

HOW TO PUT THINGS IN A TYPOLOGICALLY-DIFFERENT LANGUAGE: THE CASE OF DANISH AND SPANISH PLACEMENT EVENTS

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VELUX FONDEN



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MICIIN. FF12010-14903

Motivation

- Previous research on Slobin's (1996) TFS hypothesis: Focus on voluntary / spontaneous motion
- Cross-linguistic variation with respect to the linguistic encoding of placement events (Kopecka & Narasimhan, 2012):
 - **Lexical semantics** of the verbs: what verbs are used to distinguish among placement events of different kinds
 - **Syntax-semantic mappings**: how spatial semantic notions are distributed across elements in phrase and clause-level constructions

Project's informants

- 14 Danish NSs



- 14 Danish learners of L2 Spanish:

- Data in L1 Danish and L2 Spanish
- L2 proficiency: B1 (CEFR)

- 10 Spanish NSs
(Ibarretxe-Antuñano, 2012)



- 14 Spanish learners of L2 Danish:

- Data in L1 Spanish and L2 Danish
- L2 proficiency: B1 (CEFR)

Data collection

- PUT task (Bowerman et al. 2004, MPI, Nijmegen; Kopecka & Narashiman, 2012)
- Individual video-taped oral descriptions of 63 short video-clips
 - 3 ≠ randomised order; counterbalanced



- Stimuli:
 - Nature and spatial configuration of Figure and Ground, instrument, manner

Today's presentation

- "Put" events only (31 video clips)
- Informants:
 - L1 Danish NS
 - L1 Spanish NS
 - L1 Danish learners of L2 Spanish
- Lexical semantics of verbs and **particles** used to distinguish among placement events of different kinds

Research questions

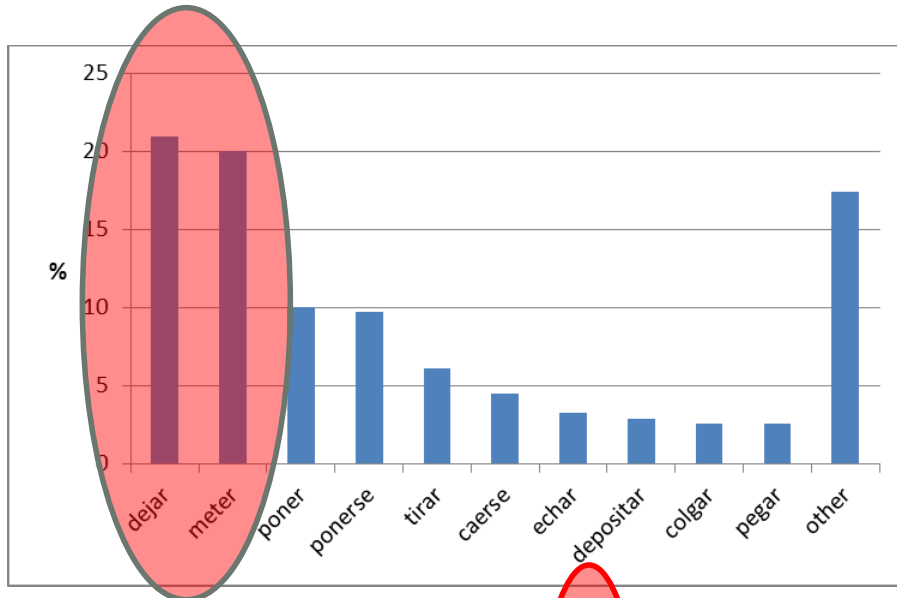
- What verbs do Danish speakers use to describe placement events in L2 Spanish? How do they compare to the verbs used by L1 Spanish and Danish NSs?
- What are the meanings of the L2 Spanish verbs? How do they compare to the semantic categories in L1 Spanish and L1 Danish?
- (What particles and verb-particle combinations are used in L2 Spanish? Do they correspond to the ones used in L1 Spanish and/or L1 Danish?)
- (Do L2 learners use verbs and particles appropriately /target-like?)

Verbs

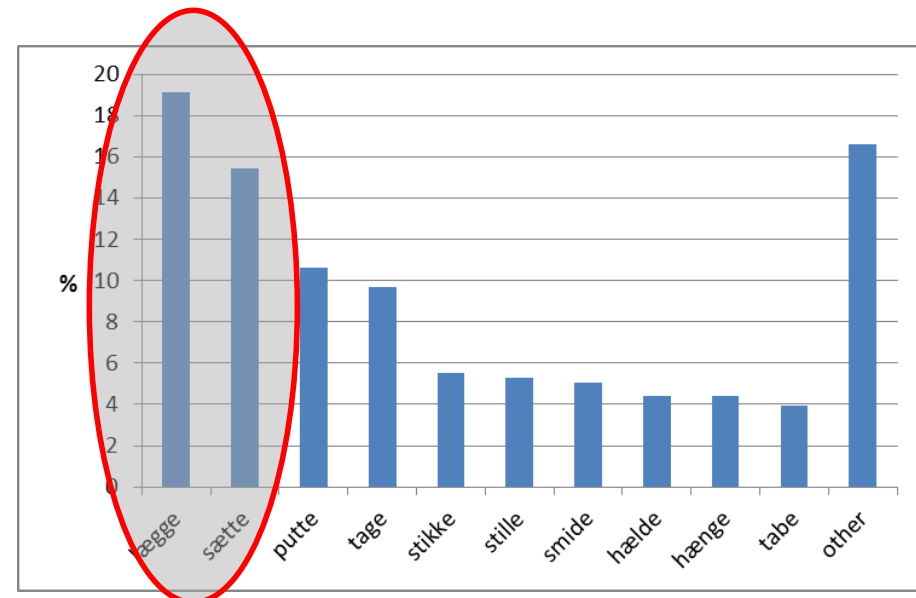
Verb tokens and types

	Tokens	Types	Type-token ratio
Spanish L1	309	27	0.087
Danish L1	434	30	0.069
Spanish L2	392	46	0.12

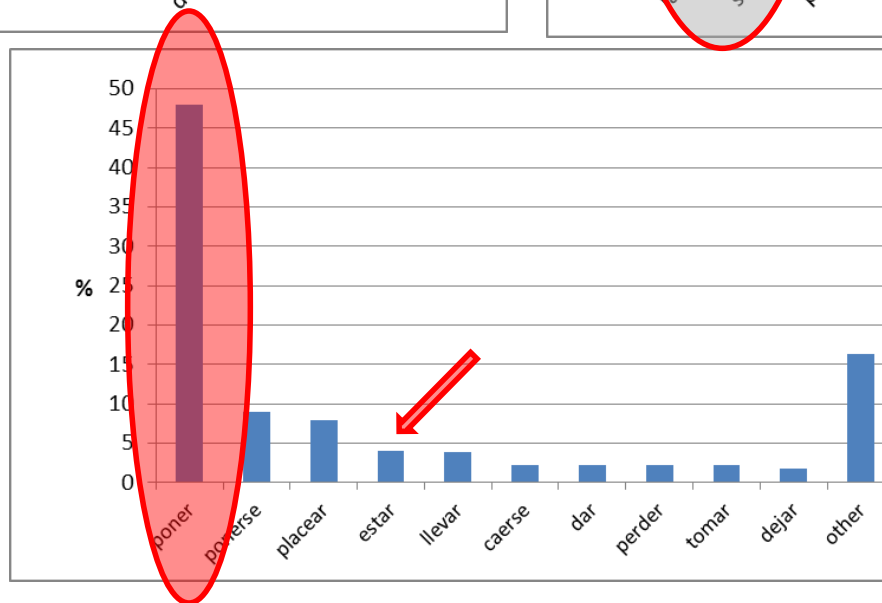
Results: Verb use



L1 Spanish



L1 Danish

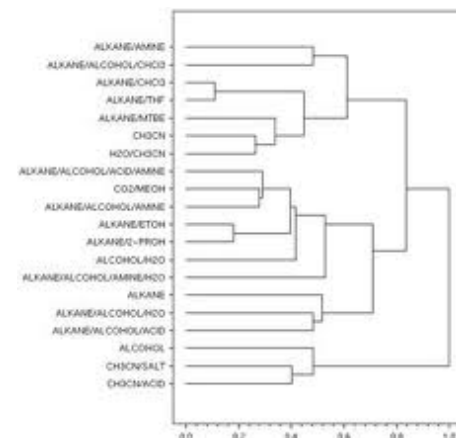
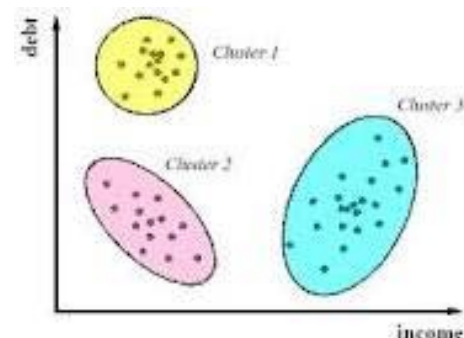


L2 Spanish

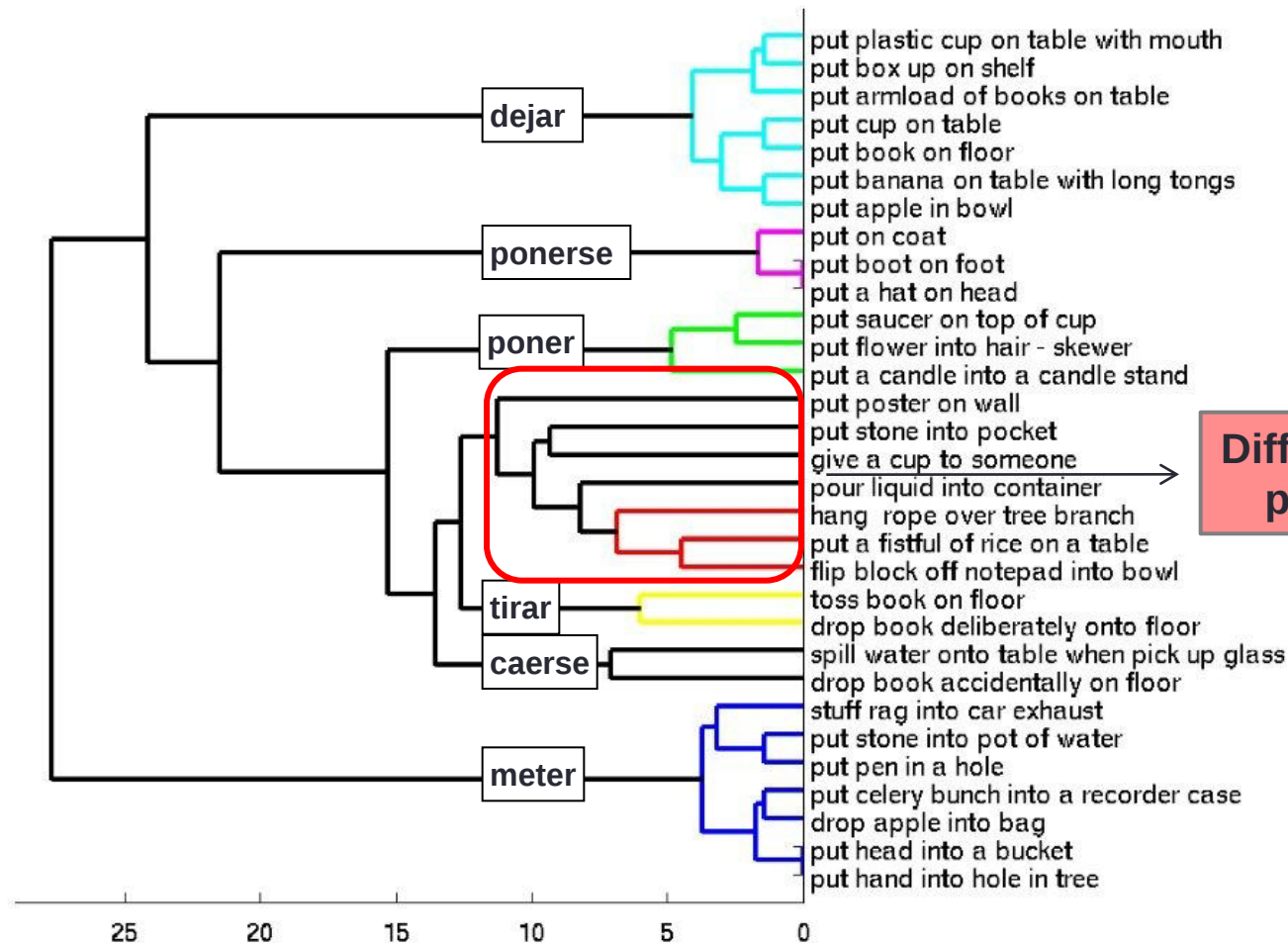
-“neologisms”
(*placear*)

Verb meanings – semantic categorization

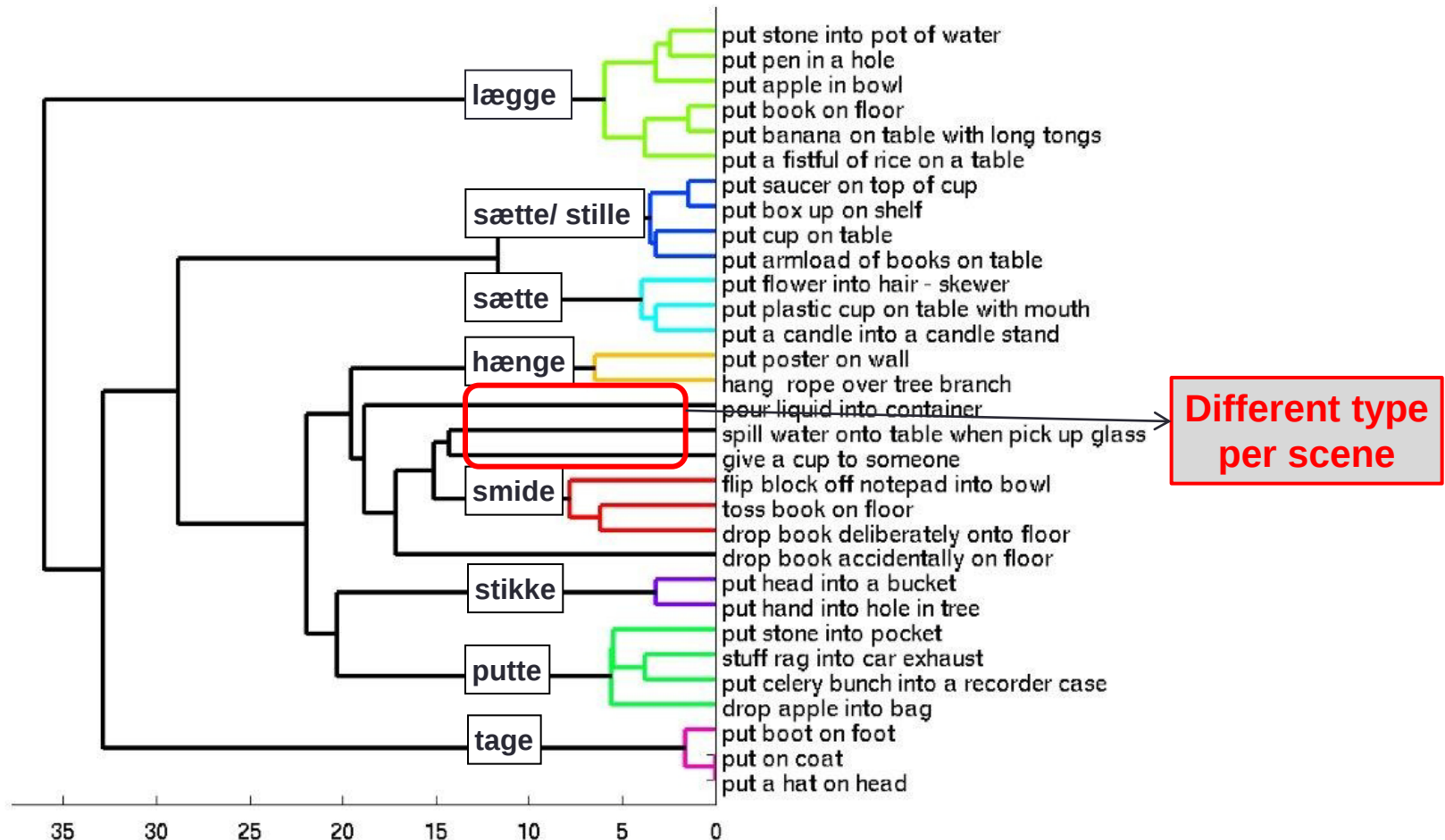
- Cluster analysis (e.g., Majid et al, 2007)
- Videos described by the same word(s) → grouped together
- Semantic categories
 - Support
 - Containment
 - Intentionality/force dynamics



Cluster analysis - L1 Spanish



Cluster analysis – L1 Danish

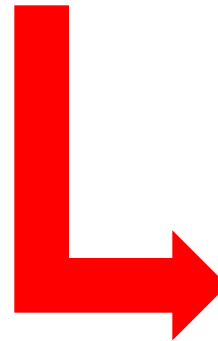
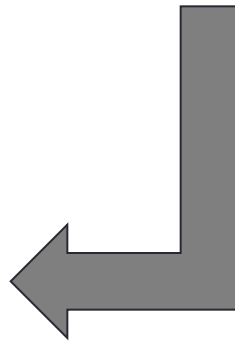


Same semantic category:

Sp. *Ponerse* 'put on' & Da. *Tage* 'take' (*på* 'on (top of)')



ponerse



tage (på)

Different semantic categories – Support

Sp *dejar* 'leave' vs. Da *lægge* 'put →' & *sætte/stille* 'put/↑'



lægge

dejar

sætte / stille

Different semantic categories – Containment:

Sp meter 'put in' vs. *Da lægge* 'put →', *putte/stikke* 'put in'



lægge



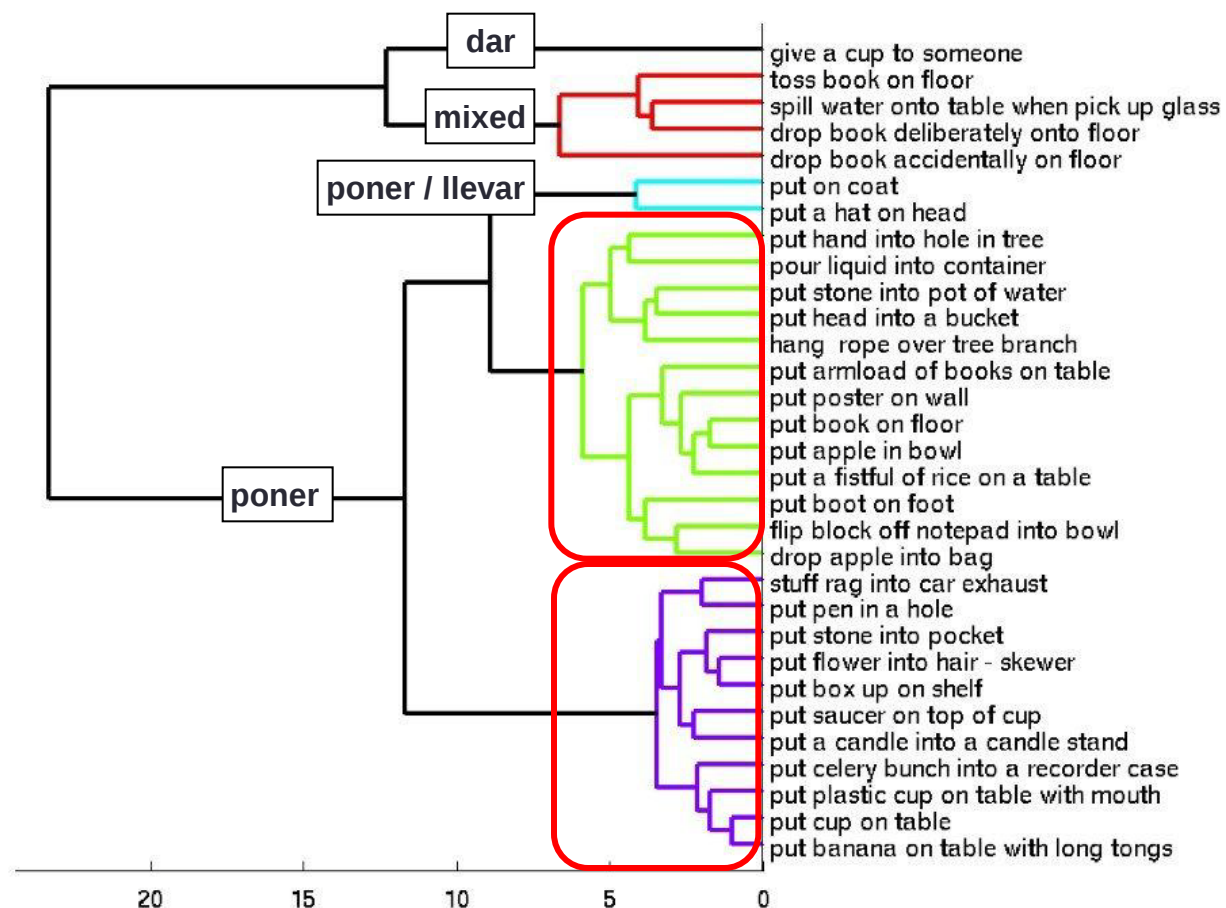
putte



stikke

meter

Cluster analysis – L2 Spanish



The learners' task and what they do

- Support:

- Task: *lægge* 'put→' and *sætte/stille* 'put/put ↑' → *dejar* 'leave'
 - several cat. to one cat.
- What they do: *lægge* 'put→' and *sætte/stille* 'put/put ↑' → *poner* 'put'
 - ≠ info: **intentionality**

- Containment:

- Task: *lægge* 'put→', *stikke/putte* 'put in' → *meter* 'insert'
 - several cat. to one cat.
- What they do: *lægge* 'put→', *stikke/putte* 'put in' → *poner* 'put'
 - ≠ info: **support and containment**

Different semantic categories: Intentionality & Force dynamics

-

INTENTIONALITY

+

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**DROP BOOK
ACCIDENTALLY
ON FLOOR**



**DROP BOOK
DELIBERATELY
ON FLOOR**



**TOSS BOOK
ON FLOOR**

Different semantic categories: Intentionality & Force dynamics

	L1 DANISH	L1 SPANISH	L2 SPANISH
Drop book <u>accidentally</u> on floor	<i>Tabe</i> 'loose'	<i>Caerse</i> + dat 'fall CL + dat'	<i>Caerse</i> + dat 'fall L+dat'
			<i>Perder</i> 'loose'
Drop book <u>deliberately</u> on floor	<i>Tabe</i> 'loose'	<i>Dejar caer</i> 'let fall'	<i>Caer(se)</i> 'fall'
			<i>Perder</i> 'loose'
	<i>Smide</i> 'throw'	<i>Tirar</i> 'throw'	<i>Dejar caer</i> 'let fall'
			<i>Tirar</i> 'throw'
			<i>Lanzar</i> 'throw away'
Toss book on floor	<i>Smide</i> 'throw'	<i>Tirar</i> 'throw'	<i>Perder</i> 'loose'
		<i>Lanzar</i> 'throw away'	<i>Tirar</i> 'throw'
	<i>Kaste</i> 'throw away violently'	<i>Arrojar</i> 'throw away violently'	<i>Lanzar</i> 'throw away'

Particles

Particles: Tokens and types

	Tokens	Types	Type-token ratio
Spanish L1	55	2	0.036
Danish L1	214	11	0.056
Spanish L2	10	4	0.4

L1 Danish

<i>Bag</i> + 1 verb type	<i>At sætte bag</i> (1 verb token)
<i>Hen</i> + 1	<i>At hænge hen</i> (1)
<i>Ind</i> + 6	<i>At putte ind</i> (4), <i>at stikke ind</i> (4), <i>at stoppe ind</i> (2), <i>at sætte ind</i> (2), <i>at lægge ind</i> (1), <i>at proppe ind</i> (1),
<i>Ned</i> + 18	<i>At lægge ned</i> , (24), <i>at stikke ned</i> (20), <i>at putte ned</i> (17), <i>at hælde ned</i> (14), <i>at sætte ned</i> (7), <i>at kaste ned</i> (5), <i>at proppe ned</i> (5), <i>at komme ned</i> (4), <i>at smide ned</i> (4), <i>at stille ned</i> (3), <i>at tabe ned</i> (2), <i>at lade falde ned</i> (1), <i>at rulle ned</i> (1), <i>at skubbe ned</i> (1), <i>at tippe ned</i> (1), <i>at vippe ned</i> (1), <i>at vrikke ned</i> (1), <i>At falde ned</i> (1)
<i>Nede</i> + 1	<i>At placere nede</i> (1)
<i>Op</i> + 5	<i>At hænge op</i> (10), <i>at sætte op</i> (9), <i>at putte op</i> (1), <i>at stille op</i> (4), <i>at tage op</i> (1)
<i>Oven</i> +4	<i>At stille oven</i> (4), <i>at sætte oven</i> (3), <i>at placere oven</i> (2)
<i>Over</i> +3	<i>At hælde over</i> (1), <i>at lægge over</i> (1), <i>at smide over</i> (1)
<i>På</i> +1	<i>At tage på</i> (37)
<i>Tilbage</i> + 2	<i>At lægge tilbage</i> (2), <i>at sætte tilbage</i> (1)
<i>Ud</i> + 4	<i>At hælde ud</i> (2), <i>at ryge ud</i> (2), <i>at lægge ud</i> (1), <i>at spille ud</i> (1)

Particles: Tokens and types

	Tokens	Types	Type-token ratio
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L1 Spanish

dentro 'inside' + 6

(in+in) *meter dentro* (12) 'put in inside', *introducir dentro* (2) 'introduce inside'

(path+in) *dejar caer dentro* (1) 'leave fall inside', *arrojar dentro* (1) 'throw with violence inside', *tirar dentro* (1) 'throw inside', *dejar dentro* (1) 'leave inside'

encima 'on top of' + 5

dejar encima (21) 'leave on top of', *poner encima* (10) 'put on top of', *depositar encima* (2) 'deposit on top of', *tirar encima* (3) 'throw on top of', *colocar encima* (1) 'place on top of'

Particles: Tokens and types

	Tokens	Types	Type-token ratio
Spanish L1	55	2	0.036
Danish L1	214	11	0.056
Spanish L2	10	4	0.4

L2 Spanish

dentro (5)

Poner dentro 'put inside', *posar dentro* 'set in' , *usar dentro* 'use in'

abajo (1)

Poner abajo 'put down'

encima (2)

Poner encima 'put on top of'

arriba (2)

Poner arriba 'put up'



Poner dentro



Poner arriba



Poner dentro

Conclusions:

Appropriateness in L2 Spanish

- Verb use is not target-like → ÷ acquisition of L2 TFS- patterns:
 - Overuse of one single verb:
 - **poner** → predominant use in support and containment relations
 - Intentionality and force dynamics:
 - Semantic categories in L2 Sp ≠ Semantic categories in L1 Sp
 - L1 cross-linguistic influence:
 - Use of **perder** 'loose' for the three scenes
- Findings in line with Gullberg (2009)

Conclusions:

Appropriateness in L2 Spanish

- Particle use is not target-like:
 - Less frequent use of particles than Spanish NSs (over-correction?)

BUT

- When used:
 - MAINLY with *poner* (e.g. *poner dentro*) → Spanish NSs use different combinations (*meter dentro*, *tirar dentro*)
 - Use of *abajo* and *encima*: L1 transfer of *ned* and *op* → not target-like in these contexts
- Rhetorical style is different

Future research: Beyond the verb...

Overuse of adverbs

Pone la maleta fuera al otro lado de la puerta (3-3)
'He puts the suitcase out to the other side of the door'

Different use of prepositions

Placear a la mesa vs. placear en el bol (1-1)
'Place to the table' vs. 'place in the bowl'

Complete Path

Una mujer pone agua de un vaso pequeño en un tazón más grande (3-4)
'A woman puts water from a small glass into a bigger cup'

Double Location

Una persona pone una piedra en el agua en una cacerola (1-4)
'A person puts a stone in the water in a saucepan'

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