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**A diachronic view of psychological verbs with dative experiencers in Spanish**

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In Modern Spanish, a familiar class of psychological constructions with Vs such as gustar “please, appeal to” is characterized by two syntactic properties. On the one hand, like in Italian, such constructions contain experiencers in the dative and {themes/subjects of emotion} in the nominative in agreement with the verb. On the other hand, in Modern Spanish they must also contain a dative clitic, unless their reading is generic. Thus, Vs such as gustar associate with obligatory clitic doubling in the modern period, since constructions must have a dative clitic even when the dative phrase is present, as in (1). This second characteristic has been coupled to the hypothesis that the dative sits in a High Applicative phrase with the clitic as obligatory head, and makes Spanish resemble clitic doubling languages such as Rumanian and Bulgarian.

- (1) Al rey le gustaron estas cosas.  
The.king.Dat Dat.Cl like.3Pl those things.Nom.3Pl  
‘The king liked those things. Those things appealed to the king.’

Old Spanish psychological constructions with Vs such plazer ‘please’, displazer “displease”, and pesar “pain” also contain dative experiencers, but differ from their Modern Spanish counterparts in two important respects. First, their {themes/subjects of emotion} are within prepositional phrases, so they arguably lack nominatives and display Vs in default form without agreement. Second, they need not contain dative clitics, and do not associate with obligatory clitic doubling as a consequence. These properties are illustrated in (2) from the 14<sup>th</sup> c.

- (2) a. E al rey plogo dello. Crónica de Juan I  
And the king.Dat liked.3Sg of.it  
‘And the king liked it. And that appealed to the king.’

In this paper, I explore the historical evolution of psychological constructions with datives experiencers in Spanish. My initial hypothesis is that Old Spanish predicates such as plazer were not psych Vs of class III, and thus differed from Modern Spanish gustar. Old Spanish Vs of the relevant type participated in constructions with properties that resemble those of so-called adversative constructions in Russian, which also exhibit Vs in default form, two oblique arguments, and no nominative. On this view, the lack of doubling in the old period is an indication that the dative experiencer was not treated as a High Applicative, among several other differences.