

Abstract

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Title: Las funciones del pasado en los sistemas verbales español y ruso

English title: Past time reference in the verbal systems of Spanish and Russian

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This monograph is a comparative study of past time reference in Spanish and Russian. The ambition is to present a functional perspective of how both languages systemically express temporal and aspectual information. The verb, naturally, attracts the main attention and the focus is almost exclusively on verbs in the indicative mood.

The definition of the parameters of Time and Aspect plays an important part in the present dissertation. A particular emphasis concerns the elaboration and testing of the ABC-model, which represents a graphic definition of verbal aspect as a grammatical category. Another important issue is the distinction of aspect and *Aktionsart*; these concepts are closely related but operate on different functional levels.

The analysis is essentially based on linguistic material from different parallel corpora, constructed for this purpose. At first the material is treated statistically in order to create a starting point for the qualitative part of the analysis. The three main areas of investigation dealt with are:

- 1) The relation between the simple past tenses, *pretérito* and *imperfecto*, in Spanish and their imperfective and perfective counterparts in Russian.
- 2) The relation between the compound tenses in Spanish and the Russian verbal system. The analysis of this relation also comprises a critique of the traditional interpretation of the aspectual contents of the compound tenses.
- 3) The usage of alternative strategies in both languages. In this part of the analysis the focus is widened to include verbal periphrasis, infinite verbforms and subordination.

The results of the analysis demonstrate that verbal aspect, according to the definition represented by 'the ABC-model', works as a grammatical category in both Spanish and Russian. It is also shown that there are systemic differences in the manifestation of this functional category in both languages. Another important result is that the neither the compound tenses nor the progressive express verbal aspect, at least not in a narrow sense of the word but represent different verbal functions related to aspect.

Keywords: verbal functions, tense, aspect, systemic language perspective, parallel corpora.

Funciones del pasado en los sistemas verbales español y ruso



GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET
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