

GRAMMATICAL SIMILARITIES: A STUDY OF COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS IN FRENCH AND SPANISH BILINGUAL SONGS

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Abstrak

Prancis dan Spanyol adalah bahasa Roman. Kedua Bahasa ini berasal dari bahasa Latin vulgar, membuatnya menjadi Bahasa saudara. Dikarenakan bahasa Prancis dan Spanyol adalah bahasa saudara, keduanya memiliki banyak kesamaan, termasuk di bidang tata bahasa, meskipun masing-masing pastilah mempunyai keunikannya sendiri. Tujuan penulisan artikel ini adalah untuk menemukan, menganalisis, dan menjelaskan persamaan gramatikal yang ditemukan pada lagu-lagu bilingual Prancis dan Spanyol. Hal ini dapat memperkuat pembuktian jika kedua bahasa tersebut merupakan bahasa saudara dengan adanya kesamaan dari segi tata bahasa. Metode penelitian yang digunakan dalam penulisan artikel ini adalah kualitatif. Teknik pengumpulan data yang digunakan adalah teknik simak bebas cakap dan teknik lanjutan catat. Metode komparatif, tinjauan pustaka, dan elaborasi naratif merupakan teknik yang digunakan dalam analisis data.

Kata kunci: Prancis, Spanyol, Gramatika, Persamaan

Abstract

French and Spanish are Romance languages. They are both derived from the vulgar Latin language, making them sister languages. As a result, both have a lot of similarities, including in the field of grammar, although each of them is unique in their own way. The purpose of this article is to find, analyse, and explain the grammatical similarities found in French and Spanish bilingual songs, to strengthen the proof that these two languages are sister languages with grammatical similarities. The qualitative research method is employed in this study. The data collection technique used is the free-talk listening technique and the advanced note-taking technique. The data analysis further employs comparative methods, literature review, and narrative elaboration.

Keywords: French, Spanish, Grammar, Similarity

I. INTRODUCTION

Grammar serves as an important aspect in every language because it functions as the central processing unit of language, so it becomes the powerhouse where meanings are created; it is natural that the systems of sound and of writing through which these meanings are expressed should reflect the structural arrangement of the grammar (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004: 21). A descriptive study of grammar is non-judgmental, and it does not have the goal of determining what represents good or bad language, correct or incorrect structures, or grammatical or ungrammatical forms (Leech, Deuchar, & Hoogenraad, 2006). On the other hand, while descriptive grammar tries to understand the use of language, prescriptive grammar tries to understand the use of 'bad' and 'good' grammar in a language. The prescriptive grammarians go out of their way to invent as many rules as possible which might distinguish polite from impolite speech. They do not find very many—just a few dozen, a tiny number compared to all the thousands of rules of grammar that operate in English. But these rules were propounded with maximum authority and severity and given plausibility by the claim that they were going to help people to be clear and precise. As a

result, generations of schoolchildren would be taught them, and confused by them (Crystal 2006).

Some characteristics of grammar can be universal in each and every language, but some languages have more similarities or differences than the others, including in the field of grammar. Languages that are derived from the same language tree may have more similarities than those who are not, including in the field of grammar. An interaction between distant language in the past can also contribute to the similarities of several aspect of the language, including grammar.

The purpose of this article is to find, analyse, and explain the grammar similarities of French and Spanish, namely in which field of grammar these 2 languages are similar. Therefore, people who study these 2 languages can know the uniqueness of these languages from grammar perspectives and how sometimes the same grammatical rules can apply to different languages. Furthermore, people can understand some grammatical rules are unique to only French and Spanish.

Various French and Spanish bilingual songs are used as the source of data in this article. These songs are in various genres, ranging from Pop to Reggae, with pop genre makes up the majority of these songs. Researcher chooses these songs because they are very popular songs, especially in their own era, and they are sung by very well-known and famous singer such as Anggun, and Mercedes Sosa. Although, the main reason researcher chooses these songs is because they contain a lot of both French and Spanish sentences, clauses, and phrases compared to other French and Spanish bilingual song. Furthermore, these eight songs are often discussed by people worldwide such as in the discussion forum on Quora and Reddit.

This article focuses mainly on the similarity of French and Spanish grammar. Numerous previous studies have been carried out to research about language similarities. Wahyuni (2019) in his research, analyses the similarity of reduplication in Japanese and Indonesian. It is found that Japanese and Indonesian use reduplication in the same way. From the five forms of reduplication, four are very similar. They are root word reduplication, whole reduplication, phoneme change reduplication and affix reduplication. Despite the similarities, there is a slight difference, namely in the last form of reduplication, the partial reduplication.

Another previous study was conducted by Massimilio Agovino, Michele Bevilacqua and Massimiliano Cerciello (2021) with the title "Language as a proxy for cultural change: A contrastive analysis for French and Italian lexicon on male homosexuality". This research exposes if both French and Italian have similar lexicon to express male homosexuality. They have similar historical behaviour for the series of term for 'homosexual'. However, a slight difference emerges if the term for 'homosexual' is analysed denotatively, and without any connotation. Furthermore, the difference is more significant when the series of term for 'pederast' is used. In Italy, the series of term for 'pederast' is seldom used while in French, it is the opposite.

There is also a previous study that exposes the differences in grammar between two languages, rather than the similarities. One such study was conducted by Dr. Hafissatou Kane (2021) with the title "A Contrastive Study of Reflexive verbs in English and French". It is found that in English and French reflexive verb cases, the only similarity is only with the empathic form, such as "myself, yourself" in English and "moi-même, toi-même" in French. Meanwhile, the grammar differences between these two languages are quite diverse. First, there is an absence of reciprocal pronoun in English, but not in French. Second, some verbs always have base reflexive pronouns in French, while in English, base verbs of

not have reflexive pronoun. Lastly, it is found that English utilizes the same pronoun to express empathic and non-empathic form while French differentiates these pronouns.

This current article is different from the previous studies that are mentioned above. This article only focuses on the field of French and Spanish grammars that are used in French and Spanish bilingual songs. Moreover, this article focuses in French and Spanish grammar similarities, while mentioning their slight differences, not the opposite.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

The research method in this article is qualitative method. According to Mason (2002), through qualitative research we can explore a wide array of dimensions of the social world, including the texture and weave of everyday life, the understandings, experience and imaginings of our research participants, the ways that social processes, institutions, discourses or relationships work, and the significance of the meanings that they generate.

The data collection technique for this article is the basic tapping technique with the see method. After that, the free-talk listening technique and note-taking technique is also used as an advanced technique in data collection. This technique is utilized because the research subject is in the form of song lyrics. Data analysis techniques that are used in this article, in order of stages are, data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions (Miles & Huberman, 1994). Comparative method and literature review are also added as an additional technique for the data analysis.

Here are the songs that are analyzed in this study:

Song Title	Year Released	Singer and Album	Source
"Qué Vendrá"	2018	Zaz in <i>Effet miroir</i>	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6THHrPyZQuQ
"Mon Amour"	2016	Mercedes Sosa [feat. Nilda Fernandez & Carlos Franzetti] in <i>Gestos de Amor</i>	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mk8Grd4fQXA
"Mi Gente"	2017	J Balvin and Willy William in <i>Vibras</i>	https://open.spotify.com/album/3vgR05zLcwCqfSqa6KWLm
"Conmigo"	2015	Kendji Girac in <i>Kendji</i>	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uG6E6bVKU0
"Nos Vies Parallèles"	2015	Anggun and Florent Pagny in <i>Toujours un Ailleurs</i>	https://open.spotify.com/album/1sTF5SMOJ9B5Ju7944aSdB
"Mi Amor"	2016	Souf in <i>Alchimie</i>	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvbcJwr9ZRM
"Adiós"	2014	Ricky Martin in <i>A Quien Quiera Escuchar</i>	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JluQoTEg2gU
"Me Gustas Tu"	2001	Manu Chao in <i>Próxima Estación: Esperanza</i>	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rs6Y4kZ8qtw

Table 1. List of Research Objects

III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Below are certain grammar similarities between French and Spanish that are found in the bilingual songs.

1. Indicative Presents (Verb Conjugation)

Indicative present is a tense to describe facts, regular activities, close future, past action that has a connection with the present, or sometimes to speak about an activity that is currently happening.

French and Spanish have something in common in this area. For French, there are 3 kind of regular base verbs. They are verbs that have -er, -ir, and -re as its ending. Furthermore, when using a verb, it must be conjugated according to the pronoun. This rule is applied to each and every French tenses, including the indicative present.

The same case also happened to Spanish. It also has 3 kind of regular base verbs. They are verbs with -ar, -er, and -ir as their suffixes. The verbs must also be conjugated according to the pronoun, much like French.

Here are several examples for French and Spanish regular base verbs in indicative present tenses:

Pronoun	<i>Parler</i> (To Speak)	<i>Choisir</i> (To Choose)	<i>Vendre</i> (To Sell)
Je (1 st person sing.)	Parle	Choisis	Vends
Tu (2 nd person sing.)	Parles	Choisis	Vends
Il / Elle (3 rd person sing.)	Parle	Choisit	Vend
Nous (1 st person plu.)	Parlons	Choisissons	Vendons
Vous (2 nd . Person plu. / sing.)	Parlez	Choisissez	Vendez
Ils / Elles (3 rd person plu.)	Parlent	Choissent	Vendent

Table 2.1. French Regular Verb Conjugations in Present Indicative

Source: Practice Makes Perfect – Complete French Grammar by Annie Heminway

Pronoun	<i>Comprar</i> (To Buy)	<i>Aprender</i> (To Learn)	<i>Recibir</i> (To Receive)
Yo (1 st person sing.)	Compro	Aprendo	Recibo
Tú (2 nd person sing.)	Compras	Aprendes	Recibes
Usted (2 nd person sing.)	Compra	Aprende	Recibe
Él / Ella (3 rd person sing.)			
Nosotros / Nosotras (1 st person plu.)	Compramos	Aprendemos	Recibimos
Vosotros / Vosotras (2 nd person plu.)	Compráis	Aprendéis	Recibís
Ustedes (2 nd person plu.)	Compran	Aprenden	Reciben

Table 2.2. Spanish Regular Verb Conjugations in Present Indicative

Source: Practice Makes Perfect – Complete Spanish Grammar by Gilda Nissenberg

The verbs with *-er* ending make up the majority of French verbs. This case is also the same in Spanish with verbs with *-ar* ending make up the majority of Spanish verbs.

The example of regular verb conjugation in present indicative tense can be found in the song “Qué Vendrá”, that was released in 2018 by ZaZ.

French :	<i>Je laisse aller mes sentiments</i> (I let go of my feelings)	(Paragraph 4, Line 2) (Paragraph 4, Line 2)
Spanish:	<i>Yo escribo mi camino</i> (I write my way)	(Paragraph 3, Line 2) (Paragraph 3, Line 2)

The word *laisse* comes from the base verb *laisser* and it is conjugated in the first person singular (The pronoun is *je*). The meaning is ‘to let’. Meanwhile, *escribo* is a conjugated form of first person singular (The pronoun is *yo*) of the base verb *escribir* in Spanish. This verb’s meaning is ‘to write’. These two verbs follow the rule of regular verb conjugation in French and Spanish, and they are conjugated based on the pronoun before them, and in this case, the pronoun is first person singular.

Beside the regular French and Spanish verbs, there are also irregular verbs. These verbs do not have the same ending as the regular verbs if they are conjugated according to the pronoun that precedes them.

The example for these types of verbs can be found in the song *Conmigo*, by Kendji Girac, released in 2014:

French:	<i>De toi j’suis fou eh</i> (I am crazy about you)	(Paragraph 3, Line 7) (Paragraph 3, Line 7)
Spanish:	<i>¡Estoy aquí!</i> (I am here!)	(Paragraph 1, Line 2) (Paragraph 1, Line 2)

From the examples above, it can be seen if *estoy* and *suis* do not follow the regular rules for indicative present verb conjugation. It is because these two verbs, *suis*, and *estoy*, are irregular verbs. *Suis* is the first-person singular conjugation form in French for the verb *être* which has the equivalent function as ‘to be’ in English. While *estoy* is also a first-person singular conjugation form in Spanish for the verb *estar* which also has the same meaning as ‘to be’ in English.

2. Possessive Adjective

Possessive adjective is used to express an ownership or possession of something. French and Spanish have similarities for this type of grammar. In these 2 languages, the possessive adjective corresponds not only with the noun that follows it, but also the gender and the quantity of the noun. Each of the subject pronoun in French and Spanish has two to four possessive adjectives. They are categorized as masculine, feminine, and plural (For Spanish, the plural is divided again into two types, namely masculine plural and feminine plural) possessive adjectives. These are the possessive adjectives in French and Spanish:

Pronoun	Masculine	Feminine	Plural
Je (1 st person sing.)	Mon	Ma	Mes
Tu (2 nd person sing.)	Ton	Ta	Tes
Il / Elle (3 rd person sing.)	Son	Sa	Ses
Nous (1 st person plu.)	Notre	Notre	Nos
Vous (2 nd . Person plu. / sing.)	Votre	Votre	Vos
Ils / Elles (3 rd person plu.)	Leur	Leur	Leurs

Table 3.1. French Possessive Adjective

Source: Practice Makes Perfect – Complete French Grammar by Annie Heminway

Pronoun	Masculine	Feminine	Plural
Yo (1 st person sing.)	Mi	Mi	Mis
Tú (2 nd person sing.)	Tu	Tu	Tus
Usted (2 nd person sing.)	Su	Su	Sus
Él / Ella (3 rd person sing.)			
Nosotros / Nosotras (1 st person plu.)	Nuestro	Nuestra	Nuestros (Masculine Plural) Nuestras (Feminine Plural)
Vosotros / Vosotras (2 nd person plu.)	Vuestro	Vuestra	Vuestros (Masculine Plural) Vuestras (Feminine Plural)
Ustedes (2 nd person plu.)	Su	Su	Sus
Ellos / Ellas (3 rd person plu.)			

Table 3.2. Spanish Possessive Adjective

Source: Practice Makes Perfect – Complete Spanish Grammar by Gilda Nissenberg

It is evident if the possessive adjective similarity in French and Spanish comes from the fact that these languages have three forms of possessive adjectives. They are singular masculine form, singular feminine form, and plural form. Its use depends on the noun that comes after it.

However, there are also slight differences in French and Spanish possessive adjectives. While French has different possessive adjective for masculine and feminine singular forms, restricted to only the singular subject pronouns, Spanish has the difference in the plural subject pronoun (Except for first person plural form). Furthermore, French only has one plural form of possessive adjective for each pronoun, while Spanish has two plural forms of possessive adjective, although they are only limited for *Nosotros / Nosotras* and *Vosotros / Vosotras* pronouns.

The example of possessive adjective usage can be proven in the song *Qué Vendrá*, that is released in 2018 by ZaZ.

French :	<i>Laisser parler mon instinct me guérit</i> (Let my instinct speak heals me)	(Paragraph 8, Line 3) (Paragraph 8, Line 3)
Spanish :	<i>Yo escribo mi camino</i> (I write my way)	(Paragraph 3, Line 2) (Paragraph 3, Line 2)

The two sentences above use the possessive adjective to express possession in first person singular pronoun. In French, the sentence comes with a possessive adjective *mon* in the sentence: *Laisser parler mon instinct me guérit*. From the possessive adjective that is used above, it can be interpreted if the noun that comes after it, *instinct*, is a masculine noun because the possessive adjective that precedes this noun is *mon*, a masculine singular form of possessive adjective for first person singular pronoun.

Meanwhile, in Spanish, the usage is a little vague. In the sentence: *Yo escribo mi camino*, the possessive adjective *mi* is used to express a possession in first person singular pronoun. At the same time, while it already clarifies the quantity of noun that comes after it as singular, it does not verify the gender of noun that comes after it. While the gender of noun does not affect the form of singular masculine feminine possessive adjective in Spanish for first, second, and third person singular pronoun, it affects the singular masculine feminine form of possessive adjective for first and second person plural pronoun. This is the complete opposite of French. However, in the sentence *Yo escribo mi camino*, one can hypothesize if *camino* which means 'way' in English is a masculine noun, because it ends with the letter -o (Most masculine nouns in Spanish have an -o ending), but a dictionary is still needed to verify it.

Another example of possessive adjective usage can be found in the song "Mon Amour" by Mercedes Sosa released in 1994.

French:	<i>Mon amour, mon amour</i> (My love, my love)	(Paragraph 1, Line 3) (Paragraph 1, Line 3)
Spanish:	<i>Cuando mis versos puse en la pared</i> (When I put my verses on the wall)	(Paragraph 3, Line 1) (Paragraph 3, Line 1)

From the text, it can be inferred if in French cases, the possessive adjective that is used is *mon* (a possessive adjective that is used before singular masculine noun). While in Spanish, the possessive adjective is *mis*, a possessive adjective to express a possession of plural noun for 1st person singular subject pronoun.

Regardless of the slight differences, French and Spanish express possessive adjective in a similar way. The use of possessive adjective depends on the gender and quantity of the noun.

3. The Reflexive & Reciprocal Verbs

Reflexive & Reciprocal verbs are used to express an action that is directed back to the subject, not the object. These verbs are utilized to express an action that is related to personal care, habitual routines, and an action that is both mutual for the subject and object.

The similarity for French and Spanish in this grammar case is the word order of reflexive pronoun. In English, the reflexive pronoun is put after the verb, but in French and Spanish, reflexive pronoun must be put before the verb. In Spanish case, it can also be put after the last verb that is in a sentence, but, unlike English, it does not stand alone as a word, rather, it becomes a suffix of that last verb. Each and every subject pronoun in French and Spanish have their own reflexive pronoun. Here are the reflexive pronouns for French and Spanish.

Subject Pronoun	Reflexive Pronoun
Je (1 st person sing.)	Me
Tu (2 nd person sing.)	Te
Il / Elle (3 rd person sing.)	Se
Nous (1 st person plu.)	Nous
Vous (2 nd . Person plu. / sing.)	Vous
Ils / Elles (3 rd person plu.)	Se

Table 4.1. French Reflexive Pronoun

Source: Practice Makes Perfect – Complete French Grammar by Annie Heminway

Subject Pronoun	Reflexive Pronoun
Yo (1 st person sing.)	Me
Tú (2 nd person sing.)	Te
Usted (2 nd person sing.)	Se
Él / Ella (3 rd person sing.)	Se
Nosotros / Nosotras (1 st person plu.)	Nos
Vosotros / Vosotras (2 nd person plu.)	Os
Ustedes (2 nd person plu.)	Se
Ellos / Ellas (3 rd person plu.)	Se

Table 4.2. Spanish Reflexive Pronoun

Source: Practice Makes Perfect – Complete Spanish Grammar by Gilda Nissenberg

From the table above, it is apparent if each subject pronoun from French and Spanish has their own reflexive pronoun. It is also different from possessive adjective, where the usage must follow the gender and quantity of a noun. In reflexive pronoun, whether the subject pronoun is *Il* (3rd person masculine singular subject pronoun) or *Elle* (3rd person feminine singular subject pronoun), the reflexive pronoun is always *se* in French. This case is also the same as in Spanish. Whether it is *Nosotros* (1st person masculine plural) or *Nosotras* (1st person feminine plural pronoun), the reflexive pronoun is always *nos*. It can be concluded if reflexive pronoun only follows subject pronoun that precedes it.

In French and Spanish, some verbs always use reflexive pronouns when they are built in a sentence. This is why some verbs are called reflexive verbs. Usually, a verb with reflexive pronoun in its base form has reciprocal and reflexive meaning.

These are the examples of the reflexive verbs usages that can be found in the song “Qué Vendrá”, released in 2018 by ZaZ.

French:	<i>Je me raccroche à ceux que j’aime</i>	(Paragraph 5, Line 2)
	(I hang up to those I love)	(Paragraph 5, Line 2)

Spanish:	<i>Si me pierdo es que ya me he encontrado</i>	(Paragraph 7, Line 3)
	(If I get lost, it means I already found myself)	(Paragraph 7, Line 3)

From the texts above, clearly, French and Spanish use the reflexive pronoun *me* to express a reflexive action to oneself. *Je **me** raccroche* has the equivalent English meaning as ‘I hang up’. It is a verb that has an effect to the subject rather than the object. That is why the reflexive pronoun *me* is used in this sentence.

In Spanish, *Si **me** pierdo* has the equivalent English meaning as ‘I get lost’. This, too, expresses an action that has an effect to oneself rather than the object. Therefore, the reflexive pronoun *me* is added before the verb *pierdo* to indicate if this sentence has a reflexive meaning.

The slight difference in French and Spanish are the subject pronoun. In French, it is obligatory to use a subject pronoun at the start of the sentence even if the reflexive pronoun and conjugated verb already indicated what kind of subject pronoun the sentence has. In Spanish, writing a subject pronoun is not obligatory. It is rare to use a subject pronoun at the start of the sentence because the conjugated verb and reflexive pronoun already indicated what kind of subject pronoun that the sentence uses. Regardless of the difference, the use of reflexive & reciprocal verb and the word order when using these types of verbs are similar in French and Spanish.

4. Definite Articles

Definite article is an article to express / specify obvious nouns such as the name of location, days of the week, geographical name, and title. Both French and Spanish have similarities in their use of definite article, namely because these 2 languages use definite article in the same way and they also have masculine, feminine, and plural forms. Although, the Spanish definite article is a little bit more specific than French’s definite article. Furthermore, the definite article (or sometimes indefinite article) is always needed to express a noun, unlike in English, where definite article is not obligatory to accompany a noun. Although, in a very few cases, the definite article is not needed in Spanish, such as when expressing a title that is addressed to a person, nouns that refer to academic subjects, ordinal number used in titles, and when stating someone’s occupation following a form of the verb *ser*.

Here are the lists of definite articles in both French and Spanish:

French Definite Article:

- *Le*: This definite article is used to express a **masculine singular** noun

- *La*: This definite article is used to express a **feminine singular** noun
- *Les*: This definite article is used to express **plural** (whether masculine or feminine) noun

Spanish Definite Article:

- *El*: This definite article is used to express a **masculine singular** noun
- *La*: This definite article is used to express a **feminine singular** noun
- *Los*: This definite article is used to express **masculine plural** noun
- *Las*: This definite article is used to express **feminine plural** noun

The only slight difference in using the definite article is in the plural form. In French, plural form has only one definite article, namely *Les*. In Spanish, plural form has 2 different definite articles. The usage of which one to use depends on the gender of the noun. If the noun is masculine plural, then, the definite article is *los*, and if the noun is feminine plural, then, *las* is the definite article.

Here is the example of definite article usage in both French and Spanish, that is found in the song “Mi Gente”, released in 2017 by J. Balvin and Willy William.

French: *Mais il faut bouger **la** tête* (Paragraph 5, Line 2)
(But you have to move your head) (Paragraph 5, Line 2)

Spanish: ***La** fiesta no para, apenas comienza* (Paragraph 4, Line 2)
(The party doesn't stop, it's just beginning) (Paragraph 4, Line 2)

The 2 sentences above use the definite article *La* before the noun. Therefore, it can be concluded if the word *tête* in French, which is translated as ‘head’ in English and the word *fiesta* in Spanish that has the meaning ‘party’ are feminine nouns. It can also be inferred if the word *tête* and *fiesta* on the 2 sentences above are not plural nouns because both of them use the singular definite articles before them. Due to this, definite article is really useful for beginner French and Spanish learner because both of them can determine the gender of noun without looking in a dictionary.

5. Adjective Rules

Adjectives are used to describe nouns and pronouns. French and Spanish’s rule for the usage of adjectives is similar, that is, an adjective must agree with the gender of a noun. Both French and Spanish have four kinds of adjectives, namely masculine singular, masculine plural, feminine singular, and feminine plural adjectives. These four types of adjectives are used in both French and Spanish.

Below is the example to the usage of adjective for French and Spanish that is found in the song “Nos Vies Parallèles” by Anggun, released in 2015:

French : *Si je rencontre **une belle** âme* (Paragraph 4, Line 9)
(If I meet a beautiful soul) (Paragraph 4, Line 9)

Spanish: *Esperanza, me recuerdo de **los días felices** contigo* (Paragraph 9, Line 1)
(Hope, I remember the happy days with you) (Paragraph 9, Line 1)

According to the data above, the French sentence above uses a feminine singular adjective. In the phrase *une belle âme* which means ‘a beautiful soul’ in English, *belle* is the adjective, and it is considered feminine singular because there is an article, namely *une* which always precedes a feminine singular noun and adjective. Meanwhile, in Spanish, in the phrase *Los días felices* which means ‘the happy days’, the word *felices* is the adjective, and it is considered masculine plural because there is an article, namely *los* which also always precedes masculine plural noun and adjective.

To form an adjective in French and Spanish, one must have an article / possessive adjective at the start of the phrase, then it is followed by noun, and finally, the adjective agrees with the noun. To sum up, the formula to form an adjective in French and Spanish is like this:

$$P = Ar + N + Adj$$

Phrase = Article + Noun + Adjective

However, there is a slight difference for the adjective rule in French and Spanish. In French, if an adjective has 2 or less syllable, then, it must be put before the noun, not after it. If the adjective has 3 or more syllable, then one must put it after the noun. In Spanish, an adjective is always placed after a noun.

6. Indirect Object Pronoun

Indirect object pronoun is used to tell an action for whom, or to whom it is done. French and Spanish are very similar in using this type of pronoun. Firstly, there are only 6 kind of indirect object pronouns in both French and Spanish. Secondly, in French and Spanish, the placement of the pronoun is before both simple and compound forms of conjugated verbs, unlike in English where the pronoun is placed after the conjugated verb.

These are the lists of indirect object pronouns, both in French and Spanish.

Subject Pronoun	Indirect Object Pronoun
Je (1 st person sing.)	Me
Tu (2 nd person sing.)	Te
Il / Elle (3 rd person sing.)	Lui
Nous (1 st person plu.)	Nous
Vous (2 nd . Person plu. / sing.)	Vous
Ils / Elles (3 rd person plu.)	Leur

Table 5.1. French Indirect Object Pronoun

Source: Practice Makes Perfect – Complete French Grammar by Annie Heminway

Subject Pronoun	Indirect Object Pronoun
Yo (1 st person sing.)	Me
Tú (2 nd person sing.)	Te
Usted (2 nd person sing.)	Le
Él / Ella (3 rd person sing.)	
Nosotros / Nosotras (1 st person plu.)	Nos
Vosotros / Vosotras (2 nd person plu.)	Os
Ustedes (2 nd person plu.)	Les
Ellos / Ellas (3 rd person plu.)	

Table 5.2. Spanish Indirect Object Pronoun

Source: Practice Makes Perfect – Complete Spanish Grammar by Gilda Nissenberg

The example of the indirect pronoun application can be referred in the data below. It is found in the song with the title *Adiós*, by Ricky Martin, released in 2014:

French :	<i>Oublier je te dis au revoir!</i> (To forget, I say goodbye to you)	(Paragraph 3, Line 5) (Paragraph 3, Line 5)
Spanish :	<i>Te tengo que decir adiós</i> (I have to tell you goodbye)	(Paragraph 4, Line 2) (Paragraph 4, Line 2)

From the data above, it can be noticed if both French and Spanish sentences utilize the second person singular indirect object pronoun. The proof is, the existence of *te* in both sentence before the main conjugated verb. It can be said that the word *te* in the example above is an indirect object pronoun, not a reflexive pronoun, because the verb after it, *dis* (From the base form verb *dire*, that has the equivalent english meaning ‘to say’) for French, and *tengo* (From the base verb *tener* that has the equivalent English meaning ‘have got’) for Spanish, do not follow the conjugation rules for second person singular pronoun. Rather, those two verbs are both conjugated in the first-person singular pronoun. This is because a conjugated verb always follows the subject pronoun that precedes it, not the indirect object pronoun. Subject pronouns can be different from the indirect object pronoun, depending on the sentence’s context, while reflexive pronoun is always the same as the subject pronoun.

The word order to arrange the indirect object pronoun is the same for French and Spanish, namely, before the conjugated verb. However, it must be noted if there is a slight difference. While in French, indirect object pronoun must always be put before

the main conjugated verb, in Spanish, there is a second option to put this pronoun as the main conjugated verb ending, much like the suffix of the verb itself.

IV. CONCLUSION

There are several kinds of grammar similarities that can be found in this article. These similarities can be found in several fields of grammar such as the indicative present, possessive adjective, the reflexive and reciprocal verbs, definite article, adjective rules, and indirect object pronoun. The similarities range from the function, characteristic, until syntax and word order. Although each of French and Spanish grammar retains their language uniqueness by having slight differences in these grammar fields.

By comparing these two languages, French and Spanish, it can be seen if Spanish has a little bit more complex grammar compared to French. It is because Spanish has 2 separate genders for its plural nouns, namely masculine plural and feminine plural, compared to French, that does not differentiate the gender in plural nouns. It makes grammar fields that have relations with nouns such as definite articles and possessive adjectives are quite harder than French. On the contrary, French also has its own difficulty, such as in adjective rule because the syllable of the adjective must be counted before deciding where to put it in a sentence. This is because the placement of adjective depends on its syllable's quantity in French. In Spanish, all adjectives are put before nouns.

French and Spanish are also unique in their own way from grammar perspectives. For example, there is no indirect object pronoun in English because English does not differentiate the rules between object pronoun and indirect object pronoun. While in French and Spanish, object and indirect object pronoun have their own grammar field. They are different, and the usage is also different. Certain grammatical characteristics make these two languages similar, yet different and unique in their own way.

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