Sara Quintero Ramírez

Infinitives
in the Sports Press

A Contrastive Analysis in English,
French and Spanish

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This book focuses on the main constructions with infinitives in sports newspaper articles in three different languages. To achieve this, three corpora of sports newspaper articles are contrasted, one corpus in English, one in Spanish and another one in French. Each corpus is constituted by fifty sports newspaper articles. These infinitive constructions are characterized from a syntactic-textual approach. The main roles identified in the corpora are: a) infinitive phrases in a noun role, b) infinitive phrases in a verb role: verbal periphrases, c) infinitive clauses with a junction purpose, d) independent constructions, e) lexicalized and grammaticalized infinitives. Furthermore, the most relevant similarities and differences in the infinitive constructions in each corpus are determined.

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PETER LANG

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Abstract: In this book, *Infinitives in the Sports Press: A Contrastive Analysis in English, French and Spanish*, we study the main constructions with infinitive forms in sports newspaper articles in three different languages. To achieve this, three corpora of sports newspaper articles are contrasted, one corpus in English, one in Spanish and another one in French. Each corpus is constituted by fifty sports newspaper articles. In first place, we characterize these infinitive constructions from a syntactic-textual approach. The main roles we identify in the corpora are: (a) infinitive phrases in a noun role, (b) infinitive phrases in a verb role: verbal periphrases, (c) infinitive clauses with a junction purpose, (d) independent constructions, (e) lexicalized and grammaticalized infinitives. Furthermore, we determine the most relevant similarities and differences in the infinitive constructions found in each corpus. Finally, with this research, we contribute to the non-finite forms' studies, more particularly to those that focus on infinitives, and to the sports discourse studies, especially in a contrastive perspective.

Keywords: non-finite forms, infinitives, sports discourse, newspaper articles, syntax, text.

Introduction

Journalism, as it is known nowadays, searches to transmit all that happens currently in different scenarios almost in an immediate way. In order to present the complex reality, different resources of the written language are exploited by journalists (Cervera Rodríguez, 2016: 266), since they adapt the information that comes from different sources and they present it in a clear and understandable discourse, so that the reading public can understand it easily (Hernando Cuadrado, 2002: 262).

The discourse used in the press has been the study object of numerous research papers (cf. Fonte Zarabozo, 2002, 2008; Casado Velarde, 2008; Gutiérrez Vidrio, 2010, to name just a few). In this book, we focus only on the sports press, since the language used in this type of press has its particular features (Arroyo Almaraz & García García, 2012: 318). Moreover, Hernández Alonso (2012: 105) states that sports journalistic discourse is more daring and freer than other kinds of journalistic discourse. According to Guerrero Salazar (2002: 365), Sports journalists' main task is not only to inform the reading public about what happens in sports events, but also to produce appealing texts that catch the reader's attention.

The main goal of our study is to identify the principal constructions with infinitive forms in sports newspaper articles in three different languages: English, French and Spanish. More particularly, we aim to characterize these infinitive constructions from a syntactic-textual approach. Furthermore, our purpose is to determine the most relevant similarities and differences in the infinitive constructions found in each corpus. With this research, we intend to contribute to the non-finite forms' studies, more particularly to those that focus on infinitives, and to the sports discourse studies, especially in a contrastive perspective.

Based on the objectives mentioned above, we divide our book into six main chapters. In the first chapter we present the theoretical background and the methodology applied to the research. In the theoretical background important concepts such as non-finite forms, infinitives, general journalism, and sports journalism are explained. In the methodology section, there are two main sub-sections: the first one focuses on the way the corpus of each language was selected; and the second one on the classification proposals that were followed in order to examine the three corpora of the research.

The second, third and fourth chapters are dedicated to the analysis of the corpora. The second chapter focuses on the Spanish-language corpus; the third one centers on the French-language corpus; and finally, the fourth chapter studies

the English-language corpus. These three chapters follow the same pattern. First, there is a section with the main numerical results. Then a section focused on the qualitative analysis. And, finally, a summary with our analysis' main results.

In the fifth chapter, a contrastive analysis of the three corpora is carried out. This part of the book presents the main similarities and differences that were observed in the three previous chapters. Furthermore, these results are related to previous studies' results and interpretations. This comparison is essential, so that conclusions can be drawn.

The sixth and last chapter presents the conclusions of the study. In this section, main findings of the research are summarized. Besides, the limitations that we faced during the whole study are presented. Finally, further similar studies are suggested to be conducted, so that a broader perspective of the phenomenon can be examined, especially in a contrastive perspective.

I Theoretical background

What are non-finite forms?

In order to define the object of this study, i.e., infinitives, it is imperative to consider the distance between the verb and the noun as a continuum which has the concepts of finiteness and non-finiteness as cornerstones (Raible, 2001: 601). In the same way, Sasse (2001) proposes a continuum constituted by the concepts of nouniness and verbiness as the cornerstones. Along both continua there are intermediate instances that do not display all the characteristics of non-finiteness or nouniness or all the features of finiteness or verbiness.

While a verb form loses its verbal (or finiteness) characteristics, it becomes more nominal, this means less finite or more 'non-finite'. In other words, non-finite is associated with a morphology absence, in particular of tense, person, number, mood, etc. (Johns & Smallwood, 1999: 160). According to some authors such as Trask (1997), non-finites do not carry morphological tense or agreement. Thus, they cannot appear in a main clause as the only verb. In other words, they are only used in non-matrix clauses. Nevertheless, as it will be seen in the following sections, independent infinitives such as interrogative, performative, exclamatory, etc., contradict this statement.

According to Ylikowski (2003: 187), there are four main types of intermediate instances that are situated along both continua: infinitives, participles, converbs (or gerunds) and action nominals. Iturrioz Leza (2000: 99) states that even if these categories are present in many European languages, there is a variation between them at, both, morphosyntactic and functional levels in each language.

Participles are especially used in the attributive function and display adjectival properties (Nikolaeva, 2010). Converbs are basically used in adverbial functions (Haspelmath, 1995: 3–8; Nedjalkov, 1998: 421–422; Ylikowski, 2003: 190–191). Action nominals refer to events or facts and they are used in complement or adverbial clauses. "Action nominals often originate as deverbal nouns and only later acquire a clausal status" (Nikolaeva, 2010). Infinitives are commonly used in the object function in complement clauses (Ylikowski, 2003).

Therefore, non-finite forms are mixed or hybrid categories, since they combine at least two main syntactic features, those of the verb, on the one hand, and those of the noun, the adjective or the adverb, on the other hand (Sasse, 2001: 495; Nikolaeva, 2010). This combination of characteristics constitutes the main reason why these forms cannot be positioned in a simple lexical category. Ylikoski (2003: 190) adds that these hybrid forms usually fulfill syntactic

functions that are not typical of finite verbs. Hence, it is common that these forms play syntactic roles that do not correspond to verbal categories.

As stated before, in this book we focus on infinitives from a syntactic-textual approach in a particular discourse genre, i.e., sports newspaper articles. Consequently, based on the previous elucidations, the following question arises: what are the verbal properties that infinitives retain and what are the non-verbal features that infinitives acquire? In the following section, we examine the main verbal and nominal characteristics of the infinitive in Spanish, French and English in order to offer an answer to this question.

Characterization of infinitives

According to Haspelmath (1999: 111), infinitives are intermediate instances between verbal nouns and converbs, since they are used in complement clauses and adverbial clauses of purpose. Rémi-Giraud (1988: 28) states that infinitives retain only the categories of aspect and diathesis from the verb. This means that the categories of mood, tense and person are apparently lost in the infinitive. However, when communicating, the infinitival phrase can convey an idea of these categories by the cotext and the context.

According to Rémi-Giraud (1988: 68), most languages that have infinitives distinguish between the active (*hacer – faire – do*) and the passive infinitive (*ser hecho – être fait – be done*). Moreover, many languages, such as Spanish, French and English, have perfective infinitive (*haber hecho – avoir fait – have done*) and imperfective infinitive (*hacer – faire – do*). With the perfective aspect, infinitives can express a completed action, whereas with the imperfective aspect, infinitives can express a continuous action.

Regarding tense, Rémi-Giraud (1988: 17) states that infinitives display certain characteristics that even if they are not totally temporal, they are related to time, particularly with sequences that express the order of a series of actions. Through the perfective and imperfective infinitives and the totality of a text, interlocutors can identify the order in which a specific process happens and determine if this process happens before, after or at the same time as other processes.

In fragments (1) and (2), the perfective infinitives, *haber ido* in Spanish and *avoir donné* in French, express that their respective processes happen before other processes, i.e., *to be like a break* in (1) and *to thank God* in (2). In example (3) the imperfective infinitives *to act* express a simultaneous process with the verb *to be*.

(1) Era una especie de recreo después de *haber ido* a dejar a sus hermanos (Luna Traill, 1991: 59)

(2) Je remercie Dieu de m'*avoir donné* de vivre longtemps (…) » (Quintero Ramírez, 2012: 165)

(3) *To act* virtuously is *to act* from inclination formed by the cultivation of the virtues (Quintero Ramírez, 2015: 188).

Like tense, modality is not expressed by the infinitive itself. However, a whole infinitive phrase or clause acquires a certain modality because of the cotext and the context in which it is used (Tesnière, 1976: 732). Finally, person is a category that is only expressed by the infinitives of languages such as Portuguese, Sardinian, Galician and Old Neapolitan that have a personal infinitive (cf. Groothuis, 2015). Nevertheless, in other languages, such as Spanish, French and English, an infinitive does not express person per se. Indeed, if the subject of an infinitive is not expressed, it is because it ordinarily keeps the subject of the main verb (Quintero Ramírez, 2015: 184).

In example (4), because of the textual genre, i.e., a cooking recipe, infinitives *laisser* and *dévorer* express imperative modality and they are both directed to a second person singular or plural, i.e., any possible receptor of the text.

(4) *Laisser* ensuite au repos quelques minutes hors du feu et à *dévorer* sans modération. (Quintero Ramírez, 2013: 120)

As stated before, infinitives display verbal and nominal characteristics. As verbal features, infinitives have the possibility of combining with an auxiliary verb in order to form compound tenses and the possibility of governing arguments and adjuncts (Quintero Ramírez, 2015: 183). As nominal characteristics, there are languages such as Spanish, Italian and in a certain degree French, in which infinitives can be preceded by nominal determiners (articles, possessives, demonstratives and adjectives).

Example (5) shows an infinitive displaying verbal characteristics. Indeed, the infinitive *leave*[1] is followed by three verb complements: direct object *him*, temporal adverbial complement *all day* and local adverbial complement *amongst queers and junkies*. The first one functions as an argument, whereas the other two as adjuncts. Example (6) presents an infinitive with nominal characteristics. The infinitive *tutearse* is preceded by the demonstrative determiner *ese*, is followed by the evaluative adjective *continuo* and the prepositional phrase *de ellos dos*.

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1   In this example, the infinitive in question is a full infinitive, since it has the particle *to*.

(5) *To leave him all day amongst queers and junkies* was asking too much. (Turner, 2000: 51)

(6) *Ese tutearse continuo de ellos dos…* (Hernanz Carbó, 1982: 511)

Fragment (7) represents an example of two infinitives that have nominal and verbal features at the same time. On the one hand, the infinitives *boire* and *manger* are preceded by the demonstrative determiner *ce*. On the other hand, both infinitives are followed by a noun phrase, *le Sang de Christ/sa Viande*, which functions as a direct object complement.

(7) *Ce boire le Sang de Christ* et *ce manger sa Viande*, c'est la Vérité, c'est l'Amour. (Quintero Ramírez, 2012: 161)

The infinitive accompanied by noun determiners and verb complements constitutes an infinitive phrase. This phrase can play the role of a subject, a nominal predicate, a verb object and an adverbial complement. According to Gawelko (2005: 141), the infinitive phrase as a verb subject is not so commonly used in Romance languages, such as French and Spanish. Moreover, in English it is more common to find gerund phrases (or what-clauses) displaying this syntactic function.

In example (8), the infinitive *destacar* preceded by the definite article *el* and followed by the noun phrase *pequeños racimos de células* constitutes a noun phrase that plays the role of a subject of the verb *ayudar* conjugated in third person singular in the simple present tense of the indicative mood.

(8) *El destacar pequeños racimos de células cancerosas* ayuda a los médicos a detectar si el cáncer se ha expandido o se ha encogido en la respuesta al tratamiento sin la necesidad de cirugía. (Quintero Ramírez, 2012: 163)

Infinitives are also used in predicates of several types, both nominal and verbal. According to Haspelmath (1989: 298–299), infinitives can be used as different kinds of complement verbs. Indeed, infinitive phrases can follow directive, desiderative, thinking, communicative and cognition verbs, besides modal and evaluative predicates. Mayerthaler et al. (2001) add that the infinitive of many European languages[2] can be used as a predicate with movement, intentional, permission, perception, aspectual, directivity, expectative, and manipulative verbs.

In example (9), the infinitive phrase constituted by the infinitive *send,* the noun phrase *teams* and the prepositional phrase *out there* is preceded by the

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2   Their study focuses on Portuguese, Spanish, French, Italian, English, German, Russian, Finnish and Greek.

desiderative verb *want*. Between the desiderative verb and the infinitive, there is the particle *to*. The complete infinitive phrase functions as the direct object complement of the desiderative verb.

(9) "We don't *want to send teams out there* to get humiliated or embarrassed, that's for sure," he [Sir Alex Ferguson] said yesterday, recalling that occasion, when a Tuncay Sanli hat trick did for United, 3–0. (Quintero Ramírez, 2015: 187)

The infinitive preceded by an auxiliary verb and followed by verb complements can be part of a verbal periphrasis (Ylikoski, 2003: 207). In these verbal constructions, both forms may or may not be joined by a preposition or a conjunction (Gómez Torrego, 1988: 33; Martínez Gómez, 2004: 28). Nevertheless, verbal periphrasis is a problematic and much discussed issue, since the two verbs, the auxiliary verb and the infinitive, constitute a complex syntactic and semantic unit that functions as the nucleus of the predicate (Gómez Torrego, 1988: 9, 1999: 3325).

In fragment (10), the auxiliary verb *aller* and the infinitive form *coucher* constitute a semantic and syntactic unit to express future tense, more precisely a near future. The auxiliary verb *aller* loses its meaning of spatial movement and along with the infinitive expresses a temporal movement towards the future.

(10) Les fiançailles se firent au Louvre et, après le festin et le bal, toute la maison royale *alla coucher* à l'évêché comme c'était de coutume. (Liere, 2011: 19)

Infinitive phrases can also function as adjective complements (Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill, 1989: 135; Xiao, 2009: 426; Quintero Ramírez, 2012: 155) and noun complements (Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill, 1989: 46; Ylikoski, 2003: 207; Gawelko, 2005: 142; Quintero Ramírez, 2012: 155). For both syntactic functions, in languages such as French, Spanish and English, there must be a linking particle between the noun or adjective and the infinitive phrase.

In example (11), the infinitive *ver* followed by the clitic *la* constitutes the complement of the noun *deseos*; both elements are linked by the preposition *de*. In example (12), the infinitive *imagine* is the complement of the adjective *hard*, particle *to* is the linking word between the adjective and the infinitive.

(11) Yo tenía muchos *deseos de verla*. (Luna Traill, 1991: 49)

(12) Then, without a glance at Perowne, they set off back up the road. *Hard to imagine* they don't think something is wrong with Baxter. (Quintero Ramírez, 2015: 189)

From a suprasentential perspective, infinitive clauses can play a role of junction[3] with a variety of values such as time, cause, inclusion, exclusion, purpose, condition and concession (Raible, 1992, 2001; Mayerthaler et al., 2001). The infinitive phrase is usually preceded by a preposition or a prepositional locution that plays the role of the linking word or nexus and gives the whole clause a particular meaning (Quintero Ramírez, 2013).

In example (13), the infinitive phrase is preceded by the preposition *por* and the whole clause displays a meaning of cause. In fragment (14), the infinitive phrase is preceded by the prepositional locution *à moins de* and the clause has a condition value. Finally, in (15), the infinitive phrase preceded by *to* has a purpose meaning.

(13) Se conserva el carácter más alegre, más jovial, *por estar cerca de ellos*. (Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill, 1989: 63)
(14) Il est impossible de se conformer en tout point aux désirs, aux attentes d'autrui, *à moins de consentir à perdre son identité*. (Quintero Ramírez, 2013: 117)
(15) Tom bought a new bike *to impress his girlfriend* (Haspelmath, 1989: 304)

Also, from a suprasentential perspective, the infinitive followed by verb complements can be considered as an independent construction in specific pragmatic-textual frames (cf. Turner, 2000). Independent infinitive constructions from different languages can play interrogative, exclamatory, imperative, fragmentary, performative roles, among others (Quintero Ramírez, 2013).

In example (16), there is a fragmentary infinitive in Spanish, the infinitive construction answers the previous question without requiring a finite form. In (17), there is an interrogative infinitive in French, the infinitive construction asks

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3   Junction is a universal dimension of the language that corresponds to a domain that goes beyond the limits of the sentence (Raible, 1992: 27). Moreover, this dimension has the fundamental function of connecting sentences in order to constitute larger units: "La dimensión junción abarca estrictamente el dominio de los procedimientos de conexión de oraciones, entendidas éstas como unidades lingüísticas que constituyen representaciones de estados de cosas extralingüísticas. Los procedimientos de conexión de oraciones y, en última instancia, de representaciones de estados de cosas, constituyen la tarea fundamental de la dimensión […]" (Renwick, 2006: 277).

an open question through the interrogative pronoun *comment* and the infinitive phrase. In (18), there is an exclamatory infinitive in English that expresses an opinion of the interlocutor (Turner, 2000: 28).

(16) ¿Cuáles serían, para ti, los requisitos para ser miembro de la mafia?

  - Naturalmente *tener el mismo credo que ellos*. (Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill, 1989: 76)

(17) *Comment croquer des beignets de tulipe, déguster des grenadins de veau aux chrysanthèmes, grignoter une friture de capucines…* sans se poser des questions? (Quintero Ramírez, 2013: 120)

(18) *To think that there are gendarmes parading the roads*, or so I'm told, and yet ever since this morning I have been trying in vain to find one! (Turner, 2000: 28)

Finally, grammars and monographies dedicate a space to infinitives that are lexicalized and grammaticalized. On the one hand, in its most nominal use, the nominalized infinitive is lexicalized as a noun. Indeed, most lexicalized infinitives have their own entries in dictionaries. On the other hand, there are infinitive phrases, clauses or even constructions that have lexicalized and are used as fixed expressions, such as *to leave a lot to be desired*, *laisser beaucoup à desirer* and *dejar mucho que desear*. There are also infinitive phrases, clauses or even constructions that have grammaticalized, such as *that is to say*, *c'est-à-dire*, *es decir*, etc., and nowadays are used as structural words, mainly as connectors[4].

General journalism and journalistic genres

Journalism has the main goal not only to pass information but to make it understandable for the public. "Therefore, the media help us to decide not only what we see of the world, but also how we see it" (Višňovský & Laluhová, 2014: 179). According to Salgado and Strömbäck (2012: 15), one of the most significant changes in journalism over recent decades is the rise of an interpretive style. This style makes journalism go beyond description and emphasize not on what,

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4   In this research, we distinguish grammaticalization from lexicalization based on Jiménez Juliá's elucidations: "en este caso distingo el primero [gramaticalización] como el proceso de conversión de una unidad plena, o una construcción con valor referencial, en una palabra estructural […], mientras que la lexicalización es, en cierto sentido, el proceso contrario, esto es, la conversión de una unidad o construcción, plena o instrumental, en otra unidad plena" (2017: 6).

where, when or who, but on why. Thus, the journalist has the responsibility of presenting information in a certain way, so that the public can be informed of what happens in the world and can interpret this information.

In journalism there are numerous text types and genres. Following Marques de Melo and de Assis, "journalistic genre is the periodic mass Communication class of units which brings together different forms and their respective transmission species and timely recovery of time-sensitive information through mechanical or electronic supports (here referred as media), potentially eligible to achieve anonymous, vast and scattered audience" (2016: 47).

According to the functions that articles can display in a newspaper, they can be considered: (a) informative, if their main goal is the social surveillance; (b) opinionative, when their purpose is to expose the ideas and opinions of a person or a group of people; (c) interpretive, when they have an educational and enlightening role; (d) diversional, when their main intention is distraction and leisure; (e) utilitarian, if they assist in every day's decisions (cf. Marques de Melo & de Assis, 2016: 48).

Moreover, Marques de Melo & de Assis (2016: 49) state that each genre can have a series of formats. The informative genre can be displayed in form of (a) notice, (b) news, (c) report, and (d) interview. The opinionative genre can be presented as: (a) editorial, (b) comment, (c) article, (d) review, (e) column, (f) caricature, (g) letter, and (h) chronicle. Moreover, the interpretive genre can be (a) analysis, (b) profile, (c) survey, (d) chronology, and (e) dossier. Furthermore, the diversional genre is divided into (a) human interest history and (b) color history. Finally, the utility genre can be presented as (a) indicator, (b) quotation, (c) script, and (d) service.

The classification offered by Marques de Melo & de Assis (2016) is exhaustive and based on print press. Nevertheless, we must be aware that publications on Internet "have acquired a journalistic status at least equivalent to that of other conventional media, such as the press, the radio and the television" (Palacios & Díaz Noci, 2009: 15).

Indeed, online journalism is distinguished from print journalism by four main characteristics: interactivity, immediacy, hypertextuality and multimodality. Interactivity is a bridge between the producer and the consumer of journalistic material. Immediacy obeys to the demands from the reader to know about everything instantly. Hypertextuality opens journalism to the outside world. Finally, multimodality "implies a move from predominantly textual journalism towards visually and/or aurally oriented journalism or journalism with completely new modes of storytelling, which requires more flexibility and multicompetence on the part of individual journalists" (Karlsson & Holt, 2016: 2).

Online media texts can be classified according to different factors and criteria. Based on a series of former authors, Palacios & Díaz Noci (2009: 17) present five different classificatory proposals for cybermedia. The first proposal is to classify online texts according to their objectives. A second suggestion is to classify them based on the public to which texts are directed. A third idea is taking into account the application of the professional, structural, editorial and ethical criteria of journalistic activity. Another proposal is to consider the use made of the possibilities offered by cyberspace. A final proposal is to classify texts according to the constant renovation or updating of contents.

Díaz Noci & Salaverría (2003) describe five main genres of online journalism: (a) news genres, (b) interpretive genres, (c) dialogical genres, (d) opinion genres, and (e) infographics. In the context of news genres, there are news items. In the framework of interpretive genres, we can find reportage, chronicle, interview, forum or debate. Within the dialogical genres, there are chats and surveys. Editorial, comment, criticism, letters to the editor, article, column, cartoons, forums, and chats are examples of opinion genres. Finally, we can find individual and collective infographics according to the last genre proposed by the authors.

Based on Díaz Noci & Salaverría's (2003) proposal as well as on the classification presented by Marques de Melo and de Assis (2016), in this research, we do not intend to focus on a particular genre or format. Our main goal is to consider a wide variety of types and genres of texts that are produced in the cybermedia of the three languages that constitute the object of our study. Therefore, we can collect an extensive diversity of infinitive phrases, clauses and constructions and examine their syntactic and textual functions.

Sport and sports journalism

Sport is a cultural manifestation that has its own rituals (Galindo Cáceres, 2010: 53). Sports, as other human manifestations such as painting, sculpture, theatre and music, is considered a very important cultural aspect that integrates people from different countries, social positions and beliefs. "[E]l deporte más allá de representar una oportunidad para ejercitarse y mantenerse saludable, es una figuración que reproduce la complejidad cultural y social de las personas que lo practican, influyen u observan" (García González, 2009: 1).

As a socialization instrument, sport gathers thousands of people in organizations and associations (Arias, 2012: 35). Sports fans consume all kinds of trinkets related to their favorite teams or players such as jerseys, calendars, autographed photographs and a considerable number of collection items. Vélez (2010: 219)

states that for the supporter, it is important to buy these products so that he/she feels near his/her beloved athlete or team.

Doing sports generates different communication situations such as a training session, a conversation among teammates, a chronicle of a competition, etc. According to Kowalikowa (2009: 64), the language of sports can be determined by the kind of relationship between the interlocutors. The author provides different scenarios in which this communication can take place: (a) an individual coaching session, (b) a collective coaching session, (c) a player being cheered by his/her supporters, (d) a team being cheered by its supporters, (e) mass media informing the supporters about a sports event.

> The specificity of sport language is also affected by such factors as actions related to training and competition, outcomes of such actions, names of sport equipment and interpersonal relations between athletes. In this way the language of sport becomes a trade and professional jargon, similar to medical, legal, student and prison jargons. Its distinctive features include specific vocabulary: *sport terms* (e.g. *false start, rookie, pro, handicap*, etc.), names of individual sports and games (e.g. *tennis, luge, rugby, boxing*), names of sports actions (e.g. *dribble, front crawl, spike*) their outcomes (*downhill, snatch, jerk with split*), equipment *(trampoline, pommel horse, epee, tartan)* and sports venues (*track, stadium, court, floor*) Kowalikowa (2009: 65).

Since the last century, but more particularly in the last few decades, mass media are interested in sports. Society is constantly informed about sports events that occur worldwide through the media. Many people all over the globe are expecting all kinds of sports events, from local matches to world championships and Olympic games. This circumstance makes of the sports journalist the intermediary connection between the audience and sports events (Marín Montín, 2000: 241).

In sports discourse, specialists examine how sports events are presented by sports journalists, analysts and commentators[5] and how these events are understood by an audience that is interested in being informed. For sports supporters, this kind of discourse can be very easy to understand. Nevertheless, for an individual who is not used to the expressions and the jargon used by the journalists, sports discourse can be problematic to understand and sometimes even enigmatic (Alasalmi, 2014: 7).

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5   Nevertheless, nowadays, sports events are not the only scenario that generates a possible object of study for linguists specialized in sports discourse, since there are other instances where sports discourse is produced such as interviews, tv shows, debate tables, etc.

Sports discourse in the media is analyzed from very different linguistic angles, since this specialized discourse has its own morphosyntactic, lexical and even textual characteristics. Indeed, this discourse transgresses the rules of morphology and syntax of the standard language (Gómez Torrego, 2010: 133). Athletes, trainers, fans, journalists and other participants in sports develop specific terminology and expressions that belong exclusively to the sports discourse (Kowalikowa, 2009: 64). Moreover, in sports, there are always new terms and expressions that are incorporated to the daily common language (Nomdedeu Rull, 2003: 9). Finally, sports journalists must demonstrate their linguistic skills to produce attractive spoken or written texts that interest and entertain their audience (Cuvardic García & Vargas Castro, 2010: 218).

There are different genres that can be found in sports discourse. "There has been a close relationship between the field of sport and the print media since the latter part of the nineteenth century, and prior to the Second World War radio sports coverage played a significant role […] television attracted large audiences with its telecasts of boxing and college football in the 1940s and 1950s […]" (Schirato, 2013: 114–115). Certainly, there are spoken texts such as sports narratives in radio, television, and internet and written texts such as sports reports in printed and online newspapers, and there is a specific audience for all of these. Each text constitutes a particular form of sports discourse. Each text follows a generic and, at the same time, specific structure that enables and restricts meanings.

Medina Cano (2010: 171) states that sports genres in television, radio and press share some characteristics and, at the same time, display important differences. In television, there are live sports telecasts and sports shows. On the one hand, live sports telecasts are attractive to the audience, since they offer spontaneous passion and excitement through the narratives of sports specialists[6]. These specialists face a difficulty, since they have to maintain the audience attention without following a script. On the other hand, studio sports shows follow a format which is very similar to other television genres. They reconsider and share part of the content of live sport telecasts (Schirato, 2013: 122).

In radio, the journalists in charge of narrating the sports event must focus their texts on the audience, since they must make their listeners feel emotion and passion about the event. "Además de ser un discurso descriptivo, rápido como la acción, es un diálogo con el público en el que prima la función fática: lleno de

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6   They can be journalists or former athletes who are experts on the topic.

frases ya conocidas por la afición y expresiones de devoción ciega hacia el equipo que mantienen la unidad en las tribunas" (Medina Cano, 2010: 172).

Furthermore, current press has two main formats: (a) print and (b) online. In both formats, journalists have a bigger opportunity to take care of their discourse and express their ideas. In this space, texts are more analytical than in radio or television, since their intention is to inform about the most important actions that took place in a sports event.

In written press, journalists must find a balance between objectivity and passion (Medina Cano, 2010: 172). Nowadays, online press offers its readers many ways of finding out about the world reality which adapt better to their interests (Pou Amérigo, 2001: 146). Online newspaper articles offer information immediately after an event has happened (Guillemot & Vanier, 2009: 15). In printed newspapers, readers must wait until the day after an event has happened in order to read about it. The articles in this format are a little more extensive than those in the online version and many times are even more elaborated.

In this particular research, we focus on online press, since we are interested in analyzing the most varied functions of infinitive phrases, clauses and constructions that sports journalists produce in their written articles. We believe that a variety of these phrases, clauses and constructions could be more fluently and naturally produced in a context in which elaborated, and not spontaneous discourse is encouraged.

Methodology

Corpus formation

The corpus of this study consists of one hundred and fifty sports articles, fifty Spanish-language sports articles, other fifty French-language sports articles and fifty more sports articles in English found on different newspapers in their online versions. For each subcorpus, we considered ten texts from the sports section of five national newspapers. Subsequently, the texts of the corpus were taken from fifteen different newspapers of different countries of all over the world.

The sports articles were published from February to March 2018. Basically, we selected the one hundred and fifty articles randomly. The only criterion we followed to select the articles was that they presented different sports disciplines, so that we could examine a variety of sports events in the globe and not only focus on one or two. The sports disciplines considered in the corpus were tennis,

Tab. 1: Newspapers of the Spanish-language corpus

Newspaper	Country	Period of publication of the news articles
Clarín	Argentina	February 14th – March 13th, 2018
El Mundo	Spain	March 2nd – March 12th, 2018
El Comercio	Peru	March 9th – March 12th, 2018
El Nacional	Venezuela	February 28th – March 12th, 2018
La Jornada	Mexico	February 24th – March 12th, 2018

Tab. 2: Newspapers of the French-language corpus

Newspaper	Country	Period of publication of the news articles
Aujourd'hui Le Maroc	Morocco	February 7th – March 3rd 2018
El Moudjahid	Algeria	March 3rd – March 5th 2018
Le Monde	France	February 3rd – March 6th 2018
Dernière Heure	Switzerland	March 4th – March 6th 2018
Le Journal de Québec	Canada	February 15th – March 6th 2018

boxing, baseball, kickboxing, auto racing, chess, basketball, football, rugby, ice skating, paddle, athletics, diving, golf, shooting, among others.

The complete corpus is made up of 67,342 words. The Spanish-language corpus consists of 20,884 words. The French-language corpus is constituted by 19,108 words. Finally, the corpus in English comprises 27,350 words. All the news articles were published in their respective newspapers between the months of February and March 2018.

In first place, the newspapers that were considered to build the corpus in Spanish are the following: *Clarín* from Argentina, *El Mundo* from Spain, *El Comercio* from Peru, *El Nacional* from Venezuela, and *La Jornada* from Mexico. The news articles of this corpus were published from February 14th and March 13th, 2018. Tab. 1 shows the period of publication from the news articles in each newspaper.

Secondly, the corpus in French was constituted by the following newspapers: *Aujourd'hui Le Maroc* from Morocco, *El Moudjahid* from Algeria, *Le Monde* from France, *Dernière Heure* from Switzerland; and *Le Journal de Québec* from Canada. The texts of this corpus were published between February 3rd and March 6th, 2018. Tab. 2 shows the period of publication from the news articles in each newspaper.

Tab. 3: Newspapers of the English-language corpus

Name of the newspaper	Country	Period of publication of the news article
The Guardian UK	Great Britain	February 12th – March 6th 2018
The Times of India	India	February 20th – March 6th 2018
The New Zealand Herald	New Zealand	February 18th – March 7th 2018
New York Post	United States	March 8th – March 12th 2018
Toronto Sun	Canada	February16th – March 12th 2018

Thirdly, we constructed the corpus in English from the following newspapers: *The Guardian* from Great Britain, *The Times of India* from India, *The New Zealand Herald* from New Zealand, *New York Post* from the United States, and *Toronto Sun* from Canada. The publication of these texts comprises the period of February 12th to March 12th, 2018. Tab. 3 shows the period of publication from the news articles in each newspaper.

We decided to constitute our corpora from the online version of newspapers, since nowadays in digital journalism it is vital to attract and keep the reader's attention, so that he/she gets interested in reading the whole article. Therefore, the journalist should exploit all the linguistic tools and resources at his/her disposal. "Les journalistes sélectionnent, adaptent au plus vite, mettent en ligne ces nouvelles, 18 heures sur 24. Proposées en textes courts, elles sont sans cesse renouvelées" (Charon, 2010: 265).

Moreover, online press offers a diversity of resources such as videos, blogs and comments that make of news reporting a more interactive phenomenon. However, in this research, we do not intend to examine the above-mentioned resources. We focus exclusively on the written texts produced by journalists that are considered 'sports articles', the most prototypical textual genre of press.

Furthermore, based on their linguistic characteristics, sports newspaper articles are more elaborated than blogs and comments on sports. Hence, in this textual genre, we consider that journalists are supposed to produce a wider variety of linguistic resources, thus a broader diversity of infinitives.

Also, we build our three corpora from newspapers from different countries because our intention is to show how infinitive phrases, clauses and constructions are used in different parts of the world in order to express the different actions that take place in sports events. Therefore, we expect our results to be wide-ranging regarding the phenomenon of the infinitives used in sports newspaper articles.

Analysis procedure

For the analysis of the aforementioned corpora, we considered the ideas presented in the theoretical framework and the previous research on the different functions that infinitives display in the three languages that constitute the focus of this book. On the one hand, we consider the elucidations of Rémi-Giraud (1988), Hernanz Carbó (1982, 1999), Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill (1989), Fernández de Castro (1999, 2003), and Quintero Ramírez (2012, 2015) to describe the main functions of infinitive phrases at the level of the sentence. On the other hand, we consider the explanations of Raible (1992), Turner (2000), Mayerthaler et al. (2001) and Quintero Ramírez (2013) to clarify the main functions of infinitive clauses and constructions from a suprasentential perspective.

Once the three corpora were constituted, the infinitives of each language were identified in their cotext and context. Afterwards, each infinitive was classified according to the general function it displays in the context in which it is used in the text. The first general classification we follow is according to the main syntactic role that the infinitive plays within the construction where it is inserted, i.e., (a) infinitive phrase, (b) infinitive clause, (c) infinitive construction.

Once we distinguished the main syntactic role of infinitives, we classified them according to their more particular function within the construction where they are written. In the first place, for infinitive phrases, we considered the following functions: (a) as a subject (and a nominal predicate), (b) as a verb complement or a predicate, (c) as a complement of a noun, (d) as a complement of an adjective, and (e) preceded by an auxiliary verb to constitute a verbal periphrasis.

Secondly, for infinitive clauses that display a junction purpose, we considered the following values: (a) as a time clause, (b) as a cause clause, (c) as an inclusion clause, (d) as an exclusion clause, (e) as a purpose clause, (f) as a conditional clause, (g) as a concession clause, and (h) as an adversity clause.

Moreover, for infinitive constructions which do not depend on a finite form to predicate, we consider the following independent infinitive constructions: (a) interrogative infinitives, (b) exclamative infinitives, (c) imperative infinitives, (d) fragmentary infinitives, and (e) performative infinitives. Some of these constructions are exclusive of one or two of the three languages involved in this study.

Finally, as stated before, we dedicated a space for infinitives that are lexicalized and grammaticalized: (a) nominalized infinitives which are lexicalized as nouns, (b) lexicalized infinitive phrases or constructions that are used as fixed expressions, and (c) grammaticalized infinitive phrases or constructions which

are used as structural words. In sum, we base our corpus analysis upon the following specific functions:

1. Infinitive phrases in a noun role
   1.1 Infinitive phrase as a verb subject (or nominal predicate)
   1.2 Infinitive phrase as a verb complement (or a verbal predicate)
   1.3 Infinitive phrase as a noun complement
   1.4 Infinitive phrase as an adjective complement

2. Infinitive phrases in a verb role: verbal periphrases
   2.1 Gradation
   2.2 Disposition
   2.3 Quantification
   2.4 Modalization

3. Infinitive clauses
   3.1 Time clause
   3.2 Cause clause
   3.3 Consequence clause
   3.4 Inclusion clause
   3.5 Exclusion clause
   3.6 Purpose clause
   3.7 Concession clause
   3.8 Adversity clause
   3.9 Conditional clause

4. Independent constructions
   4.1 Interrogative infinitive
   4.2 Exclamatory infinitive
   4.3 Imperative infinitive
   4.4 Fragmentary infinitive
   4.5 Performative infinitive

5. Lexicalized and grammaticalized infinitives
   5.1 Lexicalized infinitives: nouns
   5.2 Lexicalized and grammaticalized infinitive phrases/constructions

In order to analyze the specific functions of the infinitives of our corpora, examples in which the infinitive is used are presented with all its cotext, i.e., the surrounding sentences, so that we can offer a more genuine and exhaustive explanation from a syntactic point of view and a textual perspective.

In the chapters in which the analysis of each corpus is presented, i.e., chapters two, three and four, we tried to follow the same pattern in order to present the functions of the infinitives. This way of proceeding permits us to examine in an easier way the three corpora, so that we can establish their main similarities and differences in the fifth chapter.

II Spanish corpus analysis

In this chapter, the Spanish-language corpus is studied. As it was stated in the methodology section, infinitive phrases, clauses and constructions are analyzed according to the following classification: (a) infinitive phrases in a noun role, (b) infinitive phrases in a verb role, (c) infinitive clauses with a junction purpose, (d) independent infinitive constructions, and (e) lexicalized and grammaticalized infinitives.

In the first place, frequencies of each syntactic function of infinitives found in the corpus are presented. First, general numbers of the whole corpus are offered; and afterwards, more particular numbers of each newspaper are commented.

Once the rate of recurrence of each newspaper is presented, the analysis of infinitive phrases is shown. Afterwards, the analysis of infinitives that have the function of linking clauses is conferred. Finally, independent constructions of infinitives and lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitives are discussed.

In order to elucidate each function of infinitives, we show a diversity of examples that are contrasted to the explanations presented in our theoretical framework. Furthermore, we do not present the infinitive phrase, clause or construction in isolation, but in an extensive cotext, so that we are able to explain its function within the sentence, the paragraph and even the text.

In the Spanish-language corpus, there are 494 infinitives in total. First of all, from all functions that infinitives display, the most employed function is in a noun role with a total of 201 infinitive phrases that represent 40.69% of the corpus.

Moreover, infinitive phrases in a verb role, more particularly as verbal periphrasis, are the second most productive function of the corpus with a total of 143 periphrases which imply 28.95% of the corpus.

Also, infinitive clauses with a junction goal constitute the third most employed function of infinitives with 137 clauses. These infinitives represent 27.73% of the corpus in Spanish.

Finally, the other two functions, independent infinitive constructions and lexicalized and grammaticalized infinitives have less than ten frequencies each category, this means less than 2% in each case. Chart 1 summarizes the frequencies of infinitives in the corpus.

Regarding functions of infinitives in each particular newspaper, data is disseminated. On the one hand, the Spanish newspaper *El Mundo* is the most productive of these non-finite forms, since we found 146 infinitives which imply

6 = 1.21%   7 = 1.42%

137 = 27.73%

201 = 40.69%

143 = 28.95%

■ In a noun role   ■ In a verb role   ■ Junction   ■ Independent   ■ Lexicalized
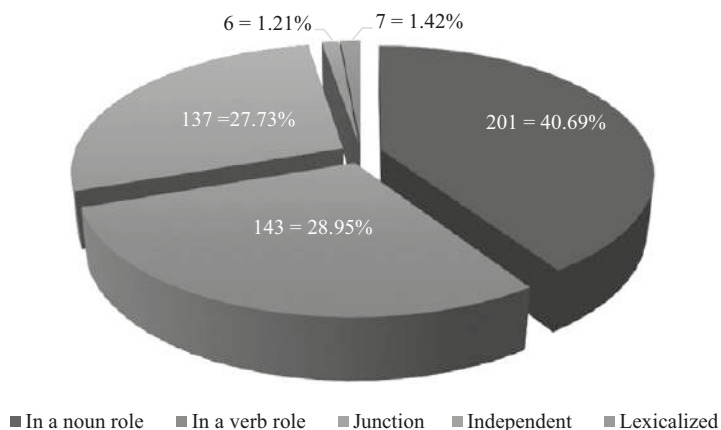
Chart 1: Frequencies of infinitives in the Spanish-language corpus

29.55% of the corpus; on the other, the Venezuelan newspaper *El Nacional* is the least productive of these forms with only 57 infinitives representing only 11.54% of the Spanish-language corpus.

Furthermore, *La Jornada* and *Clarín* present similar results between them, since sports journalists of the Mexican newspaper use 116 infinitives, this means 23.48%, and the journalists of the Argentinian newspaper employ 113 infinitives in their sports articles, this is 22.87%. Finally, in the Peruvian newspaper *El Comercio*, there are 62 infinitives, i.e., 12.55% of the corpus. Chart 2 shows the distribution of infinitives in each newspaper of the corpus in Spanish.

According to the frequencies we registered of each newspaper, *El Mundo* is distinguished from the others not only because it is there where the highest number of infinitives in sports newspaper articles is employed, but also because the Spanish newspaper produces the most numerous infinitive phrases as subject, verb and adjective complements.

In the Mexican newspaper *La Jornada*, infinitive phrases as noun complements and infinitive clauses with a junction purpose are the most productive of the Spanish-language corpus with 18 infinitive phrases of the first function and 47 infinitive clauses of the second function.

Moreover, the Argentinian newspaper *Clarín* is the most productive of independent infinitives with a total of three infinitive constructions. Finally, *El Comercio* and *El Mundo* use three lexicalized infinitives each one, which is the maximum number of this function in the corpus. This can be observed in Chart 3.
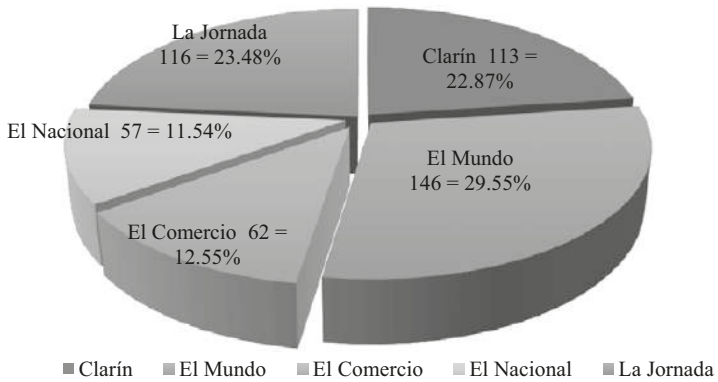
Chart 2: Distribution of infinitives in each newspaper of the Spanish-language corpus

	Clarín	El Mundo	El Comercio	El Nacional	La Jornada
IP in a noun role	46	71	28	15	41
IP in a verb role	32	41	19	23	28
Junction	32	29	12	17	47
Independent	3	2	0	1	0
Lexicalized	0	3	3	1	0
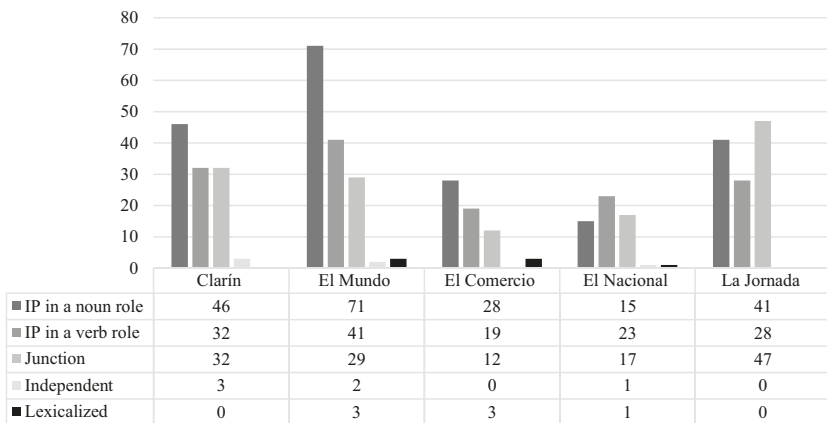
Chart 3: Distribution of the functions of infinitives in Spanish
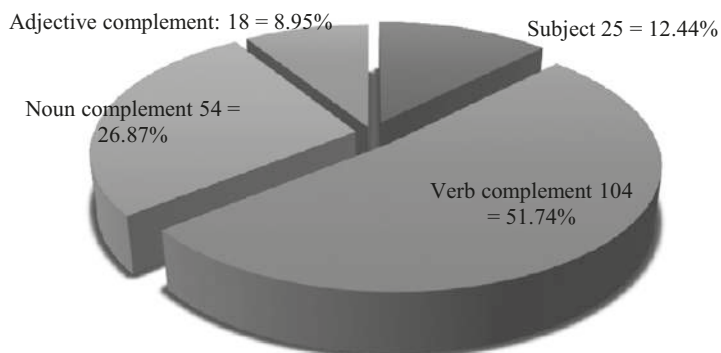
Chart 4: Distribution of infinitive phrases in a noun role

Infinitive phrases in a noun role

Infinitive phrases in a noun role represent the most frequent function registered in the Spanish-language corpus with a total of 201/494 frequencies. This represents 40.69% of the corpus.

In this role, the infinitive phrase as verb complement is used 105/494 times, this equals 21.26% of the entire corpus and 51.74% of the infinitive phrases in a noun role. Secondly, there are 54/494 infinitives that play the role of noun complements. This is 10.93% of the whole corpus and 26.87% of this particular section.

Moreover, 25/494 infinitive phrases function as a subject in the sentence. This implies 5.06% of the corpus and 12.44% of this section. Finally, there are 18/494 infinitive phrases whose function consists on an adjective complement. This denotes 3.64% of the corpus and 8.95% of this section. This information can be observed in Chart 4.

Infinitive phrases as subjects or nominal predicates

In the Spanish-language corpus, there are 25/494 infinitive phrases that play the syntactic role of a subject or a nominal predicate. From these twenty-five infinitives, as observed in Chart 4, *El Mundo* is the newspaper that produces the most infinitive phrases in the role of a subject or a nominal predicate with fourteen frequencies. Secondly, *Clarín*, *El Comercio* and *La Jornada* resort to infinitives in this particular function three times each one. Finally, *El Nacional* uses these infinitives only twice. This can be observed in Chart 5.
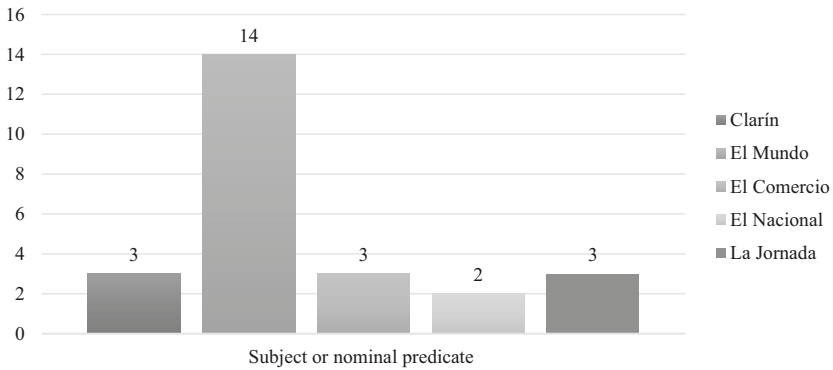
Chart 5: Frequencies of infinitive phrases as subjects or nominal predicates

In this section, we consider infinitive phrases in their syntactic role of subject and nominal predicate as well. Since Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill (1989: 105–109) state that infinitive phrases as a subject can be classified into two main categories: (a) infinitives that are subject of a verbal predicate and (b) infinitives that are subject of a nominal predicate, we recognize both functions in one single section. Indeed, we consider that when the main verb is *ser*[7], which is the most common verb in the corpus, the place that the infinitive phrase occupies (preverbal or postverbal) is totally circumstantial and has a more stylistic function than a syntactic one.

In fragment (1), there are two infinitive phrases appearing in postverbal position. On the one hand, there is the phrase with the infinitive *prescindir* and, on the other hand, there is the phrase with the infinitive *situar*. The verb is *ser* in the present tense of the conditional mood. The noun phrase *una vuelta de tuerca más* plays the role of syntactic subject and both infinitive phrases constitute nominal predicates of this example.

(1) Una vuelta de tuerca más, solicitada por un sector de la afición, <u>sería</u> *prescindir también de Karim Benzema* y *situar a cinco jugadores por detrás de Cristiano Ronaldo*. [El Mundo – 18/03/2018]

In example (2), there is an infinitive phrase that appears in preverbal position and plays the role of a subject: *sumar tres puntos* […]. The verb of the sentence

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7   In this corpus, we register twenty-two infinitive phrases with the verb *ser*. The other three verbs are *importar* twice and *quedar* once.

is *ser* conjugated in the imperfect past tense of the indicative mood. The noun phrase *casi lo de menos* functions as a nominal predicate.

(2) *Sumar tres puntos para ascender en la clasificación* <u>era</u> casi lo de menos anoche en San Mamés. [El Mundo – 01/03/2018]

In fragment (3), there is an infinitive phrase that occupies a postverbal position. The phrase is preceded by the negative adverb *no*, which provides the sentence with a negative polarity, the verb *ser* in the present tense of the indicative mood and the evaluative adjective *necesario*. The infinitive phrase is the nominal predicate of the sentence.

(3) No <u>es</u> necesario *estar en las oficinas del agente más reconocido del beisbol* para saber que fue así, pues hasta él mismo lo admitió. [El Nacional – 10/03/2018]

Finally, example (4) shows a phrase whose head is the infinitive *contar* preceded by the adverb *no* and the definite article *el*. The infinitive is followed by a prepositional phrase[8]. The infinitive phrase is the subject of the sentence, since it precedes the verb *quitar* in the present tense of the conditional mood. The verb is followed by a noun phrase that functions as direct object complement and a prepositional phrase that plays the role of indirect object complement.

(4) Ante este panorama, el técnico campeón del mundo en 2011 con el Tri Sub 17, opinó que el planteamiento "pudiera tener partes buenas, pero definitivamente *el no contar con ascenso ni descenso* le <u>quitaría</u> el ingrediente principal a cualquiera de las dos categorías […]" [La Jornada – 02/03/2018]

Infinitive phrases as verb complements

In the Spanish corpus of sports articles, there are 104/494 infinitive phrases that function as verb complements. As it can be observed in Chart 6, *El Mundo* is the newspaper that produces the most infinitive phrases in the role of verb complement with thirty-six frequencies. In second place appears *Clarín* with twenty-six. Thirdly, *La Jornada* has nineteen infinitives that act as verb complements. Fourthly, *El Comercio* uses sixteen infinitive phrases in this syntactic role. Finally, *El Nacional* adopts these infinitives seven times.

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8   This kind of phrase that combines nominal (the determiner) and verbal characteristics (the complements) is common in the Spanish language, especially in the Mexican variation.
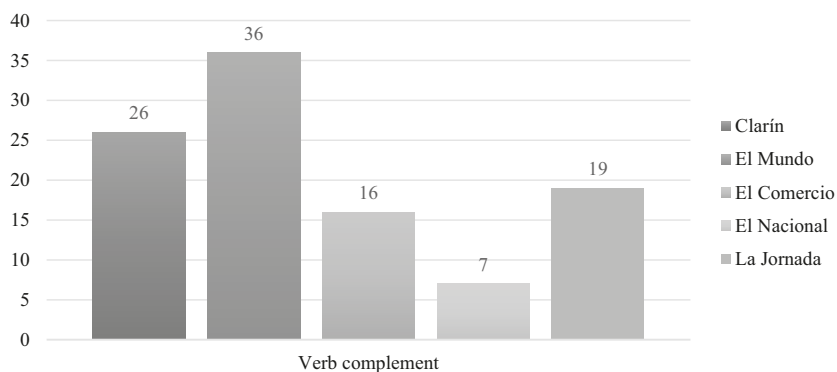
Chart 6: Frequencies of infinitive phrases as verb complements

In this section, we take into account infinitive phrases that behave as verb complements. We divide these phrases into two main sections: (a) infinitive phrases that are preceded by the main verb of the sentence, i.e., in their syntactic role of direct object complement, and (b) infinitive phrases that are preceded by a prepositional verb. As an explanation, we differentiate these infinitive phrases from those that display a junction purpose because of the construction of the main verb itself, such as *interesarse en/tender a/conformarse con + infinitive phrase*.

In the direct object complement function, sixty-seven infinitive phrases are registered with a variety of verbs. The most repeated verbs in the corpus are *querer* (5) with thirteen occurrences, *lograr* (6) with ten frequencies, *conseguir* (7), *decidir* (8), and *saber* (9) with five frequencies each one, and *dejar* and *esperar* with three occurrences each one.

(5) Los Lobos <u>quieren</u> *quitarse la soga del descenso* y desde el inicio generaron peligro. [La Jornada – 25/02/2018]

(6) <u>Hemos logrado</u> *darle independencia al fútbol* gracias al Congreso y al presidente de la República. [El Comercio – 09/03/2018]

(7) Queda poco ya de aquel Leganés que <u>consiguió</u> *eliminar al Real Madrid en la Copa* y que miraba a Europa de reojo. [El Mundo – 01/03/2018]

(8) ¿Qué pasará por la cabeza de quien <u>decide</u> *cambiar los entrenamientos y el descanso por una pichanga de barrio* a días de un encuentro profesional? [El Comercio – 12/03/2018]

Tab. 4: Distribution of prepositions in the infinitive phrases as prepositional complements

Preposition	Types	Tokens
A	11	20
De	4	8
En	2	3
Por	2	2
Con	1	2
Para	1	2
Total	21	37

(9) La franquicia argentina <u>supo</u> *mantenerse en partido* dentro de un trámite trabado y con pocos espacios. [Clarín – 03/03/2018]

Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill (1989: 113) state that infinitive phrases considered as direct object complements can be distinguished from verbal periphrases because the first ones meet the following requirements: (a) verbs can accept a finite clause instead of the infinitive phrase, when the subjects do not coincide, (b) the infinitive phrase could be replaced by a noun phrase, and (c) the infinitive phrase could be substituted by the pronoun *lo*.

In the corpus, there are thirty-seven infinitive phrases preceded by a prepositional verb. In the registered samples, there is a diversity of verbs and prepositions. Among the prepositions, the most common one is *a*, followed by *de*. Other prepositions found in the corpus are *en*, *por*, *con* and *para*. The most productive verbs, in terms of types and tokens, are those that take the preposition *a*, followed by those with the preposition *de*. This can be observed in Tab. 4.

Based on Hernanz (1999: 2279), infinitive phrases in this function can be introduced by two types of verbs according to their argumentative structure. On the one hand, there are those verbs that select one object, which is the one preceded by the preposition. On the other hand, there are the verbs that select two objects, one is a direct complement and the other one is preceded by the preposition. Most of the infinitive phrases found in the corpus constitute the only complement of the verb. However, a few exceptions are registered, this is the case of example (10).

With the preposition *a*, the following verbs are found: *obligar*, *aspirar*, *ayudar*, *renunciar*, *animarse*, *poner*, *tender*, *atreverse*, *negarse*, *pasar*, and *postular*. In fragment (10), there is the verb *ayudar* which is followed by two prepositional phrases, the first one functions as direct object complement and the second one

is the infinitive phrase preceded by the preposition *a* which plays the role of prepositional complement.

(10) Los veracruzanos corrían por la cancha ya sin ganas, lo que <u>ayudó</u> a Lobos *a consumir la goleada*. [La Jornada – 25/02/2018]

Fragment (11) shows an example of infinitive phrase headed by the preposition *a*, which is also preceded by the verb *aspirar* in the present tense of the indicative mood. This is the only complement of the verb. According to the Real Academia Española, (Gramática, 1962: §451), infinitives in examples (10) and (11) play the role of a purpose clause. However, according to Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill (1989: 44), these infinitive phrases are considered as prepositional complements of the main verb of the sentence, since it is possible to replace the infinitive phrase by a noun phrase as in *aspirar a la libertad*, and *ayudar a la limpieza*. Therefore, in this research, we agree with Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill (1989) and we consider both infinitive phrases as prepositional complements.

(11) A 15 puntos del Barcelona, al Real Madrid ya solo <u>aspiran</u> *a seguir consolidándose* entre los cuatro primeros en el campeonato español, mientras centran sus esperanzas de la temporada en la 'Champions'. [El Nacional – 10/03/2018]

With the preposition *de*, we register the following verbs: *encargarse*, *tratar*, *venir*, and *cansarse*. All of them are constituted by one single complement which is the infinitive phrase. Example (12) shows the reflexive verb *encargarse* followed by the preposition *de* and the infinitive phrase *anotar el empate* […]

(12) El delantero de Sporting Cristal Emanuel Herrera <u>se encargó</u> *de anotar el empate ante Universitario*. [El Comercio – 11/03/2018]

With the preposition *en*, there are only two verbs: *tardar* and *creer*. Both verbs are followed by one single complement. In example (13), there is a sentence with the verb *tardar* in the past tense of the indicative mood followed by the preposition *en* and the infinitive phrase *lanzar el tercer leñazo*.

(13) Santos salió con la misma intensidad al complemento y no <u>tardó</u> *en lanzar el tercer leñazo*. [La Jornada – 12/03/2018]

With the preposition *por*, there are two types of verbs: *pelear* and *optar*. Both verbs are counted in the corpus only once and both have only one complement. Fragment (14) shows an example of the verb *pelear* followed by the preposition *por* and the infinitive phrase in negative polarity *no descender*.

(14) "El Eibar es un equipo que siempre <u>ha peleado</u> *por no descender*, pero está demostrando que tiene más, con un entrenador que tiene bien claras las cosas que hay que hacer y me gusta mucho […]" [El Nacional – 10/03/2018]

With the preposition *con*, there is one single verb in the corpus: *soñar*, which is used twice. Fragment (15) shows the verb *soñar* in the present tense of the indicative mood, followed by the preposition *con* and two infinitive phrases *llegar a la Fórmula 1* and *disputar una competencia*.

(15) Tatiana <u>sueña</u> *con llegar a la Fórmula 1* y *disputar una competencia* [Clarín – 07/03/2018]

Finally, the preposition *para* is used twice in the corpus with the verb *servir*. This is observed in example (16) where the verb *servir* is conjugated in the future tense of the indicative mood followed by the preposition *para* and the infinitive phrase *rendirle homenaje a Hugo el 'Cholo' Sotil*.

(16) El escenario de Ate también <u>servirá</u> *para rendirle homenaje a Hugo el 'Cholo' Sotil*, el único futbolista peruano que jugó por el Barcelona de España. [El Comercio – 09/03/2018]

Infinitive phrases as noun complements

In the function of noun complement, there are 54/494 infinitive phrases in the Spanish-language corpus. We register a diversity of prepositions that play the role of nexuses between the noun and the infinitive phrase. In the corpus, there are six prepositions: *para*, *de*, *en*, *a*, *entre* and *por*.

The Mexican newspaper *La Jornada* is the one in which more infinitive phrases in the role of noun complement are written with eighteen frequencies. Moreover, the Argentinian newspaper *Clarín* uses fifteen infinitive phrases with this function. Furthermore, the Spanish newspaper *El Mundo* employs eleven infinitive phrases that behave as noun complements. *El Comercio* and *El Nacional* use these phrases six and four times respectively. This can be observed in Chart 7.

The preposition *de* is the most productive in the corpus with twenty-nine frequencies. In fragment (17), there is an example where this preposition links the noun *idea* and the infinitive phrase *erradicar el descenso*. The three elements, i.e., noun, preposition and infinitive phrase, constitute a noun phrase that plays the role of a subject within a subordinate clause that is preceded by the conjunction *que* and depends on the main verb *afirmar*.
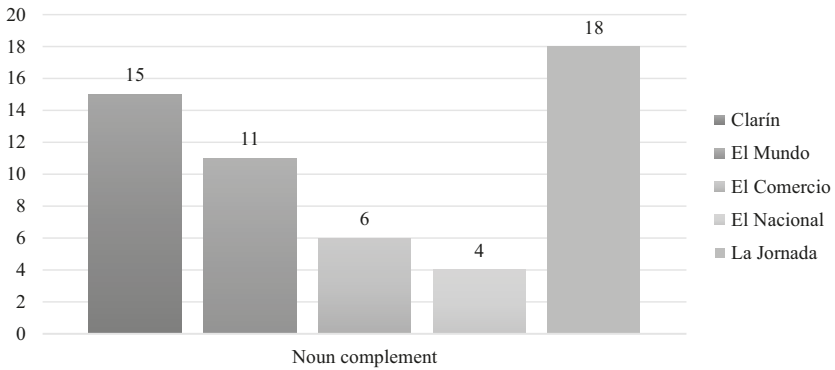
Chart 7: Frequencies of infinitive phrases as noun complements.

(17) Raúl Potro Gutiérrez, ex técnico del Atlante, afirmó que la <u>idea</u> *de erradicar el descenso* "atenta contra el espíritu de competencia del futbol" [La Jornada – 02/03/2018]

Para is the second most frequent preposition that links a noun and an infinitive phrase presenting twelve cases. In fragment (18), the preposition *para* connects the noun *carta*, which is also preceded by an evaluative adjective and an indefinite article, and the infinitive phrase *exhibir a su favor*. The determiner, the adjective, the noun, the preposition and the infinitive phrase constitute a noun phrase that plays the role of a direct object complement of the verb *tener*.

(18) Delbonis tiene una curiosa <u>carta</u> *para exhibir a su favor*: posee récord favorable frente al helvético. [Clarín – 10/03/2018]

Moreover, the preposition *por* is registered eight times. In example (19), the preposition *por* follows the noun *sotános* and is followed by the infinitive *explorar*. The complete noun phrase (noun + preposition + infinitive) plays the role of direct object complement of the verb *quedar*.

(19) Que Troglio le abra la puerta de la 'U' con ese desparpajo no es un elogio para el '10', es un síntoma de que al club de Ate, en su crisis infinita, aún le quedan muchos <u>sotános</u> *por explorar*. [El Comercio – 12/03/2018]

Furthermore, the prepositions *a* and *en* are registered twice each one. In (20), there is an example of an infinitive phrase that is preceded by the preposition *a* and the noun phrase *firmes candidatos*. The new noun phrase formed by

evaluative adjective + noun + preposition + infinitive phrase plays a role of prepositional complement of the verb *mantenerse*.

(20) Aún así, Gabriella Papadakis y Guillaume Cizeronse se mantienen como firmes <u>candidatos</u> *a quedarse con una medalla en Pyeongchang 2018*. [Clarín – 19/02/2018]

The fragment (21) shows the noun *dudas* and the infinitive phrase *elegir a su próximo rival* linked by the preposition *en*. The noun phrase plays the role of direct object complement of the verb *tener*.

(21) Es que desde la vereda de enfrente llegó el visto bueno por parte del campeón filipino, quien en declaraciones a la prensa de su país no tuvo <u>dudas</u> *en elegir a su próximo rival*. [Clarín – 14/02/2018]

Finally, the preposition *entre* is found only once in the corpus. This preposition attaches the noun phrase *pocas diferencias* with the infinitive phrase *jugar en el Marbella o en el Betis*. The new noun phrase formed by quantifier + noun + preposition + infinitive phrase plays the role of direct object complement of the verb *haber*.

(22) De nuevo corriendo hacia el balón, que en eso hay pocas <u>diferencias</u> *entre jugar en el Marbella o en el Betis*, en Tercera o en Primera, para cruzarle el esférico a Pacheco y sellar el triunfo bético en Mendizorroza, un campo en el que nadie ganaba desde noviembre, aún con De Biasi. [El Mundo – 12/03/2018]

Infinitive phrases as adjective complements

In the function of adjective complement, there are 18/494 infinitive phrases in the corpus. While Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill (1989: 135) identify the prepositions *a* and *de* as the most common nexuses between the adjective and the infinitive phrase, in our corpus, we register three prepositions: *de*, *a* and *para*. *De* is the most productive preposition with nine frequencies, followed by *a* with six recurrences and finally, *para* with three occurrences.

El Mundo is the newspaper that writes more infinitive phrases as adjective complements, since we find ten infinitives with this function. *El Comercio* uses these infinitives three times. *Clarín* and *El Nacional* employ these phrases twice each one. Finally, in *La Jornada*, there is only one infinitive phrase as adjective complement. Chart 8 shows the aforementioned results.
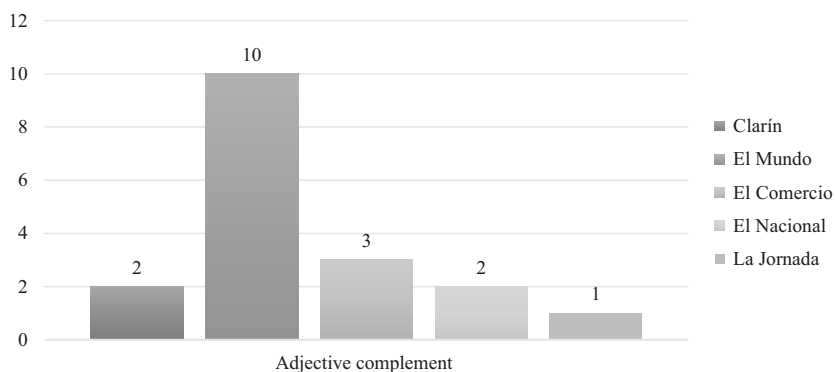
Chart 8: Frequencies of infinitive phrases as adjective complements

As stated before, the preposition *de* is the most productive of the corpus with nine frequencies. In example (23), there is the preposition *de* that links the adjective *orgulloso* and the infinitive phrase *haber tardado* […].

(23) Abelardo ya sabe lo que es perder como local, pero sin duda estará <u>orgulloso</u> *de haber tardado tanto en experimentar esa desagradable sensación*. [El Mundo – 12/03/2018]

Moreover, the preposition *a* is the second most productive of the corpus with six frequencies. In fragment (24), the preposition *a* attaches the adjective *dispuesto* with the infinitive phrase *caer en casa*.

(24) Sin embargo, Santos no estaba <u>dispuesto</u> *a caer en casa*, así que controló a los visitantes y presionó en busca del empate. [La Jornada – 12/03/2018]

Finally, the preposition *para* is found in the corpus three times. In example (25), the preposition *para* appears twice in order to link two evaluative adjectives with two infinitive phrases. The first adjective is *firme* and the infinitive phrase is *defender*. The second adjective is *clave* and the infinitive phrase is *distribuir los ataques*.

(25) ¿Cómo no nombrar al tándem Sánchez-González Iglesias, <u>firme</u> *para defender* pero, sobre todo, <u>clave</u> *para distribuir los ataques*? [Clarín – 10/03/2018]

Infinitive phrases in a verb role: as verbal periphrases

Verbal periphrases constitute the second most productive infinitives of the corpus in Spanish. There are 143/494 verbal periphrases. Before presenting the results obtained in this section, it is important to define what is understood by verbal periphrasis in this research and distinguish these infinitives from those that belong to the verb complement function, since the concept of verbal periphrasis is a problematic and much discussed issue. Indeed, a verbal periphrasis is a complex syntactic and semantic unit that is constituted by an auxiliary verb and a non-finite form (Gómez Torrego, 1988: 9, 1999: 3325), in this study, an infinitive.

Fernández de Castro (1999, 2003) and Martínez Gómez (2004) explain that there is a gradation between the different auxiliary verbs that constitute a periphrasis. Both authors state that in one extreme of the gradation there are verbs that cannot function autonomously, since they need a non-finite form to constitute a verb construction, this is the case of the auxiliary verb *soler*. Moreover, there are other verbs that can build verb constructions by themselves, but when they go together with a non-finite form, they acquire a new semantic value and constitute a verbal periphrasis, this is the case of *dejar de*. Finally, in the other extreme of the gradation, there are verbs that conserve their semantic value, this is the case of movement verbs such as *llegar a*.

According to Fernández de Castro (1999: 147–329, 2003: 20–21), verbal periphrases in Spanish can be classified according to four rubrics: (a) gradation, (b) disposition, (c) quantification, and (d) modalization. The author formulates four important questions so that the periphrasis can be classified properly. The question for gradation periphrases is: in what part of the process? For disposition periphrases, the question is: what position does an action occupy in respect to other actions? For quantification periphrases, the question is: how is a fact repeated? Finally, modalization periphrases answer to the following question: how does a speaker engage himself/herself to what is uttered?

Once defined periphrases and their respective classification, we present the results of our corpus. On the one hand, there are twenty-seven gradation periphrases which represent 18.88% of the periphrastic constructions. We register four disposition periphrases, this is 2.8%. Moreover, there are twelve quantification periphrases, this means 8.39%. Finally, there are a hundred modalization periphrases, this is 69.93% of the periphrastic constructions in Spanish. Chart 9 shows the results.
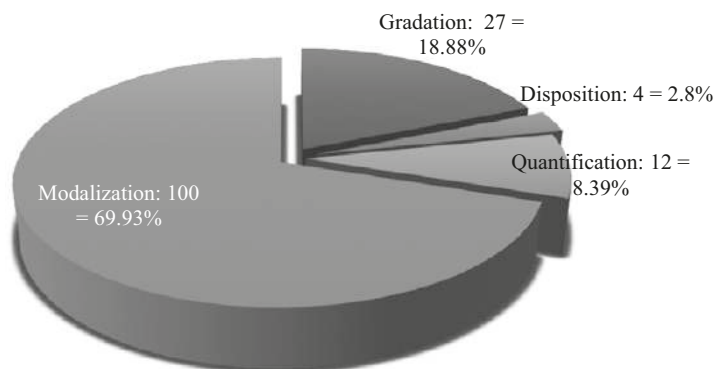
Chart 9: Classification of infinitive periphrases in Spanish

Gradation periphrases

We register seven types of gradation periphrases and a total of twenty-seven tokens. If we answer to the question formulated by Fernández de Castro (1999, 2003), the periphrases *ir a/tardar en + infinitive* display a semantic value which is situated before the beginning of the process of an action. Both have an imminent structural value.

Moreover, there are three types of periphrases that situate at the beginning of the process, i.e., *empezar a/comenzar a/ponerse a + infinitive*. All of them have an ingressive structural value.

Furthermore, the periphrasis *terminar de + infinitive* places at the end of the process. Finally, *tardar en + infinitive* displays a semantic value of an action that is abandoned. These two periphrases have a conclusive structural value according to Fernández de Castro (2003). Information about gradation periphrasis is observed in Tab. 5.

In fragment (26), there is an example of the most common gradation periphrasis in Spanish. The most prominent trait of this periphrasis is its immediate futurity (Gómez Torrego, 1988: 66). In this case, the auxiliary verb *ir* does not imply a spatial movement or displacement, but a temporal one.

(26) Ahora hay un Sub 17 y otro Sub 20, ahora *se va a discutir que se haga un solo Mundial Juvenil y que sea anual.* [El Comercio – 09/03/2018]

Examples (27) and (28) show two textual fragments where two ingressive periphrases are observed. In Spanish, both are used to present the beginning

Tab. 5: Gradation periphrases in the Spanish-language corpus

Verbal periphrasis	Tokens	Semantic value	Structural value
Ir a + infinitive	12	Before the beginning	Imminent
Empezar a + infinitive	7	At the beginning	Ingressive
Comenzar a + infinitive	3	At the beginning	Ingressive
Terminar de + infinitive	2	At the end	Conclusive
Dejar de + infinitive	1	Abandoned	Conclusive
Tardar en + infinitive	1	Before the beginning	Imminent
Ponerse a + infinitive	1	At the beginning	Ingressive

Tab. 6: Disposition periphrasis in the Spanish-language corpus

Verbal periphrasis	Tokens	Semantic value	Structural value
Llegar a + infinitive	4	After	Culminative

of an action. However, Gómez Torrego (1988: 108) states that the auxiliary verb *empezar* is more general, whereas *comenzar* is more formal (less colloquial).

(27) Desde ese momento, la fuerza de la franquicia argentina fue cediendo y la visita, campeón del Super Rugby en 2016 y el segundo equipo más goleador del certamen en 2017, *empezó a consolidar el triunfo*. [Clarín – 03/03/2018]

(28) El volante completó los 90 minutos pero al finalizar el encuentro el dolor *comenzó a crecer*. [El Comercio – 12/03/2018]

Disposition periphrases

In the corpus, there is only one type of disposition periphrasis which is used four times, as it can be observed in Tab. 6. The periphrasis is *llegar a + infinitive*, which, according to Fernández de Castro (2003: 20), has a semantic value of after another action and a culminative structural value.

In fragment (29), there is a disposition periphrasis which is also preceded by the auxiliary verb *poder* which denotes a modalization meaning, as it will be seen in the following sections. Through this disposition periphrasis, it is expressed "la culminación de un proceso, lo que da lugar muchas veces a valores intensivos o ponderativos" (Gómez Torrego, 1988: 121).

Tab. 7: Quantification periphrases in the Spanish-language corpus

Verbal periphrasis	Tokens	Semantic value	Structural value
Volver a + infinitive	10	Once	Repetitive
Soler + infinitive	2	Frequently	Frequentative

(29) España podría *llegar a aspirar a éxitos internacionales en heptatlón*, una modalidad que en su historia, pese a los esfuerzos de María Peinado o Laura Ginés, ni tan siquiera ha existido. [El Mundo – 10/03/2018]

Fernández de Castro (2003: 20) compares gradation and disposition periphrases. On the one hand, gradation periphrases consider the event of an action in different specific phases or stages: before, at the beginning, during the event, at the end, and after. On the other hand, disposition periphrases consider the process of the action as a part of a succession of actions. Therefore, one action situates first, intermediate or at last.

Quantification periphrases

In the Spanish corpus, there are two types of quantification periphrases and twelve tokens. The periphrasis *volver a + infinitive* is registered ten times, while the periphrasis *soler + infinitive* is observed twice. This is summarized in Tab. 7.

On the one hand, the periphrasis *volver a + infinitive* has a semantic value of one time and a structural value of repetition. In other words, it means one repetition of the action denotated by the non-finite form (Gómez Torrego, 1988: 117), as it is observed in example (30).

On the other hand, the periphrasis s*oler + infinitive* has a semantic value of an action being executed frequently and a structural value of frequentative, as it is appreciated in example (31).

(30) Más allá de todas las causas y circunstancias, el lunes Federer *volverá a ser el 1*. [Clarín – 16/02/2018]

(31) La cercanía de un mundial, en los talentos activos, *suele ser un estímulo poderosísimo que enciende la motivación y dispara picos de desempeño*. [El Comercio – 12/03/2018]

According to Fernández de Castro, in these periphrases, "[e]sta intersección entre la 'cantidad' y el 'tiempo' constituye una manera de aprehender el 'ritmo' de los procesos. Y, en efecto, son nociones como 'regular', 'paulatino', 'sostenido'

Tab. 8: Modalization periphrases in the Spanish-language corpus

Verbal periphrasis	Tokens	Semantic value	Structural value
Poder + infinitive	59	Possibility/capacity	Deductive epistemic commitment
Deber + infinitive	18	Obligation/probability	Deductive epistemic commitment
Tener que + infinitive	13	Necessity	Deductive epistemic commitment
Haber que + infinitive	4	Necessity	Deductive epistemic commitment
Parecer + infinitive	4	Similarity	Perceptive epistemic commitment
Hacer + infinitive	2	Causative	Deductive epistemic commitment

o 'errático, desacompasado' los que hallan su expresión más precisa en estas perífrasis" (2003: 21).

Modalization periphrases

Modalization periphrases constitute the most numerous of the corpus, since there are six types and a hundred tokens. The auxiliary verbs of these periphrases are the following: *poder*, *deber*, *tener que*, *haber que*, *parecer*, and *hacer*, as it is observed in Tab. 8.

The most productive periphrasis is *poder + infinitive* with fifty-nine cases. Its semantic value is expression of possibility. In example (32), the periphrasis is used in an interrogative sentence which questions the possibility of change of one rugby team in a short period of time.

(32) *¿Puede* un equipo *pasar en apenas siete días de una producción tan pobre como la que ofreció ante Hurricanes a una muy superior* -que tuvo pasajes de excelencia en el primer tiempo- *como la que cumplió ayer frente a Waratahs*? [Clarín – 10/03/2018]

According to Martínez Gómez (2004), the periphrasis *poder + infinitive* displays a variety of denotative meanings besides possibility such as capacity, permission and even future temporality. In fragment (33), the periphrasis in question presents a meaning of capacity through the presence of the auxiliary *poder* in the past tense of the indicative mood and the infinitive phrase *anotar un golpe* [...].

(33) Alemania sólo *pudo anotar un golpe de castigo y un ensayo*. [El Mundo – 11/03/2018]

The second most productive modalization periphrasis is *deber + infinitive* with eighteen tokens. It has a semantic value of obligation. Fragment (33) shows an example in which the obligation of a rugby team is specified through the use of the auxiliary verb *deber* in the future tense of the indicative mood and the infinitive phrase *vencer en las próximas citas* […].

(34) Para ello, el XV del León *deberá vencer en las próximas citas a Alemania y a Bélgica*. [El Mundo – 09/03/2018]

The periphrastic construction *deber + infinitive* displays also a meaning of probability in our corpus (cf. Samper, Hernández & Troya, 1998–1999), even if this meaning is usually attributed to the periphrasis *deber de + infinitive* from a prescriptive point of view (cf. Gómez Torrego, 1988; Gili Gaya, 1989). Indeed, in example (35), this periphrasis presents a meaning of probability and not of obligation. The probability meaning is reinforced by the adverb *quizás* which is placed at the beginning of the following sentence of the same paragraph.

(35) El historial del móvil *debe tener las horas de las conversaciones con gerentes de los Azulejos de Toronto, los Orioles de Baltimore, los Astros de Houston y los Medias Blancas de Chicago*. Quizás también de otras organizaciones más. [El Nacional – 10/03/2018]

With thirteen frequencies, there is *tener que + infinitive*. Moreover, *haber que + infinitive* is found four times in the corpus. Both periphrases have a semantic value of expression of necessity. In example (36), the auxiliary verb *tener que* is used in the past tense of the indicative mood to express the necessity of the manager of a football team.

(36) El técnico David Patiño *tuvo que prescindir de Luis Fuentes*, por temas personales, mientras a Pablo Barrera lo relegó a la banca como castigo por la indisciplina que mostró el jugador en la jornada anterior. [La Jornada – 12/03/2018]

Furthermore, with four frequencies, we register *parecer + infinitive* which has a semantic value of similarity. This is the only modalization periphrasis that displays a perceptive epistemic commitment structural value. Finally, *hacer + infinitive* which has a causative semantic value is counted twice. Fragment (37) shows an example of a periphrasis in which the verb *parecer* is conjugated in the

past tense of the indicative mood to mention something that was appreciated by the journalist through deduction.

(37) De Minaur (en realidad, hijo de un uruguayo y de una española, es De Miñaur) *pareció recuperarse después del descanso*. [Clarín – 11/03/2018]

All these modalization periphrases display a deductive epistemic commitment structural value, except for *parecer + infinitive* which has a perceptive epistemic commitment, as it was stated before.

In modalization periphrases, it is observed what Fernández de Castro (1999, 2003) states about the structural and semantic values, since none of these presents a real fact, but a possibility, an obligation, a need or even a similarity with reality, depending on the conviction degree of the author of the text: "El peso lógico de cada significado originario se convierte en un nivel relativo de convicción: lo necesario ('tener que') es más probable que lo meramente obligado ('deber de') y esto más esperable que lo simplemente posible ('poder'). También se modaliza con <*parecer* + inf.> y construcciones afines, que usan la semejanza o la aproximación para las proposiciones no categóricas sino 'borrosas'. Pero lo privativo de todas es su no factualidad: tanto quien *parece comer un filete* como quien *puede*, *debe* o *tiene que comerlo* se asemejan en que *no* se comen el filete" (Fernández de Castro, 2003: 21).

Infinitive clauses with a junction purpose

After the infinitive periphrases, the third most productive category of infinitives in the Spanish-language corpus is the one with a junction scope. We summarize a total of 137/494 infinitive clauses with this particular function in the corpus.

Firstly, *La Jornada* is the newspaper that writes more infinitive clauses with a junction goal, since we register forty-seven clauses with this function. Secondly, in *Clarín* and *El Mundo*, there are 32 and 29 infinitive clauses with a junction objective respectively. In the Venezuelan newspaper *El Nacional*, we register these infinitives seventeen times. Finally, in the Peruvian newspaper *El Comercio*, there are twelve infinitive clauses displaying a junction purpose. Chart 10 shows the aforementioned results.

Moreover, there is a variety of prepositions and prepositional locutions that link the infinitives to the main clause. Consequently, the semantic values that we detect in the corpus are the following: purpose, temporality, exclusion, concession, condition, cause and consequence.

The most productive semantic value that infinitive clauses display in the Spanish-language corpus are those of purpose with fifty-three frequencies.
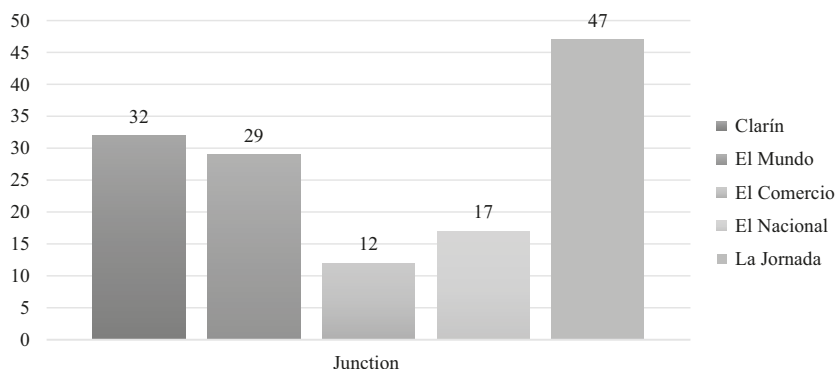
Chart 10: Frequencies of infinitive clauses with a junction purpose
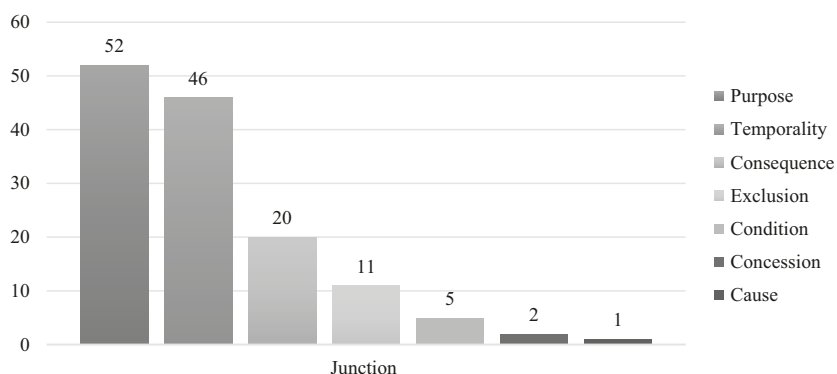
Chart 11: Distribution of the semantic values of infinitive clauses in the Spanish-language corpus

They are followed by the clauses that display temporality with a total of forty-six infinitives. Then, we register twenty infinitive clauses with a meaning of consequence. Next, we count eleven infinitive clauses with an exclusion meaning. Afterwards, we find five infinitive clauses that display a meaning of condition. After that, there are two concession clauses. Finally, there is only one cause clause. This can be observed in Chart 11.

Tab. 9: Distribution of prepositions and prepositional locutions in purpose clauses

Preposition/ prepositional locution	Cases
Para	48
Por	2
Con la finalidad de	1
A	1
Total	52

Infinitive clauses with a meaning of purpose

As stated before, infinitive clauses that display a meaning of purpose are the most productive of this corpus with fifty-two frequencies. "Desde el punto de vista semántico, se caracterizan por expresar la finalidad o intención que motivan la acción expresada en la oración principal. Se interpretan, por tanto, como posteriores a esta; de ahí su carácter prospectivo y virtual" (Hernanz, 1999: 2313).

According to Hernanz (1999), the most common nexuses that can precede the infinitive phrase in Spanish are the prepositions *para* and *por*, and the prepositional locutions *a fin de*, *con miras a*, *con el fin de*, *con la finalidad de*, *con el objeto de*, *con el propósito de*, *con la intención de*, *con la idea de*, etc.

Even if this meaning is the most productive in the number of cases, it is not the most productive in the number of nexuses that precede the infinitives, since there are four types of prepositions or prepositional locutions that express purpose in the corpus, i.e., *para* with forty-eight frequencies, *por* with two frequencies, *con la finalidad de* and *a* with one frequency each one. This can be seen in Tab. 9.

In fragment (38), there is an infinitive that is preceded by the preposition *para*, which is the most productive preposition in the corpus, to offer the clause a meaning of purpose. The infinitive clause comes after the main clause whose verb is *asistir*.

(38) El técnico celeste Pedro Caixinha asistió al duelo de Pumas *para estudiar al futuro rival*. [La Jornada – 12/03/2018]

Fragment (39) shows an infinitive phrase preceded by the prepositional locution *con la finalidad de*. The whole clause displays a purpose meaning. In this example, the purpose clause comes before the main clause whose verb is *disputarse*.

Tab. 10: Distribution of prepositions and prepositional locutions in time clauses

Preposition/ prepositional locution	Cases
Al	28
Tras	5
Luego de	4
Después de	4
Antes de	4
A poco de	1
Total	46

(39) Sin embargo, *con la finalidad de alcanzar cada vez más fronteras*, se disputarán circuitos en Londres, Bruselas, París, México, Buenos Aires y Suecia […] [El Mundo – 12/03/2018]

According to Arjona & Luna (1989: 156), these infinitive clauses occupy a postverbal position. However, as it is seen in example (39), this is not always the case. In both examples, the subject of the infinitive clause matches with the subject of the main clause.

Infinitive clauses with a meaning of temporality

Infinitive clauses with a meaning of temporality are the second most productive of the Spanish-language corpus with forty-six frequencies. These clauses are the most productive in the types of nexuses that precede the infinitives, since there are six types of prepositions or prepositional locutions that express temporality.

According to Hernanz (1999: 2308), the assortment of nexuses that introduce a temporal clause with finite forms are more numerous than those that introduce the temporal clause with infinitives. The most common nexuses documented by Hernanz are the prepositions *al*, *hasta* and *tras* and the prepositional locutions *antes de*, *luego de* and *después de*. The author adds: "Actúan también como nexos temporales los giros *a(l) poco de*, *nada más* y el adverbio *apenas*" (Hernanz, 1999: 2308). Most of the nexuses recognized by Hernanz appear in our materials, except for *hasta*, *nada más* and *apenas*.

Therefore, the nexuses that we register in the corpus are *al* with twenty-eight occurrences, *tras* with five frequencies, *después de, luego de* and *antes de* with four appearances each one, and *a poco de* with only one frequency. This can be observed in Tab. 10.

In fragment (40), there are two infinitive clauses that express temporality. The infinitive is preceded by the contracted preposition *al*[9], which functions as a temporal preposition. The subject of the first clause is the second half-time: *el segundo tiempo*, whereas the second infinitive clause's subject coincides with the subject of the main verb *sepultar*, which is *Bale*. Both infinitive clauses come after the main clause of the sentence *Bale sepultó las esperanzas blanquiazules* […].

(40) Bale sepultó las esperanzas blanquiazules nada más *al iniciarse el segundo tiempo*, *al clavar otro pase en bandeja de Benzema*. [La Jornada – 25/02/2018]

Example (41) presents an infinitive phrase preceded by the preposition *tras*. The whole temporal clause denotes posteriority regarding the action of the main verb *renunciar*. The infinitive clause comes before the main clause. The subject of the infinitive *perder* coincides with the subject of the main verb of the sentence.

(41) El año pasado, *tras perder la final del torneo de Shanghai con una cinta para sujetar el tendón rotuliano*, Nadal renunció a Basilea, se retiró en los cuartos de final de París y se bajó también del Masters de Londres tras su primer partido. [El Mundo – 02/03/2018]

In fragment (42), there is an infinitive phrase preceded by the prepositional locution *antes de*. The temporal clause denotes anteriority concerning the action of the main verb, which in this sentence is the verbal periphrasis *deber analizar*. The subject of the infinitive clause is the same of the main clause, i.e., the first-person plural.

(42) Debemos analizar plan para suprimir el descenso *antes de reprobarlo*: Potro [La Jornada – 02/03/2018]

Infinitive clauses with a meaning of consequence

Infinitive clauses that have a meaning of consequence represent the third most productive infinitive clauses of the corpus in Spanish with twenty frequencies. However, there is only one preposition that denotes this meaning, i.e., *para*. This is observed in Tab. 11.

As stated before, this preposition is mostly used in terms of purpose. However, in the constructions we describe in this section, the preposition *para* more than presenting a goal, presents the consequence described by the action of the main verb, as it is observed in examples (43) and (44).

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9   Which is constituted by the preposition *a* and the article *el* in a contracted way.

Tab. 11: Preposition in consequence clauses

Preposition	Cases
Para	20
Total	20

In example (43), the infinitive phrase *conseguir la remontada* preceded by the preposition *para* displays the effect or repercussion provoked by the action presented by the verbs *marcar* and *hacer* in the main clause. In other words, the sentence could be paraphrased with other prepositional locutions such as *de tal manera que + finite subordinate clause*, i.e., Jonathan Rodríguez marcó un doblete y Julio Furch hizo un tanto *de tal manera que consiguieron la remontada.*

(43) Rogelio Funes Mori adelantó a Rayados al minuto dos y Nicolás Sánchez anotó un penal (71), pero Jonathan Rodríguez (27 y 48) marcó un doblete y Julio Furch (40) hizo un tanto *para conseguir la remontada* [La Jornada – 12/03/2018]

Fragment (44) shows two infinitive clauses constituted by *para + infinitive phrase* that display a meaning of consequence. Indeed, both infinitive clauses present the obvious consequence or outcome of the action described in the verbs of their respective main clauses *dominar* and *sumar.*

Both infinitive clauses could be paraphrased with other prepositional locutions such as *por lo tanto/por lo que + finite subordinate clause*: La china Yajie Si dominó […], *por lo tanto, se subió a lo más alto del podio* […] seguida de la británica Lois Toulson, quien sumó 334.00, *por lo que se quedó con la plata*.

(44) La china Yajie Si dominó de principio a fin desde la preliminar y semi-final *para subir a lo más alto del podio*, con 361.90 unidades, seguida de la británica Lois Toulson, quien sumó 334.00 *para quedarse con la plata*. [La Jornada – 24/02/2018]

All the infinitive clauses of consequence in our Spanish-language corpus have the same subject of the main clause in which they are comprised.

Infinitive clauses with a meaning of exclusion

After the consequence clauses, we register eleven infinitive clauses with a meaning of exclusion in the Spanish-language corpus. All these clauses register the preposition *sin*, as it is observed in Tab. 12.

Tab. 12: Distribution of prepositions in exclusion clauses

Preposition	Cases
Sin	11
Total	11

According to Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill (1989), the infinitives preceded by the preposition *sin* belong to the modal infinitives. Nevertheless, "Las subordinadas modales forman un grupo de construcciones de límites un tanto difusos, cuya caracterización carece de un tratamiento homogéneo en las gramáticas" (Hernanz, 1999: 2317). Consequently, we prefer to adopt Raible's (1992) proposal, in which he states that this preposition followed by an infinitive phrase denotes a meaning of exclusion. We consider Raible's term more accurate and precise than simply *modal*.

Fragment (45) presents an example of infinitive clause with the preposition *sin* which, as Raible (1992) states, excludes the situation denoted by the phrase that follows the preposition. Indeed, the team Betis did shoot nine times but did not get one single goal. In this example, the infinitive clause is placed after the main clause.

(45) Porque en sus dos últimos encuentros, saldados con una derrota y un empate, el Betis disparó nueve veces a puerta *sin conseguir un solo gol*. [El Mundo – 12/03/2018]

Fragment (46) shows another example of an exclusion clause with the preposition *sin*. As in the previous example, the situation denoted by the infinitive clause is not done. In this particular example, the infinitive clause is placed before the main clause.

(46) Así lo hizo sentir el rejuvenecido número uno del mundo, que defiende el título en Indian Wells. *Sin descollar*, se mostró firme para aprovechar el flojo servicio del argentino y, en la única oportunidad de quiebre que tuvo en el set inicial, sacó una luz de ventaja para ponerse 3–1. [Clarín – 10/03/2018]

In all our exclusion clauses the subject of the infinitive clause coincides with the subject of the main clause.

Infinitive clauses with a meaning of condition

In the Spanish-language corpus, we register five infinitive clauses with a meaning of condition. "Bajo la rúbrica de 'oraciones condicionales' se acoge un vasto

Tab. 13: Distribution of preposition and prepositional locution in conditional clauses

Preposition/ prepositional locution	Cases
En caso de	3
De	2
Total	5

conglomerado de construcciones formadas por una prótasis y una apódosis entre las cuales media una relación interpretable en lo esencial como causativa […]" (Hernanz, 1999: 2319). According to the author, the most prototypical condition construction is constituted by *si… entonces…* in the case of finite sentences.

The nexuses to express condition with finite sentences are numerous, however they become exiguous when they precede an infinitive phrase. Hernanz (1999: 2319) mentions the prepositions *a*, *de*, and *con*[10], and the prepositional locutions *con la condición de*, *a condición de*, *con tal de*, *en caso de*, among others. In our materials, we only find the prepositional locution *en caso de* three times and the preposition *de* twice. This is observed in Tab. 13.

Fragment (47) shows an example of infinitive phrase preceded by the prepositional locution *en caso de* in the protasis, the apodosis is expressed through the conditional mood of the verb *ser*. The conditional mood, as its name indicates, is frequently used to express actions or states whose occurrence is either hypothetical or contingent about another circumstance, as it happens in this example.

(47) *En caso de debutar en la Fórmula1*, Tatiana sería la sexta piloto mujer en correr. [Clarín – 07/03/2018]

In example (48), there is an infinitive phrase preceded first by the adverb *no* which confers it a negative polarity. The preposition *de* comes before the infinitive phrase to display a meaning of condition in the apodosis. The protasis is expressed with a verbal periphrasis whose auxiliary verb *poder* is conjugated in the past tense of the indicative mood to indicate something that could have happened in the past if a certain condition had been met, as it is clearly expressed in the example.

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10 Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill (1989: 61) add the contracted preposition *al*.

(48) Pudo haber sido un gol, *de no ser por la atajada de Édgar Melitón Hernández*.
       [La Jornada – 25/02/2018]

Infinitive clauses with a meaning of concession

In the corpus in Spanish we only register two concession clauses, one with the prepositional locution *a pesar de* and the other one with the preposition *para*, as it is observed in Tab. 14.

On the one hand, Murray (1997) states that adversity is a generic concept that considers both adversative and concessive clauses, since there is no big difference between them. Therefore, propositions introduced by *pero* or *aunque* are considered as adversative, since both express a contrast without taking into account the syntactic differences between them.

On the other hand, Lehmann (2004) distinguishes between adversative and concessive clauses. For the author, adversative clauses establish a contrast between two entities, while concessive clauses recognize an unexpected consequence that can be expressed with utterances of the form *Q although P*.

In this study, we did not find any infinitive clauses that express adversity. As it was mentioned before, we did only find two infinitive clauses that belong to the concessive semantic value, which in semantic-notional terms express a difficulty for the realization of what was uttered in the main clause; however, such difficulty does not impede its accomplishment (Hernanz, 1999: 2322–2323). Among the most common nexuses for concession clauses, there are the prepositional locutions *a pesar de* and *pese a*, and the prepositions *con*, *sin* and *para*.

In example (49), there is an infinitive phrase in negative polarity that is preceded by the prepositional locution *a pesar de*. The concession clause, as Lehmann (2004) states, recognizes a situation with an unexpected consequence, since the most logical sentence here would be that Nadal can overcome Federer because at least he is playing the Californian tournament. However, the concessive clause

Tab. 14: Distribution of preposition and prepositional locution in concession clauses

Preposition/ prepositional locution	Cases
A pesar de	1
Para	1
Total	2

Tab. 15: Preposition in the cause clause

Preposition	Cases
Por	1
Total	1

expresses that even if Nadal is not present in the aforementioned tournament, he could overcome Federer in the battle for the first place in the ATP race.

(49) El torneo cuenta con un ingrediente adicional para el suizo: debe alcanzar las semifinales para defender el número uno. En caso de no conseguirlo, Nadal (hoy a 600 puntos) lo superaría *a pesar de no estar presente en el certamen californiano*. [Clarín – 10/03/2018]

Fragment (50) shows another example of concessive clause, this one contains the preposition *para + infinitive phrase*. This clause is inside a direct quotation uttered by a sports personality. The concessive meaning of the preposition *para* has been poorly studied. However, Hernanz states: "[s]upuesto que la preposición *para* carece en sí misma del significado contrastivo propio de una relación concesiva, este debe venir aportado por un elemento externo: la existencia de un cuantificador o término equivalente en la principal que […] establezca una confrontación valorativa con la subordinada" (1999: 2324). In this fragment, the valuation confrontation is presented by the adverbial phrase *realmente bien*, which precedes the infinitive clause.

(50) "Creo que jugué realmente bien. Estos jugadores tan jóvenes son peligrosos, pero lo hice realmente bien *para ser mi primer partido del torneo*," dijo tras el choque. [Clarín – 11/03/2018]

Infinitive clauses with a meaning of cause

In the Spanish corpus we register one single cause clause, the preposition that places before the infinitive is *por*, as it is observed in Tab. 15.

According to Hernanz (1999: 2310), there is a huge difference between the great number of nexuses that can be placed before the finite subordinate clause of cause and the very few nexuses that precede the infinitive phrase. These are reduced to, basically, two prepositions: *por* and *de*. The first one is more common, and it is also the one that we find in our materials.

In fragment (51), there is a cause clause formed by *por + infinitive phrase*. The infinitive clause explains the reason why the Mexican divers could not climb to the podium, this is because they finished fourth in the competition.

(51) En el comienzo de la Serie Mundial de Clavados en Pekín, los mexicanos Rodrigo Diego López y Adán Zúñiga se quedaron a un paso de subir al podio *por concluir en la cuarta posición en los tres metros sincronizados.* [La Jornada – 10/03/2018]

Independent infinitive constructions

On the one hand, according to Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill (1989: 158–171), there are six different independent infinitive constructions in the spoken Spanish: (a) in a structure of a dialogue, (b) historical infinitive, (c) exclamatory infinitive, (d) interrogative infinitive, (e) imperative infinitive, and (f) within a construction with an implied verb.

On the other hand, Hernanz (1999: 2333–2342) proposes five main types: (a) fragmentary infinitives, (b) modalized infinitives, (c) narrative infinitives, (d) performative infinitives, and (e) thematic infinitives.

If we consider both classifications, we can appreciate that they are similar, although they also present a few differences. Among the similarities, Hernanz' fragmentary infinitives, which are produced in the answer to a question where a finite verb appears, correspond to those that Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill present in a structure of a dialogue, since in these "el informante completa lo que dice su interlocutor" (Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill, 1989: 161). One example of this infinitive is the one that is uttered to answer the question: *¿Quieres algo? Estar bueno* (Hernanz, 1999: 2333).

Moreover, Hernanz' proposal of modalized infinitives, which at the same time are divided into three different non-declarative modalities, correspond perfectly to the exclamatory, interrogative and imperative infinitives that Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill examine in their research. This is an example of an exclamatory infinitive: *¡Pegar yo a los niños! ¡Esto es una barbaridad!* (Hernanz, 1999: 2335).

Furthermore, Hernanz' narrative infinitive has two manifestations, the first one is produced in the literary descriptions in order to immobilize the narration with a marked stylistic effect, whereas the second one is produced in the spoken language and it is usually preceded by marks such as *a, venga* (*a*), *vuelta a, otra vez a*, etc., as in: *Llegábamos del cine y a preparar las clases para el día siguiente* (Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill, 1989: 80). These infinitives play an important role in the temporal concretion expressed by the infinitive (Hernanz, 1999: 2341).
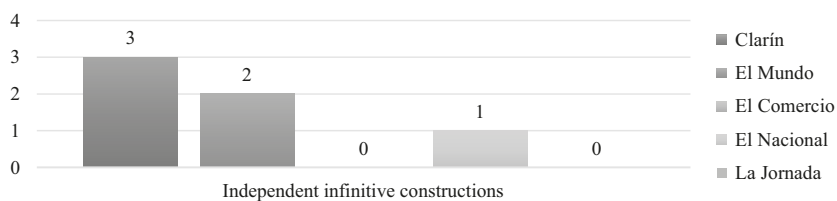
Chart 12: Frequencies of independent infinitive constructions

Since Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill (1989) focus on the spoken language, the first manifestation does not appear in their study; however, the second manifestation corresponds to what they call historical infinitive.

Additionally, the performative infinitive, presented by Hernanz, is used by the author of a text to refer to his/her own communicative acts (Kabatek, 2008: 202), as in: *Tras las palabras de José Luis, decirles que su familia ha recibido la historia de su liberación con gran alegría* (Hernanz, 1999: 2341). By the nature of their corpus, Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill (1989) do not examine this infinitive in their study.

Finally, thematic infinitives, which are also presented by Hernanz, are used immediately before its correspondent finite verb, their main function is to emphasize the action denoted by both verbs: *Vender no vendí. Pero hablar, sí hablé* (Hernanz, 1999: 2342). This independent construction is not discussed either by Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill in their research.

In the Spanish-language corpus of our research, there are only six independent constructions, three of them are written in the Argentinian newspaper *Clarín*, two are used in the Spanish newspaper *El Mundo* and one is employed in the Venezuelan newspaper *El Nacional*, as it can be observed in Chart 12.

From all the variety of independent infinitive constructions in the Spanish language, we only find two of them in our corpus. Five infinitive constructions are interrogative and only one has an imperative function.

In fragment (52), there are three interrogative infinitives, all of them present the same syntactic configuration: interrogative pronoun *cómo* + negative adverb *no* + infinitive phrase headed by a communicative verb *hablar/hacer referencia/ nombrar*. The three infinitive constructions appear one after another to offer a particular style to the text, since the intention of the author is to acknowledge the performance of the rugby team Jaguares. Therefore, a textual strategy used by the sports journalist in order to praise the whole team is to praise its best players' performance.

(52) Pero él no fue el único que se lució. *¿Cómo no hablar de Lavanini*, otro que tackleó a destajo (12) y que, por fin, controló sus impulsos durante los 80 minutos?

> *¿Cómo no hacer referencia a Creevy* que, como siempre, hizo un gran partido y fue determinante a la hora de la recuperación?
>
> *¿Cómo no nombrar al tándem Sánchez-González Iglesias*, firme para defender pero, sobre todo, clave para distribuir los ataques? [Clarín – 10/03/2018]

In fragment (53), there is the only imperative infinitive of the corpus. This is a direct quotation of a singer who is exhorting Spanish fans to support their rugby team. The construction is constituted by the infinitive phrase preceded by the preposition *a*. Hernanz (1999: 2339) states that the combination of the infinitive with the preposition *a* provides the whole construction a larger compulsory and comminatory meaning.

(53) "*A estar al lado de nuestra selección*, Los Leones, para su clasificación al Mundial," declaró el cantante catalán. [El Mundo – 09/03/2018]

Lexicalized and grammaticalized infinitives

As it was stated in the first chapter, in this section we consider infinitives in their most nominal use, i.e., nominalized infinitives that are already lexicalized as nouns and have their own entries in dictionaries. Moreover, we consider infinitive phrases, clauses or even constructions that are used as fixed expressions because of a lexicalization process. Finally, we take into account those infinitive phrases, clauses or even constructions that have grammaticalized and are now used as structural words.

In our materials in Spanish, there are seven lexicalized infinitives, three of them are written in *El Mundo*; other three infinitives are employed in *El Comercio*, and one is used by the journalists of *El Nacional*. Neither the Argentinian newspaper *Clarín*, nor the Mexican newspaper *La Jornada* use these infinitives in their texts. This can be observed in Chart 13.

In example (54), there is a grammaticalized infinitive, *para empezar*, that is used as a metacommunicative tool, since the journalist organizes his/her discourse using this infinitive among other elements. Indeed, the journalist has the goal of explaining the reasons why the football team Leganés lost the match against Athletic. The first reason he/she offers to his/her public is the one that is presented after the aforementioned infinitive.
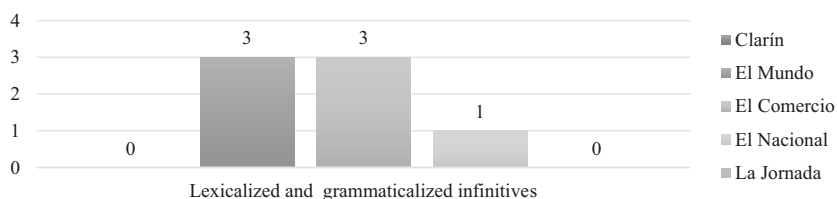
Chart 13: Frequencies of lexicalized and grammaticalized infinitives

(54) Al equipo de Ziganda se le puso todo de cara para proponer esa conjura colectiva. *Para empezar*, tuvo enfrente a un rival al que la temporada se le está haciendo muy larga. Queda poco ya de aquel Leganés que consiguió eliminar al Real Madrid en la Copa y que miraba a Europa de reojo. El equipo de Asier Garitano -anoche en la grada- responde ahora mucho más a su condición de modesto, más esforzado que preciso, condenado a pagar caros sus errores. [El Mundo – 01/03/2018]

In fragment (55), the grammaticalized infinitive *es decir* is used as an explanatory connector, since the author of the text describes a situation and after the grammaticalized infinitive explains with more details what he/she has written before.

(55) Exactamente el mismo día que Londres estrenó su maratón con 7.000 corredores por el Támesis, unos centenares de atletas (entre ellos siete mujeres) eran enviados a la Albufera con el viento en contra, *es decir*, con todo en contra. [El Mundo – 12/03/2018]

In fragment (56), appears the lexicalized construction *no tener nada que ver*[11]. This construction is used to deny a situation that was thought as very probable. This is the case with the example, since a sports personality denies that the organization of a friendly match is related to the fact of saying professionally goodbye to a Peruvian football player.

(56) El presidente de la FPF, Edwin Oviedo, aseguró que el partido amistoso ante la selección de Alemania *no tiene nada que ver* con la despedida de Claudio Pizarro [El Comercio – 12/03/2018]

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11 We base the classification of this particular construction on Arjona Iglesias & Luna Traill's (1989) elucidations.

Finally, in fragment (57), two nominalized infinitives, *ser* and *saber*, that are lexicalized and employed as nouns, i.e., in their most nominal use. Both infinitives are preceded by the extensional determiner *el* (definite article) and play the role of direct object complement of the verb *reclamar*.

(57) Y lo hicimos porque el relato de nuestros tiempos lo exige. Hoy se reclama *el ser*, no *el saber*. [El Mundo – 13/03/2018]

Conclusions

As stated before, in the Spanish-language corpus, there are 494 infinitives. From all functions that infinitives display, we identify three main functions in this corpus. Firstly, infinitive phrases in a noun role with 201/494 frequencies which represent 40.69% of the corpus. The most productive function is the verb complement with 104 frequencies.

Infinitives preceded by an auxiliary verb to function as verbal periphrases constitute the second most productive function in the corpus with 143/949, this is translated into 28.95% of the corpus. In these constructions, modalization periphrases, with a total of 100 occurrences, represent 20.24% of the corpus.

Moreover, infinitive clauses with a junction purpose constitute the third most employed function of infinitives with 137/494 clauses, this is 27.73% of the corpus. Purpose clauses are the most frequent ones with a total of 53/494, this means 10.73% of the corpus.

Independent infinitive constructions and lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitives constitute a very poor percentage of the Spanish-language corpus, since we register 6/494 (1.21%) of the first ones and 7/494 of the second ones.

III French corpus analysis

In this chapter, the French-language corpus is analyzed. As in the previous analysis chapter, infinitive phrases, clauses and constructions are studied according to the classification previously discussed.

Frequencies of each infinitive registered in the corpus are offered. In the first instance, we present general facts of the whole French-language corpus. In the second instance, we show more specific data, especially recurrences of infinitives found in each newspaper. In the third instance, we analyze each main function. First, infinitive phrases are examined according to their two main roles, i.e., playing a noun role and playing a verb role; then we present the analysis of infinitive clauses with a junction purpose; finally, independent constructions of infinitives and lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitives are commented.

In order to examine each function of infinitive phrases, clauses and constructions, a series of examples are presented and confronted with previous research. Moreover, infinitive examples are not shown in isolation, but in an extensive cotext, so that we can offer an exhaustive explanation about their function.

The French-language corpus registers 440 infinitives. From the five functions displayed by infinitives, the most prominent one is in a noun role presenting 190 infinitive phrases, this represents 43.18% of the corpus.

Moreover, infinitive phrases in a verb role, specifically as verbal periphrasis, are the second most abundant function of the corpus with 130 infinitive phrases which means 29.55% of the aforementioned corpus.

Furthermore, infinitive clauses with a junction purpose constitute the third most used function of infinitives with a total of 99 clauses. This quantity corresponds to 22.5% of the corpus.

Additionally, there are 15 lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitives in the corpus, these infinitives represent a 3.41%. Finally, independent infinitive constructions are found 6 times in the corpus, what implies 1.36%. Chart 14 summarizes frequencies of the main functions of infinitives registered in the corpus.

Infinitives in each newspaper are not homogeneously distributed. First of all, the French newspaper *Le Monde* uses 169 infinitives in its sports articles. This corresponds to 38.41% of the French-language corpus. Also, the Belgian newspaper *La Dernière Heure* employs 97 infinitives, this represents 22.04% of the corpus. Moreover, in the Canadian newspaper *Le Journal de Québec* and the Moroccan newspaper *Aujourd'hui le Maroc*, there are 68 and 59 infinitives
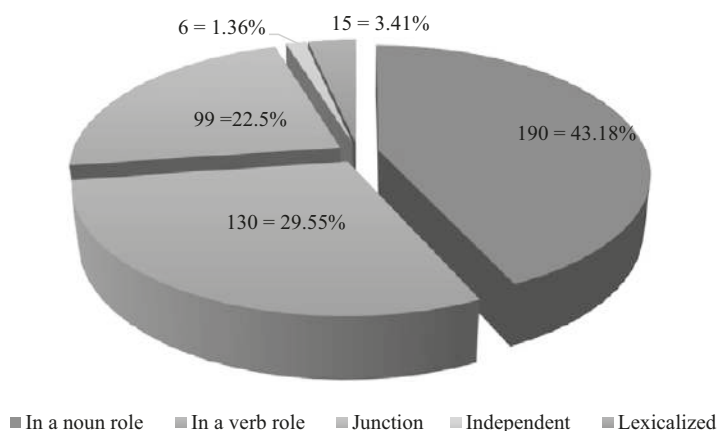
Chart 14: Frequencies of infinitives in the French-language corpus
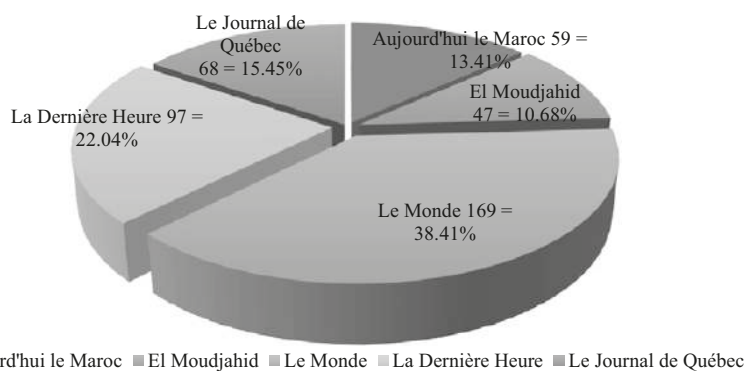
Chart 15: Distribution of infinitives in each newspaper of the French-language corpus

respectively. This means 15.45% for the first one and 13.41% for the second one. Finally, the Algerian newspaper *El Moudjahid* uses 47 infinitives in its sports articles, these infinitives correspond to 10.68%. Chart 15 shows the distribution of infinitives in each newspaper of the French corpus.

According to the frequencies registered in each analyzed newspaper, *Le Monde* is distinguished from the others not only because it is the newspaper with the highest number of infinitives, but also because the French newspaper

	Aujourd'hui le Maroc	El Moudjahid	Le Monde	La Dernière Heure	Journal de Québec
■ IP in a noun role	25	17	86	26	36
■ IP in a verb role	19	13	45	36	17
■ Junction	13	12	33	27	14
■ Independent	0	4	1	1	0
■ Lexicalized	2	1	4	7	1
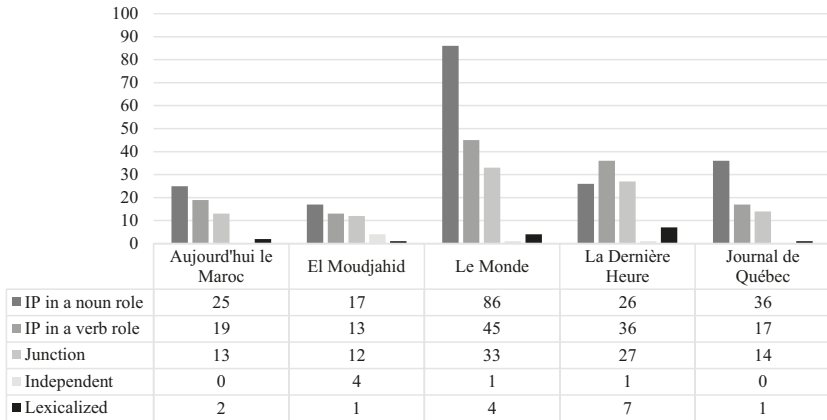
Chart 16: Distribution of the functions of infinitives in French

produces the most numerous infinitive phrases in a noun role with a sum of 86 infinitives.

Additionally, *Le Monde* is the newspaper with most infinitive phrases as subject and verb, noun and adjective complements. Furthermore, *Le Monde* is the most prolific newspaper of verbal periphrases with 45 frequencies and infinitive clauses with a junction purpose with a total of 33 occurrences.

Finally, the Algerian newspaper *El Moudjahid* presents the most productive independent infinitives with a total of 4 infinitive constructions, whereas the Belgian newspaper *La Dernière Heure* is the most productive of lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitives with 7 items. Chart 16 shows the distribution of the main functions of infinitives registered in the French-language corpus.

Infinitive phrases in a noun role

Infinitive phrases in a noun role constitute the most prominent function registered in the sports newspaper articles published in French with a sum of 190/440 items that represent 43.18% of the corpus.

The most productive infinitive phrase is the one in a verb complement, since there are 121/440 infinitives with this function, this is 27.5% of the whole corpus, and 63.68% of the infinitive phrases in a noun role.
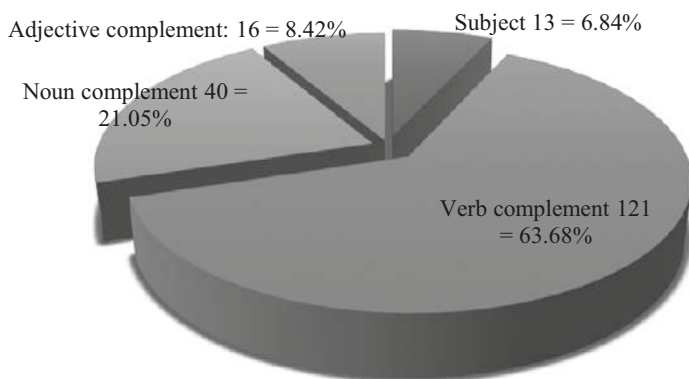
Chart 17: Distribution of infinitive phrases in a noun role

In the second place, there are 40/440 infinitive phrases that display a noun complement function. This corresponds to 9.09% of the corpus, and 21.05% of the infinitives in a noun role.

Thirdly, there are 16/440 infinitive phrases that behave as an adjective complement in the sentence. This means 3.64% of the whole corpus, and 8.42% of the infinitive phrases of this section.

Finally, there are 13/440 infinitive phrases that are considered subjects or nominal predicates of the corpus. This implies 2.95% of the corpus in French, and 6.84% of the infinitives in a noun role. This can be observed in Chart 17.

Infinitive phrases as subjects or nominal predicates

In the French-language corpus, there are 13/494 infinitive phrases that behave as subjects or nominal predicates. First of all, the French newspaper *Le Monde* uses these infinitive phrases seven times. Secondly, the Belgian newspaper *La Dernière Heure* uses them three times. Next in order, in *Le Journal de Québec* we detect two infinitive phrases with this syntactic role. In *Aujourd'hui le Maroc*, there is only one. Finally, *El Moudjahid*'s journalists do not use these infinitive phrases in their articles. Chart 18 shows this information.

According to Bouzet (1982: 225) and Grevisse & Goose (2005: 309), infinitive phrases in a subject role can be divided into two main groups: (a) those infinitive phrases that need to be preceded by the preposition *de*, and (b) those infinitive phrases that do not need the aforementioned preposition. Impersonal constructions such as *il fait + adjective/il faut/il vaut mieux/mieux vaut +*
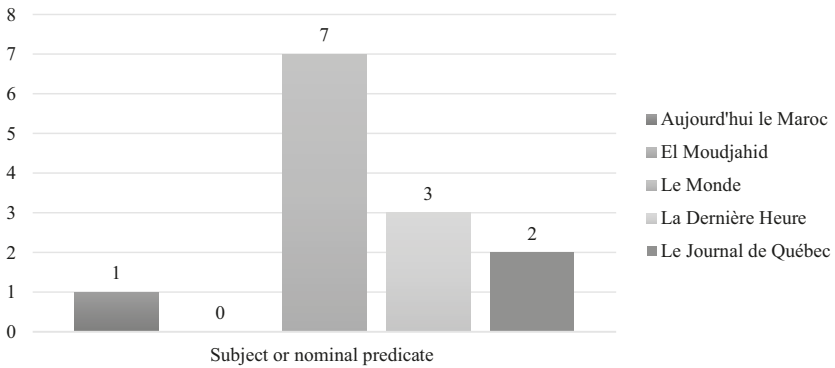
Chart 18: Frequencies of infinitive phrases as subjects or nominal predicates

infinitive phrase belong to the first group, whereas verbs such as *être + adjective +de/il suffit de/il convient de + infinitive phrase* belong to the second group.

In the French-language corpus, there are ten infinitive phrases in the role of a subject with the verb *falloir*. This verb is in the present tense of the indicative mood six times, in the future tense of the indicative mood two times and in the past tense of the indicative mood two times, more specifically one in *imparfait* and the other one in *passé composé*.

Fragments (1) and (2) show two examples of these infinitive phrases. In (1), the verb *falloir* is in the present tense, it is followed by a textual connector and the infinitive phrase *admettre que* […]. In (2), the verb *falloir* is in the future tense, it is followed by two infinitive phrases: *faire sans ce supplément* […] and *trouver d'autres ressources*.

(1) Si la deuxième place d'Alexander Boshunov a une certaine logique, il <u>faut</u> toutefois *admettre que le troisième rang d'Andrey Larkov est davantage surprenant, en vertu de ses performances du passé.* [Le Monde – 03/02/2018]

(2) Au moins la rapide levée de l'incertitude quant à sa présence, demain, a-t-elle évité de laisser mariner le groupe dans un entre-deux pénible: il <u>faudra</u> *faire sans ce supplément d'homme* et *trouver d'autres ressources.* [Le Monde – 05/03/2018]

About this construction, Grevisse & Goose say: "[f]alloir se construit avec ce que l'on appelle traditionnellement un sujet réel […] nom, pronom, infinitif ou proposition" (2005: 1150). In the corpus, we confirm what Grevisse & Goose

state about the common use of infinitive phrases preceded by impersonal verbs such as *falloir* in French.

In the syntactic role of subject, there is also one infinitive phrase that occupies a preverbal position, as it is observed in (3). The verb is *signifier* in a negative polarity. In postverbal position, there is another infinitive phrase that plays the role of a direct object complement.

(3) La jeune génération sud-coréenne se sent proche, par sa propre culture pop, de ses contemporains japonais. Mais *partager l'air du temps* ne <u>signifie</u> pas forcément oublier le passé, instrumentalisé par les politiques. [Le Monde – 10/02/2018]

There is another infinitive phrase that occupies a postverbal position. The main verb is *être*. In preverbal position, there is the noun phrase *notre objectif*. The infinitive phrase is constituted by the preposition *de* (*d'*), the auxiliary verb *aller* in infinitive and the verb *chercher* also in infinitive. Both verbs as a unit constitute a verbal periphrasis.

(4) « C'était une belle course. Nous avions un plan et notre objectif <u>était</u> *d'aller chercher la victoire*. C'est mission accomplie », a pour sa part raconté Charles. [Le Journal de Québec – 04/03/2018]

To the variety of infinitive phrases that are considered the subject of the sentence, Grevisse & Goose (2005: 1301) add the construction *il reste + à + infinitive phrase*[12]. In our corpus, there is one infinitive phrase preceded by this verb, except for the fact that the verb *rester* is not preceded by the pronoun *il*, as it can be observed in fragment (5).

(5) <u>Reste</u> *à savoir de quelles valeurs la France veut se prévaloir* et comment parvenir à se hisser au degré de performance collective des Écossais pendant 80 minutes […] [Le Monde – 25/02/2018]

As observed in the previous instances, based on Bouzet's (1982) and Grevisse & Goose's (2005) explanations, in our corpus, we register eleven infinitive phrases that belong to the first group, this is, without being preceded by any preposition; and only two infinitive phrases that belong to the second group, this is preceded by the prepositions *de* and *à*.

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12 According to the authors, the very same construction can use the preposition *de* instead of *à*.
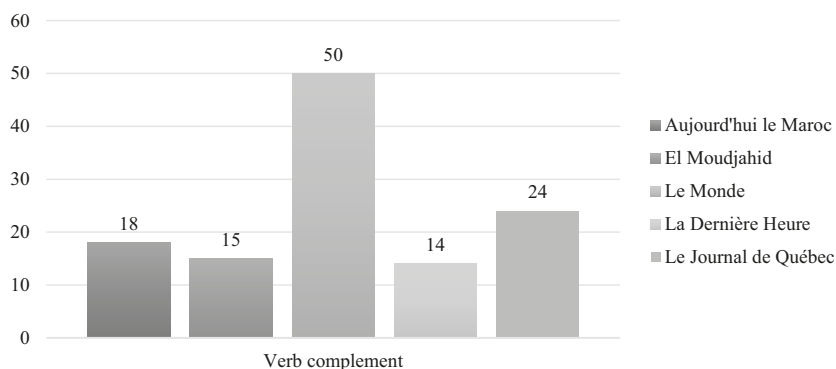
Chart 19: Frequencies of infinitive phrases as verb complements

Infinitive phrases as verb complements

In the corpus of sports articles in French, there are 121/440 infinitive phrases that function as verb complements. Sports journalists of *Le Monde* are the ones who write the most infinitive phrases as verb complements in their articles, since they use them fifty times in the corpus. Then, *Le Journal de Québec* employs these infinitive phrases twenty-four times. Moreover, *Aujourd'hui le Maroc* uses them eighteen times. Finally, we register fifteen and fourteen infinitive phrases as verb complements in *El Moudjahid* and *La Dernière Heure* correspondingly. Chart 19 shows the frequencies of infinitive phrases as verb complements in each newspaper of the corpus.

Infinitive phrases as verb complements in this corpus are divided into two main sections: (a) infinitive phrases that are preceded by the main verb of the sentence, i.e., in their syntactic role of direct object complement, and (b) infinitive phrases that are preceded by a prepositional verb.

In the first section, there are two subtypes of sentences: (a) infinitive phrases whose subject agrees with the subject of the main verb, and (b) infinitive phrases whose subject is different from the subject of the main verb.

The second section is also divided into two categories: the first category corresponds to infinitive phrases preceded by the preposition *à*, while the second category comprises infinitive phrases preceded by the preposition *de*.

According to Riegel et al., there is a strong resemblance between infinitive phrases that play the role of verb complement and those that are considered verbal periphrases. "Construction directe: les verbes *désirer*, *espérer*, *préférer*, *souhaiter* et *vouloir* sont directement suivis de l'infinitif? […] Ces verbes ont

une étroite affinité avec les auxiliaires modaux comme *devoir* et *pouvoir*" (Riegel et al., 2001: 337). We distinguish these infinitive phrases from verbal periphrases because these infinitive phrases are preceded by a main verb which cannot be considered an auxiliary verb under any circumstances, since it accepts not only infinitive phrases, but other constituents such as, noun phrases, finite clauses, among others (cf. Liere, 2011: 34).

To clarify, we want to note that infinitive phrases preceded by preposition *à* or *de* are distinguished from infinitive clauses that display a junction purpose because of the construction of the main verb itself, such as *permettre de/réussir à/refuser de + infinitive phrase* (cf. Riegel et al., 2001: 337).

There are twenty-seven infinitive phrases as direct object complements. The most repeated verbs that precede the infinitive phrase in the corpus are *préférer* (6) with six appearances, *vouloir* (7) with five frequencies, *espérer* (8) and *aimer* (9) with three recurrences each one, *souhaiter*, *savoir*, and *sembler* with two occurrences each one.

(6) On <u>préfère</u> *jouer avec le meilleur joueur du monde que sans*, c'est logique. Il n'est pas là mais il est là. [Le Monde – 06/03/2018]

(7) Reste à savoir de quelles valeurs la France veut se prévaloir et comment parvenir à se hisser au degré de performance collective des Écossais pendant 80 minutes, face à une équipe qui <u>voudra</u> *gagner* pour empêcher l'Irlande de s'arroger le Grand Chelem à Twickenham. [Le Monde – 25/02/2018]

(8) Il <u>espérait</u> *devenir cet été le premier joueur à disputer six éditions de la Coupe du monde* [...] [Aujourd'hui le Maroc – 03/03/2018]

(9) « J'<u>aime</u> *penser que les skieurs russes de la nouvelle génération sont propres*, a-t-il affirmé. Je dois leur donner le bénéfice du doute. » [Le Journal de Québec – 28/02/2018]

Most infinitive phrases in the direct object complement present the characteristic of having the same subject of the main verb. In the corpus, we only find two infinitive phrases that have different subjects of the main verb, one example is shown in (10). The main verb's subject is *l'Irlande*, whereas the infinitive's subject is *ses remplaçants*.

(10) Peu de choses à dire sur cette rencontre où l'Irlande a révisé ses classiques en première période avant de <u>lancer</u> *ses remplaçants s'entraîner en seconde face à une équipe italienne faible*. [Le Monde – 12/02/2018]

In the corpus, there are ninety-four infinitive phrases preceded by a prepositional verb. The only two prepositions found are *à* and *de*. We register forty-four infinitive phrases preceded by the preposition *à*, whereas there are fifty infinitive

Tab. 16: Distribution of prepositions in the infinitive phrases as prepositional complements

Preposition	Types	Tokens
A	23	44
De	21	50
Total	44	94

phrases preceded by the preposition *de*. Tab. 16 shows both prepositions' types and tokens.

As observed in Tab. 16, there are twenty-three types of verbs that are followed by the preposition *à* and an infinitive phrase. From these verbs, there are only six that select two objects, one noun phrase that plays the role of direct object complement and the infinitive phrase preceded by the aforementioned preposition. The rest of the verbs, i.e., seventeen, select one single object, which is the infinitive phrase preceded by the preposition.

The most common verbs followed by *à* and an infinitive phrase are: *réussir* (11) which is found six times in the corpus, followed by *parvenir* (12) and *aider* (13) which are used five times each one. Then we register *viser* (14) and *appeler* (15) three times each one.

(11) Elles ont <u>réussi</u> *à chasser les Japonaises* pour revendiquer le premier rang alors qu'il était encore tôt dans la finale. [Le Journal de Québec – 04/03/2018]

(12) La troisième rencontre a permis de sauver la face (4–1 pour le Japon). Surtout, elle est <u>parvenue</u> *à rassembler les Coréens*. [Le Monde – 10/02/2018]

(13) Co-organisé par la CAF et la Fédération royale marocaine de football (FRMF), ce symposium a pour objectif de booster le football féminin en Afrique et de l'<u>aider</u> *à prendre* toute sa place sur la scène mondiale. [Aujourd'hui le Maroc – 06/03/2018]

(14) Initié par la ligue de football de la wilaya, en collaboration avec la fédération algérienne de football, ce stage de perfectionnement, dont l'encadrement est assuré par deux anciens arbitres internationaux (Miloud Haraz et Achour Madani), <u>vise</u> *à évaluer et améliorer les connaissances des référés en matière de lois du jeu ainsi que leur aptitude physique*, a précisé Youcef Azzouz. [El Moudjahid – 04/03/2018]

(15) La candidature marocaine représente une fierté pour tout le continent, a affirmé le président de la CAF, <u>appelant</u> tous les pays africains *à soutenir* et *à prendre acte de cet engagement*. [Aujourd'hui le Maroc – 06/03/2018]

In the corpus, there are twenty-one verb types that are followed by the preposition *de* and an infinitive phrase. From these verbs, we distinguish six that select two objects, one which is direct or indirect object complement and the infinitive phrase preceded by the preposition. For instance, on the one hand, the most productive verb of our materials, *permettre*, selects one object preceded by the preposition *à* which plays the role of indirect object complement and the infinitive phrase preceded by *de*, while on the other hand, *empêcher* selects one direct object complement and the infinitive phrase preceded by the aforementioned preposition.

The rest of the verbs, i.e., fifteen, select one single object, which is the infinitive phrase preceded by the preposition. The most productive verbs with these characteristics are *essayer*, *tenter*, *decider*, *éviter*, among others.

The most productive verbs that select an infinitive phrase preceded by the preposition *de* are *permettre* (16) with thirteen appearances, *essayer* (17) with six occurrences, *decider* (18), *tenter* (19) and *empêcher* (20) with four frequencies each one.

(16) Dans ce cadre, il a appelé tous les pays africains à une mobilisation collective afin de défendre un droit légitime à travers la réalisation concrète du principe de l'alternance entre les continents, ce qui va permettre à l'Afrique *de reprendre la place qu'elle mérite sur la scène footballistique mondial*. [Aujourd'hui le Maroc – 06/03/2018]

(17) Le représentant des couleurs nationales avait perdu la rencontre parce qu'il avait donné un coup de pied dans le visage au Néerlandais alors qu'il était déjà au sol et essayait *de se relever*. [Aujourd'hui le Maroc – 05/03/2018]

(18) L'entraîneur du Real Madrid Zinedine Zidane a décidé *de mettre Cristiano Ronaldo au repos* pour le match contre l'Espanyol, mardi soir, en ouverture de la 26e journée de Liga, à une semaine du match retour de Ligue des champions contre le Paris-SG. [Le Journal de Québec – 27/02/2018]

(19) Freinés après une séquence de quatre victoires consécutives, les hommes de Martin Bernard tenteront *de vite renouer avec le succès face à des adversaires installés au 17e et avant-dernier échelon du classement général*. [Le Journal de Québec – 06/03/2018]

(20) Or, cela n'a pas empêché quelques-uns, dont la patineuse artistique Evgenia Medvedeva, *de contourner les règles à leur façon*. [Le Journal de Québec – 06/03/2018]
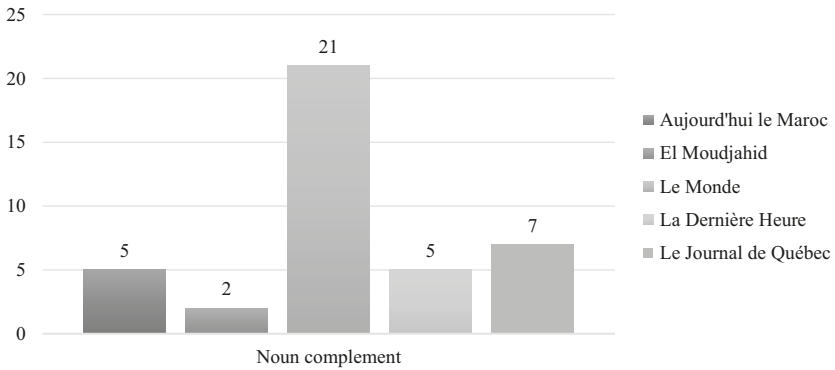
Chart 20: Frequencies of infinitive phrases as noun complements

Infinitive phrases as noun complements

Playing the function of noun complement, there are 40/440 infinitive phrases in the French-language corpus. There are only three prepositions that play the role of nexus between the noun and the infinitive phrase: *de*, *à*, and *pour*. Firstly, we register twenty-seven times the preposition *de*. Secondly, there is a total of eleven infinitive phrases preceded by the preposition *à*. Finally, there are only two noun complements that have the preposition *pour* as nexus.

"Deux types de noms peuvent introduire un constituant inifinitif: les noms prédicatifs (*l'espoir de retrouver son nounours*) et les noms non prédicatifs (*dé à coudre, machine à écrire…*)" (Lablanche, 2008: 87)

The French newspaper *Le Monde* is the one with more infinitive phrases as noun complements with a total of twenty-one. Then, the Canadian newspaper *Le Journal de Québec* uses these infinitive phrases seven times in the corpus. Moreover, *Aujourd'hui le Maroc* and *La Dernière Heure* use them five times each one. Finally, sports journalists of the Algerian newspaper *El Moudjahid* use these infinitive phrases in their articles only twice. This can be observed in Chart 20.

The preposition *de* is the most productive in the corpus with twenty-seven frequencies. In fragment (21), there is an example of an infinitive phrase in the role of a noun complement. The noun is *chances*, the infinitive phrase is *briser*, and the preposition that links the noun with the infinitive is *de*. The new noun phrase plays the role of a prepositional complement of the verb *profiter*.

(21) L'athlète de 18 ans ne s'est pas laissé abattre par son revers au premier set,
      prenant l'ascendant en profitant de cinq de ses sept <u>chances</u> *de briser* lors
      des deux reprises suivantes. [Le Journal de Québec – 27/02/2018]

Fragment (22) shows an example of a noun phrase constituted by the noun phrase
sa tendance, followed by the preposition *à* and the infinitive phrase *vampiriser le
ballon*. The new noun phrase plays the role of a direct object complement of the
verb *témoigner*.

(22) Les statistiques flatteuses du Brésilien (19 buts et 13 passes décisives
      en Ligue 1, 6 buts en 7 matchs de Ligue des champions) témoignent de
      son emprise sur le jeu parisien, sa <u>tendance</u> *à vampiriser le ballon*. [Le
      Monde – 06/03/2018]

In example (23), there are two infinitive phrases: *tirer le PSG ver le haut* and
être ce fameux marquee player preceded by the preposition *pour* that links the
aforementioned infinitive phrases with the noun phrase *une très forte pression
sur lui*. The new noun phrase plays the role of direct object complement of the
construction *y avoir*.

(23) Il y a donc une très forte <u>pression</u> sur lui *pour tirer le PSG vers le haut* et
      être ce fameux marquee player [footballeur star mais aussi décisif] que QSI
      attend depuis 2012. [Le Monde – 06/03/2018]

Infinitive phrases as adjective complements

In the function of adjective complement, there are 16/440 infinitive phrases in
the French-language corpus. There is a variety of prepositions that link the adjec-
tive with the infinitive phrase in the corpus: *à* six times, *de* eight times, *pour* one
time, and one infinitive that does not need any preposition.

    According to Lablanche (2008: 71), there are two main types of infinitives
that can be followed by an infinitive phrase, i.e., qualifying adjectives and rela-
tional adjectives. "L'adjectif qualificatif exprime une propriété du nom qu'il
précise [tandis que] l'adjectif de relation met en rapport deux notions distinctes"
(Lablanche, 2008: 73).

    As observed in Chart 21, French newspaper *Le Monde* is the most produc-
tive of infinitive phrases as adjective complements in their sports articles with
eight frequencies. *La Dernière Heure* uses this infinitive phrase four times. In *Le
Journal de Québec*, there are three infinitives as adjective complements. Finally,
in *Aujourd'hui le Maroc*, there is only one infinitive phrase and in *El Moudjahid*,
we do not register any infinitive phrase with this particular function.
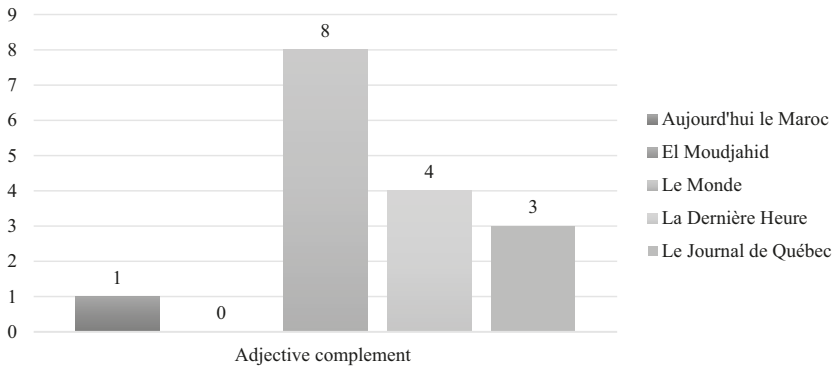
Chart 21: Frequencies of infinitive phrases as adjective complements

As stated before, the preposition *de* is the most productive of the corpus with eight frequencies. In example (24), the preposition *de* links the adjective *désireux* to the infinitive phrase *en découdre avec le Real.*

(24) Depuis sa blessure, les regards se focalisent sur le « joker de luxe » Angel Di Maria, flamboyant depuis la reprise de janvier malgré son statut de remplaçant […] Désireux *d'en découdre avec le Real*, où il a sévi de 2010 à 2014, l'ailier argentin sera associé au buteur uruguayen Edinson Cavani et au Français Kylian Mbappé, 19 ans, dont les courses folles et la vitesse d'exécution ont régulièrement gêné la défense madrilène lors du premier acte. [Le Monde – 06/03/2018]

In the corpus, there are six infinitive phrases that are preceded by the preposition *à* in this function. Fragment (25) shows an example of this preposition that links the adjective *prêt* and the infinitive *jouer*.

(25) Tout le monde est prêt *à jouer*. Un joueur à 70 ou 80 % ne jouera jamais. Il faut être à 100 %. [Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018]

Moreover, fragment (26) shows an example of the most productive adjective in this function which is *difficile* that is linked to two infinitive phrases in one paragraph. In the first infinitive phrase, the linking preposition is *de*, more specifically *d'*, and in the second infinitive phrase, the linking preposition is *à*.

(26) Les éclats de Minozzi et Boni n'ont été que trop fugaces et enfin, Gori entré en deuxième-mi-temps en n°9 a montré qu'il valait mieux que Violi. Difficile *d'imaginer cette équipe remporter un match cette année*. Quant

à l'Irlande, elle sera très <u>difficile</u> *à damer* quand bien même son jeu est prévisible. [Le Monde – 12/02/2018]

In the corpus, there is only one infinitive phrase linked to an adjective through the preposition *pour*. Example (27) shows the infinitive phrase *rapporter une médaille* linked to the adjective *nécessaires* which determines the noun *athlètes*.

(27) L'Allemagne et ses 364 athlètes envoyés en Corée du Sud ont longtemps mené au classement de médailles, avant de se faire dépasser par les Norvégiens, qui n'étaient pourtant que 111 à avoir fait le voyage. Au petit jeu du nombre d'athlètes <u>nécessaires</u> *pour rapporter une médaille*, ce sont les Néerlandais qui l'emportent: avec seulement 46 sportifs, les Bataves reviennent avec 20 médailles (et une très honorable 5e place) […]. [Le Monde – 26/02/2018]

In the corpus, there is also an example in which there is no preposition between the infinitive phrase and the adjective. This is observed in example (28). The infinitive is *opérer* and the adjective is *censée*.

(28) Face au Real, le PSG se retrouvera à devoir refaire la différence collectivement, précisément au moment où la magie de Neymar était <u>censée</u> *opérer*, explique notre chroniqueur Jérôme Latta. [Le Monde – 06/03/2018]

Infinitive phrases in a verb role: as verbal periphrases

Verbal periphrases constitute the second most productive infinitives of the corpus. There is a total of 130/440 verbal periphrases in the French-language corpus. Before presenting the results obtained in this section, it is important to define what is understood by verbal periphrasis in this research and, also, to distinguish these infinitives from those that belong to the verb's complement function.

First, a verbal periphrasis is a complex syntactic and semantic unit that is constituted by an auxiliary verb and an infinitive. Therefore, in order to distinguish a verbal periphrasis and an infinitive phrase that plays the role of a verb complement, it is important to define an auxiliary verb syntactic behavior: "syntaxiquement, les auxiliaires se caractérisent par le fait qu'ils prennent un complément infinitif (prépositionnel ou non) tout en excluant la complétive. Sémantiquement, ils expriment une des trois notions relatives au temps, à l'aspect ou à la modalité" (Liere, 2011: 34).

There are numerous proposals to classify verbal periphrases in French. Dominicy (1977: 918–919) considers the dichotomy between *verba denominativa*

and *verba adiecta* proposed by Coseriu in order to present two types of periphrases: (a) intensive periphrases that have *verba adiecta*[13] as auxiliary verbs and can display temporal or aspectual meanings, such as *pouvoir + infinitive*, and (b) extensive periphrases that have *verba denominative*[14] as auxiliary verbs and display modal and aspectual meanings, such as *aller + infinitive*.

From a more traditional perspective, Denis & Sancier-Chateau (1994: 398–402) propose the classical classification which is based on the predominant meaning of the auxiliary verb: (a) temporal periphrases, that situate the action in time; (b) aspectual periphrases, that consider the action in one particular phase of its internal duration; (c) modal periphrases, that express the speaker's point of view; and (d) *actantial* periphrases that focus on the participants of the process and his/her specific role.

According to Lesage (2007), there are three types of verbal periphrases in French: (a) temporal-aspectual periphrases, such as *aller + infinitive*; (b) periphrases that focus on diathesis, in which we can find the causative auxiliary verbs such as *faire + infinitive*; and (c) modal periphrases, such as *pouvoir + infinitive* (Lesage, 2007: 30–31).

Even if there are several classification proposals for verbal periphrases in French, we consider that Fernández de Castro's (1999) proposal for verbal periphrases in Spanish can also be appropriate to classify verbal periphrases in French too. Following Fernández de Castro (1999: 147–329, 2003: 20–21), verbal periphrases can be classified according to four rubrics: (a) gradation, (b) disposition, (c) quantification, and (d) modalization. The author formulates four questions so that the periphrasis can be classified accurately. The question for gradation periphrases is: in what part of the process? For disposition periphrases, the question is: what position does an action occupy in respect to other actions? For quantification periphrases, the question is: how is a fact repeated? Finally, modalization periphrases answer to the following question: how does a speaker engage himself/herself to what is uttered?

Once explained the classification for verbal periphrases in French, we expose the results obtained in the corpus. There is a total of 130 verbal periphrases in the French-language corpus. First, modalization periphrases are the most

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13 *Verba adiecta* are those auxiliary verbs that only function in relation to other verb forms. Thus, their lexical meaning is produced in its reference and modification to the other verb form in the periphrasis.

14 *Verba denominativa* are those auxiliary verbs that designate actions *per se*. Therefore, movement verbs are considered in this group.
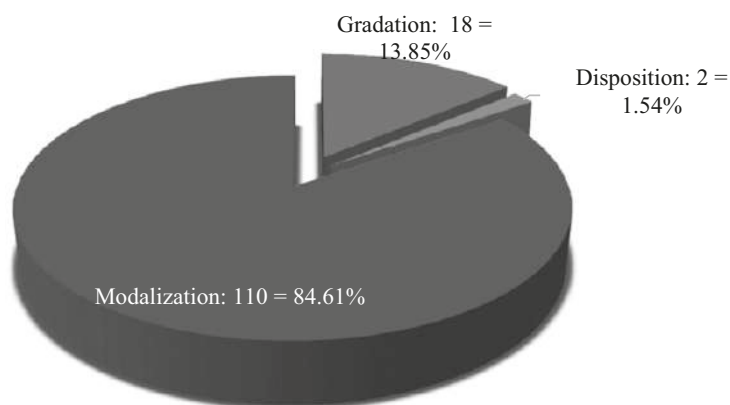
Chart 22: Classification of infinitive periphrases in French

productive with a total of one hundred and ten infinitives, this is 84.61% of the corpus. Secondly, there are eighteen gradation periphrases which represent 13.85%. Finally, there are only two disposition and quantification periphrases, this means 1.54%. As it can be observed in Chart 22, we do not register any quantification periphrases.

We believe that the absence of quantification periphrases in the French-language corpus can be explained because in the language, there are other linguistic strategies in order to indicate the repetition of an action. Indeed, on the one hand, the prefix *re-* is compatible with a great number of verbs (*refaire*, *repartir*, *redonner*, etc.), and, on the other hand, there is a diversity of adverbs, prepositional phrases and noun phrases that can report such repetition: *d'ordinaire*, *habituellement*, *maintes fois*, *sans cesse*, among others.

Gradation periphrases

We register four types of gradation periphrases and a total of eighteen tokens. If we answer the question formulated by Fernández de Castro (1999, 2003), the periphrasis *aller + infinitive* displays a semantic value which is situated before the beginning of an action. This periphrasis has an imminent structural value. Moreover, *commencer à + infinitive* has an ingressive structural value and it situates the action at the beginning. Furthermore, *venir de + infinitive* displays an immediate perfective semantic value and an after the recent end structural value. Finally, *être en train de + infinitive* has a developing semantic value and a

Tab. 17: Gradation periphrases in the French-language corpus

Verbal periphrasis	Tokens	Semantic value	Structural value
Aller + infinitive	15	Before the beginning	Imminent
Commencer à + infinitive	1	At the beginning	Ingressive
Venir de + infinitive	1	Immediate perfective	After the recent end
Être en train de + infinitive	1	Developing	Progressive

progressive structural value. Tab. 17 shows the gradation periphrases found in the sports articles written in French.

In fragments (29) and (30), there are two examples of the verbal periphrasis *aller + infinitive*, one in the present tense (29) and the other one in the past tense (*imparfait*) (30). Grevisse & Goose (2005) state that this auxiliary verb in the present tense of the indicative mood indicates a future observed from the present. Most of the times, this is an ineluctable future. In other terms, this verbal periphrasis indicates a prospective present.

"Le verbe *aller* ne s'emploie qu'au présent et à l'imparfait. Au présent (*elle va chanter*), il concurrence le futur simple (*elle chantera*), à l'oral surtout. A l'imparfait (*elle allait chanter*), il concurrence le conditionnel présent (*elle chanterait*) pour indiquer une action postérieure dans le passé" (Riegel et al., 2001: 253).

(29) *Le Maroc*, sous la conduite clairvoyante de SM le Roi Mohammed VI et avec le soutien des pays africains, *va défendre* cette candidature et le droit de tout un continent à organiser la coupe du monde 2026, a-t-il signalé. [Aujourd'hui le Maroc – 06/03/2018]

(30) *On allait voir* ce qu'*on allait voir*: avec 92 délégations en 2018 à Pyeongchang – contre 90 à Sotchi en 2014 –, jamais autant de nations différentes n'avaient participé aux Jeux olympiques d'hiver. [Le Monde – 03/02/2018]

Fragment (31) presents a quotation of a sports personality in which the verbal periphrasis *commencer à + infinitive* is produced. According to Gosselin (2011), this periphrasis has an aspectual meaning that situates the process at the beginning. At the semantic level, it is compared to *se mettre à + infinitive*.

(31) « C'est de mieux en mieux, *je commence à tourner la page* », a-t-il indiqué, mercredi, lors d'une entrevue téléphonique accordée à l'Agence QMI en provenance de la Finlande […] [Le Journal de Québec – 18/02/2018]

Example (32) shows a verbal periphrasis constituted by *être en train de + infinitive*. Tovainen (2012: 44–46) states this periphrasis is distinguished from those

Tab. 18: Disposition periphrasis in the French-language corpus

Verbal periphrasis	Tokens	Semantic value	Structural value
Continuer à + infinitive	2	Progressive	After a non-effective end

produced in other Romance languages. Indeed, in Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Catalan, this periphrasis is constituted by two or three elements, whereas in French, there are five different elements. The prepositional phrase *en train de* means 'in action' or 'in execution' and gives the verbal periphrasis a durative aspectual meaning.

(32) L'Allemande, qui depuis deux saisons *est en train de devenir* la patronne du biathlon mondial, a su maîtriser ses nerfs, avec un sans-faute au tir, pour dominer assez largement l'épreuve. [Le Monde – 10/02/2018]

Fragment (33) presents the verbal periphrasis *venir de + infinitive* which means that the action expressed by the infinitive has been finished recently (Liere, 2011: 27). The movement verb *venir* loses its original meaning of spatial movement to signify a temporal movement, more specifically a recent past.

(33) Il *vient de signer* un contrat qui le lie aux Oranje avec effet immédiat jusque et y compris la Coupe du monde 2022 », indique le communiqué. [Aujourd'hui le Maroc – 07/02/2018]

Disposition periphrases

In the corpus, there is only one type of disposition periphrasis which is used twice, as it is observed in Tab. 18. The periphrasis is *continuer à + infinitive*, which has a progressive semantic value and a structural value of 'after a non-effective end'.

Fragment (34) shows an example of the only disposition verbal periphrasis that is found in the French-language corpus. The periphrasis is *continuer à + infinitive*, which, according to Gosselin (2011: 151), focuses on a medium phase of the process.

(34) Quatrième sur la Toro Rosso dotée du Honda V6 dont personne ne voulait plus, Pierre Gasly *a continué à surprendre* tout le monde avec un moteur performant puisqu'il pointe à moins de six dixièmes. [Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018]

Tab. 19: Modalization periphrases in the French-language corpus

Verbal periphrasis	Tokens	Semantic value	Structural value
Pouvoir + infinitive	47	Possibility/capacity	Deductive epistemic commitment
Devoir + infinitive	35	Obligation	Deductive epistemic commitment
Faire + infinitive	11	Causative/agentive	Deductive epistemic commitment
Laisser + infinitive	7	Causative/passive	Deductive epistemic commitment
Voir + infinitive	6	Representative	Deductive epistemic commitment
Sembler + infinitive	2	Similarity	Perceptive epistemic commitment
Penser + infinitive	2	Intentionality	Perceptive epistemic commitment

Modalization periphrases

Modalization periphrases constitute the most numerous of the corpus, since there are seven types and one hundred and ten tokens. The auxiliary verbs of these periphrases are the following: *pouvoir*, *devoir*, *faire*, *laisser*, *voir, sembler*, and *penser*, as it is observed in Tab. 19.

The most productive modalization periphrasis in French is *pouvoir + infinitive* with forty-seven tokens. Its main semantic value is expression of possibility, although there are other meanings such as capacity, permission, and probability[15] (Riegel et al., 2001: 254). In example (35), the periphrasis expresses possibility.

(35) Bien sûr, les Madrilènes *pourront encore invoquer d'autres forces de l'esprit*, comme la mystérieuse « expérience » des grands rendez-vous ou la baraka en C1 de leur entraîneur Zinédine Zidane. [Le Monde – 05/03/2018]

The second most productive modalization periphrasis is *devoir + infinitive* with thirty-five tokens. It has a semantic value of obligation. Fragment (36) shows an example of this periphrasis.

(36) L'Italie *doit affronter l'Argentine le 23 mars à Manchester* et l'Angleterre à Londres le 27. [Aujourd'hui le Maroc – 03/03/2018]

Faire + infinitive represents the third most productive modalization periphrasis of the corpus with eleven tokens. It has a causative-agentive semantic value. Fragment (37) shows an example of this periphrasis.

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15 Indeed, an example of this periphrasis with a semantic value of capacity found in the corpus is the following: *Chatelle: "Neymar peut déstabiliser un vestiaire"* [Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018].

(37) La septième défaite des Rouges *les fait tomber de Charybde en Scylla* compromettant les chances d'un redressement. [Aujourd'hui le Maroc – 12/02/2018]

Besides *faire + infinitive*, Lablanche (2008: 28) considers other periphrastic constructions, such as *laisser + infinitive* and *voir + infinitive*. In the corpus, there are seven periphrases whose auxiliary verb is *laisser* and six periphrasis with *voir*.

Lablanche calls these constructions *périphrases diathétiques*, since they evidence the passive diathesis of the subject. The subject of *laisser + infinitive* is considered a passive actant of the process, whereas the subject of *voir + infinitive* is considered a passive spectator of the process (Denis & Sancier-Chateau, 1994: 402). Fragment (38) presents an example of *laisser + infinitive*, while fragment (39) shows an example of *voir + infinitive*.

(38) Au moins la rapide levée de l'incertitude quant à sa présence, demain, a-t-elle évité de *laisser mariner le groupe dans un entre-deux pénible*: il faudra faire sans ce supplément d'homme et trouver d'autres ressources. [Le Monde – 05/03/2018]

(39) D'ailleurs, il s'agit d'un match qui a opposé un Raja en haut du tableau à un Wydad qui peine à remonter la pente et se limite à une 12ème position qui ne gratifie en rien son excellent parcours en 2017 et qui *l'a vu remporter son 19ème titre de champion du Maroc et sa deuxième Ligue des Champions*. [Aujourd'hui le Maroc – 12/02/2018]

Moreover, we register the periphrasis *sembler + infinitive* two times. This has a semantic value of similarity. An example of this is observed in fragment (40). This auxiliary verb *sembler* is very helpful in journalism to express the opinion of the reporter not committing himself/herself with what it is written.

(40) La participation défensive limitée de la star, qui *a semblé atteindre par contagion ses compères Edinson Cavani et Kylian Mbappé*, tend d'abord à fragiliser l'équilibre défensif du PSG. [Le Monde – 05/03/2018]

Finally, there is the periphrasis *penser + infinitive* that is also registered twice in the corpus. This has a semantic value of intentionality. Fragment (42) shows an example of this periphrasis. Denis & Sancier-Chateau (1994: 401) consider this periphrasis presents a process almost effective, but not actually done.

(41) Mais le Real poussait encore et *pensait arracher les prolongations dans les arrêts de jeu (90e+1) grâce à Zamorano (3–1)*. [Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018]

Tab. 20: Distribution of prepositions and prepositional locutions in purpose clauses

Preposition/ prepositional locution	Cases
Pour	67
Afin de	2
En vue de	1
Dans le but de	1
Total	71

All these modalization periphrases display a deductive epistemic commitment structural value, except for *sembler + infinitive* and *penser + infinitive* which have a perceptive epistemic commitment, as it is seen in Tab. 20.

The most important characteristic of modalization periphrases is that they do not present reality as it is, but a similarity or a proximity to it, as stated by Fernández de Castro (1999, 2003) in the structural and semantic values of these periphrases.

Infinitive clauses with a junction purpose

Infinitive clauses with a junction objective represent the third most productive category of infinitives in the French-language corpus. We register a total of 99/440 infinitive clauses with this function in the corpus.

Le Monde is the newspaper that uses more infinitive clauses with a junction purpose with thirty-three clauses. The Belgian newspaper *La Dernière Heure* uses these clauses twenty-seven times. Moreover, in *Le Journal de Québec*, we register these infinitive clauses fourteen times. Finally, in the Moroccan newspaper *Aujourd'hui le Maroc* and the Algerian newspaper *El Moudjahid*, there are thirteen and twelve infinitive clauses displaying a junction purpose correspondingly. These results can be observed in Chart 23.

There are only five semantic values that we identify in the corpus in French. These values are purpose, temporality, exclusion, concession, and consequence. The most productive semantic value that infinitive clauses display in the corpus are those of purpose with seventy-one frequencies. They are followed by the clauses that display temporality with a total of fifteen infinitives. We register eight infinitive clauses with a meaning of exclusion. Next, we summarize three consequence clauses. Finally, there are two concession clauses. This can be observed in Chart 24.
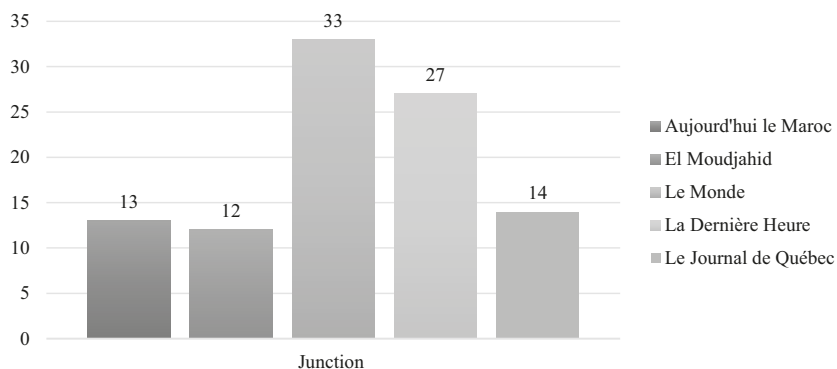
Chart 23: Frequencies of infinitive clauses with a junction purpose
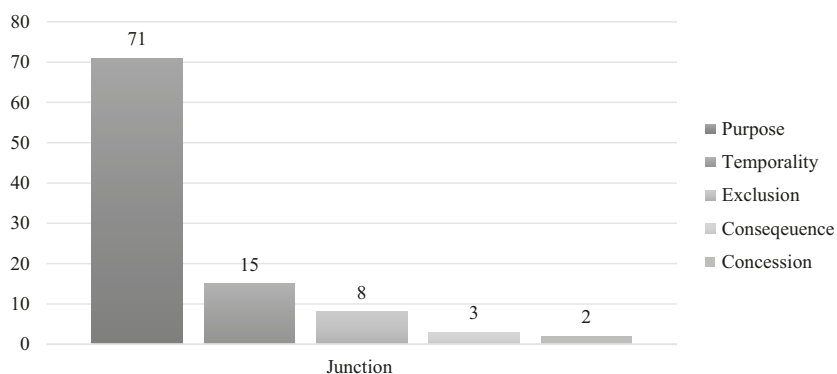
Chart 24: Distribution of the semantic values of infinitive clauses in the French-language corpus

Infinitive clauses with a meaning of purpose

As stated before, infinitive clauses that display a meaning of purpose are the most productive of this corpus with seventy-one frequencies. There are four nexuses that precede the infinitive phrase to express purpose. These nexuses are the preposition *pour* with sixty-seven frequencies, the prepositional locutions *afin de*, two times, *en vue de* and *dans le but de* with one frequency each. This can be seen in Tab. 20.

According to Hernanz, these clauses "[d]esde el punto de vista semántico, se caracterizan por expresar la finalidad o intención que motivan la acción expresada en la oración principal. Se interpretan, por tanto, como posteriores a esta; de ahí su carácter prospectivo y virtual" (1999: 2313).

In fragments (42) and (43), there are two infinitive phrases preceded by the preposition *pour*, which is, by far, the most productive preposition in the corpus. The only meaning that this preposition offers to the infinitive clause is purpose. In example (42), the infinitive clause occupies a postverbal position regarding the main clause, whereas in example (43), the infinitive clause occupies a preverbal position concerning the main clause.

(42) Après les Jeux olympiques de Pyeongchang, Alex Harvey se retrouve maintenant en Scandinavie *pour conclure le calendrier de la Coupe du monde*. [Le Journal de Québec – 28/02/2018]

(43) *Pour vaincre le Real Madrid*, le PSG doit croire en son Angel [La Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018]

Fragment (44) shows an infinitive phrase preceded by the prepositional locution *afin de*. The whole infinitive clause displays a purpose meaning. The infinitive clause is placed after the main clause: *a quitté momentánément* […].

(44) Le joueur de premier but des Cubs de Chicago Anthony Rizzo a quitté momentanément le camp d'entraînement de son équipe en Arizona, *afin de retrouver les membres de sa famille en Floride*, à la suite de la fusillade survenue dans son ancienne école secondaire mercredi à Parkland. [Le Journal de Québec – 15/02/2018]

Example (45) presents an infinitive phrase that is preceded by *en vue de*, a prepositional locution that has a purpose meaning. The infinitive clause is situated after the main clause: *a relevé* […].

(45) Pour sa part, le président de la Fédération royale marocaine de football (FRMF), M. Fouzi Lekjaa, a relevé que la force du dossier du Maroc réside dans l'appui des pays africains à cette candidature *en vue de réaliser le rêve d'un continent* […] [Aujourd'hui le Maroc – 06/03/2018]

Fragment (46) presents an infinitive phrase preceded by the prepositional locution of purpose *dans le but de*. The infinitive clause is placed before the main clause *il est d'une importance supreme* […].

(46) *Dans le but de préserver l'image et la crédibilité du cyclisme*, il est d'une importance suprême que face à la situation que présente un contrôle

Tab. 21: Distribution of prepositions and prepositional locutions
in time clauses

Preposition/ prepositional locution	Cases
Avant de	12
Après	3
Total	15

antidopage positif ou anormal, la procédure soit identique que le cou-
reur soit membre ou non-membre d'une équipe qui adhère au MPCC. [La
Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018]

Infinitive clauses with a meaning of temporality

Infinitive clauses with a meaning of temporality are the second most produc-
tive of the French-language corpus with a total of fifteen frequencies. There are
only two nexuses that express temporality in the corpus, the prepositional phrase
avant de with twelve frequencies and the preposition *après* with three frequen-
cies. This can be observed in Tab. 21.

In fragment (47), appears an example of an infinitive phrase preceded by the
prepositional locution *avant de*. The aforementioned nexus expresses that the
action of the main clause is executed before the moment expressed by the infin-
itive clause.

(47)   Les locaux ont ouvert la marque dès la première minute du jeu par le biais
       de Zouheir El Moutaraji, *avant de doubler la mise par Adam Ennaffati*
       (53è). [Aujourd'hui le Maroc – 06/03/2018]

Example (48) presents an infinitive phrase preceded by the preposition *après*.
The whole temporal clause denotes posteriority regarding the action of the main
verb *se montrer.* The infinitive clause is placed before the main clause.

(48)   *Après avoir passé en revue tous les aspects liés à la préparation de cet impor-
       tant rendez-vous sportif africain*, qui devrait enregistrer la participation
       de quelques 4.000 athlètes, le ministre s'est montré intransigeant sur les
       délais de réhabilitation des différentes infrastructures sportives afin qu'elles
       soient prêtes le jour J. [El Moudjahid – 04/03/2018]

Tab. 22: Preposition in exclusion clauses

Prepositional locution	Cases
Sans	8
Total	8

Tab. 23: Prepositional locution in consequence clauses

Preposition	Cases
Au point de	3
Total	3

Infinitive clauses with a meaning of exclusion

In the French-language corpus, we register a sum of eight infinitive clauses with a meaning of exclusion. According to Hernanz (1999: 2317), these clauses could belong to modal subordinates; however, this group of subordinates has diffuse borders and lacks a homogenous analysis in grammars. Consequently, we prefer to adopt Raible's (1992) proposal, in which he states that this preposition followed by an infinitive phrase denotes a meaning of exclusion. All these clauses present one single nexus which is the preposition *sans*, as it is observed in Tab. 22.

Example (49) shows two infinitive phrases preceded by the preposition *sans*, both infinitive clauses are situated after the main clause *Liverpool a dominé*. "Suivi de l'infinitif, *sans* est l'inverse du gérondif (*sans boire* vs *en buvant*), mais il n'est pas exactement pour autant l'équivalent du gérondif négatif" (Riegel et al., 2001: 512).

(49) Un match crucial dans la course au podium de la Premier League, trop important en tout cas pour risquer mardi le serial buteur Mohamed Salah et le défenseur le plus cher du monde Virgil Van Dijk. Comme prévu, Liverpool a dominé *sans se faire mal*, se procurant quelques occasions, *sans jamais concrétiser*. [La Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018]

Infinitive clauses with a meaning of consequence

In the French-language corpus, there are only three infinitive clauses that have a meaning of consequence. All of them have the prepositional locution *au point de*, as it is observed in Tab. 23.

Tab. 24: Prepositional locution in adversity clauses

prepositional locution	Cases
Au lieu de	2
Total	2

In example (50), the infinitive phrase *d'en oublier pas mal de fautes en route* is preceded by the prepositional locution *au point de*. The infinitive clause displays a meaning of consequence regarding the main verb which is constituted by the verbal periphrasis *laisser jouer*.

(50) Les deux équipes ont en tout cas proposé suffisamment de variations dans le jeu pour prouver que le rugby gagnant aujourd'hui se joue debout et à toute berzingue, d'autant plus quand un arbitre laisse jouer *au point d'en oublier pas mal de fautes en route*. [Le Monde – 12/02/2018]

Infinitive clauses with a meaning of adversity

In the corpus in French, there are only two adversity clauses, both present the prepositional locution *au lieu de*, as it is observed in Tab. 24.

On the one hand, Murray (1997) states that adversity is a generic concept that considers both adversative and concessive clauses, since there is no big difference between them. Therefore, propositions introduced by *tandis que* or *bien que* are considered as adversative, since both express a contrast without taking into account the syntactic differences between them.

On the other hand, Lehmann (2004) differentiates adversative and concessive clauses. According to the author, adversative clauses present two entities in order to establish a contrast or a difference between them, whereas concessive clauses recognize an unexpected consequence that can be expressed with utterances of the form *Q although P*.

In this corpus, we did not find any infinitive clauses that express concession. As it was mentioned before, we only register two infinitive clauses that belong to the adversative semantic value. In example (51), there is an infinitive phrase preceded by the prepositional locution *au lieu de*.

(51) Cette fois, la McLaren-Renault est bien la monoplace qui a le moins tourné. *Au lieu de rattraper le temps perdu*, l'écurie de Woking accumule les ennuis. [La Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018]

According to Riegel et al. (2001: 510), infinitive clauses with a junction purpose of condition or cause are rare. We confirm this, since we did not find any infinitive clauses with semantic values of condition or cause.

Independent infinitive constructions

According to Denis & Sancier-Chateau (1994: 293–294), Rémi-Giraud (1988: 48), Turner (2000: 3–34), Riegel et al. (2001: 334), and Grevisse & Goose (2005: 1275–1276), there are four types of independent infinitive constructions. "Quatre types de phrases peuvent comporter un groupe verbal constitué autour d'un verbe à l'infinitif présent" (Riegel et al., 2001: 334). These constructions are (a) the narration infinitive, (b) the deliberative infinitive, (c) the exclamatory infinitive, and (d) the injunctive infinitive. Quintero Ramírez (2014) adds a fifth type of infinitive construction: the performative infinitive.

The narration infinitive is used in a declarative or assertive sentence. It is usually used to present the turn-taking shift (Englebert, 1998: 78) in a dialogic text or simply to announce a speech act of one of the participants in the communication. An example of narration infinitive is the following: *Le curé en oublia sa gravité, et le frère de l'hôte de faire le triste* (Englebert, 1998: 46).

The deliberative infinitive, which is called interrogative infinitive in this book, has two possibilities of constructions according to Turner (2000): (a) infinitive phrase preceded by an interrogative pronoun, such as *Pourquoi choisir un dentifrice naturel?* (Quintero Ramírez, 2018: 152), and (b) infinitive phrase with the question mark or the intonation, i.e., without any interrogative pronoun: *Faire ou ne pas faire de dictées?* (Quintero Ramírez, 2018: 153).

The exclamative infinitive is very similar to the interrogative one. "La seule différence entre l'énoncé 'interrogatif' et l'énoncé 'exclamatif' de ce type se trouve dans le schéma prosodique qui lui est donné, celui-ci étant signalé dans la typographie par la présence du point d'interrogation ou par le point d'exclamation" (Turner, 2000: 10): *Je suis tellement émue. Elle, écrire une chose pareille, elle est pro!* (Quintero Ramírez, 2018: 153).

The injunctive infinitive has a meaning of a general and impersonal instruction (Turner, 2000: 15; Grevisse & Goose, 2005: 1276). That is why the situational context, and more particular the textual genre where this infinitive is used plays an important role in its unique and clear interpretation: *Une fois les oignons réduits, ajouter le riz […]* (Quintero Ramírez, 2018: 151)

Finally, the performative infinitive is used exclusively with communicative verbs in order to present a speech act that the author of a text is performing in the exact moment he/she speaks. "Cet infinitif s'interprète comme une construction
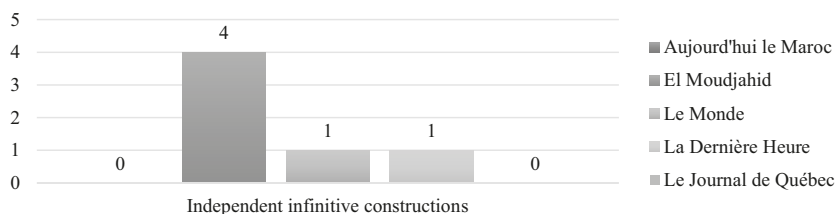
Chart 25: Frequencies of independent infinitive constructions

performative à la première personne du singulier au présent de l'indicatif car quand l'auteur d'un texte énonce cet infinitif, il réalise l'action désignée par le verbe. Cette construction infinitive se situe dans un niveau différent du contenu propositionnel du texte, parce que son but est de mettre en évidence son organisation textuelle, de présenter une évaluation de ce contenu ou même d'exhorter le récepteur à faire quelque chose. Autrement dit, sa fonction pragmatico-textuelle est clairement métacommunicative" (Quintero Ramírez, 2014: 2159). An example of this infinitive is the following: *Tout simplement remercier M. le Président pour son profond discour* (Quintero Ramírez, 2014: 2152).

In the French-language corpus of our research, there are only six independent infinitive constructions, four of them are written in the Algerian newspaper *El Moudjahid*. One more is used in the French newspaper *Le Monde* and another one is employed in the Belgian newspaper *La Dernière Heure*. Sports journalists of *Aujourd'hui le Maroc* and *Le Journal de Québec* do not use these independent constructions in their texts. This can be observed in Chart 25.

From all the variety of independent infinitive constructions in the French language, only two types of them appear in the corpus. Certainly, five infinitive constructions have an imperative function and one construction has an interrogative value.

Fragment (52) presents an example of an infinitive construction with imperative function. The independent construction is constituted by the preposition *à* + the infinitive *noter* + a finite subordinate clause. We consider that the combination of the infinitive with the preposition *à* provides the whole construction a larger compulsory and comminatory meaning, as it happens in Spanish (Hernanz, 1999: 2339). "Nous considérons que ces infinitifs peuvent être interprétés comme des ordres à une force obligatoire plus ferme que ceux qui ne sont pas précédés de préposition. Cette idée est renforcée par l'incompatibilité de ces constructions avec la formule d'atténuation *s'il vous plaît*" (Quintero Ramírez, 2018: 160).

This infinitive is used by the sports journalist in order to call readers' attention, since any reader is the potential receiver of this injunction. "Par conséquent, tout 'lecteur', qui est donc un sujet potentiel du procès, s'identifie à ce sujet et nous arrivons à l'interprétation de l'énoncé en tant qu'injonction 'de portée générale'" (Turner, 2000: 13).

(52) Les représentants algériens dans les différentes compétitions continentales s'apprêtent à disputer leurs rencontres du second tour préliminaire. Ainsi, en coupe de la CAF, le Chabab de Belouizdad accueille la formation zambienne du FC Nkana, troisième de son championnat la saison écoulée. *À noter que le championnat zambien qui s'est terminé au mois de janvier dernier n'a toujours pas repris.* [El Moudjahid – 04/03/2018]

Fragment (53) shows the only example of interrogative infinitive that we registered in the whole corpus. The infinitive does not present a question mark; however, its structural configuration is prototypical of these constructions: interrogative pronoun *de quoi* + infinitive + verb complements.

(53) Quatrième sur la Toro Rosso dotée du Honda V6 dont personne ne voulait plus, Pierre Gasly a continué à surprendre tout le monde avec un moteur performant puisqu'il pointe à moins de six dixièmes. *De quoi se poser d'autant plus de questions chez McLaren que Stoffel Vandoorne n'a pu boucler que 37 tours, sept le matin et trente l'après-midi (plus un sur la dépanneuse).* Pour la troisième fois en cinq jours, la MCL33 s'est montré défaillante. [La Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018]

Lexicalized and grammaticalized infinitives

As it is specified in the first chapter of the book, in this section we take into account infinitives in their most nominal use, i.e., nominalized infinitives that are already lexicalized as nouns and have their own entries in dictionaries. Besides, we take into consideration infinitive phrases, clauses or constructions that are used as fixed expressions because of a lexicalization process. Finally, we consider infinitive phrases, clauses or constructions that have been grammaticalized and are currently used as structural words.

In the French-language corpus, there are fifteen lexicalized infinitives. From these, there are seven in the Belgian newspaper *La Dernière Heure*. Other four lexicalized infinitives are used in the French newspaper *Le Monde*. Moreover, there are two infinitives in *Aujourd'hui le Maroc*. Finally, *El Moudjahid* and *Le Journal de Québec* use one infinitive each. This can be observed in Chart 26.
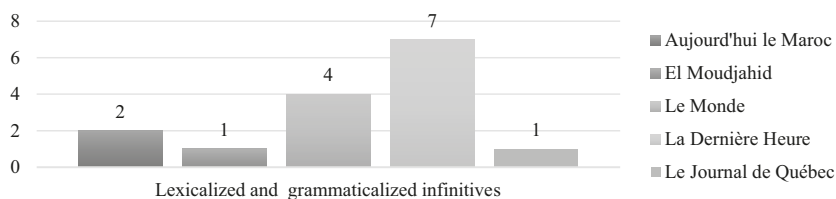
Chart 26: Frequencies of lexicalized and grammaticalized infinitives

In fragments (54), there is an example of grammaticalized infinitive. This is constituted by the preposition *à* + the infinitive *savoir*. This infinitive is used as a discourse marker, more specifically as a sentence connector that precedes an explanation or clarification, as it happens in the example. Indeed, this infinitive is used in order to organize the journalist's discourse.

(54) "Dans l'attente de ce changement de réglementation, le Conseil d'Administration demande à l'UCI de modifier son règlement World Tour, *à savoir* de donner la possibilité aux organisateurs de récuser un coureur qui serait confronté à une procédure disciplinaire pour un contrôle positif ou anormal", conclut le MPCC. [Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018]

Fragments (55) and (56) present two examples of noun phrases constituted by a noun, *match* and *manche* correspondingly, + the infinitive *aller*. In both cases, the infinitive in question plays the role of a determiner, more particularly of an intensional determiner (cf. Seiler, 1986: 9), since it characterizes the noun it precedes, presenting a specific attribute or property of the noun in question (*match/manche*), i.e., the first of two legs in a football tournament.

(55) Remplaçant lors du *match aller*, le défenseur brésilien pourrait retrouver sa place de titulaire, mardi, contre le club madrilène, en huitièmes de finale retour de Ligue des champions. [Le Monde – 09/02/2018]

(56) Son apport fut insuffisant lors de la défaite (3–1) contre le Bayern Munich, en décembre, et surtout lors de la *manche aller* face au Real Madrid. [Le Monde – 06/03/2018]

In fragment (57), there is another example of the same infinitive examined in (55) and (56). However, in this example, the infinitive does not play the role of a determiner, but of a noun, since it is preceded only by the extensional determiner *l'* (definite article). This nominalized infinitive which is already lexicalized as a noun refers once again to the first of two legs in a football tournament.

(57) Envoyé en première ligne pour déminer le terrain médiatique avant la réception au Parc des Princes des Merengue, vainqueurs (3–1) à *l'aller*, le Portugais a expliqué que le joueur le plus cher du monde, recruté 222 millions d'euros en août 2017, pouvait « aider » le PSG « de l'extérieur ». [Le Monde – 06/03/2018]

In example (58), there is the infinitive *dire* preceded by the verb *vouloir*. The verb phrase constitutes a lexicalized infinitive, since it has the following meaning: to denote (*dénoter*), to have the meaning of (*signifier*).

(58) «La Ligue des champions *veut dire* beaucoup pour nous. Nous allons essayer de jouer avec le même sérieux que celui affiché ce soir» contre Getafe (victoire 3–1) en Championnat d'Espagne, a déclaré Ramos à la chaîne espagnole. [El Moudjahid – 05/03/2018]

Conclusions

As it was stated at the beginning of this chapter, in the French-language corpus, there is a total of 440 infinitives. From all functions that infinitives can play in the language, we identify three functions which are the most predominant of the corpus. In first instance, infinitive phrases in a noun role constitute the most prominent function with 190/440 frequencies which represent 43.18% of the corpus. In this function, the most productive sub-function of the infinitive phrase is as verb complement with a total of 121/440 occurrences, this is 27.5%.

The second most predominant function in the French corpus is the infinitive phrase preceded by an auxiliary verb that plays a role of verbal periphrasis. Indeed, there are 130/440 verbal periphrases in the corpus, this means 29.54%. From verbal periphrases, the most productive ones are those that have a modalization meaning, since we register a total of 110/440 infinitives in modalization periphrases, this is 25% of the corpus.

The third most recurrent function of infinitives in the corpus in French language is constituted by infinitive clauses with a junction purpose with a total of 99/440 clauses, this is translated into 22.50% of the corpus. The most frequent infinitive clauses are those of purpose with a sum of 71/440 tokens which are 16.14%.

Infinitives that have been lexicalized as nouns, infinitive phrases that are used as fixed expressions and infinitive constructions that have been grammaticalized as structural words constitute 3.41% of the corpus, since there is a total of 15/440 of lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitives.

Finally, there are only 6/440 independent infinitive constructions in the corpus which represent 1.36%. The most recurrent independent construction is the injunctive infinitive with 5/440 frequencies (1.14%).

IV English corpus analysis

In this chapter, the English-language corpus is examined. As we proceeded in the previous chapters, infinitive phrases, clauses and constructions are analyzed according to the following classification: (a) infinitive phrases in a noun role, (b) infinitive phrases in a verb role, (c) infinitive clauses with a junction purpose, (d) independent infinitive constructions, and (e) lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitives.

We will review the frequencies of each function of infinitives registered in the corpus. Firstly, general facts of the English-language corpus are presented. Secondly, more specific data, particularly frequencies of infinitives found in each newspaper are shown.

Then, each main function of the infinitives in the corpus is discussed. First, infinitive phrases according to their two main roles are examined, in more specific terms, those infinitives that play a noun role and a verb role. Then, we analyze infinitive clauses with a junction goal. Finally, independent constructions of infinitives and lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitives are studied.

In order to analyze each function of infinitive phrases, clauses and constructions, we present a series of examples and confront those examples with theoretical elucidations of previous research. Furthermore, examples are not shown in the framework of the sentence, but within a more communicative framework in which we include an extensive cotext, so that an exhaustive explanation about its function can be offered.

In the English-language corpus, a total of 901 infinitives are identified. From the five main functions that infinitives can assume, the most prominent one is in a verb role, explicitly as verbal periphrasis with 447 infinitive phrases which correspond to 49.61% of the corpus in the English language.

Furthermore, infinitive phrases that play a noun role constitute the second most copious function of the corpus with a total of 383 infinitive phrases, this represents 42.51% of the corpus.

Besides, infinitive clauses with a purpose of junction represent the third most recurrent function of infinitives with a sum of 62 clauses. These numbers correspond to 6.88% of the corpus.

In addition, there are only 5 independent infinitive constructions which barely imply 0.55% of the corpus. Finally, lexicalized and grammaticalized infinitives are found only 4 times in the corpus, this is translated into 0.44%. Chart 27 summarizes frequencies of the main functions of infinitives found in the corpus.
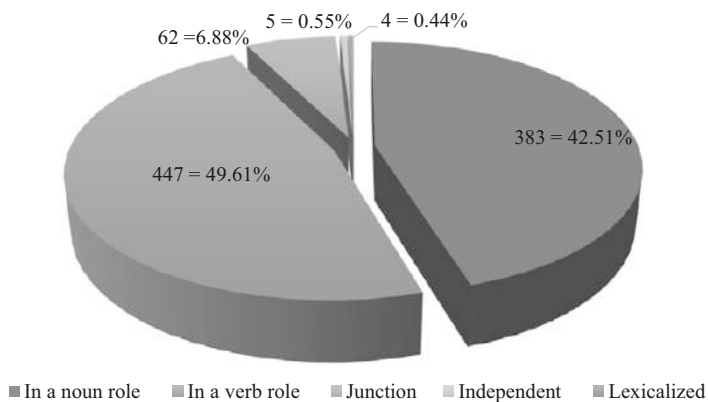
Chart 27: Frequencies of infinitives in the English-language corpus
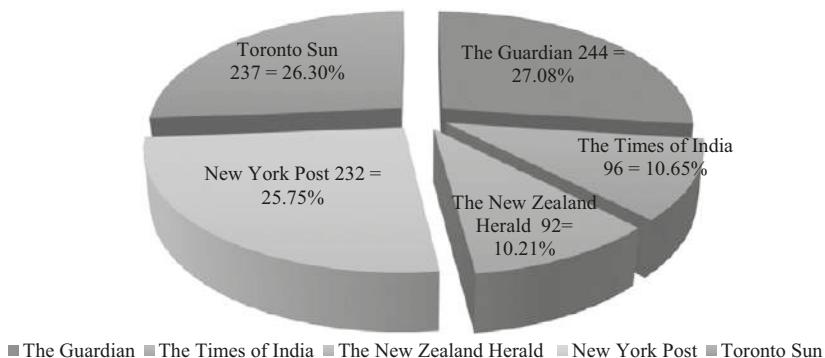
Chart 28: Distribution of infinitives in each newspaper of the English-language corpus

Infinitives in each newspaper are not evenly distributed. Firstly, the British newspaper *The Guardian* employs 244 infinitives in its sports articles, this constitutes 27.08% of the English-language corpus.

Secondly, the Canadian newspaper *Toronto Sun* uses a total of 237 infinitives that represent 26.30% of the corpus. Thirdly, in the American newspaper *New York Post*, there are 232 infinitives, this means 25.75% of the corpus.

Finally, *The Times of India* and *The New Zealand Herald* use 96 (10.65%) and 92 (10.21%) infinitives in their sports articles correspondingly. Chart 28 shows

the distribution of infinitives in each newspaper of the corpus in the English language.

According to the frequencies of the functions in each newspaper, *The Guardian* is notable not only because it is the newspaper with the highest number of infinitives, but also because the British newspaper produces the most numerous infinitive phrases in a verb role with a total of 132 infinitives.

As well, *Toronto Sun* is the newspaper with the most infinitive phrases in a noun role with 111 infinitives. Moreover, the Canadian newspaper is the most productive in infinitive phrases as verb complement with 56 recurrences and as noun complement with 35 frequencies. *Toronto Sun* distinguishes from the other newspapers because it is the only one that uses 2 lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitives, whereas the other newspapers don't use these at all or use them only once in their sports articles.

Furthermore, the *New York Post* is the most prolific newspaper in the production of infinitive clauses with a junction purpose with a sum of 15 clauses. Besides, the American newspaper is the one that produces more infinitive phrases as adjective complements with 20.

The New Zealand Herald is the only newspaper that produces 2 independent infinitive constructions, since the other newspapers use them only once or don't use them at all. Moreover, the New Zealander newspaper is the least productive of infinitives in its sports articles.

Finally, the most distinguished characteristic of *The Times of India* is that it is the only newspaper that does not produce any infinitive phrases as adjective complements, nor any independent infinitive constructions, nor any lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitives in its sports articles. Chart 29 shows the distribution of the main functions of infinitives registered in the English-language corpus.

Infinitive phrases in a noun role

Infinitive phrases in a noun role constitute the second most prominent function registered in the sports newspaper articles published in the English-language corpus with 383/901 infinitives, these infinitives constitute a 42.51% of the corpus.

The most productive infinitive phrase is the one in a verb complement, since there are 202/901 infinitives with this function, this represents 22.42% of the corpus, and 52.74% of the infinitive phrases in a noun role.

	The Guardian	The Times of India	The New Zealand Herald	New York Post	Toronto Sun
■ IP in a noun role	97	34	46	95	111
■ IP in a verb role	132	50	33	120	112
■ Junction	13	12	11	15	11
Independent	1	0	2	1	1
■ Lexicalized	1	0	0	1	2
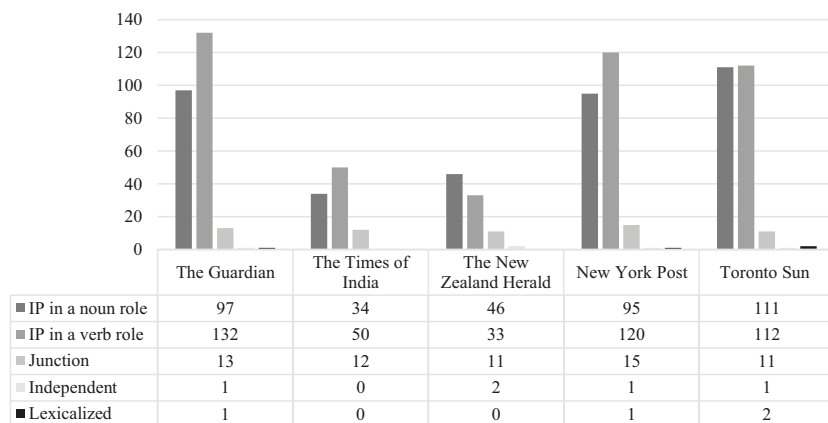
Chart 29: Distribution of the functions of infinitives in English

There are 96/901 infinitive phrases that display a noun complement function. This corresponds to 10.65% of the corpus, and 25.07% of the infinitives in a noun role.

In a third instance, there are 67/901 infinitive phrases that assume an adjective complement function within the sentence. This means 7.44% of the whole corpus, and 17.49% of the infinitive phrases of this section.

Finally, there are 18/901 infinitive phrases that display a function of subject or nominal predicate in the corpus. This implies 2 % of the corpus, and 4.7% of the infinitives in a noun role. This is observed in Chart 30.

Infinitive phrases as subjects or nominal predicates

In the English-language corpus, there are 18/901 (2%) infinitive phrases that behave as subjects or nominal predicates. Firstly, in *The Guardian* and the *New York Post*, sports journalists use these infinitive phrases five times each. Secondly, the Canadian newspaper *Toronto Sun* makes use of them four times. Thirdly, in the Indian newspaper *Times of India* we detect three infinitive phrases with this syntactic role. Finally, in *The New Zealand Herald*, sports journalists use these infinitive phrases only once in their articles. This can be observed in Chart 31.

For practical reasons of our study, it is important to establish that the infinitive form without the particle *to* will be called *bare infinitive*, whereas the form introduced by the particle *to* will be called full infinitive. "The bare infinitive and
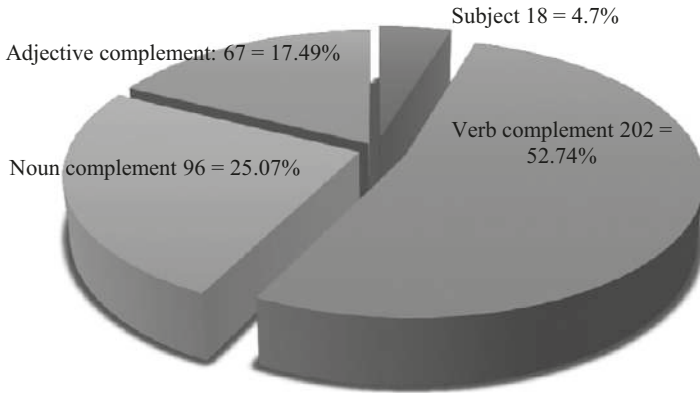
Chart 30: Distribution of infinitive phrases in a noun role
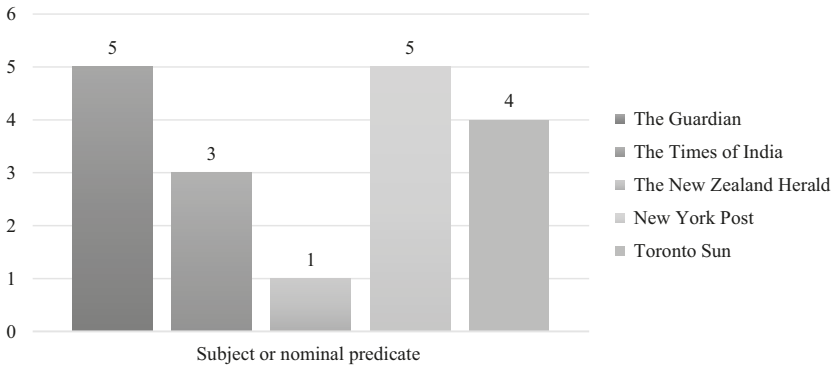
Chart 31: Frequencies of infinitive phrases as subjects or nominal predicates

the full infinitive have an assortment of uses that are regularly found in comple-mentary distribution" (Quintero, 2015: 185).

Gawelko (2005: 141) claims that the infinitive phrase as a verb subject is not so frequently used in the English language, since in this particular syntactic function, there is a tendency to use a gerund. Even if both forms, infinitive and gerund phrases, can occur as subjects of the same predicates, there are more gerunds than infinitives as subjects of a sentence.

On the one hand, according to Jespersen (1940: 193), gerund phrases tend to be used in sentences with a more general perspective, while infinitive phrases are

used to denote a particular situation. On the other hand, Duffley states that there is a more complex distinction in meaning and use between these two non-finite forms: "the distinction in meaning between these two constructions is more complex than that of a simple binary opposition" (Duffley, 2003: 350).

In this study, it is not our intention to contrast the use of infinitives and gerunds in the function of a subject. Therefore, we only focus on the infinitive phrases that are used as subjects or nominal predicates. The only reason we consider these two infinitive phrases, i.e., subjects and nominal predicates, as one function is because when the verb is a copula, such as the case of the verb *be*, the position that the infinitive phrase occupies has a more stylistic purpose than a syntactic one.

According to Quintero Ramírez (2015: 188), there can be bare and full infinitives in these two syntactic functions. Indeed, when the infinitive phrase occupies a preverbal position in the sentence, such as: *To answer this question requires commentary on MacIntyre's notion of virtue […]*, full infinitive is used. However, when the infinitive phrase occupies a postverbal position, bare and full infinitives may be used, for example: *all you have to do is clone the perfect blonde* and *what I propose to do is to examine the main fragments of that rubble.*

In our corpus the only bare infinitive we register in this function is the one in fragment (1), a quotation presented in the sports article. In the sentence, there are two infinitive phrases in the role of a nominal predicate, since they occupy a postverbal position. Both infinitive phrases are coordinated by the conjunction *and*. The first infinitive phrase is constituted by a full infinitive, whereas the second infinitive phrase is formed by a bare infinitive.

(1) "The key <u>was</u> *to stay really focused* and *do the basics well* because they are really good singles players and hit well from the back of the court." Sitak said. [The New Zealand Herald – 18/02/2018]

Moreover, seventeen out of eighteen infinitive phrases occupy a postverbal position. In all the examples, the verb is *be*. Those infinitive phrases are preceded by ten adjective phrases in the structure *it is + adjective + infinitive phrase*, as in example (2), seven noun phrases, as in fragment (3), and one adverb phrase, as in (4). In all of them, the infinitive phrase requires a full infinitive.

(2) It<u>'s</u> hard *to imagine a scenario in which the Reds emerge from The Volcano with a clean sheet*. [Toronto Sun – 12/03/2018]

(3) His challenge now, as one of only 12 British players in the 52-year history of the Open era to wear the domestic crown, <u>is</u> *to establish his own identity on the international stage* as the game enters a period of uncertainty
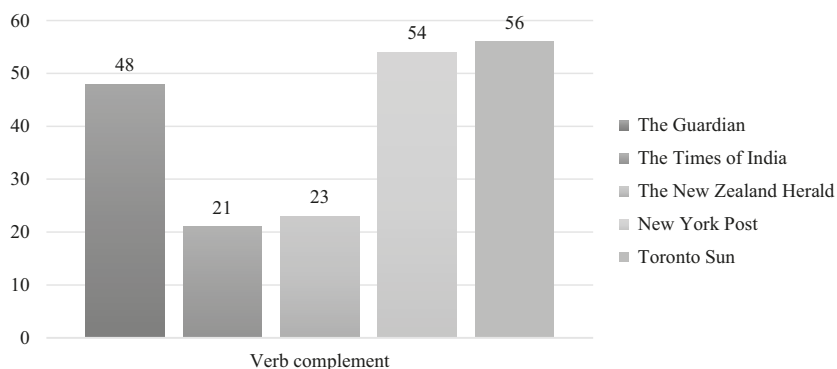
Chart 32: Frequencies of infinitive phrases as verb complements

not witnessed since before the rise of Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. [The Guardian – 04/03/2018]

(4) "It's a little too early *to think about that stuff*," Sanchez said. [New York Post – 08/03/2018]

The only infinitive phrase that occupies a preverbal position is observed in (5) in a direct quotation. The verb of the sentence is *be* and the postverbal position is occupied by an adjective phrase. In other words, the configuration of this sentence is *infinitive phrase + verb be + adjective phrase*. The infinitive phrase requires a full infinitive.

(5) "For me *to stand right here as world No. 1 in San Jose* is very, very special for me," Federer said. [The Times of India – 06/03/2018]

Infinitive phrases as verb complements

In the corpus of sports articles in English, there are 202/901 infinitive phrases that function as verb complements. This is the most recurrent function of infinitive phrases in a noun role. In the Canadian newspaper *Toronto Sun*, there are fifty-six infinitive phrases displaying this function. In the American newspaper *New York Post*, we detect fifty-four infinitives. Sports journalists of *The Guardian* use these infinitive phrases forty-eight times. Finally, there are twenty-three and twenty-one infinitive phrases with this function in *The New Zealand Herald* and *The Times of India* respectively. Chart 32 presents the frequencies of infinitive phrases as verb complements in the corpus.

As in the function of subject or nominal predicate, in English, the infinitive competes with the gerund form – *ing* in many syntactic functions, such as verb complement. Indeed, according to Mayerthaler et al. (2001) and Gawelko (2005), gerund phrases are found more frequently than infinitive phrases in most of the contexts of verb complements in the English language. This morphosyntactic characteristic means that infinitive constructions in most of the contexts are only possible but not obligatory.

Besides, Mayerthaler et al. (2001) assert that the gerund is used more in a general way, while the infinitive is only used in contexts that present a more specific situation, especially the explicit subject. In Quintero Ramírez (2015), there are examples in which the gerund phrase as verb complement refers to a potential action, i.e., an action that could take place in the future, whereas the gerund phrase describes a concluded action.

In the English-language corpus, we register a total of 62 types of verbs and 202 tokens. The most frequently used verbs that take infinitive phrases as verb complements are: *try* with twenty-four frequencies, *want* with twenty-three occurrences, *continue* with fourteen, *look* with twelve, *like* with nine, *appear* with eight, *manage* and *expect* with six each, and *hope* and *seem* with five each.

According to Mayerthaler et al. (2001), there is a long list of verbs that take infinitive phrases as complements. We divide these infinitive phrases into two main categories: (a) infinitive phrases whose subject is the same as the subject of the main verb, i.e., the configuration is the main verb followed by the infinitive phrase, (b) infinitive phrases whose subject is different than the one of the main verb, i.e., the configuration is *verb + direct object complement + infinitive phrase*. Moreover, another way to categorize these infinitive phrases is to determine if the non-finite form in question is bare infinitive or full infinitive.

Most verbs detected in the corpus are followed directly by an infinitive. Therefore, the infinitive phrase and the main verb have the same subject, as appreciated in examples (6–8). This happens with *try* (6), which is the most recurrent verb in the corpus, *continue* (7), and *look* (8).

(6) "When I first got down here there was a little soreness left in there but this past week especially, it's pain-free, no soreness," Judge told Yankees reporters. "I'm just <u>trying</u> *to maintain that* and *keep that rolling into the season*." [New York Post – 12/03/2018]

(7) Diaz <u>continues</u> *to settle in with the Jays*, where it doesn't hurt that he's flanked in the team clubhouse by two fellow Cubans […] [Toronto Sun – 12/03/2018]

(8) In 2004, Serena unveiled her own range of apparel under the label Aneres, her name spelled backwards, and it appears that she is now <u>looking</u> *to expand the company with a range of cosmetics*. [Toronto Sun – 12/03/2018]

There are a few verbs, such as *allow* (9), *enable* (10), *force* (11), *cause*, *bring*, *call*, and *invite* that are followed by a noun phrase that plays the role of a direct object complement of the main verb, and at the same time is the subject of the infinitive phrase.

(9) "In any case, we will not <u>allow</u> all this effort *to be endangered*, we will not *allow phenomena of the past to be resurrected.*" [Toronto Sun – 12/03/2018]

(10) The Rangers (30–32–7) lost when Henrik Lundqvist was beaten by Vincent Trocheck in the third round of the skills competition, <u>enabling</u> the Panthers (34–25–7) *to break their franchise record* with an eighth straight home victory. [New York Post – 10/03/2018]

(11) Kevin Love: panic attack <u>forced</u> me *to leave Cleveland Cavaliers game* [The Guardian – 06/03/2018]

The case of *want* and *like* is a little different, since in most of the examples they are directly followed by an infinitive phrase, as it happens in fragments (12) and (13). Nevertheless, there are a few exceptions in which both verbs are followed by a noun phrase that is their direct object complement, as in (14) and (15), and at the same time is the subject of the infinitive phrase.

(12) But Boyd is believed to have told NZF that he <u>wants</u> *to focus on his club career in Europe*, and at this stage, won't be available for the All Whites across the next cycle. [The New Zealand Herald – 02/03/2018]

(13) 'Spurs <u>like</u> *to attack* but sometimes allow the opposition chances' [The Guardian – 06/03/2018]

(14) "I think it's a great event. It's important to Major League Baseball and important to our game but I <u>want</u> the players *to do what's in their best interest.*" [New York Post – 08/03/2018]

(15) Aaron Boone would certainly <u>like</u> Judge *to avoid repeating the second-half swoon that may or may not have been caused by participating in the Home Run Derby* […] [New York Post – 08/03/2018]

Moreover, most verbs registered in the corpus are followed by a full infinitive, this is the case of examples (16–18). In fragment (16), the main verb is *like*. In (17), the verb is *appear*. In example (18), the verb is *manage*.

(16) Boone has suggested he would <u>like</u> *to plug a lefty in to break up the trio of right-handed sluggers* – Judge, Stanton and Gary Sanchez. [New York Post – 11/03/2018]

(17) The Reds <u>appear</u> *to have the toughest task of the three remaining MLS clubs.* [Toronto Sun – 12/03/2018]

(18) Wenger <u>managed</u> *to avoid losing four straight away games in his first 20 years at the club* but has now succumbed to that fate in two consecutive seasons. [The Guardian – 06/03/2018]

The only three verbs that are followed by a bare infinitive are *let* (19), *see* (20), and *make* (21). Another characteristic that these three verbs share is that they are followed by a noun phrase that plays the role of direct object complement of the main verb and at the same time the role of subject of the infinitive phrase.

(19) "We want to have the ball on the ground, keep it with the team and <u>let</u> the opponents *run a lot*, so we have a clear idea of how we want to play." [New York Post – 12/03/2018]

(20) "He might show up at some point during the season and what we want is when he's ready he forces his way into the lineup he never goes back (to the minors)," Gibbons said. "I've never <u>seen</u> a kid *make so much progress in a short period of time*." [Toronto Sun – 08/03/2018]

(21) […] a club whose outstanding achievement to date is to <u>make</u> Real Madrid *look like a paragon of egalitarian sporting virtue* […] [The Guardian – 06/03/2018]

The case of *help* is a little different, since there are examples in which it is followed by a bare infinitive, as in (22), and other examples in which it is followed by a full infinitive, as in (23). In both cases, the main verb is followed by a noun phrase that is its direct object complement. In their study, McEnery & Xiao (2005) discovered that American English has a stronger preference for bare infinitives after the verb *help* than British English. Quintero Ramírez (2015) registers more than the triple of examples with the bare infinitive than with the full infinitive in her study of infinitives in the BE06 corpus[16].

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16 The BE06 Corpus is a one-million-word reference corpus of British English that is constituted by 500 files of 2000 word samples of four main text genres: (a) press, (b) general prose, (c) learned writing and (d) fiction. These four genres are further subdivided into 15 sub-genres. All the texts were published between 2003 and 2007 and they can be found on the Internet. It is designated as British English 2006 (BE06) because the median sampling point is 2006 (Baker, 2009).
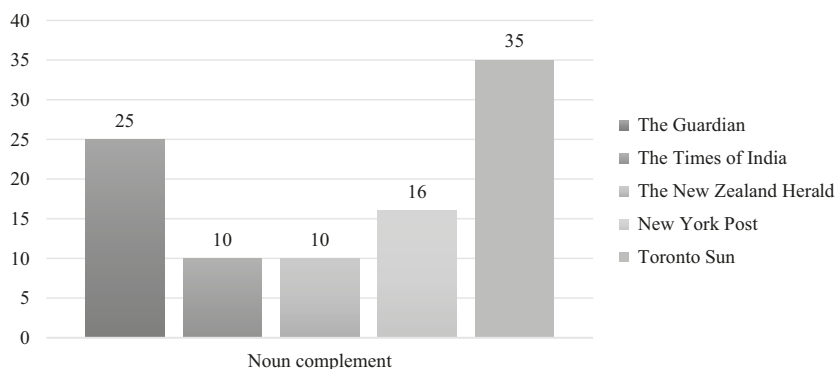
Chart 33: Frequencies of infinitive phrases as noun complements

(22) The Marsh brothers and Tim Paine, three Ashes selection masterstrokes who <u>helped</u> their side *reclaim* the urn during the past summer, responded with stubborn resistance. [The Guardian – 01/03/2018]

(23) Johnson believed such methods were effective in <u>helping</u> the players *to train harder*, but was unsure if it would prepare them sufficiently for 80 minutes of football under the hot sun. [The New Zealand Herald – 07/03/2018]

Infinitive phrases as noun complements

In the function of noun complement, we identify 96/901 infinitive phrases in the English-language corpus. All of them present the particle *to* as the nexus that links the infinitive phrase with the noun or noun phrase to which the infinitive is complement.

Gawelko (2005: 142) reveals that this function of the infinitive is common in Germanic and Romance languages. In the corpus, it is the second most productive function of the infinitive phrase that plays a noun role.

In the corpus, *Toronto Sun* is the newspaper with most infinitive phrases as noun complements with a sum of thirty-five. Secondly, sports journalists of *The Guardian* employ these infinitives twenty-five times in their newspaper articles. Thirdly, we register sixteen infinitive phrases with this function in the American newspaper *New York Post*. Finally, we detect ten infinitive phrases as noun complements in *The Times of India* and *The New Zealand Herald* respectively. Chart 33 shows these frequencies.

Infinitive phrases as noun complements form new noun complements that can play an assortment of functions within the sentence. Most of infinitive phrases in the English-language corpus play the role of a direct object complement, as can be seen in (24–26).

(24) "Sigurdsson created and then wasted a great <u>chance</u> *to restore Everton's lead*, slicing wide after manoeuvring his way through […]" [The New Zealand Herald – 04/03/2018]

(25) Following in the footsteps of beauty mogul Kylie Jenner, the sportswoman has also obtained <u>permission</u> *to trademark a line of make-up kits comprised of lipstick, lip gloss, eyeshadow, powder, foundation, eyeliner, and mascara*, and additionally received the <u>rights</u> *to create a haircare line under the brand name*, […] [Toronto Sun – 12/03/2018]

(26) But Diaz always wanted to be a successful pro in American baseball and believed he had the <u>talent</u> *to do*. [Toronto Sun – 12/03/2018]

One recurrent configuration found in the corpus is the following: verb *become* + noun + *to* + infinitive phrase, as can be seen in (27–29). All the nouns registered in the corpus are human, since the infinitive phrase denotes an action executed by the noun phrase that precedes the infinitive. According to Higgins (1973: 224–225), in its predicational meaning, the verb *become* behaves like an inchoative to the verb *be*. The noun phrase that follows the verb *become* is considered the predicate complement of this verb.

(27) He became the first <u>Kiwi</u> *to play in the Portuguese Primeira Liga* when he made his debut in August […] [The New Zealand Herald – 02/03/2018]

(28) Roger Federer added another highlight to his age-defying career resurgence Friday, returning to the top of the world rankings for the first time in more than five years and becoming the oldest <u>player</u> *to reach the top spot*. [Toronto Sun – 16/02/2018]

(29) Thanks to her memorable outing in Mexico, the 11th standard student has become one of the <u>youngest</u> *ever to win a senior World Cup gold medals for India*. [The Times of India – 06/03/2018]

Furthermore, it is also frequent to find that the new noun complements, constituted by the noun + *to* + infinitive phrase, play the role of a nominal predicate as in examples (30) and (31). In both cases, the verb that precedes the noun phrase is *be*.

(30) Speaking of which, it is <u>time</u> for Michael Grabner *to step up*, isn't it, now that a team in contention is actually relying on No. 40 to sprinkle in a goal or two here and there. [New York Post – 10/03/2018]

(31) The Swiss star, who at 36 is the oldest men's <u>player</u> *to be No. 1*, won the Australian Open in January for his 20th Grand Slam title. [The Times of India – 06/03/2018]

Finally, there are also some infinitive phrases in their role of noun complements, that linked to the noun they complement, become a noun phrase preceded by a preposition that becomes a prepositional phrase. This prepositional phrase plays the role of a circumstantial complement of time, as in (32), and of place, as in (33).

(32) Perhaps in the <u>months</u> *to come* the temptation will be there to ask what is the point of this club in its current state […]. [The Guardian – 06/03/2018]

(33) Everton had been in a strong <u>position</u> *to win the game at half-time* […] [The New Zealand Herald – 04/03/2018]

Infinitive phrases as adjective complements

In the function of adjective complement, 67/901 infinitive phrases appear in the corpus. As it happens with the noun complements, the only nexus that links the noun and the infinitive phrase is *to*.

The American newspaper *New York Post* is the most productive with infinitive phrases as adjective complements with a sum of twenty recurrences. In the second place, *The Guardian* presents nineteen of these infinitive phrases. In the third instance, *Toronto Sun*'s sports journalists employ sixteen infinitive phrases as adjective complements in their newspaper articles. In *The New Zealand Herald*, there are twelve infinitive phrases as complements of an adjective. Finally, *The Times of India*'s writers do not use these infinitives at all. Chart 34 presents the frequencies of infinitive phrases as adjective complements in the English-language corpus.

Fragments (34–36) show three examples of adjectives followed by the nexus *to* and an infinitive phrase. The main characteristic of these adjectives is that they are qualificative, more particularly, they display an evaluative trait, such as *ready* (34), *humbled* (35) and *unable* (36).

(34) Serena Williams <u>ready</u> *to serve up beauty brand 'Aneres'* [Toronto Sun – 12/03/2018]
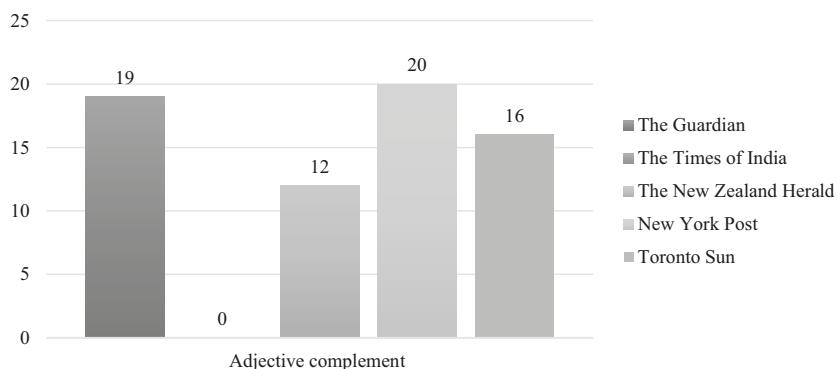
Chart 34: Frequencies of infinitive phrases as adjective complements

(35) Kyle Edmund '<u>humbled</u>' *to overtake Andy Murray into British No 1 spot*
[The Guardian – 04/03/2018]

(36) While <u>unable</u> *to comment on the upcoming Review Panel's findings*, Hayton
said he was prepared to accept his responsibility in the team's disappointing
performances. [The New Zealand Herald – 07/03/2018]

According to Gawelko (2005: 142), the adjective complement function of the
infinitive phrase along with the noun complement function are common in
Germanic and Romance languages.

Infinitive phrases in a verb role: as verbal periphrases

Verbal periphrases constitute the most productive infinitives of the corpus. There
is a sum of 447/901 verbal periphrases in the sports newspaper articles written in
English which represent almost half of the whole corpus (49.61%).

Before presenting the results obtained in this section, it is important to define
what a verbal periphrasis is in this research and differentiate these infinitives
from those that belong to the verb complement function. In the first instance,
a verbal periphrasis is defined as a complex syntactic and semantic unit that is
constituted by an auxiliary verb and an infinitive.

Consequently, in order to distinguish a verbal periphrasis and an infinitive
phrase that functions as a verb complement, it is imperative to define what an
auxiliary verb is. First, Payne (2011: 261) asserts: "auxiliaries and full lexical
verbs are two distinct types of syntactic entities."

Therefore, an auxiliary verb is defined by Diller (1988) as a verb that has a functional task in the sentence, i.e., to offer further syntactic or semantic information of the main verb in a sentence or a clause. The syntactic information it offers is related to mood and modality, voice, aspect and tense. In other words, an auxiliary verb, known also as a "helper verb," helps or modifies the main verb and its use in the sentence can accurate the meaning of the message.

Delahunty & Garvey (2010: 213) claim that auxiliary verbs always occur with a main verb, "though the main verb may be 'understood,' that is, omitted and implied." The term 'auxiliary' means that these verbs do not refer to actions or states, instead they 'help' main verbs to create a sentence.

Payne (2011: 261–265) presents four morphosyntactic "tests" to distinguish lexical verbs from auxiliaries. These tests are negation, inversion, code and emphasis. The first test involves the fact that in sentences with negative polarity, the adverb *not* must follow the first auxiliary of the sentence. The second test states that in interrogative sentences, the auxiliary must be inserted before the subject. The code test consists in the following: "in constructions that 'stand for' or 'code' a previously mentioned verb phrase, the first auxiliary is repeated (and inverted with the Subject)" (Payne, 2011: 264). Finally, Payne explains that "[i]n constructions in which the truth of the proposition is emphasized, the first auxiliary receives emphatic stress" (2011: 265).

According to Denison (2000), there is a continuum that is constituted by the concepts of full verb and auxiliary verb as cornerstones. The place that an auxiliary verb occupies along the continuum is based on the degree of a grammaticalization process through the history of the language. Indeed, auxiliary verbs constitute a very orderly and systematic area of syntax in English. "It is a truism that each of the items which can serve as an auxiliary is a development – historically speaking – out of some full-verb use, and it is reasonable to call all of them grammaticalised" (Denison, 2000: 112).

Therefore, along the continuum we can situate a considerable number of intermediate instances in which many modal verbs or verbs that can act as full verbs could be included depending on the context they are used. "Even where these matters are well understood it can be difficult to decide where on the scale from full verb to auxiliary a particular example falls – in other words, to pin down the degree of grammaticalisation involved" (Denison, 2000: 136).

Delahunty & Garvey (2010: 213) claim that *be* and *have* are the only two verbs considered strictly auxiliary. Moreover, there are what Delahunty & Garvey call *modal verbs*, these are *can*, *could*; *may*, *might*; *shall*, *should*; *will*, *would*; *must*; and *do*. This last verb has no meaning but behaves syntactically like a modal verb. Besides occupying the same sentential position that an auxiliary, modals express

a diversity of concepts such as obligation, possibility, permission, ability, intention, etc. (Delahunty & Garvey, 2010: 214).

A construction may have a series of auxiliaries. However, the first auxiliary in a sentence is the most important, since it is the one that denotes the tense, mood, person and number of the sentence. Moreover, in interrogative clauses, the first auxiliary is the one to be moved to the left of the subject. Finally, in sentences with negative polarity, the adverb *not* is characteristically placed after the first auxiliary (Delahunty & Garvey, 2010: 213–214).

As we have decided to consider Fernández de Castro's (1999) proposal to examine verbal periphrases in Spanish and French, we believe that this classification can also be used to categorize verbal periphrases in English, even if the auxiliary verbs in this language are very different from those considered in the other two.

Following Fernández de Castro (1999: 147–329, 2003: 20–21), verbal periphrases can be classified according to four categories: (a) gradation, (b) disposition, (c) quantification, and (d) modalization. The author formulates four questions so that the periphrasis can be classified accurately. The question for gradation periphrases is: in what part of the process? For disposition periphrases, the question is: what position does an action occupy in respect to other actions? For quantification periphrases, the question is: how is a fact repeated? Finally, modalization periphrases answer to the following question: how does a speaker engage himself/herself to what is uttered?

Once explained the classification for verbal periphrases in English, we expose the results obtained in the corpus. There is a total of 447 verbal periphrases in the English-language corpus. First, modalization periphrases are the most productive ones with a total of two hundred and thirty-eight periphrases, this represents 26.42% of the whole corpus, and 53.24% of the periphrastic constructions. Second, there are two hundred and nine gradation periphrases in the corpus, this means 23.2% of the whole corpus, and 47.76% of the infinitive phrases in a verb role. The distribution of modalization and gradation periphrases can be observed in Chart 35.

We believe that the absence of quantification and disposition periphrases in the English-language corpus can be explained for the reason that in the language, there are other linguistic strategies in order to indicate the repetition of an action and the position that an action occupies in respect to other actions. Indeed, for repetition of an action, there is a series of adverbs and adverbial phrases such as *again*, *frequently*, *often*, *occasionally*, *once more*, *over and over*, etc. For the position that an action has concerning other actions, there is a series of verbs that are
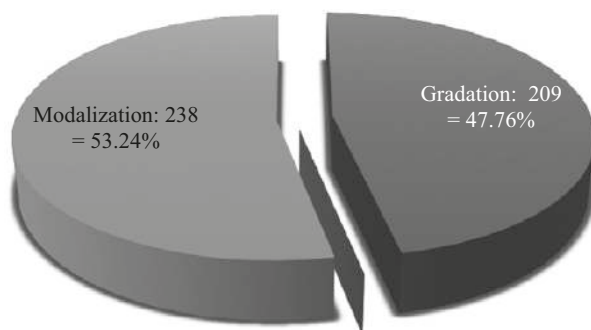
Chart 35: Classification of infinitive periphrases in English

Tab. 25: Gradation periphrases in the English-language corpus

Verbal periphrasis	Tokens	Semantic value	Structural value
Will + bare infinitive	109	Before the beginning	Imminent
Do/does + bare infinitive	40	Developing	Throughout
Did + bare infinitive	35	Perfective/imperfective	After the end
Be going + full infinitive	25	Before the beginning	Imminent

not auxiliary and do not form verbal periphrases, such as *tend + full infinitive*, *continue + full infinitive, end up + gerund*.

Gradation periphrases

In order to answer the question formulated by Fernández de Castro (1999, 2003) regarding in which part of the process an action situates, there are four types of periphrases in the sports newspaper articles written in English. The periphrases formed by the auxiliary verb *will + bare infinitive* are the most productive of this section with a sum of 109 tokens. They are followed by those constituted by *do/ does + bare infinitive* with forty tokens. Then, there are thirty-five periphrases with *did + bare infinitive*. Finally, we register twenty-five periphrases with the following configuration *be going + full infinitive*. This information is summarized in Tab. 25.

In fragments (37) and (38), there are two examples of infinitive periphrases displaying a structural value that presents the process of the action as imminent and a semantic value that situates the process before the beginning.

Bardovi-Harlig (2003: 30) claims that the main difference between *be going + full infinitive* and *will + bare infinitive* is a pragmatic one. The first periphrasis invokes present relevance and intentionality, while the second one conveys only future meaning.

(37) Toronto FC *will look to hold a narrow 2–1 lead* when it visits Tigres later that night. [Toronto Sun – 12/03/2018]

(38) "After the game, it'*s going to be difficult for one of the two teams*, but that is football," said Zidane. [The Times of India – 06/03/2018]

However, these periphrastic constructions can display more specific meanings depending on the cotext they are presented. Indeed, in example (39), the periphrasis *will + bare infinitive* presents the future action of a tennis player. However, the future action is at the same time conditioned by another action displayed by the conjunction *if* + present tense: *if he wins three matches*. In other terms, this periphrasis is also useful to express realistic hypotheses.

(39) This week the 36-year-old Swiss descends on Rotterdam and, if he wins three matches (he has lost only six in 29 here) *he will return to No 1 in the world*, taking the crown from Rafael Nadal, at least for a while. [The Guardian – 06/03/2018]

Moreover, it is possible to express probability and improbability through the addition of an adverb to the sentence in which the configuration *will + bare infinitive* is used. This is noticed in (40) and (41).

(40) The winner *will probably face Philipp Kohlschreiber or Karen Khachanov*. [The Guardian – 12/02/2018]

(41) They have not played before and *probably will not play again*. [The Guardian – 12/02/2018]

Miller states that *will* does not only express future but intention as well: "[i]t turns out that the *will* construction does not just place an event in future time but in many cases signals the intention of the speaker; *will* derives historically from a verb that was equivalent to *want* or *intend* and can still be used with this meaning" (2002: 148).

Gotty (2003: 290–291) claims that *will* is an auxiliary verb that expresses modality, since it can convey a meaning of volition, necessity, inference, possibility, prediction, and even a habit, depending on the text genre and the context in which it is used. In other terms, the periphrasis formed by *will + bare infinitive* can express deontic, epistemic and dynamic modalities. Therefore, it could be considered in the group of the modality periphrases. Nevertheless, in this

particular corpus, the main meaning displayed by this periphrasis is future, even if this meaning is complemented by probability or condition. Thus, we keep it in the group of gradation periphrases.

Regarding *be going + full infinitive*, the movement verb has lost its meaning of spatial displacement and has acquired a new meaning of time displacement, in which there is also a meaning of intention (Bardovi-Harlig, 2003: 30). Moreover, most of our examples, more particularly 22/25 (88%), present this periphrasis in the frame of a direct quote, as can be observed in fragments (42–44). In other words, we notice that sports journalists use this periphrasis specially to quote what a person of his/her article has uttered.

(42) "To each their own. I *am going to support our guys* whatever they decide. That's where I stand on it" Boone said. [New York Post – 08/03/2018]

(43) "It*'s not going to surprise me* if Toronto pulls this off," Gomez said. [Toronto Sun – 12/03/2018]

(44) "When you play ball in Cuba, that's serious business," Jays manager John Gibbons said. "There'*s not going to be a whole lot of things that bother you*, I wouldn't think." [Toronto Sun – 12/03/2018]

The periphrases constituted by *do/does + bare infinitive* are the second most productive of this group. Both auxiliary verbs are used for negative (45) and interrogative (46) sentences in present tense. However, in the corpus, there are also some sentences in positive polarity (47) which have an emphatic meaning.

(45) When I *don't want to meet people*, *don't want to play tournaments*, I can choose to do that. [The Guardian – 12/02/2018]

(46) Hey, what *do* you *do when you're wrestling for the umpteenth time?* [New York Post – 12/03/2018]

(47) To be fair to him, most owners limit their public comments. To be fair to you, he never says much of substance, anyway, even when he *does speak*. [New York Post – 12/03/2018]

Finally, in the corpus appear thirty-five periphrases with the auxiliary *did*. This auxiliary situates the process after the end, i.e., a past meaning. As it happens with *do/does*, this auxiliary is mostly used for negative (48) and interrogative (49) sentences. However, in the corpus, as it happens with *do/does*, there are also some sentences in positive polarity (50) with emphatic purposes.

Furthermore, Kopecká (2006: 78–79) states that simple past in English expresses completed actions or events referring to a single past point, but also immediate past, habitual past, and also a statement of common verity. In the corpus, it is more common to find a simple past referring to a past action with

perfective aspect (49); however, we also register some sentences that refer to a past action with imperfective aspect (48).

(48) Asked for a progress report, Judge said, "I was a little further along last spring, just because I *didn't have my [left shoulder] injury*. Right now, I'm still working on my swing. I'm just trying to be ready for Opening Day." [New York Post – 12/03/2018]

(49) *Did* I *plan* last year to play a light schedule? No. *Did* I *plan* to skip the clay-court season? No. *Did* I *plan* to win all these tournaments? No. It all happened organically. [The Guardian – 12/02/2018]

(50) "I *did think* Kelsey Smith had a great game today – she missed the first match through illness and added a lot of spark to our midfield." [The New Zealand Herald – 23/02/2018]

Modalization periphrases

Modalization periphrases constitute the most numerous of the corpus, since there are ten types and two hundred and thirty-eight tokens. The auxiliary verbs of these periphrases are the following: *can*, *could*, *may*, *might*, *should*, *would*, *need*, *have/has*, *had*, and *must*, as it is observed in Tab. 26.

The most productive modalization periphrasis in English is *can + infinitive* with sixty-one tokens. According to Payne (2011: 260), the auxiliary *can* has lost its morphosyntactic properties of a verb. Therefore, it has only one form and does not stand on its own as a main verb. Its semantic value is expression of possibility, although polysemy is common among modal verbs, since they can express several meanings. Ruppenhofer & Rehbein (2012: 1538) claim that the modal verb *can* has at least 3 meanings: (a) ability or potential to perform an action (in a dynamic use), (b) possibility or impossibility due to the evidence that the speaker has (in an epistemic use), (c) permission (in a deontic use). In fragment (51), the meaning of *can* is possibility.

(51) In Rotterdam this week the Swiss *can top the rankings again aged 36* and he is not ruling out an Olympic swansong in 2020 [The Guardian – 12/02/2018]

Could + bare infinitive is registered in the corpus with a total of thirty-seven tokens. It has a possibility meaning too. *Could* has all the meanings of *can*, although a difference between them is that "*could* seems to readily allow for an epistemic reading in assertive contexts" (Ruppenhofer & Rehbein, 2012: 1542). This happens in fragment (52), in which the clause with the periphrasis is preceded by a clause with a *dicendi* verb.

Tab. 26: Modalization periphrases in the English-language corpus

Verbal periphrasis	Tokens	Semantic value	Structural value
Can + bare infinitive	61	Possibility/ability/permission	Deductive epistemic commitment
Could + bare infinitive	37	Possibility/ability/permission	Deductive epistemic commitment
May + bare infinitive	14	Possibility/permission	Deductive epistemic commitment
Might + bare infinitive	10	Possibility	Deductive epistemic commitment
Should + bare infinitive	14	Conclusion/obligation/condition	Deontic and epistemic commitment
Would + bare infinitive	52	Condition/opinion	Perceptive epistemic commitment
Need + full infinitive	16	Necessity/obligation	Deductive epistemic commitment
Have/has + full infinitive	25	Obligation/necessity	Deductive epistemic commitment
Had + full infinitive	5	Obligation/necessity	Deductive epistemic commitment
Must + bare infinitive	4	Obligation	Deductive epistemic commitment

(52) Major League Baseball, which lobbied hard for Judge to participate in the Home Run Derby, no doubt will try to change the Yankees' right fielder's mind considering how big of a draw Judge was last year when commissioner Rob Manfred said the eventual AL Rookie of the Year *could become the face of baseball*. [New York Post – 08/03/2018]

The periphrasis constituted by *may + bare infinitive* is found in the corpus fourteen times. *May* and *can* both express possibility and permission, thus they have a deontic use. However, they are not completely interchangeable, since in negative polarity, *can* and *may* display opposite meanings, as in: *he cannot have done it*, which means that it is not possible that he did it, and *he may not have done it*, which means it is possible that he didn't do it (Ruppenhofer & Rehbein, 2012: 1539). In the example (53), the periphrasis displays a meaning of possibility where *can* does not seem appropriate.

(53) Aaron Boone would certainly like Judge to avoid repeating the second-half swoon that *may or may not have been caused* by participating in the Home Run Derby […]. [New York Post – 08/03/2018]]

Might is a very specialized auxiliary verb that expresses epistemic modality. It is found ten times in our corpus. As seen in example (54), some modal expressions can occur nested with each other. Indeed, (54) constitutes a textual fragment in which the modal verb *might* is followed by the dynamic ability meaning of *able* to express possibility and ability in the past.

(54) Federer won the Australian Open in January for his 20th Grand Slam title and edged closer to the top of the rankings. He had not originally planned to play in Rotterdam but accepted a wild card when it became clear he *might be able to take back the top spot*. [Toronto Sun – 16/02/2018]

The periphrasis *should + bare infinitive* is registered fourteen times in the corpus. According to Ruppenhofer & Rehbein (2012: 1541), this periphrasis has two main uses, one epistemic and one deontic. In the epistemic use, the speaker is compelled to come to a particular conclusion given his/her state of knowledge, that is the case of example (55), in which the sports journalist presents a conclusion given the evidence and knowledge he has concerning the relationships between two baseball players. In order to be not too categorical, the journalist adds the adverb *probably*.

(55) He didn't see any of the players because they were getting ready for the game, and while Jeter has met guys like Judge and his shortstop successor Didi Gregorius, none of his former teammates made the trip across the state. Nor did his former employee Giancarlo Stanton, whom Jeter probably *should consider more of a bona fide enemy than a frenemy*. [New York Post – 12/03/2018]

Moreover, "[t]he deontic use is about imposing an obligation or reporting the existence of an obligation" (Ruppenhofer & Rehbein, 2012: 1541). This happens in example (56), where a baseball player presents an obligation to a teammate. However, this obligation is way weaker than an obligation stated with the auxiliary *must*.

(56) Giancarlo Stanton competed in last year's event and said Judge *should follow his head*. "He *should do* whatever he wants," Stanton said. "He *shouldn't be pressured into it* if he doesn't want to do it. He has plenty of years to do it also." [New York Post – 08/03/2018]

Finally, there is also a special use of this auxiliary verb to express condition, as it happens in fragment (57). It is noticed that there is a subject-auxiliary inversion (Ruppenhofer & Rehbein, 2012: 1541). This periphrasis could be paraphrased through the conjunction *if*: *If that is the case, Red Bull will be pleased with just how much they managed*.

(57) Brown also played down the loss of track time but it may well become a cause for concern. The afternoon session saw very little running for the final hour and a half because of drizzle and low track temperatures and there may be worse to come, with rain and snow forecast over the next three days. *Should that be the case* Red Bull will be pleased with just how much they managed. [The Guardian – 26/02/2018]

The periphrasis constituted by *would + bare infinitive* is used in the corpus fifty-two times. It is the second most productive modalization periphrasis, only behind *can + bare infinitive*. Its most common use is in hypothetical conditional sentences, as in fragments (58–60). In (58) and (59) the main clause is preceded by the conjunction *if* and in (60) there is the inversion of the verb. Both linguistic strategies reinforce the idea of hypothesis and condition.

(58) Mourinho's side knew that if they put in the work and played a disciplined game, they *would get opportunities of their own*. [New York Post – 12/03/2018]

(59) If you asked fans or pundits what they were expecting from the game last week, they *would've told you one of two things* – either United manager Jose Mourinho's rigid defense-first attitude *would snuff the life out of the match*, just as it has the last three times these sides have met, or Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp and his side of offensive dynamos *would run rampant over their sluggish rivals*. [New York Post – 12/03/2018]

(60) Had Everton or Southampton, for example, performed to the levels they have reached in recent seasons, Arsenal's position in the top six *would surely be under threat*. At this stage of last season, Everton had five more points than Wenger's hapless team has now. [The Times of India – 06/03/2018]

The periphrasis *need + full infinitive* is registered sixteen times in the corpus. It displays a semantic value of necessity, as it can be noticed in example (61). Johansson (2013) claims that the verb *need* in this particular context could be considered as a semi-modal. Undeniably, *need + full infinitive* could be used in contexts where *must + bare infinitive* is considered threatening (Johansson, 2013: 5). In other words, the verb *need* "appeals to the addressee to respect the speaker's needs and change his/her behaviour accordingly" (Johansson, 2013: 7).

Although *need + full infinitive* does not follow Payne's (2011: 261–265) tests to be considered a periphrasis, it shares some semantic characteristics with *must + bare infinitive* and some syntactic characteristics with *have/has + full infinitive*. Therefore, we consider this construction in the section of modalization periphrases.

(61) "[…] My wife *needs to be happy*. My kids *need to be happy*. Without that this doesn't matter." [The Guardian – 12/02/2018]

The periphrasis constituted by *have/has + full infinitive* is registered twenty-five times in our corpus. It displays a meaning of obligation and necessity, as in example (62). As happens with *need*, *have/has* is considered a semi-modal (cf. Johansson, 2013). In the corpus, we find a variation of this periphrastic construction, this is: *pronoun + 've got + full infinitive*, as in example (63). This variation is registered only in the frame of direct quotations, in which the journalist reproduces someone's discourse.

(62) This rotation doesn't *have to work miracles*, it just needs to do its job. Don't forget the Yankees' starters finished second in the AL last season with a 3.98 ERA, only behind the Indians' 3.52 [New York Post – 08/03/2018]

(63) "He told me he feels good. He's ready to take off. I tell him, 'Keep playing hard. Keep preparing mentally to play in New York. You*'ve got to show who you are*. You've got a lot of tools. You*'ve got to show them*.'" [New York Post – 12/03/2018]

The periphrasis *had + full infinitive* appears five times in the English-language corpus. It has a meaning of obligation and necessity in the past, as can be noticed in fragment (64). As happens with *need* and *have/has*, *had* is also considered as a semi-modal (cf. Johansson, 2013).

(64) Sabathia pitched against Masahiro Tanaka in the game and the two starters *had to face Giancarlo Stanton, Sanchez, Greg Bird, Aaron Hicks and Didi Gregorius*. [New York Post – 08/03/2018]

The periphrasis *must + bare infinitive* is registered four times in the corpus. According to Ruppenhofer & Rehbein (2012: 1540–1541), there are two main senses attributed to the auxiliary *must*, one epistemic and one deontic. In the epistemic use, the speaker presents a conclusion based on his/her state of knowledge, as noticed in (65). In the deontic use, obligations are imposed by someone or something, as in fragment (66).

(65) That campaign that was labelled a disaster, so this *must be considered another year in which the famed "top six" has become a top five.* This season is on course to be their worst defensively under Wenger; if they continue at their current rate, they will concede 54 goals this season […] [The Guardian – 06/03/2018]

(66) "This is a good rotation, if we stay healthy I think we can be one of the best," Sabathia said […] "It's just a matter of us staying healthy. We've got the arms and talent to do it." And they will. Led by Sabathia, who has reinvented himself as a crafty lefty, who *must survive with a tricky knee.* Sabathia still can surprise with a well-placed fastball. [New York Post – 08/03/2018]

As in the previous examples, modalization periphrases are characterized because they do not show reality the way it is, but a proximity to reality through an assortment of meanings such as possibility, necessity, obligation, etc. (Fernández de Castro, 1999; 2003).

In this section it is important to note that we are aware that the two languages examined in the previous chapters, i.e., Spanish and French, are more synthetic languages; while "English is a more analytical language, with very few inflections" (Vaneva, 2016: 989). In other words, in a verbal system, like the one of Spanish and French, verbal tenses are formed synthetically; while in the verbal system of English tenses tend to be formed in a more analytical way, i.e. they tend to be formed periphrastically[17]. For this reason, the number of infinitive periphrases increases meaningfully in this corpus.

Infinitive clauses with a junction purpose

Infinitive clauses with a junction objective constitute the third most productive category of infinitives in the English-language corpus. However, the recurrences of these infinitives are way distant from those registered in the verbal periphrases and in the infinitive phrases that play a noun role. Indeed, infinitives whose main function consists on linking clauses are identified 62/901 times. This represents 6.88% of the corpus.

The American newspaper *New York Post* is the most productive of infinitive clauses with a junction objective with fifteen recurrences. It is followed by the British newspaper *The Guardian* with thirteen clauses. Moreover, sports

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17 Perhaps the readers will find it more appropriate not to consider as infinitives most of the periphrastic constructions that we present in this chapter. Nevertheless, if we follow the semantic and syntactic parameters elucidated by Fernández de Castro (1999), we consider that the forms expressed here are to be called infinitives.
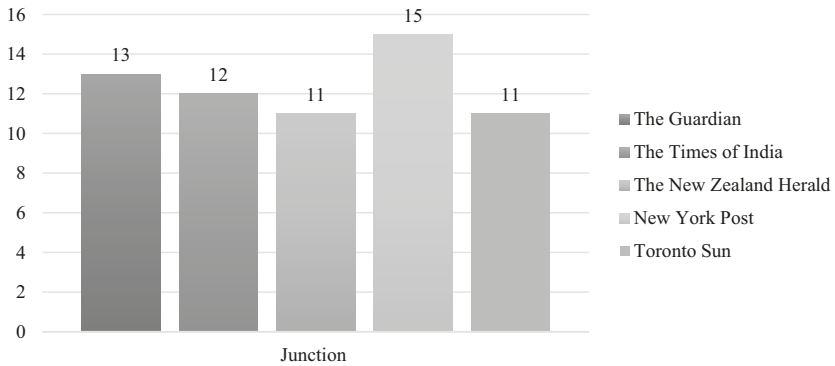
Chart 36: Frequencies of infinitive clauses with a junction purpose
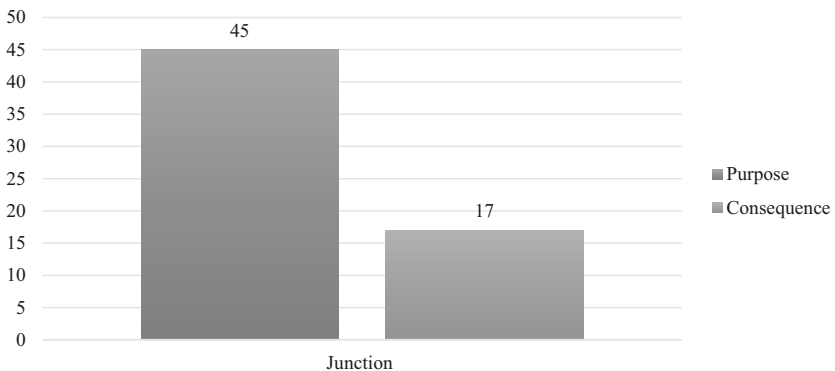
Chart 37: Distribution of the semantic values of infinitive clauses in the English-language corpus

journalists of *The Times of India* use these clauses twelve times. Finally, *The New Zealand Herald* and *Toronto Sun* use these clauses eleven times each. These results can be observed in Chart 36.

There are only two semantic values that we identify in the English-language corpus. These values are purpose and consequence. Purpose is the most productive semantic value that infinitive clauses display in the corpus with forty-five frequencies. The rest of the infinitive clauses, i.e., seventeen, display a meaning of consequence. This information is observed in Chart 37.

Tab. 27: Distribution of preposition and prepositional locution in purpose clauses

Preposition/ prepositional locution	Cases
To	43
In order to	2
Total	45

These results are not unexpected, since in English, nexuses that express other meanings such as temporality (*before/after*), cause (*for*), exclusion (*without*), condition (*in case of*), concession (*although*), etc., require a gerund phrase and not an infinitive one, as in in: *after finishing his work, the boy went to school.*

Infinitive clauses with a meaning of purpose

As stated before, infinitive clauses that display a meaning of purpose are the most productive of this corpus with forty-five frequencies. There are only two particles that precede the infinitive clause: *to* and *in order to*. This can be seen in Tab. 27.

As stated above, the only two nexuses found in the corpus to express purpose are *to*, which is registered forty-three times, and *in order to*, which is found only two times. Moreover, most purpose clauses occupy a position after the main clause, as in fragment (67); however, a few infinitive clauses are situated before the main clause, as in example (68).

(67) The event is a 10-player single round-robin competition where players have 25 minutes *to make all of their moves* [The Times of India – 04/03/2018]

(68) *To ensure that the many opportunities in front of the NZRL continue to be progressed with Board oversight*, upon Hayton's departure the NZRL's Deputy Chairman – experienced company CEO and director Hugh Martyn – will take up the role of Acting CEO on a part-time basis. [The New Zealand Herald – 07/03/2018]

Throughout the whole corpus, the nexus *to* and the infinitive phrase are not split by any other part of the speech. However, as seen in (69), in only one example of the corpus, we find that the preposition *to* and the infinitive *fill* are split by an adverb.

(69) The Jets have been in the market for an outside pass rusher for about the past decade, and they brought in a free agent *to potentially fill that hole on a visit Monday*. [The New York Post – 12/03/2018]

Tab. 28: Preposition in consequence clauses

Preposition/ prepositional locution	Cases
To	17
Total	17

In example (70), there is a fragment in which the purpose clause is displayed through the nexus *in order to + infinitive*. As seen in Tab. 27, there are only two examples with this nexus in the whole corpus.

(70) "I was with the national team and I took the chance to leave the team. It was a long time without my family. But sometimes in life *in order to achieve your dreams* you have to make some sacrifices. And look at me now. I'm here." [Toronto Sun – 12/03/2018]

Infinitive clauses with a meaning of consequence

As stated before, in the English-language corpus, there are seventeen infinitive clauses that have a meaning of consequence. The only preposition found in the consequence infinitive clauses is *to*, as seen in Tab. 28.

In the constructions we describe in this section, the preposition *to* presents the consequence, effect or repercussion described by the action of the main verb, as can be noticed in examples (71) and (72).

In fragment (71), the infinitive phrase *finish in the seventh position* preceded by the preposition *to* displays the effect or repercussion provoked by the action presented by the verb phrase *score 10.833* in the main clause. Moreover, the infinitive clause could be paraphrased through a finite clause preceded by a consequence connector such as *thus* or *therefore*: *[…] the 22-year-old from Hyderabad couldn't bring her best as she scored 10.833. Thus/therefore, she finished in the seventh position.*

(71) Aruna had created history on Saturday by becoming the first Indian gymnast to win an individual medal at the Gymnastics World Cup but the 22-year-old from Hyderabad couldn't bring her best as she scored 10.833 *to finish in the seventh position*. [The Times of India – 25/02/2018]

In example (72) happens the same than in (71): the infinitive clause presents the effect of the verb phrase *draw with Boris Gelfand* […]. As in (72), the infinitive clause could be replaced by a finite clause preceded by a consequence

connector: *Anand drew with Boris Gelfand in the final round. Consequently, he reigns supreme.*

(72) Anand drew with Boris Gelfand in the final round *to reign supreme*. [The Times of India – 04/03/2018]

Independent infinitive constructions

Rémi-Giraud (1988: 50) claims that in English there can be three types of independent infinitive constructions: (a) exclamatory infinitives, (b) interrogative infinitives, and (c) imperative infinitives.

Exclamatory infinitive expresses an emotion. Generally, this emotion is negative such as pain, regret, disgust, surprise, indignation or shame. Rémi-Giraud (1988: 50) states that it could be used also to complain about an absurd suggestion, as it happens in the last sentence of the following fragment took from Austen's *Mansfield Park*:

– 'Am I to understand,' said Sir Thomas, after a few moments' silence, 'that you mean to refuse Mr Crawford?'
– 'Yes, Sir'
– *'Refuse him?'*
– 'Yes, Sir'
– *Refuse Mr Crawfort!* Upon what plea? For what reason? (Turner, 2000: 10)

In English, interrogative infinitives can be divided in two types. On the one hand, there are those infinitives that are very similar to exclamatory infinitives, since they reconsider something that has been said before by the same interlocutor or by another one, such as in the second intervention of the above fragment: *Refuse him?* (Turner, 2000: 10). On the other hand, there are those infinitives that are constituted by the question pronoun *why + bare infinitive*, as in: *Why not forgive him?* (Rémi-Giraud, 1988: 50)

Regarding imperative infinitives, Turner (2000: 16) draws our attention to the fact that nowadays imperative forms in English are identical to the forms of bare infinitive. Therefore, it is not justified to consider imperative as a different verb form from the bare infinitive. The important fact in these infinitives is the clear communicative situation in which the interlocutors of a text understand distinctively and clearly the injunctive meaning of the construction, as in: *Ah, there's the caravan. Lower the boat right away* (Turner, 2000: 13).

In the English-language corpus, there are only five independent infinitive constructions, two in *The New Zealand Herald* and the rest distributed in *The*
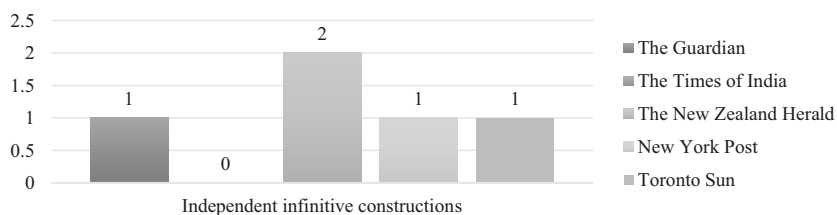
Chart 38: Frequencies of independent infinitive constructions

Guardian, *New York Post* and *Toronto Sun*. Sports journalists of the Indian news-paper do not use any independent infinitive in their articles. This is observed in Chart 38.

From the variety of independent infinitive constructions there are in English, there is only one type in the whole corpus. The five infinitive constructions in the English-language corpus have an injunctive function, as in examples (73) and (74).

Example (73) shows a headline in which the sports journalist is addressing to the team New Jersey Devils as a New York/New Jersey fan of the Stanley Cup. The headline in injunctive infinitive is a creative way of the journalist to call the newspaper's readers attention.

(73) *Help us*, New Jersey Devils, you're our only hope

    For the first time in 52 years and the first time ever, that is the history the
        Devils can prevent from happening by locking down a place in the
        playoffs. [New York Post – 10/03/2018]

In (74), appears an imperative infinitive used in the middle of the text addressed to the readers of the newspaper in order to involve them in the news presented in the text. The main function of this injunctive infinitive is to sympathize with the Toronto football club and its fans. The injunction comprises the verb *expect* to trigger a sensation of suspense and anticipation in Toronto's fans.

(74) *Expect Vanney to adjust his tactics given the situation*. Toronto's ability to
        win games in different ways, including on the counter-attack, has been an
        underappreciated pillar of Vanney's tenure. [Toronto Sun – 12/03/2018]
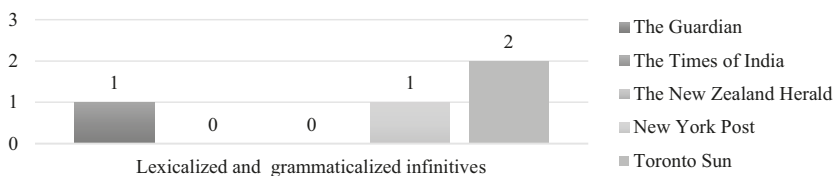
Chart 39: Frequencies of lexicalized and grammaticalized infinitives

Lexicalized and grammaticalized infinitives

As it was specified in the first chapter of the book, in this last section of the chapter we consider infinitives in their most nominal use. Indeed, we examine three types of infinitives. First of all, we study nominalized infinitives that are lexicalized as nouns and have their own entries in dictionaries. Secondly, we take into account infinitive phrases, clauses or constructions that are used as fixed expressions due to a lexicalization process. Finally, we consider infinitive phrases, clauses or constructions that have grammaticalized and are currently used as structural words.

In the English-language corpus, there are only four lexicalized infinitives, two of them registered in the Canadian newspaper *Toronto Sun*, one identified in *The Guardian* and the other one in the *New York Post*. This can be observed in Chart 39.

In the English-language corpus, we register one single lexicalized infinitive item, more particularly a fixed expression which is repeated four times, as can be appreciated in examples (75–77). The lexicalized infinitive is *have anything/ nothing to do with* which is used three times in past tense (75–77) and one time in present tense (76). This fixed expression displays an association or a relationship between two people or two things. In other words, this construction could be paraphrased by *be associated to*: *it is unclear whether the panic attacks were associated to an incident in January […].*

(75) It is unclear whether the panic attacks *had anything to do with* an incident in January when Love left a game against the Oklahoma City Thunder with an unspecified illness. [The Guardian – 06/03/2018]

(76) "Stroman, 26, was quick to pour water on suggestions that his experimenting with different arm slots in his delivery *had anything to do with the inflammation.*" "Not at all slightly," said Stroman. "I've been playing with arm slots my whole career, since I was a little kid. So that *has nothing to do with it.*" [Toronto Sun – 27/02/2018]

(77) And while Stanton didn't come – Boone insisted the decision *had*
      nothing to do with keeping Stanton out of his old workplace [New York
      Post – 12/03/2018]

Conclusions

At the beginning of this chapter, we present the frequencies of infinitives in the
English-language texts. First of all, we stated that there are 901 infinitives in this
corpus. There are two main functions, infinitive phrases in a verb role and in a
noun role that together constitute more than 90% of the whole corpus. Therefore,
the other three functions represent less than 10% of the corpus.

As stated above, the most predominant function in the corpus is the infinitive
phrase that is preceded by an auxiliary verb and plays a role of verbal periph-
rasis. There are 447/901 verbal periphrases, this is 49.61% of the corpus. In
our sports newspaper articles, there are only two kinds of periphrases, those of
modalization that are the most productive ones with 10 types and 238 tokens;
and those of gradation from which we identify 4 types and 209 tokens.

Furthermore, there are 383/901 infinitive phrases in a noun role, which repre-
sent 42.51% of the corpus. The most productive noun role of these infinitive
phrases is as verb complement with 202 recurrences.

Moreover, we only register 62/901 infinitives with the goal of linking clauses,
this corresponds to 6.88% of the corpus. In this section, we only identify two
semantic values: purpose and consequence. This is not unforeseen, since nex-
uses used to express other semantic values require a gerund phrase and not an
infinitive one.

Finally, there are 5/901 independent infinitive constructions, i.e., 0.55%. All of
them are injunctive infinitives. We identify 4/901 lexicalized and grammaticalized
infinitives, this corresponds to 0.44%. All of them correspond to the fixed expres-
sion *have to do anything/nothing with* which could be paraphrased as *be related
to/associated with*.

V Contrastive analysis

In this chapter, the results of the three corpora are contrasted. As in the previous analysis chapters, infinitive phrases, clauses and constructions are analyzed and compared following the criteria presented in the methodology section.

In the first instance, recurrences of each syntactic function of infinitives found in each corpus are compared. First, we focus on general numbers of the three corpora. In a second instance, we present a more particular analysis. Infinitive phrases in a noun and a verbal role are compared. Subsequently, infinitive clauses with a junction purpose are contrasted. Finally, there is a comparison of the independent constructions and lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitives.

As in the previous chapters, we show a diversity of examples that are presented in an extensive cotext, so that we can offer elucidations of their functions within the sentence, the paragraph and the text.

Comparing the three corpora of our study, the English-language corpus is by far the most prolific of infinitives in a variety of functions with a total of 901. The Spanish-language corpus is the second most productive with 494 infinitives, this is 407 infinitives less than the corpus in English. Finally, we register 440 infinitives in the French-language corpus, this is 54 infinitives less than in Spanish, and 461 infinitives less than in English. This can be observed in Chart 40.

From the five main functions that infinitives can assume, the most prominent one in English is in a verb role, whereas in Spanish and French is in a noun role. In English, there are 447/901 infinitive phrases in verbal periphrases, this means 49.61% of the corpus. In the Spanish-language corpus, we register 201/494 infinitive phrases in a noun role which represent 40.69%. Finally, in French, a total of 190/440 infinitives are registered in a noun role, i.e., 43.18% of the corpus.

Moreover, in English, infinitive phrases in a noun role are the second most prominent function with 383/901 (42.51%) infinitive phrases, whereas in Spanish and French infinitive phrases in a verb role, more particularly as verbal periphrasis, are the second most productive function of both corpora. In Spanish, there are 143/494 (28.95%) infinitive phrases as verbal periphrases, while in French, there are 130/440 (29.54%) periphrases.

Furthermore, infinitive clauses with a junction purpose constitute the third most employed function of infinitives in the three corpora. In English, we register 62/901 (6.88%) clauses. In Spanish, there are 137/494 (27.73%) clauses. In French, we identify 99/440 (22.5%) infinitive clauses.

	Infinitives
■ English	901
■ Spanish	494
■ French	440
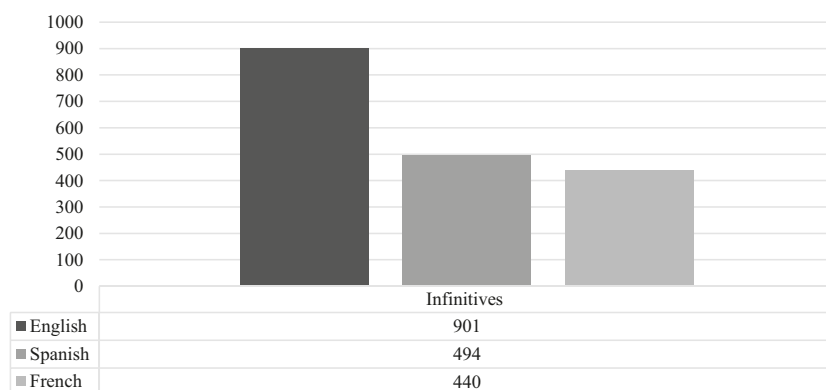
Chart 40: Distribution of infinitives in the three corpora

In addition, in English, the fourth most used function of infinitives is constituted by independent infinitive constructions with a total of 5/901 (0.55%) infinitives, while in Spanish and French this place is occupied by the lexicalized/ grammaticalized infinitives with 7/494 (1.42%) in the corpus in Spanish and 15/440 (3.41%) in the French corpus.

Finally, in English the least productive infinitives are those which are lexicalized/grammaticalized with a sum of 4/901 (0.44%), whereas in Spanish and French independent infinitive constructions are the least productive function. In the Spanish-language corpus, there are 6/494 (1.21%), and in French, there are also 6/440 (1.36%). Chart 41 summarizes frequencies of the main functions of infinitives registered in the three corpora and their respective distribution.

In the English-language corpus, in the British newspaper *The Guardian*, sports journalists are the ones that use the highest quantity of infinitives with a sum of 244/901 which represent 27.08% of the corpus in this language.

In the Spanish-language corpus, the sports journalists of the Spanish newspaper *El Mundo* are those who write their articles with the highest quantity of infinitives with a total of 146/494 which mean 29.55% of the corpus.

In the corpus in the French language, it is in the French newspaper *Le Monde* where we register the highest quantity of infinitives with a total of 169/440, this is translated into 38.41% of the corpus.

	English	Spanish	French
■ In noun role	383	201	190
■ In verb role	447	143	130
■ Junction	62	137	99
■ Independent	5	6	6
■ Lexicalized	4	7	15
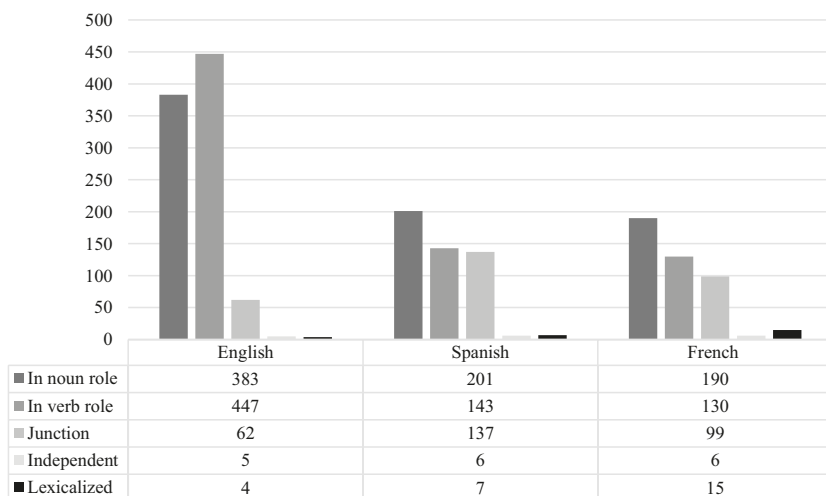
Chart 41: Frequencies of the main functions of infinitives in the three corpora

Infinitive phrases in a noun role

As stated above, the most prominent role of infinitives in Spanish and French are those that display a noun role. In English, this role is the second most productive. In Spanish, there are 201/494 (40.69%) infinitives in a noun role. In French, we register a sum of 190/440 (43.18%) infinitive phrases. Finally, sports journalists of the English-language corpus use 383/901 (42.51%) infinitive phrases in a noun role in total. These results can be observed in Chart 42.

In the three corpora, the most productive infinitive phrase is the one in a verb complement. The second most prominent infinitive phrase in the three corpora is in the role of noun complement. In English and French, the third most recurrent function in a noun role is as adjective complement, while this function in Spanish is occupied by the subject. Finally, in English and French, the function of subject is the least frequent in our materials, whereas in Spanish, it is the function of adjective complement. Chart 43 presents the distribution of the four functions displayed by infinitive phrases in a noun role in the three languages.

Infinitive phrases as verb complements

As mentioned above, the most prominent function of the infinitive phrases in a noun role in the three corpora is as verb complements. In English, 202/901

	Infinitive phrases in a noun role
■ English	383
■ Spanish	201
■ French	188

Chart 42: Distribution of infinitive phrases in a noun role in the three corpora

	English	Spanish	French
■ Subject	18	25	13
■ Verb complement	202	104	121
■ Noun complement	96	54	40
■ Adjective complement	67	18	16
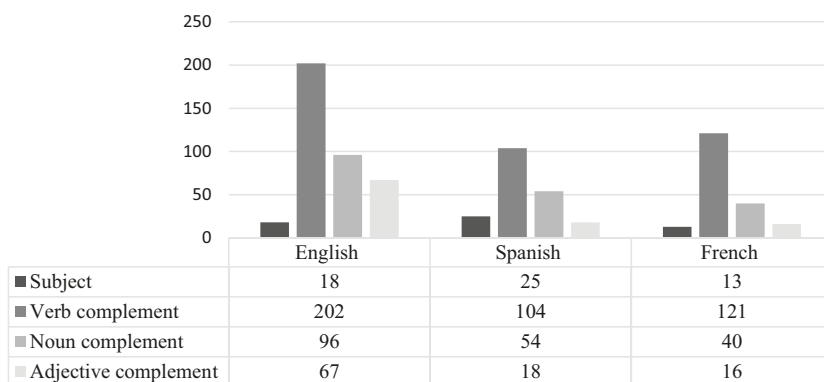
Chart 43: Distribution of the syntactic functions of infinitive phrases in a noun role in the three corpora

infinitives are used with this function; in Spanish, the infinitive phrase as verb complement is registered 105/494 times; finally, in French, we identify 121/440 infinitives.

In English, as it happens in other syntactic functions, the infinitive competes with the gerund form – *ing*. Mayerthaler et al. (2001) and Gawelko (2005) claim that gerunds in English are preferred in this function of verb complement over the infinitive. This characteristic leads the infinitive phrases in most of the contexts only as possible and not as compulsory. Moreover, in English, there are

two possibilities of infinitive phrases to appear as verb complements, these are as full infinitives and as bare infinitives.

Despite the preference of gerunds over infinitives, we register a total of sixty-two types of verbs and two hundred and two tokens in the English-language corpus. The most repeated verbs that take infinitive phrases as verb complements are: *try* (1) with twenty-four frequencies, *want* (2) with twenty-three occurrences, *continue* (3) with fourteen, *look* (4) with twelve, *like* (5) with nine, among others.

(1) Asked if he might <u>try</u> *to avoid that kind of slide in the wake of the shoulder injury that plagued him for much of 2017*, Judge said he wouldn't. [New York Post – 11/03/2018]

(2) But Boyd is believed to have told NZF that he <u>wants</u> *to focus on his club career in Europe*, and at this stage, won't be available for the All Whites across the next cycle. [The New Zealand Herald – 02/03/2018]

(3) "They're a talented side – Casper Ware is going to try and run the show but they've brought Casey Prather back in, it will be interesting to see how they <u>continue</u> *to make that adjustment as the series goes on*." [The New Zealand Herald – 03/03/2018]

(4) The 36-year-old, who beat Andre Agassi's record as the oldest-ever No.1 en route to winning the Rotterdam Open title last week, will now <u>look</u> *to stretch his lead over Nadal* before the start of the claycourt season. [The Times of India – 20/02/2018]

(5) 'Spurs <u>like</u> *to attack* but sometimes allow the opposition chances' [The Guardian – 06/03/2018]

As seen in the above examples, the full infinitive is required in most of the verb complements registered in the English-language corpus. However, a few exceptions are identified. Verbs such as *let* (6), *see* (7) and *make* (8) require a bare infinitive. Moreover, verbs such as *help* allow full infinitive (9) and bare infinitive (10).

(6) "It's something really sad when you're from a country and you leave because you're trying to play at a higher level of baseball and they don't <u>let</u> you *come back*," said Diaz […] [Toronto Sun – 12/03/2018]

(7) "He might show up at some point during the season and what we want is when he's ready he forces his way into the lineup he never goes back (to the minors)," Gibbons said. "I've never <u>seen</u> a kid *make so much progress in a short period of time*." [Toronto Sun – 08/03/2018]

(8) "It really <u>makes</u> you *think about how we are all walking around with experiences and struggles* […]" [The Guardian – 06/03/2018]

(9) Johnson believed such methods were effective in <u>helping</u> the players *to train harder*, but was unsure if it would prepare them sufficiently for 80 minutes of football under the hot sun. [The New Zealand Herald – 07/03/2018]

(10) The few Marlins fans here could take solace in the fact that Gary Denbo, in attendance as Miami's vice president of player development and scouting, <u>helped</u> *put together the Baby Bombers.* [New York Post – 12/03/2018]

In Spanish, in the section of infinitive phrases as verb complements, we had to consider infinitive phrases that play the role of a direct object complement, thus, they are preceded by the main verb of the sentence; and infinitive phrases that are preceded by a prepositional verb.

In the direct object complement function, we identify sixty-seven infinitive phrases. The most repeated verbs in the corpus are *querer* (11) with thirteen occurrences, *lograr* (12) with ten frequencies, *conseguir* (13), *decidir* (14), and *saber* (15) with five frequencies each one, among others.

(11) Con su vocación de empresario, Edwin Oviedo nos cuenta que ahora <u>quiere</u> *convertir a la Federación Peruana de Fútbol en una máquina que produzca siempre buenas noticias.* [El Comercio – 09/03/2018]

(12) Aunque algo más impreciso de lo que suele estar, <u>logró</u> *emparejar las acciones y forzar errores de un Baghdatis* que a sus 32 años sigue siendo un jugador peligroso, aunque esté lejos de sus mejores días. [Clarín – 11/03/2018]

(13) Su mejor cosecha fue en 2013, cuando solo Nadal <u>consiguió</u> *doblegarlo en la final.* [Clarín – 10/03/2018]

(14) Falló Loren tras llevar el balón a trompicones hasta el área pequeña y también Rubén Castro, que <u>decidió</u> *buscar a Camarasa* cuando la lógica y su instinto dictaban lo contrario. [El Mundo – 12/03/2018]

(15) Un factor que el conjunto de Santi Santos <u>supo</u> *aprovechar en la primera parte*. [El Mundo – 11/03/2018]

Moreover, in the Spanish corpus, there are thirty-seven infinitive phrases preceded by prepositional verbs. The most common prepositions are *a* and *de*. Other prepositions found in the corpus are *en*, *por*, *con* and *para*.

With the preposition *a*, the following verbs are found: *obligar*, *aspirar*, *ayudar*, *renunciar*, *animarse*, *poner*, *tender*, *atreverse*, *negarse*, *pasar*, and *postular*. In example (16), the verb *obligar* is followed by the preposition in question and an infinitive phrase.

(16) Nadal había anunciado intempestivamente su retiro del Abierto mexicano que se disputa en Acapulco unas horas antes del que sería su regreso a las canchas, aquejado por aquella lesión que lo <u>obligó</u> *a retirarse ante el*

croata Marin Cilic en cuartos de final del primer Grand Slam del año. [El Mundo –02/03/2018]

With the preposition *de*, we identify the following verbs: *encargarse*, *tratar*, *venir*, and *cansarse*. Fragment (17) shows an example with the verb *encargarse* followed by the preposition *de* and an infinitive phrase.

(17) Pero el propio Oviedo <u>se encargó</u> *de desmentir ese rumor*. [El Comercio – 12/03/2018]

With the preposition *en*, there are only two verbs: *tardar* and *creer*. Fragment (18) presents an example with the verb *tardar* followed by an adverb phrase, the preposition *en* and an infinitive phrase.

(18) Abelardo ya sabe lo que es perder como local, pero sin duda estará orgulloso de <u>haber tardado</u> tanto *en experimentar esa desagradable sensación*. [El Mundo – 12/03/2018]

With the preposition *por*, there are two types of verbs: *optar* and *pelear*. Fragment (19) shows an example with the verb *optar* followed by the preposition *por* and an infinitive phrase.

(19) El equipo visitante se vio superado desde el comienzo mientras España, sin la presión de tener que ganar por tres ensayos, <u>optó</u> *por tirar a palos los primeros golpes de castigo arrancados a la defensa germana*. [El Mundo – 11/03/2018]

With the preposition *con*, there is only one verb in the corpus: *soñar*. An example with this verb is seen in (20), in which the verb is followed by the preposition *con* and two infinitive phrases coordinated by the conjunction *y*.

(20) Tatiana <u>sueña</u> *con llegar a la Fórmula 1* y *disputar una competencia* [Clarín –07/03/2018]

Finally, as with *con*, the preposition *para* is identified in the corpus only with the verb *servir*, as seen in example (21), where the verb in question is followed by a prepositional complement and then by the preposition *para* followed by two infinitive phrases, both linked by the conjunction *y*.

(21) Un doblete del astro luso Cristiano Ronaldo <u>sirvió</u> al Real Madrid *para imponerse 2–1 al Eibar*, y *ver prolongado su buen momento* luego de eliminar al PSG en Liga de Campeones, este sábado en la fecha 28 del campeonato español. [El Nacional – 10/03/2018]

In French, as we did in the Spanish-language corpus, we divide infinitive phrases as verb complements into two main rubrics: (a) infinitive phrases that are preceded by the main verb of the sentence, and (b) infinitive phrases that are preceded by a prepositional verb.

As direct object complements, we identify twenty-seven infinitive phrases. The most recurrent verbs that precede infinitive phrases as direct complements in the corpus are *préférer* (22) with six appearances, *vouloir* (23) with five frequencies, *espérer* (24) and *aimer* (25) with three recurrences each one, among others.

(22) Le technicien français <u>préfère</u> *aligner un 4–3–3 avec Bale sur le côté droit, et Kroos dans l'axe aux côtés de Casemiro et Modric*. Mais pour combien de temps? [Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018]

(23) Antero Henrique <u>a</u> pourtant <u>voulu</u> *ramener le fantôme de Neymar dans le vestiaire parisien* [Le Monde – 05/03/2018]

(24) Il n'<u>espère</u> pas non plus *recevoir un jour une médaille de bronze par la poste*. Ce serait même, selon lui, son pire cauchemar. [Le Journal de Québec – 28/02/2018]

(25) L'équipe d'Écosse <u>a</u> toujours <u>aimé</u> *jouer le rôle de la belle inconnue dans le Tournoi*. [Le Monde – 25/02/2018]

As complements of a prepositional verb, there are ninety-four infinitive phrases in the French corpus. The only two prepositions are *à* and *de*. There are forty-four infinitive phrases preceded by the preposition *à*, while fifty are preceded by the preposition *de*.

The most repeated verbs followed by the preposition *à* + infinitive phrase are *réussir* (26) with six recurrences, *parvenir* (27) and *aider* (28) with five frequencies each one, *viser* (29) and *appeler* (30) three times each one.

(26) Les Françaises n'<u>ont</u> pas <u>réussi</u> *à entrer dans la danse pour la victoire*, mais Marie Dorin pourra regretter sa faute au tir concédée dès le tir couché, qui la prive du podium. [Le Monde – 10/02/2018]

(27) Dans un début de rencontre équilibré, aucune équipe ne <u>parvenait</u> vraiment *à prendre le jeu à son compte*. [Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018]

(28) L'Italie peut <u>aider</u> les Français *de passer ce cap*. [Le Monde – 12/02/2018]

(29) Initié par la ligue de football de la wilaya, en collaboration avec la fédération algérienne de football, ce stage de perfectionnement, dont l'encadrement est assuré par deux anciens arbitres internationaux (Miloud Haraz et Achour Madani), <u>vise</u> *à évaluer et améliorer les connaissances des référés*

en matière de lois du jeu ainsi que leur aptitude physique, a précisé Youcef Azzouz. [El Moudjahid – 04/03/2018]

(30) La candidature marocaine représente une fierté pour tout le continent, a affirmé le président de la CAF, <u>appelant</u> tous les pays africains *à soutenir* et *à prendre acte de cet engagement*. [Aujourd'hui le Maroc – 06/03/2018]

The most common verbs that select an infinitive phrase preceded by the preposition *de* are *permettre* (31) with thirteen recurrences, *essayer* (32) with six frequencies, *décider* (33), *tenter* (34) and *(s') empêcher* (35) with four occurrences each one.

(31) Dans ce cadre, il a appelé tous les pays africains à une mobilisation collective afin de défendre un droit légitime à travers la réalisation concrète du principe de l'alternance entre les continents, ce qui va <u>permettre</u> à l'Afrique *de reprendre la place qu'elle mérite sur la scène footballistique mondial*. [Aujourd'hui le Maroc – 06/03/2018]

(32) Ensuite, le stress disparu, les Bleus pourront toujours <u>essayer</u> *de répondre à Clive Woodward*. [Le Monde – 12/02/2018]

(33) Avec cinq buts d'avance, Jürgen Klopp avait donc <u>décidé</u> *de donner un peu de repos à certains cadres*, avant d'affronter le rival honni de Manchester United samedi en championnat. [Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018]

(34) Mais cet objet en dit long sur la culture d'un sport qui a toujours eu et a encore du mal à s'ouvrir aux nations hors du Commonwealth et qui pédalent dur pour <u>tenter</u> *d'y jouer un rôle de premier plan*. [Le Monde – 25/02/2018]

(35) Malgré sa résilience, l'athlète québécois ne <u>s'empêche</u> toutefois pas *de participer au débat* pour améliorer la situation entourant le dopage dans le sport. [Le Journal de Québec – 28/02/2018]

Infinitive phrases as noun complements

As stated above, the function of noun complement represents the second most prominent of infinitive phrases in a noun role in the three corpora. Indeed, in English, there are 96/901 infinitive phrases. All of them present the particle *to* as the nexus that links the infinitive phrase with the noun or noun phrase to which the infinitive is complement. Most noun phrases that contain infinitive phrases in the English-language corpus play the role of a direct object complement, as can be seen in examples (36–38).

(36) He did not take part in training on Tuesday after reporting tightness in his calf on Monday, meaning Jones will name his team to face France before

Hartley has the <u>opportunity</u> *to train alongside the rest of the squad again.* [The Guardian – 06/03/2018]

(37) Sigurdsson created and then wasted a great <u>chance</u> *to restore Everton's lead,* slicing wide after manoeuvring his way through […]. [The New Zealand Herald – 12/02/2018]

(38) If this had either not been an Olympic year or had it been an NHL Olympic year and winger Eeli Tolvanen had not had the <u>opportunity</u> *to shine under the spotlight on the big stage* […] [New York Post – 10/03/2018]

In Spanish, we register 40/494 infinitive phrases in the role of noun complement with a variety of prepositions as nexuses between the noun and the infinitive phrase: *para* (39), *de* (40), *en* (41), *entre* (42), *a* (43), and *por* (44). Most noun phrases that contain infinitive phrases in the Spanish-language corpus play the role of a direct object complement, as it can be seen in examples (39–42). Some other noun phrases play the role of prepositional complements, as in example (43)[18], and the role of circumstantial complements, as it is the case of fragment (44).

(39) El número ocho del mundo, reciente campeón en Acapulco, no tuvo <u>problemas</u> *para quedarse con el primer set ante De Minaur*, ubicado en la 141ª posición del ranking. [Clarín – 11/03/2018]

(40) Fue anunciada como piloto tester de Sauber y tiene el <u>sueño</u> *de llegar a la máxima categoría*. [Clarín – 07/03/2018]

(41) Es que desde la vereda de enfrente llegó el visto bueno por parte del campeón filipino, quien en declaraciones a la prensa de su país no tuvo <u>dudas</u> *en elegir a su próximo rival*. [Clarín – 14/02/2018]

(42) De nuevo corriendo hacia el balón, que en eso hay pocas <u>diferencias</u> *entre jugar en el Marbella o en el Betis*, en Tercera o en Primera, para cruzarle el esférico a Pacheco y sellar el triunfo bético en Mendizorroza, un campo en el que nadie ganaba desde noviembre, aún con De Biasi. [El Mundo – 12/03/2018]

(43) Terminada su participación en China, el equipo se trasladará a Fuji, Japón, para intervenir en la segunda etapa del <u>serial</u> *a celebrarse del 15 al 17 de este mes*, con la reaparición de Rommel Pacheco. [Clarín – 19/02/2018]

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18 In this example, the noun *serial* is part of the noun phrase *la segunda etapa del serial* and the whole noun phrase plays the role of prepositional complement.

(44) En un <u>duelo</u> directo *por permanecer en primera división*, los licántropos pelearon con los colmillos afilados, mientras los escualos fueron temerosos y se convirtieron en presa fácil. [La Jornada – 25/02/2018]

In French, we identify 40/440 infinitive phrases in the noun complement function. These infinitive phrases present three main prepositions as nexuses between the noun and the infinitive phrase: *de*, *à*, and *pour*. In French, noun phrases that contain infinitives play the role of a direct complement as in (45–47).

(45) Di Biagio s'est également étendu sur la question des « vétérans » qui ont récemment manifesté leur <u>intention</u> *de prendre leur retraite internationale*. [Aujourd'hui le Maroc – 03/03/2018]

(46) Le transfert du Brésilien avait <u>vocation</u> *à accorder un nouveau statut au Paris-Saint-Germain*. [Le Monde – 05/03/2018]

(47) Il y a donc une très forte <u>pression</u> sur lui *pour tirer le PSG vers le haut* et *être ce fameux marquee player* [footballeur star mais aussi décisif] que QSI attend depuis 2012. [Le Monde – 06/03/2018]

Infinitive phrases as adjective complements

As specified before, the function of adjective complement represents the third most recurrent function of infinitive phrases in a noun role in English and French. However, in Spanish, it represents the least frequent function.

In the English-language corpus, there are 67/901 infinitives with this particular syntactic role. As it happens with the noun complements, the only nexus that links the noun and the infinitive phrase is *to*. The main characteristic of these adjectives is that they are qualificative, more particularly, they display an evaluative peculiarity, as in (48) and (49), where the infinitive phrase is linked to the following adjectives: *unable*, *prepared* (48), *fun*, and *hard* (49).

(48) While <u>unable</u> *to comment on the upcoming Review Panel's findings*, Hayton said he was <u>prepared</u> *to accept his responsibility in the team's disappointing performances*. [The New Zealand Herald – 07/03/2018]

(49) Glimpses of the connection have been fleeting since, but a goal like this shows why the two were so <u>fun</u> *to watch* and so <u>hard</u> *to stop that season*. [New York Post – 12/03/2018]

In Spanish, we register 18/494 infinitive phrases displaying a function of adjective complement. In the corpus, there are three prepositions: *de*, *a*, and *para*. Fragment in (50) presents an example of the adjective *capaz* linked to an infinitive

phrase through the preposition *de*. In (51), there is an example of the adjective *condenado* associated to an infinitive phrase through the preposition *a*. Finally, example (52) shows adjectives *firme* and *clave* followed by the preposition *para* and the infinitive phrase.

(50) Fueron las ocasiones más claras durante una segunda parte en la que el Leganés evidenció que le falta colmillo para una misión como la que le propuso Raúl García, el único futbolista del mundo <u>capaz</u> *de protestar al árbitro* y *marcar al mismo tiempo*. [El Mundo – 01/03/2018]

(51) El equipo de Asier Garitano -anoche en la grada- responde ahora mucho más a su condición de modesto, más esforzado que preciso, <u>condenado</u> *a pagar caros sus errores*. [El Mundo – 01/03/2018]

(52) ¿Cómo no nombrar al tándem Sánchez-González Iglesias, <u>firme</u> *para defender* pero, sobre todo, <u>clave</u> *para distribuir los ataques*? [Clarín – 10/03/2018]

In the French-language corpus, we find 16/440 infinitive phrases with an adjective complement role. As in Spanish, there are three prepositions that link the adjective to the infinitive phrase, these are *de* (53), *à* (54), and *pour* (55). Besides, there is one infinitive that does not need any preposition (56).

(53) Mais le PSG fait partie de ce petit pourcentage de clubs <u>capables</u> *de renverser cette situation*. [La Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018]

(54) […] le rugby écossais ne possède que deux franchises <u>condamnées</u> *à exceller*, à Glasgow et Édimbourg. [Le Monde – 25/02/2018]

(55) L'Allemagne et ses 364 athlètes envoyés en Corée du Sud ont longtemps mené au classement de médailles, avant de se faire dépasser par les Norvégiens, qui n'étaient pourtant que 111 à avoir fait le voyage. Au petit jeu du nombre d'athlètes <u>nécessaires</u> *pour rapporter une médaille*, ce sont les Néerlandais qui l'emportent: avec seulement 46 sportifs, les Bataves reviennent avec 20 médailles (et une très honorable 5e place) […]. [Le Monde – 26/02/2018]

(56) Face au Real, le PSG se retrouvera à devoir refaire la différence collectivement, précisément au moment où la magie de Neymar était <u>censée</u> *opérer*, explique notre chroniqueur Jérôme Latta. [Le Monde – 06/03/2018]

Infinitive phrases as subjects

As mentioned in the previous paragraphs, the function of subject is the third most recurrent function of infinitive phrases in a noun role in Spanish and the least productive function in French and English.

In our sports newspaper English-written articles, there are 18/901 infinitive phrases that display the role of subjects or nominal predicates of the sentence. An example is observed in (57), where the infinitive phrase occupies a postverbal position, the main verb is *be* in the simple past tense of the indicative mood. The infinitive phrase is the nominal predicate of a subject constituted by a noun phrase.

(57) "The key <u>was</u> *to stay really focused* and *do the basics well* because they are really good singles players and hit well from the back of the court." Sitak said. [The New Zealand Herald – 18/02/2018]

In the French corpus, we register a total of 13/494 infinitive phrases that behave as subjects or nominal predicates of the sentence. Fragment (58) presents an example of an infinitive phrase that is the subject of the verb *falloir* in the present tense of the indicative mood.

(58) Si la deuxième place d'Alexander Boshunov a une certaine logique, il <u>faut</u> toutefois *admettre que le troisième rang d'Andrey Larkov est davantage surprenant, en vertu de ses performances du passé.* [Le Monde – 03/02/2018]

Finally, in the Spanish-written texts, we distinguish 25/494 infinitive phrases that play the syntactic role of subject or nominal predicate. An example is observed in fragment (59), where the infinitive phrase is the subject of the verb *quitar* in the present tense of the conditional mood.

(59) Ante este panorama, el técnico campeón del mundo en 2011 con el Tri Sub 17, opinó que el planteamiento "pudiera tener partes buenas, pero definitivamente *el no contar con ascenso ni descenso* le <u>quitaría</u> el ingrediente principal a cualquiera de las dos categorías […]" [La Jornada – 02/03/2018]

Infinitive phrases in a verb role: as verbal periphrases

Verbal periphrases constitute the most productive infinitives of the English-language corpus, and the second most productive infinitives in Spanish and French. In English, there are 447/901 verbal periphrases in the sports newspaper articles, which represent almost half of the corpus. In Spanish, we register 143/494 verbal periphrases, this means a little less than 30% of the corpus. In French, we find 130/440 verbal periphrases, i.e., a little less than 30% of the corpus. Chart 44 presents the distribution of the verbal periphrases in the three languages.
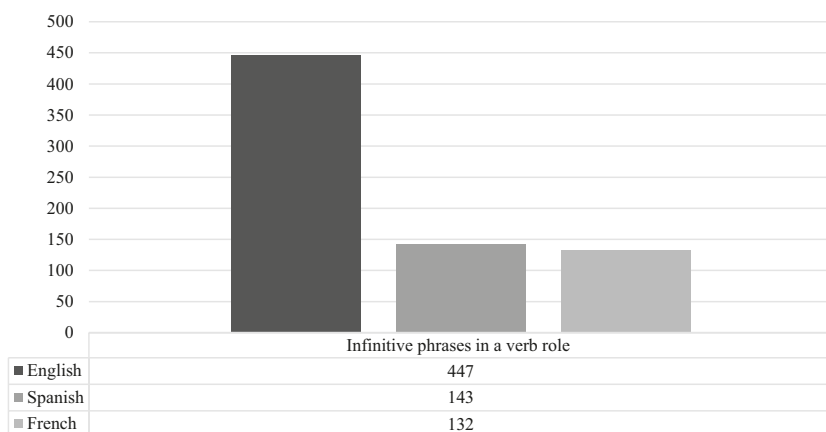
	Infinitive phrases in a verb role
■ English	447
■ Spanish	143
■ French	132

Chart 44: Distribution of infinitive phrases in a verb role in the three corpora

Even if there are several classification proposals for verbal periphrases in French and English, we consider that Fernández de Castro's (1999) proposal for verbal periphrases in Spanish is also appropriate to classify verbal periphrases in those languages. Following Fernández de Castro's (1999: 147–329, 2003: 20–21) elucidations, verbal periphrases can be classified according to four rubrics: (a) gradation, (b) disposition, (c) quantification, and (d) modalization.

The author presents four questions so that the periphrasis can be classified precisely. The question for gradation periphrases is: in what part of the process? For disposition periphrases: what position does an action occupy concerning other actions? For quantification periphrases: how is a fact repeated? Finally, modalization periphrases answer to the following question: how does a speaker engage himself/herself to what is uttered?

Once defined periphrases and their respective classification, we present the results of our three corpora. In English, there are only two types of periphrases, i.e., modalization and gradation. On the one hand, modalization periphrases are the most productive with a total of two hundred and thirty-eight. On the other hand, there are two hundred and nine gradation periphrases in the corpus.

As stated in the fourth chapter, we consider that the absence of quantification and disposition periphrases in the corpus in English can be explained for the reason that in the language, there are other linguistic strategies in order to indicate the repetition of an action and the position that an action occupies in respect to other actions.
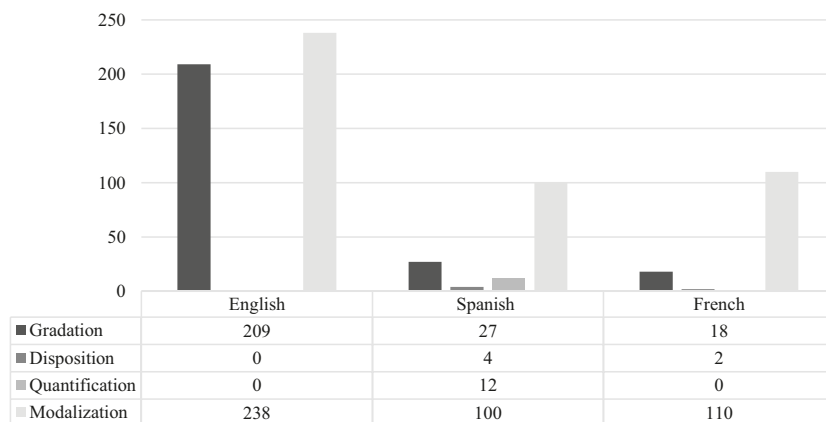
	English	Spanish	French
■ Gradation	209	27	18
■ Disposition	0	4	2
▣ Quantification	0	12	0
▢ Modalization	238	100	110

Chart 45: Distribution of the verbal periphrases in the three corpora.

In French, from the 130 verbal periphrases found in the corpus, there are one hundred and ten modalization periphrases. They constitute, by far, the most productive ones in French. Secondly, there are eighteen gradation periphrases. Finally, there are only two disposition periphrases. There are no quantification periphrases in the French-language corpus.

As said before, we believe that the poor number of disposition periphrases and the absence of quantification periphrases in French is because in the language, there are other linguistic strategies in order to indicate the repetition of an action.

In the Spanish-language corpus, from the 142 infinitive phrases in a verb role, we identify twenty-seven infinitives in the role of gradation periphrases, four infinitives displaying the function of disposition periphrases, twelve quantification periphrases, and a hundred modalization periphrases. Chart 45 shows the distribution of the different verbal periphrases in the three corpora.

Gradation periphrases

In order to answer to the question formulated by Fernández de Castro (1999, 2003): in what part of the process?, there are only four types of periphrases in English, seven types in Spanish, and four types in French. The auxiliary verbs registered in the English-language corpus are *will*, *do/does*, *did* and *be going*. The auxiliaries in the newspaper texts in Spanish are *ir a*, *empezar a*, *comenzar a*, *ponerse a*, *terminar de*, and *tardar en*. Finally, in the French-written sports articles, the auxiliaries are *aller*, *commencer à*, *venir de*, and *être en train de*.

The most productive gradation periphrasis in the three languages is one that has an imminent structural value and situates the process before the beginning. In English, this periphrasis is *will + bare infinitive*, and fragment (60) presents an example. In Spanish, the periphrasis is *ir a + infinitive*, an example is observed in (61). Finally, in French, the periphrasis is *aller + infinitive*, in (62), there is an example of this construction.

(60) This week the 36-year-old Swiss descends on Rotterdam and, if he wins three matches (he has lost only six in 29 here) he *will return* to No 1 in the world, taking the crown from Rafael Nadal, at least for a while. [The Guardian – 12/02/2018]

(61) Ahora hay un Sub 17 y otro Sub 20, ahora *se va a discutir* que se haga un solo Mundial Juvenil y que sea anual. [El Comercio – 09/03/2018]

(62) Annoncé au Borussia Dortmund pour un essai, l'homme le plus rapide du monde *va s'engager avec le Mamelodi Sundowns FC en Afrique du Sud*. [Aujourd'hui le Maroc – 27/02/2018]

Furthermore, in English, there is another auxiliary that has the same semantic and structural values. This is *be going + full infinitive*. Even if *will* and *be going* share semantic and structural values, according to Bardovi-Harlig (2003: 30), the main difference between them belongs to pragmatics. Indeed, *will* invokes present relevance and intentionality, whereas *be going* conveys only future meaning.

Moreover, in Spanish and French, there is another periphrasis whose auxiliaries display the same semantic and structural values. Indeed, *comenzar/empezar a + infinitive* and *commencer à + infinitive* situate the process of an action at the beginning and have an ingressive structural value. Fragments (63–65) present three examples of these periphrases. The only difference between *comenzar* and *empezar* in Spanish is that the first one is more formal and the second one is more general (Gómez Torrego, 1988: 108).

(63) Apenas *comenzaba a rodar el esférico en el estadio TSM* cuando Monterrey anotó un gol de vestidor. [La Jornada – 12/03/2018]

(64) Desde ese momento, la fuerza de la franquicia argentina fue cediendo y la visita, campeón del Super Rugby en 2016 y el segundo equipo más goleador del certamen en 2017, *empezó a consolidar el triunfo*. [Clarín – 03/03/2018]

(65) « C'est de mieux en mieux, je *commence à tourner la page* », a-t-il indiqué, mercredi, lors d'une entrevue téléphonique accordée à l'Agence QMI en provenance de la Finlande […] [Le Journal de Québec – 18/02/2018]

Disposition periphrases

In the three corpora, disposition periphrases are not abundant at all. Indeed, in English, we do not register any periphrasis with these characteristics. In Spanish, there is only one type of disposition periphrasis that is found four times in the corpus, this periphrasis is *llegar a + infinitive* which, according to Fernández de Castro (2003: 20), has an 'after another action' semantic value and also a culminative structural one. Fragment (66) presents an example of this periphrasis.

Finally, in French there is also only one type of this periphrasis that is identified twice in the corpus, this is *continuer à + infinitive*, which has a progressive semantic value and a structural value of 'after a non-effective end'. Fragment (67) shows an example of this periphrasis.

(66) Como es conocido, muchas veces salen jugadores que no *llegan a disputar el torneo por diversos motivos*. [El Comercio – 12/03/2018]

(67) Quatrième sur la Toro Rosso dotée du Honda V6 dont personne ne voulait plus, Pierre Gasly *a continué à surprendre tout le monde avec un moteur performant* puisqu'il pointe à moins de six dixièmes. [Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018]

Quantification periphrases

As stated before, there are no quantification periphrases in English nor in French, whereas in Spanish, we find two types and twelve tokens, these two periphrases are *volver a + infinitive* and *soler + infinitive*. The first periphrasis has a repetitive structural value and it means that the process is done once. The second periphrasis has a frequentative structural value and it means that the process is done frequently. Fragment (68) shows an example with the first periphrasis and fragment (69) shows an example with the second periphrasis.

(68) La sombra de las lesiones *vuelve a acechar a Nadal* [El Mundo – 02/03/2018]

(69) Amrabat trató de liderar una remontada imposible, aprovechando que De Marcos estuvo mucho mejor atacando que defendiendo, pero se encontró con Kepa, que siempre está cuando el Athletic le necesita, que *suele ser muy a menudo*. [El Mundo – 01/03/2018]

Modalization periphrases

Modalization periphrases constitute the most numerous of the three corpora. In English, there are ten types and two hundred and thirty-eight tokens. The

auxiliary verbs of these periphrases are the following: *can*, *could*, *may*, *might*, *should*, *would*, *need*, *have/has*, *had*, and *must*.

In Spanish, we register six types of modalization periphrases and a hundred tokens. The auxiliary verbs of these periphrases are the following: *poder*, *deber*, *tener que*, *haber que*, *parecer*, and *hacer*.

Finally, in French, seven types of periphrases and a hundred and ten tokens are identified. The auxiliary verbs found in this corpus are *pouvoir*, *devoir*, *faire*, *laisser*, *voir, sembler*, and *penser*.

There are only two types of auxiliaries that present the same semantic and structural values in English, Spanish and French. These auxiliaries are: (1) *can*, *poder*, *pouvoir* and (2) *must*, *deber*, *devoir*. On the one hand, *can*, *poder* and *pouvoir* display a structural value of deductive epistemic commitment and a main semantic value of possibility[19]. Examples (70–72) confirm the semantic and structural values of the first periphrasis.

(70) The Yankees' starting pitching *can carry this team a long way*. Like Sabathia said, they can be one of the best in baseball. [New York Post – 08/03/2018]

(71) Casi 20 años después, la selección española de rugby *puede volver a estar en una cita mundialista*. [El Mundo – 09/03/2018]

(72) « Je considère que tout le monde *peut jouer demain*. On est ici pour jouer un match de foot, on est prêt à ça. C'est pour cette raison que tout le groupe est venu. Tout le monde est prêt à jouer. Un joueur à 70 ou 80 % ne jouera jamais. Il faut être à 100 %. » [Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018]

On the other hand, the auxiliaries *must*, *deber* and *devoir* display a structural value of deductive epistemic commitment and a semantic value of obligation[20], as it is observed in examples (73–75).

(73) Led by Sabathia, who has reinvented himself as a crafty lefty, who *must survive with a tricky knee*. [New York Post – 08/03/2018]

(74) El torneo cuenta con un ingrediente adicional para el suizo: *debe alcanzar las semifinales para defender el número uno*. En caso de no conseguirlo, Nadal (hoy a 600 puntos) lo superaría a pesar de no estar presente en el certamen californiano. [Clarín – 10/03/2018]

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19 As stated before, there are other semantic values for this periphrasis in the three languages.

20 In Spanish, we identify another possible semantic value: probability.

(75) « Il est très important de toujours garder Cristiano en pleine forme. Il sait que, de temps en temps, il *doit se reposer* », a déclaré le technicien français lors d'une conférence de presse, suggérant que cette décision était approuvée par le joueur lui-même. [Le Journal de Québec – 27/02/2018]

Furthermore, in the Spanish and French corpora, we find some equivalencies between the auxiliaries registered. On the one hand, we identify *parecer + infinitive* and *sembler + infinitive* which have the same semantic and structural values. Indeed, both auxiliaries have a structural value of perceptive epistemic commitment and a similarity semantic value. Both values are noticed in fragments (76) and (77).

(76) *Parece ser* que el Chelsea desea que Frank Lampard sea su entrenador. [El Mundo – 13/03/2018]

(77) Les Calédoniens *semblent avoir révisés à la baisse leurs ambitions de jeu depuis le départ de Vern Cotter* mais ce qu'il en reste suffi à les faire passer parfois très vite derrière la défense en dépit d'un ouvreur, Russell, aussi fantasque et doué que peu rassurant pour ses coéquipiers. [Le Monde – 12/02/2018]

On the other hand, we register *hacer + infinitive* and *faire + infinitive* which share semantic and structural values in Spanish and French. Both auxiliaries have a causative-agentive semantic value and they present a structural value of deductive epistemic commitment. Fragments (78) and (79) show examples of this periphrasis.

(78) El Athletic estaba obligado ante el Leganés a convencer a su afición de que merece la pena creer en remontar el 3–1 del Vélodrome para seguir soñando en la Europa League, ese clavo incandescente que aspira a salvar tan deprimente temporada, a *hacer creer de nuevo a una hinchada hastiada de tanto desencanto*. [El Mundo – 01/03/2018]

(79) Bien que sur le plus petit des scores, ce succès *les a fait progresser davantage dans le classement général*. [Aujourd'hui le Maroc – 06/03/2018]

Modalization periphrases are the most recurrent periphrastic constructions in the three corpora, since they represent a linguistic strategy for the sports journalist to present a proximity to reality i.e., possibility, necessity, obligation, similarity, condition, etc. (Fernández de Castro, 1999; 2003), through a diversity of auxiliary verbs in the three languages.
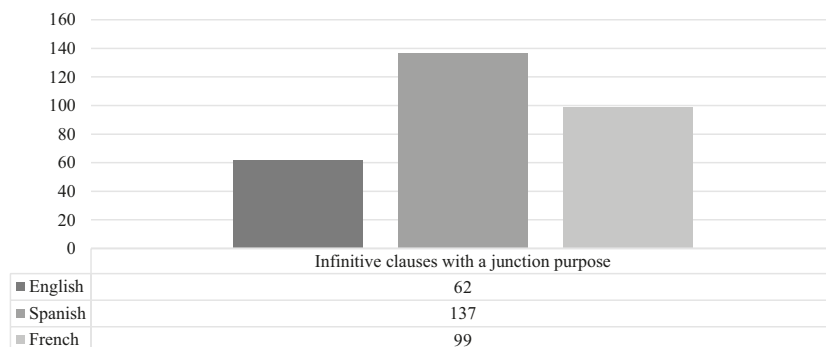
	Infinitive clauses with a junction purpose
■ English	62
■ Spanish	137
■ French	99

Chart 46: Distribution of infinitive clauses with a junction purpose in the three corpora

Infinitive clauses with a junction purpose

The third most productive category of infinitives in the three corpora is the one that has a junction communicative objective. In English, we identify 62 infinitive clauses with this function. In Spanish, there are 137 infinitives with different junction values. Finally, in French, we register 99 infinitive clauses with a junction goal. Chart 46 shows the distribution of infinitive clauses with this communicative purpose.

In this section, there are significant differences between the three corpora. Indeed, in English, we identify only two semantic values: purpose and consequence. Moreover, there are only two particles that precede the infinitive clause: *to* and *in order to*. As stated in chapter one, these results are not unexpected, since in English, nexuses that express other meanings such as temporality (*before/after*), cause (*for*), exclusion (*without*), condition (*in case of*), concession (*although*), etc., need a gerund phrase and not an infinitive one.

In Spanish, we register seven semantic values in the sports newspaper articles. These are purpose, temporality, exclusion, concession, condition, cause and consequence. Furthermore, there is a variety of prepositions and prepositional locutions that link the infinitives to the main clause. As an example, in the temporality value, we detect six different nexuses.

In the French-language corpus, we distinguish five semantic values: purpose, temporality, exclusion, concession, and consequence. Even if the nexuses identified in this corpus are not as varied as in Spanish, we find more than those registered in the English-language corpus. Indeed, as an example, in purpose
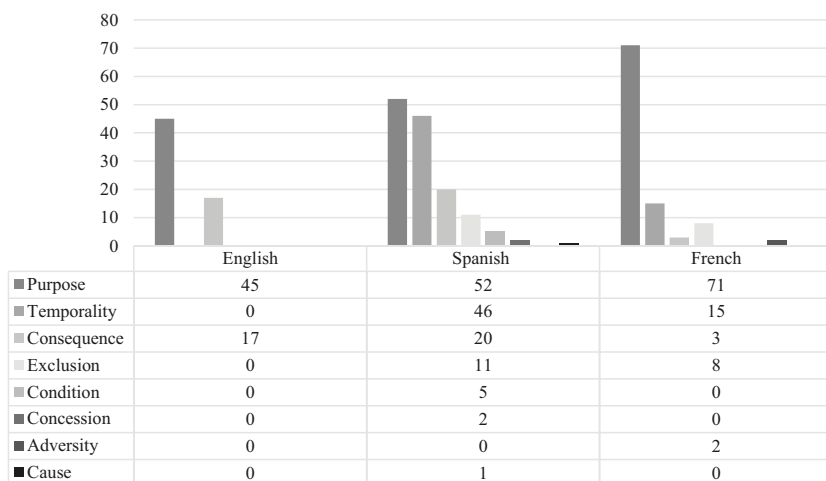
	English	Spanish	French
■ Purpose	45	52	71
■ Temporality	0	46	15
■ Consequence	17	20	3
■ Exclusion	0	11	8
■ Condition	0	5	0
■ Concession	0	2	0
■ Adversity	0	0	2
■ Cause	0	1	0

Chart 47: Distribution of semantic values of infinitive clauses in the three corpora.

clauses, there are four different nexuses. Chart 47 summarizes the distribution of semantic values of the infinitive clauses of the three corpora.

As it can be observed in Chart 47, the most productive semantic value that infinitive clauses display in the three corpora is the one of purpose. In English, we distinguish forty-five purpose clauses, and only two nexuses which are *to* and *in order to*, as in examples (80) and (81).

(80) He reluctantly went under the knife for the second time in Melbourne in January *to heal a chronic hip injury* […] [The Guardian – 04/03/2018]

(81) "I was with the national team and I took the chance to leave the team. It was a long time without my family. But sometimes in life *in order to achieve your dreams* you have to make some sacrifices. And look at me now. I'm here." [Toronto Sun – 12/03/2018]

In Spanish, we identify fifty-two purpose clauses with four nexuses that precede the infinitive phrase: *para*, *por*, *con la finalidad de*, and *a*. Fragment (82) shows an example of a purpose clause with the preposition *para*. Fragment (83) presents an example with the prepositional locution *con la finalidad de*.

(82) El torneo cuenta con un ingrediente adicional para el suizo: debe alcanzar las semifinales *para defender el número uno*. [Clarín – 10/03/2018]

(83) Sin embargo, *con la finalidad de alcanzar cada vez más fronteras*, se disputarán circuitos en Londres, Bruselas, París, México, Buenos Aires y Suecia […] [El Mundo – 12/03/2018]

In French, there are seventy-one purpose clauses and four nexuses that precede an infinitive phrase to display this particular meaning. These nexuses are the preposition *pour*, and the prepositional locutions *afin de*, *en vue de*, and *dans le but de*. Fragment (84) shows an example of a purpose clause with the preposition *pour*. Fragment (85) presents an example of an infinitive clause with a meaning of purpose with the prepositional locution *afin de*.

(84) Les rencontres se déroulent généralement en soirée et le public marocain reste scotché devant son téléviseur ou sur les sites diffusant le combat *pour encourager le champion marocain*. [Aujourd'hui le Maroc – 05/03/2018]

(85) Dans ce cadre, il a appelé tous les pays africains à une mobilisation collective *afin de défendre un droit légitime à travers la réalisation concrète du principe de l'alternance entre les continents*, ce qui va permettre à l'Afrique de reprendre la place qu'elle mérite sur la scène footballistique mondial. [Aujourd'hui le Maroc – 06/03/2018]

The other meaning that infinitive clauses present in the three corpora is consequence. As mentioned before, in the English-language corpus, there are seventeen infinitive clauses that have a meaning of consequence. The only preposition found in these infinitive clauses is *to*. An example is observed in (86).

(86) Argentina pulled ahead again in the 53rd minute when Julieta Jankunas scored from the field *to seal the second successive win for her side*. [The New Zealand Herald – 23/02/2018]

In Spanish, we identify twenty infinitive clauses with a meaning of consequence. The only preposition that denotes this meaning is *para*. Fragment (87) presents an example of a consequence clause.

(87) En los Campeonatos de España sub-18 de Antequera, Vicente superó en más de 400 puntos su mejor registro en pentatlón (3.923 puntos, el pasado 13 de enero, récord de España) *para dejar el récord mundial en 4.371*, una barbaridad. [El Mundo – 10/03/2018]

In the French-language corpus, there are only three infinitive clauses that have a meaning of consequence. All of them have the prepositional locution *au point de*. Fragment (88) shows an example of this type of clauses.

(88) Relégué sur le banc des remplaçants par son entraîneur Unai Emery, le défenseur Thiago Silva, 33 ans, n'avait pas caché son dépit au stade Santiago-Bernabeu. *Au point de sécher la séance d'échauffement avant la défaite (3–1) du Paris-Saint-Germain sur la pelouse du Real Madrid.* [Le Monde – 28/02/2018]

In Spanish and French, infinitive clauses with a meaning of temporality constitute the second most productive infinitive clauses with a junction purpose of both corpora. In Spanish, we distinguish forty-six time clauses. The nexuses found in this corpus are *al*, *tras*, *después de*, *luego de*, *antes de*, and *a poco de*. Fragments (89–91) present examples of the three first nexuses.

(89) El volante completó los 90 minutos pero *al finalizar el encuentro* el dolor comenzó a crecer. [El Comercio – 09/03/2018]

(90) El merlense (94°), que llegó a esta instancia *tras superar en su debut al checo Jiri Vesely por 7–5 y 6–3* […] [Clarín – 10/03/2018]

(91) *Después de ganarle al dominicano Víctor Estrella Burgos por 4–6, 6–4 y 6–1*, el correntino se medirá con el japonés Kei Nishikori, 25° en el ranking. [Clarín – 10/03/2018]

In the French-language corpus, we identify a total of fifteen time clauses. These infinitives are preceded only by two nexuses that express temporality, the prepositional locution *avant de* and the preposition *après*. In example (92), appears an infinitive clause with *avant de*, whereas in (93) the infinitive is preceded by *après*.

(92) Un long périple attend les poulains de Benchikha qui devront passer par Casablanca pour arriver à Accra, *avant de prendre un vol des lignes intérieures du pays pour rejoindre leur destination finale*. [El Moudjahid – 04/03/2018]

(93) *Après avoir compté plus de 7:00 d'avance*, Grellier, parti en solitaire, a été repris à 35 km de l'arrivée. [Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018]

Moreover, in Spanish and French, we identify infinitive clauses with a meaning of exclusion and concession. There are eleven infinitive clauses that have an exclusion meaning in Spanish, and eight in French. In Spanish, such infinitives are preceded by the preposition *sin*, as in example (94), while in French the preposition *sans* is used to display this meaning, as observed in fragment (95).

(94) La escuadra felina exhibió uno de sus peores juegos de la campaña […] y llegó a cinco partidos *sin ganar*. [La Jornada – 12/03/2018]

(95) Le Real Madrid s'impose (1–2) *sans forcer au PSG* et file logiquement en 1/4 de finales, Liverpool se qualifie au petit trop contre Porto (0–0) [Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018]

In French, there are also two infinitive clauses with a meaning of adversity. Both infinitive clauses present the prepositional locution *au lieu de* preceding the infinitive phrase. An example of these infinitive clauses is shown in fragment (96).

(96) Cette fois, la McLaren-Renault est bien la monoplace qui a le moins tourné. *Au lieu de rattraper le temps perdu*, l'écurie de Woking accumule les ennuis. [La Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018]

In Spanish, we distinguish two infinitive clauses with a meaning of concession, one with the preposition *para* and the other one with the prepositional locution *a pesar de*. An example of this infinitive clause is presented in fragment (97). As stated before, we follow Lehmann's (2004) elucidations which differentiate adversative and concessive clauses. Indeed, according to the author, adversative clauses present a contrast or a difference between two entities, whereas concessive clauses identify an unexpected consequence.

(97) El torneo cuenta con un ingrediente adicional para el suizo: debe alcanzar las semifinales para defender el número uno. En caso de no conseguirlo, Nadal (hoy a 600 puntos) lo superaría *a pesar de no estar presente en el certamen californiano*. [Clarín – 10/03/2018]

Furthermore, in the Spanish-language corpus, we find five conditional clauses and one cause clause. The condition clauses present two nexuses, the preposition *de* and the prepositional locution *en caso de*. One example of these clauses is observed in fragment (98).

(98) En esa cancha, la acción se iniciará a las 16 y tres partidos precederán el desafío del argentino. *En caso de ganar*, el porteño ya mejorará su mejor actuación en Indian Wells (perdió con Federer en la segunda ronda, en 2015). [Clarín – 10/03/2018]

The only cause clause found in Spanish presents the preposition *por* as a nexus between the main clause and the infinitive one. The only example found in our corpus is shown in (99).

(99) En el comienzo de la Serie Mundial de Clavados en Pekín, los mexicanos Rodrigo Diego López y Adán Zúñiga se quedaron a un paso de subir al podio *por concluir en la cuarta posición en los tres metros sincronizados*. [La Jornada – 10/03/2018]

As it has been observed in this section, sports journalists of the Spanish-language newspapers tend to use not only a higher number of infinitive clauses
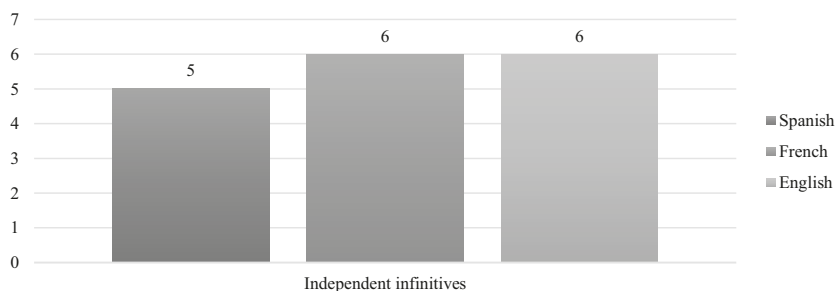
Chart 48: Distribution of independent infinitives in the three corpora

with junction goals than the journalists of the other two corpora, but also a larger variety of nexuses that display seven different meanings.

Independent infinitive constructions

From all the variety of independent infinitive constructions there are in the three languages, these infinitives are the least frequent in Spanish and French, and the second least frequent in English. Chart 48 presents the distribution of independent infinitive constructions in the three corpora.

In the English-language corpus, we identify five tokens of independent infinitive constructions but only one type which is the injunctive infinitive. One example of these is presented in fragment (100).

(100) *Expect Vanney to adjust his tactics given the situation*. Toronto's ability to win games in different ways, including on the counter-attack, has been an underappreciated pillar of Vanney's tenure. [Toronto Sun – 12/03/2018]

In the Spanish-language corpus of our research, there are only six independent constructions tokens, and only two types, i.e., interrogative infinitive and injunctive infinitive. Fragment (101) shows an interrogative infinitive and fragment (102) presents an injunctive infinitive.

(101) Allí tiene average vitalicio de .329 y .999 de OPS. ¿Si va a renacer *por qué no hacerlo en el lugar donde vio la luz como estrella de las mayores*? [El Nacional – 10/03/2018]

(102) "*A estar al lado de nuestra selección*, Los Leones, para su clasificación al Mundial," declaró el cantante catalán. [El Mundo – 09/03/2018]

Finally, in the French-written sports newspaper articles, we distinguish six independent constructions, but only two types, one with interrogative functions and the other five with injunctive goals. In example (103), there is an interrogative infinitive and in example (104), an injunctive infinitive.

(103) Quatrième sur la Toro Rosso dotée du Honda V6 dont personne ne voulait plus, Pierre Gasly a continué à surprendre tout le monde avec un moteur performant puisqu'il pointe à moins de six dixièmes. *De quoi se poser d'autant plus de questions chez McLaren que Stoffel Vandoorne n'a pu boucler que 37 tours, sept le matin et trente l'après-midi (plus un sur la dépanneuse).* Pour la troisième fois en cinq jours, la MCL33 s'est montré défaillante. [La Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018]

(104) Un long périple attend les poulains de Benchikha qui devront passer par Casablanca pour arriver à Accra, avant de prendre un vol des lignes intérieures du pays pour rejoindre leur destination finale. *À souligner que le championnat du Ghana*, dont la dernière édition a été remportée par Aduana Stars FC, *en est seulement à sa troisième journée.* [El Moudjahid – 04/03/2018]

Lexicalized and grammaticalized infinitives

Lexicalized and grammaticalized infinitives represent the least recurrent type of infinitive in the sports newspaper texts in English, whereas they are the second least frequent type of infinitive in the sports articles written in French and Spanish. Chart 49 presents this information.

As observed in Chart 49, in English, we identify only four lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitive tokens. However, there is only one item registered, more particularly a fixed expression which is repeated four times in the corpus, *have anything/nothing to do with*. One example is presented in (105).

(105) "Not at all slightly," said Stroman. "I've been playing with arm slots my whole career, since I was a little kid. So that *has nothing to do with it.*" [Toronto Sun – 27/02/2018]

In Spanish, we distinguish seven lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitives. One of them is observed in (106), a grammaticalized infinitive, i.e., *para empezar* that is used as a discourse connector to link clauses. In fragment (107), there is the lexicalized infinitive construction *no tener nada que ver*, that is used to deny a situation that was thought as very probable.
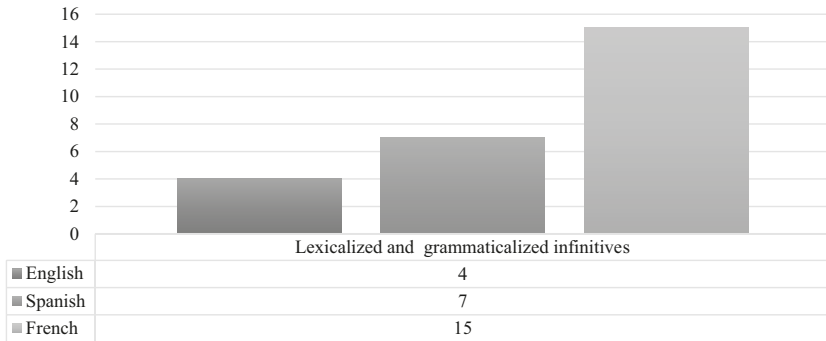
	Lexicalized and grammaticalized infinitives
■ English	4
■ Spanish	7
■ French	15

Chart 49: Distribution of lexicalized and grammaticalized infinitives in the three corpora

(106) Al equipo de Ziganda se le puso todo de cara para proponer esa conjura colectiva. *Para empezar*, tuvo enfrente a un rival al que la temporada se le está haciendo muy larga. Queda poco ya de aquel Leganés que consiguió eliminar al Real Madrid en la Copa y que miraba a Europa de reojo. [El Mundo – 01/03/2018]

(107) El presidente de la FPF, Edwin Oviedo, aseguró que el partido amistoso ante la selección de Alemania *no tiene nada que ver* con la despedida de Claudio Pizarro [El Comercio – 12/03/2018]

Finally, sports journalists of the newspapers written in French use fifteen lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitives. Fragment (108) presents an example of a noun phrase constituted by the noun *match* and the infinitive *aller*. The infinitive in question plays the role of a determiner, since it characterizes the noun it precedes. Example (109) shows a grammaticalized infinitive used as a discourse marker to link two clauses.

(108) Sa mise à l'écart, lors du *match aller*, constituait un pari sportif et s'avérait risquée sur le plan politique. [Le Monde – 06/03/2018]

(109) "Dans l'attente de ce changement de réglementation, le Conseil d'Administration demande à l'UCI de modifier son règlement World Tour, *à savoir* de donner la possibilité aux organisateurs de récuser un coureur qui serait confronté à une procédure disciplinaire pour un contrôle positif ou anormal", conclut le MPCC. [Dernière Heure – 06/03/2018]

Conclusions

As stated before, the comparison of the three corpora of our research leads us to establish that sports journalists of newspapers written in English are the ones who produce the most infinitives in their articles. Indeed, we distinguish a total of 901 infinitives in the corpus. With 407 infinitives less, sports journalists of newspapers in Spanish are the second most productive of this non-finite form with a sum of 494 infinitives in the corpus. Finally, sports journalists of newspapers in French are the ones who use less infinitives in their articles with a total of 440, this means 461 less infinitives than in English and 54 infinitives less than in Spanish.

The most prominent function of infinitives found in English are those that display a verb role. Certainly, there are 447 verbal periphrases in this language corpus. Nevertheless, we register only two types of periphrases in these newspaper articles, these are gradation and modalization periphrases. In other words, we do not identify any disposition nor quantification periphrases.

In the articles written in Spanish and French, the most productive infinitive function is in a noun role. Indeed, we register 201 infinitive phrases in a noun role in Spanish and 190 in French. The most productive function of infinitives in both corpora is as verb complement. In Spanish, the infinitive phrase as verb complement is registered with 105 frequencies, whereas, in French, we identify 121 infinitives displaying this syntactic function.

Finally, the least recurrent function found in the corpora was the lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitive in English with only 4 items, and the independent infinitive construction in Spanish and French with 6 items each.

VI Conclusions

The syntactic functions of infinitives in sports newspaper articles are studied along this research. To achieve this, three corpora of sports newspaper articles are contrasted, one corpus in English, one in Spanish and another one in French. Each corpus is constituted by fifty sports newspaper articles. The perspective through which the three corpora are examined is mainly syntactic.

This book is constituted by six chapters. In the introduction, the specific context in which we carry out this research is presented. More precisely, two relevant issues are considered. The first one is constituted by the sports journalism; the second one consists of the syntactic functions that infinitives can display in English, Spanish and French.

The first chapter presents the theoretical foundations and the methodology of this research. On the one hand, in the theoretical foundations, the concept of non-finite forms is elucidated, so that the syntactic functions infinitives can display in the three aforementioned languages can be understood. Moreover, main characteristics of general journalism and sports journalism are clarified.

On the other hand, in the methodology section, two main sub-sections are presented. In the first sub-section, we describe exhaustively the way the corpus of each language is selected. In the second sub-section, we explain the classification proposals that are considered in order to examine the three corpora of the research.

The following three chapters, i.e., second, third and fourth, focus on the analysis of the three corpora. The second chapter analyzes the Spanish-language corpus. The third chapter examines the French-language corpus. Finally, the fourth chapter studies the English-language corpus. These three chapters follow the same outline. First, there is a section with the main numerical results. Afterwards, there is a section with a more qualitative analysis. At the end of the section, we show the main results of our analysis.

In the fifth chapter, a contrastive analysis of the three corpora is presented. This chapter shows the main similarities and differences that are found in the three previous chapters. Besides, these results are associated to other studies' results and interpretations. This contrastive chapter is vital, so that conclusions can be drawn.

This sixth and last chapter presents the conclusions of the study: main findings of the research are summarized. Moreover, the contributions of our research to three fields of knowledge are stated. In addition, the limitations found along the

investigation are recognized. Finally, further necessary studies in the field of sports discourse and syntax are proposed, so that a better understanding of the phenomenon of the functions of the infinitives and other non-finite forms can be reached from a cross-cultural perspective.

Main findings of the research

First of all, in the three corpora of our research, 1,835 infinitives are identified and classified according to the syntactic function they display. We consider two main roles that infinitives can play when they constitute infinitive phrases, i.e., infinitive phrase in a noun role and infinitive phrase in a verb role (verbal periphrasis). Moreover, we consider that infinitive clauses present one single function, this is as a junction strategy to link two clauses. Furthermore, infinitives that do not depend on other verbal forms to predicate constitute independent constructions. Finally, infinitives, infinitive phrases, infinitive clauses or even infinitive constructions that have been through a process of lexicalization or grammaticalization are considered in one category as lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitives.

Based on the comparison of the number of infinitives recognized in each corpus of our study, we conclude that the sports journalists of the English-language corpus are those who undoubtedly produce the highest number of infinitives in their articles with a sum of 901 infinitives displaying a variety of syntactic functions. Various forms such as *will go*, *shall come*, *would leave*, etc. already belong to the verbal system of the language, hence the considerable number of infinitives in this corpus. *The Guardian* is the newspaper where the highest quantity of infinitives is registered in English, more particularly 244/901 infinitives, this is more than the fourth part of the corpus.

It is necessary to remember that the corpus in English is the one that contains more words. Indeed, this corpus comprises 27,350 words, that is 6,466 more words than the corpus in Spanish, and 8,242 more words than the corpus in French. We consider that the number of words in each corpus could play its part in the number of infinitives registered.

With 407 infinitives less than those found in the corpus in English, the journalists that write for the Spanish-language newspapers represent the second most prolific corpus with a total of 494 infinitives in their sports articles. In this corpus, the sports journalists of the Spanish newspaper *El Mundo* are those who write their articles with the highest number of these non-finite form with a total of 146/494 infinitives, this represents a little less than a third of the corpus.

Lastly, with 461 infinitives less than those registered in English, and 54 infinitives less than those found in Spanish, the journalists that write sports articles for the French-language newspapers represent the least productive corpus of our research with a total of 440 infinitives. In the corpus, it is in the French newspaper *Le Monde* where the highest quantity of infinitives is distinguished with a total of 169/440, this means much more than a third of the corpus.

Syntactic functions of infinitives

Along this research, as stated before, we distinguish five main functions that infinitives of the three languages can display. In English, the most prolific function is in a verb role, more specifically as a verbal periphrasis. Indeed, in this corpus we distinguish 447/901 infinitive periphrases, which represent almost half of the corpus, more particularly 49.61%.

In the corpus in Spanish as well as the one in French, the most prolific infinitive is the one found in a noun role. Indeed, in the Spanish-language corpus, 201/494 infinitive phrases in a noun role are identified, this means less than half of the corpus, more specifically 40.69%. Besides, in French, 188/440 infinitives are registered with a noun role, this is also less than half of the corpus, more precisely 42.73%.

The second most prominent function of infinitives in the English-language corpus is constituted by those infinitive phrases that play a noun role. These infinitives are numbered 383/901 times. In other words, they represent less than the half of the corpus, more exactly 42.51%.

In Spanish and French, the second most productive function of infinitives is displayed by verbal periphrases. In both corpora, we distinguish less than a third of each respective corpus of these infinitives. On the one hand, there are 143/494 infinitive verbal periphrases in Spanish, this is 28.95% of the corpus. On the other hand, we identify 132/440 infinitive verbal periphrases in French, this is 30%.

Additionally, in the three corpora, infinitive clauses with a junction purpose are considered the third most employed function of infinitives. In Spanish, these infinitives constitute less than a third of the corpus, more exactly 27.73% (137/494). In French, these infinitives represent less than a fourth of the corpus, more precisely 22.5% (99/440). Finally, in English, infinitives with a function of linking clauses characterize less than a tenth of the corpus, specifically 6.88% (62/901).

The fourth most employed function of infinitives in English is constituted by independent infinitive constructions with only 5/901 (0.55%) infinitives. In

Spanish and French, lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitives occupy this place. Indeed, a little more than 3% of the corpus in French is constituted by these infinitives, i.e., 15/440 infinitives in total, whereas in Spanish, these infinitives represent a little more than 1%, this is 7/494 infinitives.

Finally, in English the least productive infinitives are those which have been lexicalized/grammaticalized with a total of 4/901 (0.44%). In Spanish and French, the least productive infinitives are independent constructions. In both corpora, we register only 6 independent infinitives, this represents 1.21% in the Spanish-language corpus (6/494), and 1.36% in the French-language corpus (6/440).

Infinitive phrases in a noun role

In the noun role, infinitive phrases that function as verb complements are the most frequent in the three corpora, followed by those that have a noun complement function. However, in English and French, infinitive phrases that play the role of adjective complement occupy the third position in this particular role, whereas in Spanish, it is the subject function that occupies this place. Finally, in English and French, the subject function is the least productive in this role, while in Spanish, the adjective complement function is the least prolific.

Prepositions used as linking elements between the infinitive phrase and the noun, the infinitive phrase and the verb or the infinitive phrase and the adjective are very prolific in Spanish, since in this language we find a great diversity of prepositions. Indeed, as an example, infinitive phrases that play the role of verb complements are preceded by six different prepositions such as *a*, *de*, *en*, *por*, *con*, and *para*. Moreover, in the role of noun complements, once again six prepositions are identified. These are *para*, *de*, *en*, *a*, *entre*, and *por*.

In the French-language corpus, prepositions are not so varied as in Spanish. However, we identify mainly three prepositions that play the role of nexuses between the noun, the adjective or the verb and the infinitive phrase, these prepositions are *à*, *de* and *pour*. It is important to remember that in this corpus, there is also an example in which there is no preposition between the infinitive phrase and an adjective, something that is not found in Spanish nor in English.

Finally, in English, the only preposition distinguished as a linking nexus is *to*. It is because of this and for practical reasons that the infinitive form receives two basic names, without the particle *to* it is called bare infinitive, while when the basic form is introduced by the particle *to*, it receives the name of full infinitive (cf. Quintero, 2015: 185).

Along this study, we observe that the bare infinitive and the full infinitive have a diversity of employments that are regularly found in complementary

distribution. Indeed, specific syntactic contexts require the bare infinitive, whereas other syntactic contexts call for the full infinitive.

Infinitive phrases in a verb role: as verbal periphrases

As stated in previous chapters, we follow Fernández de Castro's (1999) proposal to classify verbal periphrases in the three corpora. According to Fernández de Castro (1999: 147–329, 2003: 20–21), these constructions can display four main characteristics according to the angle through which the process of the action is observed. The four categories are (a) gradation, (b) disposition, (c) quantification, and (d) modalization.

A similarity among the three corpora is that modalization constitute the most productive periphrases, whereas gradation represent the second most prominent periphrases. Disposition periphrases have a reduced number of types and tokens in Spanish and French, whereas in French there are no quantification periphrases and in English quantification and disposition periphrases have no representation at all.

We consider that the absence of quantification and disposition periphrases in English, as well as the poor representation of these periphrastic constructions in French and Spanish is due to the fact that in the three languages, there are other linguistic strategies that are used in order to indicate the repetition of an action and the position that an action has regarding other actions, especially in English and French.

Therefore, we conclude that even if verbal periphrases constitute the most productive infinitives of the English-language corpus, these constructions belong only to two categories of Fernandez de Castro's proposal, these are gradation and modalization. The last ones being the most productive.

We also conclude that in Spanish, there are periphrases of each category. However, there is a huge difference among the number of periphrases found in each one. Indeed, gradation and modalization have a variety of periphrastic constructions, whereas disposition and quantification periphrases have a reduced number of types and tokens.

The abundant number of verbal periphrases in the three corpora, and more specifically those of modalization, leads us to conclude that sports journalists of the three languages tend to maintain a distance from the reality they present in their newspaper articles. In other words, they present an interpretation of a fact, expressing a possibility, an obligation, a need or a similarity instead of presenting the fact itself.

Infinitive clauses with a junction purpose

Infinitives in Spanish, French and English can display a textual function which consists on a process of linking ideas or clauses in order to produce larger units in the framework of the communication strategies. However, the diversity of nexuses and thus the assortment of meanings that infinitive clauses can display are very different in the three languages, as it is demonstrated by the results of our corpora.

In the English-language corpus, we register only two semantic values of infinitives with the textual function of linking clauses: purpose and consequence. Furthermore, we identify only two particles that precede the infinitive, these are *to* and *in order to*.

In English, gerunds, and not infinitives, are preceded by a series of prepositions (*before*, *without*, *for*, etc.) and prepositional locutions (*instead of*, *in spite of*, *in case of*, etc.) to link clauses in order to form larger sentences. These nexuses offer a variety of meanings to the gerund clause.

In French, there are five semantic values: purpose, temporality, exclusion, concession, and consequence. The nexuses between the main clause and the infinitive clause are way more varied than those found in English. Purpose clauses are the ones that present a more extensive assortment of nexuses with a total of four: *pour*, *afin de*, *en vue de* and *dans le but de*. Time clauses present two nexuses, one prepositional locution to express anteriority and one preposition for posteriority: *avant de* and *après*. We distinguish only one nexus for exclusion clauses: *sans*, as well as for consequence clauses: *au point de*, and adversity clauses: *au lieu de*.

The Spanish-language corpus is the one with the most varied semantic values of the three corpora. Certainly, we register seven semantic values in the sports newspaper articles, i.e., purpose, temporality, consequence, exclusion, concession, condition and cause.

Moreover, prepositions and prepositional locutions that link infinitives to the main clause are the most varied of the three corpora. Time clauses constitute the ones with a wider variety of nexuses with a total of six: *al*, *tras*, *después de*, *luego de*, *antes de*, and *a poco de*. Purpose infinitives are preceded by three prepositions: *para*, *a* and *por*, and one prepositional locution: *con la finalidad de*. Condition infinitives are preceded by two nexuses: *en caso de* and *de*. Consequence infinitives display one single nexus: *para*. The same happens with exclusion infinitives: *sin* and with infinitives of cause: *por*.

Independent infinitive constructions

Even if in the three languages, there is a wide variety of independent infinitive constructions, we register a reduced number of tokens and a more reduced number of types. Indeed, in the English-language corpus, we identify five tokens of independent infinitive constructions but only one type which is the injunctive infinitive. In the sports articles written in Spanish, we distinguish only six infinitive independent constructions, and only two types, these are interrogative and injunctive infinitives.

Finally, sports journalists of the newspaper published in French employ only six independent constructions. From these tokens, we identify two types, which are the same types found in the Spanish-language corpus: interrogative and injunctive infinitives.

These results lead us to conclude that exclamatory, performative, fragmentary, thematic, and narrative infinitives are not employed in this discourse genre, since some of them are produced exclusively in spoken texts, that is the case of the fragmentary infinitive which is employed more commonly in informal conversations (cf. Hernanz, 1999: 2333).

Lexicalized and grammaticalized infinitives

On the one hand, in the sports newspaper articles written in English, we register only four lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitive tokens, and only one type, more specifically a fixed expression which is repeated four times in the corpus, this is *have anything/nothing to do with*.

On the other hand, in the Spanish-written articles, we identify seven lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitives. As in English, one of them is the fixed expression *no tener nada que ver*, a lexicalized infinitive. Moreover, there is the grammaticalized infinitive *para empezar*, that is used as a metacommunicative tool, since the discourse in the article is organized, among other textual strategies, through this kind of infinitives. Another grammaticalized infinitive found in Spanish is *es decir*, which is used as an explanatory connector. And in its most nominal use, we also find nominalized infinitives such as *saber* and *ser* which are lexicalized as nouns.

Finally, sports journalists in the French-language corpus employ fifteen lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitives. A common example is the use of the infinitive *aller* as a determiner of the noun *match* or the noun *manche* in order to constitute a noun phrase *le match aller*, *la manche aller*. Besides, the same infinitive is used as a noun preceded by a definite article: *l'aller*. Moreover, there are also two expressions: *à savoir*, a grammaticalized infinitive used as a discourse

marker to link two clauses, and *à partir de*, another grammaticalized infinitive used as a nexus.

Even if lexicalized/grammaticalized infinitives are not very numerous in our corpora, they are varied in Spanish and French. In both languages, infinitives that have been grammaticalized are important as discourse markers and nexuses to link clauses and generate larger sentences. Moreover, in French, we observe that the infinitive *aller* is essential to express a specificity of sports events.

Contributions and originality of the research

There are numerous studies that focus on the syntactic examination of non-finite forms, where infinitives play an important role. Nevertheless, some researchers focus on one single syntactic function of the infinitive in one language. Indeed, Englebert (1998), Melis (2000), Stage (2006) and Torterat (2008) focus on the narrative infinitive in French; Ridruejo (1992) and Villalba Ibáñez (2018) concentrate on the performative infinitive in Spanish; Sleeman (2017) examines the nominalized infinitive in French; Duffley (2003) studies infinitives as subjects in English. In this research, our purpose is to examine all the syntactic functions of infinitives in three languages.

It is true that some other researchers analyze infinitives from a contrastive perspective, that is the case of Rémi-Giraud (1988) who compiles a book of contrastive studies focused on the infinitive in languages such as German, French, Greek, Arab and English. Turner (2000) presents a contrastive study of infinitives in French and English from a translation perspective. Gawelko (2005) has a study of infinitives in Portuguese and Spanish.

In previous works, we have carried out a couple of studies that focus on infinitives from a syntactic perspective (cf. Quintero Ramírez, 2012) and from a suprasentential perspective (cf. Quintero Ramírez, 2013) in French and Spanish. The purpose of our study is to contrast the syntactic functions of infinitives in three languages: English, Spanish and French. Moreover, this contrastive study is focused on one particular discourse genre: sports newspaper articles.

Therefore, from what has been said, it could be concluded that the main contributions of this research are produced in three main areas: (a) syntactic studies focused on non-finite forms, more particularly, infinitives; (b) contrastive studies, specifically English, Spanish and French; and (c) sports discourse analysis, more precisely journalistic sports discourse. Consequently, this research represents an original study, since it examines syntactic functions of infinitives in sports newspaper articles in three languages.

Limitations of the research

This research faced several limitations due to some factors that are mentioned in this section of the book. First of all, we worked with three corpora, each corpus was constituted of fifty sports newspaper articles in English, other fifty in Spanish, and fifty more in French. We considered ten articles from the sports section of five national newspapers. The texts of the corpus were taken from fifteen newspapers of different countries. The sports articles were published from February to March 2018.

Hence, our results are limited to what journalists of fifteen newspapers wrote about specific sports events in a short period of time, i.e., one month approximately. Therefore, we recognize that the number of sports articles of each corpus is not abundant nor extensive. Moreover, we know that not all the sport disciplines are considered in the three corpora, since we depended on the newspapers' publication interests and the course of certain sports events.

In other words, we acknowledge that our corpus is not big enough to present categorical conclusions nor generalizations about the use of infinitives in the three languages. Moreover, there could have been some syntactic functions distinct from the ones examined in this book that could have been used by other journalists in other circumstances. Nevertheless, we consider that the number of sports articles of these corpora gave us the opportunity to present a grasp to the phenomenon in question, above all from a contrastive perspective between the three languages involved.

We are also aware that, even if we build our corpora from general newspapers from different countries, there are still many English, Spanish and French speaking countries that are not represented in the corpora. Therefore, although our intention is to show how infinitives are employed in different parts of the world in order to express the different actions, situations and circumstances that take place in sports events, our results are not representative of all the countries that speak one of the three examined languages.

Furthermore, the linguistic limitations of the researcher represent another important constraint of the study, since Spanish is the researcher's mother language, whereas English and French constitute foreign languages in the linguistic biography of the author. Even if native speakers of English and French as well as linguists specialized in these two languages were consulted about certain contents of the corpora in order to dissipate doubts, we are aware that there still remain some linguistic limitations.

Further research

Non-finite forms, and, more particularly, infinitives, constitute a topic of interest in linguistic research. Along this last chapter, several studies have been mentioned as an illustration of this. As stated before, syntactic studies focused on infinitives have been carried out from a contrastive perspective. This research constitutes a contribution to these studies. However, not all the functions of the infinitives of the three languages have been examined, since this is an approach to the phenomenon in question only from syntax. Thus, there are still functions that infinitives can display in the three languages that could be examined in future research from other perspectives.

As it has been documented in this same chapter, one of the main limitations of this study is that our results are way far from being categorical. That is why it is imperative that other research with different characteristics to ours be carried out. On the one hand, more abundant and extensive corpora could be used in order to have more conclusive results. On the other hand, other languages besides the ones that have been analyzed in this study could be considered. Finally, in order to fully understand the functions that infinitives can display in languages, it is necessary to adopt other perspectives, such as semantic and pragmatic.

Furthermore, it would be interesting to analyze the role of infinitives in other sports discourse genres, especially those that belong to the spoken language, such as live narrations of different sports events, interviews of a journalist to an important sports personality and tv shows that examine the results of a specific sports discipline or a diversity of the most popular sports.

Finally, it would be desirable to examine the syntactic and textual functions that other non-finite forms, such as gerunds (converbs), action nominals and participles, can display in a specific sports discourse genre or in sports discourse in general. It would be interesting to include spoken and written material in order to compare functions between these two types of communication of sports discourse, so that more comprehensive elucidations of the non-finite forms can be offered.

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