

# A PERCEPTIVE-CONTRASTIVE LINGUISTICS OF SPANISH AS L2: a new methodology of contrasting languages.

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In the 20<sup>th</sup> century the interest in methodology and theory of contrastive studies began its growth and, as Krzeszowski [1] affirms, linguistic exploration into the Nature of language, its complex, multilayer, and hierarchical structure, its systematic and changing nature, its function in communication, and its relation to the human mind, became a subject of a very close scrutiny of modern linguistics. Contrastive linguistics is synonymous with 'contrastive analysis' (CA) and it is a branch of comparative linguistics. Contrastive linguistics was first developed in the 1950s [2]. It was based on the ideas of linguistic structuralism and was initially designed primarily for helping foreign language teacher, and not for linguistic studies *tout court*.

In a book of the sixties entitled *Trends in Language Teaching* (1966), is stated the strong version of the contrastive analysis hypothesis as follows:

"... the change that has to take place in the language behaviour of a foreign language student can be equated with the differences between the structure of the student's native language and culture and that of the target language and culture. The task of the linguist, cultural anthropologist, and the sociologist is to identify these differences. The task of the writer of a foreign language teaching program is to develop materials which will be based on a statement of these differences; the task of the foreign language teacher is to be aware of these differences and to be prepared to teach them; the task of the student is to learn them." [3]

By identifying similarities and differences, CA predicts possible points of difficulty for the FL learner.

There are various approaches to linguistic comparison. Mainly the discipline is divided into two main groups: general comparative linguistics and specialized comparative linguistics. General comparative linguistics is broken down into descriptive, typological and historical linguistics, while specialized comparative linguistics is divided into generic comparative, the theory of linguistic contact and areal linguistics. Concerning typological linguistics, it studies languages grouped together in the same typological group. For what refers to what is the focus of typological linguistics, Krzeszowski states: "typological linguistics focuses on clusters of languages united by some common feature or features, while contrastive linguistics focuses on pairs of languages and explores similarities as well as differences between them" [1].

Contrastive analysis for the acquisition of a linguistic competence between typologically related languages is a very useful and productive criterion of analysis, but in this context the aim is seeking new interpretation keys of an L2 acquisition phenomenon. This seeking brings us to consider different levels of reflection.

On the one hand we can speak of contrastive analysis in order to provide an argumentative grammar of the L2 acquisition, which allows to operate a theoretical reflection and provide appropriate tools for learning; on the other hand we can try to identify the neurophysiological mechanisms that are interested in implementing this process and what are the best strategies to convert short term memory into long term memory, for an easy retrieval of information for the construction of a well-articulated and varied *lexicón mental* (LM). Furthermore we can find new strategies of interpretative reading of the phenomenon of L2 acquisition that can activate not only the linguistic, metalinguistic and pragmatic competence, but that also make the organization of the LM possible, according to most dynamic laws of "division of work" and "cooperation" through the activation of trans-cortical neural networks.

# Readings In Spanishenglish Contrastive Linguistics

**M Walker**



## **Readings In Spanishenglish Contrastive Linguistics:**

## **Readings In Spanishenglish Contrastive Linguistics** Book Review: Unveiling the Magic of Language

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