

J'ai assisté au Linguistic Symposium of Romance Languages à Campinas, Brésil, en mai 2015. Comme son nom l'indique, c'est un congrès dédié à l'analyse syntaxique, sémantique, morphologique, phonologique et phonétique des langues romanes. Cette-année-là, le congrès a inclus des séances spéciales sur la variation et le changement linguistique déclenchés par le contact linguistique impliquant les langues romanes.

My paper explores the morpho-semantics of the Spanish prefix *des-*, which combines with verbs, nouns and adjectives to form verbs. The complex verbs formed with *des-* can have different and apparently unrelated interpretations: reversion (*descargar* 'take down'), antonymy (*desagradar* 'disgust'), privation (*desprestigiar* 'discredit') and ablation (*destronar* 'dethrone'). I propose that (a) all these readings are semantically linked by this prefix, which has the unique meaning of negation; (b) these interpretations are determined configurationally, i.e. they depend on the prefix position in the abstract structure of the prefixed verbs and the semantic features that are packed in the prefix.