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### The role of *affectedness* and *animacy* in indirect object clitic doubling in Spanish

This paper investigates the factors determining indirect object (dative) clitic doubling in Spanish based on an experiment conducted with monolingual (Standard) Spanish<sup>1</sup> speakers. The results show that for verbs selecting a preposition (*en*(in)/*de*(from)/*para*(for)), the licensing condition for indirect object doubling is *affectedness* in combination with *animacy*.

Clitic doubling (CD) is a structure where a strong pronoun or a full determiner phrase (DP) appears with a co-referential clitic within one and the same sentence (Suñer 1988; Jaeggli 1993):

- (1) *\*(Les) regalaron un disco a ellos.*  
CI-Dat gave-3PL Det record DOM them.

‘They gave a record to them.’

(Suñer 1988: 394, ex. (3b))

Strong pronouns are obligatorily doubled by a clitic (1) irrespective of being accusative or dative. DPs show an accusative/dative asymmetry where accusative DPs are not doubled in Standard Spanish, whereas dative DPs are either obligatorily doubled with psych verbs<sup>2</sup> or optionally doubled with ditransitive verbs (2):

- (2) *(Le) di la manzana a Pepito.*  
CI-Dat gave-I Det apple to Pepito

‘I gave the apple to Pepito.’

The licensing conditions for Spanish CD are well defined for obligatorily doubled (1) and obligatorily non-doubled contexts, but controversial w.r.t. optional doubling (2) especially for datives in Standard Spanish.

Cuervo (2003, 2007) argues that the –CD variant (with a goal interpretation, example 3a) corresponds to the English Prepositional construction (PC, example 4a), while the +CD variant (with a recipient<sup>3</sup> interpretation, example 3b) corresponds to the English Double Object construction (DOC, example 4b). According to Beavers & Nishida (2009) and Beavers (2010), the –CD variant (being a PC) licenses either *affected* or *non-affected* readings, while the +CD variant (being a DOC) licenses only *affected* readings. Pineda (2012), however, claims that both the non-doubled (–CD) and clitic-doubled (+CD) variants correspond to DOCs if they are in a possession relation.

- (3) a. *Emilio entregó el informe a Andreína.*  
Emilio handed-he the report to Andreína  
‘Emilio gave the report to Andreína.’

- b. *Emilio le entregó el informe a Andreína.*  
Emilio CI-Dat handed-he the report Andreína.DAT  
‘Emilio gave Andreína the report.’

Cuervo (2007: 587)

- (4) a. Mary sent a package to Peter.

- b. Mary sent Peter a package.

Cuervo (2007: 585)

These proposals are based on introspective data as well as informant’s judgment data. However, they have not been tested systematically, i.e. testing the role of *animacy*, *affectedness* and *verb-type*, in previous research. The present study addresses the following questions: (Q1) How do monolingual speakers of (Standard) Spanish deal with the (apparent) optionality of clitic doubled and non-doubled datives? (Q2) What is the role of *animacy* and *affectedness* in the context of verbs that appear with the prepositions *en*(in)/*de*(from)/*para*(for) (e.g., *poner*)?

The optionality of ±CD datives was tested via a *preference task*. Participants saw a short video sequence (providing the relevant ±affected context) and had to choose their preferred

<sup>1</sup> By *Standard Spanish*, I am referring to what has also been called *European* or *Peninsular Spanish*. The optionality of CD with dative DPs does not hold for *American Spanish* varieties (cf. Becerra Bascuñán 2006).

<sup>2</sup> These verbs will not be discussed in the present paper.

<sup>3</sup> According to Cuervo (2003, 2007), datives in Spanish DOCs can further have a *source* or *possession* interpretation.

response option with or without clitic doubling according to this context. Affectedness was realized in terms of change of state/alienability or change of possession. This testing method has been employed in order to force the participants to choose between the –CD and +CD variant within each test item, i.e. always in relation to +affected (n=12) and –affected (n=12) contexts. For instance, in the –affected context, a man puts sugar into a cup. Given that the indirect object *cup* does not undergo any change, the participants were expected to choose the –CD response: *Pone azúcar en la taza.* over the +CD response *Le pone azúcar a la taza.*. The experiment was divided into two parts: a) **Experiment 1a** with *verb+en* (into)/*de* (from) selecting **inanimate** objects, and b) **Experiment 1b** with *verb+para* (for) selecting **animate** objects.

Results from 33 monolingual Spanish-speaking native speakers from Murcia (19–25 years,  $M=20,4$ ) show that in Experiment 1 (with inanimate objects) the –CD variant is the preferred choice (Fig.1) in –affected contexts. In +affected contexts, speakers opted for both –CD and +CD variants (Fig.2). In experiment 1b, with animate objects, both –CD and +CD variants were selected (Fig.3, Fig.4), irrespective of an  $\pm$ affected context.

As for Q1, the results point out to that in +affected contexts, the choice between +CD and –CD is optional. This optionality extends into –affected contexts when the indirect object is +animate. Since +CD appears both with *affected* and *non-affected* readings, these cases prove Beavers and Nishida’s (2009) predictions wrong. Cuervo’s (2003, 2007) analysis also seems inaccurate for these contexts. Further research is necessary to investigate the influence of *affectedness* and *animacy* with other verb-type groups, such as *send-type* and *give-type* verbs.

Regarding Q2, the findings indicate that with verbs that select the prepositions *en/de/para*, the licensing condition for  $\pm$ CD with inanimate objects is *affectedness*. Consequently, if the indirect object is *inanimate* and *non-affected*, Pineda’s (2012) prediction does not hold either with these verbs. Based on the empirical findings, I propose a (derivational) account for Spanish datives that takes into consideration the three influential factors of *verb-type*, *affectedness* and *animacy*.

Results experiment 1a: inanimate objects

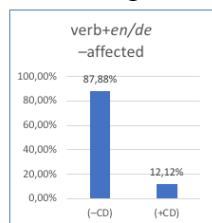


Fig. 1: en/de, –aff

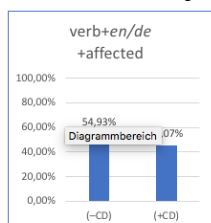


Fig. 2: en/de, +aff

Results experiment 1b: animate objects

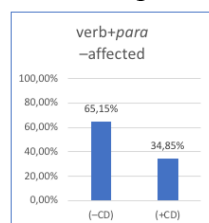


Fig. 3: para, –aff

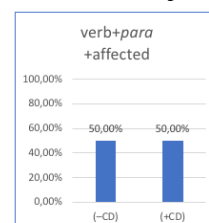


Fig. 4: para, +aff

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