

WPB: Grammar of Spanish

April 15, 2009

Day & Time	Mondays, 11:00-13:00
Location	II.24.0.52
Instructor	Luis Vicente
Contact	<i>vicente@ling.uni-potsdam.de</i>
Where to find me	Haus 35, office 1.03
Office hours	by appointment, though drop-ins are welcome

1 Overview of the course

This course will introduce students to some topics in the morphology and syntax of Spanish, focusing on (i) an accurate description of the data, and (ii) the relevance of the data for linguistic theory. The topics for discussion include the syntax of the clause (active/passive alternations, non-finite complements...), the syntax of subjects and objects (especially their variable position wrt the verb), questions, and focalization strategies.

2 Pass requirements

Students are required to attend and participate in all the lectures and do a weekly reading assignment. There will be no textbook, so the reading assignments will be short-to-medium length articles distributed in advance.

- 10% = Weekly attendance, reading assignments, active class participation.
- 40% = In-class presentation (around 15 minutes).
- 40% = Final paper (between 2000 and 3000 words).

3 Tentative schedule

Date	Topic
20 April	General introduction & theoretical refresher
27 April	Verbs and functional structure of the clause
4 May	Clausal complementation and restructuring
11 May	Argument structure and valency-changing operations (I)
18 May	Argument structure and valency-changing operations (II)
25 May	Subjects (I)
1 June	No lecture – Pfingsmontag
8 June	Subjects (II)
15 June	Objects
22 June	Focus and topic (I)
29 June	Focus and topic (II)
6 July	Wh- movement (I)
13 July	Wh- movement (II)
20 July	Student presentations (I)
27 July	Student presentations (II)

4 Some readings that might be assigned

- Bosque, Ignacio, and Violeta Demonte. 1999. *Gramática descriptiva de la lengua española*. Espasa-Calpe, Madrid.
- Bonet, Eulalia. 1991. *Morphology after syntax: pronominal clitics in Romance*. PhD dissertation, MIT.
- Ordóñez, Francisco. 1997. *Word order and clause structure in Spanish and other Romance languages*. PhD dissertation CUNY Graduate Center.
- Reglero, Lara. 2007. Wh- in situ interrogatives in Spanish. *Probus* 19:2, 267-297.
- Suñer, Margarita. V-movement and the licensing of argumental wh- phrases in Spanish. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 6, 391-434.
- Torrego, Esther. 1984. On inversion in Spanish and some of its effects. *Linguistic Inquiry* 15, 103-129.
- Zagana, Karen. 2001. *The syntax of Spanish*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Zubizarreta, María Luisa. 1998. *Prosody, focus, and word order*. MIT Press, Massachusetts.