

## MENTAL MODELS ON SPATIAL REPRESENTATION OF SPANISH VERB FORMS

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Usually, scholar books and Spanish teachers use timelines and comic sequences on teaching Spanish verb forms contrast (e. g., Imperfect Past Indicative vs Perfect Past Indicative). Would space domain provide modal mental models on representing time? This study evaluate whether Spanish speakers map well detailed features from space to temporal, mood and grammar aspect information of Spanish verb forms. We proposed a set of spatial dimensions grounded on the standard and stereotypical grammar definitions of three Spanish past verb forms and contemporary cognitive linguistic approach. In two choice-forced tasks, participants read complete well formed and uncomplete non-well formed phrases. Then, they were asked to categorize the spatial features of each verb form by choosing as preferred one of two spatial schemes at each spatial dimension. For complete well-formed phrases the results show speakers have preferred spatial schemes in the most of the proposed spatial dimensions for each verb form. Opposite to it, for uncomplete non-well formed phrases the speakers only show the spatial preference for one of the proposed spatial dimensions. Mainly of our interest, the preferred spatial schemes are in line to the standard and stereotypical grammar definitions of the three Spanish past verb forms involved in this study. These results suggest amodal grammar descriptions of verbs forms go well with modal spatial representations of them. This double-path on representing verb forms would give language learners a worthy flexibility on learning grammar topics.

**Keywords:** Spatial Schemes, Spanish Verb Forms, Mental Models, Semantic Memory