INTENSITY OPERATORS IN ROMANIAN AND SPANISH

Violeta BUTISEACĂ
„Ovidius" University of Constanța
dulce_vio@yahoo.com

Abstract:

In human communication, the ascertaining acts of speech are most often doubled by certain evaluative acts. Man is tempted, through his nature, to issue certain judgements of value with regards to everything that surrounds him and/or with regards to his own being. These are reflected in the linguistic structures in complete concordance with their degree of logical pithiness: some are more discretely formulated, such as implicit comparisons or intermediary graders, of detail for unquantifiable assessments, others are categorical formulations, placed at the beginning end of certain subjective or objective value axes.

In the following, we shall present several logical-linguistic means of expressing highest intensity within two genealogically related languages – Romanian and Spanish.

Keywords:

Intensity, grammaticalization, variability, lexical level, morphological pattern.

1. Objectives

"Intensity" is a semantic category that implies judgements of value which reveal complex logical, psychological and linguistic interrelationships. The manners in which intensity is expressed reveal the language's willingness to utilize methods which have not been subjected to use, with the purpose of ensuring its own poignancy and freshness[1].

[1] The subject of the defining characteristics of intensity, in the context of grammatical category, was approached by: Mioara Avram, *Gramatica pentru toți*, București: Humanitas, 2001; Elsa Lüder, *Procedee de gradație lingvistică*, Iași: Editura Universității "Al. I. Cuza", 1996; Corneliu Dimitriu, *Tratat de Gramatică a Limbii Române*, vol. 1, Iași: Institutul European, 1999. From a logical-semantic perspective, this concept was researched by Jean-Claude Anscombre and Irène Tamba, „Autour du concept d'intensification", in: *Langue française*, nº. 177, Paris: Larousse, 2013, pp. 3-8; Patrick Charaudeau, *Grammaire du sens*

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In the present paper, we focus upon the lexical and morphosyntactic means of marking the highest/lowest intensities in contemporary Romanian and contemporary Spanish, by performing a brief descriptive and contrastive-typological analysis of the structures. In order to provide examples, we shall consider the heterogeneous language of blogs, which blur the differences between the cult and colloquial registers.

2. The general theoretical framework

In order to establish a general theoretical framework, we begin from the classic idea of communication as a process through which a sender sends a message to a recipient. Altough it can be realized between two animals or between man and animal, the message circulates by means of linguistic signs only in the case of interhuman communication. The two categories of signs (linguistic and semiological) used in human communication allow for the separation of essential communicative types: semiological or nonverbal (any type of communication which does not imply using the human voice), verbal or linguistic[2]. Our attention shall be oriented towards linguistic communication; yet, new delimitations are imposed in this situation as well, as communication may be both oral and written. In principle, the written aspect of a language significantly differentiates itself from the spoken one. Compared to speaking, writing is of a greater complexity and implies a certain degree of elaboration, organization. The degree of involvement of the one that sends the information is sometimes reduced to this type of communication, and the information is a lot more focused. Often regarded in a dichotomous manner, the types of communication must be understood as a *continuum*, through the interferences that appear between them[3]. A relevant example in this respect is constituted by the language of blogs, within which we find many elements specific to the spoken language[4].

et de l'expression, Paris: Hachette Éducation, 1992; Georges Kleiber, „À la recherche de l'intensité", in: *Langue française*, nº 177, Paris: Larousse, 2013, pp. 63-76.

[2] Cf. Jean-Marie Essono, 1998, p. 22.

[3] About the written-oral relationship, from a diachronic perspective, cf. Ion Gheție, Alexandru Mareș, *Originile scrisului în limba română*, București: Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, 1985.

[4] About the language of blogs, cf. Rodica Zafiu, „Limbajul informatic și al mediilor electronice", in: Rodica Zafiu, *Diversitate stilistică în româna actuală*, București: Editura Universității din București, 2001, pp. 86-90.

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According to linguist Eugenio Coșeriu, a crucial factor which must be taken into consideration when speaking about communicative types is that of the essential variability dimensions of a language. Variability represents the fluctuation capacity of natural languages, which, when updated, either in written or oral form, take on multiple forms, they become diverse. The description of a language's variations, the exploration of its creative potential, are not possible without analysing the diatopic - diastratic - diaphasic correlation.[5] The three elements target the following aspects:

- ✓ diatopic: includes geographic parameters, which influence the linguistic behaviour (different regions; village-city; centre - suburb etc.)
- ✓ diastratic: considers differences regarding sociological parameters, such as age, sex, social class, level of education etc.
- ✓ diaphasic: reflects the contrast between the formal and informal registers, the functional styles etc.[6]

Eugenio Coșeriu claims, however, that due to otherness, both diversity and homogeneity must be analysed: the diatopic element develops dialects, the diastratic element refers to social hierarchy, and the diaphasic element - language styles.[7]

Italian linguist Alberto Mioni associated a fourth dimension to these three, the diamesic dimension, regarding the differences created by the channel used in communication: spoken language/written language/sent language.[8]

In the current article, we aim to follow the interferences which occur between the cult and colloquial registers, respectively between the written and spoken language, in the encryption of the highest/lowest intensity, based on our working corpus.

3. Highest/lowest intensity operators in Romanian and Spanish

As we have already mentioned, "intensity" is a fundamental semantic category, which has as aim both the assessment of the degree to which a characteristic/feature is manifested, and the speaker's attitude, with profound implications at all language levels. With regards to the concept, researcher Albelda Marco states:

[5] Cf. Eugenio Coșeriu, 1995, p. 11.
[6] Cf. *Idem*, 2000, p. 263.
[7] Eugenio Coșeriu, 1995, p. 16.
[8] Cf. Alberto Mioni, 1983, pp. 508-510.

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> „(…) *la intensificación se define como la forma de la gradación que supone un refuerzo de los razgos semánticos de una palabra. Está representada en un eje gradual en el que existen puntos intermedios entre dos polos.*"[9]

This logical-semantic and grammatical category is expressed through means of expression that are relatively similar in Romanian and in Spanish, and which can be found in all Romance languages, to a certain extent. Most often, speakers attempt to over-assess or under-assess the referent within their message by referring to the socio-linguistic norm, which, of course, reflects the logical-ontological norm that is socially expected. That is why, in most texts/discourses, we find the most diverse intensification marks, and in certain situations, intensive methods may even coexist within a single sentence.

Of course, we do not plan to perform an exhaustive presentation of the forms, but we shall analyse the primary types identified based on the corpus, depending on two of the traditional linguistic analysis levels: lexical and morphosyntactic. The situation within the two languages offers an overall image of the phenomenon.

3.1. The lexical level

A linguistic community can frequently determine the appearance of certain important changes within the language, which are particularly reflected at lexical level. On the one hand, changes are determined by the speaker's need to indicate new linguistic realities by name, and on the other hand, changes reflect individual psychological or social values. As such, there are signs which have a referential function, which is more or less objective (for example, "dezinformare"), and an expressive function, which is generally subjective (for example, "dragul meu"). A linguistic form is always constructed on the foundation of another form, already existent within the language, as is specified by the French researcher, Patrick Charaudeau:

> „*Il n'y a pas de création ex nihilo, pour la bonne raison que c'est le sens qui est en jeu dans toute création linguistique et que toute forme est associée à un sens.*"[10]

[9] Albelda Marco, 2007, p. 25.
[10] Patrick Charaudeau, 1992, p. 67.

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P. Charaudeau identifies three situations which are at the base of lexical creations: "la situation de spécialisation" (specialized languages which evolve with scientific and technological progress), "la situation de vulgarisation" (the "vulgarisation" phenomenon; certain specialized terms enter the common use sphere), "la situation de quotidienneté" (the current language of a speaker).

With regards to the third situation that was presented, the French grammarian considers all language levels and registers:

> „*Cette situation engendre un vocabulaire du quotidien que l'on entend dans la rue, dans les bars, au cours de réunions amicales etc. Évidemment, dans une telle situation le vocabulaire peut être très mélangé. Mais d'une manière générale, il se compose d'une part d'un vocabulaire fonctionnel qui sert à décrire des faits d'expérience commune, et d'autre part d'un vocabulaire qui, suivant la mode et l'actualité, est mis sur la marché du langage par la bouche à oreille, la rumeur publique et, particulièrement, par les médias.*"[11]

In our case, the last two situations are representative, especially the last one, as, although it represents a means of written communication, the language used by authors of blogs often distances itself from the literary canons.

Within the lexical level, we incorporate both the derived means (prefixation/suffixation), as well as the lexicalized gradation forms (for example, "oribil"), which are very productive in Romanian and in Spanish. Some means are specialized only in encrypting the linguistic intensity, while to others we can add additional, connotative nuances, such as the depreciative one (for example, *ricachón* in Spanish, "bogătan" in Romanian). Many are the internal productions and they indicate the language's sensitivity to the derivational process. From a linguistic point of view, the productivity of derivation is enforced by the structures which include prefixoids, often associated by researchers, and justly so, to another method: composition.[12] These formative phenomena have concrete lexical values and, moreover, they are charged with superlative semes which they transfer to the support word. As such, the resulting structure is a unit with semantic and morphologic

[11] *Ibidem*, p. 66.

[12] Cf. Adriana Stoichițoiu-Ichim, 2007, pp. 10-11; cf. Petre Gheorghe Bârlea, 2013, pp. 234-236.

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individuality. The phenomenon is normal in the case of the adjective, however, in certain situations, the prefixoids are attached to certain adjectives which are not adapted to the Romanian language, that respect the "trend", particularly being borrowed from English:

> (1) „*[La Campana] Este paradisul calamarilor. Pentru cei care sunt mari fani locul ăsta e* ***mega cool***." (http://www.bloguluotrava.ro/cum-mi-am-petrecut-3-zile-la-madrid-cu-mancare-buna-si-in-tribuna-la-mai-tare-meci-de-fotbal-din-lume/#more-18869)

However, productivity is also observed in the context of attaching these formants to certain nouns. *Super-*, *mega-*, *macro-* on the one hand, and *mini-*, *micro-* on the other, are particles which, without changing the usual meaning, complete said meaning by means of semic adjunction[13]: [*foarte mare*], [*foarte mic*]:

> (2)„*Poți să uiți de cumpărături, de calcularea caloriilor, de încercarea de a consuma destui* ***macronutrienți*** *și* ***micronutrienți****...*" (https://www.iulia-andrei.ro/m-am-trezit-cu-mancarea-la-usa/)

> (3)„*Uite că în ultimii doi ani, însă, băieții au reușit să o facă și încă în stil mare, aducând un suflu nou, ușor mai comercial, scoțând câteva hit-uri (sigur ați cântat și voi Pleacă sau Așa și), organizând un* ***mega-concert****, având o prezență foarte vivace în online, scoțându-și oamenii mai mult la înaintare și individual (vezi Cornel Ilie - scrisoare ca-ntre colegi, piesă cu Loredana Groza, co-antrenorul ei la Vocea României, sau Gabi Maga - piesă cu Cosmin Tudoran) și, mai mult decât orice, păstrându-și bunul simț care cred că le-a caracterizat de la început atitudinea în scena muzicală românească*."
>
> (https://danailie2004.blogspot.com/2013/11/concert-vunk-in-cafe-teatru-play.html)

> (4)„*El magnate Richard Branson anuncia* ***megaconcierto*** *para Venezuela****,*** *con el cual pretende colaborar para hacer llegar*

[13] Raluca Ionescu, 2004, p. 152.

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ayuda humanitaria al país latinoamericano, que en estos momentos atraviesa una de las más profundas crisis económicas de su historia."
(https://www.rilinews.com/blog/richard-branson-anuncia-megaconcierto-para-venezuela)

If, initially, the prefixoids had a cult character and circulated especially within specialized languages, in the current language, they are frequently selected due to their expressive value, as we are not interested only in the idea of "excess", but in the force induced by the emphatic particle, as well. Furthermore, these translate, in a simplified manner, a quality superlatively appreciated. According to the criterion of occurrence, the forms with *super-* are the most frequent, both in the current Romanian language, as well as in current Spanish. The construction with a prefixoid, frequently selected by the blogger, is colloquial, difficult to identify in the literary language, which remains loyal to the canonical means of indicating intensity:

(5)„*Acum, în 2019, odată cu venirea Primăverii, Sabon a lansat o nouă colecție și un packaging* ***super simpatic***."
(http://www.anamorodan.com/buckle-up-sunny-spring-head/)

(6)„*Los precios no son* ***super bajos***."
(https://www.mochileandoporelmundo.com/restaurantes-donde-comer-en-holbox-bien-y-barato/)

Another formant which is similar in meaning and frequency of use in Romanian to *superH*, is the formant *mega-*. In the last few years, it has been perceived as a novelty from a functional point of view, and is more and more often associated with an adjective/adverb in order to express the idea of superlative, „*transferând semnificația din sistemul metric în sintagme din limbajul obișnuit*:" (translation: transferring the meaning within the metric system in common language phrases).[14]

(7)„*[Santita Carbon Mexicano] Este un loc care arată foarte cool, mâncarea este bună și pe seară lumea se distrează* ***mega tare****. Să încercați supa zilei. Tequilla.*"
(http://www.bloguluotrava.ro/cum-mi-am-petrecut-3-zile-la-madrid-cu-mancare-buna-si-in-tribuna-la-mai-tare-meci-de-fotbal-din-lume/#more-18869)

[14] Raluca Ionescu, 2004, p. 156.

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For Spanish, we have inventoried only one example within the corpus we selected, the one discussed above (see example 4).

However, *supra-*/*sobre-*, compared to *super-* or *mega-*, has less of an association power in derivational/composed structures:

(8)„*Pasé de ser una chica joven y feliz, a sentir que los días se me hacían largos e insufribles. Pero, aun así, yo seguía haciendo un esfuerzo* ***sobrehumano*** *para cumplir con mi deber*".
(https://viviralmaximo.net/ano-sabatico/)

(9)„*Uriașa cutie de tablă e* ***supraîncărcată***."
(https://www.cristoiublog.ro/multime-de-gradul-10/)

With regards to the other intensity pole, *mini-* is the prefixoid with the greatest frequency:

(10) „*Una buena opción es tomar un barquito de la compañía Batobus y hacer* ***un minicrucero*** *por el río Sena, rodeando la Île de la Cité y llegando hasta Torre Eiffel, para regresar de nuevo. Podrás usar las veces que quieras los barcos con tu pase.*"
(https://www.mochileandoporelmundo.com/mejor-itinerario-paris-tres-dias/)

(11) ***„Lefkada*** *este una dintre cele mai frumoase insule din Grecia și o destinație inspirată pentru vacanța de vară: ape de turcoaz, plaje sălbatice, preparate culinare delicioase,* ***minicroaziere*** *și multe altele!*"
(https://www.aerotravel.ro/blog/o-vacanta-reusita-la-vila-sunny-garden-din-nidri-insula-lefkada/)

We have to mention the fact that, regardless of the part of speech to which they are attached, the position of these intensifiers is fixed in both Romanian and Spanish: they are ante-positioned against the base-word. The concise nature of prefixoids and their expressive force substantiates the speaker's option to use them in ever-new contexts.

Another important aspect which we have to mention is that of suffixation. Even though attaching a suffix within a base is a vastly used phenomenon, suffixes rarely gain superlative value in Romanian. A "borrowed" suffix, in accordance with the Romance languages model, unspecific to our traditional grammar system, is *-isim*, associated to an

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adjective/adverb (*rarisim, importantisim*). In Spanish, the equivalent suffix, yet specialized as a mark of highest intensity, is: *-ísimo* (for example, *guapísimo*). The desinence superlative from Latin disappears when passing towards the Romance languages and is replaced by the periphrastic forms. Subsequently, it is once again introduced, by scientific means, in Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. For Spanish, the expressive force of the suffix *-ísimo* is evidently greater than the analytical prototypical realization by means of *muy*. *Una mujer muy hermosa* admits a judgment of value with a lower degree of subjectivity compared to *una mujer hermosísima*:[15]

(12) „*¡Feliz Navidad! Espero que estéis pasando unos días estupendos con vuestros seres queridos y que disfrutéis* ***muchísimo*** *de estas fiestas.*"

(http://www.allthatshewantsblog.com/search?updated-max=2019-01-08T08:30:00%2B01:00&max-results=3&start=6&by-date=false)

(13) „*En Almería hay productos de* ***altísima*** *calidad, y cuenta con muchas recetas propias que harán las delicias de todo el que las pruebe.*"

(https://www.mochileandoporelmundo.com/donde-comer-en-almeria-tapas/)

Concurrently, in Spanish, suffixes such as *-al* or *-ada* gain augmentative value and suggest highest intensity. Apart from these, diminutives also hold a special place (*cerquita: muy cerca*):

(14) „*Imagínate la campaña de El Corte Inglés, unos grandes almacenes que invierten una* ***millonada*** *en publicidad. Ellos se pueden permitir gastar un* ***dineral*** *en diseñar un cartel donde este título no haga daño a la vista.*"

(https://www.maidertomasena.com/titulares-con-numeros-copywriting/)

The examples in the corpus have not emphasized such situations for the Romanian language, which allows us to state the fact that suffixation of this type is not as productive.

[15] Ana Serradilla Castaño, 2005, p. 362.

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With regards to adjectives/adverbs which are incompatible with the idea of intensification, as they already contain the superlative sign, these are recurrent in both languages: *colosal*, *magnific*, *cumplit*, respectiv *maravilloso*, *estupendo* etc.:

(15) „*Atmosfera este **senzațională**. Să vezi un stadion plin care își încurajează echipa preferată e **minunat**.*"
(http://www.bloguluotrava.ro/cum-mi-am-petrecut-3-zile-la-madrid-cu-mancare-buna-si-in-tribuna-la-mai-tare-meci-de-fotbal-din-lume/#more-18869)

(16) „*Es **increíble** lo que las personas llegan a decir a través de una pantalla. Y, créeme, eso no se olvida.*"
(https://www.maidertomasena. com/errores-correo-puerta-fria/)

The lexical level of expressing highest/lowest intensity represents a rather similar situation in both Romanian and Spanish, with the exception of the intensive value suffixation method, which is a lot more productive in Spanish.

3.2. The morphosyntactic level

Language in constantly transforming, and one of the linguistic tasks is that of studying this phenomenon, as to emphasize both the cause and the obtained results. The "grammaticalization" concept has been created at the beginning of the twentieth century with the purpose of emphasizing a certain type of linguistic change, that in which a lexical element transforms into a functional unit (the lexemes become morphemes).[16]

At morphosyntactic level, a first distinction can be made between the grammaticalized intensive value structures, fixed in other languages, and other types of constructions, non-grammaticalized, with occasional occurrence. In each of the Romance languages, there is a prototypic means of marking highest/lowest intensity. In Romanian, highest intensity is expressed by means of the operator *foarte*, which has lost its semantic and grammatical independence. Its evolution from lexical item to function unit has been gradual, within a subset of linguistic changes.[17] Its equivalent in Spanish is *muy*, which, in general, precedes the adjective or adverb:

[16] Cf. Elizabeth C. Traugott, 1996, p. 183; cf. DȘL, s.v. *gramaticalizare*.
[17] Cf. Raluca Brăescu, 2015, p. 61.

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(17) „*Aceștia alungesc și subțiază vizual piciorul și sunt* ***foarte versatili****!*"
(https://www.iulia-andrei.ro/ce-incaltaminte-purtam-in-2019/)
(18) „*Es* ***muy*** *optimista colarte en la bandeja de entrada de alguien y, de buenas a primeras, ponerte a pedir favores esperando que te los hagan.*"
(https://www.maidertomasena.com/errores-correo-puerta-fria/)

Lowest intensity is expressed by means of the structure *foarte puțin*/*muy poco*, with the mention that, often, it is replaced by the adjective's antonym, in its basic form. We haven't identified any examples for the Romanian language in our corpus, yet, this type of construction is mentioned in *GALR:*[18]

(19) „*Una de las creencias que comparten estas personas es que vivimos en un mundo complejo, en el que existen* ***muy pocos efectos*** *que tengan una sola causa.*"
(https://viviralmaximo.net/ganar-casino-vida/)

In *GALR*, it is explained that *tare* and *mult* are also found in the colloquial language, and they have the value of component adverbs of the superlative analytical forms, yet, the latter is perceived as old:[19]

(20) „*Cu toate acestea, San Diego Safari este o exprienţă* ***tare frumoasă*** *atât pentru cei mici, cât și pentru cei mari.*"
(https://www.iulia-andrei.ro/la-plimbare-prin-safari-san-diego-zoo/)

In Spanish, the equivalent of *tare* may be considered *bien*, frequently found in informal language:

(21) „*Además la cervecita Turia está* ***bien rica****. El local, por cierto, nos encantó y el personal muuuy majo.*"
(https://www.mochileandoporelmundo.com/donde-comer-en-almeria-tapas/)

The excessive presence of a quality is signalled with the aid of the intensifier *prea* /*demasiado*:

(22) „*Îi blamăm pe cei care ne vor cu adevărat binele. Înțelegem* ***prea târziu*** *dragostea unor astfel de oameni.*"
(http://www.desprerealitate.ro/2019/03/nu-ti-e-dor-de-tine/)

[18] Cf. GALR, I, p. 161.
[19] *Ibidem*.

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(23) „*Por eso quiero avisarte antes de que sea* ***demasiado*** *tarde*."
(https://www.maidertomasena.com/social-proof/)

In the second category, that of non-grammaticalized structures, we shall include all forms constructed with a powerful expressive intention, which, most times, disappear from the language once with the relative loss their expressive capacity. As opposed to these, the prototypical forms are rather perceived as neutral, without implying a certain intention in their selection by the speaker. Among the constructions inventoried by *GALR*, it is considered that the most common construction used is that formed from an adverb, followed by the preposition "de" and by an adjective "*totdeauna în antepoziție față de substantivul determinat*" („always in ante-position against the determined noun"), with the mention that the idea of superlative is found in the semantics of the adverb "*purtător al unor seme gradual-superlative*." („bearing gradual-superlative semes").[20] According to *GALR*, these structures may indicate: the highest degree of a quality (*colosal de, infinit de, fabulos de* etc.), exceeding a certain limit (*excesiv de, exagerat de*), the maximum distancing from a reference point (*extrem de*), superlative semes in the area of quality (*extraordinar de, fantastic de, formidabil de, desăvârșit de* etc.), semes in the area of the "dezagreabilului (disagreeable)" (*crunt de, cumplit de, fioros de* etc.), deviation from the class taken as point of reference (*anormal de, neobișnuit de, neverosimil de* etc.), incorporation under a certain class (*nemaipomenit de, nemaivăzut de* etc.).[21]

Based on the data provided to us by our corpus, we have identified both examples representative for the situations mentioned in *GALR*, as well as other structures which follow the same pattern. In the current article, we shall select a small number of examples, with the purpose of illustrating the language's availability to always create new intensive value structures:

(24) „*Eu îi consider un model* ***extrem de sexy*** *de încălțăminte și mă bucur să-i revăd printre tendințele Primăvară Vară 2019.*"
(https://www.iulia-andrei.ro/ce-incaltaminte-purtam-in-2019/)

(25) „*Frumusețea unei femei care devine* ***insuportabil de dureroasă*** *pentru bărbații care nu o pot avea și care devine mohorâtă și lipsită de mister pentru cei care au cunoscut-o cu adevărat…*"
(http://www.desprerealitate.ro/2018/05/absoluta-frumusete/)

[20] Cf. GALR, vol. I, p. 162.
[21] *Ibidem*.

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In the first situation, there is a structure which is recurrent in the language, formed with the aid of an adverb that shows the distance from the generally accepted norm (*extrem de*), while the second structure, which is innovative, suggests the deviation from the class taken as point of reference (*insuportabil de*).

For the Spanish language, we have identified a series of similar examples, formed with an adverb and an adjective. The adverb is directly associated to the intensified adjective. In general, the adverbs ending in *-mente* are those that enter in such constructions (for example, *extremadamente*):

(26) „*Hoy en día me siento un ser libre… y, como yo siempre digo, ¡**asquerosamente feliz**!*" (https://viviralmaximo.net/ano-sabatico/)

(27) „***Extremadamente preparada** para recorrerla sobre ruedas, no podemos olvidar que es uno de los **mejores viajes en autocaravana del mundo,** Nueva Zelanda es conocida también por ser un país tranquilo, en el que todo funciona correctamente y en el que la seguridad es la gran protagonista.*"

(https://www.viajeroscallejeros.com/viaje-a-nueva-zelanda-36-dias/)

(28) „*Gracias por el chute de motivación, es **tan satisfactorio** saber que el contenido os resulta de utilidad.*"

(https://www.maidertomasena.com/titulares-con-numeros-copywriting/)

In the case of the first example, we observe the use of an adverb found under the sphere of the disagreeable (*asquerosamente*) in a positive context, with the purpose of accentuating the feeling of happiness. In the second situation, the adverb *extremadamente* is used as an intensifier, equated in Romanian through the structure *extrem de*. The adverb *tan* appears in numerous examples, as is the case of the structure *atât de* in the Romanian language:

(29) „*Greu de crezut însă, imposibil, să se poată păcăli dintr-odată **atât de mulți**.*"

(https://blogsport.gsp.ro/ioanitoaia/2019/03/18/ce-lume-rea/)

There are also other structures used with an intensive value, such as: *de minune*/*de excepție*/*de vis*//*todo un sueño*/*de mis sueños*:

(30) „*Țara asta este un tărâm magic, plin cu absolut orice ai nevoie pentru ca vacanța ta să fie **de vis**.*"

(http://www.bloguluotrava.ro/destinatia-care-ofera-peisaje-care-pur-si-simplu-iti-taie-respiratia-insule-pitoresti-si-plaje-superbe/)

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(31) „*Como muchas ya sabréis, este fin de semana he tenido la enorme suerte de viajar a Sevilla para los premios Goya. Ha sido* ***todo un sueño*** *y la verdad es que aún no me lo creo*."
(http://www.allthatshewantsblog.com/search?updated-max=2019-02-07T10:52:00%2B01:00&max-results=3)

With regards to the variety offered by the corpus we have selected, both for the Spanish language and the Romanian language, we have also identified a series of structures which can be equated or which have only a close equivalent in the other language (they can be translated through similar expressions):

(32) „*Plus: los cocktails* ***están de muerte***."
(https://www.mochileandoporelmundo.com/restaurantes-donde-comer-en-holbox-bien-y-barato/)

(33) „*Ámsterdam debería aparecer en cada listado que se precie de* ***las ciudades más bonitas de Europa.*** *Es elegante pero con espíritu rebelde, alternativa pero con aires coquetos, posee* ***ricas recetas tradicionales*** *con las que chuparte los dedos y ofrece montones de* ***cosas que ver y hacer****. En resumen, si tienes pensado un viajecito a este destino, vas a pasártelo* ***en grande***."
(https://www.mochileandoporelmundo.com/las-mejores-excursiones-desde-amsterdam-de-un-dia/)

(34) „*Este o piață de unde îți poți cumpăra pește proaspăt, fructe de mare, cele mai bune sortimente de mezeluri, celebrul jamon, tot felul de brânzeturi* ***care mai de care mai gustoase***."
(http://www.bloguluotrava.ro/cum-mi-am-petrecut-3-zile-la-madrid-cu-mancare-buna-si-in-tribuna-la-mai-tare-meci-de-fotbal-din-lume/#more-18869)

(35) *"Locul arată* ***într-un mare fel****, mâncarea este foarte bună, iar atmosfrera este pur si simplu senzațională. De aici am plecat într-un club foarte aproape de Colon unde o trupă formată din 4 băieți la chitări cântau live*."
(http://www.bloguluotrava.ro/cum-mi-am-petrecut-3-zile-la-madrid-cu-mancare-buna-si-in-tribuna-la-mai-tare-meci-de-fotbal-din-lume/#more-18869)

In order to verify the equivalence of the structures in the two languages, we shall try to translate the constructions, and they will be marked by an asterisk (*). In the first case, the meaning of the structure *estar de*

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muerte is **a fi mortal* (*foarte bun*), in the second case, (*pasartelo*) *en grande* has the meaning **într-un mare fel*. As you can see under example (35), the structure exists in Romanian as well, (*arată*) *într-un mare fel*. The construction *care mai de care mai gustoase* can be equated only approximatively by means of the expression **de las mas sabrosas.*

It is important to mention the fact that, most times, each language lexicalizes other constructions as to indicate highest intensity:

(36) *"În fond, e ușor să iubești când lucrurile **merg strună**, iar echipa ta câștigă meci după meci și competiție după competiție. Mai greu e însă, infinit mai greu, să faci dovada dragostei și a devotamentului în momentele proaste, de criză. La acest capitol, fanii Realului trebuie luați drept pildă.*"

(https://blogsport.gsp.ro/ioanitoaia /2019/03/19/dragoste-la-greu/)

(37) *„Ok,* aquí *quizá **pequé de pardillo** y debería haberle pedido alguna garantía más, pero era un chaval joven, su historia me pareció creíble y yo me vi haciendo lo mismo si me hubiesen robado en el extranjero, así que decidí ayudarle."*

(https://viviralmaximo.net/coste-no-confiar/)

"Pecar de pardillo" has the sense of *a fi prea naiv* and is constructed, at semantic level, based on a metaphor that suggest highest intensity.

At times, highest intensity is indicated by comparative structures. In this case, the reference term is represented by a template of the respective characteristic/feature:

(38) *"Pero lo que estaba por llegar era mucho más fuerte aún: entré en una depresión devastadora, lo cual se convirtió básicamente en la crisis existencial **más fuerte que había tenido nunca**.*"

(https://viviralmaximo.net/ano-sabatico/)

(39) *"Cred că prostia devine perfectă atunci când întâlnim toate aceste 7 trăsături într-un om. Abia atunci putem spune cu mâna pe inimă: Bă, ești proastă sau **prost ca noaptea**, de dai în bălți, de împungi, nu mai ai scăpare. Dacă prostia ar durea…*"

(https://www.personalitatealfa.com/blog/7-trasaturi-ale-unui-om-prost-si-cum-sa-le-eviti/)

A particular situation, which is frequent in Spanish, is that of the use of a post-positioned adjective against names with an intensive value:

(40) *„Aviso a navegantes: Este proceso puede dar un miedo **horrible**, porque sientes que estás cambiando tanto, que a veces,*

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no te reconoces ni a ti mismo. Si duele, adelante, es que vas por buen camino."
(https://viviralmaximo.net/ano-sabatico/)

(41) „*A México le teníamos unas ganas **locas** desde hace varios años.*"
(https://www.mochileandoporelmundo.com/guia-de-viaje-a-mexico-peninsula-de-yucatan/)

(42)„*Malgastarás una **cantidad loca** de tiempo, energía y dinero en anuncios que no te generarán los resultados que esperabas*."
(www.maidertomasena.com)

Even though these structures do have an equivalent in Romanian, we have not found similar structures in our corpus of texts. In the first situation, an adjective found under the sphere of the "disagreeable" is selected as to indicate highest intensity. In the second, the structure may be rendered by means of a compensatory construction "chef nebun", with the mention that, in Spanish, it is especially used in plural form. A peculiar association is performed in the third situation, between a noun in the quantitative sphere, and an adjective that has qualitative value, *loca* („nebună"), which designates excessively lost time.

The analysis of these forms can continue, as both languages present a vast range of intensifiers, however, as we have mentioned, our purpose is not that of presenting an exhaustive inventory, but to discuss several of the most frequently encountered situation in our corpus of selected texts.

4. Final comments

As was observed, the language used in blogs is highly heterogenous both in the Romanian language and in the Spanish language, blurring the borders between the cult and the colloquial registers. Bloggers, just as usual speakers, resort to varied structures as to draw attention to their own discourse. When intensifiers are subjected to the use process, they are replaced with others which bear the mark of novelty, with the exception of grammaticalized forms, which are, as is known, much more stable within a language. In the case of Spanish, highest intensity is rendered by means of suffixation as well, a method that is lacking to a rather great extent in the Romanian language. At morphosyntactic level, we observe the availability of both languages with regards to encrypting intensity through similar means, but also their capacity to select certain different structures, created within the language.

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