

# **The concept of prayer and Spanish from a linguistic perspective**

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## **Abstract**

*The objective of this publication is exploring the application of Prayer/“Prayer” Duality research into Spanish. In this case the procedure to be carried out, begins by analyzing a grammatical sentence without semantic meaning including the concept of prayer as a process. Then, we complement this analysis with an algorithmic procedure, in order to see what a specific algorithm yields from its own analysis, on the matter at hand.*

**Keywords:** *Prayer/“Prayer” Duality, praying, Spanish, SWA-algorithm.*

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Theoretical linguistics has made major progress in the last decades, especially through generative grammar and related research. Additionally, Prayer/“Prayer” Duality line of research together with SWA-algorithm, have been part of this quite interesting and intricate theoretical dialogue, taking place through both personal communication and published articles. After a while developing our lines of research, we have realized our insights can be applied to and bring insights about particular languages. We have applied our lines of research to explain German, English and now Spanish. We hope the following considerations and insights are productive enough to help us gain an understanding of language-related phenomena at the deepest possible level.

## **II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **2.1 Prayer/“Prayer” Duality**

Prayer/“Prayer” Duality, for the purpose of this research, can be defined as a module in the mind/brain. This module is in charge of metaphysical activities like praying, together with some other activities holding a mysterious nature (Alvarez, 2019a,2020, 2023).

### **2.2 Spanish**

Spanish is a Romance language from the Indo-European family, spoken globally as a first language by around 360 million people (Britannica, n.d.). Although this definition does not fall within the category of Chomskian linguistics, in reference to what we have been producing in previous research (Alvarez, 2018a, 2018b, 2019a, 2023; Chomsky, 1957, 1995), it can be understood as part of a post-Chomskian angle, as we have pointed out in previous research as well (Alvarez, 2018a, 2018b, 2019a, 2020, 2023).

### **2.3 SWA-algorithm**

SWA-algorithm can be understood as a system of automatic writing process/product within the scientific realm (Alley, 2013; Alvarez, 2019b, 2020; Brown, 2012; Chikuni & Khan, 2008; D'Alleva, 2005; MacArthur *et. al.*, 2008; Peat *et. al.*, 2013; Wingersky *et. al.*, 2008). In the case of this research it will help us close our insights and go deeper, into the relationship between prayer and Spanish.

## **III. DISCUSSION**

### **3.1 General considerations**

To begin with this discussion section, we can pay attention to the following grammatical and non-semantic sentence:

Flavorless salty ideas pray in Spanish unconsciously

From this sentence, we can easily tell original sentence “Flavorless salty ideas pray unconsciously” (Alvarez, 2018b, 2019a), has been modified to include the Spanish language component. Though simple, this opens a world of puzzling phenomena, starting with the potential translation of the word “prayer” into Spanish, in this case “oración”. Therefore, in the sentence just shown, “pray” translates to the Spanish verb “orar”, with its corresponding conjugation in the full sentence’s potential translation.

We can see this translation-related consideration and take it the way it is, or we may follow a different path. In this case we can take the word “prayer” as the translation of the word “oración”, since a generative-like theory is likely to work better this way. Therefore, the key word here is “oración” and also its transformation into the verb “orar”. Thus, we may speculate on the idea the word “oración” contains a world in itself, allowing for special operations, including its translation at least into English language. This may create tension with previous research suggesting the prominence of English or even German (Alvarez, 2024a, 2024b). However, it is better to keep all these considerations within the realm of speculation, since it seems there is no final word on these considerations, to this point.

What else can be said on the matter at hand? Maybe not much. Therefore, it may be time to continue our insights with the help of an algorithm, in this case SWA (Alley, 2013; Alvarez, 2019b, 2020; Brown, 2012; Chikuni & Khan, 2008; D'Alleva, 2005; MacArthur *et. al.*, 2008; Peat *et. al.*, 2013; Wingersky *et. al.*, 2008). Next section will show what SWA can elaborate from this point on, about the relationship between prayer and Spanish language.

### **3.2 SWA-Algorithm applied to the Spanish word “oración”**

We may start this section by establishing the topic of inquiry, in this case the application of SWA-Algorithm (Alley, 2013; Alvarez, 2019b, 2020; Brown, 2012; Chikuni & Khan, 2008; D'Alleva, 2005; MacArthur *et. al.*, 2008; Peat *et. al.*, 2013; Wingersky *et. al.*, 2008) into praying in Spanish *per se*, or we may begin where previous section ended, in other words the lexical unit “oración” and what I can reveal on the matter at hand. If we start by the word “oración” and apply SWA-Algorithm from

then on, then that looks like a more productive path of analysis. Therefore, we will take this second option.

Once SWA-Algorithm (Alley, 2013; Alvarez, 2019b, 2020; Brown, 2012; Chikuni & Khan, 2008; D'Alleva, 2005; MacArthur *et. al.*, 2008; Peat *et. al.*, 2013; Wingersky *et. al.*, 2008) starts to read the word “oración”, it starts looking at its potential ramifications connected to the phenomena of praying in Spanish itself. However, this initial information does not seem to equal what could have been yielded by first algorithmic option, stated at the beginning of this section. Rather, it looks like this initial information is part of an analytical process by SWA, the beginning of it to be more specific.

From the point mentioned on, it looks like the word “oración” is connected to the phenomenon of praying in Spanish in deep, intricate ways, maybe not seen before. At least that is what SWA can perceive to this point, so to speak. It looks like SWA tries to find features of praying in Spanish, particular and unique to Spanish language. However, soon it realizes it is a useless step, since this would yield statistical data with such a chaotic configuration, that no useful insight could be taken from it. Rather, it is better to focus on the word “oración”, and how it may relate to the phenomenon of praying in Spanish.

An algorithm of this nature, however, does not seem to be able to go any further on the analysis at hand. That being said, we think it is time to stop the analysis where it is, waiting for additional theoretical foundations for further analysis, including this very article. It has to be said this area of analysis is promising enough, to state much further research is likely to be carried out on the matter at hand, potentially with an additional cognitive component.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

Through this article, we have explored the relationship between prayer and Spanish language, with the help of an existing algorithm. It was found the word “oración” (“prayer” in Spanish), may have generative properties to the linguistic aspects of the concept of prayer in other languages, at least English. However, no particular insight could be reached on that matter. It was also found that the word “oración” may be deeply and uniquely connected to the phenomenon of praying in Spanish, although no final conclusion could be found as well. However, it seems the relationship between Spanish language and the prayer phenomenon, is a promising area for further research, and this article is the starting point.

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