

In our thesis entitled *On the Issue of Past Tenses in Spanish and Portuguese: Contrastive Study Based on a Selected Work* we have compared the past tense system in contemporary Spanish and Portuguese, in order to discover main differences on the temporal as well as on the extratemporal level. In general, the complexness of the repertory of past tenses in Romance languages makes the full comprehension of the problem by not native speaker extremely difficult. Moreover, the linguistic proximity of both languages can cause many interferences and the phenomenon called “false friends”.

In the first “theoretical” part we have observed the principal theories of the most significant linguists and tried to demonstrate their statements on an authentic linguistic material. We have discovered many secondary meanings at every paradigm, which implicates difficulties during the study or translation. As we expected the essential difference on the temporary level consists in the use of *perfeito composto* in Portuguese and *perfecto compuesto* in Spanish, which also have different aspectual characteristics. On the other hand, most secondary (mainly modal) values are in both languages represented by *imperfecto / imperfecto*. In case of *mais-que-perfeito / pluscuamperfecto* there is an asymmetrical relation between the morphological forms: whereas there is only one active form in Spanish, in Portuguese there are two, the simple and the composed one.

In the second “practical” part we have tested our results on the Portuguese translation of the Spanish novel and observed the frequency and use of each form. But first of all we’ve been interested to find out which linguistic instruments were used in the Portuguese translation as the equivalent to the original form. Afterwards, we have represented our results in a diagram.

In conclusion we can submit that our contrastive analysis has confirmed most of our predictions.