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A linguistic and gender approach to 1841 Tuscany population Census

Abstract

The Census of 1841 in Tuscany was first official data registry which tried to describe Tuscan population as a whole on granudical basis. With the use of special ad hoc created forms all demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of families and single persons in "Granducato di Toscana" were described.

These data of Census, now kept by the State Archive of Florence\(^1\), supply a precious source for studies of all different aspects of the population and include following information: name, surname, age, gender, marital status, employment, religion, schoolarity, "social status". In the registers for each community and parish a full account is given of homes, resident families, and composition of families including family servants. Each of those entities had a proper incremental code number.

[Registers were generated and updated by priests, who at that time were only surely scholarised officers widespread on territory, that is why they are divided by parish, which is an administrative unit typical of canonic right, instead of quarters or "rioni" or "contrade" which instead had been long practiced in civil right.]

During early 80's the research group of prof. Biagioli of Department of Modern History of Pisa University, charged the computational linguistic Institute of CNR with digitalization and the electronic processing of these data as well as of data from "Catasto" [public registry of buildings and land ownership] to enable statistical, demographical, historical, sociological and economic analysis.

In this work the authors have used the only partially usable subset of data left of that work, concerning four communities in the province of Pisa i.e actual Biéntina, Càscina, Pontedera and San Giuliano Terme (at that time named "Baths of San Giuliano") and is more concerned with terminological and lexical issues a gender related analysis of work and craftmanships. Each of the four communities has its own peculiar profile.

Work is developed in 5 points: a) Informatics retrieval of linguistic information from Tuscany of 1800 focused by the arts and craftmanships more in use in families of that time, b) gender division of works and craftmanships, c) observation of lexical disparity in the four communities and terminological curiosities of that historical period, d) actually no longer existing craftmanships, e) diacronic analysis of communities, where possible.

In this scenery the authors will introduce the methodology they employed for data analysis. Tables and graphs will be used to better focus different moments and results of work. The authors give the English translation of the terms extracted from the Corpus (see Appendix Glossary).

1. Introduction

The two softwares used for textual analysis and terms extraction are Text Power and DBT (Textual Data Base)\(^2\).

The DBT System is used for many projects, inside the Italian Scientific Community and abroad. The DBT, Textual Data Base, is a software for textual analysis and full-text querying. DBT is a reference point in the Literature and Italian language for text-based searches. The texts analysed with the DBT system is structured in a proprietary format and is available for use by other application procedures via the access functionality that the system provides (text or SGML/TEI). DBT&Facets has been implemented by integrating the core textual search engine DBT with the TextPower (TP) technology\(^3\).

DBT-TextPower is based on NLP techniques and linguistic resources used to create tools for the evaluation, analysis, classification and browsing of information related to the domains of scientific literature. The extraction of implicit knowledge from the texts through which TP can enrich the documents, is a specialization of the "Facets" technology. DBT-Corpus Query system of textual corpora, i.e. text collections of homogeneous texts structured, tagged and preanalysed and query-able with database methods.

The adopted methodology uses all of those capabilities, applying them to subsets of the data of the Census considered as a Corpus, structured on family records. Every analysis is based on ad-hoc created tables.

These tables concern works and craftmanships which are subclassed as a) exclusively or typically male, b) exclusively or typically female and c) shared or gender neutral works.

The total of the units (Male and Female, see Figure 1) is 41,887, grouped in 7,190 families, spread in 4 communities as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bientina</td>
<td>2,420</td>
<td>14,999</td>
<td>17,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Càscina</td>
<td>1,968</td>
<td>5,118</td>
<td>7,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pontedera</td>
<td>9,446</td>
<td>15,022</td>
<td>24,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Giuliano Terme</td>
<td>15,022</td>
<td>4,501</td>
<td>19,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totale</strong></td>
<td>32,856</td>
<td>45,633</td>
<td>78,489</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) http://www.archiviodistato.firenze.it/stato/civile/
\(^2\) http://dibtv1.ilc.cnr.it/SitoDBT/ (DBT: developed by E. Picchi at ILC is a CNR trademark).
\(^3\) http://dibtv1.ilc.cnr.it/Facette/DBT_e_Faccette.dll
Language oriented analytical reading of data has also brought to light the different phonetic and graphic forms of the various words in different communities e.g. *filandara* (Bientina) and *filandaja* (San Giuliano) as well as in the same territory like the two forms "infima classe" and "bassa classe" used to point and label the low estate of a woodcutter (*legnajolo*) a miller (*mugnaio*) or a midwife (*levatrice*).

Creation of ad-hoc taxonomies was also needed for the conceptual classification of different jobs and trade types (agricultural, textile, trade, craftsmanships, professions).

2. Jobs arts and craftsmanships in Pisa Province in XIX

Today’s “use & throw” lifestyle was unconceivable then, and so ordinary life goods were repeatedly fixed and arranged in order to be again fit to everyday’s use. Whence over 70% of all craftsmanships was concerned and specialized primarily with such “Ars reparatoria” which enabled entire households to live on that income.

So there was calzettaia, calzolajo (shoe repair), canapajo, fabbro (blacksmith), fiasca, manifiatrice di pêneri (basket female crafter), seggialajo (stool maker), zuccheraio and all of them mostly repaired instead of crafting from scratch all everyday’s objects.

Which occupations where recorded in 1841 by the charge of the many parishes of the territory of *Granducato di Toscana* in 1841? In which sectors was female work employed? Did gender shared or neutral jobs exist?

The sample of the four tuscanian communities sees [expectably] agricultural work ahead of any other activity. The voice *colono/a* (equivalent: farmer) lists 583 female and 1695 male workers (about 4% of total population). To this single term we must add both multilemmatic term like *colono al monte* (mountain farmer) *lavoratore/trice al campo* (countryside worker) or verb containing label like *lavora al campo* (works in the countryside) and terms which label people working on not owned soil like the monolemmatics *mezzajo/lo*, or *mezzano which indicates the farmer working under a contract by which he shares in even or odd quotas the crops with the landowner, or the multilemmatic *contadino d’altri* (farmer employee) labeling someone who works by year or by shorter terms soil of alien ownership either for money or a crops share. By adding up all these labels we reach total amount of 854 female and 2683 male operators.

In this labeling the priests, having in this crucial moment the role of “data collectors” made wide use of both their trained scholarship and their experience and specific knowledge of their territory, whence an etherogeneous lexicon for job definitions arose in the lists of the words employed to that end we can detect significant differences even in neighboring municipalities.

2.1. Verbs use in craftsmanships naming

Multilemmatic terms often include verbs and the most used are “andare” [to go] *fare* [to craft] and “operare” [to operate or to act as] and the graphic form that all these took might be very different. For verb “andare” we have a basic significance “to move for working outside own home or land” but two quite distinct usages:

1. Forms like:
   a. *Va a far legna in macchia* (female), picks up [burning] wood in forest
   b. *Va a scuola,* for a (male) student
   c. *Va a raccolglier le letame* (male), (goes to gather manure) in 1841 in Pontedera this was still a salable skill

2. Forms indicating works for third parties like:
   a. *Va a bottega di calzolaro* (male), indicates a male who goes to learn activity or help activity of a craftsman who produces and repairs shoes; [there still is a surname indicating this craftsmanship in Italy and in several cities you can find streets titled to it]
   b. *Va a opera a fare erba* (female), weed alther for other people [from latin “opera” neutral plural voice indicating all payed jobs]

3. Similarly for verb “fare” we have:
   a. the usage meaning to craft like in *Fa calze,* (female) craftwoman producing stockings and socks.

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4 The use of the “’” sign indicates a long semi consonantic “’” sound.
5 Ultra-low, subproletary.
6 See Appendix for the glossary and descriptions.
b. the usage meaning to execute a job like in:
- *Fa scuola* (teaches)
- *Fa faccende a domicilio* (domestic worker).

4. Forms like verb "operare", meaning to act or to execute and usually employed in the present participle form, are shown in the following 4 categories (Table 1):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labels referring directly to agricultural works</th>
<th>Labels referring to specific soil products</th>
<th>Labels indicating sale or trade of soil products</th>
<th>Labels pertaining to ownership of soil or work contracts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>garzone di campagna</td>
<td>vinaiolo</td>
<td>negoziente di granic</td>
<td>piccolo colono agricolo di proprietà</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lavora al campo</td>
<td>fruttajolo/ fruttajola</td>
<td>negoziente di grasse</td>
<td>piccolo mezzajo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lavoratrice al campo</td>
<td>garzone di vinajolo</td>
<td>negoziente di leuga</td>
<td>piccolo proprietario</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>piccola colona</td>
<td>negoziente di lega per forno</td>
<td></td>
<td>pignonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>piccola colona a monte</td>
<td>negoziente di olio</td>
<td></td>
<td>possessente</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>piccolo agricoltore</td>
<td>negoziente di vino</td>
<td></td>
<td>possidente agricoltore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>operante</td>
<td>Ortolano / ortolana</td>
<td></td>
<td>possessente livello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bracciatte</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>possessesente usufruttuaria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1

3. Gender split of works in XIX in Pisa province

In which job sectors were women involved? An answer to this question required the categorization of all jobs arts and craftsmanships, which we made in 15 categories and related sub categories, as follows:

To generate taxonomies (or Facets) each job label has been analysed and inquired, and not all of them were at first sight comprehensible and exhaustive, hence we found necessary to resort to an Ethimological and historical dictionary of Italian language, i.e. the dictionaries of Accademia della Crusca in Florence. We associate to the sector labels defined above letters M for male and F for female in order to show the gender presence in different sectors in Table 2 and Figure 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settore</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>agricolo</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
<td>854</td>
<td>2663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apprendistato/studio</td>
<td>apprenticeship and learning</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>artigianale</td>
<td>craftmanship</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>commerciale</td>
<td>trade &amp; sale</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>del servizi</td>
<td>services</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>1552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>domestico</td>
<td>domestic work</td>
<td>2766</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ecclesiastico</td>
<td>church</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>edile</td>
<td>building</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>legale</td>
<td>legal</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>medico e paramedico</td>
<td>medical and paramedical</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>metallurgico</td>
<td>metallurgy</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>militare</td>
<td>military</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>proprietà e mediazioni</td>
<td>ownership and intermediation</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pubblico impiego regio</td>
<td>public administration</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tessile</td>
<td>textile</td>
<td>1206</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2

Semantic aggregation procedure has necessarily been of euristic type, which explicitly means that several correct conceptual distribution. Originally we had 24 dispersion of information so that finally we finish with 15 sectors.

Notably we were forced to add a special category for brokering activities which had a great relevance there and then. The entire phenomenology of workmarket entry has been classed under apprenticeship e.g.: impara l’arte del carratore; impara l’arte del calzolato, inizia a tessere canestre.

Of special relevance to this work is the domestic work sector in which most of jobs are typically or exclusively female, like e.g.: *balla, domestica, fa le faccende a domicilio*.

The professional terms related to medical and veterinary work have resulted totally unambiguous. Service sector is a restricted version of actual tertiary and includes works like e.g.: *rettore, rettore, nocchiero, (indicates the activity of conductin ship in and out from harbours), stratara, tintore/tintora*.
In the trade & sale sector we have extracted all activities related activities, even if the term in dictionaries presented semantical ambiguity between the producing craftman and the seller like e.g.: fusajo, chincaglere.

In the craftmanships sector three subsectors have been created and considered as ma'n categories: metallurgy, textile works, and masonry. From each taxonomy all jobs in which female were admitted or dominating have been extracted. In that period most out of home works were exclusively male.

We can immediately see that agriculture is by far the dominating sector and also the most gender shared or neutral. Women and men shared countryside work (bracciano is gender free term) and organized it (fattore/essa, contadina/a, colona/a).

The second gender shared sector is the textile craftsmanship which we see in terms: tessitore/a, sarto/a, while the threading worg named filandaja/filandadora/tessiera/tessitrice is exclusively female. Also commerce sector is shared and we have terms like fornajo/a, fruttajo/a, bottegajo/a, commerce of tobacco (and salt) is instead exclusively male.

Medical sector has professions which are exclusive to each gender profession of medico and chirurgo are exclusively male while ostetrica and levatrice are exclusively female.

Sectors military, clergy, legal and royal officials are exclusively male, we may observe that the terms suora and monaca are not listed in this census.

3.1. A graphical view of jobs and kinship

Men and women reporting a job label are classed by their kinship relationship to family head and appear as bars - reference numbers are on left side - while job indication [yellow] are measured on the total of individuals [blue] and the reference number is on right side (Figure 3).

4. DBT&Facets and TP technology applied to the Corpus

The extraction of implicit knowledge from the texts, through TP can enrich the documents, is a specialization of the faceted technology (Facets). The "Facets" concept is peculiar of Archives and Library Science field, but is used in Information Retrieval too. In Library Science the term "Facet" identifies the elements of a structured material such as library catalogs, which are characterized by the code of the field and its contents. TP extends the concept of facets, extracting pairs "field + content" also from parts of the structure containing free text, typically bibliographic descriptions, abstracts etc...

In this sample the contents are extracted by the procedures of TP directly from free text, using their linguistic-statistical approach and elevated to the rank of "Facets". The facets are so extended, replacing them with the set of all terminology annotations that TP has marked automatically.

The text so enriched can be used by tools for analysis, classification, query and navigation that we have developed, starting from our base engine DBT and named "DBT & Facets".

The result of the query "tessiera+canapajo" shows both the relations among craftmanships and family names (Figure 4).

5. Conclusions

The study emphasizes that women have worked inside their home (the domestic work sector); in all communities a total of 2766 females are labeled with attende a casa, massaia, casalinga etc. Since remote antiquity women have added to this in-home activity: threading, weaving, horticulture and in some cases the real field work.
The textile work appears to be dominated by women whose 1206 units are 4 times the number of males employed in that sector while agriculture is still dominated by male whose 2663 units are more than thrice the number of females employed.

Rarely women practiced a single activity, even if it results quite difficult from just those data to determine how much of, e.g. knitting and similar, was made to supply an income instead of to saturate family necessities, while works like "balia" and "serva" surely required a compensation either in money or in form of "roof and food".

Surely men too in that period added temporary activities, e.g. a craftman, might especially in times of scarcity become a temporary agriculture unit.

Our final graph shows clearly that domestic work is 54% of all female work, textile work is 23% and agriculture 17% (Figure 5).

6. References


Appendix Glossary

arrotino = grinder
Who sharpens knives and craft tools to cut
attendente (attenente a ...) = housewife (or soldier)
Woman that takes care of something, (in the military environment: soldier; waits the personal service of an officer)
balia = nurse
Who breeds and feeds children
barocciano, barocciante = carter
Who transports goods with a cart
bottolante = "bottolante"
Who makes or sells charcoal
boscaiolo = woodman
1 Anyone who frequents taverns. 2 Tuscan: owner of the tavern
calzolai = shoemaker
Who makes, sells or repairs stockings. 2 A stocking factory worker
canapai = hemp worker/seller
Who collects, works or sells hemp
cappellaio = hatter
1 Who makes or sells hats manhiss. 2 Who, in falconry, put or put off the cap to rapacious
carbonai = charcoal
1 Who makes charcoal in charcoal. 2 Those who sell charcoal and firewood, wholesale or retail
carrador = wheelwright
Anyone who builds or repairs carts and wagons
casiere = caretaker
Tuscan: caretaker of a house
cavator = 1. dentist 2-3. quarryman
1 Who pulls a tooth or blood. 2 Workers involved in mining of the quarry; c. marble, stone, sand. 3 Excavator
cerchiato = "cercialai" (Youth)
Who manufactures or sells rings
chincagliere = "chincagliere"
Who manufactures or sells knickknacks
chirurgo = surgeon
Who practice surgery
ciabattino = cobbler
1 Who repairs shoes, rare Manufacturer of slippers
colono = settler
Farmer who grow for someone else’s
contadino (avora al campo) = farmer
1 Who cultivate the land 2 inhabitant of the countryside
convivente = cohabitant
Who entertains a marriage-like relationship with a person, without being legally married
corbelloio = maker of baskets
1 Who makes baskets
domestica = housekeeper, housemaid
Maid service
ecclesiastico = churchman
Who belongs to the clergy
fa faccende a domicilio = housemaid
Who do chores at home
falegname = carpenter
Who teaches at school or at home
fabbro = smith
1 Artisan who works with iron and produces iron objects: f. blacksmith - Tinman - Cooper, tinsmith. 2 Ancient form. Manual worker in general, craftsman
fattore = farmer
Person who carries on the management or direction of a farm
fiasca = maker of flasks
Who makes, stuffs with straw or sells flasks
filandiera, filandiera = spinner
Who works in a textile mill
fornoio = baker
Who cooks or sells bread
funzionario regio = official
Who exerts particular functions or administrative directives
fusaiolo = maker of spindles
1 Makers of spindles, person manufacturing or selling spindles
giubbiato = retired person
Who is retired
guardaroba = keeper of the wardrobe
1 Ancient form for attendant of the cloakroom. 2 Secret waiter that took care of the garments of the Pope.
guardiano 1 = guardian
Who is in charge of guarding, monitoring of places or property of others: g. a warehouse, a house, a lighthouse, g. horses, pigs. (Day or night watchman). [Synonymous with overseer]
guardiano 2 = prison guard (rare)
Who is the keeper of the prison
guardiano 3 = guardian
Father, superior of a convent (Franciscan order)
guardiano 4 = guardian of crocodiles
Guardian of crocodiles: small bird of the order Charadriiformes, (Pluvianus aegyptius), which feeds on insects and parasites found on the backs of crocodiles
guardiano 5 = guardian father / guardian angel
Who is involved in the case of something
imposto = impotence
Who does not have the power, the force required to work
inabile = unemployable
Who is unable to work
iniziale a... = initiate into...
That people who are trained in things that require specialized studies
legna, erba (va a far...) = gatherer of firewood or grass
Who gathers firewood or grass
legnaiolo = carpenter
1 Artisan who makes rough carpentry work. 2 Who is the rough, cutting and shaping logs of wood
letame (va a raccogliere...) = goes to collect manure
Who collects manure
libraio = bookseller
1 Who sells books 2 Ancient form: amanuensis
magnano = magnate
Tuscan: Craftsman, often walking, running minute articles of iron as keys, locks, etc. - Tinier: person manufacturing boilers and other containers, especially copper
medico = doctor
Who practice medicine professionally
mendicante, questante = beggar
Who begs, who lives by begging
mezzajoio = sharecropper
Farmer who leads a fund sharecropping
militare = soldier
Who belongs to a military
ministro = minister
1 Who exerts an office, a ministry. 2 Fig. Those dedicated to the defense, to preach, to spread an ideal, a value: the ministers of peace, charity, good
muratore = bricklayer
Who builds masonry
negozianti di grani = merchant grain
Who sells grain
negozianti di grasse = seller of pork fat, lard
Who sells pork fat, lard
negozianti di olio = seller of olive oil
Who sells olive oil
negozianti di vino = wine seller
Who sells wine
nocciiero = steerer, steersman, helmsman
Who guides the ship
operante delle strade, stradino = roadwork
Workers involved in the maintenance of roads, today Roadwork
operante mugnaiolo = miler
Who grinds wheat, oats. Grinder
orefice = goldsmith
1 Those who work with precious metals and gems to make jewelry and other items. 2 Who sells cutlery
orfano = orphan
Who is left devoid of one or both parents
ortolano/orolana = greengrocer
1 Who, for commercial gain, cultivates a garden. 2 Who sells vegetables
ostetrica e levatrice = midwife
Nurse specializing in assisting women in labor
pescatore = fisherman
Who exercises the art of fishing
pettinaio = "pettinaio"
Who makes or sells combs
pignatello = tenant
1 Tenant. 2 Tuscan: Farmer who has rented a farm. 2 (Renter)
possidente = landowner
That the person who owns real estate, esp. land and homes, and lives all or part of their annuity
possidente usufruttuario = landowner usufructuary
Who enjoys the usufruct of an asset
scalpellino or scarpellino = stonecutter
1 Those who work or carve stone or marble with chisel. 2 Sculptor of little or no value
scuola (va a...), scolaro = pupil
Who goes to school
seghettino = sawyer
1 Who cuts by hand or machine the trunks of trees to obtain firewood or to work to reduce to woodworking. 2 A day laborer to cut hay or grain, mower, reaper
segatore = sawyer
1 Who saw for a living: sawyers of wood, marble, iron, sawing machine. 2 Reaper
seggiolaio = chair maker; seller; mender/repairer
Who makes, repairs or sells chairs
seliaio = saddler
1 person manufacturing, repairs or sells saddles or other leather items. 2 Who is in charge of conservation and repair of saddles and everything related to the equipment of quadrupeds
speciale = apothecary
1 Who sold spices and medicinal herbs. (The Art of doctors and apothecaries, in medieval Florence, the corporation that was one of seven major arts). 2 Pharmacist and Grocer
stiratore = ironer
Who irons clothes and linens for the profession
suora = nun
Belonging to a religious order or congregation with simple vows only
tintore/tintora = dyer
Who dyes fabrics and leathers. Who works in a dry cleaners, and whoever manages or owns
toritore = turner
Who polishes metals, wood
vetturale = driver
Who makes the job of transporting goods or people with beasts of burden or draft
vetturino = coachman
1 Who drives a cab with horses for transport of persons. 2 Who gives beasts and vehicles for hire
vinaiolo = vintner
Who sells the wine wholesale or retail. Common Name: innkeeper
zuccherino = confectioner
Who makes and sells candy.