

Kjær Jensen

Wotjak, Gerd / Alexandre Veiga (eds): *La descripción del verbo español*. 1990. 285 pp. Verba, anuario galego de filoloxía, anexo 32. ISBN 84-7191-609-6. Servicio de Publicacións, Universidade de Santiago, 15771 Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

Volume 16 of *Verba*, the always interesting publication by the University of Santiago de Compostela, has just been published, and its anexo 32 is dedicated to the papers read at the III Colloquium on Hispanic Linguistics held at the University of Leipzig in 1988. The papers are exclusive in the sense that only people who read Spanish have access to this fund of investigation on the Spanish verb. Nevertheless, many problems treated in this book may be of interest to linguists in general. Many of the authors are from the universities of Cádiz, Santiago de Compostela or Leipzig. The theoretical points of view are, in many cases, expressed within the frameworks of valency grammar, functional grammar (the Prague school) and the lexematics of Coseriu and Lamíquiz.

All the papers deal with the Spanish verb. Some focus on theoretical problems:

Alexandre Veiga: *Planteamientos básicos para un análisis funcional de las categorías verbales en español*. In this article Alexandre Veiga analyses the morphological categories of the verbal system and determines the semantic features of the categories that have a functional value. The well-known problem of mode, tense and aspect is treated in an interesting way, and e.g. aspect (= *canté* - *cantaba*) is rejected as an independent category by the author's functional analysis.

Gerd Wotjak: *Fundamentos metodológicos para una descripción modular del potencial comunicativo de los verbos*. In this article Gerd Wotjak discusses the methodological foundation of a model for the description of the Spanish verbs from a semantic point of view. In particular, Gerd Wotjak analyses:

1. The organizing function of the verb. The verb decides semantically the kind of actants ("actantes") that can accompany the verb, as a minimum and as a maximum.
2. The lexico-semantic microstructure, divided in two levels:
 - Level 1 determines the 'basic proposition'; the semantic-functional

and semantic-denotative-referential, classematic specifications of the arguments.

Level 2 completes the description of the ‘basic proposition’: modalisation, specification and focalisation/perspectivation of the semantic microstructures. Gerd Wotjak discusses the problem whether presuppositions are arguments and actants and, thus, belong to the argument potential.

3. The lexico-semantic mediumstructure (= Baldingers semasiological field) specifies the relations between sememes that correspond to one formative.
4. The paradigmatic semantic macrostructure specifies the relations between sememes that correspond to various formatives.

Among other problems, Gerd Wotjak discusses the terms of ‘semantic valency’ and ‘pragmatic valency’, which are both rejected.

Vidal Lamíquiz: *Lexemática y sintaxis del verbo: Funcionamiento interdependiente*. The author examines the interrelations in discourse between the lexematic values of a word and syntactic conditions. According to this analysis, the different values of a word in discourse are clearly differentiated by the actants and their exact arguments by the textual construction. Vidal Lamíquiz examines in particular the verb *tratar* in a corpus of oral discourse.

Valerio Báez San José/Inmaculada Penadés Martínez: *Diccionario informatizado de construcciones oracionales y el proyecto Esquemas sintáctico-semánticos del español*. This article contains a detailed discussion of many theoretical problems: criteria and relations between semantic and syntactic structures. The authors also explain how they establish 127 sentence structures (“esquemas oracionales”) in a project with many interesting new aspects: a dictionary of verbal constructions in Spanish.

Other articles offer, beside their theoretical interest, fine new observations due to investigation of special areas in morphology, syntax or lexicology:

Avellina Suñer shows that the omission of the conjunction *que* after certain verbs, e.g. *lamentar*, is due to syntactic conditions, and that it is not a merely stylistic phenomenon.

The problem of simultaneity expressed in verbs is treated by Elena Méndez García de Paredes: *Tiempo verbal y subordinación temporal: la relación de simultaneidad*.

María Victoria Vázquez Rozas: *Una aproximación al análisis de las cláusulas sujeto-predicado-complemento indirecto*. The author analyses sentences like: *Estás cerrando los ojos* and *Se te están cerrando los ojos* (cf. *John likes music* and *The music pleases John*). The feature +/- INV (= involuntariedad) seems very relevant for the analysis of these sentences.

Bárbara Wotjak describes a model for analysing lexematic incorporation in verbs, i.e. *mariposa - mariposear*; *araña - arañar*.

Santiago Alcoba demonstrates that it is useful to talk about a thematic morpheme in the structure of verbal forms.

Miguel Casas Gómez discusses the linguistic problems of the two verbs: *alquilar-arrendar*.

In this volume the reader will find many other valuable articles about general and specific problems concerning the Spanish verb. Some of the problems are well known, of course, but interesting new solutions to these problems are proposed.

