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Building on previous Society-sponsored research, this project investigates a complex set of word order facts in Spanish involving event words and words inferred to be participants in those events. The hypothesis is that position before the event (PEP) signals HIGHER, and position after the event (PEP) signals LOWER, Participant Attentionworthiness.

The current project will analyze one-participant events, developing a hypothesis where EP and PE) are considered signals of HIGHER or LOWER Event Attentionworthiness.

An important feature of this project is the treatment of EPP and PPE. Preliminary analysis suggests that they are manifestations of the same signaling mechanism hypothesized for EP and PE (i.e., EPP and PPE). As such, these sequences do not represent the signals of a different grammatical system. A challenge stemming from this proposal that will be addressed in the current project is that a residual participant (P), conveying no grammatical status, would be left over in both EP(P) and (P)PE, its distribution requiring an explanation.