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Elements in Language, Gender and Sexuality

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FEMINISM, CORPUS- ASSISTED RESEARCH, AND LANGUAGE INCLUSIVITY

Federica Formato

University of Brighton



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Feminism, Corpus-Assisted Research, and Language Inclusivity

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Federica Formato
University of Brighton

Author for correspondence: Federica Formato, f.formato@brighton.ac.uk

Abstract: This Element presents an investigation into the use of the gender inclusive schwa in a corpus of tweets; the schwa, is employed in Italian to overcome binary grammatical (feminine and masculine) morphological inflections. The investigation is set in a country where LGBTQIA communities still face institutional discrimination, yet it is contextualised in the growing work on inclusivity discussed in languages and contexts worldwide. The corpus is examined quantitatively and qualitatively, as well as read through a triangulation of two frameworks: Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies and Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis. The findings, obtained from corpus-assisted research and digital ethnography, show that the new linguistic strategy is used creatively, functionally, and not exclusively as a self-representation tool, but is also a viable and powerful replacement for generic sexist language.

This Element also has a video abstract: www.Cambridge.org/ELGS_Formato

Keywords: gender inclusive language, gendered language, digital ethnography, CADS, FCDA

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