

Abstract

This thesis explores the topic of cognitive *Viewpoint* and some of the forms of its expression in Spanish. This will be done primarily using concepts from mental space theory (Facounnier, 1994; 1997; 2007) and applying them to Spanish. The primary focus will be placed on the Spanish verbal system and how different verb forms can change *Viewpoint*. Given the higher degree of complexity of the Spanish verbal system compared to the English one, this thesis tries to synthesize concepts from mental space theory with Ruiz Campillo's (2014) operational model of Spanish verbs. The main part of the thesis focuses on presenting both approaches and also proposing a new understanding of Spanish verbal forms based on embodied experience and the concept of *Viewpoint* distance. It is proposed that each personal verbal form expresses *Viewpoint* distance on three axes: spatiotemporal, epistemic, and aspectual. These types of distance are linked to the grammatical categories of tense, mood, and aspect. The three axes together form part of the complex nature of *Viewpoint* distance. It is further explored how this understanding affects *Viewpoint* and the forming of mental spaces within the mental space network. In the end, a short analysis is performed on two texts by Julio Cortázar, showing the proposed combined model applied to real language material.