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A comparative study of the uses of por and para

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A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE USES
OF POR AND PARA

A Thesis
Presented to
the Faculty of the Department of
Modern Foreign Languages
University of Richmond

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts

by
Peggy D. Hart

June 1969

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INTRODUCTION

Most experiences with textbooks have led me to the conclusion that por and para have not been given sufficient treatment in that these textbooks fail to show enough of the contrasts between English and Spanish usage. Spanish grammar books, that is books written for native speakers of Spanish, are of little help since they assume that their readers are already aware of the differences.

The purpose of this paper is to compare the Spanish prepositions por and para with the objective of developing a relatively effective approach to the teaching of these prepositions to native speakers of English.

Many texts written especially for English-speaking persons who are learning Spanish, lack sufficient examples and frequently deal in generalities largely because of the limitations of time and space available in textbooks. Some of the more thorough textbooks such as Ramsey, Bolinger, and Brett give a fairly comprehensive view of the uses of por and para but tend to categorize and synthesize in an effort to save space and simplify instruction. The result of this simplification is that the student very often finds himself with a sentence which does not compare with the sample sentences given him in the text.

While no attempt has been made to expand each use of por or para to offer the student a large number of similar

sentences for practice purposes, it is hoped that this paper might serve as a relatively complete guide to the various uses and distinctions offered by por and para, and that it might serve as a point of departure for the development of contrastive drills and exercises designed to give the student an intuitive grasp of the prepositions.

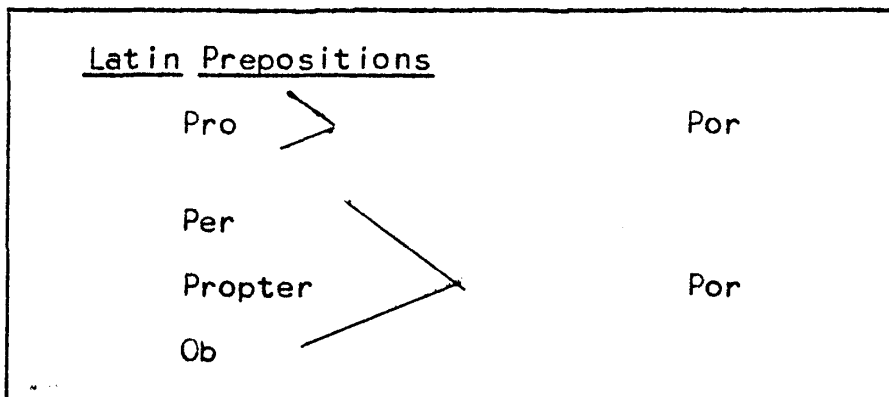
The conclusions reached in this paper are a synthesis of a careful investigation of a wide sampling of examples taken at random from various Spanish textbooks, literary works, periodicals, and from a number of native Spanish speakers from Chile, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Argentina.

The table of contents also serves as an outline of the paper and thus facilitates the location of certain uses of por and para. Wherever possible, a chart has been included to summarize uses as they are introduced.

I. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF POR AND PARA.

A. Latin prepositions rendering por.¹

The Latin preposition pro etymologically yielded Spanish por while the prepositions per, propter, and ob were replaced in Spanish by por.



I. Per was used to express:

- a. Space through or along which something passes.
Example: Per membranas oculorum cernere.
 (Cicero)
 To see through the membranes of the eyes.
- b. Time through or during which something takes place.
Example: Per noctem cernuntur sidera.
 (Pliny)
 Stars are seen throughout the night.
- c. Agent instrument or means through or by whom something is done.
Example: Per exploratores Caesar certior factus est. (Caesar)
 Caesar was informed by the scouts.

¹All the Latin examples for the prepositions per, pro, propter, ob, ad, and ut, are from A Latin Dictionary by Charlton T. Lewis and Charles Short (Great Britain, 1955).

- d. Reason, cause or inducement for an action.
Example: Per metum mussara. (Plautus)
 To speak softly because of fear.

2. Pro was used to express:

- a. The place before or in front of.
Example: Sedens pro aede Castoris.
 (Cicero)
 Sitting in front of the temple of Castor.
- b. For, in behalf of, in favor of, for the benefit of.
Example: Veri inveniendi causa contra omnia dici oportere et pro omnibus.
 (Cicero)
 For the sake of finding truth and for the good of all, it is opportune that everything be said.
- c. Replacement, substitution, in the place of, instead of.
Example: Ego ibo pro te, si tibi non Tibet. (Plautus)
 I shall go in your place, if you do not wish to go.
- d. Like, as good as.
Example: Pro damnato esse. (Cicero)
 As good as condemned.
- e. On account of, for the sake of.
Example: Dolor pro patria. (Cicero)
 Sorrow for the sake of the country.
- f. According to, in comparison with.
Example: Meus pater nunc pro huius verbis recte et sapienter facit. (Plautus)
 My father now acts wisely and correctly in accordance with this one's words.
- g. By virtue of or authority of.
Example: Quia pro imperio palam interfici non poterat. (Livius)
 Because he could not be killed openly by virtue of his command.

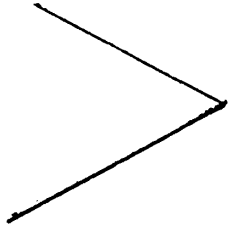
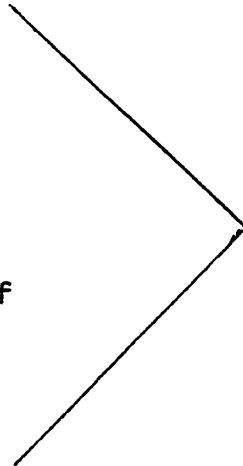
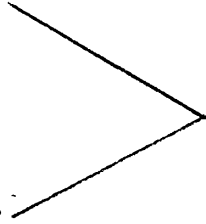

3. Ob was used to express:

- a. Towards or to.
Example: Ob Romam legiones ducere.
 (Ennius)
 To lead the legion towards Rome.
- b. About, before, in front of, over.
Example: Lanam ob oculum habere.
 (Plautus)
 To have wool in front of the eye.
- c. The object or cause of an action.
 On account of, for, because of.
Example: Etiam ob stultitiam tuam te
 tueris? (Cicero)
 Do you still defend yourself because of
 your folly?
- d. In consideration of, in return for,
 instead of.
Example: Talentum magnum ob unam fabulam
 datum esse. (Cicero)
 A great talent to be given in return for
 one single tale.

4. Propter was used to express:

- a. On account of, by reason of, from, for,
 or because of.
Example: Parere legibus propter metum.
 (Cicero)
 To obey the laws because of fear.
- b. Through, by means of.
Example: Propter quos vivit. (Cicero)
 Through whom he lives or to whom he owes
 his life.

Latin prepositions rendering por.

| | | |
|--|---|---------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Space 2. Time 3. Agent 4. Reason |  | Per |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Place 2. In behalf of 3. Replacement 4. Equality 5. On account of 6. Comparison 7. By virtue of |  | Pro |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Towards 2. In front of 3. Because of 4. In return for |  | Ob |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Because of 2. Means |  | Propter |

B. Latin prepositions rendering para.

Para, which in old Spanish was pora, and in modern Spanish is sometimes "en la pronunciación descuidada"² pa, evolved from Latin pro plus ad.

- Examples:
- a) Et vallor pora todos tiempos.
(Estatuto de la Aljama de Zaragoza, año 1331)
 - b) ¿Pa dónde son las fotografías?
(Goytisolo)
 - c) La qual pena sia por al sennyor Rey.
(Estatuto de la Aljama de Zaragoza, año 1331)

Pro > por

por + a > pora > para

Joan Corominas states in his Diccionario etimológico that para appeared in 1250 and that it was probably an alternation of pora which was made up from por and a. This alternation was facilitated by the influence of the old preposition par. According to the Diccionario de Autoridades, para is used to replace the Latin ad and also Latin ut.

I. Ad was used to mean:

- a. Direction toward, to.

Example: Fugere ad puppim colles campique viridentur. (Lucretius)

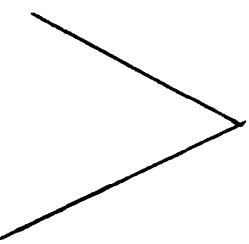
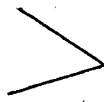
The hills and fields appear to fly toward the ship.

²Ramón Menéndez Pidal, Manual de gramática histórica española (Madrid, 1966) p. 338.

- b. The point or goal at which anything arrives.
Example: Litteras dare ad aliquem. (Cicero)
 Send a letter to someone.
- c. About, up to, until.
Example: Domum reductus ad vesperum.
 (Cicero)
 Led home about evening.
- d. In order to
Example: Venimus coctum ad nuptias. (Plautus)
 We come in order to cook for the wedding.

2. Ut was used to mean:

- a. Considering...that, in accordance with.
Example: Epicharmi, acuti nec insulsi
 hominis, ut Siculi. (Cicero)
 ...considering he was a Sicilian.
- b. In order that, so that.
Example: Reliquum iudicium de iudicibus,
 et, vere ut dicam, de te futurum est. (Cicero)
 ...to tell the truth

| | | |
|---|---|----|
| 1. Direction 2. Goal 3. Toward 4. In order |  | Ad |
| 1. Considering that 2. In order that |  | Ut |

II. USES OF THE ENGLISH PREPOSITIONS FOR, BY, AND THROUGH.

The variety of meanings of the Latin prepositions from which por and para evolved give insight into the meanings of por and para as they are used in modern Spanish. Since the choice between por and para rarely presents a problem to the Spaniard, the problem then is one of translation. English speaking persons have to deal with a large number of prepositions, each with varied meanings, which overlap the por and para dichotomy.

A. Uses of for.

In the sentence, "The man was put in jail for committing a crime," it is obvious that the subject has committed a crime and, because of this crime, he has been placed in jail. In the sentence, "Be baptized for the remission of sins," the for implies:

1. Because the sins have been remitted, baptism should follow.
2. In order to have sins remitted, baptism is essential.

In the following examples, the preposition for implies two different things:

1. Work in order to earn a living.
2. Work for the sake of my children.

Examples: a) Work for a living.

b) Work for my children.

In the following examples, the preposition for indicates:

1. Destination
2. In defense of

Examples: a) He has left for the office.

b) He has fought for his country.

When for is used as a conjunction, it cannot be used exactly like because. (1) For introduces reason or explanation for an opinion and is subjective.

Examples: a) Do not swear, for I dislike it.

b) It is going to rain, for it is getting dark.

(2) Because represents the immediate cause and is more objective.³

Examples: a) We hurried because it was getting late.

b) They did that because events compelled them.

Compare: a) We believe that he will succeed, for he has talent.

b) For he has talent, we believe that he will succeed.

The second example is incorrect. However, it is correct to say:

a) We believe that he will succeed because he has talent.

³Eric Partridge, Usage and Abusage (Baltimore, 1963) p. 104.

- b) Because he has talent, we believe that he will succeed.

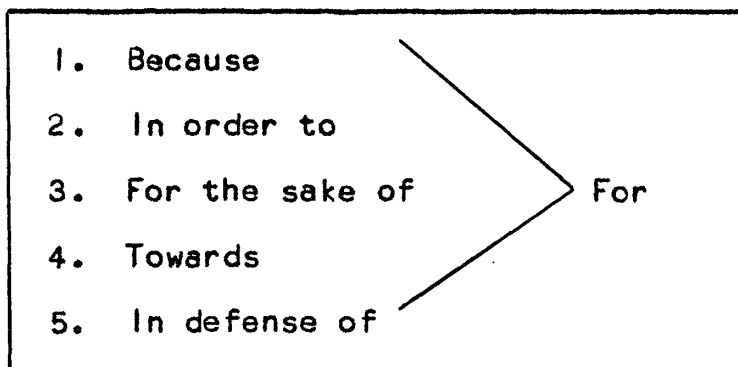
The conjunctions for or because will be translated into Spanish as porque but it is the interrogative por qué which may present a problem to a translator. The confusion stems from the difference between por qué (why) and para qué (why).

Examples: (Reporter) ¿Por qué está usted aquí?

(Prisoner) Por burlarme del gobernador. ¿Y para qué está usted aquí?

(Reporter) Para reportar el incidente.

Por qué means for what reason and para qué means for what purpose.⁴



B. Uses of by.

When by means in proximity to, in the immediate neighborhood of, or beside, Spanish uses prepositions such as al lado de, cerca de, en frente de, etc.

⁴Robert P. Stockwell, J. Donald Bowen, and John W. Martin, The Grammatical Structures of English and Spanish (Chicago, 1965) p. 207.

- Examples:
- a) The tree by the fence.
El árbol al lado de la reja.
 - b) That pencil by you.
Ese lápiz cerca de usted.
 - c) Broad Street runs by my house.
La calle Broad pasa en frente de mi casa.

The preposition by is often ambiguous in English.

- Examples:
- a) The gun was found by the deceased.
 - b) The gun was found by the detective.
 - c) The book by you is excellent.

By could represent: (1) location, (2) agent. In the following examples,

- a) I will finish by five o'clock.
- b) We will go by plane.

the implications of by are:

1. Not later than. (Lo terminaré para las cinco.)
2. To show means. (Iremos por avión.)

"By may also be used to contrast near with actually there.

In this sense, it has a negative force and may combine with verbs of motion to mean avoid or ignore."⁵

Example: Go by Guadalajara.

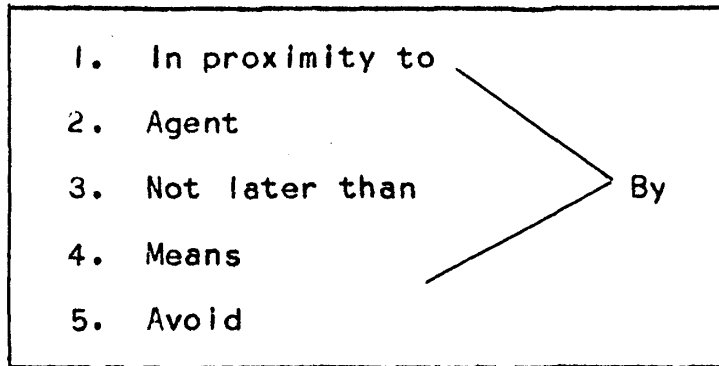
Translations: (1) Pase por Guadalajara.

(2) No pase por Guadalajara.

⁵Bergen Evans and Cornelia Evans, A Dictionary of Contemporary American Usage (New York, 1957) p. 65.

(3) Pase cerca de Guadalajara.

(4) Evite pasar por Guadalajara.



C. Uses of through.

The two basic meanings of through are:

1. Penetration of an object, substance, or space, usually from one side or surface to the opposite side or surface.
2. Movement within an object, substance, space or time.

- Examples:
- a) He entered through the door.
 - b) The blood ran through his veins...
 - c) Through the years, he has...

Through is translated into Spanish as por except:

1. In idiomatic expressions.

- Examples:
- a) He ran through a red light.
(No se detuvo ante la luz de parada.)
 - b) He saw right through him.
(Entendió sus motivos.)
 - c) Do you read books through?
(¿Lee usted libros del todo?)

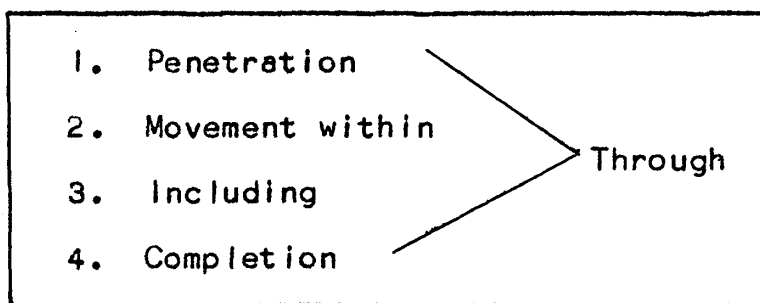
- d) He got through his exams.
(Termino sus exámenes.)

2. When through means into and including.

- Examples: a) The cost for 1954 through 1957 will be \$425.
(El costo de 1954 hasta fines de 1957...)
- b) He has prolonged his visit through the weekend.
(Ha prolongado su visita hasta el domingo.)

3. When through indicates the completion or exhaustion of something.

- Examples: a) The man went through the brandy.
(El hombre termino el aguardiente.)
- b) He went through a fortune in 3 months.
(Gasto una fortuna en 3 meses.)



III. USES OF POR AND PARA GIVEN IN SPANISH GRAMMAR BOOKS.

Nebrija, the author of the first written Spanish grammar, does not give a definition for para but merely lists it as a preposition and gives the example "para mi" and about the preposition por he says, "o significa causa, como por amor de ti, o significa lugar por donde, como por el campo; por lo primero dize 'propter', por lo segundo, 'per'; o significa en lugar, como diciendo tengolo por padre, por dezir en lugar de padre y por esto dize 'pro'."⁶ Most Spanish grammar books give por and para no more emphasis than they give any other preposition and, rather than establish a difference between por and para, the Spanish grammarians concern themselves with the differences between para and a, para and hasta, etc.⁷

A. Para and a.

If we compare the two following sentences:

- a) El maestro ha traído un libro a Andrés.
- b) El maestro ha traído un libro para Andrés.

we note that in the second sentence Andrés as object of the

⁶Antonio de Nebrija, Gramática castellana, (Madrid, 1946) p. 84. (Written in 1492)

⁷Andrés Bello, the erudite Spanish-American grammarian in his books, Estudios Gramaticales and Gramática, mentions por and para but does not define any difference between the two prepositions.

preposition para is the complement of ha traído un libro as he is in the first sentence. The difference is that the prepositional phrase a Andrés indicates the natural object of the verb to bring while in the second sentence, para Andrés means that the brought book is destined for Andrés but he may never receive it. Elucidating examples follow:

Example: Se paraban a escuchar. (Casona) (Implies that those who were listening were hearing.)

Example: Se paraban para escuchar. (Connotes that though the subjects were expecting to hear, surrounding elements could have prevented the hearing.)

Example: Su hermano viene a ayudarle. (A. Machado)
(Ayudarle is the natural object of the verb to come. If the brother had come in order to help but was unable to help because the work had already been done, the sentence would have to be, "Su hermano vino para ayudarle.")

María Moliner in the Diccionario de Uso summarizes the above usage as follow:

Para se emplea con el complemento indirecto de los verbos prefiriéndose esta preposición a a cuando se quiere expresar que la acción del verbo no solo afecta a ese complemento, sino que se dedica o destina especialmente a él; el complemento con para puede transformarse en una oración dependiente que especifique esa dedicación especial: en vez de, "te lo he traído a ti," se puede decir, "lo he traído para ti," lo que puede traducirse, por ejemplo, por, "lo he traído para que te lo comas tú."

B. Para and hasta.

The prepositions para and hasta when used with

verbs such as dejar, or guardar, in the sense of postponement, are basically interchangeable if used in affirmative temporal expressions even though they imply a slight difference in attitude. In the following examples, the first one indicates anticipation and the second indicates postponement:

- Examples: a) Déjalo para mañana.
Leave it for tomorrow.
- b) Déjalo hasta mañana.
Leave it until tomorrow.

In the negative, the use of hasta is ambiguous.

Example: No lo dejes hasta mañana.

The ideas implied are:

1. The subject is to continue what he is doing without stopping.
2. The subject is admonished not to postpone what he is doing.

The meaning of the following example is clear. The subject is not to postpone his action until tomorrow.

Example: No lo dejes para mañana.

When verbs like dejar and guardar are not used in the sense of postponement, the prepositions para and hasta are not interchangeable.

Example: Déjalo para Juan. (Hasta cannot be used in this example.)

In other expressions of time, the two prepositions para and hasta are not interchangeable because each evokes a different idea.

In the first of the following examples, the implications are:

1. The receiver of the command is not to be concerned about tomorrow.

2. He need not work to provide for the future,

and in the second the subject is admonished not to work now but rather to postpone working until tomorrow.

Examples: a) No trabajes para mañana.

b) No trabajes hasta mañana.

In the examples shown below, the subject in the first one will not complete the action by a given deadline and in fact may never complete it, while in the second, though the subject does not intend to begin the action until a later date, he will act after a predetermined postponement.

Examples: a) No lo haré para mañana.

b) No lo haré hasta mañana.

In spatial expressions, para and hasta have different meanings altogether. Para is used to signify:

1. Something is moving toward a given destination.

2. It need not arrive.

Hasta emphasizes the destination rather than the movement.

In the first of the following examples, the subject is going towards New York; but in the second, the subject will go as far as New York and no farther:

- Examples: a) Ira para Nueva York.
 b) Ira hasta Nueva York.

When hasta is used with a verb in the past tense, it suggests that the subject has reached its destination.

Example: "al padre muerto llevaron hasta la Laguna Negra." (A. Machado)

When employing para or hasta in negative spatial expressions, para means:

1. The subject did not go towards given destination.
2. The subject may have gone to another place.
3. The subject stayed where he was.

Hasta implies:

1. The subject stopped short of the given destination.
2. The subject did move towards the destination.

- Examples: a) El no fue para Nueva York.
 b) El no fue hasta Nueva York.

Seco says in the Manual de gramática española, that in spatial expressions, para is synonymous with hacia and that hasta can be equated with a.

- Examples: a) Voy para casa. Voy hacia casa. (Indicates direction rather than destination.)
 b) Voy a casa. (Indicates destination)

In the example, "Una avispa vuela sobre el cristal, para arriba y para abajo," the direction of the bee's flight

is indicated and not the destination of the flight.

C. Para or no preposition.

In the following examples:

- a) Hazlo la semana que viene.
- b) Hazlo para la semana que viene.

the preposition para indicates that the action of the verb is to be completed by a given time. The first example, which uses no preposition, implies that the action of the verb will be delayed or postponed for a given length of time.⁸ Besides indicating completion, para denotes:

- 1. Vagueness regarding the execution of the action.
- 2. The deadline rather than the postponement.

This same idea can be more clearly seen in the two following examples:

- a) Hazlo el 6 de enero.
- b) Hazlo para el 6 de enero.

⁸Rafael Seco, Manual de gramática española (Madrid, 1960) p. 148.

IV. USES OF POR AND PARA.

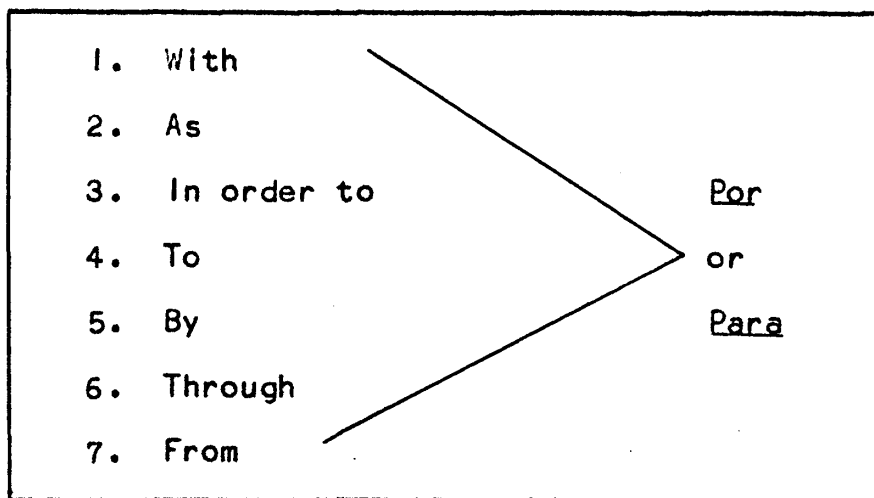
A. Common misconceptions regarding por and para.

The common misconception is that por and para are translations of the English preposition for.⁹ Though for is usually represented in Spanish by por or para, the prepositions by, through, to, in order to, as, with, from, etc. are also involved.

- Examples:
- a) The window was broken with a rock.
La ventana fue quebrada por una piedra.
 - b) One autumn morning when the fields are plowed on the hill that has the morning sky as backdrop...
Que tiene el cielo de la mañana por fondo...(A. Machado)
 - c) In order to learn, one must study.
Para aprender, hay que estudiar.
 - d) What if I should tell you that I am dying to get married.
...que yo te diga que estoy muriéndome por casarme.
 - e) She moved him rather by her tears than by her appeal to his chivalry.
Lo conmovió por sus lágrimas en vez de por acudir a su hidalguía.

⁹Example: Both por and para may be translated as for. In this meaning, the basic distinction is that por refers back to a cause and para refers ahead to a result... When for is used in the sense of bound for or destined for the translation should be por...Por also means through, along, during...With a dependent infinitive, para expresses the purpose of the action of the main verb, and if translated at all, is the equivalent of in order to." (Ashcom, p. 211)

- f) He would fly through the air with the greatest of ease...
Volaba por el aire..
- g) From the sea the waves were coming dyed with the light of the dawn.
Por el mar venían olas teñidas de luz de alba. (Jiménez)
- h) This is a key to the desk.
Esta es una llave para el escritorio.



The English-speaking student not only has these variations to contend with but also the fact that por or para will sometimes be used in Spanish when no preposition is used in English.

Example: I want some money to buy a coat.

The expression to buy is an infinitive in English but in Spanish the adverbial infinitive must be introduced with the preposition para.

Example: Yo quiero dinero para comprar un abrigo.

In teaching por and para to English-speaking students, the

teacher should emphasize the rules rather than the exceptions. The rules will apply to the most common uses of the prepositions but will not limit the uses of por nor para. Because both por and para have so many meanings, it is inadvisable to teach all the rules for one of the prepositions and imply that the other should be used "the rest of the time." Neither por nor para can be taught as the exclusive translation for any English preposition.

B. Temporal expressions.

The basic difference between por and para is that por "suele expresar causa y para indica la finalidad."¹⁰ Some grammarians say that in a cause-effect situation:

1. Para expresses the destination of an action or its purpose.
2. Por expresses the cause of the action.

Though this concept is a very valuable one to the English-speaking student who is learning Spanish, there are many uses of por and para that cannot be forced into this pattern.

In temporal expressions, for example, the English-speaking student can assume that para will be used when the

¹⁰Manuel Criado, de Val, Síntesis de morfología española (Madrid, 1961) p. 202.

time indicated is in the future such as:

1. Do it for tomorrow.
Hágalo para mañana.
2. Para el sábado estarán hechos. (Ramsey)

Though para designates a point or the farthest limit of future time, it is also used to stress the termination of a period of time rather than to emphasize the period itself.¹¹

- Examples: a) Más vale ir al presidio para toda la vida que no denunciar a un hombre. (Ramsey)
- b) Se llevaron a la chica a Valencia diciendo que solo era para unos días. (Ramsey)

In the following example, "Este cambio es solo por unos días," Seco says that the approximation of the time is emphasized and not the termination.

Por emphasizes the duration of an action and shows the space of time during which an action takes place or continues. Por (in temporal expressions) is expressed in English by a variety of terms: during the summer, through the winter, during the course of the day, about midday, around eight o'clock, in those days, not for now, at night, etc.

- Examples: a) Por un instante, pensó refugiarse. (Borges)

¹¹Marathon Montrose Ramsey, A Textbook of Modern Spanish (New York, 1960) p. 526.

- b) Así yo seguiré por toda la existencia metido en la vida de los míos. (Zunzunegui)
- c) Por entonces, por ahora no, por el presente.
- d) Se quedará aquí por una temporada, por cinco días. (Moliner)
- e) Por el verano cuando me siento a coser. (Casona)
- f) Por el día mejor color y por la noche mejor sueño. (Casona)
- g) El país daba por aquellos años grandes cosechas de futbolistas y de pintores. (Zunzunegui)
- h) Por la noche, las sábanas olían...(Casona)

Por takes the place of the Spanish preposition en to show approximate or vague time.

- Examples:
- a) Desde que la reforma Agraria se inició en los campos henequeneros de Yucatán, allá por 1935...(Gente)
 - b) Este año, por marzo, hubo en la aldea cuatro bautizos. (Casona)

Por is used in this sense much like the English sometime during and places the action at any moment during the specified time.

The use of por in some temporal expressions will create a sensation of movement within time and is equivalent to English during.

- Examples:
- a) Por el verano, cuando me siento a coser. (Casona)
 - b) Y la alameda de Carral llena de música y sombra por las Noches de San Juan! (Panero)

Compare the following examples:

- a) Lo importante es que te levanten una estatua, una estatua para la eternidad. (Zunzunegui)
(Implies that the statue is destined for eternity as a fixed time in the future.)
- b) Sentir Bilbao en su fragor y en su ímpetu por toda una eternidad de estatua, que mejor destino de hombre. (Zunzunegui)
(Here the same author makes the action move through, along, in, and throughout a period of time.)

The same idea is seen in the use of por siempre and para siempre. The English words forever and forevermore are translated as para siempre or por siempre. Maria Moliner states in the Diccionario de uso del español that para siempre is used "No solo para cierto tiempo determinado" and that por siempre is "propio del lenguaje devoto." Velázquez in a New Pronouncing Dictionary gives the meaning of forever as para siempre and of forevermore as por siempre or para siempre. In English the word forever means eternity and the word forevermore, a combination of for and evermore, means for always, for all times, constantly or continually. Forever is the more common in both languages.

- Examples:
- a) Una tarde licenció para siempre el vasto colegio ilusorio. (Borges)
 - b) Ay, para siempre partir de nuevo con el alma desgarrada. (D. Alonso)
 - c) Y quedará clavada para siempre en un muro...(Mistral)
 - d) Aunque no esté en el campo, sufro por cada sitio donde estar para siempre, por cada instante suyo, ...(Vivanco)

| | | |
|------------------|---|------|
| 1. Future time | } | Para |
| 2. Termination | | |
| 1. Duration | } | Por |
| 2. Approximation | | |
| 3. Movement | | |

C. Expressions denoting space.

The uses of por and para in spatial expressions have many similarities to the temporal uses of the prepositions. Para is used to indicate movement towards a destination.

- Examples:
- a) Ya las abejas doradas liban para sus colmenas. (A. Machado)
 - b) Mañana parto para Boston. (Ramsey)
 - c) Voy para Bogotá. (Stockwell)

The grammar of the Real Academia says that in this type of phrase para is used to indicate movement and is understood as con dirección a. The examples from that grammar are:

- a) Salgo para Logroño.
- b) Voy para Madrid.

Por, on the other hand, is used to designate an approximated place and even though it does not imply movement toward a destination, it can imply movement, within,

through, around, along, about, by, etc.

- Examples:
- a) Y por tierra de pinares |arga jornada comienzan...(A. Machado)¹²
 - b) Por un torso desnudo tibios hilillos ruedan. (Aleixandre)
 - c) Y ha comenzado a correr por los pasillos del tren. (D. Alonso)
 - d) En sus paseos taciturnos por el pueblo, se cuajaba del deseo imperecedero... (Zunzunegui)
 - e) Pasa por aquí todas las noches.
 - f) Hay que buscar, para saber tu tumba, por el firmamento. (Jiménez)
 - g) Y toda la sangre me canta por las venas. (Casona)

Por is used instead of en to indicate a vague place.

- Examples:
- a) Vive por la calle Filadelfia. (Ramsey)
 - b) Por el oriente la luna llena, manchada de un arrebol purpurino, lucía tras de la tapía. (A. Machado)
 - c) Por allí está el sepulcro del Apostol. (Casona)

In combination with adverbs or prepositions of location, por is used to imply movement in a restricted pattern and has many English translations.

¹² In this example, por is used in place of English through to indicate passage between or among the separate or separable units of something such as: "a broad highway through overhanging palms."

- Examples:
- a) Barandales de la luna por donde retumba el agua. (Lorca)
 - b) Si es a ellos tendrás que pasar por encima de mí. (Casona)
 - c) Vencida tengo a la muerte que anduve el mismo camino, ella lo anduvo por fuera yo por dentro de mí mismo. (Emilio Prados)

Por is used to mean through with the ideas of:

1. Penetration of or across an object usually from one side to the opposite one.

Example: La desgracia se había metido en esta casa como un cuchillo por pan. (Casona)

2. Passage from one side to the other by means of an opening.

Example: Sal por la otra puerta. (Casona)

3. The transmission of light, vision or sound by some medium or opening.

Examples: a) Hablará por la radio. (Seco)

b) Por las verjas se ve luz en las casas. (Jiménez)

c) Mirar y ver en torno la soledad, el monte, el mar, por la ventana de un corazón entero. (Hernández)

4. Movement by way of a specified channel or passage.

Example: Y bajando por el puerto de santa Inés a Vinuesa... (A. Machado)

5. Passage through some treatment, handling, or process.

Example: Hombre que ha consumido su existencia en la lucha, pasando por la vida sin gustarla, siente contra ella un gran rencor. (Zunzunegui)

6. Movement within a broad expanse.

Examples: a) A tu presencia
Vuelven por el azul, en blanco bando,
tiernas palomas. (Jiménez)

b) Le andaban rodando no se que ideas
tristes por la cabeza. (Casona)

7. Completion of a stage in a process or course of development.

Example: El pensar que había pasado por el mundo
estérilmente. (Borges)

Por is also used in spatial expressions to mean by with the following connotations:

1. Along, over, or through.

Examples: a) Alguien se acerca por el camino de
la era. (Casona)

b) Entró por la puerta del lado.

c) El avión pasó por Nueva York.

2. Passage.

Example: Iremos a Portugal por Salamanca. (Moliner)

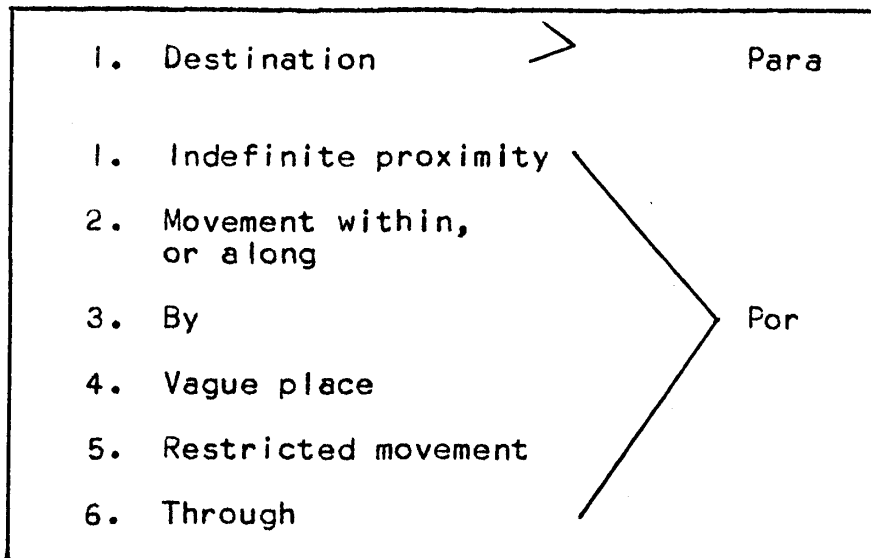
Por must be clarified when its meaning is not clear.

Example: They passed by the church. Pasaron por delante
de la iglesia.

In the example, "Antes tengo que pasar por la capilla," por implies through not by.

In the example, "Ya van por el viento, suben, saltan por la luz, se pierden sobre las aguas," (Prados), the expression por el viento is ambiguous in that it means by the wind or through the wind while por la luz means through the light.

Spatial Expressions



D. Por and para when used with an infinitive.

Para when used with an infinitive usually means to or in order to. Because por may also be used at times to mean in order to, this is one of the hardest rules to teach an English-speaking student.¹³ The grammar of the

¹³The grammarian Ashcom explains the difference as follows: "With a dependent infinitive, para expresses the purpose of the action of the main verb, and if translated at all, is the equivalent of in order to. Por sometimes replaces para, usually to indicate an intense desire or violent striving to achieve the result expressed by the infinitive.

Examples: Mostró extraordinario interés para (or por) conocer el resultado.
He hecho todo lo posible por merecer su confianza.

The grammarian Bolinger says that, "Por is used (with both nouns and infinitives) for English for, to, and in order to, when the action is viewed as impelled by a sense of duty.

Example: Lucha por salvar a sus hijos."
This is a very limited use of por.

Real Academia states that para is used to signify, "El fin que nos proponemos en nuestras acciones; trabajar para comer; estudiar para saber," and that por is used to signify "el fin u objeto, de nuestras, acciones: Salgo con gabán, por ir más abrigado. En tal caso se usa indiferentemente de esta preposición o de la anterior. (para)" Lewis Brett says that when por is followed by an infinitive it indicates what remains to be done and that para indicates in order to.

Examples: a) Quedan seis páginas por copiar.

b) Sin dejar nada por decir.

c) Quiero un lápiz para escribir.

Though por can indicate what remains to be done and also express an intense desire to achieve, it is also used with an infinitive to express many other ideas as the following paragraphs will indicate.

Por preceded by verbs such as acabar, terminar, empezar, etc. constitutes the manner in which the action was performed and is translated into English by the preposition by.

Examples: a) El empezó por criticar.

b) Lejos de clarificar la moral comunitaria terminan por liquidar el desarrollo de los procesos. (La Nación)

c) Se acaba por llorar.

In the following examples with acabar, the idea is not the manner in which the action was performed but rather the

effect of the action upon the subject; in English it is expressed by the preposition in.

Examples: a) Las matanzas subsiguientes acabaron por enloquecerle. (Zunzunegui)

b) Acabó por atormentarlo. (Borges)

Rafael Seco, in the Manual de gramática española, states that por is used when followed by an infinitive to give the idea of future perspective or necessity.

Examples: a) Todavía está por ver.

b) Lo he hecho por ayudarte.

It is easy to see why the English-speaking student would translate, "I have done it (in order) to help you," as para ayudarte instead of por ayudarte. The latter implies because I wanted to help you as opposed to so as to help you, which is what para ayudarte means. The use of por plus an infinitive implies motive with the idea of, "movido por el deseo de."

Examples: a) No es por decir mal de nadie, lavé los siete cuerpos uno por uno. (Casona)

b) Por ir al norte, fue al sur. (Alberti)

c) En un loco afán por imitar al guerrillero que murió sin haber ofrecido un combate... (Diario las Américas)

d) ¿Por ti mismo? ¿Por cubrir tu honra de hombre? (Casona)

Por plus an infinitive is also used to give the reason for an action and implies because something has

already been done.

- Examples: a) Ha polarizado su descontento contra Paulo VI por pedir un reajuste que permita un mayor disfrute de la riqueza para todos... (Indice)
- b) Por hablar, le castigaron.
- c) En Rusia, el peligro estriba en que, por someterse a las consignas del partido, crée personajes ficticias...(Indice)

Para is used with an infinitive to mean in order to and is much more common than por in this sense.¹⁴

¹⁴ It must be noted that para plus infinitive does not always mean in order to.

Example: a) Soy demasiado inteligente para tomarme en serio. (Borges)

If we translate para as in order to the sentence would read, "I am too intelligent in order to take myself seriously." The preceding sentence is incorrect because in order to means so that and the original example says, "I am too intelligent to take myself seriously." What is meant then is:

Because I am intelligent, I cannot take myself seriously.

Example: b) No, Martín, tú no eres un cobarde para huir así de los perros que ladran. Tiene que haber algo más hondo. (Casona)

Para huir cannot mean in order to because the action has already taken place. The idea here is similar to the English just because and therefore is confusing to the non-native since por is usually the preposition that is used to mean because.

Ramsey states that "para when followed by an infinitive is also used to indicate the following step in a series of events, somewhat as only to is used in English in affirmative phrases.

- Examples: a) Cuando uno se tiraba al agua, los otros se volvían momentaneamente preocupados, como si recordaran algo, para olvidarse en seguida. (Quiroga)
- b) La luna llena salía del seno de un nubarrón negruzco para volverse a ocultar. (Baroja)

- Examples:
- a) Para verme con los muertos ya no voy al camposanto. (Prada)
 - b) ¿Callaremos ahora para llorar después? (Darío)
 - c) Para tomar el camino de Salduero o Covaleda, cabalgan en pardas mulas. (A. Machado)
 - d) Cuanto penar, para morirse uno! (Hernández)
 - e) La taberna. Buena parroquia para decir misa.
Y buen tejado el de la taberna para tirarle piedras al del vecino. (Casona) -

Para plus an infinitive has the value of purpose or destination, but when the purpose or the destination is equal to the reason for the action, por and para are interchangeable.

Example: Salió con gabán por (para) ir más abrigado.

Por in this example means:

1. Moved by the desire to be warmer.
2. In order to be warmer.

When the in order to and the moved by the desire cannot be equated, por and para cannot be used interchangeably with an infinitive.

Example: Nietzsche no nos da nunca las razones en que se funda para negar la existencia de Dios. (Indice)

Por in the above example would mean that the subject was moved by the desire to negate the existence of God and therefore it would change the meaning of the sentence.

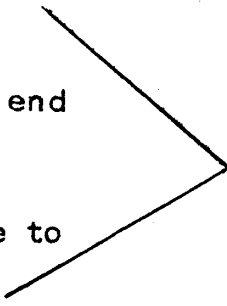
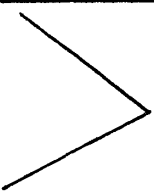
Example: Quería obligarlo a ponerse de rodillas para decir el nombre de Adela. (Casona)

Por decir el nombre de Adela implies that the subject had already said her name and the punishment for the action was to kneel.

When para is followed by ser or estar, it means in order to but por plus ser or estar implies because something was.

- Examples:
- Siempre falta algo para ser feliz. (Casona)
 - Bendiciéndolo por ser suyo. (Casona)
 - Para estar aquí a las ocho, hay que salir temprano.
 - Por estar enfermo, no pudo venir.
 - Y el odio y la muerte, por ser por la patria inmortal, saludan con voces de bronce las trompas de guerra que tocan la marcha triunfal...(Darío)

Por - Para Plus Infinitive

| | | |
|---|---|------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Manner Effect - objective end Future perspective Moved by the desire to Because |  | Por |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In order to To Purpose |  | Para |

E. Para to express purpose, goal, or use.

Fundamentally para expresses:

1. Purpose
Está ahorrando dinero para la casa. (Moliner)
2. Goal
Soñando estoy un traje para mi boda. (Alberti)
3. Use
Sirve para muchas cosas. (Moliner)

As has been stated, para when followed by an infinitive means in order to (purpose) and is used with this same connotation in sentences where the infinitive is understood.

- Examples:
- a) El arroz y las frutas de su tributo eran pábulo suficiente para (alimentar) su cuerpo. (Borges)
 - b) No tenía fuerza para (hacer) nada. (Casona)
 - c) El no estudia para (ser) médico sino para (ser) abogado.

When para is used to designate the goal of an action, the idea implied is:

Preparation towards

- Examples:
- a) Para la libertad sangro, lucho, pervivo! (Hernandez)
 - b) Estudiando para abogado.
 - c) Ahorrando para mañana.

Para expresses use and means:

1. To be used for.

- Examples:
- a) A buscar leña para la hoguera grande. (Casona)

- b) El campo se ha hecho para correr. (Casona)

2. To be used by.

Examples: a) Alegaban contra el haber esculpido en alabastro un Cristo para un convento de monjas. (Zunzunegui)

- b) Este es un libro para abogados.

3. To be used as, or to serve as.

Example: Serlo, porque no sirves para maestro. (Vivanco)

This use of para includes the rule that states that para is used to indicate the special use of something. The Spanish prepositional phrase will be expressed in English as an adjective preceding the noun.

Examples: a) a wine glass
un vaso para vino

- b) money bags
bolsas para la moneda (Machado)

Moliner states that para is used to form the complement of adjectives or nouns comparable to the indirect complement and that in the noun complements para may be substituted by de. The following examples are used:

Examples: a) Goma de mascar.

- b) Máquina de coser.

Moliner is making a distinction between a noun complement and an adjective. A noun complement is defined as follows: A noun may stand by itself as a complete designation, but

there are times when it may need to be elucidated by a catalytic phrase which points up the final term of completion. It is the noun complement that will complete the meaning of these nouns. In the case of un vaso para vino, the prepositional phrase is then an adjective instead of a noun complement if we apply Moliner's rule. To say un vaso de vino means a glass full of wine and therefore para and de are not interchangeable.

The author Casona uses the preposition de instead of para to introduce the noun complements.

- Examples: a) Solamente el tiempo de descansar. (Casona)
 b) Este es el tapón de tapan la botella de vino. (Casona)

The examples found indicate that para and de are interchangeable in Spanish when the noun complements are represented in English by present participles used as adjectives.

- Examples: a) Goma de (para) mascar
 chewing gum
 b) Tiempo de descansar
 resting time
 c) Máquina de coser
 sewing machine

Para, when used to introduce phrases of purpose, is also used in the sense of adaptability to or suitability for.

- Examples: a) Ahí va ése buscando un sitio para su estatua. (Zunzunegui)

- b) Cien países distintos, millares de caminos . . . y un solo punto de llegada para todos. (Casona)
- c) Los hombres son para el campo y el caballo. (Casona)
- d) Imposible dar con una enfermedad más apropiada para su profesión. (Zunzunegui)

Para Is Used To Express Purpose, Goal, and Use.

| | | |
|--|---------|---|
| 1. In order to | > | purpose |
| 2. a) Preparation towards b) Preparation against | > | goal |
| 3. a) To be used for b) To be used by c) To be used as | > use < | a) Special use b) Adaptability c) Suitability |

Ramsey states that para also expresses a comparison of inequality where one member of the comparison is different from what the other would have us to expect. This use of para would be expressed in English by the phrase considering something is.

- Examples:
- a) Para joven escribe muy bien. (Ramsey)
 - b) Ojo dulce, mirada repentina para un mundo estremecido. (Aleixandre)

F. Por and para with people as objects.

The concept of goal or destination is also evident when para relates an object or an action to a recipient. This idea is expressed in English with the preposition for in the sense of to be given to.

Example: Este reloj no es para ti, sino que es para ella.

Para not only relates an object to a recipient but expresses a comparison that is applicable to a particular situation or person and not to a universal situation. In this sense, para is used much like the English with regard to.

Examples: a) Tú podías ser para mí todo lo que ella no fue. (Casona)

b) Para la señora Marquesa no es nada. Para mí es la salvación. (Benavente)

Por, on the other hand, introduces the person or persons because of whom something was done and expresses the ideas of:

1. Because of.

Example: Si fuera por mí te recibiría tranquilo. (Casona)

2. In support of, or in behalf of.

Example: Y están tristes las flores por la flor de la corte. (Darío)

3. In place of.

Example: Interceder por alguien. (Moliner)

This idea of por and para can be seen in the following examples, all taken from one source.

Para
a) Para mí está empezando ahora. (Casona)

b) ¿Qué es Martín para ti? (Casona)

Por
a) Y no quiero que sufras, inutilmente por mí. (Casona)

b) Alguien la está terminando por ti. (Casona)

c) Es lo mejor para
los dos. (Casona)

c) ¿No se atreven?
¿Por qué? ¿Por
Martín? (Casona)

Para indicates the present or future effect of the action on the person used as object of the preposition while por denotes the cause (the person responsible) for the action.

Example: Si yo por ti he creado un mundo para ti.
(Jiménez)

Por and Para With People as Objects

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------|--|--------|
| 1. Recipient | < a) b) | In regard to To be given to | > Para |
| 2. Cause | < a) b) c) | Because of In support of In place of | > Por |

G. Por used to indicate agent.

When por is used in relation to people, the main idea is not that of because but the idea of by to introduce the agent of an action.

- Examples:
- La colina por sí elegida para estar en sempiterna postura...(Zunzunegui)
 - Empezó a susurrarse que eran mucho mas eficaces las inyectadas personalmente por su descubridor. (Zunzunegui)
 - La invitación que le fue hecha por John Hemmings...(Indice)

The agent need not be a person and is often an object or an idea. It should be noted that in sentences expressing agent, the prepositional phrase por plus the agent will be

used adverbially in a passive construction.

1. No se dejaba embarcar por los impostores.
(Borges)
2. Pero llevada por un terror oscuro, por una voluntad de esquivar algo horrible.
(D. Alonso)
3. ¿Los años de Pilar? Según se haga la cuenta.
Por los cabellos, treinta;
Por los dientes, un par. (Prada)

Agency is expressed in English by the prepositions by and through.

- Examples:
- a) This idea may be better presented through graphic drawings.
Esta idea se puede presentar mejor por dibujos gráficos.
 - b) You have hands designed by God for making bread.
Tienes unas manos pensadas por Dios para hacer pan. (Casona)

The idea of agency as compared to the idea of the manner or the means through which an action was executed is not easy to separate. Agency will always be used in a passive expression while means will commonly be used in an active expression. Since both ideas employ the preposition por, it will not be necessary for the English-speaking student to make a distinction in order to use the correct preposition.

- Examples:
- a) El dentista me sacó el diente por fuerza.
(Ramsey)
 - b) El habla por un interprete.
 - c) Conducía a un niño por la mano.

Compare example (c) with the following example:

Y dormiré en la sábana de almidón y de estruendo
cosida por tu mano. (Hernández)

In the example by Hernández, the hand is the agent of the passive expression but in example (c) the hand is the means by which the boy is led. The difficulty is not one of words but one of meaning.

| | | |
|-------|---|---------------------|
| Agent | > | Por + passive voice |
| Means | > | Por + active voice |

H. Por meaning to fetch.

When por is used to mean to fetch, it is often ambiguous. Consider the following example:

Yo vine por ti.

This example implies:

1. I came because of you.
2. I came to get you.
3. I came in your stead.

The Spanish grammarian Emilio Lorenzo says that to say, "Vine por ti," in the sense of because is incorrect and that the por should be clarified by a favor de, a causa de, por culpa de, en vez de.

In the following example,

Murmuraron los granaderos
que yo no vengo por ti
que vengo por tus dineros. (Alberti)

the poet does not make clear what he is trying to say.

"Que yo no vengo por ti," may mean:

1. I don't come because of you.
2. I'm not coming to get you.

Ramsey says that after the verbs to go, to come, to send, or to return, por shows the immediate object of the errand.

Examples: a) Me mandó por el médico.

b) Vino por su sueldo.

Again these ideas must be understood in context because they are ambiguous.

In the example,

Ir por lana. (Moliner)

the idea is "a buscar," as Moliner says; but in the example,

Vamos por el millar. (Moliner)

the implication is, "un punto de paso contando o haciendo cosas una tras otra."

Ir por does not imply to fetch in any of the following examples:

- a) El va por amor.
- b) Iré por Dios, y no me molesten más.
- c) Van por tren y no por avión.

It cannot be said, then, that ir por, venir por, mandar por, or volver por always indicate to fetch, but it is important to establish that the concept of to fetch is expressed in Spanish by the preposition por plus the object.

I. Special uses of por.

Moliner says that por, "es de todas las preposiciones, la más cargada de significados, pues junta en sí los de las latinas per, pro y propter, también ellas, sobre todo las dos primeras, muy cargadas en su idioma. No es fácil, atendiendo a la etimología, dar como más característico o propio uno de esos significados." Por, then, according to Moliner has several specialized uses which will follow.

Por is used in technical expressions involving mathematics, exchange, or measure.

In mathematical expressions, por is used:

1. In multiplication to connect multiplicand and multiplier.

Examples: a) Dos por dos son cuatro.

b) Ocho por dos son dieciseis.

2. In division to connect dividend and divisor.

Examples: a) Cuatro dividido por dos son dos.

b) Ocho dividido por cuatro son dos.

3. To indicate two or more dimensions in measurement.

Examples: a) Mide seis pulgadas por doce.

b) Un cuarto que sea quince metros por veinte...

4. To show percentage.

- Examples: a) El haber quedó fijado en el equivalente al 70 por ciento del promedio mensual.
(La Nación)
- b) El trabajador verá incrementado su beneficio en el 1 por ciento.
(La Nación)

Por is used to express exchange with the following implications:

1. Bartering.

- Examples: a) La traigo blanca y rubia y no la cambio por la menuda yerba, ni por la más silvestre florecilla que un delantal, en vez de un traje, estrena.
(Vivanco)
- b) Compadre, quiero cambiar mi caballo por su casa, mi montura por su espejo mi cuchillo por su manta.
(Lorca)
- c) Mas yo no cambiaría por tu lecho, mi lecho.
(Castro)

2. Compensation.

- Examples: a) Vayase lo uno por lo otro.
(Moliner)
- b) Por cada año de exceso recibirá una retribución de \$3000.000.
(La Nación)

3. Equivalence.

- Examples: a) Me dan 60 ptas. por un dolar.
(Moliner)
- b) Se estima exportar por valor aproximado de 1500 millones de dólares...(La Nación)

4. Choice. (If one had to choose.)

- Examples: a) Ruido por ruido prefiero el de las bocinas. (Moliner)
- b) No cambiaría un solo minuto de esta casa por todos los años que he vivido antes. (Casona)

5. Price.

- Examples: a) Un juego de sala por solamente \$395. (El Fronterizo)
- b) Más barato que en La Crown... imposible!
Durante esta venta un super especial...un T. V. portatil por \$88. (Diario Las Américas)

Por is used to express measure, excess, or deficiency in the same sense as per or by is used in English.

- Examples: a) Four cups per quart.
Cuatro tazas por cuarto.
- b) La res se vende a treinta pesos por libra.
- c) Ganaron por tres pulgadas.
- d) No perdió por mucho.

Por is also used in relation to numbers to separate the components of a series and at the same time to include all of them.

- Examples: a) Ocupando uno por uno todos los sitios de Angélica. (Casona)
- b) Siempre en la cuna, defendiendo la risa pluma por pluma. (Hernández)

This use of por is similar to the use of the Spanish tras

and the two are interchangeable when used to separate and to include all the components of a series, though por is preferred. When all the components are not included, then tras must be used.

Example: Noche tras noche el hombre lo soñaba dormido.
(Borges)

The implication here is many times and not each night in a given series.

In the following example, the implication is piece by piece to make up one entity:

Es natural que el mago temiera
por el porvenir de aquel hijo, pensado
entraña por entraña y rasgo por
rasgo, en mil y una noches secretas.
(Borges)

This same idea is seen in the following example:

Piedra por piedra es peso y hunde cuanto acompaña
aunque esto sea un mundo de ansia viva.
(Hernández)

For is used in English to indicate parenthetically an actual or implied enumeration or selection from an aggregate or series.

Examples: a) For one thing, we have no money.
b) I, for one, will vote...
c) For the last time, will you...
d) Be sensible, for once.

Por is used in Spanish in this same way.

Examples: a) Aunque sea por una sola vez quiero que te
vean todos...(Casona)

- b) Si por lo menos pudiera creer que soñé
aquel día. (Casona)
- c) Bertrand Rusell, por su parte, escribió...
(Indice)
- d) Que la iglesia asista por primera vez...
(Gente)

Technical Expressions

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. Mathematical | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Multiplication b. Division c. Dimensions d. Percentage |
| 2. Exchange | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bartering b. Compensation c. Equivalence d. Choice e. Price |
| 3. Measure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Per b. By |
| 4. Series | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Separation of components b. Inclusion of components c. Enumeration from aggregate |

J. Other uses of por.

After verbs such as votar, por is used to mean

in favor of and expresses inclination towards or partiality to.

- Examples:
- a) Desempató el presidente, quien voto por Oswald... (La Nación)
 - b) La mayoría habría votado por la homosexualidad que entonces era allí tan corriente. (Gente)
 - c) Me inclino por el avión. (Moliner)
 - d) La tía birrocha seguía pidiéndole a Dios por el sobrino todas las mañanas. (Zunzunegui)

"Por plus an adjective plus que," is used in Spanish much like "however plus an adjective" is used in English where the implication is that of concession.

- Examples:
- a) Por dura que sea la vida.
 - b) Por hermosa que quieras presentarte. (Casona)
 - c) Por profundo y duradero que fuese el disgusto,... (Zunzunegui)

The opinion or judgment of a person or thing is often expressed with por.

- Examples:
- a) Se le tiene por bueno. (Real Academia)
 - b) Lo dejaron por muerto.
 - c) Tomar por tonto.

V. Conclusion.

Having explored the uses of por and para as well as the explanations which most authors give for their use, several important aspects of the treatment of por and para have come to light. In the first place, all authors consulted treat por and para separately and make little effort to contrast the uses of these prepositions at the time they are presented. For example, since both por and para are used with temporal expressions, they should be treated at the same time and contrasted one with the other. Similarly, por and para are both used to express spatial relationships, and a simultaneous treatment here would also benefit the student. Secondly, almost no attempt has been made to present and contrast systematically the uses of por and para to introduce infinitives. When por and para are used to introduce animate objects, the subtleties are even more complex.

In essence it would seem that a more logical approach to the pedagogical problem would be to present por and para simultaneously, making use of large numbers of examples illustrating each use and reinforcing these whenever possible with contrasting sets of sentences. These may be worked into oral drills or written exercises and should be used intensively until the students acquire an intuitive grasp of the various uses.

The following chart is offered as a checklist to teachers in order to facilitate the presentation of por and para.

POR-PARA SEMANTIC MATRIX¹⁵

| | <u>Para</u> | <u>Por</u> |
|--|-------------|------------|
| 1. <u>Temporal Expressions</u> | | |
| a) Future time | X* | |
| b) Termination | X | |
| c) Duration | | X* |
| d) Approximation | | X* |
| e) Movement | | X |
| 2. <u>Spatial Relationships</u> | | |
| a) Destination | X* | |
| b) Approximate place | | X* |
| c) Movement within | | X |
| d) By or through | | X* |
| e) Vagueness | | X* |
| f) Restricted movement | | X |
| 3. <u>Infinitives</u> | | |
| a) Manner | | X |
| b) Effect | | X |
| c) Future perspective | | X |
| d) Moved by the desire | | X* |
| e) Because | | X* |
| f) In order to | X* | |

¹⁵The most frequent uses have been starred to distinguish for the reader which uses of por and para should receive the most emphasis both in the learning and the teaching of these prepositions.

| | <u>Para</u> | <u>Por</u> |
|----------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| g) To | X | |
| h) Purpose | X | |
| 4. <u>Purpose</u> | | |
| a) To | X* | |
| b) Goal | X | |
| c) Use | X* | |
| (1) Special use of | X | |
| (2) Adaptability | X | |
| (3) Suitability | X | |
| 5. <u>With People as Objects</u> | | |
| a) Because of | | X* |
| b) In support of | | X |
| c) In place of | | X |
| d) In regard to | X* | |
| e) To be given to | X* | |
| 6. <u>Agent or Means</u> | | X* |
| 7. To Fetch | | X* |
| 8. <u>Technical Expressions</u> | | |
| a) Mathematical | | X |
| b) Exchange | | X |
| c) Measure | | X |
| d) Enumeration | | X |

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