

Weakly grammaticalized auxiliary constructions in Spanish

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Spanish is rich in periphrastic verbal constructions, which consist of combinations of auxiliary lexical verbs with specific non-finite forms of lexical verbs. English examples of verbal periphrases are *be going to* and *have to*, both followed by infinitives of lexical predicates. Spanish periphrastic constructions have the following properties (i) the lexical verb may have the form of an infinitive, a gerund or a past participle; (ii) they express grammatical meanings, mainly within the domains of aspect and modality; and (iii) although most of the periphrases are highly grammaticalized, in some cases the auxiliary retains some of its lexical properties, thus constraining the applicability of the construction. In my talk I will discuss three cases of lexical constraints of aspectual periphrases: restrictions on both predicates and referents (*tener* 'have' + past participle, resultative aspect), restrictions on referents (*andar* 'walk' + gerund, distributive aspect), and restrictions on *aktionsart* (*cesar* 'stop' *de* + infinitive, egressive aspect).