

- (1) CREA, uam480.per001
- a. Entonces si le surge un problema,
then if he-CL-DAT arise-3SG a problem
'So if he has any problem come up,'
 - b. pues todos le vamos a echar una mano,
then all he-CL-DAT go-1PL to give
a hand
'we'll all give him a hand,'
 - c. pero él es la persona responsable.
but he-NOM is the person responsible
'but he's the one in charge.'
- (2) a. Cf: HE, PROBLEM; Cb: HE; Cp: HE
 b. Cf: WE ALL, HE; Cb: HE; Cp: WE ALL
 c. Cf: HE; Cb: HE; Cp: HE

In addition to the three types of centers, Centering proposes different types of transitions, based on the relationship between the backward-looking centers of any given pair of utterances, and the relationship of the Cb and Cp of each utterance in the pair. Transitions, shown in Table 1, capture the introduction and continuation of new topics. $Cb(U_i)$ and $Cp(U_i)$ refer to the centers in the current utterance. $Cb(U_{i-1})$ refers to the backward-looking center of the previous utterance. Thus, a CONTINUE occurs when the Cb and Cp of the current utterance are the same and, in addition, the Cb of the current utterance is the same as the Cb of the previous utterance. Transitions are ranked according to the demands they pose on the reader. The ranking is: CONTINUE > RETAIN > SMOOTH SHIFT > ROUGH SHIFT. In (1) above, the transition from (1a) to (1b) is a SMOOTH SHIFT, whereas the transition from (1b) to (1c) is a CONTINUE.

	$Cb(U_i)=Cb(U_{i-1})$ or $Cb(U_{i-1})=0$	$Cb(U_i)\neq Cb(U_{i-1})$
$Cb(U_i)=$ $Cp(U_i)$	CONTINUE	SMOOTH SHIFT
$Cb(U_i)\neq$ $Cp(U_i)$	RETAIN	ROUGH SHIFT

Table 1. Transition types.

With these constructs as a starting point, the main goal of the paper is to show how the choice of anaphoric terms in spoken Spanish can be explained according to the transition type between one utterance and the next. For this purpose, I have carried out a corpus analysis of task-oriented dialogues in Spanish. The speakers communicate in order to complete a task, in this case, finding a date when they can both meet. Before analyzing spoken Spanish, I will describe the application of Centering Theory to dialogue, and to Span4(a)n^{Tw}[(spoke)

translated.

consecutive: in the search for Cb_n , only Cf_{n-1} is searched, whether it was produced by the same speaker or not. Byron and Stent (1998) found that this model performed better than models that discarded first and second person pronouns, and models that considered previous or current speaker's previous utterance³.

The decision to use Model 1 settles issues (3) and (4) above, and seems justified given the data. I found that reference to first and second person was important in the conversations, and often 'I' is mentioned in contrast to 'you' (singular) and to 'both of us', because the speakers discuss what dates one of them is available, versus what dates the other speaker has free, and which dates suit both of them as a unit.

Another general issue in Centering is what to include in the Cf list, and how to interpret the need that entities in that list be realized in the current utterance. The definition of 'realize' depends, according to Walker et al. (1998: 4), on the semantic theory one chooses. This is of particular importance in dialogue because it relies more than monologue on the context outside the text proper. Particularly difficult were decisions having to do with dates and times, and how those are related to each other. In general, I coneneae d23(a)-1232(1)-44(9(3i)18(sion)(ne)3cl)18(-)10(l)18((c)-129(40 -1.1522 TD~0.001

	Utterances	Cb=0	Continue	Retain	Smooth shift	Rough shift
FMGL_FMCS_01	52	15	26	2	7	1
FNBA_FCBA_04	33	10	16	3	2	1
FVGC_FSNM_09	18	8	6	1	1	1
MARC_MPHB_02	27	9	9	5	2	1
MJBP_MMBU_04	29	4	13	3	5	3
MRBZ_MCRA_03	34	9	19	2	1	2
FCBA_MEBA_08	24	5	12	4	2	0
FMEM_MEOC_02	24	9	6	6	0	2
MJNM_FAMM_06	30	12	14	1	2	0
Total	271	81	121	27	22	11
% of total transitions (excluding 0, $n=181$)						

could then indicate that the conversation is nearing its end.

(8)a.fmg1_01_10: sí. okay. /eh/ te llamo por teléfono antes cuando yo salga de mi oficina. /mm/?

‘yes. okay. /uh/ I’ll call you on the phone before, when I leave my office /mm/?’

Cf: FMGL [

(16) bueno. *el dieciséis* está bien.
oka

