

Ideophones in Aragonese: A Typological Description

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This talk presents a typological description of ideophones in Aragonese, a severely endangered minority Romance language spoken on the central Pyrenees in Spain. Ideophones are a lexical class of linguistic elements with prominent structural features and compact multifaceted depictive meanings (Ibarretxe-Antuñano 2017, Akita & Dingemanse 2019, and Dingemanse 2012, 2023). The presence of ideophones in European languages has usually been neglected in the mainstream linguistics literature (usually relegated as interjections) and, until recently, in the specialised literature (but see Williams 2023, and Körtvélyessy & Štekauer 2024). However, ideophones are present in all languages but in different degrees of ideophonicity (Ibarretxe-Antuñano 2017). This talk is the first compilation and characterisation of Aragonese ideophones from a typological perspective. The first part of the talk discusses how the Aragonese ideophone corpus (currently +100 items) has been collected: written and oral sources, dialectal variation and differences with echo-words and other expressive structures (e.g., *pllorín-pllorand* ‘crying, sobbing’). The second part describes the main typological features of Aragonese ideophones.

As expected in this class of words, ideophones (i) show structural characteristics such as sound disharmony (*garrín-garrán* ‘walking with difficulty’; *zurrisburris* ‘in a disorderly way’) and reduplication (*trus-trus* ‘knock on the door’; *carric-carrac* ‘continuous knocking’), (ii) are mainly used as adverbs (sometimes with morphological affixation; e.g., *zanquín-zanquiand* ‘with great difficulty’), and (iii) cover semantic fields related to human actions (e.g., *china-chano* ‘walk in small steps’) and natural phenomena (e.g., *bar-bar* ‘gurgling of water in a spring’). The last part focuses on the functions of these words in present-day Aragonese (e.g., linguistic landscape) and proposes further lines of future research (comparison with other Romance languages, degree of ideophonicity).

Keywords: ideophones, iconicity, typology, Aragonese, minority language, Romance

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