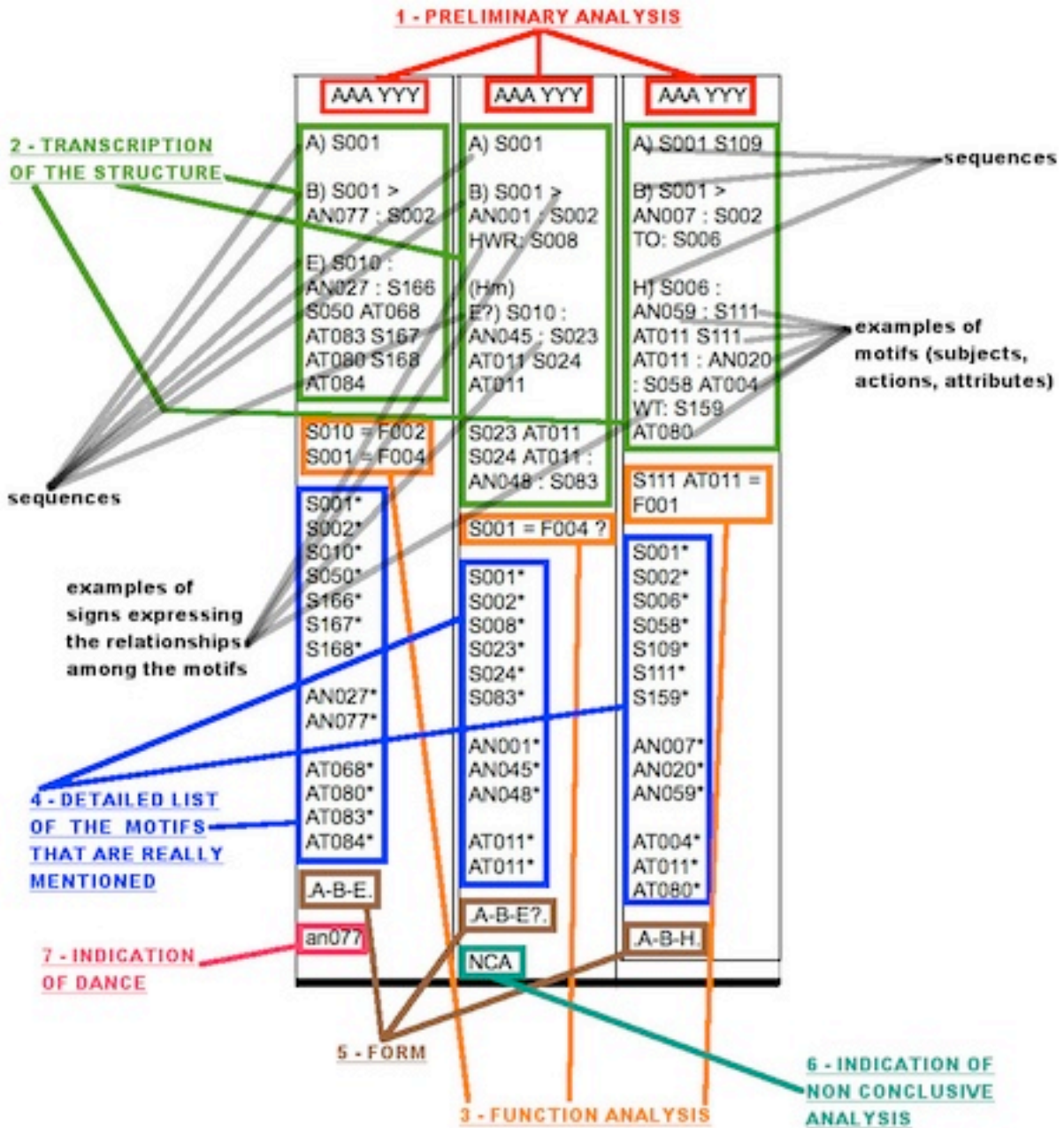


SYMBOLS USED FOR THE ANALYSIS



Shown above, as an example, are the analyses of the documents 193, 81 and 171 included in the database of our research, as they were performed in January, 2015. The symbols used are explained hereafter.

1 - PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

PRELIMINARY CLASSIFICATION OF THE DOCUMENTS

example: ABA

In the first phase, all the documents have been roughly classified according to the answers to three questions:

- Is this actually a real example of the “children's rhyme about snails” studied by this research?

The possible values are: 0 = it is a rhyme on a different animal, not on the snail; A = yes; B = perhaps / only in part; C = no.

- Does the text appear to be reliable, or has it probably undergone recent heavy literary changes by some author?

The possible values are: A = yes; B = perhaps / only in part; C = no, it certainly seems that it has probably undergone recent heavy literary changes by some author.

- Does in any case the document have to do with any idea related to our research?

The possible values are: A = yes; B = perhaps / only in part; C = no.

Besides, it is also possible to classify a document as XXX if it has been proved that it is totally wrong, erroneous, completely incorrect or false.

LIKELY FITNESS FOR BEING INVESTIGATED WITH FURTHER ANALYSES

example: YYN

According to the aforementioned preliminary classification, the documents have had acknowledged or rejected:

(1) Their fitness for undergoing further generic analysis about the presence and nature of ideas related to our research, generally speaking (for every collected document that meets minimum requirements of reliability, even if it is not a version of our rhyme, but the ideas expressed in it are at least distantly related to it in some way).

This kind of fitness has been granted to all the documents that, in the preliminary classification, have reached a minimum score of CBB. The possible values in the database are: Y = yes; N = no.

(2) Their fitness for undergoing motivic analysis, that is analysis regarding the presence and nature of "motifs" recurring in our rhyme (for the documents that are actually real versions of our rhyme, even if corrupted, since they can show traces of lost original versions).

This kind of fitness has been granted to all the documents that, in the preliminary classification, have reached a minimum score of BCA. The possible values in the database are: Y = yes; N = no.

(3) Their fitness for undergoing structural analysis, that is analysis regarding the precise structure of our rhyme, according to a given structural model (for the documents that are actually real versions of our rhyme, but only if they are not too much corrupted).

This kind of fitness has been granted to all the documents that, in the preliminary classification, have reached a minimum score of BBA. The possible values in the database are: Y = yes; N = no.

2 - TRANSCRIPTION OF THE STRUCTURE

SEQUENCES

example: A) B) C) D) E) F) G) H) DIST XTR

These are the different structural moments that form a rhyme.

The order of the sequences is free. Each sequence can be repeated or not. A rhyme is not necessarily formed by all the possible sequences together; on the contrary, it seems that such a situation does never occur and there are some versions made by two sequences only.

NON-MOTIVATIONAL SEQUENCES

The non-motivational sequences are the simplest part of the rhyme: they are used to make a request to the animal and to say what will be done with the good things that will be obtained if the animal obeys the request.

A) CALLING THE SNAIL. The snail is called, often repeatedly.

B) THE SNAIL IS REQUESTED TO DO SOMETHING. The snail is asked to extract its horns, or to come out, or to go in a given place; more rarely, it is asked to perform a different action.

DIST = DISTRIBUTION FORMULA. The severed horns of the snail, or the snails themselves, or some positive and useful things, perceived as produced from the fact that the snail has obeyed the request, are distributed among different subjects, or are counted to check their quantity.

XTR = EXTRANEIOUS TEXT. Added text of different nature, that probably does not have the same origin as the snail rhyme and does not belong to the usual structure of this kind of rhyme.

MOTIVATIONAL SEQUENCES

The motivational sequences are used to try to persuade the snail, by giving it at least a good reason to obey the request made to it.

C) SITUATION OF NEED FOR THE HUMANS. A situation of need is described, a negative context in which somebody needs help, or the need is implied by the fact that it is said that somebody is invoking the animal, or that somebody is dying, or by expressing a deep concern with the weather conditions (which can have an influence on the agriculture). It is supposed that the negative situations will go on, if the snail will not listen to the request made to it. What is mentioned in this sequence is especially negative for the human beings.

D) CONTINUING A TRADITION. The request made to the snail is motivated by stating that "we have always done so", "this is the tradition", "the snail's ancestors have always obeyed such a request in the past", or by similar statements.

E) PROMISE OF POSITIVE THINGS FOR THE HUMANS. If the snail obeys the request, then beautiful and positive things will come (a description of them follows here); what is mentioned in this sequence is especially positive for the human beings.

F) PROMISE OF A REWARD FOR THE SNAIL. If the snail obeys the request, then it will receive itself a reward or an offer; what is mentioned in this sequence is especially positive for the snail; the offer could in some cases consist only in an expression of praise or admiration.

G) RIGHT CONDITIONS OCCURRING. The request made to the snail can also be motivated by stating that "this is the right moment", "it is the right hour of the day or the right day of the year", "the right and most proper condition are occurring now", "the right and most proper actions are being performed precisely now" or in another specified moment.

H) THREATENING THE SNAIL WITH A POSSIBLE PUNISHMENT. If the snail does not obey the request, it will be punished (it is often eaten, killed, or it has its horns or its head severed). What is mentioned in this sequence is especially negative for the snail.

MOTIFS:

All the motifs are listed in the **motif index**, in which each code corresponds to a given subject, action or attribute. The **motif index** can be found [here](#).

SUBJECTS

example: S001

They are names of things, people, characters or abstract concepts.

Each code indicates a well-identified Subject. The complete list is in the **motif index**, published [here](#).

ACTIONS

example: AN010

They are verbs, that is actions that are performed.

Each code indicates a well-identified Action. The complete list is in the **motif index**, published [here](#).

ATTRIBUTES

example: AT080

They are adjectives, or, in some cases, adverbs, which specify the nature of the subjects or of the actions. They are always written *after* the subject or the action they refer to.

Each code indicates a well-identified Attribute. The complete list is in the **motif index**, published [here](#).

SIGNS EXPRESSING THE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE MOTIFS:

: The colon is used to indicate that a subject is performing an action, or that an action is performed on a subject. The two things can also be combined.

examples:

S001 : AN001 = Subject 001 performs the action 001

AN001 : S002 = The action 001 is performed on the subject 002

S001 : AN001 : S002 = Subject 001 performs the action 001 on the subject 002

> indicates the invitation to perform an action.

examples:

S001 > AN001 = Subject 001 is invited to performed the action 001

S001 > AN001 : S002 = Subject 001 is invited to perform the action 001 on the subject 002

HWR: indicates how and where; where, in which condition (specification of a place or of a condition), or how, or from where, or towards where.

example:

S001 HWR: S180 = Subject 001 is in the place specified by the code S180 or in the condition specified by that code

WN: indicates when.

example:

AN001 WN: S131 = The action 001 is performed in the moment specified by the code S131

WT: indicates "with".

example:

S043 WT: S044 = Subject S043 appears together with subject S044

AN011 WT: S222 = The action AN011 is performed by using the object described by the code S222

TO: indicates "to whom". Usually employed to indicate the action of giving something to somebody.

example:

TO: S001 = Something is given to subject S001

NTO: indicates "not given to somebody". Usually employed to indicate that something is not given to a specified subject.

example:

NTO: S010 = Nothing is given to subject S010

(An) indicates that the following part of the analysis is made by supposing that the text is to be referred to the animal.

example:

(An)

S007 = The house of the snail (that is: its shell) (since the code S007 means "house")

(Hm) indicates that the following part of the analysis is made by supposing that the text is to be referred to a human being.

example:

(Hm)

S007 = The house of a human being (since the code S007 means "house")

3 - FUNCTION ANALYSIS

FUNCTIONS

example: F001

Functions indicate some fixed roles that may be played by certain subjects (for example: the punisher of the snail, the one who gives a reward to the snail, the main receiver of the useful and beautiful things that are being distributed, the motifs indicating a negative condition for the human beings, and so on...).

Each code indicates a well-identified Function. The complete list is in the **motif index**, published [here](#).

example:

S006 = F001 Subject S006 has the function F001

4 - DETAILED LIST OF THE MOTIFS THAT ARE REALLY MENTIONED

example:

S001*

S002*

S006*

AN001*

AN001*

AN006*

AT005*

AT022*

This is one of the most useful parts of the analysis, in order to create statistics and maps. Each subject, action or attribute (in this order, with the three categories separated by an empty line) appears in this list as many times as it is really mentioned and its code is always followed by an asterisk. This helps to facilitate the search process in the database: for instance, if we look for AT005* in the database (including the asterisk in the search) we can easily detect how many times this attribute is really mentioned in all the collected documents. Within each category (subjects, actions, attributes), the codes are listed in increasing alphanumeric order (and not in the order in which they appear in the document).

Since the snail is often invoked by repeating its name many times in a row, but this does not always happen, in order to ensure the best possible uniformity the names of the snail are not listed more than one time when they are repeated immediately in succession. On the contrary, they are really listed many times when they are repeated in the same document not consecutively, separated by other words.

In this part of the analysis, that is in the detailed list of the motifs that are really mentioned, in order to preserve the best possible grammatical uniformity among different languages the codes AT011 ("your") and AT004 ("of the snail") have not been considered when they make reference to a body part (for example: "your

horns", "your eyes", etc...). In some languages, in fact, it is obligatory to include the possessive adjective for the body parts, while this is not obligatory at all in some other languages (in English, for instance, it is obligatory to say "show your horns" and it will be a grammatical mistake to say "show the horns"; in Italian, on the contrary, it is perfectly correct to say "mostra le corna" [= show the horns] and it is not obligatory to say "mostra le tue corna" [= show your horns]).

In case of possible multiple variants (or multiple interpretations) of the same text, this list can be written at the end of the last variant and includes all the motifs appearing in all the variants, considered as a whole, repeated as many times as their total number is in all the variants, considered as a whole.

At the end of this section you will also find the list of all the themes and subthemes represented in the document.

THEMES

example: TM001

All the motifs (S, AN, AT, that is subjects, actions, attributes) can also be grouped in Themes (for example: agriculture, animals, relatives and family, food, war, water, and so on...).

Each code indicates a well-identified Theme. The complete list is in the **theme index**, published [here](#).

SUBTHEMES

example: ST001

All the motifs (S, AN, AT, that is subjects, actions, attributes) can also be grouped in Subthemes, which are subcategories identified within the Themes and smaller than them (for example: agricultural tools, cultivated vegetables, wild animals, domesticated animals, parents, brothers and sisters, and so on...). Subthemes can be formed rather freely.

Each code indicates a well-identified Subtheme. The complete list is in the **theme index**, published [here](#).

5 - FORM

The form is the result of the succession of all the sequences that are present in the document, separated by dashes (without spaces). The beginning and the end are marked by a dot.

This helps to perform easily various types of searches in the database: for example, by searching ".A" the sequences A placed at the beginning will be found; by searching "H." the sequences H placed at the end will be found; by searching "-C-" the sequences C that are placed neither at the beginning, nor at the end will be found, and so on.

example:

.A-B-C-H-E-A.

6 - INDICATION OF NON CONCLUSIVE ANALYSIS

The indication NCA (from the expression "Non Conclusive Analysis") is written in those documents the analysis of which does not seem to give convincing results yet, or does not seem to be totally correct or clear enough. These documents will be analyzed again in the future, if possible.

example:

NCA

7 - INDICATION OF DANCE

The codes an077 ("to dance") and at170 ("spiral-shaped") are written (in lowercase letters) at the end of the documents that are linked to a spiral dance. If it is not demonstrated that the dance follows a spiral-shaped movement, only the first of these codes is used.

example:

an077 at170

ANALYSIS OF A RHYME MAKING REFERENCE TO AN ANIMAL OTHER THAN THE SNAIL

For the analysis of a rhyme making reference to an animal other than the snail and included in this database (which, normally, lists only rhymes that make reference to the snail) exactly the same criteria are used, but all the codes are always written in lowercase letters. This helps to spot these cases easily during the analyses.

APPROXIMATE ANALYSIS OF A GENERIC DOCUMENT WHICH DOES NOT BELONG TO THE TYPOLOGY OF RHYME STUDIED IN THIS RESEARCH

For the analysis of a document which does not belong to the typology of the rhymes studied in this research, but contains nonetheless references to motifs and concepts that have to do with this research, the codes indicating such references are simply listed, written in lowercase letters, without any fixed order, separated by a comma and a space.

example:

an110, s001, an141, an012

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