

Homogeneous and heterogeneous referentiality in Spanish personal pronouns

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PERSON AND NUMBER

Two grammatical categories contributing to Spanish verbal inflection.



The interaction between these grammatical categories is poorly understood.

PERSONAL PRONOUNS

Pluralization affects the referentiality of Spanish personal pronouns (Hernández Alonso 1975, 1984, 2000).

Singular

Yo *soy ingeniero.*

[1]

Plural

Nosotros *somos ingenieros.*

- [1 1] = choral
- [1 2] = inclusive
- [1 3] = exclusive
- [1 2 3] = universal

Second and third person

Singular

Tú eres ingeniero.

[2]

Él es ingeniero.

[3]

Plural

Vosotros sois ingenieros.

[2 2] = only addressed audience

[2 3] = full audience

Ellos son ingenieros.

[3 3] = third person plural

Previous accounts

Rabanales (1977)

Hernández Alonso (1975, 1984, 2000)

Cysouw (2003)

Number is said not to be at work

Rabanales and Hernández Alonso

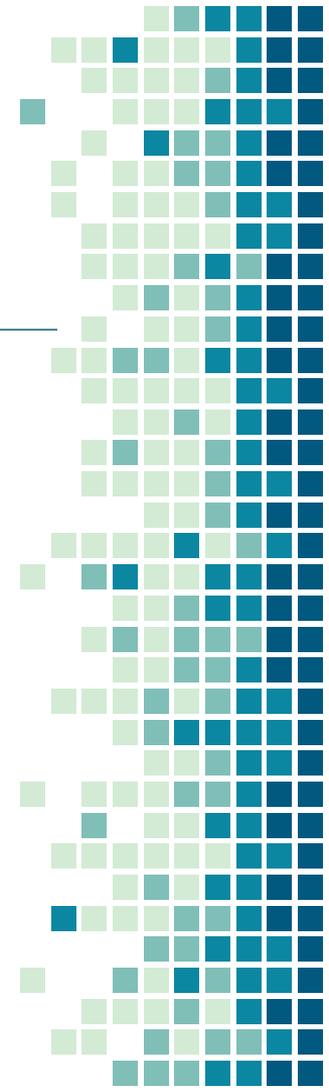
[1]
[2]
[3]
[4]
[5]
[6]

Why stop there?

Why are the combinations made in this way?

Cysouw

[1]
[2]
[3]
~~[1 1]~~
[1 2]
[1 3]
[1 2 3]
~~[2 2]~~
[2 3]
~~[3 3]~~



Morphological problem

$[[\underline{nos} + \underline{otr}] + o + \mathbf{s}]$

$[[\underline{vos} + \underline{otr}] + o + \mathbf{s}]$

$[[\underline{ell}] + o + \mathbf{s}]$

$[[\underline{nos} + \underline{otr}] + a + \mathbf{s}]$

$[[\underline{vos} + \underline{otr}] + a + \mathbf{s}]$

$[[\underline{ell}] + a + \mathbf{s}]$



If number is not at work, why is there a plural marker?

Syntactic problem

Singular sentence

Yo soy ingeniero.

Tú eres ingeniero.

Él es ingeniero.

Plural sentence

Nosotros somos ingenieros.

Vosotros sois ingenieros.

Ellos son ingenieros.

If number is not at work, why do pronouns participate in number agreement?



Proposal

Person is universally limited to three values.

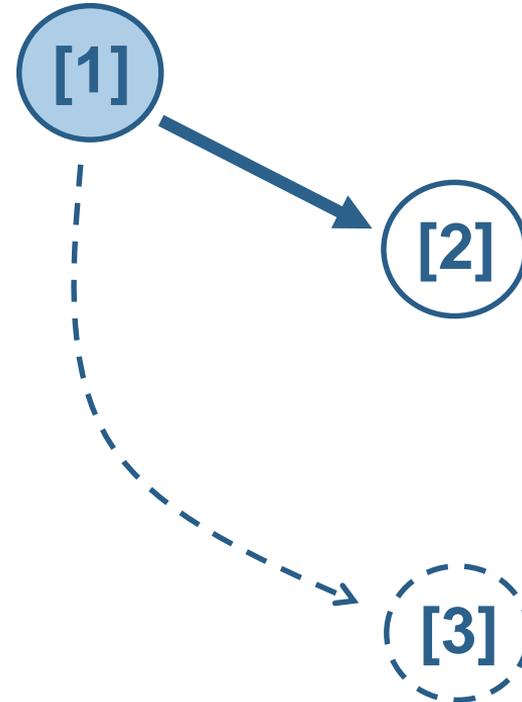
Person values are deictically defined.

Conversational function of address

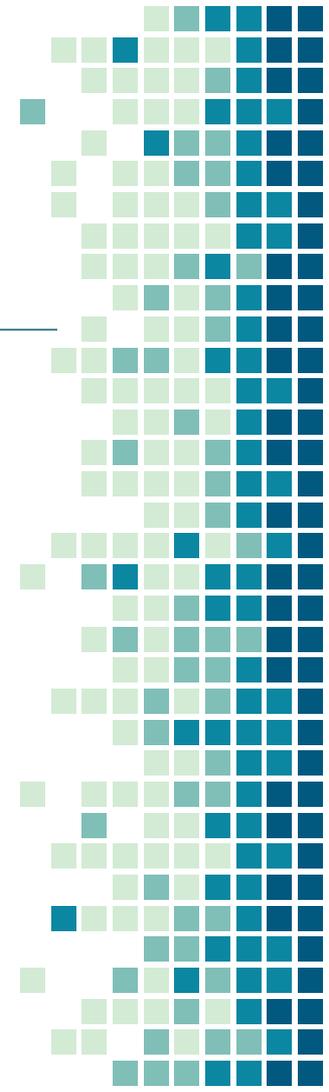
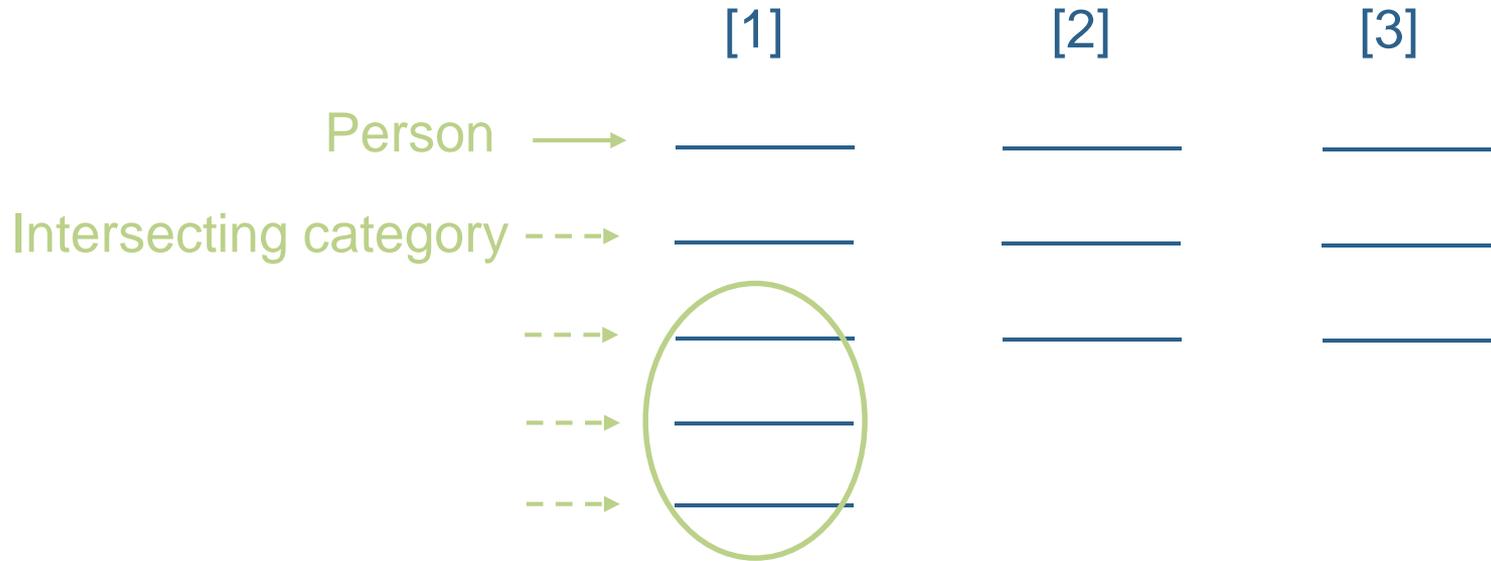
[1] = addresser

[2] = addressee

[3] = unaddressed



Complex person paradigms

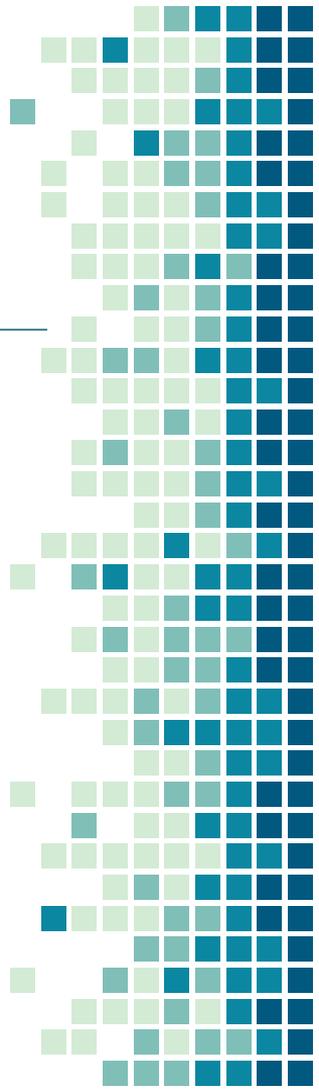
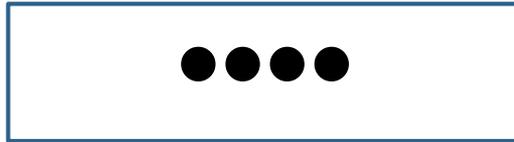
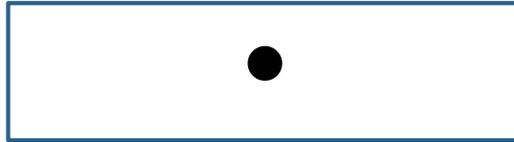


Number: basic contrast

[singular]



[plural]



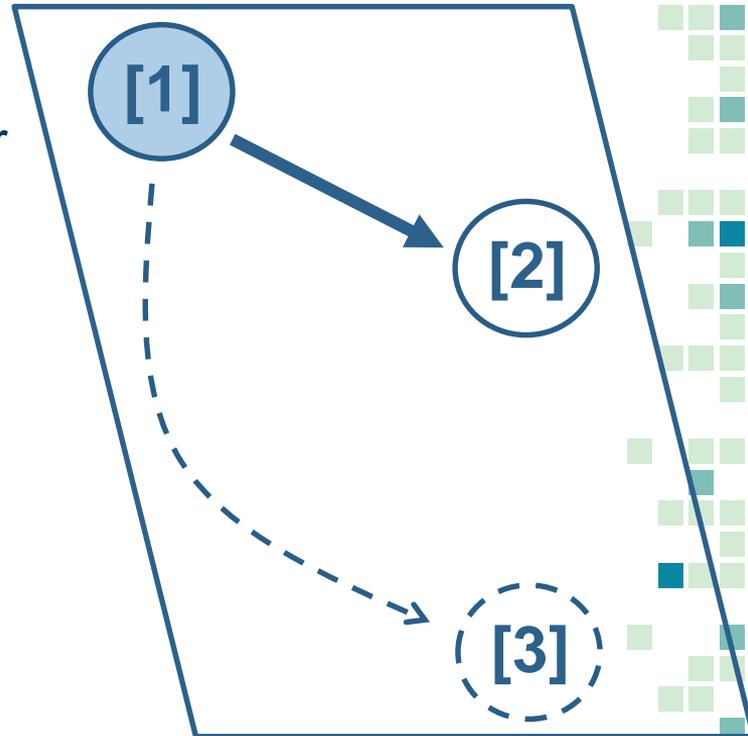
Clusivity

Associative relations that may be established between the addresser and the other participants in the speech event.

[inclusive]

[exclusive]

[universal]



Building blocks of person paradigms

Person:	Number:	Clusivity:	...
[1]	[singular]	[inclusive]	
[2]	[plural]	[exclusive]	
[3]	...	[universal]	

Unidimensional person paradigm

Person alone:



Mura Pirahã (AMAZONIAN) has person paradigms consisting of only three forms (Everett 1986).

Two-dimensional person paradigms

Person and number:

	[1]	[2]	[3]
[singular]	_____	_____	_____
[plural]	_____	_____	_____

--->
--->

Mizo (TIBETO-BURMAN) has person paradigms consisting of six forms (Murthy and Subbarao 2000).

Multidimensional person paradigms

Person, number, and clusivity:

	[1]	[2]	[3]
[singular]	_____	_____	_____
[universal] [plural]	_____	_____	_____
[inclusive]	_____		
[exclusive]	_____		

Uradi (AUSTRALIAN) has three forms for first person plural (Murthy and Subbarao 2000).

Person and number intersection - I

Person

+

Number:

[1] [2] [3]

+

[singular]

--->

[1] [2] [3]

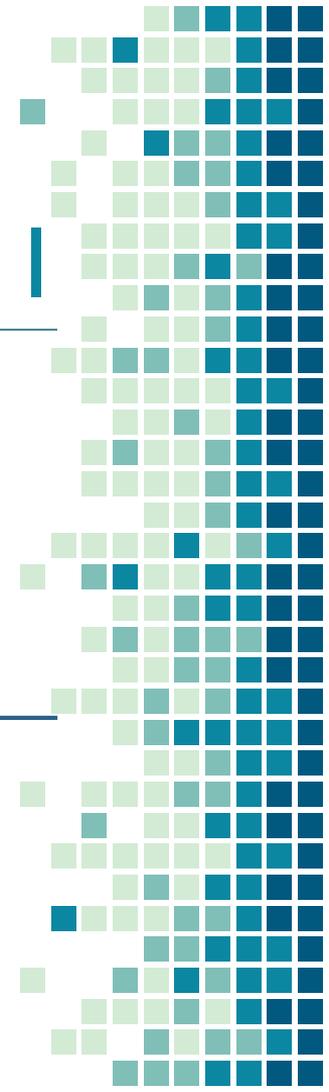
[1] [2] [3]

+

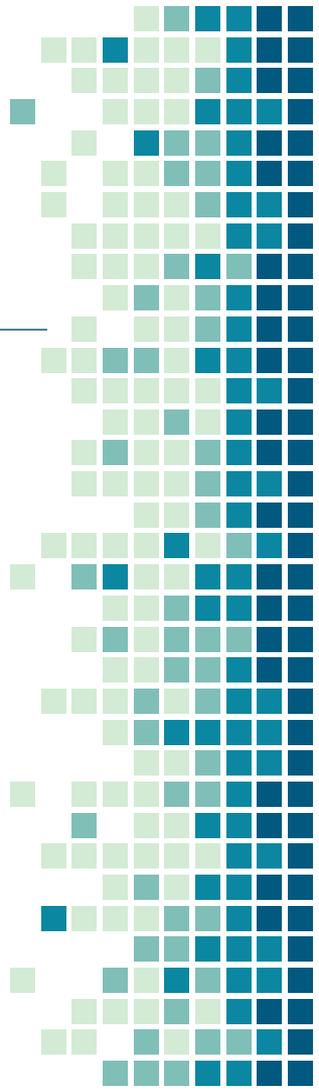
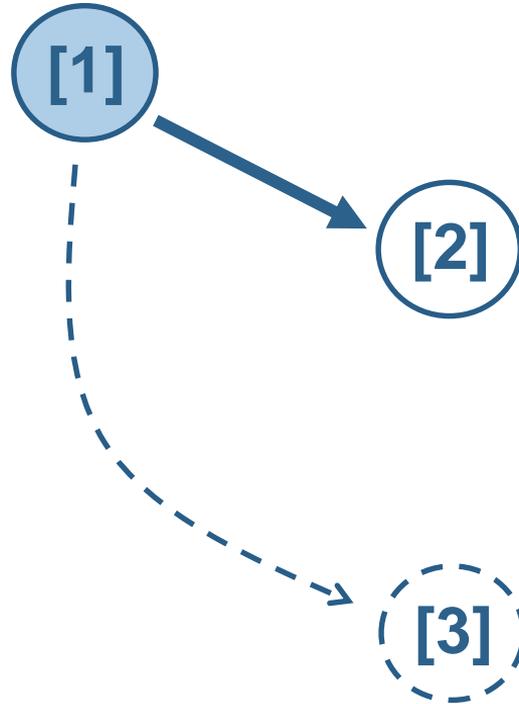
[plural]

--->

?



Precedence relations



Person and number intersection - II

Person

+

Number:

[1] [2] [3]

+

[singular]

--->

[1] [2] [3]

([1]) ([2]) ([3])

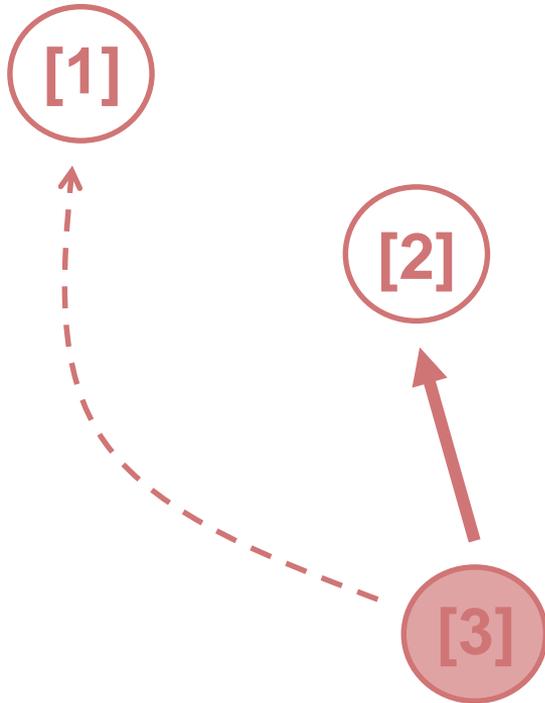
+

[plural]

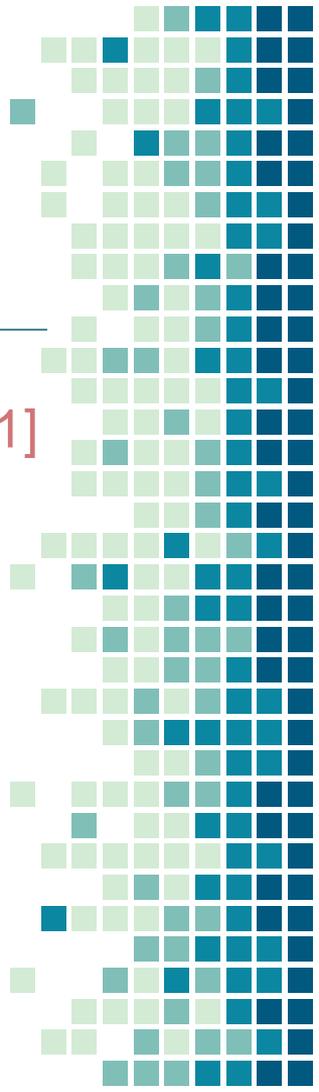
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[1 1] [1 2] [1 3] [1 2 3]
[2 2] [2 3]
[3 3]

If the unaddressed were the origo



[3 3] [3 2] [3 1] [3 2 1]
[2 2] [2 1]
[1 1]



Clusivity can restrict number

Person

+

Number:

[1] [2] [3]

+

[plural]

--->

[1 1] ~~[1 2]~~ ~~[1 3]~~ ~~[1 2 3]~~

[2 2] [2 3]

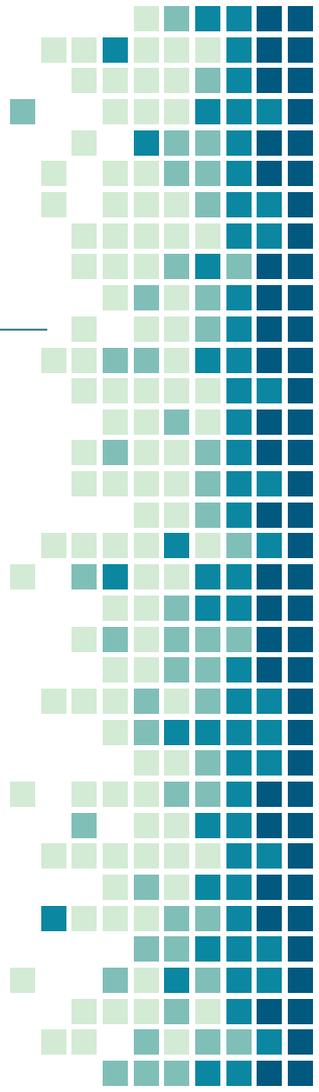
[3 3]

Conclusion

Yes, ***nosotros*** is indeed the plural counterpart of ***yo***.

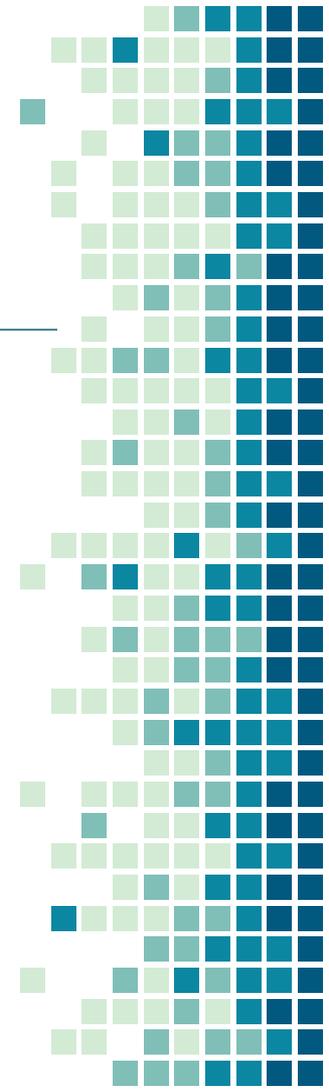
and

Yes, ***vosotros*** is indeed the plural counterpart of ***tú***.



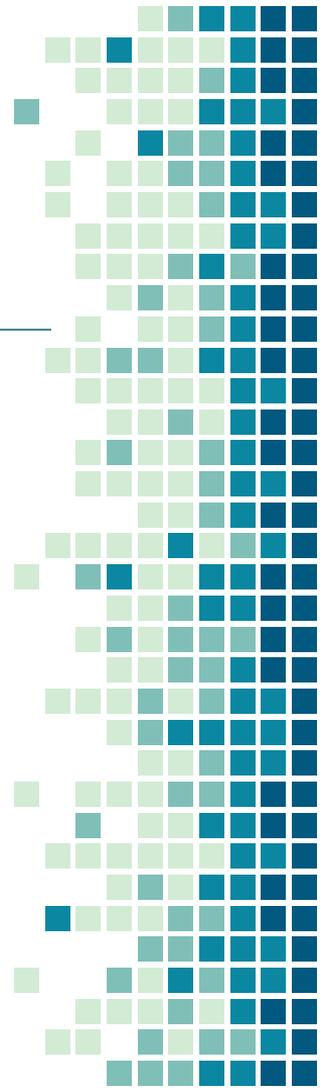
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THANKS!

Any questions?

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