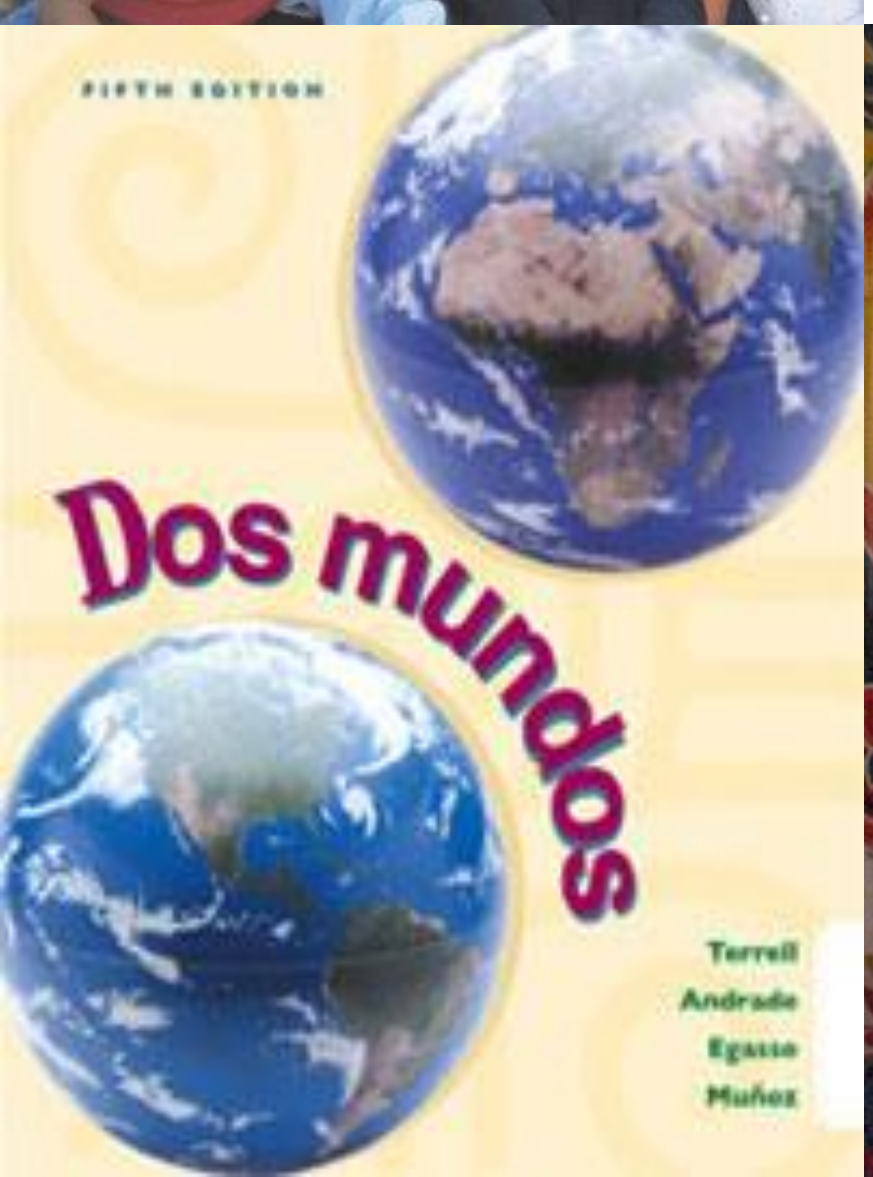
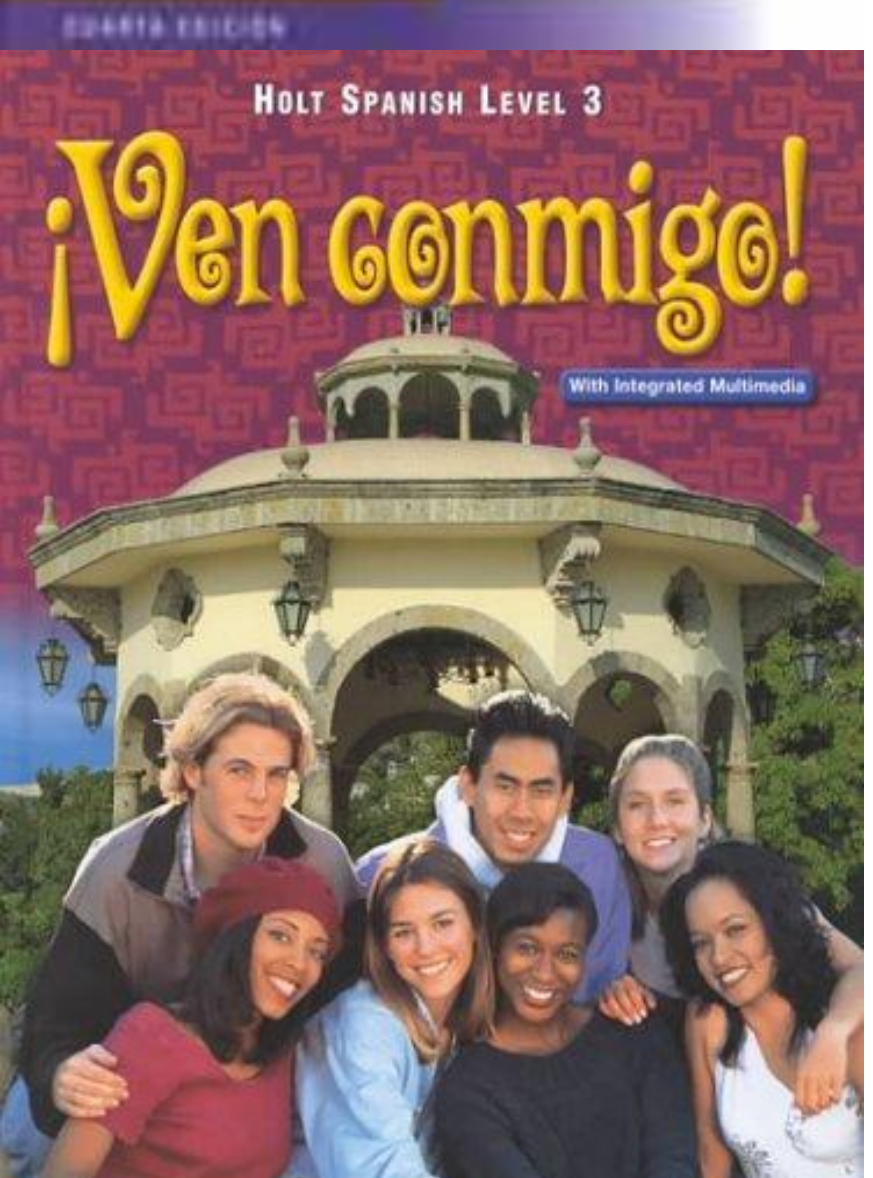
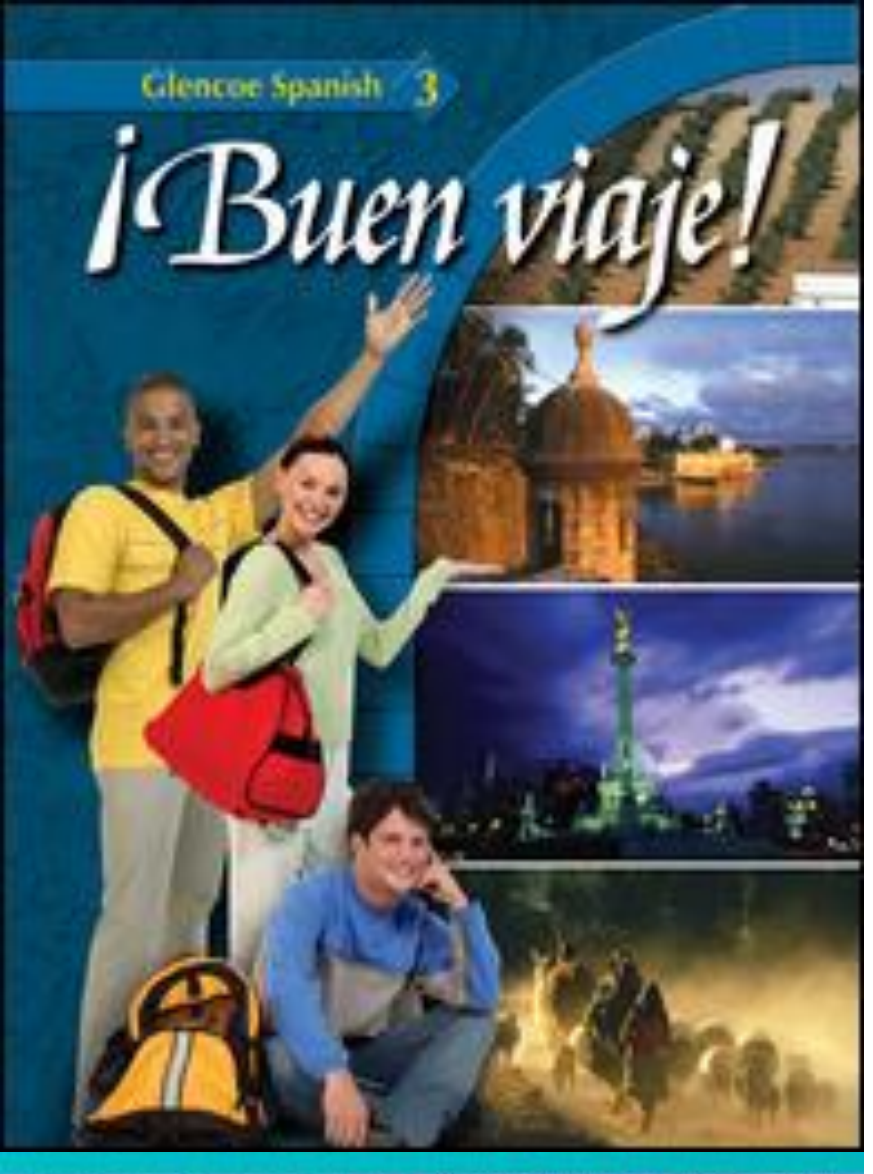


Why Do Teachers Always Want You to Talk Like People Don't?: A Study of Textbook Spanish Grammar and its Use by Native Speakers

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Introduction

- High school Spanish foreign language classes tend to focus on speaking rather than formal writing.
- The textbooks used for these courses, however, do not teach variation, and therefore treat language as a whole as a fixed entity.
- This research attempts to determine how high school Spanish foreign language textbooks treat a particular grammatical structure, and to compare this data with how the structure is actually used by native speakers of Spanish.
- One use of *por* describes a means of transportation, ex. “Viajaron **por** avión” (“They traveled **by** plane”).
- The same meaning can be given using *en* instead, ex. “Viajaron **en** avión” (“They traveled **in a** plane”).

Country	CREA Oral and Written Data			
	En avión		Por avión	
	Raw Occurrence	Percentage (%)	Raw Occurrence	Percentage (%)
Spain	286	57.42	28	30.43
Argentina	48	9.63	9	9.78
Mexico	29	5.82	8	8.69
Colombia	27	5.42	3	3.26
Venezuela	24	4.81	14	15.21
Chile	21	4.21	No data	No data
Peru	17	3.41	5	5.43
Cuba	12	2.4	No data	No data
United States	12	2.4	11	11.95
Costa Rica	No data	No data	3	3.26
Guatemala	No data	No data	3	3.26
Other	22	4.41	8	8.69

Methodology

- 9 representative high school Spanish textbooks , levels three and higher, were examined for coverage of both variations of the studied structure.
- CREA, a Spanish corpus produced by the Royal Spanish Academy, was used to compare native speaker use with the textbook claims of the use of *por*.
- The Sketch Engine Spanish Web Corpus was used to support the data produced by the CREA corpus.
- Supplemental materials were developed for teacher use so that teachers could include the idea of language variation in their foreign language classes.

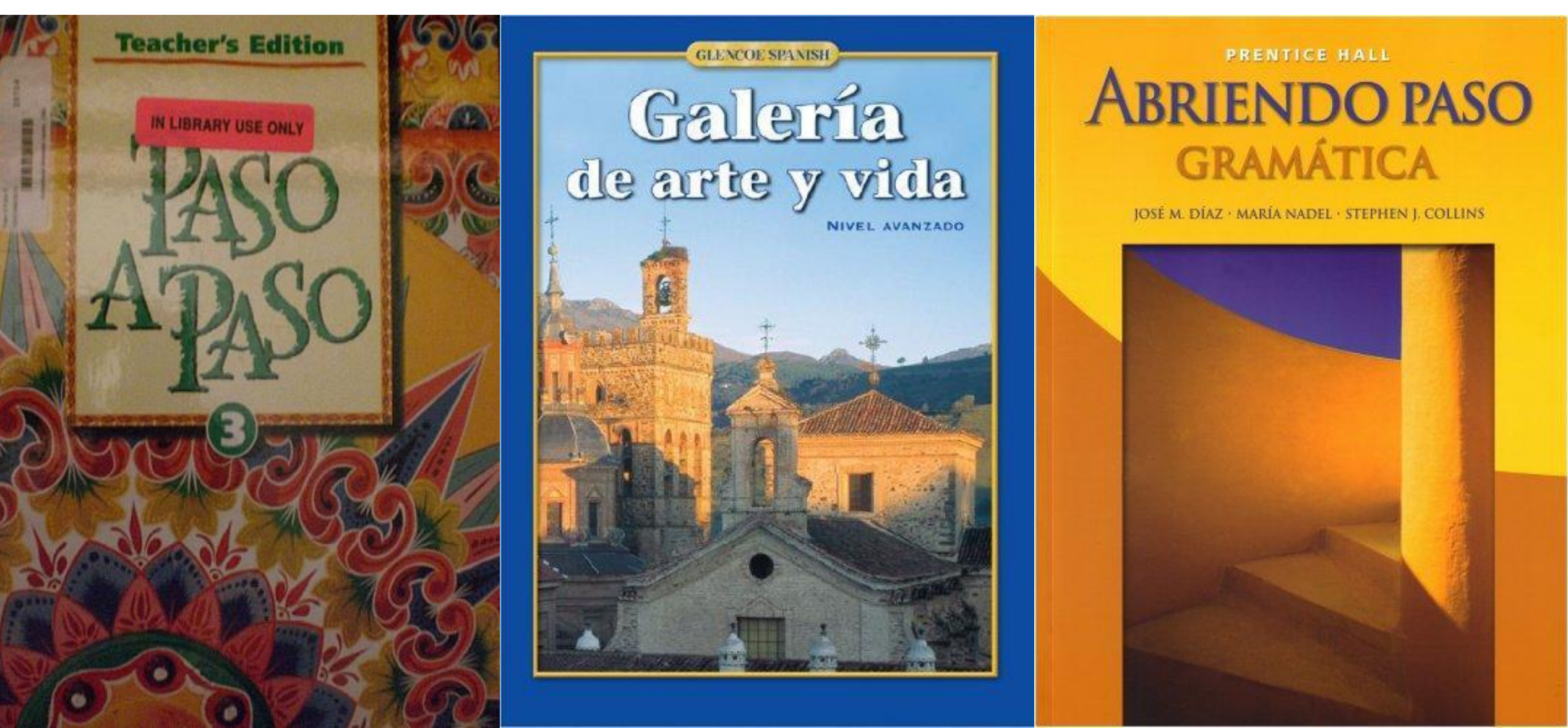
Results

- All 9 of the textbooks reviewed in this study taught this meaning of *por* differently than it is used by native speakers.
- The textbook *Somos Así* gives the example:
Es mejor que vayas **por** avión.
it is better that you go **by** plane
'It's better that you go by plane.'
- In a conversation among native speakers, one could instead hear:
Es mejor que vayas **en** avión.
it is better that you go **in a** plane
'It's better that you go by plane.'
- The data found in the CREA corpus indicates that usage among native speakers varies among dialects; however, the fact that variation even exists in any way is never even mentioned in the texts.

Conclusion

- With a usage-based teaching method, students will be more prepared to interact with native speakers, which is one of the most prevalent purposes for foreign language education.
- The provided supplemental materials will allow teachers to improve their students' education until publishers change what information is covered in their textbooks.
- More aspects of Spanish grammar can be covered, more textbooks can be analyzed, other languages or other levels of foreign language education can be studied, and crucially publishers could be studied regarding how and why they control what information is placed in textbooks.

	# of Pages with Explanations		# of Activities	
	Por	En	Por	En
¡Buen Viaje! 3	1	0	2	0
Galería de arte y vida: Nivel avanzado	1	0	2	0
Dos Mundos	3	0	1	0
¡Ven Conmigo! 3	1	0	0	0
Paso a Paso 3	1	0	0	0
Abriendo paso: Gramática	1	0	2	0
Horizontes: Gramática y conversación	1	0	1	0
Spanish for Mastery 3	3	0	3	0
Somos Así 3	3	0	2	0



Collocates of avión												
Ranking	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Collocate	el	un	los	de	del	en	,	al	El	y	por	Un
Translation	the	a	the	of	of the	in	,	to the	The	and	by	A
Frequency	661	633	459	390	350	255	105	103	101	76	65	44

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