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# MANNER ADVERB PLACEMENT IN ENGLISH, SPANISH AND LITHUANIAN: A CORPUS-BASED APPROACH

In generative tradition, the adverb is regarded to be the most stable part on the syntactic tree, relative to which the position of other members of the sentence, primarily the verb, may be examined. The present study explores the position of six manner adverbs in English and their equivalents in Spanish and Lithuanian. Following Rochette's (1990) classification, three adverb positions are distinguished: Initial, VP-external, and VP-internal. The findings reveal that manner adverbs in Spanish and Lithuanian may take different positions from their English counterparts and can therefore be assigned to different adverb classes. For example, English and Spanish manner adverbs belong to Class IV in Rochette's classification, whereas their Lithuanian counterparts exhibit features of Class I adverbs. The study shows that English and Spanish manner adverbs most frequently appear in two positions, pre- and post verbally, whereas their distributional diversity is greatest in Lithuanian, which might be due to issues related to the information structure of the language.

KEY WORDS: manner adverb, placement, corpus, English, Spanish, Lithuanian.

## Introduction

After the generative syntactic approach emerged in the late 1950's, there seemed to be a renewed interest in the linguistic comparison of the properties of various languages and their grammatical systems. The adverb, however, has long remained one of the least studied parts of speech. While some linguists (Keyser 1968, Emond 1976) claimed that the distribution of adverbs is rather free or is confined to "stating where they can't appear" (Carnie 2006, p. 42), others (Jackendoff 1972, Travis 1988, Cinque 1999) have argued that adverb placement is fairly restricted. Currently, the position of adverbs in a sentence is of great importance, playing an essential role in determining the deep structure of a sentence and the potential behavior patterns of its constituents.

The generative approach has since then been applied to a number of languages, e.g. English (Jackendoff 1972, Cinque 1999, Potsdam 1997), Russian (Dyakonova 2009), French (Abeillé, Godard 1997), Italian (Delfitto 2005), Greek (Xydopoulos 1995), Spanish (Bok-Bennema 2001), but very limited attention has been paid to adverbs in Lithuanian.

The present study focuses on manner adverb placement in three languages – English, Spanish and Lithuanian – which manifest a certain hierarchy in terms of word order. English, as the topmost language with strictly determined word order and long-standing generative framework, will be taken as the basis to investigate and compare manner adverb placement in Spanish and Lithuanian, characterized as flexible or mixed and free word order, respectively.

### Theoretical overview

### Generative approaches to adverb study

The adverb is one of the basic parts of speech, frequently "distinguished on intuitive meaning grounds" (Delfitto 2005, p. 89). In traditional grammatical accounts, adverbs are primarily seen as modifiers of verbs, while identification of additional properties, such as their possibility to modify adjectives and other adverbs, is of secondary importance (Catinelli 1969, Delfitto 2005). It is after the pioneering linguistic work by Jackendoff (1972), Cinque (1999), and Pollock (1989) that the position of an adverb in a sentence has come to be a criterion when defining the structure of a given phrase and the possible position of its constituents (Wyner 1998, Shaer 1999). As the very term implies, the adverb serves as a modifier of a verb; consequently, it was of no surprise when attempts to determine verb movement possibilities by means of adverb placement in the sentence were introduced in the generative approach. The adverb placement test has become a means of determining movement in the sentence, taking place from V(erb) position to the higher position of I(nflection), across various languages.

Contrary to the traditional approach, Jackendoff (1972) argues that the adverb does not enjoy free distribution and that its placement is strictly determined. He classifies adverbs into six major classes according to their frequency and ability to appear in different sentence positions, distinguishing three main positions: initial, auxiliary and VP-final position. Similarly, Baltin (1982) and Wenger (2009) claim that the function and distribution of adverbs is largely confined to three major domains of the sentence – CP (complementizer phrase), IP (also abbreviated as Infl; inflectional phrase, either finite or non-finite independent element in the sentence) and VP (verb phrase) – the hierarchically organized landing sites to which the adverb can move and whose co-occurrence with adverbs ultimately determines their fixed order and position in the clause. A sample sentence is given below:



Two other well-known classifications focusing on positional features and setting adverbial hierarchy, with manner adverbs figuring among the lowest, are proposed by Ernst (2002) and Cinque (1999), listed as (2) and (3), respectively:



3) Speech act > Evaluative > Evidential > Modal > Time > Aspectual > Voice-related (well) > Manner > Aspectual (event-internal) (cited from Dyakonova 2009, p. 27)

Thus most generative approaches agree that the adverb is highly dependent on its position in the sentence, which follows from a simple principle of domination by S (subject) or VP (verb phrase) corresponding to the traditional division of adverbs into sentence operators and predicate operators, respectively. This distinction is largely stipulated by Jackendoff's (1972) inclusion of the semantic component and distinction of three major adverb classes: speaker-oriented, subject-oriented and manner adverbs. The present study focuses on the latter category.

## Manner adverbs and their placement in English

Manner, or resultative, adverbs (Geuder 2000) modify verbs and give additional information regarding the way, or manner, in which a particular action is realized. Manner adverbs neither contribute to the meaning of temporality in the clause, nor link the clause to a larger context, e.g., by showing the attitude or opinion of the speaker. Being optional in a sentence (Delfitto 2005), semantically manner adverbs form a relatively well-defined class. Meanwhile their placement in the clause is significant since they are used in a crucial diagnostic test determining the position of Infl and V.

In English, manner adverbs can easily be noticed because of their common ending -ly and low position relative to the verb. However, it has also been noticed that manner adverbs can appear higher on the syntactic tree, preceding the VP (Shaer 2000), which could also correspond to the surface auxiliary position in a sentence, as determined by Jackendoff (1972). Examples of the two are represented in (4 a-b) respectively:

- 4) a) Luisa departed rudely.
  - b) Luisa rudely departed.

What differs these given examples is not only the placement of the same adverb, but also the interpretation of the sentences where in (a) the event is restricted by the adverb "rudely" and in (b) where the adverb explains the event designated by the VP. This ambiguity was interpreted as polysemy holding between subject-oriented and manner adverbs (Piñón 2009); and extended the limits of each category suggesting that agent-oriented adverbs are also manner adverbs in a way and that the latter are best analyzed as predicates of events (e.g., Moore 1995, Geuder 2000, McConnell-Ginet 1982; cf. Gutiérrez-Rexach 1996). In the present study, the narrow interpretation will be followed, focusing on the formal properties of manner adverbs and their placement within an established phrase only.

Jackendoff (1972) attributes manner adverbs to four out of his proposed six classes of adverbs according to their ability to occur in three basic sentence surface positions: initial position, auxiliary position between the subject and the main verb or "between elements of the auxiliary" (Jackendoff 1972, p. 67), and final position without a pause. This distributional classification of all adverb types was later on revised and summarized by Rochette (1990) as follows:

Class I Initial, Aux, VP-final (meaning change) e.g. cleverly, clumsily, carefully, carelessly, happily, truthfully. Class II Initial, Aux, VP-final (no meaning change) e.g. quickly, slowly, reluctantly, sadly, quietly, frequently. Class III Initial, Aux e.g. evidently, probably, certainly, unfortunately, naturally. Class IV Aux, VP-final e.g. completely, easily, totally, handily, badly, mortally. Class V VP-final e.g. hard, well, early, fast, slow, terribly. Class VI Aux e.g. truly, virtually, merely, simply, hardly, scarcely.

Table 1. Rochette's (1990) classification of adverbs

(cited from Gutiérrez-Rexach 1996, p. 606)

Therefore, manner adverbs can easily be associated with classes I, II, IV, V and adverb placement in a sentence in Initial, Aux (hereinafter referred to as VP-external), and VP-final (classes I and II), VP-external and VP-final (class IV), and VP-final (class V) positions. However, this particular form of classifying adverbs is not uniformly used among linguists, which, therefore, suggests that the results depend on whether the analysis is carried out on the purely distributional or semantic level.

### Manner adverbs in Spanish and Lithuanian

In Spanish, which is traditionally considered to be a mixed language in terms of the verb movement parameter (verb movement is easily applicable and thus does not represent strictly exclusive parameter settings) (Ayoun 2005), the most common manner adverbs

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are arguably those with the Latin suffix ending *-mente*. Manner adverbs in Spanish usually occupy the lower VP-external position preceding the finite verb. According to Alarcos (1978), Spanish adverbs can be of two subtypes: *situacionales* (S-adverb or speaker-oriented adverb equivalent in English) and *nocionales* (VP-adverb equivalent in English), of which the latter ones will be examined.

In Lithuanian, adverbs do not change and are primarily seen as modifiers of the categories of verb and adjective.

Given the categories of focus and topicalisation, which relate the position of the relevant element to its importance in the clause in both Spanish and Lithuanian and the fact that Lithuanian is a language with rich inflection system, it is interesting to see whether English-based classes of adverbs are maintained in languages where word order is not so strict. What is more, since the scope of the adverb is determined by its position in the clause, it will also be interesting to see how the classification of manner adverbs proposed for English is manifest in Spanish and Lithuanian.

## Methodology

To explore manner adverb position in English, Spanish and Lithuanian, a corpus-based study was conducted. The following six manner adverbs in English and their 7 translation equivalents in Spanish and Lithuanian were selected:

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Table 2. Selected manner adverbs in English and their correlates in Spanish and Lithuanian

English	Spanish	Lithuanian
slowly	lentamente; despacio	lėtai; pamažu
carefully	cuidadosamente	atsargiai
correctly	correctamente	teisingai
well	bien	gerai
fast	greitai	
rápido		
easily	fácilmente	lengvai

All data were collected from the following corpora: the British National Corpus (BYU-BNC) for English, *El corpus de Referencia del Español Actual* (CREA) for Spanish, and the Corpus of the Contemporary Lithuanian Language for Lithuanian.

For each manner adverb, at least 50 examples of sentences in each language were found. All of the examples were later grouped in terms of whether the adverb occupied the Initial, VP-external or VP-internal position, corresponding to the three surface positions. Depending on the number of translation equivalents, five to six examples with the mentioned manner adverb positions were given. Throughout the study, about 1000 phrases were collected.

Then a comparative method of investigation was used: at least two most typical and representative examples in terms of the most frequent position taken by the adverb were selected in each language and compared with Rochette's (1990) classification presented above. Finally, a chart summarizing all of the results regarding the appearance of manner adverbs in different sentence surface positions was compiled.

## Findings and discussion

Sentences below illustrate the most characteristic positions of manner adverbs in English, Spanish and Lithuanian. Spanish examples are followed by a translation in English.

a) Slowly

7)

/)		
En <i>slowly</i>	Sp lentamente; despacio	
	Lt lėtai; pamažu	
1. He drank and let the burn of the whisky		
pass <b>slowly</b> down his gullet.	dos tazas de café y fumó el	išėjęs pasivaikščioti.
	primer cigarrillo del día.	
	(Already dressed up, he slowly	
	drank two cups of coffee and	
	smoked the first cigar of the day.)	
2. The guests were crowding <b>slowly</b> past	Diena slinko <b>pamažu</b> , o tirštas	
the wedded couple, kissing them, shaking	ir drėgnas oras sunkiai gulė	
their hands.	ant plaučių.	
Sacó despacio el tabaco y el mechero		
sosteniendo la mirada vigilante de		
Malcolm y encendió un cigarrillo.		
(Keeping Malcolm's watchful eye, he <b>slowly</b> took		
the tobacco and the lighter out and lit up a cigar.)		
3. As I hold them I <b>slowly</b> sink to the	Lėtai atsigręžia į Beritą ir	4. One girl wanted to
deep dark bottom.	tvirtai ją apkabina.	cover him in whipped
Y lentamente engullirá y volatilizará		cream and honey and
a Mercurio, y engullirá y volatilizará a		then slowly lick off
Venus		every bit.
(And it will <b>slowly</b> gobble up and volatilize		
Mercury, and then gobble up and volatilize		
Venus)		
5. <b>Slowly</b> the animals turned away and		
his friends managed to run to the safety		
of their Land Rover.Archio žodžiai	tvirtai ją apkabina.	
pamažu smelkėsi į mano sąmonę.		
-		
6. <b>Slowly</b> the tears subsided and gradually		Pamažu lūpos atgavo
I began to pull myself together.	-	rausvumą, o oda –
		natūralią spalvą.

Sentences (1) and (2) demonstrate the behavior of manner adverbs appearing in the so-called lower or VP-internal position, while the examples given in (3) and (4) already correspond to the higher, or, in other words, external position in an established verb phrase. Both English and Lithuanian (4 and 6) examples suggest that adverb sentence-initial position (corresponding to IP or Infl) is also possible and, therefore, does not imply any meaning change. The only manner adverb that seems to be lacking both the Initial and VP-external behavior properties is the Spanish one *despacio*, which, as we can assume, acts in

the same way as the distributionally restricted class of manner adverbs, such as *fast, hard, well.* What is more, the Spanish manner adverb *lentamente* does not appear in the Initial position in any of the 50 selected examples. Consequently, the manner adverb *slowly* and its correlates in Lithuanian (*lėtai, pamažu*) can be assigned to Class II in the classification as proposed by Rochette (1990). The Spanish manner adverb *despacio*, however, would then be assigned to Class V, appearing only in the VP-final position and *lentamente* could only be assigned to Class IV.

b) Carefully

8)

En carefully	Sp cuidadosamente	Lt atsargiai
1. Ask this question of our sportsdesk,	Humedezca cuidadosamente	
and they will answer very slowly and	un paño y utilícelo para	
carefully.	limpiar la superficie del disco.	
	(Carefully moisten a piece of cloth	
	and use it for cleaning the surface	
	of the CD.)	
	<> priglaudė pirštą prie	
	lūpų – girdi, turime kalbėtis	
	atsargiai.	
2. She bent down, undid the zipper, and	Povilas kilnojo kojas <b>atsargiai</b> ,	3. And we carefully
felt <b>carefully</b> inside the layers of clothing	saugodamasis, kad neįsmuktų	chose some unusual
before kicking the bag to one side.	į kokią duobę <>.	groceries, such as
<> hay muchas personas generosas		mango chutney and
y caritativas que, no obstante, cierran		batteries, as well as the
cuidadosamente sus casas. (<> there		obvious basics, so that
are a lot of kind and charitable people who,		it was a really thorough
nonetheless, <b>carefully</b> close their houses.)		test.
4. Doctors were today carefully	Aš jį <b>atsargiai</b> išprašiau lauk.	
monitoring the progress of Siamese		
twin boys who have been successfully		
separated after a 16-hour operation.Tik		
po valandėlės <b>atsargiai</b> nusiimu savo		
skrybėlaitę. La madre cuidadosamente		
rompe la bolsita <>.		
<> el embolsado tesoro impera sobre		
la mesa de la cocina y cuidadosamente		
lo depositas en el bolsillo izquierdo de la		
americana <>.		
(<> the collected treasure is lying on the table		
and you <b>carefully</b> place it in the left pocket of		
your jacket <>.)		
(The mother <b>carefully</b> tore the tea bag up.)		
5. Very carefully Mrs. Fanshawe		Atsargiai pakėliau
marshalled her thoughts and her	-	galvą, pažvelgiau į
memories.		dešinę, į kairę.

The adverbs *carefully* and *atsargiai* in Lithuanian can appear in all three positions and hence belong to Class I of adverb classification. Although at times the VP-external and VP-final readings might cause some difficulty when deciding upon the interpretation of the adverb as either subject-oriented and manner adverb, in the examples provided this is not the case. Still, at the present stage of research, it is impossible to state where exactly the relevant manner adverb is located relative to the subject of the sentence in Spanish (5) and Lithuanian (4, 5), given the fact that in both languages the subject can be omitted; consequently only the formal criterion of the sentence leftmost position may be applied. Sentences in (5) show that *carefully* and *atsargiai* can figure in the Initial position; however, sentence-initial position was never the case for their Spanish counterpart *cuidadosamente*, which, therefore, implies that it belongs to Class IV adverbs appearing either in the VP-external or VP-final position in the sentence.

- c) Correctly
- 9)

<i>9</i> )		
En correctly	Sp correctamente	Lt teisingai
1. Now it is important for me to tell the	Po kelių kartų šunininkas	2. When he was satisfied
story correctly.	padeklamavo beveik	they were doing it
Etiquetar correctamente una botella de	teisingai.	correctly he picked up
vino es un requisito legalmente establecido		the head of the dead
<>.		buffalo and carried it to
(Correctly labeling a bottle of wine is one of legally		the river.
established requirements so that it could be put on		
the market and better inform the consumer.)		
3. She clasped her hands together, and cast a	La primera razón es	Pavėluotai, užtat
look of entreaty at him – which he <b>correctly</b>	que no estaban clara y	teisingai ir nuobodžiai
interpreted Aš suskaičiavau teisingai, -	correctamente escritos su	Danielė man ėmė
tvirtai pareiškė Kha.Nunca sería capaz de	nombre y apellidos <>.	aiškinti, <>.
aprendérsela correctamente.	(The first reason is that his name	
(He will never be able to understand her <b>correctly</b> .)	and surname was not correctly	
	written.)	
5. <b>Correctly</b> feeling that Miranda thought	-	Teisingai jis darė, kad
she was being tiresome, she added,' What		bėgo, bet jo baimė mane
counts in this tiff – as you call it – is the		tik siundė.
principle of the thing.'Nino Gutiérrez y		
toda su parentela están bien estudiados y		
<b>correctamente</b> dibujados; <>.		
(Nino Gutiérrez and all of his relatives are all well		
studied and <b>correctly</b> drawn; <>.)		
<> kaip ji besvarstytų – jis <b>teisingai</b>		
pasirinko darbą: uždarbis tvirtas, garan-		
tuotas.		
4. Chuck guffawed uncontrollably and		
Joseph laughed too, but a little uncertainly,		
wondering whether he <b>correctly</b> understood		
the French boy's irreverent humour.		

According to the selected examples, the adverb *correctly* and its Lithuanian counterpart are to be assigned to Class II. As can be seen, in English and Lithuanian, the adverb can take either Initial (5), VP-internal (1 and 2) or VP-external (3 and 4) positions. Even when the adverb occupies the Initial position in a sentence (5), there is no significant change in meaning. However, in none of the examples analyzed did the Spanish adverb *correctamente* appear in the Initial position. Therefore, we could assume that this particular manner adverb would belong not Class II, but Class IV with its suggested VP-external and VP-final positions.

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En <i>well</i>	Sp bien	Lt gerai
1. I myself felt the meeting had	Todo fue <b>bien</b> hasta el momento	Į ketvirtą aukštą užlipo <b>gerai</b> , o
gone pretty well - the house	en que el ayudante del Caudillo	duris rakinant visai nedrebėjo
itself was nice and we all seemed	pronunció en voz alta el nombre	rankos.
to get on very <b>well</b> together.	de los tres candidatos.	
	(Everything went well until the	
	moment when Caudillo's assistant	
	pronounced the names of the three	
	candidates out loud.)	
2. No doubt they mean well	No obstante, reaccionó bien.	Jie sveiki ir stiprūs, valgo ir
where the arts are concerned, he	(Nevertheless, he/she reacted well.)	miega <b>gerai</b> , nėra aikštingi.
wrote, but for that reason they		
are the biggest menace.		
4. <> I was well advised not	Es <b>bien</b> sabido que aquellos	Dalytė labai <b>gerai</b> išlaikė
to expect too much if I did	años, llamados triunfales,	egzaminus, mokytoja ją gyrė.
decide to try the social security		
people.Qué gran importancia		
y qué gran simbolismo tienen		
los caminos del y qué <b>bien</b> lo	called triumphal years were actually	
saben los andaluces.	of great economic hardship, <>.)	
(What a great importance and		
symbolism do Rocío routes have		
and how well do Andalusians know		
about it.)		
Norai jų dideli, aiškiai dideli, tą		
tai jis gerai permatė, jautė.		
3. There were traces of the same		
fine-boned look about him, but		
his features were already well		
masked by what was likely in		
the course of time to become a		
solid layer of self-indulgent fat.		
5	-	Gerai slapsčiausi – pakrūmėmis,
		grioviais, krūmeliais.

Examples in this table suggest that *well* and its correlates in Spanish and Lithuanian belong to a distributionally restricted class. Preliminarily it was assumed that manner adverbs belonging to this category can only be assigned to Class V of adverb positional classification (Klima 1965, Jackendoff 1972), that is, they could only be considered as lower adverbs appearing VP-finally. However, the data show that, in structures like sentences (3) and (4), this particular manner adverb can also appear in the VP-external position and function as a higher constituent of a sentence.

e) Fast

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11)		I
En fast	Sp rápido	Lt greitai
1. Pat's recovery, miraculously	Sin embargo, esto último no me	O atskristi jie gali labai <b>greitai.</b>
initiated, had not proceeded	satisface plenamente ya que no	
miraculously <b>fast</b> .	contestan tan <b>rápido</b> como yo.	
	(However, the last one does not	
	completely satisfy me since they do	
	not really respond as <b>fast</b> as I can.)	
2. Course there is, pet,' said	Y el restante 40% debía aprender	Eskalatorius leidosi <b>greitai</b> .
Mrs Beavis, and Archie, moving	rápido si no quería aburrirse	
fast and silently, ghosted up the	rápidamente y ser relegado por	
stairs to the landing.	el resto de la comunidad.	
	(The remaining 40 percent has to	
	learn fast not to get bored quickly	
	and be set aside from the rest of the	
	community.)	
3. The time is <b>fast</b> approaching	<> todo una forma rarísima	
when a more accurate division	y muy <b>rápido</b> hablan.	
of mankind will be between	(<> all in a very strange form and	
those who are patients, <>.	they speak really <b>fast</b> .)	
_		
	Liepsnos greitai pasiekė	
	pirmojo sandėlio stogą.	
4. I was well aware that the	<> los cielos hienden y	Jis lėtai pasuko galvą, bet ji
man in the bushes was not Mrs	rápido desciende, <>.	greitai nuleido akis.
Browning's only worry, and	(<> heavens crack open and	
that she lived on interest from	descend <b>fast</b> , <>.)	
a small amount of capital <b>fast</b>		
diminishing in value.		
5	Rápido fue a la cama con su	Greitai užu daržinės pasikinkė
	esposo.	ir išlėkė.
	(Quickly went to bed with her	
	husband.)	

The distribution of the manner adverb *fast* and its corresponding readings in Spanish (*rápido*) and Lithuanian (*greitai*) are similar to that of *well* and its correlates. As can be seen, the relevant manner adverbs not only appear low and take the VP-final position, but

can also appear in VP-external position and hence be assigned to a higher adverb. Both Spanish and Lithuanian examples given in (5) suggest that the relevant manner adverb can be assigned to Class II of adverb positional classification.

f) Easily

12)

12)		
En easily	Lt lengvai	
Sp fácilmente		
1. But Arabella Buckley, with a	No es una obra que se escuche	Jų atsikratyti sekėsi labai
murderer who was not' one of us'	fácilmente.	lengvai.
almost under her thumb, was not	(It is not a piece of art that you can	
going to let him go so easily.	easily listen to.)	
Pavasario paakinta plona akiplėšiška	Se comprende <b>fácilmente</b> en la	Todėl pokalbis mezgėsi
žolė lengvai plėšo daugiasluoksnį	isla, es la consigna.	lengvai.
asfaltą, <>. 2. In practice, however,	(It is <b>easily</b> understood on the island;	
he found that Karen couldn't be	iťs a slogan.)	
provoked easily.		
4. 'Ladies and gentlemen, 'he said,	Saulcerytė prikiša ją Grybų	
his voice <b>easily</b> overriding the hum	Šefui prie akių ir lengvai	
of conversation.Y una cierta ternura	papurto.	
puede fácilmente un padre sentir		
por la hija restante cuando la primera		
acaba de marchar.		
<> el lector o el usuario pueda		
fácilmente encontrar el libro o la		
materia que él desea estudiar.		
(<> the reader or the user could		
easily find the book or the material		
that he/she wants to study.)		
(A father can easily feel some certain		
tenderness to his remaining daughter when		
the first one has just left.)		
3. Something like that could <b>easily</b>		
backfire on you if you're not careful.		
5.	-	Lengvai tyvuliuoja
		žalosios kvapas, kiek
		salsvas.

The examples suggest that *easily* and its Spanish correlate belong to Class IV: both appear either in the VP-final (1 and 2) or VP-external (3 and 4) positions in the selected examples. What differs the most is Lithuanian examples and the distribution of *lengvai*: it can appear in all three positions – Initial, VP-external and VP-final, and hence be assigned to Class II positional classification.

### Relative positional frequencies in English, Spanish and Lithuanian

Tables 3-5 below summarize the possible positions of manner adverbs in English, Spanish and Lithuanian. As expected, Spanish examples suggest the language to have more flexible word order than English, while Lithuanian word order is the most flexible.

As the tables suggest, the general tendency between English and Spanish is similar: in both languages, we can hardly find any examples of manner adverbs appearing in the Initial position, whereas VP-external and VP-internal positions, even with differences in frequency, are possible. As regards Spanish manner adverbs in particular, contrary to the established positional classification suggested by Rochette (1990), the VP-internal position features as the most frequent one, at least in the current selection.

Lithuanian exhibits the greatest variety of the possible positions for manner adverbs. While the general tendency to prioritise the VP-external position is the same, there are far more results showing that even the Initial position of the sentence is quite commonly occupied by a manner adverb.

Frequency of appearance of	Positions		
manner adverbs in English	Initial VP-external VP-internal		VP-internal
	/50	/50	/50
Slowly	7	16	27
Carefully	2	25	23
Correctly	1	10	39
Well	0	6	44
Fast	0	2	48
Easily	0	21	29

Table 3. Frequency of appearance of manner adverbs in English

Table 4. Frequency of appearance of manner adverbs in Spanish

Frequency of appearance of	Positions		
manner adverbs in Spanish	Initial VP-external VP-int		<b>VP-internal</b>
	/50	/50	/50
Lentamente	0	2	48
Despacio	0	2	48
Cuidadosamente	0	3	47
Correctamente	0	4	46
Bien	0	5	45
Rápido	2	4	45
Fácilmente	0	6	44

Frequency of appearance of	Positions		
manner adverbs in Lithuanian	Initial	VP-external	<b>VP-internal</b>
	/50	/50	/50
Lėtai	12	25	13
Pamažu	18	26	6
Atsargiai	7	35	8
Teisingai	1	30	19
329Gerai	8	33	9
Lengvai9	6	37	7
Greitai			

Table 5. Frequency of appearance of manner adverbs in Lithuanian

Finally, Table 6 summarises the most frequent classes manner adverbs in English, Spanish and Lithuanian belong to.

Table 6. The distribution of manner adverbs across classes, following Rochette's (1990) classification

Class	English /300	Spanish /350	Lithuanian /350
Ι	50	0	100
II	100	50	300
III	0	0	0
IV	150	300	0
V	0	0	0
VI	0	0	0

As can be seen, English and in particular Spanish manner adverbs predominantly belong to Class IV, which implies that manner adverbs in the two languages are likely to occur either in VP-external or VP-internal position. Meanwhile Lithuanian demonstrates greater variety: manner adverbs are frequent in all three positions, both with and without change in meaning, and hence are to be located as Class I or Class II manner adverbs.

## Conclusions

The study focused on the placement of a selected group of manner adverbs in English, Spanish, and Lithuanian. Since manner adverbs have long been seen as a diagnostic tool in determining the position of major constituents in an English sentence, the cross-linguistic investigation of their positional frequency might provide further support for the established idea as well as extend analysis to other languages. As the findings revealed, English and Spanish are rather similar in terms of manner adverb placement in a sentence and may, therefore, be both defined as syntactically strict, with Spanish exhibiting less variation, contrary to the initial expectations. The preliminary hypothesis of Lithuanian showing the greatest flexibility in word order, however, was supported: all selected manner adverbs freely appear in Initial, VP-external and VP-internal positions. Some discrepancies were also observed between English manner adverbs as appearing in the corpus and their established positional classification, the most prominent being the ability of the adverbs *well* and *fast* to figure VP-externally contrary to the classical restriction to VP-internal position, which suggests that these adverbs can also function as higher constituents in a sentence.

It was also noticed that the translation equivalents in Spanish and Lithuanian did not always belong to the same class as their English counterparts. In particular, while the same English and Spanish manner adverbs belong to Class IV in the positional classification, their translation equivalents in Lithuanian are more likely to be assigned to Class I, which suggests that Lithuanian exhibits greatest positional variety. On the other hand, this fact is suggestive of the possible interference of pragmatic factors that need be considered in their own right. To conclude, it is hoped that the present study will help define the most frequent positions of manner adverbs in English, Spanish and Lithuanian as well as invite further inquiry into the information structure of the three languages.

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## BŪDO PRIEVEIKSMIŲ POZICIJA ANGLŲ, ISPANŲ IR LIETUVIŲ KALBOSE: TEKS-TYNO TYRIMAS

#### Santrauka

Straipsnyje tiriama šešių būdo prieveiksmių pozicija anglų, ispanų ir lietuvių kalbose. Remiamasi generatyvinės sintaksės metodologija, pagal kurią prieveiksmis sintaksiniame medyje yra laikomas viena stabiliausių kalbos dalių, padedančių nusakyti veiksmažodžio poziciją sakinyje. Taip pat remiamasi Anne Rochette (1990) prieveiksmių klasifikacija, pagal kurią prieveiksmiai gali užimti vieną ar kelias iš šių pozicijų: pradinę (angl. *initial*), už veiksmažodžio grupės ribų (angl. *VP-external/ Aux*) arba veiksmažodžio grupės viduje (angl. *VP-internal*). Tekstyno duomenų tyrimas atskleidė, jog žemiausią vietą prieveiksmių hierarchijoje užimantys anglų kalbos prieveiksmiai *well* ir *fast* ne visada eina veiksmažodžio grupės viduje, bet gali eiti ir prieš veiksmažodį, tai leidžia manyti, kad jie gali būti ir aukštesnę vietą sakinio narių hierarchijoje užimantys vienetai.

Taip pat buvo pastebėta, jog būdo prieveiksmiai ispanų ir lietuvių kalbose kartais užima skirtingas pozicijas sakinyje nei jų angliški atitikmenys ir todėl priklauso skirtingoms prieveiksmių klasėms. Pavyzdžiui, anglų ir ispanų kalbų prieveiksmiai priklauso IV prieveiksmių klasei, o lietuvių kalbos atitikmenų pozicija sakinyje leidžia juos priskirti I klasei. Straipsnyje pabrėžiama, kad anglų ir ispanų kalbų prieveiksmiai eina tik dviejose pozicijose, t. y. iš karto prieš veiksmažodžio grupę ir jos viduje. Lietuvių kalboje prieveiksmių pozicinė įvairovė yra didžiausia, kuri, manytina, yra susijusi su perteikiamos informacijos kalbančiojo požiūriu svarba.

REIKŠMINIAI ŽODŽIAI: būdo prieveiksmiai, pozicija sakinyje.

#### Aušra Dičpinigaitytė

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## MANNER ADVERB PLACEMENT IN ENGLISH, SPANISH AND LITHUANIAN: A CORPUS-BASED APPROACH

#### Summary

The present study is concerned with a quantitative analysis of six manner adverbs in English and their translation equivalents in Spanish and Lithuanian. As is known, within the generative syntactic framework, manner adverb placement is regarded as a basic diagnostic tool used to define the position of the verb on the syntactic tree. The study uses Rochette's (1990) classification of adverbs into six classes, depending on a range of possible positions: Initial, VP-external/Aux, or VP-internal. The corpus study of the selected group of manner adverbs has revealed that, traditionally regarded as the lowest, the English manner adverbs *well* and *fast* are not confined to VP-internal position and can also precede the verb, which suggests that they might be positioned higher in the adverb hierarchy than traditionally assumed.

The findings also reveal that manner adverbs in Spanish and Lithuanian may take different positions from their English counterparts and can therefore be assigned to different adverb classes. For example, English and Spanish manner adverbs belong to Class IV in Rochette's classification, whereas their Lithuanian counterparts exhibit features of Class I adverbs. The study shows that English and Spanish manner adverbs most frequently appear in two positions, pre- and post verbally, whereas their distributional diversity is greatest in Lithuanian, which might be due to issues related to the information structure of the language.

KEY WORDS: manner adverb, placement, corpus, English, Spanish, Lithuanian

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