

## **The German-Spanish verb pair *schreiben/escribir* from a contrastive perspective: empirical study of argument structure patterns and their variation in different text types**

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This contribution on the German-Spanish verb pair *schreiben/escribir* takes up some questions about representative communication verbs in language comparison (Harras *et al.* 2004 2007; Fernández Eduardo 1993). Departing from an *ad hoc* data base of a comparable multilingual corpus (Kupietz *et al.* 2020, X1) and a corpus-based methodology for multilingual contexts, it describes the extensive combination potential of both verbs from a contrastive perspective.

The data base consists of 400 corpus examples per language from four different text types of the contemporary language, extracted from large reference corpora of both languages. The corresponding analyses for lexical issues at the interface between semantics and syntax required the development of a corpus-based methodology for multilingual contexts and the creation of an annotation system for the acquisition of different lexical data. The underlying methodology based on Engelberg *et al.* (2012) was adapted to the main purposes of the research project XXX (X2) and applied to the analysis of verbs of different verb classes (X3).

The high number of attested argument structure patterns combined with a wide morpho-syntactic realisation spectrum provides not only the basis for fine-grained sense disambiguation but also relevant phenomena in the contrastive field. Based on a *tertium comparationis*, which is defined by the identified argument structures (Wotjak 2011), the following research questions will be considered:

- i. What combination potential do the verbs *schreiben/escribir* possess?
- ii. Can different readings be revealed based on the individual argument structure patterns?
- iii. Do the verbs behave similarly regarding their combination potential in both languages?
- iv. Can text type-specific differences be identified? (cf. Engelberg *et al.* (2012).
- v. Can the verbs in both languages be assigned to the same frames? (cf. Boas 2009)

These research questions in part follow the tradition of valence grammar and connect to current approaches to the analysis and description of argument structures and argument structure patterns, which explicitly address the syntax-semantics interface (Primus 2012, Herbst 2014, Engelberg 2018) and enable a connection to contrastive issues (Cosma/Engelberg 2014, Engelberg *et al.* 2015, González Ribao 2021). However, the concept of 'argument structure patterns' underlying this study, allows for an analysis independent of the chosen linguistic approach (cf. Proost/Winkler 2015).

The results of the quantitative and qualitative analyses also provide the basis for an application-oriented proposal within the framework of the development of a multilingual lexico-grammatical information system for foreign language acquisition, which among others offers explicit contrastive commentaries (X4).

The main aim of this contribution is not only to present the results and point out application-oriented possibilities, but also to stimulate a discussion that particularly concerns the methodological-empirical foundations for contrastive studies.

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X1

X2

X3

X4

XXX

