Oxymorons: a preliminary corpus investigation

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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* 'stuffiness', *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 (AMSActa):

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 itTenTen16, 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 itTenTen16 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 itTenTen16) vs. *luminosa tenebra* (4 tokens in itTenTen16) '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 itTenTen16) vs. *suono dei silenzi* 'sound of the silences' (7 tokens in itTenTen16).

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 [.*ossimor.*] 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* 'chaotically 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 voguish and social place like Porto Cervo. Or: *vi attendono minacciosi 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 itTenTen16). 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	itTenTen16
attivamente passivo	actively passive	Adv A	activity-passivity	itTenTen16
attività inattiva	inactive activity	N A	activity-passivity	itTenTen16
attività passiva	passive activity	N A	activity-passivity	CORIS + itTenTen16
passiva attività	passive activity	A N	activity-passivity	itTenTen16
passivamente attivo	passively active	Adv A	activity-passivity	itTenTen16
passività attiva	active passivity	N A	activity-passivity	CORIS + itTenTen16
coraggiosa paura	brave fear	A N	bravery-fear	itTenTen16
coraggiosamente pauroso	bravely scared	Adv A	bravery-fear	itTenTen16
coraggiosamente vigliacco	bravely coward	Adv A	bravery-fear	itTenTen16
coraggiosamente vile	bravely cowardly	Adv A	bravery-fear	itTenTen16
il coraggio della paura	the bravery of fear	N Prep N	bravery-fear	itTenTen16
paura impavida	fearless fear	N A	bravery-fear	CORIS
pauroso coraggio	fearful bravery	A N	bravery-fear	CORIS
vile coraggio	cowardly bravery	A N	bravery-fear	itTenTen16
distante prossimità	far proximity	A N	distance-proximity	itTenTen16
distante vicinanza	far closeness	A N	distance-proximity	itTenTen16
distanza vicina	near distance	N A	distance-proximity	itTenTen16
la distanza avvicina	distance brings (sth) closer	S	distance-proximity	itTenTen16
la lontananza avvicina	distance brings (sth) closer	S	distance-proximity	itTenTen16
la vicinanza allontana	proximity pulls (sth) away	S	distance-proximity	itTenTen16
lontana vicinanza	distant proximity	A N	distance-proximity	itTenTen16
lontanamente vicino	remotely close	Adv A	distance-proximity	itTenTen16
lontananza vicina	near distance	N A	distance-proximity	itTenTen16
prossimità distante	far proximity	N A	distance-proximity	itTenTen16
prossimità distanziante	distancing proximity	N A	distance-proximity	itTenTen16
prossimità lontana	far proximity	N A	distance-proximity	itTenTen16
prossimità remota	distant proximity	N A	distance-proximity	itTenTen16
remota prossimità	distant proximity	A N	distance-proximity	itTenTen16

Italian	English	POS	Category	Source
vicina distanza	near distance	A N	distance-proximity	CORIS + itTenTen16
vicina lontananza	near distance	A N	distance-proximity	itTenTen16
vicinanza distante	far proximity	N A	distance-proximity	itTenTen16
vicinanza lontana	distant proximity	N A	distance-proximity	itTenTen16
vicinanza remota	remote proximity	N A	distance-proximity	CORIS
il vuoto riempie	the void fills (sth) up	S	emptiness-fullness	CORIS + itTenTen16
pienamente svuotato	fully emptied	Adv A	emptiness-fullness	itTenTen16
pieno vuoto	full void	A N	emptiness-fullness	itTenTen16
vuoto colmo	full void	N A	emptiness-fullness	itTenTen16
vuoto pieno	full void	N A	emptiness-fullness	CORIS + itTenTen16
addolorata contentezza	sorrowful gladness	A N	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
allegra depressione	merry depression	A N	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
allegra disperazione	merry despair	A N	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
allegra infelicità	merry unhappiness	A N	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
allegra tristezza	merry sadness	A N	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
allegramente depresso	cheerfully depressed	Adv A	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
allegramente disperato	cheerfully desperate	Adv A	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
allegramente triste	cheerfully sad	Adv A	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
allegria disperata	desperate glee	N A	happiness-unhappiness	CORIS + itTenTen16
allegria scontenta	displeased glee	N A	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
allegria triste	sad glee	N A	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
cupa 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	itTenTen16
disperata gioia	desperate joy	A N	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
disperatamente allegro	desperately merry	Adv A	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
disperatamente contento	desperately glad	Adv A	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
disperatamente felice	desperately happy	Adv A	happiness-unhappiness	CORIS + itTenTen16
disperatamente gioioso	desperately joyful	Adv A	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
disperazione allegra	merry despair	N A	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
dolore gioioso	joyful pain	N A	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
felice disperazione	happy despair	A N	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
felice infelicità	happy unhappiness	A N	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
felice tristezza	happy sadness	A N	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
felicemente infelice	happily unhappy	Adv A	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
felicemente triste	happily sad	Adv A	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
felicità disperata	desperate happiness	N A	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
felicità triste	sad happiness	N A	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
gaia disperazione	cheerful despair	A N	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
gaia tristezza	cheerful sadness	A N	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
gaiamente infelice	gaily unhappy	Adv A	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
gioia cupa	gloomy joy	N A	happiness-unhappiness	CORIS + itTenTen16
gioia disperata	desperate joy	N A	happiness-unhappiness	CORIS + itTenTen16
gioia sconsolata	sorrowful joy	N A	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
gioia triste	sad joy	N A	happiness-unhappiness	CORIS + itTenTen16
gioiosa disperazione	joyful despair	A N	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
gioiosa tristezza	joyful sadness	A N	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
gioiosamente disperato	joyously desperate	Adv A	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
infelice felicità	unhappy happiness	A N	happiness-unhappiness	CORIS + itTenTen16
l'allegria (lo) fa triste	cheerfulness makes (sb) sad	S	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
la gioia è dolore	joy is pain	S	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
la tristezza (lo) fa allegro	sadness makes (sb) merry	S	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
sconsolata allegria	sorrowful cheerfulness	A N	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
triste allegria	sad cheerfulness	A N	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
triste contentezza	sad gladness	A N	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
triste felicità	sad happiness	A N	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
triste gaiezza	sad gaiety	A N	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
triste gioia	sad joy	A N	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
tristezza allegra	merry sadness	N A	happiness-unhappiness	itTenTen16
tristezza felice	happy sadness	N A	happiness-unhappiness	CORIS + itTenTen16
acqua ignea	igneous water	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
acquoso fuoco	watery fire	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16
ardente ghiaccio	burning ice	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16
ardente pioggia	blazing rain	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16
calda freddezza	warm coldness	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16
calda fresca	hot cold	A A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
calda neve	hot snow	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16
caldo freddo	hot cold	A N	hot-cold	CORIS + itTenTen16
caldo fresco	cool hot	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
caldo gelido	gelid hot	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
caldo gelo	hot frost	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16
caldo ghiaccio	hot ice	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16
calore freddo	cold warmth	N A	hot-cold	CORIS + itTenTen16
calore gelido	icy warmth	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
calore ghiacciato	frozen warmth	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
calorosamente freddo	warmly cold	Adv A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
cocente freddo	searing cold	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16
fiamma bagnata	wet flame	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
fiamma congelata	frozen flame	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
fiamma fredda	cold flame	N A	hot-cold	CORIS + itTenTen16
fiamma fresca	cool flame	N A	hot-cold	CORIS + itTenTen16
fiamma gelida	freezing flame	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
fiamma glaciale	glacial flame	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
fredda calda	cold hot	A A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
fredda fiamma	cold flame	A N	hot-cold	CORIS + itTenTen16
freddezza calda	warm coldness	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
freddo bollente	scalding cold	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
freddo calore	cold warmth	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16
freddo caloroso	warm cold	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
freddo fuoco	cold fire	A N	hot-cold	CORIS + itTenTen16
freddo incandescente	searing cold	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
freddo torrido	scorching cold	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
fresca calura	cool heat	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16
fresca fiamma	cool flame	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16

Italian	English	Type	Category	Source
fresco caldo	cool hot	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16
fresco calore	cool warmth	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16
fresco fuoco	cool fire	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16
fuoco acquoso	watery fire	N A	hot-cold	CORIS + itTenTen16
fuoco algido	cold fire	N A	hot-cold	CORIS + itTenTen16
fuoco congelato	frozen fire	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
fuoco freddo	cold fire	N A	hot-cold	CORIS + itTenTen16
fuoco fresco	cool fire	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
fuoco gelato	frozen fire	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
fuoco gelido	icy fire	N A	hot-cold	CORIS + itTenTen16
fuoco ghiacciato	icy fire	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
gelida fiamma	freezing flame	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16
gelido caldo	gelid hot	A A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
gelido calore	icy warmth	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16
gelido fuoco	icy fire	A N	hot-cold	CORIS + itTenTen16
gelo ardente	burning frost	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
gelo bruciante	burning frost	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
ghiaccio acceso	burning ice	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
ghiaccio ardente	burning ice	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
ghiaccio bollente	steaming ice	N A	hot-cold	CORIS + itTenTen16
ghiaccio caldo	hot ice	N A	hot-cold	CORIS + itTenTen16
ghiaccio cocente	searing ice	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
ghiaccio fiammeggiante	flaming ice	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
ghiaccio incandescente	incandescent ice	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
ghiaccio infuocato	inflamed ice	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
ghiaccio rovente	scorching ice	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
glaciale calore	glacial warmth	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16
glaciale fiamma	glacial flame	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16
grandine incandescente	incandescent hail	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
grandine rovente	scorching hail	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
il fuoco bagna	fire wets (sth)	S	hot-cold	CORIS + itTenTen16
il fuoco raffredda	fire chills (sth)	S	hot-cold	itTenTen16
il gelo infiamma	frost sets fire	S	hot-cold	itTenTen16
il ghiaccio brucia	ice burns	S	hot-cold	itTenTen16
infuocato gelo	inflamed frost	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16
infuocato ghiaccio	inflamed ice	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16
la fiamma bagna	flame wets	S	hot-cold	itTenTen16
la fiamma gela	flame freezes	S	hot-cold	itTenTen16
la neve brucia	the snow burns	S	hot-cold	itTenTen16
la pioggia infiamma	the rain sets fire	S	hot-cold	itTenTen16
neve ardente	burning snow	N A	hot-cold	CORIS + itTenTen16
neve bollente	steaming snow	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
neve calda	hot snow	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
neve incandescente	incandescent snow	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
neve infuocata	inflamed snow	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
pioggia ardente	blazing rain	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
pioggia bollente	steaming rain	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
pioggia bruciante	burning rain	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
pioggia incandescente	incandescent rain	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
pioggia infiammata	burning rain	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
pioggia infuocata	inflamed rain	N A	hot-cold	CORIS + itTenTen16
pioggia rovente	scorching rain	N A	hot-cold	itTenTen16
rovente ghiaccio	scorching ice	A N	hot-cold	itTenTen16
giusta ingiustizia	just injustice	A N	justice-injustice	itTenTen16
giustamente ingiusto	justly unjust	Adv A	justice-injustice	itTenTen16
giustizia ingiusta	unjust justice	N A	justice-injustice	CORIS + itTenTen16
ingiusta giustizia	unjust justice	A N	justice-injustice	CORIS + itTenTen16
ingiustizia giusta	just unjustice	N A	justice-injustice	itTenTen16
l'ingiustizia della giustizia	the injustice of justice	N Prep N	justice-injustice	itTenTen16
la morte è vita	death is life	S	life-death	itTenTen16
la morte vive	death lives	S	life-death	itTenTen16
la vita è morte	life is death	S	life-death	itTenTen16
mortalmente vivo	mortally alive	Adv A	life-death	itTenTen16
morte vitale	vital death	N A	life-death	itTenTen16
morte viva	living death	N A	life-death	CORIS + itTenTen16
morte vivente	living death	N A	life-death	CORIS + itTenTen16
morto vivente	living dead	N A	life-death	CORIS + itTenTen16
morto vivo	living dead	N A	life-death	CORIS + itTenTen16
vita morta	dead life	N A	life-death	itTenTen16
vitale morte	vital death	A N	life-death	itTenTen16
viva morte	living death	A N	life-death	CORIS + itTenTen16
vivente morte	living death	A N	life-death	itTenTen16
buia luce	dark light	A N	light-dark	CORIS + itTenTen16
buio chiarore	dark gleam	A N	light-dark	itTenTen16
buio lucente	shining dark	N A	light-dark	itTenTen16
buio luminoso	bright dark	N A	light-dark	CORIS + itTenTen16
chiaramente (o)scuro	brightly dark	Adv A	light-dark	itTenTen16
chiaramente buio	clearly dark	Adv A	light-dark	itTenTen16
chiarore scuro	dark gleam	N A	light-dark	itTenTen16
il buio è luce	dark is light	S	light-dark	itTenTen16
il buio illumina	the dark illuminates (sth)	S	light-dark	itTenTen16
l'oscurità della luce	the darkness of the light	N Prep N	light-dark	itTenTen16
l'oscurità illumina	darkness illuminates (sth)	S	light-dark	itTenTen16
la luce è ombra	light is shadow	S	light-dark	itTenTen16
la luce è tenebra	light is darkness	S	light-dark	itTenTen16
la luce oscura	light darkens (sth)	S	light-dark	itTenTen16
la tenebra della luce	darkness of the light	N Prep N	light-dark	itTenTen16
la tenebra è luce	darkness is light	S	light-dark	itTenTen16
luce (o)scura	obscure light	N A	light-dark	CORIS + itTenTen16
luce buia	dark light	N A	light-dark	CORIS + itTenTen16
luce oscurante	darkening light	N A	light-dark	itTenTen16
luce tenebrosa	gloomy light	N A	light-dark	itTenTen16
luminosa oscurità	bright darkness	A N	light-dark	itTenTen16
luminosa tenebra	bright shadow	A N	light-dark	itTenTen16
luminosamente oscuro	brightly dark	Adv A	light-dark	itTenTen16
oscuramente chiaro	darkly clear	Adv A	light-dark	itTenTen16
oscuramente luminoso	darkly bright	Adv A	light-dark	itTenTen16
oscurità lucente	glossy darkness	N A	light-dark	itTenTen16
oscurità luminosa	bright darkness	N A	light-dark	itTenTen16
raggiante oscurità	glowing darkness	A N	light-dark	itTenTen16

Italian	English	Type	Category	Source
tenebra lucente	glossy shadow	N A	light-dark	itTenTen16
tenebra luminosa	bright shadow	N A	light-dark	CORIS + itTenTen16
leggerezza pesante	heavy lightness	N A	lightness-heaviness	CORIS + itTenTen16
leggermente pesante	lightly heavy	Adv A	lightness-heaviness	CORIS + itTenTen16
pesante leggerezza	heavy lightness	A N	lightness-heaviness	CORIS + itTenTen16
amore odiato	hated love	N A	love-hate	itTenTen16
amore odioso	hateful love	N A	love-hate	itTenTen16
amorevole odio	loving hate	A N	love-hate	itTenTen16
amorevolmente odioso	lovely hateful	Adv A	love-hate	itTenTen16
detestabile amore	awful love	A N	love-hate	CORIS
l'amore detesta	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
l'odio dell'amore	the hatred of love	N Prep N	love-hate	itTenTen16
l'odio è amore	hate is love	S	love-hate	itTenTen16
odiato amore	hated love	A N	love-hate	itTenTen16
odio amar(ti/lo)	I hate to love you/it	S	love-hate	itTenTen16
odio amorevole	loving hate	N A	love-hate	itTenTen16
odio amoroso	loving love	N A	love-hate	CORIS + itTenTen16
odiosamente amabile	hatefully lovely	Adv A	love-hate	itTenTen16
odioso amore	hateful love	A N	love-hate	itTenTen16
ti amo, odio mio	I love you, my hate	S	love-hate	itTenTen16
ti odio, amore mio	I hate you, my love	S	love-hate	itTenTen16
irreale realtà	unreal reality	A N	reality-unreality	CORIS + itTenTen16
irrealmente reale	unreally real	Adv A	reality-unreality	itTenTen16
irrealtà reale	real unreality	N A	reality-unreality	itTenTen16
la finzione è realtà	pretence is reality	S	reality-unreality	itTenTen16
la irrealtà della realtà	the unreality of reality	N Prep N	reality-unreality	itTenTen16
la realtà è finzione	reality is pretence	S	reality-unreality	itTenTen16
la realtà è illusione	reality is an illusion	S	reality-unreality	itTenTen16
la realtà è sogno	reality is a dream	S	reality-unreality	itTenTen16
reale irrealtà	real unreality	A N	reality-unreality	itTenTen16
realmente irreale	really unreal	Adv A	reality-unreality	itTenTen16
realtà irreale	unreal reality	N A	reality-unreality	CORIS + itTenTen16
assordante silenzio	deafening silence	A N	silence-noise	CORIS + itTenTen16
bisbigliante silenzio	whispering silence	A N	silence-noise	itTenTen16
boato muto	mute thunder	N A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
eloquente silenzio	eloquent silence	A N	silence-noise	CORIS + itTenTen16
eloquentemente muto	eloquently mute	Adv A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
eloquentemente silenzioso	eloquently quiet	Adv A	silence-noise	CORIS + itTenTen16
fragore muto	mute racket	N A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
fragore silenzioso	hushed racket	N A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
fragorosamente silente	loudly silent	Adv A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
fragorosamente silenzioso	loudly quiet	Adv A	silence-noise	CORIS + itTenTen16
fragoroso silenzio	loud silence	A N	silence-noise	CORIS + itTenTen16
gridare silenzi	to shout silences	S	silence-noise	itTenTen16
gridare tacendo	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	itTenTen16
grido silenzioso	quiet shout	N A	silence-noise	CORIS + itTenTen16
grido taciuto	silenced shout	N A	silence-noise	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	the silence of noise	N Prep N	silence-noise	itTenTen16
il silenzio è rumore	silence is noise	S	silence-noise	itTenTen16
il silenzio è un grido	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 whispers	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 rimbomba	silence roars	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 di/del silenzio	the scream of silence	N Prep N	silence-noise	itTenTen16
mormorante silenzio	murmuring silence	A N	silence-noise	itTenTen16
mutamente 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	CORIS + itTenTen16
muto suono	mute sound	A N	silence-noise	CORIS + itTenTen16
muto ululato	mute howling	A N	silence-noise	itTenTen16
muto urlo	mute cry	A N	silence-noise	itTenTen16
rumore muto	mute noise	N A	silence-noise	CORIS + itTenTen16
rumore silenzioso	quiet noise	N A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
rumore taciuto	silenced noise	N A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
rumorosamente silenzioso	noisily quiet	Adv A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
rumorosamente zitto	noisily mute	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	itTenTen16
silenzio eloquente	eloquent silence	N A	silence-noise	CORIS + itTenTen16
silenzio fragoroso	loud silence	N A	silence-noise	CORIS + itTenTen16
silenzio gridato	shouted silence	N A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
silenzio mormorato	murmured silence	N A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
silenzio parlato	spoken silence	N A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
silenzio rumoroso	noisy silence	N A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
silenzio sonoro	resounding silence	N A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
silenzio urlante	screaming silence	N A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
silenzio urlato	screamed silence	N A	silence-noise	CORIS + itTenTen16
silenziosamente assordante	quietly deafening	Adv A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
silenziosamente eloquente	quietly eloquent	Adv A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
silenziosamente rumoroso	quietly noisy	Adv A	silence-noise	itTenTen16

silenzioso fracasso	silent racket	A N	silence-noise	itTenTen16
silenzioso fragore	silent racket	A N	silence-noise	itTenTen16
silenzioso grido	silent shout	A N	silence-noise	CORIS + itTenTen16
silenzioso rumore	silent noise	A N	silence-noise	itTenTen16
silenzioso suono	silent sound	A N	silence-noise	itTenTen16
silenzioso urlo	silent scream	A N	silence-noise	itTenTen16
suono muto	mute sound	N A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
suono silenzioso	silent sound	N A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
suono tacito	tacit sound	N A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
sussurro muto	mute whisper	N A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
tacitamente eloquente	tacitly eloquent	Adv A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
tacito grido	tacit shout	A N	silence-noise	itTenTen16
tacito suono	tacit sound	A N	silence-noise	itTenTen16
taciuto urlo	tacit scream	A N	silence-noise	itTenTen16
urlante silenzio	screaming silence	A N	silence-noise	itTenTen16
urlare (stando) muto	to scream (staying) mute	V A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
urlare (stando) silenzioso	to scream (staying) quiet	V A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
urlare in silenzio	to scream in silence	V Prep N	silence-noise	itTenTen16
urlare tacendo	to scream being silent	V V	silence-noise	itTenTen16
urlato silenzio	screamed silence	A N	silence-noise	itTenTen16
urlo muto	mute scream	N A	silence-noise	CORIS + itTenTen16
urlo silente	silent scream	N A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
urlo silenzioso	quiet scream	N A	silence-noise	CORIS + itTenTen16
voce muta	mute voice	N A	silence-noise	itTenTen16
calma veloce	quick calm	N A	slowness-speed	itTenTen16
lenta celerità	slow speed	A N	slowness-speed	itTenTen16
lenta rapidità	slow rush	A N	slowness-speed	itTenTen16
lentamente veloce	slowly fast	Adv A	slowness-speed	itTenTen16
lentezza rapida	fast slowness	N A	slowness-speed	CORIS
rapida lentezza	speedy slowness	A N	slowness-speed	itTenTen16
veloce calma	quick calm	A N	slowness-speed	itTenTen16
veloce lentezza	fast slowness	A N	slowness-speed	itTenTen16
velocemente lento	quickly slow	Adv A	slowness-speed	itTenTen16
acre dolcezza	acrid sweetness	A N	sweetness-bitterness	itTenTen16
amara dolcezza	bitter sweetness	A N	sweetness-bitterness	CORIS + itTenTen16
amaramente dolce	bitterly sweet	Adv A	sweetness-bitterness	itTenTen16
aspra dolcezza	sour sweetness	A N	sweetness-bitterness	itTenTen16
dolce amarezza	sweet bitterness	A N	sweetness-bitterness	CORIS + itTenTen16
dolcemente acido	sweetly acid	Adv A	sweetness-bitterness	itTenTen16
dolcemente amaro	sweetly bitter	Adv A	sweetness-bitterness	itTenTen16
dolcemente aspro	sweetly sour	Adv A	sweetness-bitterness	itTenTen16
dolcezza amara	bitter sweetness	N A	sweetness-bitterness	CORIS + itTenTen16
dolcezza aspra	sour sweetness	N A	sweetness-bitterness	itTenTen16
guerra pacifica	peaceful war	N A	war-peace	CORIS + itTenTen16
inoffensiva guerra	harmless war	A N	war-peace	itTenTen16
la guerra è pace	war is peace	S	war-peace	itTenTen16
la pace è guerra	peace is war	S	war-peace	itTenTen16
pacifica guerra	peaceful war	A N	war-peace	itTenTen16

la povertà arricchisce	poverty enriches	S	wealth-poverty	itTenTen16
la povertà è ricchezza	poverty is wealth	S	wealth-poverty	itTenTen16
la ricchezza della povertà	the wealth of poverty	N Prep N	wealth-poverty	itTenTen16
la ricchezza impoverisce	wealth impoverishes	S	wealth-poverty	itTenTen16
povera ricchezza	poor wealth	A N	wealth-poverty	CORIS + itTenTen16
poveramente ricco	poorly rich	Adv A	wealth-poverty	itTenTen16
povertà ricca	rich poverty	N A	wealth-poverty	itTenTen16
ricca povertà	rich poverty	A N	wealth-poverty	itTenTen16
riccamente povero	richly poor	Adv A	wealth-poverty	itTenTen16
ricchezza povera	poor wealth	N A	wealth-poverty	itTenTen16