



The Roles Held by the Suffix -mente in Deriving Spanish Adjective with Reference to Adverb: Miguel de Cervantes' El Quijote



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Abstract

There were several main topics discussed in this article, especially how the Spanish suffix -mente contributed in changing an adjective to an adverb. This writing also explained the kind of adjective which could be attached with the suffix -mente, as there was more than one kind of adjective in Spanish according to its gender, masculine and feminine. The data analyzed were taken from a novel entitled El Quijote by Miguel de Cervantes. Thus, the translation was applied to the data in this research. The method used was adopted from the previous research done by Sergi Torner. In the end of the research done, it was known that -mente belonged to a derivational morpheme and worked the same way as the English suffix -ly. Because of this matter, the morphological theory was conducted in this research.

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1. Introduction

Spanish is used by over 400 millions people in this world. This language is also admitted as one of the official languages in the United Nations. It makes Spanish become the second most spoken languages in the world, right after Chinese. Morphologically, there are a lot of objects that can be analyzed from this language by comparing it to English. The contrast difference between Spanish and English occurs in the transformation among the word classes, especially in the change of adjective to adverb.

Generally, the adjectives are used to describe noun and always come before the noun in phrases or sentences. However, the Spanish adjectives are quite different from the English adjectives. In Spanish, the form of the adjectives are affected by the noun they are followed. When the noun is in its plural form, the adjective also must be in the plural form. Because the Spanish nouns are considered to have gender, the adjectives, then, also depend on its gender. There are two possible genders used to state this situation, feminine or masculine. In English, most of the adjectives can be converted into adverb just by adding -ly. This phenomenon happens in Spanish too. To

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change a Spanish adjective into adverb, the presence of the suffix *-mente* is undeniable and is equal to *-ly* in English.

In order to make this article more accurate, empiric data were needed. The empiric data were taken from previous research. The data, of course, should be relevant to the topic discussed. According to Sergi Torner, on his proposal research entitled *On the Morphological Nature of Spanish Adverbs Ending in “-mente”*, known that *-mente* always appears attached to an adjective. Thus, it seems plausible to assume that it is a bound morpheme that necessarily attached to its host. In addition, explained that *-mente* is a derivational phrasal affix that creates adverbs from adjective phrases in which the adjective is in its feminine form. The empiric data are very important to support the analysis and were taken from the website https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265002156_On_the_Morphological_Nature_of_Spanish_Adverbs_Ending_in_-mente. This data are then supposed to be able to give guidance in making this article.

2. Results and Analysis

This article discusses about how the Spanish suffix *-mente* changes adjective into adverb. The focus of this article is on the level of morphology so that sampling method is chosen. All the samples analyzed are shown in the form of quotations and taken randomly from a novel entitled *El Quijote* by Miguel de Cervantes.

There are six data taken from the novel, they are, then, classified into three groups, based on how the adjectives in it are derived and their functions in sentence. In order to build such a good understanding about the data analyzed, the translation of each sample is attached and served as the following tables.

No.	Data	Translation
1	Se imaginó que estaba en un famoso castillo y que la hija del señor del castillo se enamorada de él locamente y que aquella noche se proponía dormir con él... (page 69)	He imagined that he was in a famous castle and the lord of the castle's daughter fell in love with him crazily and that night she proposed to sleep with him...
2	Al llegar vieron que la boca de la cueva era ancha, pero estaba llena de arbustos que tapaban la entrada completamente . (page 214)	Upon arrival they found that the cave entrance was wide, but it was full of bushes covered the entrance completely .

Adjective in Spanish is considered to have gender, either feminine or masculine, as mentioned in the previous chapter. Most of feminine adjectives end in *a*, while the masculine ones end in *o*. According to the first two data, there are two words considered as derivational adverbs from adjective; *locamente* and *completamente*. The word *locamente* consists of morpheme *loca* and *-mente*. Here *loca* (crazy) belongs to an adjective ends in *a*, means that it is a feminine adjective. *Completamente* is also constructed by two morphemes; the feminine adjective *completa* (complete) and *-mente*. Both *loca* and *completa* can be categorised as free morphemes because they can stand alone and have lexical meaning. On the other hand, the suffix *-mente* is a bound morpheme because it always attaches with any adjectives. In the case such as *locamente* and *completamente*, the bound morpheme *-mente* changes feminine adjectives into adverb of manner.

No.	Data	Translation
3	...al contrario, di libremente todo lo que quieras de esta historia sin temor. (page 14)	...in contrary, tell freely everything you want from this story without fear.
4	En ese instante entró gritando en el juzgado una mujer a la que agarraba fuertemente un ganadero rico... (page 258)	At that moment, a woman to whom a rich farmer was holding strongly entered to the court while shouting...

The data number 3 and 4 are different from the two previous data, even though each of them consists of two morphemes. In fact, there are adjectives that end in neither *o* nor *a*, but the gender can still be determined. *Libre* (free) and *fuerte* (strong) for examples; they can belong to feminine or masculine adjective. Any adjectives

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attached with the suffix *-mente* must be feminine. Thus, both *libre* and *fuerte* in this context are feminine adjectives. *Libremente* describes the verb “tell”, while *fuertemente* refers to the verb “holding”.

No.	Data	Translation
5	<u>Finalmente</u> las escribió, sin añadir ni quitar nada. <i>(page 171)</i>	<u>Finally</u> he wrote them without adding or removing anything.
6	Todo hizo traer a su memoria mil amorosos pensamientos. <u>Especialmente</u> recordó lo que había visto en la cueva de Montesinos. <i>(page 219)</i>	All made to bring to his memory thousands lovely thoughts. <u>Especially</u> he remembered everything he had seen in the Montesinos cave.

Based on the data number 5 and 6, known that the adjectives *final* in *finalmente* and *especial* in *especialmente* are built in the same way as the data number 3 and 4. They can be classified into both masculine and feminine adjectives due to their endings. But, since they are bound by morpheme *-mente*, these two adjectives must be in feminine form. Even though these data are similar to the two previous data in the case of structure, still, they have different functions. In the data number 3 and 4 known that the adverbs *libremente* and *fuertemente* only modify the verbs they follow, while in the next two data, the adverbs *finalmente* and *especialmente* modify the whole sentences.

4. Conclusion

According to the explanations in the previous chapter, there are some important points which can be concluded. First, the suffix *-mente* is a Spanish derivational morpheme that changes any adjective into adverb and has the similar function as the suffix *-ly* in English. In order to be able to stick with this morpheme, the adjective must be in its feminine form. A feminine adjective generally ends in *a*, but it is not impossible that it ends in any letter (except *o*). Secondly, adverb with bound morpheme *-mente* works as modifier that can modify verbs followed or modify the whole sentence.

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