

## From aspectual to degree quantifiers: Context expansion of *por completo* and *completamente* in Spanish and Portuguese

*Des quantificateurs aspectuels aux quantificateurs de degré : expansion contextuelle de por completo et completamente en espagnol et en portuguais*

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# From aspectual to degree quantifiers: Context expansion of *por completo* and *completamente* in Spanish and Portuguese

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The data used in this paper is freely accessible in the indicated online corpora and

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The idea for this paper was born out of a discussion between KG and SK, with the initial impetus and original concept coming from KG. In the process of writing this paper, submitting it for review, and elaborating the final print version, the following contributions were made: KG wrote a first draft (version 1), which was then commented on and adapted as a second draft by SK (version 2). This second draft was discussed and emended by KG and SK together and submitted for review. After the review procedure, KG integrated the reviewers' comments and fine-tuned the theoretical basis, resulting in version 3 of the paper. Version 3 was read and commented on by SK, resulting in version 4. Version 4 was read and emended step by step by KG and SK together. SK read the resulting version (5) again, amended some minor errors, typos, and integrated some terminological fine-tuning. KG read this final version (6) once again. Both authors discussed it for a final time and concurred that version 6 was to be sent for publication.

## TEXT

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## Introduction

- 1 In this paper, we analyze two intra and cross-linguistically cognate pairs of adverbials: Portuguese (Pt.) and Spanish (Sp.) *por completo* and *completamente*, both meaning ‘completely’ in both languages (for Spanish, see, e.g., NGL: § 30.8; GDLE: § 4.2.2.2, 37.6.5; for Portuguese, see, e.g. Houaiss et al., 2015: s.v. *completamente*). The Spanish and Portuguese adverbials are cross-linguistic cognates insofar as they are all based on the Latin deverbal adjective *complētus* ‘complete, in its entirety’. Furthermore, we consider that Sp. *por completo* is an intra-linguistic cognate of Sp. *completamente*, as well as Pt. *por completo* is an intra-linguistic cognate of Pt. *completamente*. I.e., the adverbial prepositional phrases formed by the pattern “preposition + adjective” (PA) are cognates of their derived adverbial counterparts formed with the suffix *-mente* (for this use of

the term “cognate”, see also Gerhalter and Koch submitted; Koch and Vecchia accepted; Mirto, 2018, 2022).

- 2 The adverbials *por completo* and *completamente* are synonymous, respectively, in Spanish and Portuguese. Moreover, they share the same functions in these languages, i.e., they are equally polyfunctional: they can be aspectual quantifiers and degree quantifiers. As aspectual quantifiers, they mainly modify verbs that denote telic, process-related events that imply an end (see GTG: s.v. *adverbio de aspecto*). For example, *por completo* and *completamente* indicate a resultative completion at a certain maximum stage or degree of the action/event expressed by verbs such as Sp. *cambiar* (examples 1 and 2) or Pt. *mudar* (examples 3 and 4), both meaning ‘to change’:

(1)	Es extraño, pero cierto. Entre 1914 y 1919 la vida cambió completamente [...]. Me desperté famosa en 1919.	(Spanish)
	“It is strange, but true. Between 1914 and 1919 life changed completely [...]. I woke up famous in 1919.” (CDH, 1997, Inmaculada Urrea: <i>Coco Chanel. La revolución de un estilo</i> )	

(2)	La brújula, dentro de su sencillez, es tan maravillosa que, cuando se inventó (o se descubrió su principio básico), llegó a cambiar por completo la estructura del mundo conocido, porque facilitó la seguridad en la navegación y activó los grandes descubrimientos geográficos.	(Spanish)
	“The compass, in all its simplicity, is so wonderful that when it was invented (or its basic principle was discovered), it completely changed the structure of the known world, because it facilitated safe navigation and made the great geographical discoveries possible” (CDH, 1999, Agustín Faus: <i>Andar por las montañas</i> )	

(3)	A revolução tecnológica recente mudou completamente a forma de trabalhar e permitiu novas formas de organização empresarial à escala global.	(Portuguese)
	“The recent technological revolution has completely changed the way we work and enabled new forms of business organization on a global scale.” (CdP, 1997, Thomas Malone, especialista do MIT)	

(4)	<i>Quando ele abriu a porta e fez entrar os hóspedes, a sua atitude mudou por completo: dirigiu-lhes um largo sorriso, deu-lhes as boas-vindas.</i>	(Portuguese)
	“When he opened the door and let the guests in, his mood changed completely: he gave them a broad smile and welcomed them.” (CdP, 1986, João Aguiar: <i>O homem sem nome</i> )	

- 3 Additionally, *por completo* and *completamente* are used as degree quantifiers, for example of adjectives, such as Sp. *solo* ‘alone’ (ex. 5 and 6) or Pt. *livre* ‘free’ (ex. 7 and 8). As such, they express a high or the maximum degree of a gradable property of the lexical unit in their scope (see Souza and Foltran, 2020):

(5)	<i>Mientras el tren permaneció allí tuve la sensación de que no estábamos solos por completo.</i>	(Spanish)
	“As long as the train remained there I had the feeling that we were not completely alone.” (CDH, 2002, Gabriel García Márquez: <i>Vivir para contarla</i> )	

(6)	<i>Me gustaba imaginarme sobre una duna en un desierto, completamente solo, como un indio o un cowboy</i>	(Spanish)
	“I liked to imagine myself on a dune in the desert, all alone, like a Native American or a cowboy.” (CDH, 1998, Patricia de Souza: <i>La mentira de un fauno</i> )	

(7)	<i>Meteu-se na grande orgia, para se convencer de que estava livre, livre por completo.</i>	(Portuguese)
	“He joined the great orgy to convince himself that he was free, completely free.” (CdP, 1910, Brazil, João do Rio: <i>Dentro da noite</i> )	

(8)	<i>É uma inclinação que me vem da infância e que acabou entrando em conflito com outra obsessão minha não menos intensa: a de ser completamente livre.</i>	(Portuguese)
	“It’s an inclination that comes from my childhood and ended up clashing with another obsession of mine that is no less intense: that of wanting to be completely free.” (CdP, 1961, Brasil, Eric Verissimo: <i>O tempo e o vento</i> , Parte 3, Tomo 2)	

- 4 In the present paper, we discuss the extent to which and the contexts in which *por completo* and *completamente* function as degree quantifiers, as well as how this secondary function develops

diachronically based on their original function as aspectual quantifiers. We also analyze if there is a change in syntactic scope (verb-modification vs. adjective-modification) and position (before vs. after the modified element). We will describe the diachronic evolution of *por completo* and *completamente* in terms of Himmelmann's (2004) *context expansion* on three levels: *host-class expansion*, *semantic-pragmatic context expansion*, and *syntactic context expansion*. We will also examine if there are *bridging* and *switch contexts* (according to Heine, 2002), or *critical* and *isolating contexts* (according to Diewald, 2002), respectively, in this evolution.

- 5 This endeavor raises further questions concerning (i) when this evolution occurred, (ii) if there are differences between Spanish and Portuguese, and (iii) if the diachronic developmental paths are similar for *por completo* and *completamente*. The latter, (iii), is of special interest, since diachronic studies on quantifiers so far have focused on *mente*-adverbs (e.g., on Spanish, García Pérez, 2022; Pérez García and Blanco, 2022; on Portuguese, Foltran and Souza, 2020). In contrast, the present study focuses mainly on PA, contrasting them with *mente*-adverbs. For example, the cognates can differ regarding the syntactic position: in examples (6) and (8), the degree quantifier Sp./Pt. *completamente* is placed before the modified adjectives (*completamente solo/completamente livre*), whereas Sp./Pt. *por completo* seems more natural after the adjectives (*solos por completo/livre por completo*), as in (5) and (7).
- 6 We draw on data from the Portuguese *Corpus do Português* (henceforth and in the bibliography CdP), as well as from the *Corpus del Diccionario Histórico de la Lengua Española* (henceforth and in the bibliography CDH) and the *Corpus del Español del Siglo XXI* (CORPES XXI) for Spanish. Although we take into account both languages parallelly, the analysis of the Spanish data will sometimes be more detailed than the analysis of the Portuguese data, due to the fact that the two Spanish corpora, at this point, are more elaborate than the Portuguese corpus, e.g., when it comes to the exact dating of historical examples (CDH) and to fine-grained search queries of specific patterns (CORPES XXI). Also, CDH is based on a larger database (355 Mio words) than the historical section of CdP ("Genre/Historical": 45 Mio words).

- 7 This paper is structured as follows: We first present the theoretical framework of our study (Section 1) and then shortly discuss the etymology and the origins of the Sp./Pt. adjective *completo*, as well as the Sp./Pt. adverbials *completamente* and *por completo* (Section 2). In Section 3, we analyze the data provided by the corpora and look at the different diachronic steps in the evolution of the adverbials (e.g., regarding syntactic scope, syntactic position, and possible *bridging/critical* and *switch/isolating contexts*). In Section 4, we discuss the chronology of the assumed context expansion, the effect of whole paradigms of adverbs with similar meaning, function and syntactic position on an individual adverb's evolution, and semantic restrictions of the context in which the studied quantifiers can occur.

## 1. Theoretical framework

- 8 In (1.1) we discuss the distinction and the overlap between aspectual and degree quantifiers, and in (1.2) we present a framework for the role context plays in semantic change.

### 1.1. Aspectual and degree quantifiers

- 9 We follow the classification proposed by Kaul de Marlangeon (2002: 123-145), who considers aspectual adverbs a subcategory of quantifier adverbs. The *Nueva Gramática de la Lengua Española* (NGLLE), too, despite distinguishing between Sp. *adverbios de aspecto* 'aspectual adverbs' (§ 30.8) and *cuantificadores* 'quantifiers' (§ 30.4), observes that aspectual adverbs are, indirectly, also quantifiers (§ 30.4p-q). As for Sp. *completamente*, the *Gramática de la Lengua Española* (GDLE; therein § 37.6.5.1) sustains that, in some cases, it behaves like an aspectual adverb and in some cases like an *adverbio de grado* ('grade adverb', i.e., degree quantifier in our terminology).
- 10 The paradigm of aspectual quantifier adverbs in Spanish and Portuguese comprises mainly *completamente* 'completely', *totalmente* 'totally', *enteramente/inteiramente* 'entirely', *plenamente* 'fully' and *parcialmente* 'partially' (Kaul de Marlangeon, 2002: 158; NGLLE § 30.8; Houaiss et al., 2015: s.v. *completamente*). According to NGLLE (§ 30.8) and GDLE (§4.2.2.2; 37.6.5), these adverbs modify telic verbs with process-related semantics, i.e., verbs that typically denote a gradual

process with an inherent endpoint. More precisely, *completamente* and *por completo* modify such verbs in the sense that the action/event expressed by the verb is executed until completion, as in examples such as Sp./Pt.

*cambiar/mudar completamente/por completo* ‘to change completely’.

Aspectual adverbs are therefore quantifiers insofar as they quantify the degree to which a telic process is completed, or designate that its inherent endpoint is reached (Kaul de Marlangeon, 2002: 141-142).

There is always a maximum or an endpoint in closed scales, e.g., if a work is completed, nothing else can be added, or if a glass of water is completely (100%) full as the result of filling it, no more water can be added without spilling it, i.e., the glass can never be ‘over-full’ (see the discussion in Fábregas, 2015: 249).

- 11 Furthermore, aspectual *completamente* modifies participles and ‘perfective’ adjectives (i.e., adjectives that are related to telic actions/events, see GDLE: § 37.6.5.2), and highlights the process-related ‘perfection’ or ‘completeness’ of the property denoted by such an ‘perfective’ adjective. This property itself is also supposedly the result of or caused by an underlying process still inherent in the adjective’s semantics. For example, *completamente limpio* ‘completely clean’ can be interpreted as the result of the telic, process-related event of cleaning (e.g., GDLE: § 37.6.5.1). This example, though, raises the question if, in such contexts, *completamente* basically simply remains aspectual, or if indeed a high degree reading (‘very clean’) is foregrounded instead.
- 12 In some instances, such as in *completamente loca* ‘completely crazy’, *completamente* does arguably not express aspectuality (GDLE: § 37.6.5.1), because the state *loca* ‘crazy’ is not gradually completed or reached, i.e., it is probably not the result of a telic process (though some might argue that, to be crazy, you need to become crazy). Instead, in these cases, *completamente* expresses mainly a very high degree, or the maximum degree, of a property or a state. It enters (the same is valid for *por completo* in such contexts) the paradigm of degree quantifiers that intensify (in the sense of high quantity or high degree) the semantic property/properties denoted by the modified element on a gradual scale (*intensificación del grado* ‘degree intensification’; see Kaul de Marlangeon, 2002: 132-134, 158). This paradigm of degree quantifiers is formed by adverbs such as Sp./Pt.



*absolutamente* ‘absolutely’, *increiblemente/incrivelmente* ‘incredibly’, *extremadamente/extremamente* ‘extremely’, *altamente* ‘highly’, *excesivamente/excesivamente* ‘excessively’, *fuertemente/fortemente* ‘strongly’, *enormemente* ‘enormously’, among others. These intensifiers are opposed to adverbs such as Sp./Pt. *escasamente/escassamente* ‘scarcely’ or *poco/pouco* ‘little’, which express attenuation/mitigation or diminution (Kaul de Marlangeon, 2002: 134, 158).

- 13 In principle, the semantics of the modified element (verb or adjective) determines the interpretation of *completamente* and *por completo* as either aspectual or as degree quantifiers. The aspectual reading with verbs is primarily foregrounded when the lexical aspect of the verb is telic. However, there are cases in which *completamente* and *por completo* are ambiguous between a reading as aspectual quantifier and a degree quantifier: depending on the broader context, Sp. *está completamente roja* ‘she is completely red’ may be interpreted either as the result of having blushed completely (aspectual) or as expressing a very high (momentary) degree of redness (GDLE: § 37.6.5.1). Other examples might be also interpreted as having both readings simultaneously. As the blushing/redness-example shows, the degree reading and the aspectual reading (completion of a telic process) are closely related.
- 14 In such ambiguous cases, the broader context of the sentence may help to disambiguate: e.g., Sp. *quedarse completamente solo* and Pt. *ficar completamente sozinho* ‘to be left completely alone’ are interpreted predominantly as aspectual (culmination of a process over time). Contrarily, in Sp. *sentirse completamente solo*/Pt. *sentir-se completamente sozinho* ‘to feel completely alone’, the foregrounded reading is probably, in most contexts, that of a high or maximum degree (‘extremely/very alone’). Similarly, Kaul de Marlangeon (2002: 142) states that, in sentences such as Sp. *La región está completamente seca*/Pt. *A região está completamente seca* ‘The region is completely dry’, the aspectual adverb indicates the final result of the gradual process of drying out over time. Contrarily, in Sp. *La región es completamente seca*/Pt. *A região é completamente seca* ‘The region is completely dry’ the state of being dry is not necessarily the result of a process, but the quantifier *completamente* expresses the maximum possible degree of the quality ‘dry’. This difference is

obviously related to the difference in the verbal semantics of the Sp./Pt. copula *ser* and *estar*, the former designating permanent states and the latter transitory ones.

- 15 To sum up, *por completo* and *completamente* are aspectual quantifiers if the element in their scope somehow expresses a telic process that develops over time and can be completed when a final maximum state or endpoint is reached. As degree quantifiers, in principle, they modify any element that has scalar semantic properties. However, as we will show, there are some restrictions for the use of *completamente* and *por completo* as degree quantifiers. These restrictions are based on the fact that the attribution of quantity is almost always implicit in the lexical semantics of adverbs that are used as degree quantifiers (according to Kaul de Marlangeon, 2002: 134). For example, Sp./Pt. *altamente* ‘highly’, apart from expressing the property of ‘high’ or ‘high above’, is also always, due to this lexical semantics, quantitative in nature. I.e., such adverbs potentially retain qualitative *and* quantitative properties in their lexical semantics (see also Hummel, 2012, on polyfunctional and polysemous adverbs).
- 16 Since, in the specific case of *completamente* and *por completo*, the aspectual and degree interpretations largely overlap, we sustain that they cannot be considered truly polysemous. Instead, the two interpretations (aspectual or degree quantifier) should better be considered contextual variants of the core meaning ‘complete’. Rather than speaking of polysemy, polyfunctionality<sup>1</sup> is a more appropriate term: *por completo* and *completamente* are polyfunctional regarding their adverbial functions (aspectual quantification vs. degree quantification) and regarding their syntactic scope (modification of a verb vs. modification of an adjective).
- 17 The interpretation as either aspectual or degree quantifier is not linked to a certain syntactic scope, i.e., both interpretations are possible with both verbs and adjectives in the scope of the quantifier. Therefore, an adjective, through its specific semantics, and depending on the context, can, for example, trigger either an aspectual-quantifier-reading (Sp. *dejar completamente limpio*/Pt. *ficar completamente limpo* ‘to leave/to become completely clean’) or a degree-quantifier-reading (Sp. *sentirse completamente solo*/Pt.

*sentir-se completamente sozinho* ‘to feel completely alone’) in the adverb that modifies such an adjective. Accordingly, a verb can also trigger either an aspectual reading, like in Sp.

*cambiar completamente*/Pt. *mudar completamente* ‘to change completely’, or a degree-quantifying reading, like in Sp./Pt. *ignorar por completo* ‘to ignore completely’, the latter not being a telic process, but a durative ‘state’.

- 18 Concerning syntactic positions, we adopt a scopal approach to adverb placement (Ernst, 2002), which allows for right and left adjunction, i.e., adverbs appear wherever they are ‘needed’, be it left or right of the modified element, and according to the syntactic rules in place for their specific type (adverb vs. adverbial prepositional phrase) in combination with the word class of the syntactic elements in their scope. We do not assume preliminarily fixed syntactic positions as advocated by Cinque’s (1999) cartographic approach.
- 19 In general, quantifiers in the Romance languages are usually placed directly before the modified element, except when modifying verbs, where they tend to be placed after the verb (Ilari, 2007: 161, 167-168 on Brazilian Portuguese). Similarly, Kaul de Marlangeon (2002: 126) states that quantifiers are pre-posed to adjectives, nouns, and adverbs, but generally post-posed to verbs in Spanish. As for participles, the quantifiers are pre-posed when the adjectival reading prevails, like in Sp. *totalmente aclarado*/Pt. *totalmente esclarecido* ‘totally clarified > totally clear’, and post-posed when the verbal reading is foregrounded, like in *aclarado/esclarecido totalmente* ‘totally clarified’ (see Kaul de Marlangeon, 2002: 126 on Spanish).

## 1.2. On the role of context and context expansion in language change

- 20 As largely discussed by many authors (e.g., Diwald, 2002, 2006; Heine, 2002; Smirnova, 2015; for a recent take on the matter, see Schneider, 2024), language change does not affect isolated lexemes, but lexemes in their context, i.e., as part of constructions (not necessarily in the narrow sense of Construction Grammar). To describe the evolution of the adverb(ial)s under scrutiny with regard to the context in which they appear, we follow the concept of

context expansion on three different levels, as proposed by Himmelmann (2004: 32-34):

- i. *Host-class expansion*: the class of elements a word co-occurs with (i.e., the host-class, e.g., proper names) may be expanded by new classes of elements this word can co-occur with (e.g., all nouns), leading to new collocational patterns (see also Coussé, 2018 on the *host-class expansion* of the ‘open slot’ of semi-schematic constructions).
- ii. *Syntactic context expansion*: the larger syntactic context and the position of a word may be expanded so that a word can occur in new syntactic contexts and new syntactic positions.
- iii. *Semantic-pragmatic context expansion*: likewise, the semantic and pragmatic usage contexts may be expanded.

21 In this paper, we consider as host-classes three different categories of words that are modified by the adverb(ial)s *por completo* and *completamente*: verbs, participles, and adjectives. The syntactic context under scrutiny is specifically the immediate syntactic context of the adverbials (e.g., *ser completamente seca* vs. *estar completamente seca*), as well as the position of the adverb(ial)s with regard to the modified element (pre-position and post-position). Finally, the ‘semantic-pragmatic context’, in this paper, refers to different semantic traits of the modified verbs, participles, or adjectives in a specific context, e.g., culmination of a telic process, perfective adjectives, or adjectives that denote a gradual property with or without a maximum limit, as we will discuss in detail. We aim to analyze whether *por completo* and *completamente* show context expansion over time on these three levels, and whether the three levels are interrelated.

22 Although developed specifically for grammaticalization, Himmelmann (2004: 33) states that context expansion is a general type of language change that is not restricted to grammaticalization. Similarly, Schneider (2024) adapts the model of different context types that have been postulated to play a role in grammaticalization (*untypical contexts* > *critical contexts* > *isolating contexts*) to other patterns of language change. In the same vein, we refer to these context types to analyze the evolution of *por completo* and *completamente*, without considering this evolution a case of grammaticalization. We do so, as the evolution from an

aspectual to a degree quantifier or the evolution from verb-modification to adjective-modification is not a change towards a more grammatical function. Moreover, several grammaticalization parameters postulated by Lehmann (2015: 129-188) do not apply in the case of the development of *por completo* and *completamente*: coalescence/bondedness, obligatorification, (positional) fixation, condensation of scope, and phonological attrition or erosion.

- 23 Concerning *untypical*, *critical*, and *isolating* contexts, as used by Diewald (2002, 2006) and Smirnova (2015), these concepts refer to the following successive stages:
- i. *Untypical contexts*: unspecific expansion of the distribution of the lexical unit in question to contexts in which it had not been used before; the new meaning may arise as a conversational implicature (Diewald, 2002: 103). This stage, called *extensional* by Schneider (2024), corresponds to the *host-class expansion* described above (Himmelmann, 2004: 32-34; Schneider, 2024: 316).
  - ii. *Critical contexts*: multiple structural and semantic ambiguities invite for several alternative interpretations, among them the new meaning (Diewald, 2002: 103).
  - iii. *Isolating contexts*: specific contexts that favor only one reading to the exclusion of the other(s) (Diewald, 2002: 103); when this change is completed, the new meaning is isolated as a separate meaning from the older one(s), and the paradigm that is the target category (to which an item via its new meaning belongs) is reorganized. The item has become truly polysemous (Diewald, 2002: 103).
- 24 This model partially overlaps with Heine's (2002) model of context-induced reinterpretation which focuses on semantic change. Starting with the initial stage (source meaning), he postulates the following stages: bridging context > switch context > conventionalization. One could apply Heine's (2002) terminology to classify the semantic evolution from aspectual to degree quantification as follows:
- i. *Bridging contexts* are ambiguous contexts (Diewald's *critical contexts*, 2002), where, in addition to the established source interpretation of a linguistic unit, a 'new', contextually inferred interpretation is possible, too (Heine, 2002: 84-85). Therefore, for our purposes, in addition to the aspectual reading, a degree reading can be inferred (e.g., Sp./Pt. *completamente limpio/limpo* 'completely clean', ambiguous between

‘clean as the result of cleaning’ or, depending on the context, ‘very clean’).

- ii. *Switch contexts* are very specific contexts that isolate (see Dieward’s *isolating contexts*, 2002) the target meaning from the source meaning, which is then ruled out in the end in this context (Heine, 2002: 85). In this case, degree quantification is foregrounded in specific constellations, e.g., Sp./Pt. *completamente loca/louca* ‘completely crazy’ in contexts meaning ‘very/extremely crazy’, as opposed to constellations in which the aspectual reading is present like in Sp./Pt. *volverse completamente loca/ficar completamente louca* ‘to become completely crazy’. In some instances of this stage (switch context), the degree reading is already the only possible interpretation.
- iii. The *conventionalization* stage is reached when the new interpretation becomes context-independent and can be used in contexts other than the ones characterizing bridging and switch contexts; the new interpretation turns into a ‘usual’ meaning (Heine, 2002: 85). If we assume this stage for *por completo* and *completamente*, then they should be able to modify any adjective with inherent scalar properties and could, syntactically and collocation-wise, freely alternate with other degree quantifiers such as Sp./Pt. *muy/muito*, *altamente* ‘highly’, *excesivamente* ‘excessively’, *fuertemente/fortemente* ‘strongly’, etc. (as we will see in Section 4.3., this is not the case).

## 2. General overview of the origins of *completo*, *por completo*, and *completamente*

- 25 Before analyzing the different steps in the semantic and syntactic evolution of *completamente* and *por completo*, we first need to look at the general diachronic panorama of the adverbs under scrutiny, based on historical linguistic dictionaries and corpus data.

### 2.1. The etymology of the adjective *completo*

- 26 The adjective *completo* in Spanish and Portuguese is a learned loan word from Latin (Sp. *cultismo*; see, e.g., Corominas and Pascual, 1996

[1980]: s.v. *cumplir*]), as it is in the other Romance languages and beyond, e.g., in English *complete*, or German *komplett* via the Romance languages, or via Middle/Renaissance Latin as a language of erudition. The etymology is Latin *complētus*, -a, -um, ‘full, filled (up)’, which is originally a past participle of the Latin verb *cōmplēre* ‘to fill (up), to complete’ (see Houaiss et al., 2015: s.v. *completo*; Corominas and Pascual 1996 [1980]: s.v. *cumplir*). Therefore, the original core semantics of *completo*, both in Spanish and Portuguese, refers to something that is totally and absolutely full and completed, and is therefore telic in nature, or linked to telicity. Hence, the etymological meaning of the adverbial cognates based on *completo* is the aspectual one. It, *completo*, means ‘completed’, in the first place, and only then, based on the first meaning, takes on the meaning ‘complete’.

- 27 The earliest use of *completo* in Ibero-Romance is the feminine plural form *completas* as lexicalized and substantivized ellipsis of *horas completas* ‘full hours’. *Completas* belongs exclusively to the religious discourse tradition and refers to the last prayer of the day according to the liturgy (Houaiss et al., 2015: s.v. *completa*). In Spanish and Portuguese, this specific use is documented from the (late) 13th century on in the corpora CDH and CdP. In this ecclesial, and especially monastic discourse tradition, Latin was always present, also when denominating the hourly structure of the day, which facilitated this (semi-)cultism.
- 28 According to Corominas and Pascual (1996 [1980]: s.v. *cumplir*), Sp. *completo* as an *adjective* is a later loan word. In CDH, *completo* is documented as an adjective, in other contexts than *horas completas*, only from the 15th century on (ca. 1464).<sup>2</sup> However, its hereditary, patrimonial cognate *cumplido* ‘fulfilled, perfected, accomplished’ (predominantly a participle, but also an adjective) is even attested already at the beginning of the 13th century: *conplido* (*Poema de Mio Cid*, 1140/1207), *complido* (*omne complido*, in the *Fazienda de Ultramar*, ca. 1200), and *cumplido* (*en [la] cumplida corte*, in the document *Cortes de Benavente*, 1202).
- 29 In Portuguese, the adjective *completo* appears later, for the first time in 1650, according to Houaiss et al. (2015: s.v. *completo*). This is consistent with the first documentations of *completo* in CdP in the 17th century. Again, the hereditary cognate *cumprido/comprido*

‘fulfilled/long’ is documented earlier (Houaiss et al., 2015: s.v. *comprido*): *comprjdo* (1279), *comprido* (13th century), *conplido* (13th century), and *cõprydo* (14th century). Other variants documented in CdP are *cõplido* (15th century) and *complido* (16th century).

30 Unlike many other adjectives (see, e.g., Hummel, 2024: 404–412), *completo* is only marginally used as an adjective-adverb, i.e., with adverbial functions, but without any morphosyntactic markers of adverbiality like preceding prepositions or adverbial suffixes. In example (9), one of the few documentations in CDH, the aspectual quantifier Sp. *completo* modifies the verb Sp. *transmitir* ‘transmit’ and simultaneously conserves a predicative reading referring to the direct object, e.g., to the noun phrase *el empuje de los remos* (‘the thrust of the legs’):

(9)	<i>El ser ancha, recta y el estar bien unida á la grupa, son las bellezas absolutas de la region lombar, como que suponen condiciones mecánicas favorables á cualquier género de servicio. A ellas se debe el desarrollo, fuerza y resistencia de los lomos, como tambien la aptitud de trasmitir completo á las partes anteriores del tronco el empuje de los remos pelvianos ó posteriores.</i>	(Spanish)
	“Being broad, straight, and well attached to the rump, they are the absolute beauties of the loin region, as they imply favorable mechanical conditions for any type of service. They are the reason for the development, strength, and resistance of the loins, as well as for the ability to completely transmit the thrust of the pelvic or posterior legs to the front parts of the torso.” (CDH, 1881, Santiago de la Villa y Martín: <i>Exterior de los principales animales domésticos y particularmente del caballo</i> )	

31 As a modifier of adjectives, the adjective-adverb *completo* is also very scarce, since such an adjective-adverb can always be misinterpreted as an adjective itself in most cases. Some exceptions can be found, though:

(10)	<i>D. Carlos.— Pues no hagas caso de mí. Yo soy completo francés, Alegre, vivo, ligero: ¡Vaya! Si no hablo, me muero.</i>	(Spanish)
	“D. Carlos: Well, don’t pay any attention to me. I am a complete Frenchman/I am completely French cheerful, lively, easy-going: Come on, if I don’t speak, I’ll die.” (CDH, 1845, Fernando Calderón: <i>A ninguna de las tres</i> )	

32 But even in (10), the interpretation is ambiguous concerning the modified element *francés* ‘French’, since the latter can be either a noun (> ‘a complete Frenchman’), which can easily license *completo* as



an adjective in pre-position – and therefore *completo* wouldn't surprise in its adjectival form –, or an adjective (> 'completely French'), where indeed an adjective-adverb to the left of the modified adjective would be a rare attestation. One may suspect that this ambiguity is a factor for why such cases cannot be found too often in the first place.

- 33 Since the adverbial use of *completo*, as we have just seen, is marginal, we focus on the adverbials *por completo* and *completamente*.

## 2.2. The origins of the adverb *completamente*

- 34 The adverb *completamente* is formed by the feminine singular form of the adjective (*completa*) and the derivational suffix *-mente*. This suffix overtly marks the grammatical status of the word as an adverb. It is the most common way of deriving de-adjectival adverbs in the Romance standard languages except for Romanian (see Hummel, 2024: 413–418). This specific adverbial mark makes *-mente*-adverbs (*MENTE* in what follows), in general, highly flexible from a syntactic point of view: they can freely take almost any syntactic position in a sentence, and they can modify any syntactic constituent in Spanish and Portuguese (Martelotta, 2012; Raposo, 2013: 1600–1603; Company Company, 2014: 460–467; Company Company, 2018: 605).<sup>3</sup>
- 35 *MENTE* form a (semi-)open class, since almost any Sp. or Pt. adjective can be used as a derivational basis (e.g., for Portuguese, Basílio, 1998; Raposo, 2013: 1579–1580). From a diachronic point of view, *MENTE* are the result of a morphological univerbation of Lat. noun phrases of the type A + N, e.g., *SAN-Ā* (healthy-ABL.F.SG) + *MENT-E* (mind/sense.F-ABL.(F).SG) 'with a sound mind' > e.g., Sp./Pt. *sanamente* 'healthily' (e.g., Karlsson, 1981: 47, 142). Their functional and semantic evolution is widely analyzed in terms of grammaticalization (e.g., for Portuguese, see Pinto, 2008; Silva, Carvalho and Almeida 2008; for Spanish, see Company Company 2012a, 2012b, 2014).
- 36 According to the data in CDH, Sp. *completamente* is first documented in 1408, i.e., even earlier than the adjective *completo*. This means that *completamente* is created (supposing derivation) approximately at the

same time as the adjective *completo* (1464) itself is loaned into Spanish, as far as we can tell from the available data. This may suggest a prior parallel existence of both, obscured by the missing data from earlier centuries. The form based on the hereditary cognate *cumplido*, i.e., *cumplidamente*, is already attested in 1254.

- 37 In Portuguese, *completamente* appears three centuries later than in Spanish and is documented first in the 18th century in CdP. More precisely, according to Houaiss et al. (2015: s.v. *completamente*), the first attestation is from 1712. Once more, the patrimonial cognate, e.g., as *cõplidamente*, *conplidamente*, and *cumpridamente* (all 15th century), is attested earlier in CdP.

## 2.3. The origins of the adverbial *por completo*

- 38 The adverbial prepositional phrase *por completo* is an adverbial locution of the type “preposition + adjective” (PA), a productive pattern especially in earlier stages of the Romance languages (see, e.g., Hummel et al., 2019; Hummel, 2024: 418-422). In fact, as shown by Solari Jarque (2021, 2022), the PA pattern was already productive in Latin: for example, Lat. *IN VANUM* ‘in vain’ (cf. Pt. *em vão*; Sp. *en vano*), Lat. *IN BREVI* ‘in short’ (cf. Pt. *em breve*, Sp. *en breve*), and Lat. *AD EXTREMUM* ‘extremely’ (cf. Pt. *ao extremo*, Sp., today, *en extremo*). Individual PA-adverbials, as well as the productive PA-pattern itself, presumably were directly inherited by the early Romance languages (Hummel, 2019a: 147-148; see also García Sánchez, 2022: 7).
- 39 In the Romance languages, PA other than the inherited ones from Latin supposedly emerged as systematic and productive alternatives to adjective adverbs (even before *MENTE* appeared on a grand scale), enriching the inventory of Romance adverbials, from the Latin-Romance transition phase onwards, during the centuries of linguistic elaboration, at least until the 16th century (Hummel, 2019a: 156; 2019b: 308; see also Gerhalter, 2020a). However, beginning with the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance, *MENTE* witnessed a steep rise in usage rates and productiveness (see Grübl, 2018; Bauer, 2003), and from the 17th century on, *MENTE* marginalized nearly all other types of adverb formation in the Romance standard languages such as Spanish

and Portuguese. While some PAs lost ground (mainly to *MENTE*), others continue in present-day language as lexicalized adverbials (see, overall, Hummel, 2019a, 2019b). Nowadays, PA are generally less frequent than their *MENTE*-cognates and other means of adverb formation/creation (see, e.g., Gerhalter and Koch, 2020, on Brazilian Portuguese).

- 40 The Spanish PA *por completo* fits in this general panorama, but, contrarily to *completo* and *completamente*, it is first documented in Spanish only in the 17th century (1645). It seems that this PA was productively created in 17th century Spanish, since no precursor in Latin (\**PER COMPLĒTUM*, \**PRO COMPLĒTŌ*, or any other combination with *COMPLĒTUS*) is documented in Solari Jarque (2021, 2022). If we took search results in CDH seriously, *por completo* would even be first attested already in 1485, or 1489, or 1507, but the years assigned to the corresponding tokens are erroneous. The attestation of *por completo* in CDH from 1485 is invalid, since it comes from a 1995 *regest* (i.e., a summary of the original document's content by the Modern Age editor), which precedes the edition of a document redacted between 1485-1488 (see Ser Quijano, 1995). The other two (supposedly 1489 and 1507) are also useless for diachronic research. The first is a translation of a 15th century text in Arabic (a letter from Boabdil to the sheikhs of Ugíjar), translated between 1898 and 1910 by Mariano Gaspar y Remiro and edited by Miguel Garrido Atienza (1910: 188-189). The second is extracted from a historical treatise from 1908 (Rodríguez Villa, 1908: XLVIII-XLIX), in which some few citations from texts of the 1500s are included, but the part that contains *por completo* is simply a text written by the 20th century historian. This leaves only two examples from 1645 as valid first attestations (see example 12 for the first one).<sup>4</sup>
- 41 It is very eye-striking that the first legit attestations of *por completo* come from America: 1645 Mexico (2 tokens), 1747 Peru (2 tokens), and other colonies: 1754 Philippines (5 tokens), 1770 Philippines (1 token). Only then, the first authentic attestation from Spain is documented (1774, 1 token), followed by attestations from 1835, 1837 and 1843 (one token each, which are also the next attestations after 1774 in all the Hispanic world). The next documentation, again, is from the Americas: Chile 1845 (12 tokens). This goes very well along with Hummel's (2019a) observation that quite a number of Spanish PAs are first documented in the Americas, leading to the assumption that PA,

supposedly of oral origin, particularly surfaced in written language in contexts where normalization was less present (writers who only became writers out of necessity; see Oesterreicher, 2012).

- 42 In Portuguese, *por completo* might be a calque from Spanish:

*por completo* [Houaiss is underlying], hoje inteiramente integrado à língua portuguesa viva, foi dado como um espanholismo por alguns puristas, que sugeriram em seu lugar *completamente*, *integralmente*, *de todo* etc. [*por completo*, now fully integrated into the living Portuguese language, was considered a Hispanism by some purists, who suggested instead *completamente*, *integralmente*, *de todo* etc.] (Houaiss et al., 2015: s.v. *completo*).

- 43 This suggests that the Pt. PA *por completo*, according to these purists, did not evolve in Portuguese based on or inspired by pre-existing *completo* or *completamente*. This might be backed up by its rather late first attestation in CdP, which comes only from the 19th century (when the PA pattern in general was not that productive anymore).
- 44 As to why the preposition *por* was the one to be chosen (specifically in Spanish if we consider Pt. *por completo* as a later calque from Spanish), we can only make an educated guess. First, another PA, Sp. *por entero* ‘entirely’, which is documented since the 14th century (see next section), could have been a ‘model’ for creating *por completo*. Second – if we assume that the prepositions used to form PA-adverbials add a specific semantic value –, Sp. *por* as a continuer form of two Latin prepositions *PRO* ‘for’ and *PER* ‘through’, which merges the semantics of its Latin predecessors/etymons, would then convey some additional semantic value or cue underlining the process related and telicity related character of *completo* (and *entero*), whereas prepositions like *DE* ‘from, by, of’ or *CUM* ‘with’ would make less sense for this specific semantics. Other prepositions such as *AD* ‘to, at’ > Sp./Pt. *a* ‘to, at’, a poly-use preposition in Ibero-Romance, semantically also have the potential to convey process-related and telic information. Indeed, some sporadic attestations of the variant Sp. *al completo* (preposition *a* + article *el* + *completo*), are documented:

(11)	Pero importa más el ambiente, el clima, que el escenario en sí, que por mucho que trate de explicar un locutor, nunca estará narrado al completo.	(Spanish)
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“But the atmosphere, the climate, is more important than the scenario itself, which, no matter how much a radio announcer tries to explain them, will never be fully narrated.” (CDH, 1986, José Javier Muñoz; César Gil: *La Radio: Teoría y práctica*)

45 According to the data in CDH, the adverbial *al completo* is quite recent, it appears only in the late 20th century. Data from CORPES XXI shows that *al completo* is used predominantly in Spain. For Portuguese, there are no occurrences of *\*ao completo* as a PA-adverbial in any section (historical or present-day) of CdP. In this paper, we leave this variant – which proves that the pattern is still punctually productive in Romance – aside and focus on the older form *por completo*.

## 2.4. Overall frequencies in diachrony

46 In this section, we present the overall picture of the adverbials under scrutiny in CDH and CdP.<sup>5</sup> Table 1 shows the absolute number of tokens resulting from the search queries and the normalized/relative frequency (ocurrences per 1 million words) of Sp. *por completo* and *completamente* in the five periods pre-established by CDH: Medieval Spanish, Spanish of the Golden Age, 18th, 19th, and 20th century Spanish.

**Table 1: Spanish *por completo* and *completamente* (CDH), normalized frequency rounded to two decimals**

Period		Sp. <i>por completo</i>		Sp. <i>completamente</i>	
		Abso-lute frequency	Normal-ized frequency	Abso-lute frequency	Normal-ized frequency
1064–1500	Medi-eval Spanish	0	0	3	0,08
1501–1700	Golden Age	2	0,02	5	0,05
1701–1800	18th century	7	0,43	99	6,20
1801–1900	19th century	1675	37,82	3367	76,02
1901–2005	20th century	5455	30,87	9693	54,86

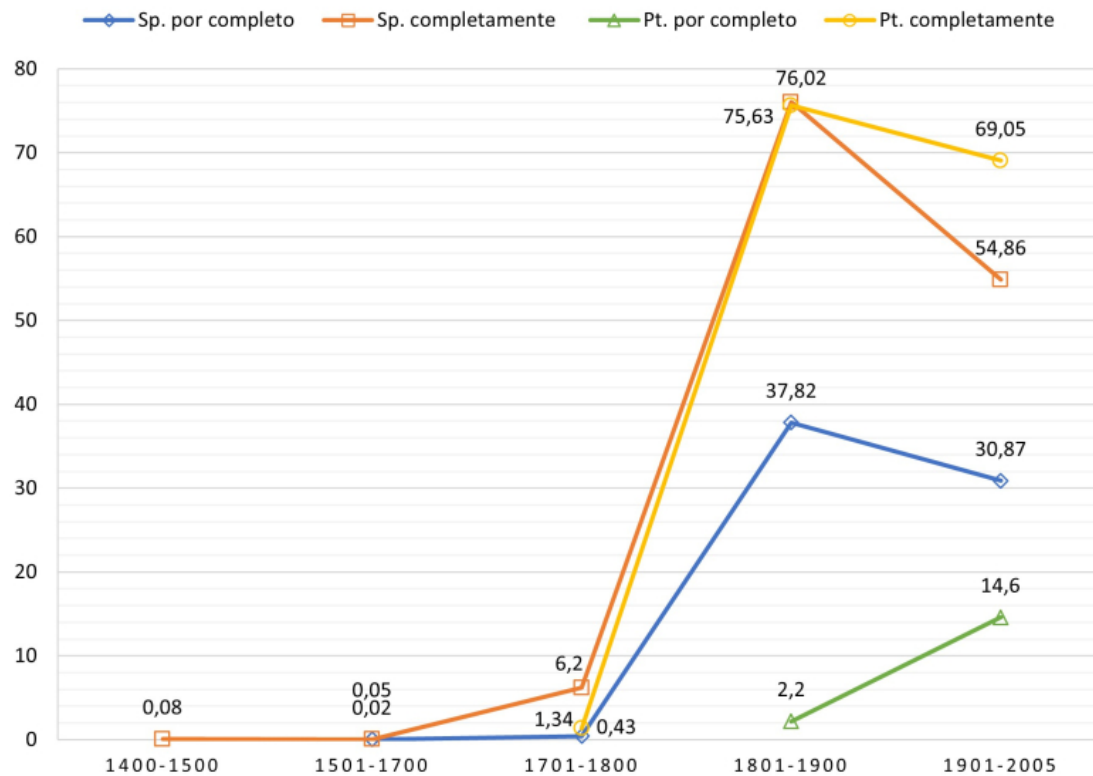
- 47 The first documentation of *completamente* is <completamente> in 1408. The first documentation of *por completo* is from 1645. During the first centuries, both cognates are scarcely attested and only a few examples can be found. From the 17th century on, both adverbials' frequency increases remarkably, especially that of *completamente*, which is clearly the more frequent cognate of both. This matches the general panorama of *MENTE* being preferred over PA from the 17th century onwards (see 2.3).
- 48 In Portuguese, both adverbials are documented later. Rather than reflecting an indeed later apparition of these adverbials, this could also be an effect of corpus size (remember that CDH is a much larger corpus than the historical part of CdP). Table 2 shows the absolute number of tokens and the normalized/relative frequency (cases per 1 million words, manually calculated) of Pt. *por completo* and *completamente* across the three centuries for which there are attestations in CdP.

**Table 2: Portuguese *por completo* and *completamente* (CdP), normalized frequency rounded to two decimals**

Period	Pt. <i>por completo</i>		Pt. <i>completamente</i>	
	Abso- lute frequency	Normal- ized frequency	Abso- lute frequency	Normal- ized frequency
18th century	0	0	3	1,34
19th century	22	2,20	757	75,63
20th century	292	14,60	1381	69,05

- 49 To compare both languages, Figure 1 combines the data (normalized frequency per 1 Mio words) from Tables 1 and 2, starting with the 15th century.

**Figure 1: Normalized frequency (per 1 Mio words) of Spanish and Portuguese *por completo* and *completamente***

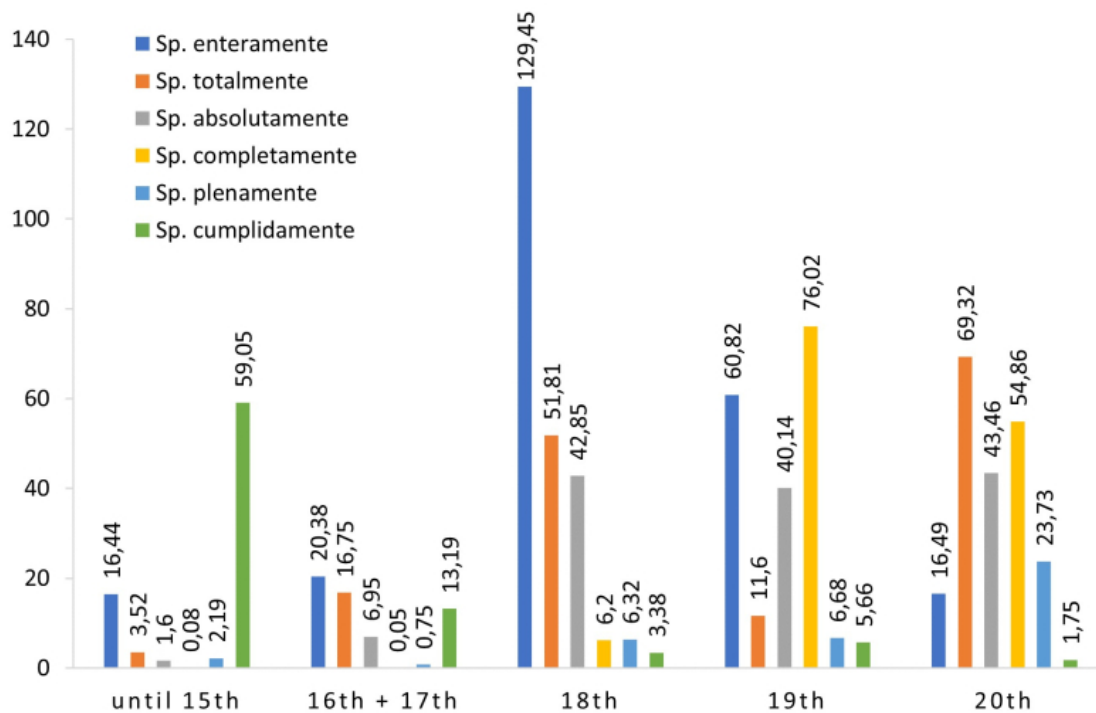


50 Despite of *Sp. completamente* being used since 1408, its relative frequency only starts to rise (very steeply) in the 19th century. This is an eye-striking parallel with *Pt. completamente*, which even only appears for the first time in the 18th century in CdP (see the yellow and the orange graph). *Sp. por completo* is also documented since the 17th century, but it is always less frequent than *completamente*. However, *Sp. por completo* equally shows a clear rise in frequency in the 19th century. The least frequent, and the latest adverbial of this group to enter the stage, is *Pt. por completo*, the supposed calque from Spanish, whose frequency increases from the 19th to the 20th century when the other adverbials show a slight decrease in frequency.

51 In Figures 2 and 3 we check if the rise in frequency of *Sp./Pt. completamente* in the 19th century is an exception or a common phenomenon within the paradigm of aspectual/degree adverbs. We compare the normalized frequencies of several adverbs – all

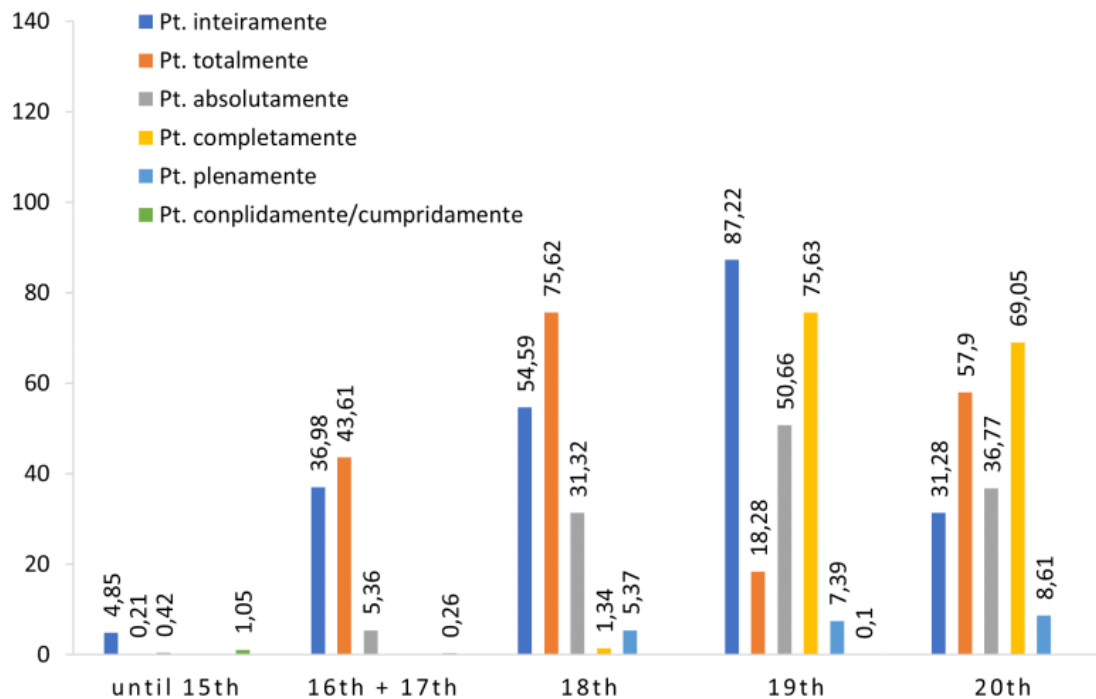
(near-)synonymous with *completamente* and also cognates in Spanish and Portuguese – across the five periods established in CDH (again, manually calculating the normalized frequency for Portuguese in these periods in CdP).

**Figure 2: Normalized frequencies (per 1 Mio words) of the Spanish paradigm of aspectual/degree quantifiers in CDH**





**Figure 3: Normalized frequencies (per 1 Mio words) of the Portuguese paradigm of aspectual/degree quantifiers in CdP**



- 52 The rise of Sp./Pt. *completamente* in the 19th century is a quite ‘late’ fashion, since *enteramente/inteiramente* ‘entirely’, *totalmente* ‘totally’ (with a striking ‘gap’ in the 19th century), and *absolutamente* ‘absolutely’ already increased in frequency from the 16th or 17th century onwards. In the 20th century, *completamente* has become the most frequent member of this paradigm in Portuguese and the second most frequent in Spanish. Therefore, *completamente* – to a certain degree – replaces the other adverbs.
- 53 The general rise of frequency of the adverbs in Figures 2 and 3 may also coincide with the documentation of more diverse text types in the corpora; the percentage of literary, poetic, and descriptive (scientific) texts increases enormously with progressing time. As a hypothesis, these are supposedly texts in which more adverbs are used, and in which also a certain ‘need’ of degree quantifiers might be felt (while in legal documents, the predominant text type of the surviving documents from the Ibero-Romance Middle Ages, adverbs are rather scarce: it suffices to check, e.g., the legal documents from

912 to 1300 published by Ruiz Asencio and Ruiz Albi, 2007, to get a first impression).

- 54 Contrarily to the *-mente*-paradigm, the corresponding PA-paradigm is more reduced, and its exponents are less frequent, but just as with *completamente*, *por completo* is not the first adverb(ial) of its kind in its paradigm. Sp. *por entero* ‘entirely’ is documented earlier (first attestation in 1300, Sp. *por completo* in 1645), and Pt. *por inteiro* ‘entirely’ is first documented in the 16th century (once, as *per inteiro*), while Pt. *por completo* only appears for the first time in the 19th century.
- 55 As shown in Table 3, Sp./Pt. *por entero/inteiro* is used more frequently than Sp./Pt. *por completo* in earlier centuries, but then is outpaced by the *it* – just as Sp./Pt. *enteramente/inteiramente* by Sp./Pt. *completamente*.

**Table 3: Normalized frequency of Spanish and Portuguese *por completo* and *por entero/inteiro* (CDH/CdP)**

	Sp. <i>por entero</i>	Sp. <i>por completo</i>	Pt. <i>por inteiro</i>	Pt. <i>por completo</i>
1064–1500	3,70	0	0	0
1501–1700	8,49	0,02	2,30	0
1701–1800	6,39	0,43	0	0
1801–1900	5,59	37,82	2,50	2,20
1901–2005	4,79	30,87	4,28	14,60

- 56 Other PAs of this paradigm, such as Sp. *en extremo* ‘extremely’ (1400), *en absoluto* ‘absolutely’ (1549; again, the supposed first attestation in CDH from 1489 stems also from Gaspar y Remiro’s translation realized between 1898 and 1910 of an 15th century Arabic text), Sp. *de pleno* ‘completely’ (1504) and Sp. *en total* ‘totally’ (1575) are all first attested earlier than Sp. *por completo* (1645). In Portuguese, two of the existing corresponding PAs are documented first in the 16th century: *em cheio* and *ao extremo/em extremo*. The adverbial *em absoluto* is attested first in the 19th century, just as *no total* (all dates according to CdP), which confirms that 19th century *por completo* is, indeed, together with the two latter examples, a ‘late’ member of this paradigm. A simple quantitative comparison of these forms is not possible,

though, because there are a lot of interfering examples in the corpora in which these sequences are not interpretable as adverbials (a manual filtering is not feasible within the limits of this article).

### 3. Steps in the semantic and syntactic evolution of *completamente* and *por completo*

57 In this section, we will first focus on *por completo* in Spanish (3.1) and Portuguese (3.2), and then contrast its evolution with *completamente* in Spanish (3.3) and Portuguese (3.4).

#### 3.1. Semantic-functional evolution of Sp. *por completo*

58 The first authentic attestation of *por completo* from 1645 is a post-posed aspectual quantifier modifying a verb:

(12)	Se van enriqueciendo los religiosos de esta América con las limosnas, fundaciones, rentas, comercio y opulentísimos negocios, y entretanto los diezmos concedidos por la Santa Sede a nuestros católicos príncipes y por ellos con su esclarecida y regia piedad aplicados a las catedrales para su mantenimiento se consumen con tales lucros y desaparecen por completo.	(Spanish)
	“The clerics of this very America are getting richer with alms, foundations, rents, commerce and opulent business, and in the meantime the tithes granted by the Holy See to our Catholic princes and by them with their enlightened and royal piety applied to the cathedrals for their maintenance are consumed with such wastefulness and disappear completely.” (CDH, 1645, Juan de Palafox y Mendoza: «Carta a Inocencio X» (Cartas), <i>Testimonios varios</i> [México])	

59 In this example, the verb *desaparecer* ‘to disappear’ itself is clearly telic and process-related, allowing to interpret *por completo* basically only as an aspectual quantifier (original source meaning): the process of disappearing is fully completed when no money at all is left.

60 The next stage in the evolution of *por completo*, documented a century later, consists of the foregrounding of the degree-quantification-reading, both when *por completo* modifies a verb (*desconocer por completo*) or an adjective (*inútil por completo*). In both instances, *por completo* is still in post-position (see example 13).

(13)	<p>No dudo que tendrá algunas cualidades, como ordinariamente las tienen los árboles y plantas que se crían en semejantes lugares; he de confesar que las desconozco por completo, ni he oído entre los naturales cosa particular que sea digna de apuntarse. [...]</p> <p>La yerba llamada lunga-lunga es muy parecida á la del ajonjolí con la diferencia de ser ésta buena y utilísima, y la otra inútil por completo: no hemos de poner los ojos solamente en lo exterior, para conocer lo bueno ó lo malo, sino en los frutos que cada uno lleva [...]</p>	(Spanish)
	<p>"I do not doubt that it will have some qualities, as the trees and plants that grow in such places usually have; I must confess that I am completely unaware of them, nor have I heard anything particular among the natives that is worth noting. [...] The herb called lunga-lunga is very similar to sesame, with the difference that latter is good and very useful, and the former is completely useless: we must not look only at the exterior, to know the good or the bad, but at the fruits that each one bears [...]" (CDH, c1754, Juan José Delgado: <i>Historia general sacro-profana, política y natural de las islas del Poniente llamadas Filipinas</i>)</p>	

- 61 In example (13), *por completo* is a degree quantifier of the verb *desconocer* 'to not know' and the adjective *inútil* 'useless'. The verb *desconocer* is atelic and durative. Therefore, *desconocer por completo* can only be read as a context of degree modification. *Por completo* does therefore not designate the maximum limit or endpoint of a telic process, but rather the maximum (or at least a very high) degree of the properties or the states expressed by the semantics of the corresponding verb.
- 62 The adjective *inútil* 'useless' could, in principle, also refer to the result of a telic process (of getting useless), and an aspectual reading of *por completo* would indicate that the culmination of this telic process is reached (see also *completamente rojo* and the discussion in 1.1). However, in this specific context referring to a plant that did not undergo such a process, the foregrounded interpretation is that of degree quantification, indicating the highest possible degree of uselessness (obviously, subject to definition): the absolute maximum, a 100% of uselessness (or, 0% of usefulness). Since the aspectual interpretation is ruled out in both instances in (13), the example illustrates two switch or isolating contexts.
- 63 The first attestation of *por completo* modifying a participle is from 1856 (coinciding with the steep rise in frequency of *por completo* in the 19th century; see 2.4). In this example, the PA is still post-posed and is ambiguous (aspectual and degree quantifier), caused by the static semantics of *estar*. This is a classic bridging or critical context.

(14)	Deberíamos á continuacion de la descripcion y discusion teórica de los aparatos que se han puestos en práctica para la aplicacion del aire caliente; pero teniendo este elemento únicamente aplicacion en la reduccion de los minerales de hierro, y estando por otra parte abandonada esta práctica casi por completo, nos ocuparemos del estudio de esta modificacion del aire al tratar del hierro.	(Spanish)
	“We should continue with the description and theoretical discussion of the apparatuses that have been put into practice for the application of hot air; but this element having only application in the reduction of iron ores, and this practice being moreover almost completely abandoned, we will deal with the study of this modification of air when dealing with iron.” (CDH, 1856, Constantino Sáez de Montoya: <i>Tratado teórico práctico de metalurgia. Dispuesto para uso de las escuelas y establecimientos en donde se enseñe esta asignatura, para los metalurgistas, mineros, etc.</i> )	

64 Since *abandonada* ‘abandoned’ is a participle, it has both verbal and adjectival properties: it retains a verbal reading (*abandonar por completo* ‘to abandon completely’ > *abandonada por completo* ‘completely abandoned’), while being a nominal. Furthermore, the past participle form adds a perfective factor to the mix, i.e. the action of abandoning is concluded (i.e., the condition of a 100% of abandonment is met, since no one uses the described technique anymore). *Por completo* is, thus, also ambiguous between verb-modification and adjective-modification, but maintains the prototypical position of verb-modifiers in Ibero-Romance (post-position).

65 Still in the mid-19th century, a new syntactic position is documented: *por completo* as a degree quantifier is also pre-posed to participles and adjectives, that is, it takes the prototypical position of other types of degree quantifiers (such as *MENTE*) when modifying adjectives. The first attestation of such pre-posed *por completo* modifying a participle (*cubierto* ‘covered’) comes from 1865 and is the first documentation of pre-position of *por completo* at all (example 15):

(15)	Así, valuada esta última en 5.100,000 miriámetros cuadrados, 3.700,000, algo ménos de sus 3/4 están ocupados por las aguas, y comparadas las superficies de ambos hemisferios, el boreal contiene él solo 4/5 de tierra, mientras que el austral, casi por completo cubierto de agua, 1/5.	(Spanish)
	“Thus, the latter being valued at 5,100,000 square myriameters, 3,700,000, slightly less than 3/4 are occupied by water, and comparing the surfaces of the two hemispheres, the boreal alone contains 4/5 of land, while the austral, almost entirely covered with water, 1/5.” (CDH, 1865, Manuel Merelo: <i>Nociones de geografía descriptiva</i> )	

66 Example (15) is again functionally ambiguous: *casi por completo cubierto* ‘almost completely covered’ can still be interpreted

as the result of successively covering the landscape with water (aspectual reading), but it can also be interpreted as an example of high degree quantification (i.e., this is also a bridging/critical context). Again, the use of the resultative passive with the verb *estar* may even foreground the aspectual reading.

- 67 So, it is not a degree-quantifier-reading alone that can trigger pre-position. Moreover, examples (13) to (15) show that the semantic interpretation of *por completo* depends on the semantics of the modified element and on the context, but not so much on its syntactic position. Nevertheless, examples of pre-posed aspectual or ambiguous *por completo* possibly paved the way for pre-position of degree quantifying *por completo*. Indeed, *por completo* in pre-position modifying ‘regular’ adjectives is documented at just about the same time in the 19th century, as it is with verbal adjectives (participles):

(16)	<i>Estas son por completo distintas al pié de fábrica, de las que despues se fijan para el servicio; pues sabido es que los proyectiles, como todos los objetos elaborados por la mano del hombre, sufren más ó ménos con el uso y con los demás accidentes á que están expuestos, [...] Al abandonar el proyectil la pieza, el anillo de papier maché se deforma y desaparece de una manera por completo inofensiva.</i>	(Spanish)
	“These [established tolerances] are completely different when [the projectiles are] fresh from the factory than those that are later fixed for service; for it is known that the projectiles, like all objects made by the hand of man, suffer more or less with use and with the other incidents to which they are exposed, [...] When the projectile leaves the cartridge, the ring made of <i>papier mâché</i> is deformed and disappears in a completely harmless manner.” (CDH, 1870, Cándido Barrios: <i>Nociones de Artillería</i> , I)	

(17)	<i>Siendo, pues, nuestro dogma el desarrollo de la personalidad humana, es necesario que coloquemos al hombre fuera de todo daño, como el cristianismo coloca sus dogmas fuera de la discusion. Si alguna vez la humanidad llega á arrancarse de su corazon el pecado, á penetrar con su mirada en lo más profundo del seno del sér, entonces nuestra religion habrá caducado y el precepto humano será por completo positivo.</i>	(Spanish)
	“Since our dogma is the development of the human personality, it is necessary that we place man out of harm’s way, as Christianity places its dogmas out of discussion. If humanity ever manages to tear sin from its heart, to penetrate with its gaze into the profoundest depths of the bosom of existence, then our religion will have expired and the human precept will be entirely positive.” (CDH, 1873, Serafín Álvarez: <i>El Credo de una Religión Nueva</i> )	

- 68 In (16-17), the original reading (aspectual quantification) is ruled out, i.e., these examples represent switch or isolating contexts. The only likely interpretation of *por completo distinta*, *por completo inofensiva* (16) and *por completo positivo* (17) is that of a degree quantifier, since the semantics of these adjectives is not linked to telicity, and they do not denote process-induced properties. But all three adjectives, *distinto*, *inofensivo*, and *positivo*, denote scalar properties that can be somewhat objectively limited by *por completo*, i.e., there is a 100% maximum degree of distinction, inoffensiveness, and positivity that cannot be surpassed. We will call this semantic trait ‘maximum limit’ or MAX.LIM.
- 69 This MAX.LIM can be a trait of telic verbs (Sp. *cambiar* ‘change’, Pt. *mudar* ‘change’), adjectives (and particularly past participles) linked with telicity (denoting the result of a telic process, like Sp./Pt. *cambiado/mudado* or the Sp./Pt. adjective *completo* itself) and ‘atelic’ adjectives (like Sp./Pt. *distinto*, *inofensivo*, *positivo*) alike.
- 70 The semantic property of *por completo* and *completamente* of denoting or foregrounding such a maximum limit will be called ‘designate maximum limit’, or DES.MAX.LIM.
- 71 Such a maximum limit is, probably, not inherent in the core semantics of *distinto*, *inofensivo*, and *positivo*, as it is a question of definition. It is only established and attributed by *por completo*, subjectively, according to the speaker’s definition or idea of maximum distinctness, inoffensiveness, or positiveness. Since in telic, process-related contexts, a maximum of execution of an action or an event is reached in the end (the potential for this represented by the semantic trait MAX.LIM), and *por completo* exactly foregrounds this maximum completion of such a telic action or event (e.g., *llenar por completo* ‘to completely fill up to a 100%’), one can argue that *por completo* is destined to carry over this semantic component or trait of designating this maximum (DES.MAX.LIM) to its degree quantifying function. It is this trait which makes the transition to being a degree quantifier of certain scalar adjectives much easier. Contrarily, the semantic trait that gets lost in the evolution from aspectual to degree quantification is that of reaching the maximum as the result of a telic, process-related event. Therefore, *por completo*

expands the semantic-pragmatic contexts it can appear in as the result of a semantic generalization.

### 3.2. Semantic-functional evolution of Pt. *por completo*

- 72 Pt. *por completo* appears for the first time in the 19th century in CdP.<sup>6</sup> It is documented as an aspectual quantifier placed after the verb *destruir* ‘to destroy’ (i.e., the process of destroying is completed until absolutely everything is 100% destroyed):

(18)	<i>[...] apesar de ter a polícia corrido para evitar qualquer assalto a esses jornais, não chegou a tempo de evitá-lo, pois a multidão aos gritos de viva a República e à memória de Floriano Peixoto invadiu aqueles estabelecimentos e destruiu-os por completo, queimando tudo.</i>	(Portuguese)
	“[...] although the police rushed to prevent any assault on these newspapers, they were not in time to prevent it, because the crowd shouting “long live the Republic” and “to the memory of Floriano Peixoto” invaded these establishments and completely destroyed them, burning everything to the ground.” (CdP, 19th century, Euclides da Cunha: <i>Os Sertões</i> )	

- 73 In the same century (and by the same author) *por completo* is also used as a post-posed modifier of the participle *refeitas* (‘redone’), with a clear aspectual-quantifier-reading, too:

(19)	<i>Duvido mesmo já que os aficionados do Campo Pequeno, pela maioria exigentes e sabedores da técnica taurina, se achem dispostos a tolerar espectáculos só com portugueses, e viverá pouco quem não chegar a ver daquele redondel não só expungidos os maus artistas, como também ampliadas e refeitas por completo as corridas de touros, que entre nós são ainda um espectáculo branco e sem catástrofes.</i>	(Portuguese)
	“I really doubt that the aficionados of Campo Pequeno, the majority of whom are demanding and knowledgeable about bullfighting techniques, will be willing to tolerate shows with only Portuguese performers, and it will be a short life for anyone who doesn’t get to see not only how the bad artists are expelled from that ring, but also how the bullfights, which here are still a clean spectacle without catastrophes, are expanded and completely redone.” (CdP, 19th century, Fialho de Almeida: <i>Gatos</i> 6)	

- 74 One century later, in the 20th century, *por completo* is also documented post-posed to adjectives. In example (20), it modifies the adjective *alheia* ‘alien’:



(20)	Com uma resignação de freira, alheia por completo ao mundo, vivendo na perpétua lembrança do marido, na exclusiva preocupação dos filhos, passou anos Eugênia sem sair de casa, levando uma vida toda crepuscular, na inteira abdicação do seu querer, colada ao dever como a lapa ao rochedo, alumiada e forte sempre a alma do alimento ázimo do Passado, o seu fino rosto austero idealizado por uma transcendente, uma inabalável expressão de confiança e de doçura.	(Portuguese)
	“With the resignation of a nun, completely oblivious to the world, living in perpetual remembrance of her husband and in exclusive concern for her children, Eugenia spent years without leaving the house, living an entirely crepuscular life, in complete abdication of her needs, glued to her duty like a limpet to a rock, her soul always illuminated and strong from her unleavened feeding on the past, her thin austere face idealized by a transcendent, unshakeable expression of trust and gentleness.” (CdP, 20th century, Abel Botelho: <i>A Consoada</i> )	

75 The context of this example could be classified as a bridging/critical context: in principle, *alheia por completo* ‘completely oblivious/alien’ is ambiguous between aspectual or degree quantification. However, although this characteristic could be the result of a gradual process of becoming oblivious, it seems that the degree quantifying reading is foregrounded in (20).

76 In the same century, *por completo* appears as well in a new syntactic position; it is pre-posed to a participle for the first time:

(21)	Ora a Conceição morava ali bem perto, quase à raiz da rua da Atalaia, em casa da conhecida Consuelo, a Consuelo rebolona, antiga dançarina de S. Carlos, agora quase por completo passada à inactividade, apenas tendo, por pausas, alguma escritura ocasional em teatros de #3.a ordem.	(Portuguese)
	“Now, Conceição lived very close by, almost at the beginning of Rua da Atalaia, in the house of the well-known Consuelo, Consuelo the show-off, former dancer at S. Carlos, now almost completely inactive, with only occasional assignments in 3rd order theaters.” (CdP, 1957, Fernanda Botelho: <i>O Angulo Raso</i> )	

77 Example (21) is clearly aspectual: the process of ceasing professional activities extends over time and has almost completely culminated (the maximum limit will be reached with a 100% inactiveness).

78 Finally, pre-posed modification of adjectives is only attested in the 21st century, like in the following example of modification of *alheia* ‘alien’ (22):

(22)	Esta noção de uma igreja universal invisível é por completo alheia do Novo Testamento.	(Portuguese)
	“This notion of an invisible universal church is completely alien to the New Testament.” (CdP Web/Dialects, Brasil, internet)	

- 79 In this specific context, the copula verb *é* ‘is’ presents a state and excludes a telic, process-related reading of *é por completo alheia*. Therefore, in contrast to example (20) above, an aspectual reading is completely ruled out in (22), and the reading of *por completo* as a maximum degree quantifier is the only possible interpretation. It is, therefore, clearly a switch/isolating context. In this context, again, the modified adjective has the semantic trait MAX.LIM: *por completo* (via its DES.MAX.LIM trait) establishes that the maximum possible degree of alienness is intended (100%). Moreover, examples (20) and (22) show that not only the specific semantics (MAX.LIM or not, telicity related or not) of the modified element (in 20 and 22, the adjective *alheia*) determines the interpretation of the quantifier *por completo*, but it is also the specific broader context of the sentence which does.
- 80 To sum up, Pt. *por completo* roughly goes through the same stages as already documented for Sp. *por completo*, from verb modification via participle modification to adjective modification (in Spanish, though, participle and adjective modification both first appear nearly at the same time, within five years), and from pre-position to post-position, but remarkably later.

### 3.3. Semantic-functional evolution of Sp. *completamente*

- 81 The first attestation of Sp. *completamente* shows that this adverb is used first as a verb quantifier in the early 15th century:

(23)	<p>Porque vos mando á todos é á cada uno de vos en [vuestros] logares é jurisdicciones, que veades estas mis Leyes, ó el [dicho] su traslado signado, como [dicho] es, é publicadlas é facedlas guardar é complir las cosas en ellas contenidas en todo é por todo, bien é completamente, segun que en ellas se contiene, é no vaiades, ni pasedes, ni consintades ir ni pasar contra ellas, ni contra parte dellas, agora ni de aqui adelante, en ningun tiempo, por alguna razon que sea [...]</p>	(Spanish)
	<p>“For I command you all and each one of you in [your] homesteads and jurisdictions, that you see these my Laws, or the [said] signed copy of them, as it is [said], and publish them and make them respected and make that the things that are contained in them are well and completely fulfilled from top to bottom, according to what is contained in them, and do not go against them, nor trespass them, nor consent anyone to go them or trespass them, nor any part of them, now or hereafter, at any time, for any reason whatsoever [...]” (CDH, 1408, Anónimo: «Ordenamiento hecho por la reina gobernadora doña Catalina, a nombre de su hijo el señor don Juan II, sobre la divisa y traje de los moros»)</p>	

- 82 In example (23), *completamente* modifies the verb *cumplir* ‘comply with, lit. fulfill’ and refers, in this context, to obey the content of laws in the maximum degree possible, i.e., in every single detail. While English *to comply with* is arguably not telic, Spanish *cumplir*, in other contexts than in (23), could still have a rest of a telic, process-related semantics (remember that the verb *cumplir* and the adjective *completo* go back to the same Latin etymon, see 2.1; hence, *cumplir completamente* is almost a tautology). But the semantics ‘fulfill’ still is rather punctual than telic, so also Spanish *cumplir* must be interpreted primarily as non-telic. Therefore, the more probable interpretation of *completamente* in example (23) is that of a degree quantifier (i.e., already a switch/isolating context). This would mean, assuming a development according to the Heine’s (2002) and Diewald’s (2002) stages, that the supposedly pre-dating bridging/critical context had occurred probably very early, and, in any case, it is not documented in CDH.
- 83 As a next step, *completamente* appears as a pre-posed degree modifier, first attested in the mid-15th century, modifying the verb *consentir* ‘to consent’ (example 24).

(24)	En lo qual ella llagada de un muy estranno dolor, la fama de sus virtudes en esto seer manzellada, la qual ella tenia speçial entre todas las duennas romanas, que esto escogiesse non sabia, a la fin, aunque non completamente, consintio con Sexto Tarquino solicitador de adulterio.	(Spanish)
	“In it [i.e., the adultery], she, struck by a very strange pain, as the fame of her virtues, [a fame] which she had in a particular way among the Roman women, was tainted, didn’t know that she chose this [i.e., the adultery], [and] in the end, even if not completely, consented with Sextus Tarquinius, the requester of the adultery” (CDH, 1440–1455, El Tostado [Alonso Fernández de Madrigal], <i>Libro de amor e amicitia</i> )	

- 84 While *consentir* certainly can be considered as having the MAX.LIM trait (again, as almost always in such cases, subject to subjective definition by the speaker), it would be difficult to attest it a telic character, which results in the near impossibility to read (24) as an instance of aspectual quantification and makes an interpretation as degree quantification the only reasonable choice (switch/isolating context).
- 85 Sp. *completamente* as a pre-posed modifier of adjectives appears as early as the first half of the 17th century, more than two centuries earlier than Sp. *por completo*:

(25)	y así es que todo suceso importante ocurrido dentro ó fuera de España, era al punto narrado y glosado por mil plumas desconocidas, mas ó menos autorizadas, que se disputaban á porfía el derecho de anunciar al público leyente noticias las mas veces poco exactas, siempre exageradas, quando no completamente falsas.	(Spanish)
	“And so it is that every important event which occurred inside or outside Spain, was at once told and commented on by a thousand unknown pens, more or less authorized, who were eagerly vying for the right to announce to the reading public most often inaccurate, always exaggerated, if not completely false news.” (CDH, 1634, Sebastián González: «Carta», <i>Cartas de algunos padres de la Compañía de Jesús</i> , I)	

(26)	Los que niegan la posibilidad de la transmutación de los metales ponen mucho ahínco en probar que son de especies completamente distintas y que, assí, es imposible el tránsito de unos a otros;	(Spanish)
	“Those who deny the possibility of the transmutation of metals put much effort into proving that they are of completely different kinds and that, therefore, the transition of one into the other is impossible;” (CDH, 1640, Álvaro Alonso Barba: <i>Arte de los metales</i> )	

86 In principle, both *completamente falsa* and *completamente distinta* could be the results of telic processes, but in the specific contexts of examples (25) and (26), the aspectual reading is excluded: both *falsas* ‘false’ and *distintas* ‘different’ describe stable characteristics of certain news (25) and certain metals (26). The adverb *completamente* expresses the maximum degree (100%) of these characteristics (i.e., there is nothing correct or similar at all). Therefore, both examples are also illustrative of the switch/isolating context in which the atelic maximum degree interpretation is the only possible one.

87 It is noteworthy that in its first documentation in which it is not modifying a verb, *completamente* immediately appears as a pre-posed modifier of adjectives. Only a few cases of modification of participles are documented in the early phase, the first attestation (ex. 27; 1680) dates from some decades later than the first attestations of modification of adjectives (ex. 25; 1634, and ex. 26; 1640). In (27), the interpretation of *completamente* as a maximum degree quantifier is foregrounded, since *desordenado* ‘in disorder’, in this specific context, is not presented as the result of a process. This may be underpinned by the combination with the Sp. copula *ser*, although at this rather early stage, *ser* still could be used in resultative and ‘static’ contexts, for permanent and temporary states, as the distinction *ser* vs. *estar* hadn’t yet been fully cemented (exemplified, e.g., by Penny, 2002: 160).

(27)	No solamente nos es permitido cambiar lo antiguo, sino rechazarlo totalmente cuando es completamente desordenado	(Spanish)
	“We are not only allowed to change the old, but to totally reject it when it is completely in disorder.” (CDH, 1680, Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora: <i>Teatro de virtudes políticas que constituyen a un príncipe</i> )	

88 The pattern “participle + post-posed *completamente*” occurs even later, in the first half of the 18th century:

(28)	Calificado, ya a mi parecer, con esta ejecutoria, el esplendor de mis ascendientes, y refutada la malignidad de mis contrarios, lo primero con la ejecutoria que expongo, y lo segundo, con la relación que llevo hecha de mis procederes, no me queda duda en que Vd. y sus amigos en quien reina una razón desapasionada y un juicio prudente y cristiano, nieguen sus oídos a las perversas calumnias de mis opuestos, desvanecidas y deshechas completamente en virtud de las poderosas razones que manifiesto.	(Spanish)
	“Having proven, in my opinion, with this patent of nobility, the splendor of my ancestors, and having refuted the malignity of my opponents, the first with the patent of nobility which I hereby show, and the second with the account I have given of my actions, I have no doubt that you and your friends in whom dispassionate reason and prudent and Christian judgment reign, will refuse to listen to the perverse calumnies of my opponents, which are completely vanished and undone by virtue of the powerful reasoning I am presenting.” (CDH, 1737, Juan Francisco Melcón: <i>Carta satisfactoria</i> )	

89 In (28), *completamente* modifies, arguably, either one (*deshechas* ‘undone’) or two participles (*desvanecidas* y *deshechas* ‘vanished and undone’), which stem from telic, process-related verbs. In this context, *completamente* is interpretable as an aspectual quantifier: the culmination of the process of vanishing and undoing the denounced calumnies is reached by presenting several arguments. Even if we interpret this, undoing and vanishing, as rather quick, punctual events in other contexts, telicity is still inherent, the duration of the inherent process does not necessarily play a role in acknowledging the principal existence of this telic process.

90 On the one hand, the equally (compared with *por completo*) late attestation of *completamente* as a post-posed aspectual quantifier of participles can maybe be attributed to the arbitrariness of the historical data (lack of documentation). On the other hand, the existing data suggests that *completamente* and *por completo* start to modify participles only comparably late (which is difficult to believe, though, considering the verbal character of participles, and the fact that all four Sp./Pt. adverbial cognates studied in this paper first

appear with verbs). We will come back to this discussion in Section 4.1.

### 3.4. Semantic-functional evolution of Pt. *completamente*

- 91 In Portuguese, *completamente* first enters the scene in the 18th century, as an aspectual quantifier placed after the verb it modifies (*restabelecer* ‘restore’, a verb that is clearly process-related and telic):

(29)	<i>Declarando-se Hipócrates a Fila e persuadindo-a a lisonjear o amor e esperanças do príncipe, conseguiu restabelecer-lhe completamente a saúde.</i>	(Portuguese)
	“By declaring himself to Fila and persuading her to flatter the prince’s love and hopes, Hippocrates managed to restore her health completely.” (CdP 1756, Cavaleiro de Oliveira: <i>Cartas</i> )	

- 92 The modification of adjectives, with *completamente* both post-posed and pre-posed, follows in the 19th century:

(30)	<i>Ela disse à sua aia: – “Phebe, eu estou só com Carlos; e quero estar só. Em casa para ninguém.” – “Sim, minha senhora.” Resposta obrigada do criado inglês a tudo. E ficámos sós completamente.</i>	(Portuguese)
	“She said to her maid: ‘Phebe, I’m alone with Carlos, and I want to be alone. I am at home for no one.’ – ‘Yes, madam.’ The English servant’s obliging reply to everything. And we remained completely alone.” (CdP, 19th century, Almeida Garrett: <i>Viagens</i> )	

(31)	<i>Homem de quarenta e sete anos de idade, baixo e aparentemente robusto, feições regulares, tez moreno-escuro, olhos negros e vivos, tinha larga testa e belo crânio, completamente calvo, que dos paraguaios lhe valeu injuriosa alcunha.</i>	(Portuguese)
	“He was a man of forty-seven years, short and apparently robust, with regular features, a dark brown complexion, lively black eyes, a broad forehead and a beautiful skull, completely bald, which earned him an insulting nickname from the Paraguayans.” (CdP, 19th century, Afonso de E. Taunay: <i>A Retirada da Laguna</i> )	

- 93 In (30) and (31), *completamente* is ambiguous between aspectual and degree quantification, i.e., both examples illustrate a bridging/critical context. In (30), *ficar sós completamente* ‘to be/remain completely

alone' the state of the maximum degree of aloneness (100%; possible degree quantification reading) is reached as the result of other persons leaving the house (aspectual reading). In (31), *completamente calvo* 'completely bald' is, naturally, the result of a process over time (aspectual), which has reached its absolute maximum (100% of baldness), the adverb emphasizes that not a single hair is left. However, in this example of *completamente calvo*, the interpretation as a maximum degree quantifier seems to be foregrounded, since a characteristic of the person in a particular moment is described.

- 94 As for modification of participles, the first attestations of post- and pre-position to participles also date back to the 19th century:

(32)	O rapaz acordou muito bem disposto no outro dia, estava, ou pelo menos parecia, restabelecido completamente.	(Portuguese)
	"The boy woke up in a very good mood the next day, he was, or at least seemed to be, completely recovered." (CdP, 19th century, Aluísio Azevedo: <i>Casa de Pensão</i> )	

(33)	Vendo partir carregada de tantas gulosinas a bandeja que voltava completamente destroçada, eu que tinha os convidados na conta de cidadãos respeitáveis, preocupados dos mais graves assuntos, indignava-me ante aquela devastação	(Portuguese)
	"Seeing the tray leave laden with so many sweet treats and returning completely destroyed, I, who considered the guests to be respectable citizens, concerned about the most serious issues, was indignant at the devastation" (CdP, 19th century, José de Alencar: <i>Como e Por Que sou Romancista</i> )	

- 95 In both cases, the verbal character of the participles *restabelecido* 'recovered' and *destroçada* 'destroyed' prevails and, in both examples, *completamente* is an aspectual quantifier.
- 96 To sum up, the Portuguese cognate *completamente*, just as Spanish *completamente*, is first attested as a post-posed verb-modifier (aspectual quantifier) and second – in a relative quick succession (at least quicker than in Spanish) – as pre-posed and post-posed adjective (primarily degree quantifier, but still in a bridging/critical context) and participle modifier (in our random examples from the 19th century, aspectual).

### 3.5. Frequency of different syntactic patterns in present-day Spanish

- 97 To complement our diachronic study, we will briefly look at the frequency of different syntactic patterns of *por completo* and *completamente* in present-day language. Unfortunately, this can only be done in detail for Spanish (with CORPES XXI), because CdP doesn't allow the needed specific and fine-grained search queries (see all the footnotes in Table 4). Additionally, in CORPES XXI, the part-of-speech tagging is more advanced than in CDH, too: it is unambiguous since every token is tagged as exactly one category (adjective, verb, etc., and additional subcategorizations, e.g., participles of verbs). Therefore, also participles are tagged as such within the category verb. This means that each form of concern (i.e., forms in the scope of *por completo* or *completamente*) is classified either as a (finite) verb, a participle or as an adjective. Mind that, this way, e.g., *dedicado* can be classified as participle/verb in one instance and as adjective in another<sup>7</sup>. In what follows, we strictly adhere to the tagging in CORPES XXI.
- 98 Table 4 and Figure 4 show the total number of occurrences for several syntactic patterns. We could not retrieve semi-automatically the cases of “ADV + verb”, because there are too many interfering patterns that would need manual filtering of each example (e.g., in Sp. [...] *que impedían por completo adivinar qué* ‘which completely impeded guessing what’ the PA *por completo* modifies the preceding verb *impedían* and not the following infinitive). This pattern (ADV + verb) is therefore ignored here.

**Table 4: Frequency of *por completo* and *completamente* in different syntactic patterns in present-day Spanish (CORPES XXI), total number of examples**

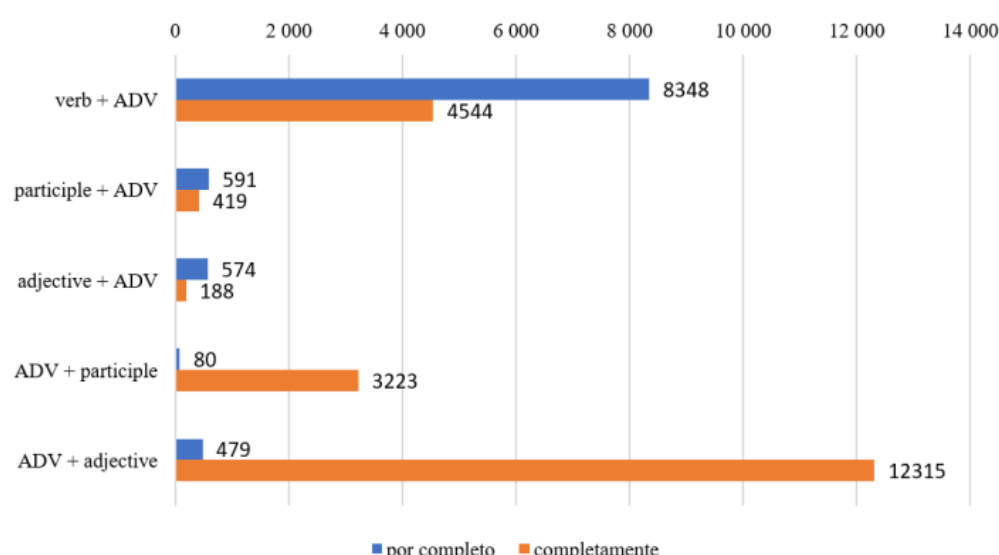
Position of ADV	Scope of ADV	pattern	<i>por completo</i>	<i>completamente</i>
post-position	verb	verb + ADV <sup>a</sup>	8348	4544
	participle	participle + ADV <sup>b</sup>	591	419
	adjective	adjective + ADV <sup>c</sup>	574	188



pre-position	participle	ADV + participle	80	3223
	adjective	ADV + adjective	479	12315

**a.** In this pattern, we had to exclude the verbs *ser*, *estar*, *sentir*, and *quedar*, as well as eliminate the cases in which an adjective or a participle follows the adverb (e.g., *estaba completamente borracho*; *se encontraba completamente despoblado*), since these are included in the pattern ADV + participle. We also excluded verbs as participles. The numbers here are limited to direct adjacent adverbs.  
**b.** We excluded the option of adjectives, participles and adverbs following the adverb (e.g., *acostada completamente desnuda*).  
**c.** We excluded adjectives, participles and adverbs following *completamente* (e.g., in *una situación estratégica completamente renovada*, the adverb *completamente* modifies the following adjective *renovada* and not the preceding adjective *estratégica*; cases like these are counted in the pattern “ADV + adjective”)

**Figure 4: Frequency (absolute numbers) of different patterns in present-day Spanish *por completo* and *completamente* (CORPES XXI)**



99 Overall, Sp. *por completo* is more frequent than Sp. *completamente* in post-position, whereas *completamente* is clearly much more frequent in pre-position, i.e., in the prototypical position of quantifiers of adjectives. A functional split between *por completo* and *completamente* can be assumed: post-position and verb modification for *por completo* and pre-position and adjective modification for *completamente* (on the functional differentiation of adverbial cognates in Brazilian Portuguese, see also Gerhalter and Koch, submitted; on functional differences between *PA* and *MENTE* in general, see also Hummel, 2024). As for participles, an interesting split can be observed, too: *por completo* adheres more to the

prototypical position of verb modification (post-position, 88,08 %, vs. 11,92 % pre-position), whereas *completamente* to the prototypical position (pre-position) of adjective modification (11,50 % post-position vs. 88,50 % pre-position).

100 As already discussed, none of these patterns can be exclusively linked to one specific semantic-functional interpretation or another (aspectual or degree quantification), since in all syntactic patterns, bridging/critical and switch/isolating contexts can be observed. As there are too many examples in CORPES XXI (see table 4) to classify all of them, we analyze the most frequent types<sup>8</sup> of each pattern to observe some tendencies:

101 For example, when modifying verbs such as *cambiar* ‘change’, *desaparecer* ‘disappear’, *perder* ‘lose’, and *cubrir* ‘cover’ (which are all documented with both *por completo* and *completamente*), the main reading, e.g., of *desaparecer por completo* or *perder completamente* in most contexts is certainly aspectual (the verbs refer to a telic process that is completed). However, among the most frequent verbal lexemes with which *por completo* and *completamente* are combined in this pattern (“verb + ADV”), there are also verbs such as *ignorar* ‘ignore’, *dedicar* ‘devote/dedicate’, *desconocer* ‘disregard’ and *carecer* ‘lack’ (also documented with both adverbs). In these cases, the foregrounded function is necessarily the degree quantifying one, since these verbs do not refer to telic processes that can be concluded (they are atelic, durative). E.g., *dedicarse por completo* in example (34) does not refer to a telic process that can be completed. Instead, the degree quantifier highlights the possible maximum degree (100% of the time), it is therefore an example of a switch/isolating context:

(34)	Una vez retirado, Di Grimaldi se dedicó por completo a la enseñanza, aunque no siempre se encontraba en condiciones de atender a sus alumnos.	(Spanish)
	“Once retired, Di Grimaldi devoted himself entirely to teaching, although he was not always in a position to attend to his students.” (CORPES XXI, 2003, Andrés Neuman: <i>Una vez Argentina</i> )	

102 Similarly, when modifying adjectives, both readings, depending on the semantics of the modified adjective, are possible, too. Among the most frequent adjectives modified by *por completo* and *completamente* in CORPES XXI are *ajeno/a* ‘alien’, *carente* ‘lacking’,

*desnudo/a* ‘bare, naked’, *alejado/a* ‘distant’ (always tagged as adjective in CORPES XXI), *vacío/a* ‘empty’, and *libre* ‘free’, which all allow an aspectual, telicity related reading in certain contexts (to differing degrees, e.g., *alejado* may be considered more aspectual, i.e., telicity related, than *carente* or *ajeno*). For an example with *completamente*, consider *completamente libre* ‘completely free’: in certain contexts, the aspectual reading of *completamente* may be foregrounded (i.e., to be completely free as the result of a telic ‘liberation-process’). In other contexts, though, the very same adjectival phrase can foreground the maximum degree reading (e.g., in the sense of a completely free person).

- 103 Contrarily, other adjectives such as *nuevo* ‘new’ or *innecesario* ‘unnecessary’ (also documented among the most frequent types) can hardly be interpreted as the culmination or result of a telic process. E.g., *completamente nuevo* ‘completely new’ refers to the maximum limit of newness (100% new), but this MAX.LIM property of *nuevo* is not the result of a process (but rather an initial state with which the decline commences). The same, not result of a telic process, holds for example (35):

(35)	Un libro correcto y funcional y pertinente para el lector en inglés, pero por completo <i>innecesario</i> para nosotros.	(Spanish)
	“A correct and functional and relevant book for the English reader, but completely unnecessary for us.” (CORPES XXI, 2005, Rodrigo Fresán: «A Life, de Edwin Williamson»)	

- 104 In *por completo innecesario* ‘completely unnecessary’, as in *completamente nuevo* ‘completely new’, the only possible interpretation is the maximum degree reading. Therefore, both are examples for switch/isolating contexts, in which only degree quantification is possible.
- 105 Only a manual classification of all examples from the corpora, considering their specific contexts, could confirm if *completamente* is used more often than *por completo* in contexts in which the high or maximum degree reading is foregrounded over the aspectual reading. However, if we take into account the data presented here and assume that adjective modification and pre-position tendentially foreground the maximum degree reading to a higher extent than verb modification and post-position, then we can probably assume that

*completamente* is more often used as a degree quantifier than *por completo* (which, in turn, probably is more often an aspectual quantifier).

## 4. Discussion

106 In this section, we will discuss the results of the preceding section concerning the chronology of the different steps of context expansion (4.1), the effect of the paradigm (4.2), and the lack of conventionalization (4.3).

### 4.1. Chronology and context expansion

107 In Table 5, we present the chronology of Sp. and Pt. *por completo* according to the three host-classes (verb, participle, and adjective) and according to the position of the PA with respect to the modified element:

**Table 5: Chronology of the syntactic position and scope of *por completo* in Spanish (exact year of first documentation in CDH) and Portuguese (century in CdP)**

Modification of verbs <sup>a</sup>	Modification of participles	Modification of adjectives	Sp.	Pt.
verb + <i>por completo</i>			1645	19th
	part. + <i>por completo</i>		1856	19th
		adj. + <i>por completo</i>	1754	20th
	<i>por completo</i> + part.		1865	20th
		<i>por completo</i> + adj.	1870	21st
<b>a.</b> The sporadically attested pre-position of <i>por completo</i> to verbs was not analyzed systematically. The first attestation of “ <i>por completo</i> + verb” in Spanish is only from 1869 (CDH), coinciding timewise with the same pattern in Portuguese (19th century) in CdP. Both aspectual and degree quantifiers of verbs are generally post-posed. Pre-position is a marginal, stylistic-pragmatic option for both functions.				

108 The data shows a *host-class expansion* (from verbs to adjectives and participles) followed by a *syntactic context expansion* (from post- to pre-position, although, in the case of participles, pre-position is first documented almost simultaneously with the first documentation of post-position in Spanish). The original, first function of *por completo*

is that of a post-posed quantifier of verbs, documented since the 17th century in Spanish and the 19th century in Portuguese. The next step, in Spanish, is the *host-class expansion* to the modification of adjectives (post-posed to them) in the 18th-century and, finally, modification of participles (again, first post-posed) in the 19th century. As for Portuguese, the *host-class expansion* to participles is already documented in the 19th century, while the *host-class expansion* to adjectives occurs only in the 20th century.<sup>9</sup> Finally, there is a *syntactic context expansion*: in 19th-century Spanish and 20th-century Portuguese, *por completo* also appears in pre-position. This step is first observable with participles in both languages (though, in Spanish, the first attestation of pre-position to a participle precedes the first documentation of pre-position to an adjective by only five years).

109 Finally, *semantic-pragmatic context expansion* means the increasing possibility of *por completo* (as well as *completamente*) to appear in new contexts in which the quantified characteristic is not necessarily the result of a telic process anymore. What differentiates the aspectual from the degree reading is the presence or absence of an underlying telic process that leads to a maximum limit: this semantic trait of telicity or telicity relatedness is backgrounded or even ruled out in certain examples, which results in a semantic-pragmatic context expansion, i.e., in the end, semantic generalization or broadening. Mostly, this process is instigated by the semantics of the modified element: whenever an item doesn't possess both semantic traits of (i) telicity or telicity relatedness and (ii) *MAX.LIM* anymore, but only (or predominantly) *MAX.LIM* remains, then an aspectual reading for *por completo* is ruled out, and degree quantification is the only option.

110 However, a clear chronology for the semantic evolution (or generalization) from aspectual to degree quantification via bridging/critical and switch/isolating context cannot be postulated based on the data (which is rather scarce for the earlier centuries) provided by CDH and CdP. For Spanish *por completo*, the switch/isolating context is even documented earlier (18th century) than the bridging/critical context (19th century). As observed by Schneider (2024: 312), historical empirical data might not always show up in the theoretically pre-established order. This is reminiscent of

Menéndez Pidal's famous *estado latente* 'latent state (of language)': certain phenomena do not surface in historical texts until a certain point in time, but supposedly do exist earlier in oral language to then pop up in written language (Menéndez Pidal 1986 [1926]: §112.3). Additionally, there might be corpus effects, i.e.: which texts are included in the corpus, and which are not or are those missing, be it for historical reasons (i.e., not existing or not having been discovered yet), a transmission gap, or for deliberate or undeliberate textual choices made by the creators of a corpus?

- 111 Nevertheless, what can be observed in the data is that the semantic context expansion and the host-class expansion precede the syntactic context expansion. The new degree quantifying reading is documented first with *por completo* post-posed to participles and adjectives. Only once the new reading (high or maximum degree quantification) has been foregrounded in certain contexts of adjective modification, e.g. in Sp. *inútil por completo* and Pt. *alheia por completo*, as a next step, *por completo* appears also in pre-position, i.e., the prototypical position of degree quantifiers with adjectives in Romance, such as Sp. *muy* or Pt. *muito*. In the case of Sp. and Pt. *por completo*, the three levels of expansion presumably occurred, thus, in the following order:

1. first step: *host-class expansion + semantic-pragmatic context expansion* (17th to 18th century in Spanish; 19th to 20th century in Portuguese)
2. second step: *syntactic context expansion* (18th to 19th century in Spanish; 20th to 21st century in Portuguese)

- 112 In Spanish, the evolution of *por completo* expands over two centuries (17th to 19th century; see Table 4). Portuguese, which supposedly calqued *por completo* (Houaiss et al., 2015: s.v. *completo*) from Spanish in the 19th century, could have calqued all stages simultaneously. Nevertheless, Pt. *por completo* shows an overall similar evolution as Spanish (spanning two centuries as well, at least according to the available data), but time shifted (19th to 21st century).

- 113 The evolution of Sp./Pt. *completamente* differs from the one of Sp./Pt. *por completo* in several aspects, but also parallels it in others, in the sense that the MENTE-cognate simply precedes the PA in certain stages. Chronologically, in Spanish and

Portuguese, respectively, *completamente* is documented earlier than *por completo*: in the early 15th century in Spanish and in the 18th century in Portuguese. In both languages, *completamente*, in its first attestations, is an aspectual quantifier modifying verbs (and in post-position), just as *por completo*. The first attestation of *completamente* as a degree quantifier of adjectives (17th century in Spanish, 19th century in Portuguese) is also earlier than the first documentations of *por completo* as adjective modifier (18th century in Spanish, 21st century in Portuguese).

- 114 The most crucial difference between the evolution of Sp./Pt. *por completo* and Sp./Pt. *completamente* is that Sp. and Pt. *completamente* as adjective modifiers already appear in pre-position even in their first attestations (1634 in Spanish and 20th century in Portuguese) and post-position is always secondary over the centuries. Contrarily, the PAs as adjective modifiers are attested first in post-position and only one century later in pre-position (1754 vs. 1870 in Spanish and 20th vs. 21st century in Portuguese), which can be interpreted as the reflection of some kind of syntactic development (post-position > possibility of pre-position).
- 115 This developmental difference is still reflected in present-day Spanish (as explicated in 3.5, no such data could be retrieved for Portuguese): when modifying adjectives, *completamente* occurs almost exclusively in pre-position (98,5% of 12503 attestations in CORPES XXI), while *por completo* (as adjective modifier) still shows a more or less balanced picture (out of 1053 attestations, 54,51% post-position vs. 45,49% pre-position; see overall Figure 4).
- 116 Finally, we observe differences between *completamente* and *por completo* with regard to the three levels of context expansion. For Spanish *completamente*, the *semantic-functional expansion* happens already in the 15th century (first attestation of the adverb in CDH in 1408, as aspectual quantifier, first attestation as degree quantifier in 1440; in both cases, as verb modifier). The next step is the *host-class expansion* (verb > adjective modification) which happens between the 15th and the 17th century, as the first attestations of *completamente* as adjective modifier occur in the 17th century. At this point in time (17th century), we simultaneously observe a syntactic position (pre-position) that could be interpreted

(presupposing original general post-position) as the result of a parallel syntactic expansion (post-position to pre-position).<sup>10</sup> In Portuguese, all three expansions must have occurred from the 18th to the 19th century, but CdP doesn't allow for a fine-grained chronological analysis.

- 117 Instead, Sp. and Pt. *por completo* first go through a *host-class expansion* (in 18th century Spanish and 20th century Portuguese), only followed by a later *syntactic context expansion* (from post- to pre-position, 19th century in Spanish, 20th century in Portuguese).

## 4.2. The attraction effect of the paradigm

- 118 Pérez García and Blanco (2022) observe that the Sp. manner adverbs *terriblemente* 'terribly' and *horriblemente* 'horribly' developed a degree quantifier meaning via the modification of past participles as a first step. Also, other adverbs such as *enteramente* 'entirely, completely', *plenamente* 'completely', and *totalmente* 'totally' were used as modifiers of verbs in medieval Spanish, and occasionally also modified participles, so that the pattern "adverb + participle" was the first step in the development of these adverbs into quantifiers (García Pérez, 2022: 287-291). Therefore, it would be fair to assume that the modification of participles is an intermediate step in the evolution towards degree quantification of adjectives.
- 119 However, the modification of participles by *completamente* and *por completo*, from a diachronic point of view, doesn't necessarily seem to be an intermediate step in the *host-class expansion* of these two adverb(ial)s from verb-modification to adjective-modification (at least in Spanish, since, in Portuguese, at least the diachronic findings for Pt. *por completo* could in theory bolster such hypothesis, while the data for Pt. *completamente* is inconclusive). The question is whether this step (verb > participle > adjective) ever had to be made in Romance, as in Latin morphologically marked adverbs were already modifying adjectives (and adverbs) while being pre-posed to the modified elements (see Pinkster, 2015: 48, example (k), 66). These adverbs were then simply substituted (after first being adjective-adverbs in Proto-Romance following syncretism effects in the



evolution from Latin to Romance) by the most prominent follow-up forms, the new morphologically marked Romance adverbs in *-mente* (especially once *MENTE* became the predominant adverbial type). The available data maybe only obscures this possibility, as the first attestations of each functional-syntactic pattern are spread over centuries maybe simply due to corpus effects.

- 120 Another reason why *completamente* develops the new degree quantifier function of adjectives right from the start in pre-position might be precisely analogy with other adverbs that already had this function before. Sp./Pt. *enteramente/inteiramente* ‘entirely, completely’, Sp./Pt. *plenamente* ‘completely’, and Sp./Pt. *totalmente* ‘totally’ were more frequent than *completamente* in earlier centuries (see Section 2.4). So, if these adverbs are attested with a degree quantifier function and as adjective modifiers in pre-position already, *completamente* could easily ‘jump in’ this pattern in the 17th century. Analogy as a driving force for the semantic-functional evolution within a paradigm of semantically close adverbs has been observed for other paradigms of adverbials (e.g., Gerhalter, 2020b).
- 121 Evidence from several Spanish *mente*-adverbs which are degree quantifiers (in their first attestation(s) as adjective or participle modifiers; 36–42), indeed shows that pre-position is already common right from the start:

(36)	<i>fuertementre sellada; fuertementre adobados</i>	(Spanish)
	“heavily sealed; heavily ornated” (CDH, ca. 1140/1207, <i>Poema del Mio Cid</i> )	

(37)	<i>enteramente todo; enteramente bienaventurado; enteramente formado</i>	(Spanish)
	“entirely all” (CDH, 1250, <i>Fuero de Viguera y Val de Funes</i> ); “entirely blessed; entirely well-formed” (CDH, 1437, <i>Libro de las paradojas</i> )	

(38)	<i>pleneramente informado</i>	(Spanish)
	“fully informed” (CDH, 1336, Anónimo, <i>Alianza de Pedro IV y Don Juan Manuel</i> )	

(39)	<i>perfectament conjuncta</i>	(Spanish)
	“perfectly linked” (CDH, 1379–1384, <i>Traducción de Vidas paralelas de Plutarco</i> , I)	

(40)	<i>muy estremadamente gentiles</i>	(Spanish)
	“very extremely gentle” (CDH, 1469–1476, <i>Crónica incompleta de los Reyes Católicos</i> )	

(41)	<i>totalmente perfectas</i>	(Spanish)
	“totally perfect” (CDH, 1494, <i>Traducción del Compendio de la humana salud de Johannes de Ketham</i> . Madrid, BN I51)	

(42)	<i>absolutamente tomados</i>	(Spanish)
	“absolutely taken” (CDH, 1543, <i>Tratado en que a la clara se ponen y determinan las materias de los préstamos</i> )	

122 In Portuguese, pre-position of *mente*-adverbs functioning as degree quantifiers of adjectives or participles is attested from ca. 1500 on:

(43)	<i>inteiramente mostrado e ensynada</i>	(Portuguese)
	“entirely shown and demonstrated” (CdP, 1499–1500, <i>Os primeiros 14 documentos relativos à Armada de Pedro Álvares Cabral</i> )	

(44)	<i>absolutamente injusto</i>	(Portuguese)
	“totally unfair” (CdP, 1551, Antonio Pinheiro: <i>Summario da pregação funebre</i> )	

(45)	<i>totalmente alheio</i>	(Portuguese)
	“totally alien” (CdP, 1560–1580, Frois: <i>Historia do Japam</i> 2)	

- 123 As already pointed out, Sp. *completamente* is documented for the first time as an adjective modifier in 1634, and Pt. *completamente* only in the 19th century, i.e., much later than the other *mente*-adverbs illustrated in the examples above. Taking into account this broader panorama, the data on *completamente* shows that the association with a new functional pattern is favored by near synonymous adverbs occurring in similar contexts. If a specific functional pattern (such as *mente*-adverbs used as degree quantifiers pre-posed to gradable adjectives) already exists, it is easier to accommodate or ‘recruit’ new lexical items in/for this function (Schneider, 2024: 322-323). The functional pattern itself is not new, but the addition of a new lexical item such as *completamente* to that pattern is indeed new (see Schneider, 2024: 327). Moreover, high type frequency (a pattern or construction already filled by various lexemes) is more prone to attract novel members (Schneider, 2024: 327). Indeed, the category of degree quantifiers is the most extensive sub-category of Sp. quantifiers established by Kaul de Marlangeon (2002: 158-160), e.g., with Sp. *absolutamente* ‘absolutely’, *increiblemente* ‘incredibly’, *extremadamente* ‘extremely’, *exageradamente* ‘exaggeratedly’, *excesivamente* ‘excessively’, *intensamente* ‘intensely’, *fuertemente* ‘strongly’, *sumamente* ‘highly’, *enormemente* ‘enormously’, *inmensamente* ‘immensely’, etc.
- 124 The ‘slower’ evolution of Sp./Pt. *por completo* compared to Sp./Pt. *completamente* when it comes to adjective-modification and pre-position can possibly be explained by the fact that the *-mente*-cognate was immediately attracted to that function and position by analogy with the paradigm of the aforementioned *mente*-adverbs, whereas the PA-cognate *por completo* had to ‘conquer’ this syntactic position (pre-position to adjectives) over centuries. The only precursor of *por completo* we found so far is Sp. *por entero*, which – after its first attestation as a post-posed modifier in a predication phrase (either modifying the combination “copula + adjective”, or the adjective alone; example 46) in 1300 – is documented also as a pre-posed degree quantifier of adjectives towards the end of the 15th century:

(46)	<i>mas conuiene para que la dueña sea honesta: &amp; para que pueda ser por entero limpia &amp; casta: primeramente refrenar sus ojos</i>	(Spanish)
	“but [the following] is necessary so that the mistress is honest: & so that she can be entirely clean & chaste: first of all to restrain her eyes” (CDH, 1494, Anónimo: <i>De las mujeres ilustres en romance</i> )	

- 125 For Portuguese *por inteiro*, although attested since the 16th century, there are no attestations of pre-position in CdP (Genre/historical), neither with verbs nor with adjectives.
- 126 To sum up, the ‘attraction force’ of a paradigm, seemingly, is stronger between similar items (-*mente*-adverbs attract other -*mente*-adverbs) than between formally different items (e.g., *mente*-adverbs and PA-patterns). Also, frequency plays a role: the more types (see the different lexemes in the -*mente*-paradigm of degree quantifiers) and the more tokens (see the relative frequencies in Section 2.4) a paradigm has, the easier it is for it to attract new members such as *completamente*. The corresponding PA-paradigm of degree quantifiers, with eventually *por completo* in it, is much smaller (lower type and lower token frequency, see Section 2.4), and, therefore, probably evolves slower.

### 4.3. Semantic context restrictions and no conventionalization

- 127 Both Sp./Pt. *por completo* and Sp./Pt. *completamente* are limited to bridging/critical contexts (i.e., ambiguous contexts between aspectual quantification and possible additional degree quantification as a contextual inference) and switch/isolating contexts (i.e., foregrounding of degree quantification). This means that their interpretation is highly bound to specific contexts. Since these adverb(ial)s cannot modify any scalar adjective, they do not reach the conventionalization stage. As we have seen throughout the corpus analysis, *completamente* and *por completo* always mark the maximum limit of a property of a modified element, be it verb or adjective, be it telic and scalar, or only scalar, via their semantic trait DES.MAX.LIM, a semantic trait that is already inherent in the core semantics of aspectual ‘completeness’ of *completamente* and *por completo*, derived from the adjective *completo*.

- 128 Especially in adjective modification, this semantic trait of DES.MAX.LIM can be very different depending on the specific adjective in the scope of *por completo* or *completamente*. For example, in the case of Sp./Pt. *completamente calvo* ‘bold’, there is a natural, inherent maximum limit (MAX.LIM): no single hair is left. Similarly, Sp./Pt. *por completo cubierto/coberto (de agua/água)* ‘completely covered (by water)’ refers to a natural limit, from which on something is covered 100% (e.g., by water). Contrarily, in the case of other adjectives, such a MAX.LIM property may only be created contextually. For example, *completamente libre/livre* may be interpreted – when subdividing the property of ‘freedom’ into several aspects or domains – in very different ways: ranging from, e.g., ‘100% free in one single aspect’ (e.g., complete liberty of movement; free from all sins; free from all possible attachments, etc.) to a more general ‘100% free in all possible aspects’. In any case, there is a MAX.LIM, albeit being subject to subjective or objective definition. Similarly, Sp./Pt. *por completo inútil* can, e.g., mean ‘100% useless for one specific use’ or ‘useless in every possible aspect’, but in any case, the adjective has the potential for the semantic property MAX.LIM. Again, the exact definition of this limit is negotiable, but MAX.LIM is strong enough to facilitate the modification of such adverbs by *por completo* and *completamente*.
- 129 Contrarily, adjectives that denote scalar properties that have no clearly definable maximum (no MAX.LIM) cannot or can only marginally be modified by *completamente* and *por completo*. For example, *#por completo feo/feio*, *#por completo grande*, *#por completo fácil* or *#por completo joven/jovem* are not documented in CORPES XXI and CdP. It would be very difficult to exactly determine what a 100% limit of ugliness, greatness, easiness, or youth would be. Furthermore, one or something can always be (in a rather clearly definable way) uglier, greater/older, easier, younger, etc. Therefore, *por completo* does not reach the conventionalization stage as a degree quantifier, i.e., it remains restricted to MAX.LIM adjectives (those for which a semantic maximum limit can be somehow established within comprehensible reasoning). The fact that *por completo* cannot combine with adjectives whose semantics cannot be interpreted as having a clearly definable maximum (MAX.LIM) shows that *por completo*, as a degree quantifier, retains an essential semantic trait from its core meaning

as an aspectual quantifier (the completion of a telic process culminates when reaching a maximum limit).

- 130 The same combinatorial restriction holds, basically, for *completamente*, too. For example, there are no attestations of Sp. *#completamente grande*, *#completamente jóven* or *#completamente fácil* in CORPES XXI and no attestations of Pt. *#completamente jovem* in CdP (Web/Dialects). However, *completamente* shows more combinatorial possibilities than *por completo* in both languages. There are some few attestations of Sp. *completamente feo* and Pt. *completamente feio/grande/fácil/simples* (the Pt. examples come from CdP [Web/Dialects] and are taken from websites or/and blogs). In some of these examples, it is not clear if a maximum limit, e.g., of easiness (e.g., easy in all possible aspects? See the comments in the preceding paragraph), can be established:

(47)	<i>Falar é completamente fácil, quando se têm palavras em mente que expressem sua opinião. Difícil é expressar por gestos e atitudes o que realmente queremos dizer, o quanto queremos dizer, antes que a pessoa se vá.</i>	(Portuguese)
	“Talking is completely easy when you have words in mind to express your opinion. It’s difficult to express through gestures and attitudes what you really want to say, how much you want to say before the person leaves.” (CdP Web/Dialects, Brasil, 21st century, Web)	

- 131 Examples like (47) could indicate, possibly and potentially, a further *semantic-pragmatic context expansion* and generalization of *completamente* as a degree quantifier of any scalar adjective even the ones without *MAX.LIM*. One could argue that this function evolves stepwise, from adjectives with easily definable *MAX.LIM* to adjectives that are more and more vague concerning the construction of a (then deeply subjective) *MAX.LIM*, until adjectives are modified for whom in no way a possible *MAX.LIM* property can be construed. I.e., the semantic trait *DES.MAX.LIM* of *completamente* would be lost, leaving only ‘denoting high degree’ as the remaining semantic trait. Such examples are, however, very marginal and therefore do not allow us to postulate that Pt. *completamente* is fully conventionalized as a degree quantifier. At this point, we simply cannot determine whether Pt. *completamente* is more ‘advanced’ than Sp. *completamente*, because the respective corpora (CdP [Web/dialects] and CORPES XXI) are not comparable in size and composition (e.g.,

sources from the Internet, or not, etc.) and, therefore, do not allow for a comparison of collocational patterns between the two corpora/languages. However, remember that, in our 20th-century data from CdP and CDH, Pt. *completamente* (69,05 per one million words) is more frequent than Sp. *completamente* (54,86 per million; see Section 2.4).

- 132 A closer look at the sub-paradigm of aspectual quantifiers that are also used as degree quantifiers reveals the following: just like Sp./Pt. *completamente* and *por completo*, the adverbs Sp./Pt. *enteramente/inteiramente*, *plenamente*, and *totalmente* are also not possible or very uncommon in combinations like the ones mentioned above (Sp./Pt. *#enteramente feo/inteiramente feio*; *#plenamente jóven/jovem*; *#totalmente fácil/simples*, etc.). The semantic trait of DES.MAX.LIM is a defining feature of this sub-paradigm of quantifiers, conditioned by the core semantics of the adverbs it contains. Therefore, the combinatorial possibilities of these adverbs are up front restricted to certain semantic contexts.
- 133 But, on the other hand, other *mente*-adverbs of the degree quantifier paradigm can be more easily combined with non-MAX.LIM adjectives, e.g., *tremendamente feo/feio* ‘tremendously ugly’, *terriblemente grande* ‘terribly big’, *absolutamente fácil* ‘absolutely easy’, and *extremadamente jóven/extremamente jovem* ‘extremely young’ (see Kaul de Marlangeon, 2002: 141; GDLE: § 37.6.5.1). In the case of *tremendamente* and *terriblemente*, the possibility of being degree quantifiers of non-MAX.LIM adjectives results from their semantic source meanings, which do not denote perfection or completion of telic processes, nor the maximum degree of a semantic property, and which, therefore, do not have DES.MAX.LIM as a semantic trait. Sp./Pt. *absolutamente* and *extrem(ad)amente/extremamente* are more interesting in this regard: since they, indeed, dispose of the semantic trait DES.MAX.LIM (Sp./Pt. *extrem(ad)amente/extremamente* at least etymologically), one would expect that they only can be combined with MAX.LIM adjectives, but instead they also appear with non-MAX.LIM adjectives. The semantic-functional evolution suspected to be underway for Sp./Pt. *completamente/por completo* has arguably already taken hold in Sp./Pt. *extrem(ad)amente/extremamente* and *absolutamente*.

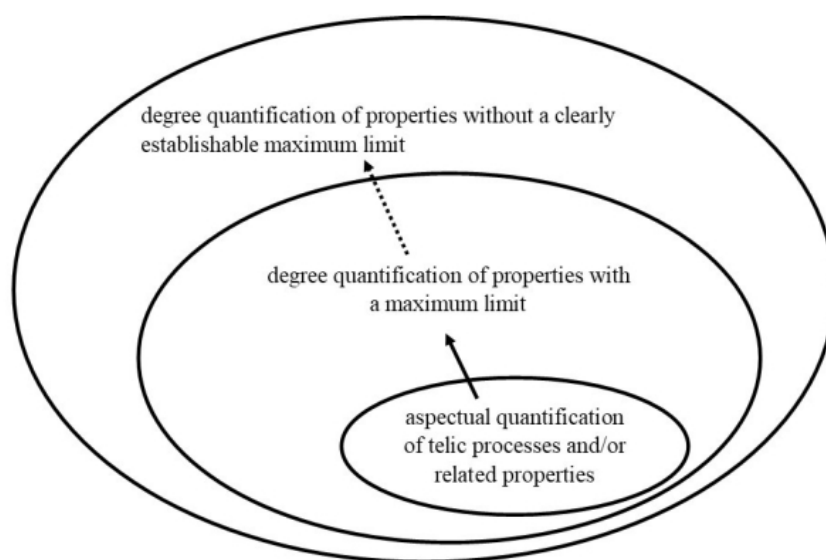
- 134 Since *completamente* and, even more, *por completo* are restricted to certain contexts and cannot freely alternate with other degree quantifiers (e.g., *muy/muito*, *extremadamente/extremamente*), the high degree reading is not a conventionalized independent meaning of these adverb(ial)s. Such a fact is not uncommon: according to Heine (2002: 85), many semantic changes do not surpass the switch-context-stage, i.e., the new interpretation remains limited to contextual inferences in very specific contexts. This seems to be precisely the case here, except for some punctual attestations, e.g., of Pt. *completamente fácil*, which can indicate, as mentioned, the next possible step in the semantic-contextual expansion of such adverb(ial)s.

## Conclusion

- 135 Diachronically, the Spanish adverb(ial)s are attested earlier than their Portuguese cognates: 15th century Sp. *completamente*, 17th century Sp. *por completo*, 18th century Pt. *completamente*, 19th century Pt. *por completo*, the latter supposedly a calque of the Sp. PA.
- 136 The evolution of Sp./Pt. *por completo* and *completamente* shows context expansion on three levels: *host-class expansion* (modification of verbs > modification of participles and adjectives), *semantic-pragmatic context expansion* (see Figure 5), and *syntactic context expansion* (post-position > pre-position, depending on the approach, see Section 4.1). This evolution is documented earlier for Sp./Pt. *completamente* than for Sp./Pt. *por completo*.
- 137 Based on the development of *por completo* and *completamente*, we suggest the following schema for the semantic expansion from aspectual quantifiers to degree quantifiers:



**Figure 5: Semantic context expansion from aspectual quantifiers to degree quantifiers**



138 The arrows in Figure 5 show (possible) paths of semantic-functional evolution, for which we documented several bridging/critical and switch/isolating contexts. The interpretation of *por completo* and *completamente* as aspectual quantifiers or degree quantifiers depends mainly on the semantics of the modified element, be it a verb, a participle, or an adjective, and the specific broader context of the sentence. The syntactic position is secondary for the adverbials' semantic interpretation.

139 The black arrow in Figure 5 indicates that both *por completo* and *completamente*, as degree quantifiers, until now, have only, at most, reached what we identified as switch/isolating contexts (represented by the medium ellipse). The ambiguous bridging/critical contexts are, so to speak, the literal 'bridge' between the inner ellipse and the medium ellipse. *Por completo* and *completamente* are restricted to certain contexts in which the modified element can be interpreted as having a maximum limit (MAX.LIM). The dotted arrow indicates a potential next step towards full-fledged degree quantifiers without

restrictions. However, *por completo* and *completamente* do not reach such a final stage of conventionalization, because they lack the capability to modify non-MAX.LIM adjectives (i.e., scalar adjectives that denote a quality that has no clearly definable maximum). However, some scarce examples of this last stage are attested in present-day language (e.g., Pt. *completamente fácil*). Such an evolution seems to have occurred in other Sp./Pt. quantifiers such as *extrem(ad)amente* and *absolutamente* (a hypothesis for further research), which etymologically also had the DES.MAX.LIM trait in Latin (i.e., the corresponding Latin adjectives EXTREMU(M) and ABSOLUTU(M) from which the two MENTE-adverbs were derived from later in Romance).

- 140 The syntactic evolution of Sp./Pt. *completamente* and Sp./Pt. *por completo* differs. As for *por completo*, the analysis of the diachronic data shows that its function as a degree quantifier of adjectives developed step by step, first in post-position and one century later, also in pre-position. On the contrary, the data on *completamente* doesn't show such a step-by-step evolution: the pattern "*completamente* + adjective" (pre-position) is documented right away, without post-position ("adjective + *completamente*") as an intermediate step (which supposedly is even only a later syntactic possibility). We explain this by analogy effects: *completamente* simply followed the pattern of other, earlier attested, pre-posed MENTE-degree quantifiers, such as Sp./Pt. *enteramente/inteiramente*, i.e., it was attracted by an already existing paradigm. Such paradigm effects seem to be weaker for Sp./Pt. *por completo*, which conserves its original aspectual meaning as well as post-position to a higher degree, while for Sp./Pt. *completamente* we can't even establish if ever in the early Romance stages post-position was a substantial option in adjective-modification. This difference is still reflected in synchronic data. In present-day Spanish (for Portuguese, no conclusive data is available), we observe a clear syntactic tendency: adjective-modifying *completamente* almost exclusively occurs in pre-position, while adjective-modifying *por completo* is pre- or post-posed in an almost equal distribution (slightly higher percentage of post-position).

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## NOTES

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- 1 We use the term of *polyfunctionality* in the sense of Hummel (2012, 2013): polyfunctional adverbs have more than one adverbial function (e.g., manner adverb and discourse adverb, or manner adverb and quantifier) as a result of semantic-functional changes. Furthermore, the different functions of polyfunctional adverbs are linked by a common underlying function (attribution) and a common basic meaning, which motivates/facilitates the semantic-functional change.
- 2 The examples in CDH outdate the information given by Coromines (2008 [1973]: s.v. *cumplir*), who dates the productive use of *completo* as an adjective to only 1720.
- 3 To give an example, consider the following Spanish sentences where the adverb *precisamente* ‘precisely’ can take all the positions numbered (i) – (vii), with varying syntactic scope (commas designate pauses): (i) *Precisamente, Juan comió albóndigas a las tres*. ‘To be precise, John ate meatballs at three o’clock’; (ii) *Precisamente Juan comió albóndigas a las tres*. ‘It was John of all people who ate meatballs at three o’clock’; (iii) *Juan, precisamente, comió albóndigas a las tres*. ‘John, to be precise, ate meatballs at three o’clock’; (iv) *Juan precisamente comió albóndigas a las tres*. ‘John precisely ate meatballs at three o’clock’; (v) *Juan comió precisamente albóndigas a las tres*. ‘John ate precisely meatballs at three o’clock’; (vi) *Juan comió albóndigas precisamente a las tres*. ‘John ate meatballs at exactly three o’clock’; (vii) *Juan comió albóndigas a las tres, precisamente*. ‘John ate meatballs at three o’clock, to be precise’; (...) and so on. Many of the above examples can also have various interpretations.
- 4 The philological imprecision of CDH in this regard (and CORDE, on which CDH is based) was only discovered by us during the re-elaboration of this article when we rechecked all examples.
- 5 We searched for *por completo* and *completamente* without any filters. We also checked the combination of any preposition + *completo* in case there were variants (this was not the case, except for the recent PA *al completo*, see 1.3). We checked all possible spellings for *MENTE*, *completamente*,



*completamiente*, *completamentre*, *completamiente*, as well separated spellings (*completa mente*, etc.). We also took into account other spellings in the base adjective, like *completo*, combined with all the mentioned variants.

6 For most examples in CdP, only centuries are given, not specific years. Therefore, we cannot search for the earliest documentation of *por completo* in the 19th century. So, contrarily to the sections on Spanish (3.1 and 3.3), we cannot cite the first documentation of each pattern for Portuguese, nor can we always give a precise date for the selected examples.

7 Contrarily, in CDH, many tokens – be they verbs, participles, adjectives, or even nouns – are tagged as more than one part of speech. Therefore, it is not possible to quantify the total number of examples for each pattern in CDH – as in CdP –, because search strings like “verb + *por completo*” produce too much noise. Contrarily, such a search string renders precise results in CORPES XXI.

8 Via the option “inventario”, CORPES XXI gives a list of the most frequent lemmata documented in a specific search pattern.

9 The Portuguese development fits more the expectation that participles as deverbal entities with verbal properties are destined to be the first elements targeted in a host-class expansion of *por completo*. I.e., participles as an ambiguous category between verb and adjective are expected to lay the ground for a later adjective modification. The data on Spanish in CDH, however, does not confirm this. Further studies are needed.

10 Concerning syntactic expansion, one could assume that it is visible with the new syntactic position of the adverb before the modified element. However, since this element is an adjective and the first documentation of adjective quantification by Sp. *completamente* already has *completamente* appear before the modified adjective, the question arises if, when modifying adjectives, adverbs/quantifiers (but not adverbial/quantifying PPs) haven't been in pre-position all along since Latin, but such a syntactic position simply doesn't show in the available Romance data (i.e., no earlier attestation of pre-position, and of *completamente* in general; see also Menéndez Pidal's (1986 [1926]) latent state in 4.1). Since the new (new, according to the available data) host-class (adjective), right from the start, is documented with pre-posed *completamente*, a syntactic expansion of the type “post-position > pre-position” within the domain of adjective modification cannot be assumed on a theoretical level. Rather, it is the other way round according to the data in CDH and CORPES XXI: pre-position to adjectives (documented earlier) precedes post-position to adjectives, which

is documented later and still marginally these days (again, always speaking of morphologically marked adverbs, not of adverbial PPs).

## ABSTRACTS

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### English

This paper examines four adverbial cognates in Spanish and Portuguese, Sp. *por completo*, Pt. *por completo*, Sp. *completamente*, and Pt. *completamente*, from a historical and functional point of view. Our analysis is based on three major corpora of Spanish and Portuguese (CDH, CdP, and CORPES XXI). The four adverb(ial)s share the same base adjective or etymon, Lat. *COMPLETUS*, from which Pt. *por completo* only stems indirectly, as it is probably a calque from Sp. *por completo*. These four cognates are polyfunctional: they are aspectual quantifiers and degree quantifiers. We find that the interpretation of these adverbials primarily depends on the semantics of the modified element as well as on the broader context of the sentence. The syntactic position of the adverbials plays a minor role in this interpretation. We argue that the degree quantifier function develops from the aspectual function and that this is the result of a diachronic evolution via ambiguous bridging/critical contexts and switch/isolate contexts. This evolution started in the 15th century with Sp. *completamente*, and we consider this a case of context expansion (encompassing *host-class expansion*, *semantic-pragmatic context expansion*, and *syntactic expansion*). Sp./Pt. *por completo* and *completamente*, as degree quantifiers, retain semantic traits from their original aspectual meaning and remain restricted to certain contexts: they only modify linguistic elements whose semantics has the property of a maximum limit. Therefore, they are not conventionalized as degree quantifiers. Regarding syntax, we observe a difference between Sp./Pt. *por completo* and Sp./Pt. *completamente*: the latter is attested right away as a pre-posed adjective-modifier, whereas the former develops this pattern step-by-step (first, post-position, and only later on pre-position).

### Français

Cet article examine quatre cognats adverbiaux en espagnol et en portugais, esp. *por completo*, pt. *por completo*, esp. *completamente*, et pt. *completamente*, d'un point de vue historique et fonctionnel. Notre analyse est basée sur trois corpus majeurs d'espagnol et de portugais (CDH, CdP, et CORPES XXI). Les quatre adverbes partagent le même adjectif de base ou étymon, lat. *COMPLETUS*, dont pt. *por completo* ne découle qu'indirectement, puisqu'il s'agit probablement d'un calque de l'espagnol *por completo*. Ces quatre cognats sont polyfonctionnels : ce sont soit des quantificateurs aspectuels, soit des quantificateurs de degré. Nous constatons que l'interprétation des adverbes étudiés dépend principalement de la sémantique de l'élément modifié ainsi que du contexte plus large de la phrase ; la position syntaxique de l'adverbe joue un rôle mineur dans cette

interprétation. Nous soutenons que la fonction de quantificateur de degré résulte de la fonction aspectuelle et que ceci est le résultat d'une évolution diachronique via des contextes ambigus (*bridging/critical contexts*) et des contextes de transition (*switch/isolating contexts*). Cette évolution commence au xv<sup>e</sup> siècle avec esp. *completamente*, par un phénomène d'expansion de contexte (englobant l'expansion de la *host-class*, l'expansion du contexte sémantico-pragmatique et l'expansion syntaxique).

*Por completo* et *completamente*, en tant que quantificateurs de degré, conservent des traits sémantiques de leur sens aspectuel d'origine et restent limités à certains contextes : ils ne modifient que des éléments linguistiques dont la sémantique a la propriété d'une limite maximale. C'est pour cette raison qu'ils ne sont pas conventionnalisés en tant que quantificateurs de degré. En ce qui concerne la syntaxe, nous observons une différence entre esp./pt. *por completo* et esp./pt. *completamente* : ce dernier est attesté d'emblée comme modificateur des adjectifs prépositionnés, alors que le premier développe ce schéma par étapes (d'abord, postposition, et seulement plus tard, préposition).

## INDEX

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### Mots-clés

adverbe, quantificateur aspectuel, quantificateur de degré, polyfonctionnalité, contexte de transition, contexte de changement, expansion

### Keywords

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