

Maria Francesca Bonadonna. 2016. *Le vêtement d'extérieur dans la terminologie française de la mode*. Paris: L'Harmattan. ISBN 978-2-343-08804-4.

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Introduction

This volume provides a terminological overview of French fashion terminology and focuses more specifically on the field of outerwear. The book describes the theoretical framework, the methodology, the analysis, and the results presented in the author's PhD dissertation, completed in 2013. A broad descriptive model based on a diachronic study of terms is adopted. In addition, the methodology combines corpus linguistics and onto-terminologies. A corpus was compiled and analyzed to extract term records and to observe term and concept evolution over time. Furthermore, the conceptual and terminological variation of a group of fashion terms from Old French to contemporary French is analyzed through the design of diachronic onto-terminologies and the recording of terms in a terminological database. The foreword is written by the author's PhD supervisor, Maria Teresa Zanola, who emphasizes that the aim of this work is to establish a framework for the semantic and terminological distribution of this field of knowledge.

Description of contents

The book contains an introduction, six chapters, a conclusion, an appendix with a description of the sources used in the different subcorpora, and references.

In the introduction, Bonadonna highlights the problems raised by French fashion terminology—for instance, lexical ambiguity, incorrect dating, or lack of semantic rigor. Hence, the author attempts to set French fashion terminology and, more precisely, French outerwear terms, using and applying an onomasiological methodology to study the evolution of terms and concepts in the French language from the Middle Ages to now. Moreover, the author provides a brief outline of each of the chapters making up this research.

The first chapter begins by pointing out the importance of the French language in the study of technical vocabulary, given the fact that France was the core of development during the Enlightenment. Bonadonna explains that the theoretical framework of her study is based on a diachronic approach, despite the fact that this approach was first applied to terminological studies in the 1980s. In addition, she justifies the use of corpora for diachronic research on terminology. She also provides some examples of previous work (Picton 2009; Humbley 2011; Dury 2013; among others) that focuses on diachrony and that deals with topics such as the appearance of neologisms, the semantic evolution of terms, and the disappearance of some of them. Hence, with the overview of previous literature, the author justifies her own object of study, the evolution of outerwear terms, using a diachronic approach. In addition, she conceives terms as linguistic, cognitive, and communicative units (Cabr  2000, 11), and views terminology as an interdisciplinary field. This chapter ends with a description of the different components of the analysis: (1) The field of knowledge is examined from a conceptual view; (2) a sample of the units that are the object of study is selected; (3) the usage of terms is verified in the corpora organized according to five time periods; and (4) a complex concept network is created so that terms can be accurately represented.

In the second chapter, Bonadonna describes the appearance of the first outerwear item, the *caban*, which is the ancestor of the current coat (*manteau*). Several examples of outerwear items are shown, which are closely linked to the development of ancient societies. To define a network of outerwear concepts using a diachronic approach, five time periods are defined: (1) from the 10th century to the first half of the 14th century; (2) from the second half of the 14th century to the end of the 15th century; (3) from the 16th to the 18th century; (4) the 19th century; and (5) the 20th and 21st centuries. Bonadonna moves through each of the periods and gives examples of the most popular outerwear items. In their initial stages, these items were worn by upper classes to show their power and to protect them from adverse weather conditions. She then outlines the evolution of some of the outerwear items. For this point, it could be interesting to mention the influence of Italian fashion at the end of the 14th century, the supremacy of French fashion from the 16th century to the beginning of the 18th century, the boost of textile production in the 18th century due to the progress of the Industrial Revolution, the British impact in the 19th century, or the shift in fashion over the 20th century. In providing a huge range of outerwear items, Bonadonna justifies that current outerwear items could be classified into four groups based on the material from which they are made, the type of sleeves, and the length: the raincoat (*l'imperm able*), the coat (*le manteau*), the jacket (*la veste*), and the under-jacket (*la veste de dessus / la veste d'ext rieur*).

The third chapter is devoted to the documentary sources consulted to analyze outerwear terminology. First of all, Bonadonna justifies the need to take into account not only specialized texts from the fashion sector but also non-specialized texts, provided that the field of fashion is halfway between specialized and non-specialized discourse. Hence, a monolingual corpus in French is compiled. Texts included in the corpus belong to different discourse genres and diverse degrees of specialization. Consequently, the corpus is organized in three different subcorpora: (a) a subcorpus composed of laws, fashion magazines from the 18th and 19th centuries, literary texts, historical sources, files, inventories, and account books, whose aim is to show the historical usage and record of a term; (b) a subcorpus composed of texts from online fashion magazines and order catalogues published between 2010 and 2015, used to confirm the current usage of terms, their semantic evolution, or even their disappearance; and (c) the lexicographical and terminological sources consulted to collect information on definitions, usage, and etymology throughout the chapter. The author carefully provides a detailed description of each of the sources included in the aforementioned subcorpora.

In the fourth chapter, Bonadonna takes up the origins of outerwear clothing, which date back to the 10th and 11th centuries. She divides the chapter into two different parts. First, she describes how this field has been enriched with new terms over time as a result of the creation of new concepts and the development of existing ones. In addition, she analyzes terms of this field of knowledge following a chronological order and illustrates the main word formation methods. Second, a conceptual and terminological network is developed using ontologies: the core term used in the Middle Ages evolves up to the variety of terms employed in contemporary French. Thus, ontologies are organized in chronological order for Old French, for the period covering the 16th and 18th centuries and for contemporary French. The usage of ontologies to represent the development of outerwear fashion items is very useful, as it assists terminologists in understanding concepts, terms, their relationships, and the semantic network representation as an integrated system over time. The analysis carried out by the author is quite rigorous as she records the usage of terms for the first time. She also describes the most frequently used morphological mechanisms for creating terms in each of the time periods. In addition, the design of onto-terminologies allows her to show not only the specific features of outerwear items in each of the selected time periods but also the relationships of hyperonymy, hyponymy, and synonymy. In addition, onto-terminologies are useful for differentiating the four subfields, for illustrating the relations among terms belonging to different subfields, and for introducing encyclopedic and terminological notes to provide a better understanding of terms. The core term is represented in a chart, the concept can be displayed between brackets upon demand. The relationships of hyperonymy, hyponymy and

synonymy are represented using arrows and placing the term on different levels: above, below or at the same level of the term to which they are linked respectively.

The fifth chapter is divided into three parts. Firstly, Bonadonna demonstrates that outerwear terminology can be classified into four semantic fields according to the following parameters: material, shape and length, usage, and origin. In the second part, she examines the semantic evolution of some terms that are closely linked to the development of fashion over time. The meaning of some terms is restricted, although other terms that used to belong to this field migrated to a different one because their meaning has been broadened. To exemplify this, the author shows how the term *cardigan*, which used to be a military clothing item, is currently very popular. In addition, the meaning of other terms have changed and evolved, so they are no longer used in fashion. For instance, *soc* used to be a type of coating, and this lexical unit is employed only in French to design a ploughshare in agriculture. Finally, the disappearance of some terms is illustrated, for example *houppelande*, which used to be a sort of justacorps.

The sixth chapter includes the terminological record of nine terms related to raincoat outerwear clothes: *anorak*, *ciré*, *coupe-vent*, *gabardine*, *husky*, *imperméable*, *mackintosh*, *parka*, and *trench-coat*. The choice of this subfield is justified as follows: all these clothing items are made of waterproof material, and terms were used for the first time in the same period, that is, after the end of the 19th century. Bonadonna proceeds to describe the terminological record, which includes seven categories: grammar, definition, first record, etymology, occurrences in contemporary French, terminological, and encyclopedic notes.

To conclude, the author highlights the fact that the outerwear fashion field is very valuable for studying the diachrony of terms. In fact, two trends have been detected. On the one hand, some terms appear in Old French, such as *manteau*, and continue to be used. On the other hand, this field is continually being enriched with new terms to designate new concepts related to changes in fashion. Terms can be simple or complex and are usually derived from a core term, i.e., *veste* and *veste autrichienne*, *veste chanel*, *veste de tailleur*, etc. Furthermore, Bonadonna justifies the onomasiological approach employed in her study, which is based on an analysis of the field to master concepts, as it allows one to organize terms in a logical and systematic system using onto-terminologies. She considers this to be a fruitful approach to describe the phenomena related to the evolution of terms over time, to detect the usage of terms in other fields in fashion, and to account for the creation of new terms using different procedures as well as to identify their disappearance.

Critical assessment

Overall, this is an enjoyable book to read. It allows readers to broaden their understanding of the evolution of outerwear fashion items. Readers interested in terminology from a diachronic approach will certainly discover a rigorous methodology that could be applied in other fields of knowledge. In addition, the study is intended to provide an interesting and exhaustive diachronic analysis of outerwear clothing terms from the 10th century to the present time. The examples are rich and fully illustrate the evolution of concepts and terms over time. In addition, the analysis follows the guidelines of onto-terminology, that is, from the definition of concepts and their relationships to the description of terminological records.

Moreover, the book is well structured, and the contents of each chapter are clearly presented. Chapters are also well organized, and there are appropriate cross-references between chapters.

References to terminological literature are complete, trustworthy, and well documented. Provided that the study offers an overview of fashion terms in French, the emphasis is placed on previous research that French researchers carried out.

In addition, examples are given to illustrate the content, which are very useful when addressing matters related to old meanings of terms. Regarding figures, knowledge maps are carefully explained, and can be easily interpreted.

In conclusion, the book as a whole highlights the evolution of outerwear items using a diachronic approach, so anyone interested in terminology and, more precisely, fashion outerwear terms will find in this book insights into the evolution of concepts and terms over time. Readers such as myself, who are not aware of diachronic terminological projects but who are interested in fashion, will be quite happy to become a little more familiar with the methodology used.

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