PAOLA ITALIA, FABIO VITALI, ANGELO D'IORIO, CLAUDIA BONSI

MANZONI'S ELECTRONIC INTERPRETATIONS

According to the assessment that the better mechanic reading of a text is the one which needs a human goverment, the research group of Sapienza University (Paola Italia and Claudia Bonsi) and Bologna (Fabio Vitali and Angelo di Iorio), has been applying a versioning approach based on a diff algorithm to *I Promessi Sposi*, the most famous italian novel and a distinguished case study of variants. The mechanic tool named Philoeditor detects automatically the differences between the two variants - in this case, the Ventisettana and the Quarantana - and shows individual versions as well as combined version both in a vertical and horizontal fashion. It can be applied to every kind of version of texts, but it is only the starting point. Not only can Philoeditor represent the two versions mechanically, and show them to the users, but the scholar can use it as an annotation editor to classify different kind of phenomena: from the methods of corrections to the category of corrections: linguistic, stylistic, and also theoretical one. The direction is very promising. The fact that readers can annotate changes and can propose their own analysis of the text is a further value of this methodology which can, in the future, mark texts on line, leaving a sign of a non-mechanical reading, made with mechanical methods.