

PoeML: a new verse encoding structure?

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The Consortium of TEI, Text Encoding Initiative (<http://www.tei-c.org>) as it states the consortium itself is an international and interdisciplinary standard that facilitates libraries, museums, publishers, and individual scholars for representing a variety of literary and linguistic texts for online research, teaching, and preservation.

TEI is based on XML, eXtended Markup Language (<http://www.w3.org>), the well known standard for creating customized, representation of documents.

The TEI Guidelines for encoding literary texts cover of course literature representation, namely poetry, but, the actual representation of metrical rhetorical is a bit complicate to render phenomena in romance literatures say for example Italian where poetical language differentiates not only within (in Italian) “ictus” and “accento” (stress) but also, giving the character of the language (accentuativo), the difference occurring between metrical and grammatical position of a syllable that can vary in presence of “figures of omission” like episynaloephe (corresponding to the Italian sinalefe) synaeresis, aphaeresis or “figures of addition”, say diaeresis or phenomena present typically in the Italian languages as is the case of the “dialefe”).

We want here introduce PoeML (Poetic Markup Language) as a language able to take care of such and others phenomena, suggesting how to integrate, for the sake of more precision, the new encoding tags.

The aims of PoeML can be briefly described as follow:

1. Creating new set of tags for text encoding, to describe metrical and rhetorical phenomena inside a poetic text. Future uses of PoeML will also allow analysis on rhymic and rhythmic level
2. Since differences in language’s structure imply differences in the accentual system, and in rhetoric convention, PoeML will allow the creation of a core base tag for a generic poetical analysis and a localized base tag for a more specific analysis depending on the language in which a text is written.
3. PoeML aims to be an international project in which all the members of the team will collaborate in creation either of the core base tag but more specifically in the creation of the localized base tag in which the linguistic and literary experience of “national” components of the team will be extremely important and helpful in finding out which linguistic, rhetoric, metric or stylistic phenomenon to describe and how to describe it.