

***Really* in an English-Spanish parallel corpus**

Noelia RAMÓN GARCÍA
Universidad de León

Abstract:

In language interaction the purpose is not only to communicate information, but also to express evaluative considerations towards the contents of the message or the addressee. Conveying experiential information falls within the ideational function of language, in Hallidayan terms, whereas the expression of evaluation is represents the interpersonal function of language. Finally, the textual function of language refers to its power to communicate textual and pragmatic meanings linguistically. The boundaries between these three functions of language are not clear-cut and there are a number of linguistic items that are used by speakers for more than one of these functions simultaneously. The English adverb *really* is one such multifunctional item.

This paper is a corpus-based contrastive study of the English particle *really* and its corresponding translations into Spanish as they were found in a large English-Spanish parallel corpus of contemporary texts. Parallel corpora have proved to be useful tools in identifying various functions of a source language unit, as they «provide answers to questions that cannot easily be answered on the basis of the analysis of a single language» (Aijmer 2005: 86).

The aim of this study is to reveal any possible associations between the different functions of *really* in English source texts (ST) and the distribution of the translational options taken by professional translators. The results will be of use in the field of translation practice as well as in translator training.