Abstract – A recurring aspect of Joseph Conrad’s prose is the precise description of clothes and clothes accessories in order to characterize the characters’ appearance as well as their psychology and frame of mind. In some cases, these objects are instrumental in interpreting the text as a whole. The same attention to the visual aspect of narratives, with special reference to clothing, can be found in some of Italo Calvino’s novels, the Italian author who wrote his degree thesis on Conrad and included him in his personal literary canon (Perché leggere i classici). This essay analyzes a dataset of quotations concerning clothes and clothes accessories from Conrad’s and Calvino’s texts, with the purpose to design and populate a database. Through the analysis of the results, it is possible to establish an innovative dialogue between the two authors using the instruments of esattezza and visibilità, proposed by Calvino himself in his Lezioni americane. Sei proposte per il prossimo millennio.

Keywords: Joseph Conrad, Italo Calvino, clothes, accessories, visibility