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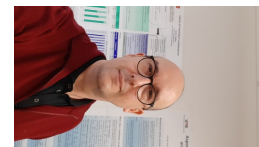
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Research interests

My research career focuses on Catalan and Spanish grammar, specifically their syntax and connections with semantics, pragmatics and prosody. In this area, my first main line of research has been dislocations, an understudied construction and yet of great theoretical interest. Apart from my 2000 thesis, my research on this construction has been published elsewhere, spreading from the syntactic representation of dislocates (2009) to prosodic (2013d) and information aspects (2013a; 2015a; 2018b), as well as the microparametric differences between Catalan and Spanish (2007, 2011a,c; 2015b). My most recent work in this area has been concerned with the expression of information structure in non-standard sentences, such as Romance binominal constructions (2008, 2010b), interrogatives (2018c), infinitival relatives (2019b), and existential sentences (2013c; 2016b; 2018a).

Qualifications

Ph. D., Filologia Catalana, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)

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Employment

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Research outputs

1. Villalba Nicolas, F. X. (Accepted/In press). Exclamatives: An overview. In P. Medeiros Junior, S. Guesser, & A. Marchesan (Eds.), *Interrogatives, exclamatives and imperatives in Brazilian Portuguese*
2. Espinal, M. T., Real-Puigdollers, C., & Villalba, X. (2022). From a movement verb to an epistemic discourse marker: The diachronic change of Spanish *vaya*. *Linguistic Variation*, 1-36. <https://doi.org/10.1075/lv.22006.esp>
3. Villalba Nicolas, F. X. (2022). The Functional Structure of Infinitive Relatives in Romance: Consequences for the cartographic approach. *Annali di Ca' Foscari. Serie occidentale*, 56(56), 137-158. <https://doi.org/10.30687/annoc/2499-1562/2022/10/008>
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5. Espinal, M. T., & Villalba Nicolas, F. X. (Accepted/In press). Marcadores de discurso deverbales. In C. Company Company (Ed.), *Sintaxis Histórica de la Lengua Española* (Vol. 4). Fondo de Cultura Económica (FCE) / UNAM.
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7. Villalba Nicolas, F. X., & Trotzke, A. (2021). Expressive insubordination: A cross-linguistic study on that-exclamatives. In *Expressive Meaning Across Linguistic Levels and Frameworks* (pp. 108-120) <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780198871217.003.0006>
8. Villalba Nicolas, F. X., & Trotzke, A. (2021). Expressive meaning across linguistic levels and frameworks. In A. Trotzke, & X. Villalba (Eds.), *Expressive Meaning Across Linguistic Levels and Frameworks* (pp. 1-5) <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780198871217.003.0001>
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10. Villalba Nicolas, F. X. (2021). La estructura informativa. En la interfaz entre la sintaxis y la semántica. In M. Leonetti, & M. V. Escandell-Vidal (Eds.), *La estructura informativa* (pp. 185-216). (Gramática del español; Vol. 18)..
11. Villalba Nicolas, F. X., & Planas-Morales, S. (2020). Complementantes preposicionales en las relativas de infinitivo. *Revista de la Sociedad Española de Lingüística*, 50(2), 125. https://crisws.uab.cat/ws/files/81826977/Xavier_Villalba_y_Si_lvia_Planas_Morales_1PP.pdf
12. Trotzke, A., & Villalba Nicolas, F. X. (2020). Exclamatives as responses at the syntax-pragmatics interface. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 168, 139-171. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pragma.2020.06.012>
13. Feldhausen, I., & Villalba Nicolas, F. X. (2020). 5.4 Modality and Information Structure: Focus, Dislocation, Interrogative and Exclamatory Sentences. In J. Lütke, & J-A. Argenter (Eds.), *Manual of Catalan Linguistics* (pp. 247-270). (Manual of Catalan Linguistics). de Gruyter. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110450408-009>
14. Villalba, X. (2020). Interface-driven phenomena in Spanish: Essays in honor of Javier Gutiérrez-Rexach. In Sandro Sessarego, & Melvin González Rivera (Eds.), *Interface-Driven Phenomena in Spanish: Essays in Honor of Javier Gutiérrez-Rexach* (1 ed., pp. 131-144). (Routledge Studies in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics).. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003006855-7>
15. Villalba Nicolas, F. X. (2019). *El orden de palabras en contraste*. (1 ed.) (El español en contraste). Arco Libros.
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19. Villalba, X., & Bosque, I. (Ed.) (2017). At-issue material in Spanish degree exclamatives: An experimental study. In *Advances in the analysis of Spanish exclamatives* (1 ed., pp. 129-158).
20. Villalba, X., Dufter, A. (Ed.), & Stark, E. (Ed.) (2017). Exclamatives, imperatives, optatives. In *Manual of Romance Morphosyntax and Syntax* (1 ed., pp. 603-646). (Manuals of Romance Linguistics). de Gruyter.
21. Villalba, X., Gallego, Á. J. (Ed.), Rodríguez, Y. (Ed.), & Fernández-Sánchez, J. (Ed.) (2017). Las oraciones relativas de infinitivo en catalán y castellano. In *Relaciones sintácticas. Homenaje a José M. Brucart y M. Lluïsa Hernanz* (1 ed., pp. 681-692). <https://ddd.uab.cat/record/185186>
22. Villalba Nicolas, F. X. (2017). Non-asserted material in Spanish degree exclamatives: An experimental study on extreme degree. In *Advances in the analysis of Spanish exclamatives*

23. Villalba Nicolas, F. X. (2016). L'evolució de les oracions exclamatives-qu de grau en català. *Caplletra. Revista internacional de filologia*. <https://doi.org/10.7203/caplletra.60.8454>
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Activities

Projects

1. **En los límites de la gramática: La interpretación y la combinación de los rasgos gramaticales.**
Some constructions in Catalan and Spanish have repeatedly presented empirical and theoretical problems for grammatical analysis, the reason being that they appear to be at the boundary between what is the faculty of language proper and the external systems (i.e. intentional-conceptual systems or articulatory-perceptual systems). Among these constructions the following should be mentioned: idioms, intensive-modalized structures, presentational impersonal structures, constructions that include anaphoric reference to sentences or abstract entities, structures containing light verbs, contractions and allomorphies, as well as constructions containing constituents that directly affect discourse interpretation. All of them are the object of our research in this coordinated project. In order to properly articulate different linguistic domains, we intend to characterize the primitive concept of grammatical feature and analyze its function at the different grammatical levels. We will study which types of instructions linguistic features must provide to implement grammatical operations resulting in the phonetic and/or semantic interpretation of the relevant constructions, as well as their function as connective elements between the levels of grammar and the systems external to them. Different types of features will be identified, as well as the values they can take and the hierarchy in which they are articulated in order to characterize the grammatical phenomena mentioned above.

Espinal Farre, M. T., Principal Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies

Faixa Sol, C., Researcher on contract, Department of Medicine

Mateu Fontanals, J., Researcher on contract, Department of Catalan Studies

Villalba Nicolas, F. X., Researcher on contract, Department of Catalan Studies

Bartra Kaufmann, A., Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies

Hernanz Carbo, L., Investigator, Department of Spanish Studies

Sanchez Lancis, C., Investigator, Department of Spanish Studies

Sola Pujols, J., Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies

Rosselló Ximenes, J. M., Investigator

Reference code BFF2000-0403-C02-01

19/12/00 → 19/12/03

Collaborators Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)

2. **Gramàtica comparada del català i l'espanyol (I): determinació i quantificació**
 Our coordinate project is a study of microparametric comparative syntax. It intends to carry out a study of the aspects where Spanish and Catalan diverge in their grammatical behavior, despite of the fact of being typologically alike languages. We depart from the assumption that a detailed analysis of both their syntactic similarities and differences will allow us to offer a better understanding of the principles that underlie their respective grammatical systems. At the same time, the research will offer a better understanding of the principles that underlie their respective grammatical systems. At the same time, the research will offer us empirical proofs for contrasting and delimiting language universal principles, as they are conceived in the theoretical framework of generative grammar. Specifically, the project will describe and analyze those aspects of the grammar of Spanish and Catalan that are particularly relevant for establishing the terms of linguistic variation: (i) the expression and articulation of modality, temporality and modal harmony; (ii) the manifestation of negative polarity; (iii) the expression of determination, definiteness and genericity; (iv) strategies for the quantification of entities and gradation of properties; (v) characteristics and use of weak and strong personal pronouns; and (vi) the lexical structure of predicates and their syntactic realization
 Rigau Oliver, G., Principal Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies
 Gavarró Algueró, A., Researcher on contract, Department of Catalan Studies
 Villalba Nicolas, F. X., Researcher on contract, Department of Catalan Studies
 Bartra Kaufmann, A., Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies
 Sola Pujols, J., Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies
 Reference code BFF2003-08364-C02-01
 10/12/03 → 9/12/06
 Collaborators Sense entitat, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)
3. **La composicionalidad del significado. Perspectivas teóricas y empíricas**
 Not available
 Espinal Farre, M. T., Principal Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies
 Tubau Muntaña, S., Collaborator, Department of English and German Studies
 Villalba Nicolas, F. X., Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies
 Brunetti, L., Collaborator
 Cyrino, S., Collaborator
 Etxebarria Otaegi, U., Collaborator
 Li, F., Collaborator
 Planas-Morales, S., Collaborator
 Seres, G., Collaborator
 Silvagni, F., Collaborator
 Reference code FFI2014-52015-P
 1/01/15 → 30/06/18
4. **La composicionalidad del significado y las operaciones semánticas en la interfaz sintaxis-semántica y en la interfaz gramática-cognición**
 Not available
 Espinal Farre, M. T., Principal Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies
 Mateu Fontanals, J., Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies
 Tubau Muntaña, S., Investigator, Department of English and German Studies
 Villalba Nicolas, F. X., Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies
 Dobrovie Sorin, C. D. S., Investigator
 Etxebarria Otaegi, U. E. O., Investigator
 Mayl Toll, L. M. T., Investigator
 Reference code FFI2011-23356
 1/01/12 → 30/06/15
5. **La interpretación de las categorías funcionales**
 Espinal Farre, M. T., Principal Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies
 Villalba Nicolas, F. X., Principal Investigator 2, Department of Catalan Studies
 Tubau Muntaña, S., Investigator, Department of English and German Studies
 Brunetti, L., Collaborator
 Cyrino, S., Collaborator
 Etxebarria Otaegui, U., Collaborator
 Olga Borik, Collaborator
 Planas-Morales, S., Investigator
 Reference code FFI2017-82547-P
 1/01/18 → 30/09/21

6. **LA INTERPRETACION DE LAS CATEGORIAS FUNCIONALES II: SIGNIFICADOS EXPRESIVOS Y JERARQUIAS DE SIGNIFICADO**

LAS CATEGORIAS FUNCIONALES ARTICULAN LA GRAMATICA DE LAS LENGUAS NATURALES DE UN MODO SINGULAR QUE NO SE REPRODUCE EN LOS LENGUAJES DE ESPECIES ANIMALES. EN ESTE PROYECTO VAMOS A CONTINUAR EL ESTUDIO INICIADO EN INTERCAT SOBRE EL SIGNIFICADO ASOCIADO A DISTINTAS CATEGORIAS FUNCIONALES Y SU CONTRIBUCION SEMANTICA AL LENGUAJE, LA COMUNICACION Y LA COGNICION. LO NOVEDOSO DE ESTE NUEVO PROYECTO ES QUE VAMOS A INVESTIGAR (I) LA HIPOTESIS DE QUE LAS CATEGORIAS FUNCIONALES SON CONSTITUYENTES QUE PUEDEN CODIFICAR SIGNIFICADOS EXPRESIVOS, MEDIANTE LOS CUALES EL HABLANTE PUEDE LLEGAR A EXPRESAR JUICIOS EMOTIVOS RESPECTO A LA PROPOSICION EXPRESADA (EN LA LINEA DE LOS TRABAJOS RECIENTES DE KRIFKA 2015, 2019, 2020 Y GEURTS 2019); Y (II) LA HIPOTESIS DE QUE LAS CATEGORIAS FUNCIONALES SON CONSTITUYENTES QUE CONSTRIENEN JERARQUIAS DE SIGNIFICADO. PARA ARGUMENTAR A FAVOR DE LA H1 ESTUDIAREMOS: LA DENOMINADA EXPLETIVIDAD EN DISTINTOS DOMINIOS ORACIONALES, LAS EMOCIONES EXPRESADAS MEDIANTE CIERTAS CATEGORIAS FUNCIONALES, EL CONCEPTO MISMO DE EXPERIMENTADOR, LA NEGACION ALTA O EXTERNA Y SU FUNCION EXPRESIVA, LAS PREGUNTAS Y LAS EXCLAMATIVAS RETORICAS, EL ROL DE LOS MARCADORES DISCURSIVOS DEVERBALES Y LA EXPRESION DE LA DEFINITUD EN LENGUAS SIN ARTICULOS. LA H2 SE VA A CONTRASTAR MEDIANTE EL ESTUDIO DE: LA DEFINITUD (POR UN LADO, SE INVESTIGARA SU RELACION CON LA ANAFORICIDAD, LA UNICIDAD, LA MAXIMALIDAD, LA PROMINENCIA Y LA TOPICALIDAD; POR OTRO LADO, SE INVESTIGARA SU RELACION CON LA INDEFINITUD, LA (NO) ESPECIFICIDAD, LA ANTI-ESPECIFICIDAD Y LA PARTITIVIDAD), LA ELEVACION DE LA NEGACION Y LA INTERACCION ENTRE ESTRUCTURA INFORMATIVA CON FUERZA INTERROGATIVA Y FUERZA EXCLAMATIVA. LAS LENGUAS SOBRE LAS QUE VAMOS A CENTRAR NUESTRO ESTUDIO SON LENGUAS ROMANCES (CATALAN, CASTELLANO, FRANCES, ITALIANO, PORTUGUES), GERMANICAS (ALEMAN E INGLES), ESLAVAS (RUSO), LATIN, GRIEGO Y EUSKERA.

Espinal Farre, M. T., Principal Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies, Grup de Recerca de Lingüística Teòrica, Center for Theoretical Linguistics

Villalba Nicolas, F. X., Principal Investigator 2, Department of Catalan Studies, Grup de Recerca de Lingüística Teòrica, Center for Theoretical Linguistics

Morosi ., P., Collaborator, Department of Catalan Studies

Seres Guillen, D., Collaborator, Department of English and German Studies

Tsiakmakis , E., Collaborator, Department of Catalan Studies

Tubau Muntaña, S., Investigator, Department of English and German Studies

CARRERA PEREZ, E., Collaborator

Cyrino, S., Collaborator

Etxeberria, U., Collaborator

GIANOLLO, C., Collaborator

PAOLO GRECO, M., Collaborator

Planas-Morales, S., Collaborator

TROTZKE, A., Collaborator

Reference code PID2020-112801GB-I00

1/09/21 → 31/08/24

7. **Microvariació a l'estructura oracional**

The contrastive study of three domains of sentence structure constitutes the subproject "Microvariation in the sentential architectures" (MICROARO). Assuming that linguistic variation is determined by the properties of the functional categories and, in particular, by the properties of the features that conform them, we will undertake the study of those formal objects from an informational and processing perspective in relation to: the structure of determiners, the architecture of left periphery and its relation to discourse (focus, theme), the order of arguments and modifiers (adverbs and adjectives), the selection of temporality, aspect and voice, as well as its influence in adjunct predications, passive sentence and attributive clauses. Finally, we aim at studying the relation between the syntax of the clause and the lexical syntax, and we will attempt to determine which kind of lexical elements tend to be more likely to grammaticalize in the history of the Romance languages.

Gallego Bartolomé, Á. J., Scholar, Department of Spanish Studies

Bartra Kaufmann, A., Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies

Hernanz Carbo, L., Investigator, Department of Spanish Studies

Mateu Fontanals, J., Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies

Sanchez Lancis, C., Investigator, Department of Spanish Studies

Villalba Nicolas, F. X., Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies

Lorusso, P., Scholar

Wojciech Lewandowski, Scholar

Reference code HUM2006-13295-C02-02

1/10/06 → 30/09/11

Collaborators Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)

8. **Microvariació: trets sintàctics i realització morfològica**

This coordinated project has as goal a comparative study of the grammatical variation given in the Romance languages, Spanish and Catalan in particular. "Microvariation: syntactic and morphological aspects of the object languages. It attempts to characterize the primitives responsible for the microvariation and to identify a possible inventory for them. In the morphosyntactic domain, we will study the properties and geometry of formal features (...) In the morphological domain, we will pay particular attention to the relation between the formal feature structure and its realization (allomorphy, defectivity) (...)

Real Puigdollers, C., Scholar, Department of Catalan Studies

Villalba Nicolas, F. X., Researcher on contract, Department of Catalan Studies

Bonet Alsina, M. E., Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies

Cabre Monne, T., Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies

Espinal Farre, M. T., Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies

Gavarró Algueró, A., Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies

Gutierrez Gonzalez, Y., Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies

Jeong, Y., Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies

Mascaro Altimiras, J., Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies

Ohannesian Saboundjian, M., Investigator, Department of Spanish Studies

Rigau Oliver, G., Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies

Sola Pujols, J., Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies

Torres Tamarit, F. J., Investigator, Department of Catalan Studies

Lazaridou Chitzigoga, D., Scholar

Brucart Marraco, Jose Maria, Investigator

Jiménez Martínez, J., Investigator

Markova, A. S., Investigator

Oltra Massuet, I., Investigator

Palmada Félez, B., Investigator

Reference code HUM2006-13295-C02-01

1/10/06 → 30/09/11

Collaborators Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)

Student theses

The syntax of sentence periphery

Author: Villalba Nicolàs, F. X., 7 Jun 2000

Supervisor: Rigau Oliver, G. (Director)

Minimal Case Constructions. The Distribution of Pronominal Clitics in Romance Causative Constructions

Author: Villalba Nicolas, F. X., 22 Sept 1994

Supervisor: Rigau Oliver, G. (Director)