Echar and tirar: Two ways of "throwing" in Spanish

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_Echar_ and _tirar_ are the most used caused motion verbs of the sub-class of the TRANSFER category expressing the notion of "throwing" in Spanish, e.g. (1). The aim is to go beyond their common characterization as telic predicates of variable orientation (cf. Cano Aguilar 1980; Cifuentes Honrubia 1999, 2004; Morimoto 2001) and to elaborate on some preliminary results (Aerts 2009), so as to thoroughly explore their conceptual network in order to trace the areas of overlap between them, on the one hand, and to find out what motivates the choice of one or the other depending on the context, on the other hand.

(1)  _Ana echó / tiró los papeles a la papelería_

'Ana threw the papers in the wastepaper basket'

The hypothesis is that the force dynamic framing differs, _echar_ yielding an "associative" view (2), _tirar_ a "ballistic" one (3). In causal terms, _echar_ is more of the LET-type, _tirar_ of the MAKE-type (cf. Talmy 2000a: Ch.7). The event structure depicted by _echar_ has more affinities with that of a change of position, as expressed by the verbs _meter_ 'put' and _poner_ 'put', while that evoked by _tirar_ is more akin to launching events, as expressed by _lanzar_ 'launch' and _arrojar_ 'fling').

(2)  _Eché la carta en el buzón_

'I threw the letter in the postbox'

(3)  _Tira el jarrón al suelo rompiéndolo_

'He smashes the vase on the ground'

A corpus of various hundreds of cases for each verb, proceeding from peninsular Spanish, and drawn from the on-line CREA corpus, will be analyzed for parameters such as type of subject (e.g. ±animate) and semantic role, type of object (e.g. ± concrete), type of trajectory (e.g. in terms of distance, orientation, inclination), manner of motion (e.g. ± violence, ± velocity), endpoint (e.g. ± contact) and, last but not least, construction type and argument structure.

In addition to distributional divergences, evidence for the difference in relational profile is expected to be found in their collocation patterns (e.g. _tirar piedras_ 'throw stones'/ _echar comida_ 'throw food') and in their constructional potential, including metonymic and metaphoric extensions (e.g. _echar chispas_ 'give off sparks', _tirar dinero_ 'waste money', the inchoative [_echar(se) a + infinitive_] construction, etc.).

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**References**