 1), which were not retrieved by our method, like *boato di silenzio* ‘roar of silence’ (belonging to the *silenzio ~ rumore* ‘silence ~ noise’ pair).

Most cases, however, were completely new oxymorons. Some could have been ideally identified with our method based on antonymous pairs (e.g. *normalmente eccezionali* ‘normally exceptional’, *piangendo rido* ‘I laugh crying’, *caoticamente ordinate* ‘chaoticity tidy’), but many others turned out to be hardly foreseeable and heavily dependent on context and on the speaker’s beliefs and communicative intentions. Take for instance: *A Cala del Faro, villaggio superchic di Porto Cervo, l’ultimo business è un ossimoro applicato al calcio: il ritiro mondano* ‘In Cala del Faro, a superchic village at Porto Cervo, the last business is an oxymoron applied to football: the social training camp’, where the writer emphasizes the contradiction in hosting a *ritiro* ‘training camp’ (lit. retirement) in such a posh and social place like Porto Cervo. Or: *vi attendono minacce decine di ristoranti tibetani, praticamente un ossimoro* […] non essendo propriamente gli altopiani tibetani un paradiso dell’enogastronomia* ‘[there] tens of threatening Tibetan restaurants are waiting for you, basically an oxymoron […] since Tibetan uplands are not exactly the paradise of food and wine’, where the writer’s bad opinion about Tibetan food and wine is ironically expressed.

Therefore, this method might be especially promising for identifying creative, highly contextual oxymorons. In this respect, social media platforms are definitely one of the sources to be used for this kind of research, which we leave for future studies.

5 Future challenges

This short paper illustrates the results of an investigation aimed at tracking down oxymoronic constructions in corpora of written Italian. Far from being exhaustive, this is just a preliminary attempt, resulting in an initial list of 376 oxymorons that needs to be enriched.

On the one hand, this enrichment may be pursued by adding more antonymous pairs under the current approach, which however heavily relies on manual work at various stages and would benefit from a higher degree of automation.

On the other hand, different methods should be devised and tested for the (we suspect) wide set of oxymorons that cannot be traced back to antonymous pairs. For instance, some oxymorons actually contain synonymous or even identical elements, within specific structures, such as *suoni senza suono* ‘sounds without sound’ (retrieved from iTenTen16). More interestingly, as Gibbs (1993: 269) observes, “oxymora are frequently found in everyday speech, many of them barely noticed as such, for example, ‘intense apathy,’ ‘internal exile,’ ‘man child,’ ‘loyal opposition,’ ‘plastic glasses,’ ‘guest host,’ and so on. The ubiquity of these figures suggests some underlying ability to conceive of ideas, objects, and events in oxymoronic terms.” But – we add – it also suggests that the detection of these tropes is yet another challenge for automatic extraction, especially considering that some are heavily contextual.

Moreover, many oxymorons are “jocular”, as Horn (2018) observes, mentioning cases such as *military intelligence, congressional ethics, airplane food and open secrets*. Given this, a deeper investigation of oxymorons looks even more desirable. Beside advancing our knowledge of figurative language in general, it would have clear benefits for other mainstream challenges in NLP, like the detection of humor, irony and sarcasm.
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A Appendix: Italian oxymorons 1.0

This Appendix contains the lemmatized version of the 376 oxymorons we retrieved, ordered by “Antonymous pair” (the pairs appear in their English translation). As for sentential oxymorons displaying variants (cf. Section 3.3), we chose to report a single version as representative of all variants, for the sake of simplicity.

| Italian oxymoron | English translation | Structure | Antonymous pair | Corpus |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------------|--------|
| attiva passività | active passivity    | A N       | activity-passivity | rtTenTen16 |
| attivamente passivo | actively passive | Adv A       | activity-passivity | rtTenTen16 |
| attiva inattiva | inactive activity | N A       | activity-passivity | rtTenTen16 |
| attività passiva | passive activity   | N A       | activity-passivity | rtTenTen16 |
| passiva attività | passive activity   | A N       | activity-passivity | rtTenTen16 |
| passivamente attivo | passively active | Adv A       | activity-passivity | rtTenTen16 |
| passività attiva | active passivity   | N A       | activity-passivity | rtTenTen16 |
| coraggiosa paura | brave fear         | A N       | bravery-fear     | rtTenTen16 |
| coraggiosamente pauroso | bravely scared | Adv A       | bravery-fear     | rtTenTen16 |
| coraggiosamente vile | bravely coward | Adv A       | bravery-fear     | rtTenTen16 |
| il coraggio della paura | the bravery of fear | the bravery of fear | bravery-fear | rtTenTen16 |
| paura impuida | fearless fear      | N A       | bravery-fear     | CORIS |
| pauroso coraggio | fearful bravery    | A N       | bravery-fear     | CORIS |
| vile coraggio | cowardly bravery   | A N       | bravery-fear     | rtTenTen16 |
| distante vicinanza | far proximity    | A N       | distance-proximity | rtTenTen16 |
| vicinanza distante | far closeness     | A N       | distance-proximity | rtTenTen16 |
| vicinanza distante | near distance     | N A       | distance-proximity | rtTenTen16 |
| lontana vicinanza | distant proximity | A N       | distance-proximity | rtTenTen16 |
| vicinanza lontana | remotely close    | Adv A       | distance-proximity | rtTenTen16 |
| vicinanza lontana | near distance    | N A       | distance-proximity | rtTenTen16 |
| lontana vicinanza | far proximity     | A N       | distance-proximity | rtTenTen16 |
| lontana vicinanza | remotely close    | Adv A       | distance-proximity | rtTenTen16 |
| vicinanza lontana | near distance    | N A       | distance-proximity | rtTenTen16 |
| vicinanza lontana | remotely close    | Adv A       | distance-proximity | rtTenTen16 |

Notes:
- “Distance” and “Proximity” are not defined in the same way in the two corpora.
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vicina distanza near distance A N distance-proximity CORIS + itTenTen16
vicina lontananza near distance A N distance-proximity itTenTen16
vicinanza disperata far proximity A N distance-proximity CORIS + itTenTen16
vicinanza lontana distant proximity A N distance-proximity itTenTen16
vicinanza remota remote proximity A N distance-proximity CORIS + itTenTen16
il vuoto riempie the void fills (sb) up S emptiness-fulness CORIS + itTenTen16
pienamente svuotato fully emptied Adv A emptiness-fulness itTenTen16
pieno vuoto full void A N emptiness-fulness itTenTen16
vuoto colmo full void A N emptiness-fulness CORIS + itTenTen16
addolorata contenziosità sorrowful gladness A N happiness-unhappiness itTenTen16
allegria depressione merry despair A N happiness-unhappiness itTenTen16
allegria disposizione merry despair A N happiness-unhappiness itTenTen16
allegria infelicità merry unhappiness A N happiness-unhappiness itTenTen16
allegria tristezza merry sadness A N happiness-unhappiness itTenTen16
allegriamente disperato cheerfully thoroughly despair Adv A happiness-unhappiness itTenTen16
allegriamente triste cheerfully sad A N happiness-unhappiness itTenTen16
allegria disperata desperate glee A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
allegria scontenta displeased glee A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
allegria triste sad glee A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
capa felicità gloomy happiness A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
disperata allegria desperate glee A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
disperata felicità desperate happiness A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
disperata gioia desperate joy A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
disperament e allegro desperately merry A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
disperament e contento desperately glad Adv A happiness-unhappiness itTenTen16
disperament e felice desperately happy Adv A happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
disperament e gioioso desperately joyfully Adv A happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
disperazione allegria merry despair A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
dolore gioioso joyful pain A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
felice disperazione happy despair A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
felice infelicità happy unhappiness A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
felice tristeza happy sadness A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
felicemente infelice happily unhappy Adv A happiness-unhappiness itTenTen16
felicemente triste happily sad Adv A happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
dolente disperata desperate unhappiness A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
felicità tristeza sad unhappiness A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
gaza disperazione cheerful despair A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
gaza tristeza cheerful sadness A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
galemente infelice gaily unhappy Adv A happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
gioia cupa gloomy joy A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
gioia disperata desperate joy A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
sconsolata sorrowful joy A N happiness-unhappiness itTenTen16
sconsolata triste sad joy A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
sconsolata disposizione joyfully despairing Adv A happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
sconsolata tristezza joyfully sadness A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
sosassamente disperato joyfully thoroughly despair S happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
tallegria (lo) fa triste cheerful makes (sb) sad S happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
la gioia è dolore joy is pain S happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
la tristezza (lo) fa allegro sadness makes (sb) merry S happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
sconsolata allegria sorrowful cheerfulness A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
triste allegria sad cheerfulness A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
triste contentezza sad gladness A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
triste felicità sad happiness A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
triste gaezaa sad gauzy A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
triste gioia sad joy A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
tristezza allegra merry sadness A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
tristezza felice happy sadness A N happiness-unhappiness CORIS + itTenTen16
acqua ignea igneous water A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
acqua fuoco fiery water A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
ardente ghioccio burning ice A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
ardente picogia blazing rain A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
calda warm coldness A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
calda fredda hot cold A A hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
calda neve hot snow A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
caldo freddo hot cold A A hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
caldo fresco cool hot A A hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
caldo gelido cold hot A A hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
caldo gelo hot frost A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
caldo ghiazzo hot ice A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
calore freddo cold warmth A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
calore gelido icy warmth A A hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
calore ghiacciato frozen warmth A A hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
calorosamente freddo warmly cold Adv A hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
cocente freddo searing cold A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
fiamma baganata hot flame A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
fiamma congelata frozen flame A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
fiamma fredda cold flame A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
fiamma fredda + CORIS + itTenTen16
fiamma fresca cool flame A A hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
fiamma gelida freezing flame A A hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
fiamma glaciale cold flame A A hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
fredda calda cold hot A A hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
fredda fiamma cold flame A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
freddezza calda warm coldness A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
freddo calore cold warmth A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
freddo calorese warm cold A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
freddo fuoco cold fire A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
freddo incandescente searing cold A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
freddo torrido scorching cold A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
fresca calura cool heat A N hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
fresca fiamma cool flame A A hot-cold CORIS + itTenTen16
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| Italian Phrase                     | English Phrase                     | Part of Speech | Frequency |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| "pioggia rovente"                 | "scorching rain"                  | N              | 1         |
| "fuoco ardente"                   | "burning fire"                    | N              | 2         |
| "ghiaccio"                        | "ice"                             | N              | 3         |
| "luce (o)scura"                   | "dark light"                      | S              | 4         |

**Note:** The frequency column indicates the number of times each phrase appears in the document. The part of speech column indicates whether the phrase is a noun (N), a verb (V), an adjective (A), or another part of speech (X).
tenebra bacente glossy shadow N A light-dark itTenTen16
tenebra luminosa bright shadow N A light-dark CORIS + itTenTen16
leggerrezza presenza heavy lightness presence N A lightness-heaviness CORIS + itTenTen16
leggermente pesante lightly heavy Adv A lightness-heaviness CORIS + itTenTen16
pesante leggerrezza heavy lightness N A lightness-heaviness CORIS + itTenTen16
amore odiato hated love N A love-hate itTenTen16
amore odioso hateful love N A love-hate itTenTen16
amorevolmente odio lovely hateful Adv A love-hate CORIS + itTenTen16
odio amore awful love N A love-hate CORIS + itTenTen16
l'amore desunto love despises S love-hate itTenTen16
l'amore è odio love is hate S love-hate itTenTen16
l'amore odia love hates S love-hate itTenTen16
la realtà dell'amore hated of love N Prep N love-hate itTenTen16
l'odio amoroso lief hate is S love-hate itTenTen16
l'odio amatissimo loved hate A N love-hate itTenTen16
odio amoroso loving hate N A love-hate itTenTen16
odio amarevolmente hateful lovely Adv A love-hate itTenTen16
odiare odio hateful love A N love-hate itTenTen16
ti amo, odio mio I love you, my hate S love-hate itTenTen16
il odio, amore mio I hate you, my love S love-hate itTenTen16
irreale realtà unreal reality A N reality-unreality CORIS + itTenTen16
irrealmente reale unreal reality Adv A reality-unreality itTenTen16
irrealtà reale real unreality N A reality-unreality itTenTen16
il silenzio è realtà presence is reality S reality-unreality itTenTen16
la realtà della realtà the unreality of reality N Prep N reality-unreality itTenTen16
la realtà è realtà reality is reality S reality-unreality itTenTen16
la realtà è illusione reality is an illusion S reality-unreality itTenTen16
la realtà è un sogno reality is a dream S reality-unreality itTenTen16
realmente irrealmente real unreality A N reality-unreality itTenTen16
realmente irréelle really unreal Adv A reality-unreality itTenTen16
realmente irrealmente unreal reality A N reality-unreality CORIS + itTenTen16
assordante silenzio deafening silence A N silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
ringhiante silenzio whispering silence A N silence-noise itTenTen16
frusciante muto mute thunder N A silence-noise itTenTen16
eloquentemente mute eloquent silence N A silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
eloquentemente silenzioso eloquently quiet Adv A silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
frusciante muto mure racket N A silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
frusciante muto mucked racket N A silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
frustrasiamente silenzioso loudly silent Adv A silence-noise itTenTen16
frustrasiamente silenzioso noisy silence A N silence-noise itTenTen16
gridre silenzio to shout silences S silence-noise itTenTen16
to shout being silent V V silence-noise itTenTen16
grido muto mute shout N A silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
grido silente silent shout N A silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
grido silenzioso quiet shout N A silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
grido taciturno silenced shout N A silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
il fragore del silenzio the racket of silence N Prep N silence-noise itTenTen16
il grido del silenzio the shout of silence N Prep N silence-noise itTenTen16
il rumore del silenzio the noise of silence N Prep N silence-noise itTenTen16
il silenzio del rumore silence is a cry S silence-noise itTenTen16
il silenzio è un urlo silence is a shout S silence-noise itTenTen16
il silenzio è una voce silence is a voice S silence-noise itTenTen16
il silenzio grida silence screams S silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
il silenzio mormora silence mumbles S silence-noise itTenTen16
il silenzio nel rumore the silence into the noise N Prep N silence-noise itTenTen16
il silenzio parla silence speaks S silence-noise itTenTen16
il silenzio risuona silence resounds S silence-noise itTenTen16
il silenzio urla silence cries S silence-noise itTenTen16
il suono del silenzio the sound of silence N Prep N silence-noise itTenTen16
l'urlo del silenzio the scream of silence N Prep N silence-noise itTenTen16
mormorante silenzio murmuring silence A N silence-noise itTenTen16
mutatamente eloquente dumbly eloquent Adv A silence-noise itTenTen16
muto fragore mute racket A N silence-noise itTenTen16
muto grido mute shout A N silence-noise itTenTen16
muto suono mute sound A N silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
muto urlato mute howling A N silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
muto urlo mute cry A N silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
rumore muto mute noise A N silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
rumore silenzioso quiet noise N A silence-noise itTenTen16
rumorscattante silenzioso noiseless silence N A silence-noise itTenTen16
rumorscattamente silenzioso noiseless silence Adv A silence-noise itTenTen16
rumorscattamento silenzioso noiseless silence Adv A silence-noise itTenTen16
ruminosamente zitto noiseless silence Adv A silence-noise itTenTen16
rumoroso silenzio loud silence A N silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
silenzio assordante deafening silence N A silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
silenzio bisbigliante whispering silence N A silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
silenzio eloquente eloquent silence N A silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
silenzio fragoroso fragorous silence N A silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
silenzio gridato shouted silence N A silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
silenzio mormorato murmured silence N A silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
silenzio parlato spoken silence N A silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
silenzio rumore parlando noisy silence A N silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
silenzio soffocante resounding silence N A silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
silenzio urulante screaming silence N A silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
silenzio urlato screamed silence N A silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
silenziosamen te assordante quietly deafening Adv A silence-noise itTenTen16
silenziosamente eloquent Adv A silence-noise itTenTen16
silenziosamen te urlato quietly noisy Adv A silence-noise CORIS + itTenTen16
| English                     | Italian                      | Part of Speech | Italian Spellings               | English Spellings               |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| silent racket               | silenzioso fricasso          | N              | silenzioso fricasso              | silent racket                   |
| silent racket               | silenzioso fragore           | N              | silenzioso fragore               | silent racket                   |
| silent shout                | silenzioso grido             | N              | silenzioso grido                 | silent shout                    |
| silent noise                | silenzioso rumore            | N              | silenzioso rumore                | silent noise                    |
| silent sound                | silenzioso urlo              | N              | silenzioso urlo                  | silent sound                    |
| mute sound                  | silenzioso suono             | N              | silenzioso suono                 | mute sound                      |
| tacito                      | silenzioso tacito            | N              | silenzioso tacito                | tacito                           |
| tacitly eloquent            | tacito grido                 | N              | tacito grido                     | tacitly eloquent                |
| to scream                   | urlo silenzio                | V              | urlo silenzio                    | to scream                       |
| to a silence                | urlo silenzio                | V              | urlo silenzio                    | to a silence                     |
| quick calmin                | calma veloce                 | N              | calma veloce                     | quick calmin                    |
| slow speed                  | lenta celerità               | N              | lenta celerità                   | slow speed                      |
| slow speed                  | lenta rapidità               | N              | lenta rapidità                   | slow speed                      |
| slowly fast                 | lentamente veloce            | Adv            | lentamente veloce                | slowly fast                     |
| fast slowness               | lentezza rapida              | Adv            | lentezza rapida                  | fast slowness                   |
| speedy slowness             | rapida lentezza              | Adv            | rapida lentezza                  | speedy slowness                 |
| quick calmin                | veloco calima                | N              | veloco calima                    | quick calmin                    |
| fast slowness               | veloco lentezza              | N              | veloco lentezza                  | fast slowness                   |
| quickly slow                | velocevemente lento          | Adv            | velocevemente lento              | quickly slow                    |
| acrid sweetness             | acre dolcezza                | N              | acre dolcezza                    | acrid sweetness                 |
| bitter sweetness            | amara dolcezza               | N              | amara dolcezza                   | bitter sweetness                |
| bitter sweetness            | amaramente dolce            | Adv            | amaramente dolce                | bitter sweetness                |
| sour sweetness              | aspra dolcezza               | N              | aspra dolcezza                   | sour sweetness                  |
| sweet bitterness            | dolce amarezza               | N              | dolce amarezza                   | sweet bitterness                |
| sweetly acid                | dolcecentro acid             | Adv            | dolcecentro acid                 | sweetly acid                    |
| sweetly bitter              | dolcemente amaro             | Adv            | dolcemente amaro                 | sweetly bitter                  |
| sweetly sour                | dolcemente aspra             | Adv            | dolcemente aspra                 | sweetly sour                    |
| bitter sweetness            | dolcezza amara               | N              | dolcezza amara                   | bitter sweetness                |
| sour sweetness              | dolcezza aspra               | N              | dolcezza aspra                   | sour sweetness                  |
| peacefull war               | guerra pacifica              | N              | guerra pacifica                  | peacefull war                   |
| war peace                   | inoffensiva guerra           | N              | inoffensiva guerra               | war peace                       |
| war is peace                | la guerra e pace             | S              | la guerra e pace                 | war is peace                     |
| peace is war                | pacifica guerra              | A N            | pacifica guerra                  | peace is war                    |
| peaceful war                | la povertà amezza            | S              | la povertà amezza                | peaceful war                    |
| enriches                    | la povertà è verme            | S              | la povertà è verme               | enriches                        |
| is a wealth                  | la povertà è verme            | S              | la povertà è verme               | is a wealth                      |
| the wealth of poverty       | la povertà è verme            | N Prep N       | la povertà è verme               | the wealth of poverty            |
| wealth pessimizes            | la povertà è verme            | S              | la povertà è verme               | wealth pessimizes                |
| poor wealth                  | povera ricca                 | A N            | povera ricca                     | poor wealth                      |
| richly poor                  | ricca poverta                | A N            | ricca poverta                    | richly poor                      |
| pauperly poor                | riscamale povero             | Adv            | riscamale povero                 | pauperly poor                    |
| poor wealth                  | riscamale povero             | Adv            | riscamale povero                 | poor wealth                      |
| poor wealth                  | riscamale povero             | Adv            | riscamale povero                 | poor wealth                      |
| wealth poverty               | riscamale povero             | Adv            | riscamale povero                 | wealth poverty                   |
| wellness poverty             | riscamale povero             | Adv            | riscamale povero                 | wellness poverty                 |