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 the 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.