

System and realization of Theme in Spanish: Towards a paradigmatic description

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In previous work (Moyano, 2016) it has been proposed that Theme in the Spanish declarative clause is realized by agreement. In this description, Theme is realized by a participant which is signalled by the verbal affix. This participant can be explicit or elided. When it is explicit, it may be placed at the beginning or at the end of the clause, in the latter case conflated with New. In this paper, a small corpus of different registers will be analysed, in order to explore interrogatives and imperatives. Declarative clauses will be revisited, to show that the clitics in Spanish cannot perform the function of Theme, as proposed by other scholars (Taboada, 1995; Montemayor-Borsinger, 2009; Arús, 2010; Lavid et al, 2010). The main objective of this presentation is to outline a provisional system of Theme in Spanish. The perspective assumed is language typology in SFL, which highlights the peculiar characteristics of the language at stake based on patterns found in actual discourse and which observes the phenomenon “from above, from round about and from below” (Martin, 1983; Caffarel, Martin and Matthiessen, 2004; Matthiessen & Halliday, 2009; Quiroz, 2013).

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